



# Rocky Mountain Outdoors

The Newsletter of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers



## *Jack's Jaunts: Historic Wyoming*

*by Jack Olson*

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### Inside the Outdoors:

- Get those scholarship apps circulating, p. 6
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- How dry we are— water scarcity impacting nature & people, p. 7
- For everything you wanted but didn't get from Santa, see p. 8

Next year, September 3-6, 2003, we'll be meeting at our 30<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Lander, Wyoming. In upcoming issues of **Rocky Mountain Outdoors** I'll be suggesting locations in the area and along the way which might be worth a visit.

If you like pioneer history, there are some very interesting Oregon Trail sites around the town of Guernsey. As you drive north of Cheyenne on I-25, take exit 92 and drive east fifteen miles on U.S. 26 to Guernsey. In town you'll see a sign pointing to the right toward Register Cliff and the Oregon Trail Ruts. Cross the North Platte River and there's a sign indicating a right turn and .4 miles to the Oregon Trail Ruts National Historic Landmark. There's a short trail with interpretive signs explaining the history of the area and defining the importance of the Oregon Trail. Soon, you'll come upon the ruts, carved vividly in the hard clay of the region. You will marvel, as you see the ruts cut uphill, at what these people endured to seek a better life.

Return to the main road and take a right, driving 1.8 miles to Register Cliff State Historic Site. Along the way, you'll come upon a monument to the Pony Express which also crossed this area in its brief life. At Register Cliff, there's a short trail along the cliff, where you can see the signatures of pioneers who traveled the Oregon Trail.

Many dates were recorded in the 1850's through the 70's. Unfortunately, there are many recent dates and names of people who were just thoughtless. We call the old names history, the new names vandalism.

*Continued p. 9*



*Photo by Jack Olson*

The deeply rutted road carved by pioneer wagons on the quest for the west long ago. Part of Trail Ruts National Historic Landmark.

## *From the President*



John Catsis,  
RMOWP President

**A Happy  
New  
Year!**

### **Happy Holidays and Happy Anniversary!**

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc. will be observing its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2003.

I recall serving as the group's President when RMOWP observed its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in spectacular Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Now, I am again President as we prepare to meet in Lander, Wyoming. A new President will then take over on almost the same day as founder Joe McKenna was elected as RMOWP's first President.

What a ride it has been! I've been part of RMOWP during half of its storied history. We've had some great conferences and made some great friends. With the passing of time, we have lost some friends, mostly due to illness and death. And yes, because of the traumatic events of this past summer and fall, we have lost other friends, as well. We wish them well and hope they find what they are searching for.

Those who remain with our organization are dedicated to RMOWP. They are strong in the belief that we represent both the past and the future. Because of our knowledge and experience in outdoor communication we can mentor and guide those who dream of the same professional pursuits. It's rewarding to see so many new faces joining our organization. It's a new look. An excited look. A youthful look.

Yet, we have much work to accomplish before we gather in Lander this September. There will be another board meeting, where important decisions will be made on what the future of RMOWP will be. It will not be business as usual, I can assure you. We are looking for fresh faces with fresh ideas to serve the future of this organization. Again I ask for volunteers to serve in new and established roles. Let me hear from you.

In the meantime, to everyone, a most happy and bountiful new year. We have so much to be thankful for.

John Catsis  
RMOWP President

Trees blanketed in freshly fallen snow on Moffat Tunnel East Portal trail near Rollins Pass, Colorado. New Year's Day 2002.

*Photo by Cindy Stone*



## ALL ABOUT US

### About RMOWP

Formed in 1973, the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc, is a regional organization of professional and aspiring communicators dedicated to the improvement of communicating the outdoor experience. Through written, photographic and artistic expression, members provide information about the recreational and natural resources found in the Rocky Mountain West. Visit our website at [mowp.org](http://mowp.org) for more information about the mission, activities, and membership of RMOWP.

