



# *Rocky Mountain Outdoors*

The Newsletter of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers



## Durango — Here We Come!

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Red Mountain

*photo by Jack Olson*

Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge train at Durango station

*photo by Maryann Gaug*



Will we find miners' ghosts in this abandoned Red Mountain town?

*photo by Jack Olson*

*banner photo of Lake Dillon and Tenmile Range by Maryann Gaug*



## From Our President

By Barb Laine

Happy New Year to One and All!!!

And a terrific year 2004 promises to be. The conference being planned for next summer in Durango is coming along nicely – a glimpse of our annual event is in this newsletter; there's a board meeting planned for April 17 to tackle current issues; and we even have our 2005 conference locale lined up. It's a good time to be a member of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers.

I am very pleased to announce that Tom Cummings, a member from Cushing, Oklahoma, is our new Photo Workshop Coordinator. He contacted me in November and by early December the board had approved his appointment. Tom attended the workshop three years ago and had such a wonderful experience he now wants to give something back. Our Photo Workshop Coordinator Emeritus, John Catsis, has turned over all his "stuff" to Tom and will be available to answer any questions that come up – but I don't think there will be many. Welcome aboard, Tom.

In more good news, two members have agreed to serve on the board, filling positions left vacant by resignations. Frank Zurey (Golden, Colorado) and Ron Hellbusch (Westminster, Colorado) will both serve until the 2005 election. I look forward to seeing them at our April meeting. Welcome, gentlemen.

As you have no doubt noticed, this newsletter has been put together by Maryann Gaug, who agreed to help out until we find a new editor. Cindy Stone is now going to be able to devote her RMOWP time entirely to the website. This, too, is great news, as the website has become an important place for people to "meet" us.

In addition to being interim newsletter editor and a board member, Maryann has agreed to co-chair RMOWP's annual writing and photo competition for another year along with Ron Hellbusch. Thank you both. All pertinent information about the contest is in this newsletter.

And a former member whom I've been bugging has rejoined us: Al Marlowe sent in his application and dues check around Christmas – I've really missed his particular brand of humor so am very happy to have him back.

On a sadder note, RMOWP has lost another good friend. Effie Simms, widow of founding member Harper Simms, died November 25th in Albuquerque. She was 89, and she and Harper (who died in July 2001) had enjoyed 65 years of marriage. Don and I knew them for only about 15 years but they were upbeat and fun, always offering encouragement to us fledgling writers and photographers. We miss them.

As we go forward into 2004, I wish all members of RMOWP a fruitful and exciting year, both professionally and personally. See you in Durango!

### Rocky Mountain Outdoors

Published bi-monthly by Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc.

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### RMOWP Website

Our website is [www.rmowp.org](http://www.rmowp.org). Userid for members only is *birdsofa* and the password is *feather*. This userid and password will stay the same until further notice. If you have any problems with our website please contact our webmaster, Cindy, at [cindy@rmowp.org](mailto:cindy@rmowp.org).

## 2004 Durango Conference Epicenter of RMOWP

By Lee Carr

If you draw a radius of 500 miles, centered in Durango, it will include the vast majority of RMOWP's membership. This central location will make it easy for you to get to our 2004 Annual Conference set for July 7-10. For example, Phoenix is 455 road miles away, with Denver, Salt Lake City and Santa Fe, 336, 395 and 212 respectively. There is also air service to Durango.

Durango, with a population of 15,000, at 6,500 feet above sea level, offers summer daytime temps in the 70's and 80's and nighttime lows in the 50's. It offers more activities and attractions than we can squeeze into a couple of days of field trips, so you may want to come early or stay after the Conference to take in Mesa Verde National Park or a ride on the renowned Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

Conference headquarters will be on the campus of Fort Lewis College, with meeting rooms, meals and lodging all within easy walking distances.

Meals, that are eaten on campus, will be A La Carte in the Student Center. (Breakfast \$5.50, Lunch \$6.60 and Dinner \$7.50).

Lodging options include either one- or two-bedroom apartments. All beds are single-sized. Each apartment has a bath, kitchen, dining area and living room. There will be one linen service during your stay and, like in college, you will have to make your own bed. That is, if you make it. Alcoholic beverages can be consumed in the room. Housing rates for all two-bed apartments are \$24/person/night, double occupancy, or \$48/person/night, single occupancy. There is an additional \$15 charge for the college to handle individual reservations and billings, which can be by credit card. If you prefer a single at a cheaper rate, a traditional two-bed dorm room is available for \$28/night, single occupancy, but you will share a common bathroom down the hall.

