

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

MAY - JUNE 2013

*Jack's Jaunts*

## Glorious Glacier

Article & photos by Jack Olson



Grinnell Lake below Continental Divide

We might. It's possible. We could. RMOWP is investigating the possibility that we would hold a conference in Glacier National Park, Montana. We've asked for comments and have received a few responses. Let's hear some more, and especially if you think you would attend a conference up there.



Mountain goats near Logan Pass

I've reveled in a great many of the U.S. National Parks and Glacier would probably be in my top ten favorites. But I'm hesitant to pontificate too much on Glacier because our long-time member, Tom Ulrich, lives up there. There's not a nook, let alone a cranny, unexplored by Tom. He calls every creature by name, is personally acquainted with every rock and flower. And he's a superlative photographer. So I'll just venture a general

overview from my four or five trips to the park.

Glacier National Park straddles the Continental Divide in the northern Rockies. Similar to what we see in Rocky Mountain National Park, the sharpest,

most spectacular effects of past glaciation lie on the east side of the park. Warming has reduced the size of the glaciers in the park, but the stunning results of past glaciation remain.

A high point, literally, in Glacier is Logan Pass, at 6,646 feet the highest elevation on the Going-to-the-Sun Road. It's very popular, so the parking area may be crowded, but there's a good reason. Hidden Lake Nature Trail welcomes the visitor to sweeping views of the park's most iconic vistas. Highline Trail, heading into the backcountry, begins with a knee-knocking wobble on a narrow path looking a little too far down to the road. Once, as I began hiking the trail I became unsettled to discover fresh bear scat immediately ahead, in the narrowest, can't-turn-around spot. I inched forward cautiously, uttering friendly comments about bears.



Mt. Gould from trail to Grinnell Glacier

There are hundreds of waterfalls, and so much water to fall, in Glacier. Just two, St. Mary and Virginia Falls, are easy hikes from a lower section of the Going-to-the-Sun Road. Right down here, so long, so narrow, stretches St. Mary Lake. Whether we have a conference in Glacier, or if you go on your

*see Jaunts... page 2*

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*Jaunts... from page 1*

own, you should never, ever, miss at least one sunrise at St. Mary Lake.

Another favorite location of mine is the Many Glacier area. Oh my,



Cascades above Grinnell Lake

what gorgeous views, what adventurous trails. An intrepid outdoor person could spend weeks exploring this region. Lake Josephine is the quintessential calendar photo. A trail circles it and heads to Grinnell Lake, tucked below Grinnell Glacier, Mt. Gould, and the Continental Divide. If you want, there's a boat at Lake Josephine which makes the remaining hike to Grinnell Lake an easy mile. Also out of Many Glacier, I have twice hiked to Iceberg Lake, with quite a gap of time between. The glacier there has certainly receded but the hike is still wonderful.

I haven't even mentioned the wildlife. That is one of the delights of discovery you're bound to encounter throughout the park. If you don't see mountain goats you aren't trying. Elk, bighorn sheep, birds,

other fuzzy creatures. And, of course, the grizzly bear. I was hiking once and at a trail intersection stood a grizzly warning sign. A big bite was taken from it. I just bet the Park Service did that. It quickened my pace.

One more thing. Glacier is right on the Canadian border. The park adjoins Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta, Canada. Sister park to Glacier, it's half of the International Peace Park. Waterton Lakes may be worth at least a day trip from a base in Glacier. It offers additional hikes and views in the Canadian Rockies.

Get those cards, letters, and emails coming in with your comments. And voice them at the conference in Fruita. We're taking a look at Glacier and would appreciate your opinions and if you'd be likely to go.



Mt. Gould is a stunning backdrop for Lake Josephine from Many Glacier

## The Power of Punctuation

by Virginia Parker Staat

*"Making love to me is amazing. Wait, I meant: making love, to me, is amazing.  
The absence of two little commas nearly transformed me into a sex god."  
- Dark Jar Tin Zoo, Love Quotes for the Ages. Specifically Ages 19-91.*



If improper punctuation rankles you to the point that you grab the nearest red-tipped pen and fear using it to go vigilante, join the club. When confronted with ill-used or absent punctuation, too easily I find myself in a rant, explaining that a keyboard has more than 26 letters on it and that the punctuation keys are for more than merely decoration... but I digress.

