

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

MARCH - APRIL 2009

Jack's Jaunts

Dakota Surprise

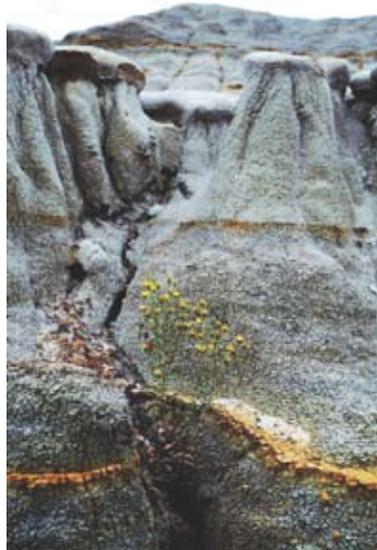
Story & photos by Jack Olson

Let's go wandering in the Badlands. No, not *those* Badlands, where Kevin Costner danced with the wolves. These are the North Dakota Badlands, which can be easily explored in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. There are a North and a South Unit, separated by about 45 miles. There is also a more remote ranch site where Roosevelt once worked.

My favorite is the North Unit, reached by U.S. 85. The nearest town is Watford City, about 15 miles away. The park is not what you would call crowded, but it is even less so in the north. You drive in above the Little Missouri River, skirting various features sculpted by erosion. You can park and wander up into, around, and on top of these forma-

tions. The North Dakota Badlands contain much more expansive grasslands than you'll find in Badlands National Park in South Dakota. If you're lucky, you may see a herd of buffalo grazing in the grassland.

You might enjoy hiking on the Achenbach Trail, through the grassland, above the Little Missouri, with distinctive features in the distance. I have only hiked it twice, but there was no one on it either time. Hike it far enough and you will cross the Little Missouri. At most



Oxbow Overlook, North Unit
Theodore Roosevelt National Park

times it can be forded, but be aware of possible high water in spring and summer.

The South Unit is accessed from Interstate 94, and the gateway town of Medora. Here you'll find the requisite motels, restaurants, and gas stations, and probably a souvenir or two. But while you're there, you might find a tour of the Chateau de Mores interesting.

In 1883, a French aristocrat, the Marquis de Mores, arrived in the area with big plans for a cattle operation and beef packing plant. He invested heavily in this operation and in the town of Medora, named for his wife. Unfortunately, due to a number of factors, the packing plant failed

in 1886. The Marquis built a 26 room frame house, which is now a state historic site. Tours (\$6 for adults) are given from May 16 to September 15.

There's a loop road through the South Unit, with the possibility of buffalo sightings. And there are more buttes, cliffs, and formations, with a variety of trails. I had a memorable occurrence once, just before sunrise. I was at an overlook above the Little Missouri River, looking down into Wind Canyon as the colors of the landscape began to gradually appear. And then the coyotes, wherever they were below, began their yipping. I never saw them but they made the picture perfect.



Along Loop Road, South Unit
Theodore Roosevelt National Park

I haven't been to Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch site but you can get to it on a dirt road from the South Unit. Check with a ranger for road conditions. There are two campgrounds in the South Unit and one in the North.

For those with time, endurance, and a thirst for adventure, the 97-mile-long Maah Daah Hey Trail may be a backpacker's dream. The trail, also open for bikers and horseback riders, is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. It connects the two separate units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, meandering through lonely and beautiful Badland 'scapes. There are four fenced campgrounds. Maah Daah Hey is Mandan for "an area that has been or will be around a long time." I feel like that sometimes.

Member News

New members, from both near and far, have joined RMOWP in the past few months. These include **Jan Sundberg** of Carbondale, Illinois. Recommended by member Linda Martin, Jan is a photographer who is part of the "Cache Corps of Discovery," a ten-year survey to document natural history sites in the Cache River wetlands of southern Illinois. You can see some of Jan's work at flickr.com/photos/jansun.

Also joining RMOWP recently was **Diane McKinley**

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Jan/Feb	Mar/Apr	May/June
July/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov/Dec

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Want a Fancier RMOWP Membership Photo ID Card?

RMOWP issues what we believe are attractive but relatively inexpensive membership cards, printed on card stock with color logos on both sides, signed by the secretary or treasurer.

A member has suggested an upgrade. He believes that it would be a benefit to the membership to provide a Photo ID membership card - a high quality hard plastic card about the same weight and durability as a credit card. He suggests that as many members are freelance journalists, not covered by the media credentials of a large publishing or production company, we depend on the credentials from professional associations to give credibility to our professional work.

As we all know, nothing is free, so a slightly higher membership fee to cover the cost of upgrading the membership cards might be required, or possibly we could make a new style membership card optional, and those that want it would pay extra. Another possibility, although not as classy as some might like, would be a membership card with a place for a photo, which the member could add and then have the card laminated.