If you are RVing there are several commercial parks within a few miles of headquarters and a National Forest campground within about 10 miles (Junction Creek CG). More information will be in the next newsletter.



Silverton, CO

photo by Jack Olson

## Field Trips, Workshops, and Night Activities

A day long trip will be made to the historic San Juan mining camps guided by Fort Lewis College professor and historian Duane Smith. We will carpool to the Silverton/Red Mountain Pass area. We are also scheduling another half day trip to either the Southern Ute Reservation or the Missionary Ridge Wildfire site. An optional fishing trip is in the mill. For early birds, there's Jack Olson's sunrise photo shoot.

The nighttime agenda will include the optional Bar D chuck wagon dinner and western show on one night.

Workshops are being set up dealing with writing and promoting tourism, digital and film photography, and sessions critiquing your written and photographic materials. The awards banquet on Saturday night will highlight the Conference.

Durango is a great place for a Conference and vacation. Please join us. For most of you it will be less than a day's travel to get there. Registration information will be included with the next newsletter and on RMOWP's website.



Spruce Tree House at Mesa Verde National Park

photo by Maryann Gaug



In early October right after the Missionary Ridge fire in June 2002, oakbrush (Gambel oak) sprouted from the burned land. Circled area contains new oakbrush growth. Oakbrush typically recovers quickly after a forest fire.

photo by Maryann Gaug

For information on the Missionary Ridge fire check out:  
[www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan/bulletin\\_board/MR.htm#MRinfo](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan/bulletin_board/MR.htm#MRinfo).

## 2004 Photo Workshop

By Tom Cummings

The 2004 RMOWP outdoor photography workshop is scheduled for June 11-15. This is an opportunity to sharpen your photography skills while surrounded by vivid scenery and abundant wildlife.

Tom Ulrich and Jack Olson will again lead participants at Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado. After several years of serving as workshop coordinator, John Catsis has decided to take a breather. Tom Cummings will assume the duties as workshop coordinator for 2004. He is an experienced workshop/meeting facilitator as well as an avid photographer.

This workshop is limited to 12 participants thereby allowing individual attention opportunities during the five days of classroom instruction and in-field application. Film processing is done multiple times a day creating immediate feedback for each participant. Workshop tuition is \$795.00 which includes film and processing as well as transportation during the workshop. Lodging and meals are not included.

Several members of RMOWP have attended past workshops. If you haven't yet, maybe this is the time. We need help from our members in promoting this workshop. Flyers are available to be placed in your local camera shops or with the local camera clubs in your area. If you would be able to place flyers locally or if you know someone who might be interested in attending, please call Tom Cummings at 918-225-2721 or email: tomc1114@cox.net.

Additional information and registration forms should be available soon via the workshop link on our website, [www.rmowp.org](http://www.rmowp.org) under news/events. Help us make the 2004 workshop another successful project from RMOWP.

### New Members

Well, Al Marlowe isn't exactly a NEW member, seeing's how he's held many positions with RMOWP, including Executive Director and newsletter editor (until an old injury laid him low). Then he took a "sabbatical" about a year ago. Perhaps he missed our great company, because he decided to come back and haunt us with his jokes — the particular brand of humor Barb Laine mentioned in the President's column.

So here's his information in case you want to contact him. He's published a lot, including books, and knows a wealth of information.

Al Marlowe  
P.O. Box 1240  
Evergreen CO 80437-1240  
303-670-8001  
al@estreet.com  
[www.hiddenlakespress.com](http://www.hiddenlakespress.com)



### Searching for a Newsletter Editor

As Cindy mentioned in the last newsletter, Maryann Gaug has agreed to be interim newsletter editor through the May/June newsletter at the latest. One person has expressed interest, but not yet committed. So if you'd like to participate more in RMOWP and meet other members, send an email to President

Barb at [lainedb@newmex.com](mailto:lainedb@newmex.com). You can also email questions about the job to [maryann@rmowp.org](mailto:maryann@rmowp.org) and [cindy@rmowp.org](mailto:cindy@rmowp.org). The Newsletter Editor is paid a small stipend and therefore the appointment must be approved by the Board.