Proper punctuation is a powerful writer's tool. It makes sentences easier to read, offers clarity, and improves flow. It enhances nuance, tone, and mood. Sloppy punctuation can confuse your reader. At its worst, improper punctuation can completely change the meaning of a sentence. Multiple Internet posts even proclaim that commas can save lives. Consider the following example of a life nearly lost:

Let's eat Grandpa!  
versus  
Let's eat, Grandpa!

I might have been a writing professor except for punctuation. I know myself too well. I relish using the Oxford comma, the delicate ellipsis, and graceful quotation marks. Initially, teaching punctuation would have been a joy. I feared, however, that my normally happy nature would dwindle as I spent night after night correcting horrid comma splices, interjecting missing semicolons, amending possessive apostrophes, and rectifying hyphenations. At some point, I would have snapped, perhaps using my pen to stab little holes in a student's paper where proper punctuation should have resided... or worse. I feel certain that the experience would have left me in my old age alone and bitter.

If you struggle with proper punctuation, fear not. Reference books abound; however, Lynne Truss' *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation* is one of the most irreverent yet helpful tutorials on punctuation available. This brief quote encapsulates her book, "No matter that you have a PhD and have read all of Henry James twice. If you still persist in writing, 'Good food at it's best', you deserve to be struck by lightning, hacked up on the spot and buried in an unmarked grave."

Other notable (and less militant) reference books include *Grammar Girl's Quick and Dirty Tips for Better Writing*, by Mignon Fogarty; *The Elements of Style*, by Strunk and White; *The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation*, by Jane Straus; and *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Online resources include Grammar Girl's website ([grammar.quickanddirtytips.com](http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com)), The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctua-

tion website ([grammarbook.com](http://grammarbook.com)), and the tongue-in-cheek Apostrophe Protection Society ([apostrophe.org.uk](http://apostrophe.org.uk)).

I admit that I am greatly unsettled by the growing trend to diminish punctuation. Punctuation stitches words together, gussing clauses and hemming sentences. Like a seamstress who insists on using pins rather than thread to hold her work together, a writer who ignores the importance of punctuation makes his craft more difficult for himself and his readers.

As writers, I believe that the weaving and texture that punctuation brings to our work offers a certain eloquence and precision that allows our readers to connect with us more deeply. Proper punctuation fosters trust and assures readers that you have made every effort to express your thoughts so that there is no fear of misinterpretation. Ultimately, I believe that punctuation brings an added element of honesty to our words, earning us the right to be read.

Producing a well-punctuated manuscript can mean the difference between clarity for your readers or their being lost in translation. As Lynne Truss says, "The reason it's worth standing up for punctuation is not that it's an arbitrary system of notation known only to an over-sensitive elite who have attacks of the vapours when they see it misapplied. The reason to stand up for punctuation is that without it there is no reliable way of communicating meaning."

*"Why did the Apostrophe Protection Society not have a militant wing? Could I start one?"*

*- Lynne Truss, Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*



© Jon Sheppard

"Where's Little Red Riding Hood?"

## President's Column

# Photographing Northern Lights

Article & photo by Al Perry

Many people have some knowledge of northern lights (aurora borealis), but few have viewed or photographed the colorful, dancing lights in the sky. In less than six months, the northern lights can be viewed and photographed in the northern hemisphere. If you want to see them sooner, go to the southern hemisphere. Northern (and southern) lights can occur all hours of the day, night and seasons of the year. However, northern lights are best viewed under cloudless, moonless, and dark skies in spring and fall at high latitude in the arctic. Active sunspots allow coronal mass ejections of charged particles from the sun to sometimes be directed toward the earth. A few of these fast moving charged particles strike our upper atmosphere and release a photon that we view as green, red, pink, blue, yellow and/or purple northern (or southern) light.

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Northern lights with the setting moon

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If you want to photograph the aurora borealis, travel to the arctic circle in September or March, take along warm boots, outer and inner wear, sturdy tripod, fast wide angle lens, low noise camera, and lots of patience. Aurora forecasts are not very reliable. If you are serious about photographing the aurora, plan on going out at 10 PM each evening and not coming back before 6 AM. It also helps to avoid big groups of other viewers/photographers as their head lights and LCD's will often show in your images. Active northern lights occur about once every ten to fifteen nights. Extraordinary northern lights occur about once every 45 days. For example, I had one very good night in Iceland during a 2 1/2 week visit. Clouds are more of a problem in Northern Europe

than in North America. During 2 1/2 weeks in Alaska, I had two very good nights, one of which was extraordinary. Shown with this column is one of 4000+ images during one 8 hour evening. Each of the 4000 images is of similar quality, but all are different in content. For active northern lights, plan on an exposure time of about 10 seconds at f/2.8, 1600 ISO. People's eyes are more receptive to green, which is the main color of northern lights. Your camera sensor can bring out all the colors of northern lights if properly exposed. Fairbanks, Alaska, is a good location due to its clear skies, relatively low airfares, and winter maintenance of major road access to several good viewing areas.