Please give us your thoughts by emailing info@rmowp.org, calling Don Laine at 575-758-8922, or telling any of the board of directors by phone, email, or in person at the conference at Zion.



New Media Contact

The Coleman Company, Inc., one of RMOWP's longtime supporting members, has announced that in addition to its in-house public relations contact, working writers and photographers can obtain information on the company from Blue Heron Communications. Our contact there is Josh Ward, who can be reached at 800-654-3766 or josh@blueheroncomm.com. Of course, you can still contact Jim Reid, Coleman's senior manager of public relations, at 316-219-7535 or jreid@coleman.com.

Coleman bills itself as the world's leading manufacturer of camping and outdoor recreation equipment, including legendary Coleman® lanterns and camp stoves, plus grills, coolers, tents, sleeping bags, cookware, electric lights, backpacking gear, and a wide array of accessories. Coleman's portfolio of brands and products include: Stearns®, Hodgman®, SOSpenders®, Mad Dog Gear®, Sevylor®, Camping-Gaz® and Exponent®.

Additional information is at Coleman's website, www.coleman.com.

of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, recommended by member Kenita Gibbins. Diane, a photographer who loves to travel, tells us, "My photographic interests vary but my passion is animals and people." She skis and is involved in 4-H, and edits newsletters for two organizations.

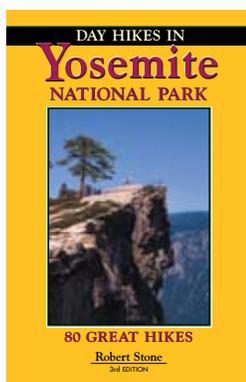
Russell and Gail Dohrmann of Boulder, Colorado have also recently joined RMOWP. Recommended by member Richard Holmes, the Dohrmanns are writer/photographers who specialize in creative and artistic photography, travel photography, and outdoor and flower photography. Russell's and Gail's credits include *Boulder's Favorite Places*, published by Westcliffe Publishing, photography in *Best Boulder Region Hiking Trails*, by Bette Erickson, also published by Westcliffe, and various other books and magazines.

RMOWP member **Kenita Gibbins** of Denver tells us that one of her photographs, an image printed on aluminum, was recently part of a photography exhibition titled "Anything Goes," at the Curtis Arts & Humanities Center. Kenita also mentioned that she has sold to the Denver Art Museum's gift shop, and has also been accepted to display her work at a local restaurant - her favorite eaterie - in March and April of 2010.

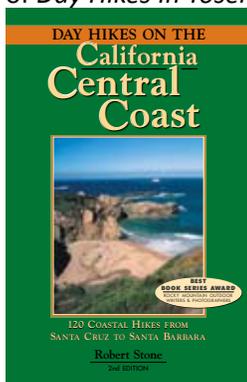
Avon, Colorado member **Jon Sheppard**, well known to RMOWP members for his nature and cowboy photography, has added newspaper writing to his resume. Jon has been sharing some of his favorite Colorado destinations with readers of the *Vail Daily*. His travel essays have included tips on snowmobiling near Camp Hale, the historic mining town of Leadville, and a short feature on one of our favorite Colorado destinations - Colorado National Monument, just outside of Grand Junction.

The newspaper also did an interview with Jon about his photography in which he discusses the art of photography, commenting, "Art comes from the heart." To read Jon's essays go to the Archives section at www.vaildaily.com and search for Jon Sheppard. You can see several of the essays and some of Jon's photography at www.jonsheppardphotography.com.

RMOWP member **Robert Stone**, of Red Lodge, Montana and Shell Beach, California, has released two new hiking guides. The third edition of *Day Hikes In Yosemite National*



Park provides details on 80 hikes in and around Yosemite National Park, including many lesser known trails and destinations. Highlights of these hikes include incredible waterfalls, granite monoliths, expansive alpine meadows, giant sequoia groves, and unforgettable views from unique perspectives that are only accessible from the hiking trails.



Stone has also updated his book *Day Hikes on the California Central Coast*, and this second edition takes us to some of the most spectacular scenery in the state, where picturesque communities dot a landscape abundant with valleys, white sand beaches, craggy headlands, cool forests, and wildlife viewing opportunities. The book includes 120 hikes along 400 miles of coastline between San Francisco and Los Angeles, offering descriptions of the best trails in state and county parks as well as city trails that are often overlooked.

All members of RMOWP are invited to submit information for the Member News section of the newsletter by emailing to info@rmowp.org.

Why Writers Hate Publishers (and their lawyers) or Why Writers Drink... a Lot

Don & Barb Laine

The two most common ways to write travel guides are as an author who owns the copyright and receives royalties based on the number of copies sold, or as work made for hire, in which the author is paid a flat fee regardless of how many copies are sold. Having done both, we have found that writing books in which we own the copyright is a lot more fun, primarily because the editors have less authority over the project, but that works made for hire pay better.

