

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2009

Looking back... and ahead

Article & photos by Barb Laine

I'm really looking forward to RMOWP's conference next year. The last time Don & I were in Yellowstone National Park was in the summer of 1971. We were on our honeymoon, and driving in a round-about way from New Jersey to New Mexico, we stopped along the way to take in some of the natural wonders of our country. As Dinah Shore used to sing to us weekly: seeeee the USA, in your Chevrolet... No? OK, OK. So I'm a nostalgic romantic. (And yes, we were driving a Chevy.)

Neither Don nor I were serious photographers in 1971, and our cameras were anything but state of the art. In fact these two shots were taken with the Kodak Instamatic I had purchased in 1968 for a European trip I was planning with one of my college roommates. Don had unfortunately left his Dad's good Kodak 35mm in Taos (NM). Over the years he's taken numerous excellent photos with it, fully manual though it was with a separate hand-held light meter even.

Anyway, my point is, I'm looking forward to returning to that unusual landscape where water suddenly shoots into the sky from a hole in the ground, and shiny terraces of mineral-encrusted formations dazzle the eye. A scenic photographer's delight.



Old Faithful
Yellowstone National Park
summer 1971



Mammoth Hot Springs
Yellowstone National Park
summer 1971

You say you prefer digitizing four-legged critters or our winged friends? Wildlife photographer Tom Ulrich will be on hand to point us in the right direction.

And like all the West, there's the history of man's trials and tribulations, and sometimes vain attempts to make an intelligent civilization. Maybe in the next thousand years we'll achieve something near that ideal. But I'll not indulge my penchant for philosophical rambling here. We have more interesting things to look into.

So I hope you've marked your calendars to head for Wyoming and the Old Faithful area of Yellowstone National Park, September 8-12, 2010.

See you there!

IT'S NOT TOO SOON TO BOOK YOUR ROOM - see page 4.



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Member News

Despite the unpredictable and somewhat scary economy, RMOWP members are continuing to find outlets for their creative endeavors. **John Catsis** has an article on "New Mexico's Most Enchanting Cowboy" in the September issue of *New Mexico Magazine*, page 58. John tells us it's a profile of a cowboy poet who moved to Silver City, New Mexico from Ohio. A cowboy from Ohio, John? If you say so. John, a former broadcaster, also keeps his voice in shape and tells us that he has again begun his fall ritual of announcing play-by-play of the Western New Mexico University football games in Silver City.

Jack Olson had an article with photos published in *Midwest Traveler*, a AAA magazine that frequently buys Jack's articles. Published in its May/June issue, the article is about Colorado's national parks and monuments. And what would fall be without a new calendar with Jack's photos? He says the 2010 Colorado published by a Denver company, contains his shot of Boreas Pass, near Breckenridge, and another of Shrine Ridge, near Vail Pass, which Jack says is his absolute favorite hike anywhere.

Terry Guthrie reports that there is still space available in his Fall Colors Workshop with Joe Zinn in Northeast Georgia, scheduled November 2-4. For details see Terry's website - www.mostlynature-photo.com - or e-mail or phone him (contact information is in the RMOWP Membership Directory).



I'M KEEPING MY EYE ON YOU.

Grizzly Bear © Frank Zurey
(2009 Honorable Mention, fauna category)



NMOWPA Conference: October in Socorro, NM

Our sister – or maybe we should say parent – organization, New Mexico Outdoor Writers and Photographers, will hold its 2009 conference in Socorro, NM, **October 9-10**. Organizer Anne Sullivan tells us "Leave your worries on the doorstep... It's Socorro Fest Weekend and there's lots to do."

All RMOWPers are welcome.

The conference begins at noon Friday with lunch and a tour of the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge north of Socorro. The evening offers a presentation by Socorro's prime historian, Paul Harden.

Saturday morning features a trip to El Camino Real International Heritage Center. Anne will provide myriad options for what to do in the afternoon, and dinner will be at the Stage Door Restaurant off the Socorro Plaza.

Contact Anne Sullivan (see RMOWP directory) for details. Deadline: Oct 1.



Slow Down on I-70

Story & photos by Jack Olson

I imagine many of you have raced across the eastern plains of Colorado, testing the 75 mile per hour speed limit on Interstate 70, and only stopping to take a gasoline or potty break. You're heading for the mountains, or the enticements of the big city, eyes fixed on the 18-wheeler you're overtaking. You may just be missing something very interesting.

Speeding west from Kansas, crossing the Colorado state line, the first town you encounter is Burlington. Come on, get off! First head to Old Town, right near the Interstate. Old Town presents a slice of earlier 20th Century life in the form of relocated and authentically re-constructed buildings to portray the various businesses and ways of life in a village of a simpler time. From a railroad depot, blacksmith shop, and soda fountain to a ranch house, church, and schoolhouse, explore the ways of life on the High Plains. They call it "Life in the Past Lane".



Children's game in front of old schoolhouse Old Town Burlington

Old Town is open year round and has special events on summer weekends. They also have an excellent museum depicting the culture and artifacts of a time that just a few of us

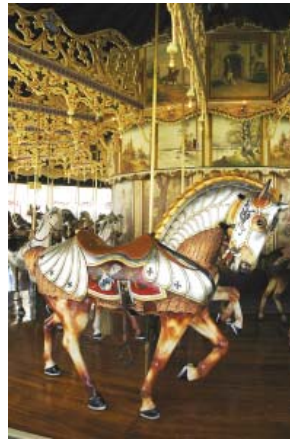
(hands, please!) have ever experienced. There's an emporium for the shopping-minded. Old Town has a strong connection to present-day Burlington, with Halloween trick or treating, performances in the big barn, and SchoolDaze for children to learn about the history of the area in a fun way.