If you want to view time lapse photography of the northern lights in motion, go to

<https://www.Facebook.com/AlPerryNaturePhotography>.

## 2013 CALENDAR

May 15 -19 ~ RMOWP conference Colorado National Monument, Fruita, Colorado

May 30 ~ Scott-McKenna Scholarship application deadline (see [www.rmowp.org](http://www.rmowp.org))

June 25-29 ~ RMOWP Scenic & Wildlife Photo Workshop in Rocky Mountain National Park

Sep. 14-16 ~ OWAA conference, Lake Placid, New York (see [www.owaa.org](http://www.owaa.org))

## Photos from the 2012 RMOWP Scenic & Wildlife Photo Workshop in Rocky Mountain National Park



Fireweed  
© Grant Barnes



Snack time  
© Christina Mullin

# Member News

## RMOWP Member Honored by Wild Sheep Foundation

Most people can't wait for their annual vacation—time to kick back, slack off a bit and recharge. A sandy beach in some tropical haven, maybe, lazing by a pool, cool drink in hand, with everything at the ready.

However, for RMOWP member **Margaret Frisina** and her husband **Mike**, of Butte, Montana, vacations over the past quarter of a century have meant stuffing the duffle bags with gear, packing the cameras, updating vaccinations and heading out for some of the most remote wildlife habitat on earth. One of their major achievements was completing the first scientifically repeatable nationwide survey of Mongolian argali (the world's largest wild mountain sheep), an effort that took them by jeep, horse and foot from the high Altai Mountains to the Gobi Desert. The couple will return this fall to conduct the third such comprehensive population survey.

The Frisinas find their most energizing times are in the field with the world's wild creatures—from the far reaching range of mountain sheep races to rare goats of Pakistan to the exotic Chinese Pere David's Deer with its elegant backward swept antlers. Their conservation work has been a big reward in itself, so when Wild Sheep Foundation Chairman Jack Atcheson Jr. selected the Frisinas to receive the 2013 Chairman's Award, it was award upon reward.

The couple was honored both for their scientific work, and conservation education efforts in popular and technical publications through the written word and photographs. Both are life-long photographers.

The Wild Sheep Foundation raises millions of dollars annually for the conservation of mountain wildlife and has many state clubs, including the Montana Chapter, as well as international affiliates.

See [www.wildsheepfoundation.org](http://www.wildsheepfoundation.org) for more information.

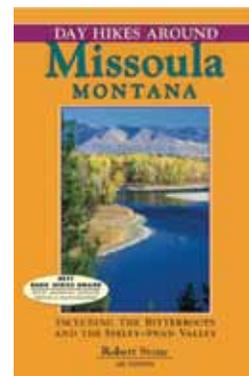


L to R: Michael R. Frisina and Margaret Frisina receiving the 2013 Chairman's Award from WSF Chairman Jack Atcheson, Jr. in recognition of their efforts on behalf of the conservation of wild mountain sheep and other ungulate species worldwide.  
Photo © Bob Maier.

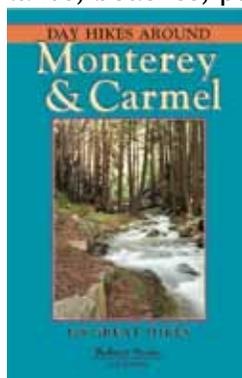
## RMOWP Author Releases Two New Hiking Guides

**Robert Stone** of Red Lodge, Montana, a longtime award-winning member of RMOWP, has released two new hiking guides: the fourth edition of *Day Hikes Around Missoula, Montana*; and the second edition of *Day Hikes Around Monterey & Carmel*.

Missoula, Montana lies at the hub of five merging valleys and is surrounded on all sides by mountain ranges. The Clark Fork, Rattlesnake, and Bitterroot Rivers converge near the city center, where the streets are lined with historic buildings. A short distance in any direction leads to national forests and wilderness areas. This updated edition of *Day Hikes Around Missoula, Montana* includes detailed descriptions of 102 hikes within a 100-mile radius of the city, with 110 maps. Destinations include both popular and remote trails, from easy nature walks to high-elevation overlooks with expansive vistas. Highlights include several dramatic waterfalls, stream-fed canyons, fertile valleys flanked by mountains, hot springs, suspension bridges, and historic sites from the Lewis and Clark voyage. List price for the 272-page softbound book is \$15.95.