Over the years we have done a number of Frommer's travel guides, all as work made for hire, and have watched the contracts become more and more obtuse. Recently we agreed to update a few small sections of a regional Frommer's guide. This is a very minor project, which pays \$750 and should take less than a week to complete. Frommer's, owned by Wiley Publishing, in Hoboken, New Jersey, required six signed copies of the four-page contract, which includes the following sentence:

"To the extent such rights do not vest in Wiley as a 'work made for hire,' you hereby grant, assign and transfer to Wiley during the full term of copyright and all extensions thereof all of your right, title and interest in and to the Work and the content contained therein and all materials contained in or prepared for the Work, and the results and proceeds thereof, throughout the universe, in all media now known or hereafter devised."

We're especially anxious to see how this book sells in other galaxies.

Presidential Thoughts

Tom Cummings

The conference is just a few weeks away and Lynda and I are getting excited. We love going to conference. Our committee always has such a great schedule of events, especially the ones featuring our president.

At conference, we perhaps get to see a new part of the country that we haven't visited yet. And even if you have been to that location before, we regularly are allowed into areas that are off limits to the normal viewing public. We have local experts that share their knowledge, the history and points of interest in the area. But we also get to see our old friends again and a chance to add new attendees to that list for the next conference. It's a time to share travel experiences of the past year – good and bad – and an opportunity to get first hand information about other new areas you may plan to visit. We swap stories of our photographing and writing experiences and of the “be sure and see” locations or the “don't waste your time” warnings. We go out as groups into the area, capturing what we see and experience through our photography and/or our writing. And what conference would be complete without our auction led by the antics of auctioneers John Catsis and Jim Baker?

If you enjoy the fellowship of other photographers and writers like Lynda and I do, why wait a whole year? Thanks to Jim and Sue Baker, those members that live in the Oklahoma City-Stillwater area have for the last few years been meeting at the Bakers home in January for a time of sharing. We usually have a meal (thanks to Sue not Jim) and then we each share with the group a few of our recent images. We have a good time together... sort of a mini conference of the Oklahoma branch of RMOWP. And it is a great opportunity to invite other area photographers we know to come, share and learn about our organization. It can be a wonderful tool to sign up new members.

So, do you have members that live close to you? If so, you might want to consider starting a group like this. And who knows, Jim Baker might come and cook for you.

Moab Photo Symposium

Members of RMOWP who can't get enough of the wonderful Utah scenery are invited to the Moab Photography Symposium from April 30 to May 3. This gathering of professional and serious amateur photographers features presentations by photo experts, field workshops, and guided hikes, all within the beauty of the Moab, Utah area.

Conceived and organized by Moab photographer Bruce Hucko, the event annually draws more than 100 people from across the United States and Canada. “The goal is to mix good people, with great scenery and fantastic presentations on technical and artistic subjects,” says Hucko.



This year's theme is “Tradition and Beyond,” celebrating the range of creative photographic expression from fine art black and white to the digital frontier. Keynote speaker is Ted Orland, a photographer, author, and educator who worked with Ansel Adams for 15 years.

Complete details on the symposium can be found at www.moabphotosym.com. Symposium registration costs \$185, and there are additional workshop fees.

New Mexico Outdoor Writers & Photographers Fall Conference

Yes, Virginia, there will be an NMOWP conference this year and yes, it will be in the Fall – the weekend of **October 9–10**, starting with lunch (picnic) on Friday. So put those dates on your calendar.

It will be in Socorro and that is the weekend of the Socorro Fest with lots going on. Our motel of choice is the Econolodge, which offers a rate of \$55. The rooms are very nice plus there's a good breakfast. But don't reserve a room yet as Herr Host isn't ready. There will be meals inside and out, places to see besides the Fest which offers beer and wine amongst other joys, plenty of time on your own with choices of things to do. All of this will be explained in detail either in the next newsletter or a separate mailing after I get things firmed up.

Meanwhile I'm going to Australia. I'll be gone March 10 'til April 6 so don't try to call or email.

G'day, Anne (Sullivan)

Support Our Supporting Members

American Sportfishing Association, the industry's trade association, keeping people informed about emerging laws and policies that could significantly affect sportfishing. www.asafishing.org.

Coleman Company, the world's leading manufacturer of camping and outdoor recreation equipment, including the legendary Coleman lanterns, camp stoves, and coolers. www.coleman.com.

Delorme Mapping, a leading provider of mapping products for professional and consumer markets, including state atlases with detailed topographic maps in books plus Topo USA® software covering the entire country. www.delorme.com.