To find much more information, go to: www.burlington-co.com/oldtown.html.

Next, head through downtown Burlington and follow the signs to the fairgrounds and the Kit Carson County Carousel. This magnificent carousel was built in Philadelphia in 1905 and by all accounts is one of the finest old carousels in the country. Registered as a National Historic Landmark, it was originally sold to the Elitch Gardens amusement park in Denver. But as hard times were approaching, the carousel was purchased by the Kit Carson County commissioners, who shortly became ex-commissioners. It wasn't until decades later that the carousel was expertly restored, and Wurlitzer's Monster Military Band Organ found its voice again.

Take the carousel ride for 25 cents: inflation hasn't changed the fee in over thirty years. The ride is long, and very fast. Hold onto your horses, or camel, because the counter-clockwise speed is 12mph compared to the usual 8mph for lesser carousels. A menagerie of 46 hand-carved

animals helps the riders live, or relive, a time gone by.



Ride this handsome steed on the Kit Carson County Carousel

Right next to the carousel is the recently opened Carousel Museum. You can learn all about how this carousel was constructed and its history. Plus there are exceptional exhibits of the history of carousels, in general. Aficionados from across the country make Burlington a must-see for all things carousel. The cost to tour the museum is only a dollar. Both the carousel and the museum are open from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

The carousel and museum also have a website. Everything is up-to-date in Burlington. Go to: www.kitcarsoncountycarousel.com.

OK, get back on I-70 and barrel west to Limon, where you exit again. Go down by the railroad tracks and park by the old depot. To your right is the Railroad Park, with a school house, Saddle Museum, and many old windmills. The depot itself has memorabilia of the railroad days and an amazing exhibit of Ancestral Puebloan (Anasazi) artifacts. Farther down toward the east is an outdoor display of old tractors, farm equipment, and railroad cars. Heritage Day, on the first Saturday in August, is great fun, with music, demonstrations, face painting, scrumptious fixins.

In my opinion, the highlight of the Limon historic experience is the Heritage Museum. This museum, what they call the Exhibit Building, is the most recent addition to the Railroad Park. There are too many different displays to mention all, but there is a mercantile store, rooms of houses of long ago, a gas station with a price of 17.8 cents (!), all expertly collected and arranged.

Finding more information about the Railroad Park and Heritage Museum takes a few more clicks, but you can do it pretty quickly. Google (what else?) Limon Heritage Museum. You will get an array of choices but the first one will have the Heritage Museum. Click on that and you'll find information on the Heritage Museum, Depot Museum, and Railroad Park. The museum is open Memorial Day to Labor Day, but you can enjoy the Railroad Park year round.

The High Plains have a special beauty all their own, but the history and people of eastern Colorado make a few hours' stop an enjoyable learning experience, and a respite from the racetrack of the Interstate.



Limon Railroad Park windmill



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One Year and Counting

In just 12 short months, Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers heads north to **Yellowstone National Park**, America's first designated national park, for our 2010 annual conference. The exact dates are **September 8 - 12, 2010**, and conference headquarters will be inside the park at **Snow Lodge in the Old Faithful area**.

We'll have photography field trips and workshops with internationally-known wildlife photographer **Tom Ulrich** and other renowned nature photographers, plus guided hikes, craft improvement sessions for photographers and writers, and the ever-popular sunrise photo shoot and photo and writers' critiques.

There is a wide range of lodging choices in the park - but only a few of some types available - so make your reservations soon to get the best shot of securing the accommodations you want. You can always cancel by August 8, 2010, and get your full deposit back. We each make our own reservation and pay a deposit of one night's lodging.

To make your reservation using a credit card, call Xanterra, the company that manages the Yellowstone lodges, at **307-344-5437**. You'll talk with **Karen Kerr**, a very friendly and knowledgeable woman who can help you decide what type of lodging you want. Karen can also reserve lodging for you in other areas of the park, before or after our conference.

We have set aside some of each of the following, all of which are in the general area around Snow Lodge:

- Old Faithful Lodge Budget Cabin, two double beds, shared bathhouse, \$76.07.
- Snow Lodge Frontier Cabin, one or two double beds & private bath, \$109.14.
- Old Faithful Lodge Frontier Cabin, one double bed & private bath, \$124.57.
- Old Faithful Inn, historic rooms in Old House section. Two queen beds & shared bath, \$108.04; one

queen bed & private bath (tub only), \$137.80.

The above nightly rates, which include tax, should be pretty close to what we'll be paying next September, but the exact rates have to be approved by the National Park Service and that won't happen until spring.

There are also additional lodging choices, including ADA handicap units w/roll-in showers, which Ms. Kerr can tell you about.

Pets are allowed in most cabins, but not in lodge rooms.

The nearest camping is 45 minutes away from Snow Lodge at Madison Campground (about \$20 per night), no hookups or showers (pay showers are available at Old Faithful Inn).

For additional information on lodging, see www.travelyellowstone.com. and for more information on Yellowstone National Park, see www.nps.gov/yell.



Tumbling Creek
2009 Honorable Mention, scenics category

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