**"Dedicated to the improvement of communicating the outdoor experience."**

### RMOWP Organization

#### Officers

**President**  
John Catsis

**Vice President**  
Barb Laine

**Secretary**  
Open

**Acting Treasurer**  
Barb Laine

#### Board of Directors

Joel Evans (2003)  
Jack Olson (2005)  
Joy Roybal (2004)  
Jon Sheppard (2004)  
Helen Shields (2004)

#### Past-Presidents' Council

Lee Carr, Chairman  
Kelly Gatlin  
Dr. Beto Gutierrez  
Jack Olson

#### Membership Chair

Barb Laine

#### Awards Chair

MaryAnn Gaug  
Ron Hellbush

#### Scholarship Chair

Jeff Pederson

#### Medical Advisor

Dr. Beto Gutierrez

#### Newsletter Editor

Cindy Stone

#### Webmaster

Cindy Stone

### About the Newsletter

RMOWP publishes the Rocky Mountain Outdoors newsletter bi-monthly.

Share your outdoor writing & photography expertise, experiences, and achievements with fellow members. Help showcase and improve the talents of members. Keep us informed of important issues affecting the outdoor lifestyle and writing and photography profes-

sionals. We'd love to get craft improvement tips and articles, and photos to go with articles and news!

Send articles and photos to the editor, Cindy Stone, at:

[cindy@rmowp.org](mailto:cindy@rmowp.org)  
1352 Chardonnay Dr  
Richland WA 99352-7303  
Fax & Phone:  
509-627-4747

#### **Next Newsletter Deadline** **February 15 2003**

*Please send submissions to be received by this date for the March/April 2003 issue.*

#### **Cover title bar photo:**

Winter view of Rocky Mountain peaks at Continental Divide near Brainard Lake, west of Ward, CO.

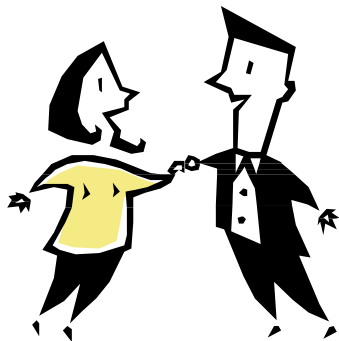
*Photo by Cindy Stone.*



#### **Editorial Note**

All URLs in the newsletter are shown without the "www." prefix to save space; unless otherwise noted, assume that you need to include the prefix when entering the URL in your browser address.

## MEMBER NEWS & EVENTS



### *Welcome New Members*

Two individuals have joined the ranks of RMOWP in the past few weeks. They are Richard Galloway of Baker City, Oregon and Jake Harper of Denver, Colorado.

Galloway is a freelance writer and photographer who has written articles for various outdoor magazines. Richard is also into llama training; certainly a new skill within our membership! He is joining as an active member.

Harper is a photographer who concentrates on natural history, scenic, and wildlife. He is a member of NANPA and is joining us as an associate member.

### *New Awards Committee Appointments*

Maryann Gaug and Ron Hellbusch are co-chairs of the competition and awards committee, President John Catsis has announced.

"Ron served as awards chair during last summer's conference and Maryann most recently was editor of the RMOWP newsletter," Catsis said, "and both did outstanding jobs."

The pair will review rules and fees for the upcoming writing and photography competitions and will announce all the rules in a future issue of this newsletter.



### *Make a Difference in RMOWP: Volunteer!*

Lee Carr, Chairman of the Past President's Council, is seeking candidates for seven positions that will become open in 2003. They are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three board positions. The officer positions are for two year terms, and the board positions are for three years, expiring in 2006.

If you've been a member of RMOWP for a year or more and attended at least one conference, consider taking on a leadership role in our organization.

Let Lee know you want to be a candidate for one of these important positions. Email him at [dlcarr@dmca.net](mailto:dlcarr@dmca.net) or call him at 970-261-8609.

### *Board Meeting Update*

We will be changing the date and place of the spring board meeting. It will probably be held during the first week of April, instead of in March, but will probably still be located in New Mexico. Participants will be notified when place and date are set.



## MEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

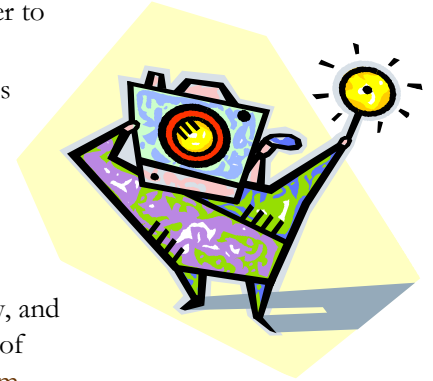
### *Don Mammoser Published*

Don Mammoser, one of our rising young photography stars, has made the big time. One of his photos is featured in a two-page spread in the January issue of Popular Photography magazine. The picture is part of a Nikon feature called "The American Mosaic: Portrait of a Nation."