Remington, manufacturer of fine sporting arms, ammunition, gun care products and knives, plus factory-authorized gun parts. www.remington.com.

The Sportsman Channel, available nationwide through cable and satellite television providers, is the only network devoted to America's more than 50 million sportsmen, delivering complete hunting, fishing, and shooting programming 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.thesportsmanchannel.com.

2008 Conference Photos by Tom Cummings



Field trip to Hermit Park, Estes Park's newest public area.



Opening Reception - greeting old friends and making new ones.



On a trail at Hermit Park
Three generations of Minors: Betty, her granddaughter Rachel & daughter Becky, Rachel's aunt. We're going to miss them in Zion.



Field trip with RMOWP member Weldon Lee.
Moraine Park, Rocky Mountain National Park.

Last Minute Conference Stuff ~ 2009

Schedule Update & Reminders

It looks like we'll have a great group in Zion National Park for the 36th annual RMOWP conference, March 25 to 29, with about 50 participants from across the United States. (Late registration is being accepted, and we'll do what we can to arrange lodging but no guarantees.)

Recent additions to the schedule include a talk on global warming's impact on outdoor recreation by Steve Williams, president of the Wildlife Management Institute, to take place Thursday evening between the Italian buffet dinner and the photo critique session. We are also pleased to be having a short talk from Zion area photographer and director of the Zion Field Institute Michael Plyler on Friday afternoon, between the writing critique session and panel discussion on survival in the changing world of outdoor writing and photography.

Remember that weather in southwest Utah is unpredictable at this time of year, so bringing warm and water-proof clothing and dressing in layers is a wise plan. And if you have a refillable water bottle that would be good, too. There's a water filling station in Zion Lodge. The Zion Shuttle doesn't start running until April 1, so we'll be carpooling and we ask that everyone with a nice big SUV or minivan bring it, and leave the little hybrid at home. Please see "What Else to Bring" at right.

Funny Shirt Contest



Barb picked this up many years ago in Seattle. In case you can't make it out, it says: "Seattle Rain Festival ~ January 1st to December 31st." You can probably do better...

At the suggestion of one of our group's more vocal troublemakers - a person we'll call "the anonymous instigator" - we are including a Funny Shirt Contest in the otherwise mostly serious schedule of events at the 2009 RMOWP conference.

Any type of shirt is eligible, although we're expecting sweatshirts and t-shirts with humorous messages and/or images. The funnier and more original the better, and both store-bought and homemade shirts are welcome.

Those silly enough to want to participate should wear their shirts to the auction Saturday afternoon, where a secret committee will judge the shirts and determine several winners, who will be awarded worthless prizes that they will probably be too embarrassed to take home.

What Else to Bring

PHOTOS FOR THE MEMBERS' CHOICE CONTEST

Don't forget your entries for the Members' Choice photography contest. Each person may submit up to two (2) matted prints, black and white or color. On the back of each of your one or two photo(s), write Members' Choice, plus the photo title, your name, and one of the following categories: Scenic, Flora, Fauna. Altered/manipulated images are eligible, and there is no time frame requirement - images can have been taken at any time. Print size is a maximum of 8 x 12 inches that is matted with a final size not to exceed 12 x 16 inches. Photos should not be framed. Submit your entries at registration, or no later than noon on Thursday, March 26.

PHOTOS FOR THE PHOTO CRITIQUE

Entertaining and informative for all, this program looks at photographs with an eye to how they could be improved. Those who want their shots critiqued should bring 3 to 5 digital images on CD to the Zion Lodge Auditorium at least one hour prior to the program, which takes place Thursday, March 26, at 8:00 p.m. Spectators are welcome.

WRITING FOR THE WRITERS' CRITIQUE

Your written work will be gently and positively examined with the purpose of finding ways to improve it at this session, scheduled Friday, March 27, starting at 1:30 p.m. Participants should bring at least 5 copies of no more than 5 pages of double-spaced (or equivalent) unpublished work. It should not be your best work, but something you want help with. Spectators are welcome.

DONATIONS FOR THE AUCTION

We want your stuff! Please bring donations for the RMOWP Auction, which raises money for our scholarship fund. Items donated by RMOWP's supporting members have ranged from Coleman tents, stoves, lights, and ice chests, to mapping software and books, outdoor-themed art, and Remington rifles and shotguns. For this year's auction Remington has donated a Marlin model XL7 bolt action rifle in 30.06 caliber, with five boxes of ammunition. RMOWP's individual members are always equally generous, bringing their own matted photos, published books, craft and gift items, plus photo equipment and a variety of things they've found lying around the house. The auction will take place Saturday, March 28, starting at 3:00 p.m., and all money raised goes to RMOWP's scholarship fund, which provides scholarships for college students in programs preparing them for careers in outdoor writing and/or photography.

*See you in Zion
March 25-29*