Stone's other new book, *Day Hikes Around Monterey & Carmel*, takes us to an incredibly beautiful and scenic coastal stretch of the Pacific Ocean in Central California. Here, picturesque communities dot a landscape abundant with green valleys, woodlands, beaches, parks, natural preserves, and secluded bays. This updated edition includes 128 hikes from the north end of Monterey Bay to the Big Sur coastline. The hikes explore the interior mountains and hillsides, shoreline, beaches, wilderness, coves, sand dunes, whale-watching, forests of old-growth redwoods, and California condor nesting sites. The 384-page softbound book, which includes 135 maps, sells for \$19.95.



Since 1991, Robert Stone has been writer, photographer, and publisher of Day Hike Books. He tells us that he has hiked every trail in the Day Hike Book series, which now has 23 titles, including many in their third and fourth editions.

The guides can be purchased from all the usual places - Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, REI, and many book stores and outdoor shops, or go to <http://dayhikebooks.com>.

## Buck Introduces New Knives for 2013

With over 110 years of experience and as a leader in knife industry, **Buck Knives**, a long-rime supporter of RMOWP, has announced its new products for 2013, with a strong focus on its commitment to manufacture its products in the U.S. The line-up includes two new series, several survival/tactical knives, and a range of hunting, fishing, camping/hiking, and everyday knives. Each knife encompasses the quality and craftsmanship Buck is known for and is covered by Buck's Forever Warranty.

Among new products is the **Clearwater Series Fillet Knives**, named after the flowing Clearwater River in Buck's home state of Idaho. This knife incorporates a triple-edged blade design for superior handling. A full tang structure and rubberized handle provide a comfortable, secure grip and are slip-resistant, while the backside edging is essential in breaking down fish during non-fillet cuts. Available in 6- and 9-inch lengths, these flexible fillet knives suit both freshwater and salt water anglers. MSRP: \$55-\$70.

Campers, hikers, and backpackers will especially appreciate the new **Endeavor**. With a 9-inch overall length and weighing in at only 6.6 ounces, this knife with a steel, serrated blade is light enough to carry everywhere and strong enough to withstand extreme tasks. MSRP: \$70.

Those looking for an everyday carry knife should check out Buck's new **SpitFire**, a one hand opening, versatile lockback offered in serrated or non-ser-

rated blades. With an overall length of 4 1/4 inches closed, the Spitfire is the perfect size and is offered in a range of colors. MSRP: \$52.

This year Buck introduces another Buck/Hood creation, based on the designs of the late Ron Hood. The **Thug** survival knife features an integrated Shock Mitigation System (SMS) to minimize wasted energy during use, and measures 13 inches long. MSRP: \$200.



Three engraved knives Buck has donated for this year's auction and Member's Choice award.

© Barb Laine

Also joining Buck's collection of survival knives is the **Reaper**, with a black traction-coated, full tang blade and textured handle. This sleek 11-inch knife is a powerfully effective survival tool, with a blade measuring 6 3/4 inches. The 420HC drop point features a non-reflective coating for added invisibility in the field. MSRP: \$90.

Built to serve the field needs of military personnel, the large and extra-large **Intrepid** knives are a heavy duty, no-nonsense

approach to getting the job done. Designed with superior strength and added invisibility, the black 5-inch tanto blade is non-reflective. The textured injection molded nylon handle is available in Reaper Black camo and black. MSRP: \$100-\$130.

Buck's **Stowaway Kit**, containing a slicing and dicing spreader and a durable cutting board, is great for campers, RVers, or home kitchen use. Available in two sizes, the Stowaway Kit incorporates a secure storage area for the spreader on the back of the cutting board. MSRP: \$75-\$80.

For details on all of Buck's knives and other products, see [www.buckknives.com](http://www.buckknives.com).

CONFERENCE May 15-19, 2013

Colorado National Monument, Fruita, Colorado

Schedule & more information online at [www.rmowp.org](http://www.rmowp.org)

Recent donation for the auction:  
Remington Model 783 bolt action rifle.

DON'T FORGET!

- items for the auction
- matted photos for Members' Choice contest
- photos for the photo critique
- written work for the writing critique
- flash drive for the photo scavenger hunt



"Coke Ovens" formation in Colorado National Monument

© Barb Laine