According to the article, Don's photo was one of only seven selected by Nikon from nearly 10,000 submitted. The photo is of a winter sunrise at Mesa Arch in Canyonlands National Park, Utah. Don was the

only Rocky Mountain area photographer to be honored in the Nikon competition.

Don won four prizes in RMOWP's photography competition last summer and wowed the audience with his images during the opening night slide show. He has been a member of RMOWP for about a year and lives in Littleton, Colorado with his wife, Shelly, and their baby daughter. You can see more of Don's work at [donmammoserphoto.com](http://donmammoserphoto.com).



### *Wanted: The Lowdown on Our Members*

Have you ever wondered how the Laine's got in with Frommer's, what Kelly Gatlin does with giant radio telescopes, where John Anthony got started in television, or when Betty Minor finds time for woodcarving? Here's your chance to find out! Do a little research on any of your fellow members and write an article about them!

We have some very in-

teresting and accomplished members, and many newer members. It's hard get to know everyone but everyone has a story. Be the detective and find out for all of us!

If you know you are fascinating but can't wait for someone to interview you, or you just like talking to or about yourself, don't be shy, just tell us about you!

Need ideas on who to write about? Contact one of

our organization leaders listed on page 3 as they know many people, or review the directory to find someone whose work or interests intrigue you.

Send your articles or proposed interview subjects and ideas to the editor, Cindy Stone, at [cindy@rmowp.org](mailto:cindy@rmowp.org). Include photos so we can get to know the faces behind the names and stories.

### *2003 Photo Workshops*

Enroll now for the 2003 RMOWP outdoor photography workshops which will be held in Rocky Mountain National Park at Estes Park, Colorado. Vivid scenery and abundant wildlife provide memorable photographic opportunities.

Our workshops are a great value and experience for anyone wishing to improve their skill in outdoor photography. They

include 5 days of instruction and practice in small classes, professional tips for obtaining the best nature and wildlife photos, and immediate processing and feedback on photos for rapid skill improvement.

Workshop dates are **June 26-30** and **Sep. 29-Oct. 3**. Click on the Workshops link on our website for more information and testimonials about the workshops.

**"The instructor-to-student ratio provided for an outstanding one-on-one learning experience."**

**Rachel Yorra, CA**

## MEMBER NEWS &amp; EVENTS

*RMOWP Scholarship Applications*

Please help get the word out that it's time once again for RMOWP scholarship applications!

February 15 is the acceptance deadline for the 2002/2003 Scott-McKenna Memorial Scholarship. There is an entry form in this newsletter, and you can access one online at the RMOWP web site. This annual award provides from \$500 to \$1,000 to a deserving student who will study communications and the outdoors, naturally!

Joe McKenna, veteran sport-show organizer and the man whose inspiration formed RMOWP in 1973, and J.B. Scott, another founding member, were

ardent supporters of this concept and the scholarship is named in their memory.

Who is eligible? Candidates must be nominated by a current member of RMOWP and should be enrolled in college, or will attend next year. Students from high school seniors and into graduate school are eligible. In keeping with the original intent of the scholarship, it is restricted to students in the fields of outdoor writing or photography.

Use the application form to encourage good students to apply. Sign the form as a sponsor. You can also contact Jeff Pederson, who is the scholarship chair-

man (at 505-476-8113, or by email at [ipederson@gmfsh.state.nm.us](mailto:ipederson@gmfsh.state.nm.us)).

The money comes from funds set aside by the board each year, after a review of our finances. Auctions raise funds at annual conferences. Donations are also welcome, and we are fortunate that an anonymous benefactor has matched the RMOWP amount in many years. The scholarships began in 1991.

You may contribute as well, through a board member, by mail, or in person. Thank you for spreading the word about this year's scholarship.

~ Jeff Pederson



*Photo by Cindy Stone*  
Evergreen bough and berry in Mt. Evans area, Colorado.