### Information Update Reminder

Calling all members who have changed their email addresses or other information. Remember to email any changes to Cindy Stone, [cindy@rmowp.org](mailto:cindy@rmowp.org), who keeps up the RMOWP membership directory, so she can update your information.

Would the owners of the following rejected emails, please send us your new one? Thanks in advance. [cjbrown@mcleod.net](mailto:cjbrown@mcleod.net), [rebeccal.minor@aol.com](mailto:rebeccal.minor@aol.com), [synvis@gj.net](mailto:synvis@gj.net), [rbeaudry@pagosa.net](mailto:rbeaudry@pagosa.net), [miccook@nmsu.edu](mailto:miccook@nmsu.edu), [JKimak@reviewjournal.com](mailto:JKimak@reviewjournal.com), [eaglewing@telus.net](mailto:eaglewing@telus.net), [gboyd@7rii.com](mailto:gboyd@7rii.com).

The above could be typo mistakes or maybe your email service was grouchy that day.

### RMOWP Supporting Members

From our President Barb Laine and Treasurer Lee Carr, comes a report that the following ten companies/organizations are currently supporting members of RMOWP. Please support these members and learn more about their products or organization.

Pure Fishing, International Sportsmans Exposition, Luhr-Jensen, Remington, REDTT (NM Economic Dev.), Plano, Coleman, National Shooting Sports Foundation, MapTech, DeLorme Mapping.

### "Good Shots, Great Stories" Contest

From John Catsis

The "Good Shots, Great Stories" Contest is all about rewarding writers and photographers for promoting the responsible, skilled and dedicated people who participate in the shooting sports across America.

The contest is sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and is open to print, radio and television representatives from the general-consumer and outdoor media. We expect the seventh annual "Good Shots, Great Stories" Contest to build on the successes of previous contests. This year "Good Shots, Great Stories" features up to \$28,000 in prize money.

"Good Shots, Great Stories" provides incentive to outdoor communicators to do more stories about the shooting sports — specifically human interest stories about interesting, unique and even unexpected personalities who participate in the shooting sports, whether it's the Olympic gold medal winner or the history teacher who has coached the high school rifle team for 30 years.

These "personalities" can be found in every single town across the country. Often they are people who have never been featured in the media, which makes their story fresh and interesting to the reader.

The contest judges stories/radio shows/photos that have been published or aired between 3/1/03 and 2/28/04 (for photo entries, see rules for publication dates), and all entries must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2004.

Check out [www.nssf.org/media/gsgs.cfm](http://www.nssf.org/media/gsgs.cfm) for details.

## 2004 RMOWP AWARDS COMPETITION

We look forward to each member sharing his or her writing and photography work for competition. Remember by submitting your work, you can be recognized for your good efforts since last year's competition and equally important your material will provide professional growth and enhancement for everyone in RMOWP as well. This year's program deadline for **receipt** of your contest entries is Wednesday, April 7, 2004. Please share your skills with the membership! Displays of submitted work and awards will be presented at the 2004 Durango conference, July 7-10.

- First place winners will receive a plaque noting their respective category and award. Second and third place winners will receive framed certificates noting the same information.
- All entry material must have been produced since January 1, 2003, with the exception of books, movies, videos, and publicity material which is allowed two years prior, from January 1, 2002.
- Entry material can be taken or based anywhere in the world.
- Limit entries to three (3) per category. **Mark each entry with your name, and address; the category numbers as listed below; and the title.**
- Show an arrow on the top of slides and photos to tell judges how to properly display work.
- Judging will be by faculty of the Front Range Community College, State Parks and Outdoor Recreation and State Division of Wildlife writing and photography professionals, except the members' choice category.
- All entries can be picked up at the awards banquet, or if preferred **provide packaging and postage (SASE) for return mailing.**
- If you have questions, please call Awards Committee Co-Chair, Ron Hellbusch at 303-438-0482 or email ron-hellbusch@comcast.net. Maryann Gaug is the other Co-Chair, 970-468-6219, megau@earthlink.net.

