

Dads We Adore: Jim Lyon of Russ Lyon Sotheby's International Realty

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Monday, 05 June 2017 15:50 -



In honor of Father's Day this weekend, AZFoothills.com shares one of our favorite Valley dads each day leading up to the holiday. Today, meet Jim Lyon, chairman of Russ Lyon Sotheby's International Realty, and learn about his dreamy ideal day with his family of four.



Children: Ben Lyon, 15; Jon Lyon, 12

What is your biggest joy in being a dad? Watching my boys grow up into responsible young men.

What is your biggest struggle? Trying not to compare how I grew up, to how kids grow up in this generation!

What has been your proudest moment as a father? Watching Ben work so hard at his academics and get straight A's for the last four years and in all Honors classes. For Jon, it was witnessing his fishing grand slam at age 11 in Belize. (A grand slam is catching a permit, a tarpon, and a bone fish all on fly, all in the same day.) This is very hard to do!

Looking back, what advice would you give to yourself as a new dad? Expose your kids to as many things as you can, and even if they don't like something the first time, have them keep trying it.

Describe your perfect day with your family. It's usually when we are on one of our vacations in a remote location where we have to pack not much more than swimsuit and flip-flops. Waking up in a little hut on the beach, fishing, swimming in the ocean and exploring all day. Drinks, dinner, night fishing and playing cards or Scrabble at night.

How do you like to celebrate Father's Day? Golf with my best friend Randy in the morning, then take my family out to lunch, watch the US Open, do a hard workout in the afternoon, and then have some good wine and cook dinner on our Traeger Smoker.

Local Favorites:

Family Friendly Restaurants: Los Olivos and Pei Wei

Spot to be outdoors: any local fishing spot

Little known gem for families: Grand Falls outside of Flagstaff

Family Friendly Resort: Hacienda del Sol in Tucson

Educational Spot: Arizona Science Center