*Webmaster's Update*

The transition of webmaster duties has been a bit slow due to the numerous activities and technicalities involved (and taking on the newsletter at the same time!), but you can expect to start seeing changes and more regular updates to the website in the future. Thanks to Phil Springer for doing such a great job building the initial site, and for being so helpful in making this transition.

Links to the two most recent issues of the newslet-

ter are now online, allowing you to read it online or print a color copy of the newsletter. I've heard from a few people who no longer want a hardcopy, so please let me know if this is your preference too. Otherwise you will continue to receive the print version by mail.

Other plans are to enhance the design and layout of the website to reflect more image and character of RMOWP and reorganize some content to be more

appealing or accessible. Inactive or incomplete sections of the site will be reviewed and removed if determined they are not used or need to be more fully designed and functioning before going back online.

I'll keep you posted of changes, and welcome your comments on what you like or find most useful (or not) on the site, and what else you would like to have. Contact me at [cindy@rmowp.org](mailto:cindy@rmowp.org) or 509-627-4747.

*by Cindy Stone*

**rmowp.org**

## MEMBER ARTICLES

*Impact of Colorado's Drought**by Ron Hellbush*

Colorado is definitely in a serious drought statewide, certainly on the Eastern slope and Eastern plains. Most cities that own and manage water supplies as well as other public and agricultural water districts and users, use the mid-1950s drought period (1954-1956) for their drought planning. One of the most shocking and concerning statistics that surfaced thus far is the fact that current stream flows in Clear Creek (Westminster and Standley Lake's primary source of water supply) is nearly one-half, yes nearly 50% LESS than the flows recorded in 1956. There is little in historical records to rely on in planning for what the remainder of this and next year's water supply will look like.

There is little that has not already been said as to the impact already being felt on cities and agriculture in Colorado. There is a connection, a very direct connection between the devastating impacts the 2002 drought is having on our state's fisheries as well as our urban human population. Antero Reservoir in South Park, owned by Denver Water, is perhaps the best nearby example of how the drought is impacting fishing and outdoor recreation across our state. Antero was drained 5 years ago to allow

Denver Water to make needed repairs to the outlet works pipes and valves. This is not unusual for any reservoir. In the process Antero lost a large portion of its best spawning stock of rainbow trout. Thanks to the Division of Wildlife and cooperation of Denver Water, the impoundment was restocked, but this time with larger than normal size spawning trout that immediately began the restoration process for Antero. As we edged into this year's drought Antero was considered to house one of, if not the best, populations of big trout in the state. Today Antero is nearly dry and few if any of the high quality spawning stock could be netted and transported to other lakes and reservoirs.

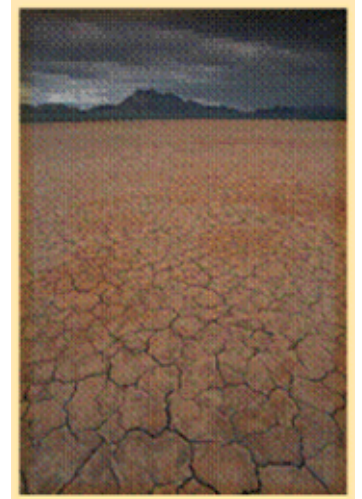
What has caused a critical situation for cities and farms has also caused an equally critical situation for our state's fishing lakes and reservoirs, and our streams and rivers. Low water levels, high water temperatures, and lack of oxygen are all taking a toll on the state's fisheries. Strong mature fish populations do not come back in a year, or two years. We will see a serious drop in fish reproduction and fish growth this year, and it will be felt for years.

Could the effects of this drought been avoided? Or at

least minimized? I suggest it could have been. In the early 1980s, Denver Water along with a number of other cities and water entities banded together to study and seek approval of a federal permit to build Two Forks Dam and Reservoir. Nearly \$40m was spent over 10 years in studies and engineering evaluation of the feasibility of constructing Two Forks. While water entities, both municipal and agriculture, were working diligently toward the construction of the major water storage project, a number of state and national environmental organizations were working counterproductively to see that the federal permit was not approved. Until 1988 it was a conflict in the making between those who knew the eastern slope needed more water, and the environmentalist who did not want to see the water project built for the benefit of people, wildlife, and the state's fishery. In 1988 the federal Environmental Protection Agency Administrator denied the permit, taking the side of the environmental organizations.