Send all entries to the following address:

Ron Hellbusch RMOWP Entry  
3815 W. 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Westminster, CO 80031

**Enclose \$10.00 to cover all entries (checks payable to RMOWP)**

Deadline – April 7, 2004

### PHOTOGRAPHY – 35 mm SLIDES

1. People in the Outdoors – People can be part of a larger scene but should not clearly be the center of attention; may be a single person or a group of people.
2. Scenics – Depicts the natural world in which the center of attention is not flora, fauna, people, or man-made structures, although these subjects may be included as part of the larger scene. Scenics may include broad landscapes, such as waterfalls, streams, and rock formations, as examples.
3. Flora – Can include flowers, trees, leaves, cactus, and other plants that can be part of a larger scene, but should clearly be the center of attention in the picture.
4. Fauna – Can include a single subject or group of subjects. Includes all of the animal kingdom; mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, insects or any living creature except humans. The fauna can be part of a larger scene, but should clearly be the center of attention in the picture. Fauna can include a single subject or a group of subjects.
5. Best Slide from Last Conference – Must have been shot in conjunction with the RMOWP's 2003 conference in Lander. Photos may be of organized events or by individual initiative at the site of the conference and its workshops and field trips. Anything shot from the opening day through the closing day is eligible. In addition to technical excellence, humor and human interest may be considered in the judging.
6. Historical – Are generally scenics and/or structures depicting an area of historical interest, such as old mines, ghost towns, ancient Indian dwellings, old forts, churches or similar historical sites.
7. Cultural – Depicts outdoor festivals and would probably include people in the photos. Examples would be Cinco di Mayo, harvest festivals, dances, parades, etc.
8. Events – Includes natural happenings, such as forest fires, storms or floods, etc.
9. Best of Show – Considers the first place of all individual slides, categories 1 to 8. There will be no 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards in this category.

### PHOTOGRAPHY – PRINTS

Only outdoor subjects are to be considered. Subject(s) may include scenics, people, flora, and fauna. Prints should be unframed and at least 8 x 10 inches. Type of finish is optional and quality of reproduction process will be considered.

10. Color prints (from film or slides).
11. Black and white prints (from film).
12. Color prints from digital camera. Submit color print taken with a digital camera and printed on your color printer.
13. Black and white prints from digital camera. Submit print taken with a digital camera and printed on your printer.

## 2004 AWARDS COMPETITION (cont'd.)

### PHOTOGRAPHY – PUBLISHED WORKS

Subjects may include outdoor scenics, people, flora and fauna. Works must have been published since January 1, 2003 (except books and TV / movie / video scripts may have been produced since January 1, 2002). Photography may have been published in newspapers, books, magazines, calendars, postcards, posters, newsletters, and other publications for which payment is received, or which is part of an individual's employment or volunteer effort. If several photographs are published, only one photograph from the publication is submitted for competition. Judges may take into consideration the quality of the publication and reproduction process.

14. Black and White.
15. Color.
16. TV / movie / video: must have been available for sale, or will be shown on television, in movie theaters, or for special programs.

### PHOTOGRAPHY – MEMBERS' CHOICE

17. Members may submit BW or color prints; 2-dimensional art; 3-dimensional art; or digitally altered (in an obvious way) fun shots. These can be from any year. Print size is 8 x 10 or 8 x 12 inches on a mat not to exceed 12 x 14 inches, unframed. These entries will be displayed at the conference. Members will judge entries at the conference. Entries may be brought to the conference or received by April 7. Place your name and designate "Members' Choice" with the photos.

### WRITING

Entries will include outdoor topics such as scenic areas; travel; history; management of land, wildlife, regulations, legislation or environmental issues; and wildlife. Writing must have been published since January 1, 2003, in a publication for which payment is received, or which is part of a person's employment or volunteer effort. (However, books and TV / movie / video scripts may have been published or produced since January 1, 2002). Judges take into consideration the quality of the publication as well as the writing. If an individual has more than one written work in a publication, individual articles from that publication can be submitted for competition.

18. Newspaper columns/editorials.
19. Newspaper articles.
20. Magazine articles.
21. Web writing. Includes e-zines and other publications. Submit a printout, and indicate how judges can check the website to view.
22. Books and scripts for TV / movie / Video (published or produced since January 1, 2002). These may include portions of the entire work, such as chapters in a book. Explain what your contribution is.
23. Newsletter writing of any kind.