*This article was previously published in Ron's column "The Outdoor Scene" in his local newspaper and is reprinted here with permission.*

**"Low water levels, high water temperatures, and lack of oxygen are all taking a toll on the state's fisheries."**

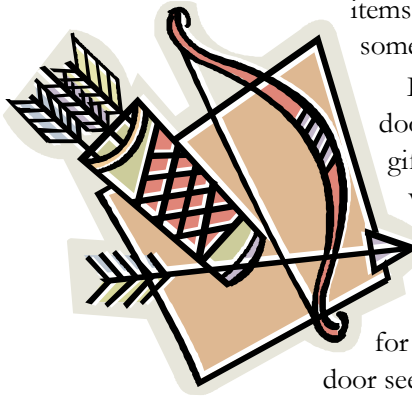


## MEMBER ARTICLES

## After-Christmas Shopping Guide for the Outdoorsy Type

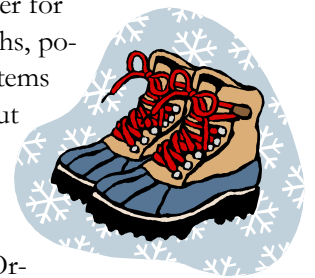
by Ron Hellbusch

Here we are in the days after Christmas, and we outdoors types who fish, hunt, hike, camp, write, and photograph didn't get what we really needed and wanted. Sound typical? Not a surprise since family and friends are not always tuned into those specialty outdoor items we sportsmen, writers, and photographers like and need. Maybe you received some gift cards? or some cash? If so, not all is lost.

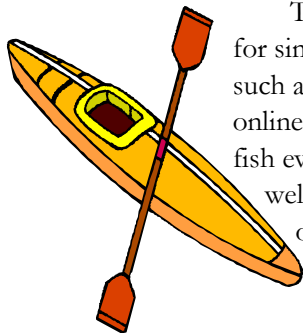


Let's look at some of the options and where a person can find those kinds of outdoor sports gifts from specialty outdoor shops. The range of outdoor vendors and gifts is limitless. For the angler, consider fly tying equipment, landing nets, fishing vest, tackle boxes, rain jackets, fly holders, lures, reels and rods, and bait holders to name just a few items. For the hunter, gloves, even mittens, stocking caps, cameo jackets, insulated coveralls, decoys, game calls, radios, binoculars, hunting videos, for starters. I will stop here and suggest that you who are shopping for hikers, campers, RV enthusiasts, climbers, boaters, kayakers, and any other outdoor seeker will find something to like in the gift sources listed below.

Serious fly angler gifts can be purchased from Westbank Anglers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming ([westbankanglers.com](http://westbankanglers.com)). Everything from chest waders, fly rods and reels, landing nets, fly-tying supplies, filtration bottles to purify stream water for drinking, headlamps, knives and tools for rigging flies and nymphs, polarizing sunglasses, and clothing to suggest a few items. Similar items are available from Western Rivers Flyfishers ([wrflyfisher.com](http://wrflyfisher.com)) out of Salt Lake City, Utah.



Trout Unlimited (TU) offers as wide a range of serious fly fishing gear and equipment as you can find anywhere. Catalogs are available by calling 1-888-758-0058 or [tumerchandise.com](http://tumerchandise.com). Orders will be taken online or by phone. TU has an extremely wide variety of fishing gifts from clocks, to framed photographs, clothing, fishing gear, vehicle license plate frames and window stickers, rod carriers (vehicle and travel), and every fly and nymph made.



Try Feather Craft Fly Fishing at [feather-craft.com](http://feather-craft.com) or by phone at 1-888-659-1707 for similar and unusual fishing gifts. They even have some gifts for your hunting dog, such as dog beds, leashes and training tools. The Anglers Art at 1-800-848-1020 and online at [anglersart.com](http://anglersart.com) is the place to shop for excellent books on where and how to fish every conceivable species and anywhere in the world. They have some artwork as well. Even closer to home is Cabela's at [cabelas.com](http://cabelas.com) online or 1-800-237-4444. This outlet prides itself in having a wide range of fishing and hunting gifts. The Orvis line of high quality fishing gifts can be accessed at their online catalog at [orvis.com](http://orvis.com), or by calling 1-888-235-9763.

For the hunter's gift list check out Cabela's as well. In addition, try specialty outlets like Herter's at [herters.com](http://herters.com) online or 1-800-654-3825. Books, hunting gear, unique hunting clothing like overalls, shooter shirts, shell vests, brush hunting pants, decoys, duck and goose calls, a substantial assortment of hunting dog supplies and training devices, binoculars, spotting scopes, ammo carriers, hunting blinds and small boats are just some



## MEMBER ARTICLES

*Historic Wyoming**(from p. 1)*

Return to Guernsey and take a right, driving east thirteen miles on U.S. 26 to Ft. Laramie. Nearby is Ft. Laramie National Historic Site. Known as the Crossroads of a Nation Moving West, the fort was first established in 1834 as a fur trading post. Later, as pioneers trekked across country to the West Coast, Ft. Laramie became an important stopping off point. The Oregon, Mormon, California, and Overland Trails all came through Ft. Laramie. As conflicts with American Indians arose, the fort became a military post in 1849. It remained in use until 1890. You'll receive an interpretation of life at the fort, and the history of the area. Many buildings have been restored and some ruins of barracks can be viewed.

If you'd like to camp in the area, there's an excellent campground at Guernsey State Park, just west of Guernsey on U.S. 26. There's a large reservoir available for water recreation, but I was just up there and the reservoir was very low, likely due to the drought. It's a great place for stargazing, though. I drove up there to view the Leonid Meteor Shower. No city lights around this place.

North of Guernsey, reached by I-25, is the large Glendo Reservoir, created from the North Platte

*Photo by Jack Olson*

One of the many inscriptions carved in Register Cliff, some of which date back to the 1840s.

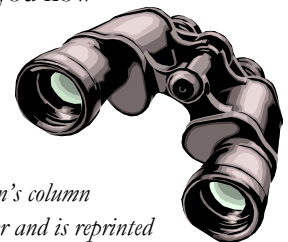
River. I didn't go up there to check out conditions, but there are contacts you can make closer to your planned visit. For more information on the Web, go to [wyomingparks.state.wy.us](http://wyomingparks.state.wy.us), or call (307) 777-6323.

If you're at all familiar with the Colorado mountains, it's no surprise that most of the trails west chose Wyoming as the path of least resistance.

*Outdoorsy Shopping**(from p. 8)*

of the items you will find on Herter's gift list. Also visit the Sportsman's Guide at 1-800-888-5222 or online at [sportsmansguide.com](http://sportsmansguide.com). Mack's Prairie Wings is another excellent hunting outlet. Call 1-800-229-0296 or go view this store's extensive gift items at [macksprairiewings.com](http://macksprairiewings.com). You will not only find hunting gear but also household outdoor gift items, boats, and ammunition. Ducks Unlimited has high quality gifts for water fowlers online at [ducatalog.com](http://ducatalog.com) or call them at 1-800-933-8821.

It will be entertaining at the very least to visit these websites. They can be accessed 24 hours a day, cost free. Merry "after" Christmas, as you now do your real outdoors shopping.



*This article was previously published in Ron's column "The Outdoor Scene" in his local newspaper and is reprinted here with permission.*

RMOWP Newsletter Editor  
Cindy Stone  
1352 Chardonnay Dr  
Richland WA 99352-7303

*Address service requested*



We're on the web at  
[www.rmowp.org](http://www.rmowp.org)

## The Newsletter of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers

### *RMOWP Calendar*

#### 2003

Jan 1	Happy New Year!
April	Board Meeting - to be scheduled
June 14-18	OWAA Conference Columbia MO
June 26-30	RMOWP Photo Workshop 1 Rocky Mtn Natl Park Estes Park CO
Sep 17-20	RMOWP Conference Lander WY
Sep 29-Oct 3	RMOWP Photo Workshop 2 Rocky Mtn Natl Park Estes Park CO



***Contribute to  
your  
newsletter!***

#### **Communicate With RMOWP !**

Share your outdoor writing & photography expertise, experiences, and achievements with fellow members. Help showcase and improve the talents of members. Send articles and photos to the editor, Cindy Stone, at:

[cindy@rmowp.org](mailto:cindy@rmowp.org)  
1352 Chardonnay Dr  
Richland WA 99352-7303  
Fax & Phone: 509-627-4747

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**February 15 2003**

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