### PUBLICITY

24. Published article on the 2002 conference in Denver, Colorado or the 2003 conference in Lander, WY. Awards will be given for the best published works, including articles, photographs, videos, illustrations, TV, videos or movies directly related to the conference or the host site. Judges will consider the quality of the work and its publicity value to the host site. Written works may also include the author's photographs or illustrations, and the entire package will be considered for purposes of the competition.

### ART

There are four areas of expertise. Subject matter should follow an outdoor theme. Due to the size and delicate nature of most art works, do not send the original but submit a 35 mm slide. Although it is not mandatory, please bring the work to the conference so others may enjoy your talent. You might consider contributing your effort to the annual auction. Awards will be presented for first, second, and third place.

25. Pencil, oil or acrylic, watercolor, or mixed media

### PHOTOGRAPHY – NOVICE

Open to new members and members who have not won any RMOWP photo award in the past. Only outdoor subjects are considered, and may include scenics, people, flora and fauna. Any camera, including one-time, disposable cameras may be used.

26. Slides
27. Prints of any size

## Member News

Several members sent in information about articles or photography they just had published. Let's congratulate them! And remember to send in your news so we can all join you in celebrating your achievements!

### Jon Sheppard in *American Cowboy Magazine*

A story about Jon Sheppard and his work appears in the February 2004 issue of *American Cowboy Magazine*. "From the heart Renaissance man Jon Sheppard combs the back roads for remnants of a rural past."

John emailed, "I shared with the magazine about my life, my love of adventures, and passion for doing photography and writing stories. What *American Cowboy* wrote was a most kind story that I appreciate very much. Check out the magazine at the local grocery store or wherever."

And check out Jon's website: [jonsheppardphotography.com](http://jonsheppardphotography.com). Jon lives in Avon, CO and is an RMOWP Board member.

### Attention UFO Fans!

Ben Moffet, who grew up near Socorro, NM and as a young lad slept through the atomic bomb detonation at nearby Trinity site, recently published a two-part story on a UFO crash in the Socorro area in 1945. Check it out at [www.rense.com/general44/nmxx.htm](http://www.rense.com/general44/nmxx.htm)!

### Learn to Build Custom Leaders

Steve Schweitzer had an article "Building Custom Leaders" published in February 2004 issue of *Fly Fisherman Magazine* (on newstands now).

Check out the synopsis and downloadable LeaderCalc software at [flyfisherman.com/skills/brleadercalc/](http://flyfisherman.com/skills/brleadercalc/).

A link to a similar article by Steve that was published several years ago is at: [globalflyfisher.com/fishbetter/leadercalc/index.php](http://globalflyfisher.com/fishbetter/leadercalc/index.php)

### Digital Photography Hints and Tips

Check out Steve Schweitzer's digital photography tips on GlobalFlyFisher.com where he has published a 5-part digital photography primer. Part of it is online at: [globalflyfisher.com/digiphoto/](http://globalflyfisher.com/digiphoto/). One of the links doesn't work, but the others do. Some good and sage advice is offered, even for film photographers. Be sure to check out Steve's own website, [www.windbrookranch.com/](http://www.windbrookranch.com/). Steve lives in Parker, CO.

### Share Your Experience with Danish Inquiries

Last July, I (Maryann) received an email inquiry from Gunild Pak Symes of *Adventure World*, a Danish magazine, looking for experts in the field of outdoor recreation and travel in the intermountain west, especially Utah, Colorado, and California. The standard magazine rate was specified at about \$300 for an article of typically 800-2000 words with photographs running \$25-120 depending on size and placement and usage. The magazine was looking towards consumer oriented "how-to..." introductory hands-on guides to recreational areas. I was asked to send a bio and a file of samples of my work or work that

could be republished. I checked out [www.adventureworld.dk](http://www.adventureworld.dk), but can't read Danish!

Being right up my alley, I mailed a bunch of samples to Gunild. Much to my surprise, she emailed me (after I sent her several emails to find out status) that my package arrived postage due and it was mailed back to me before she could pick it up! The information on the envelope I received back seems to indicate the Danish post office held it for seven days. Then Gunild emailed me that she was no longer the contact and sent me a new person's name and email.

In Dec. 2003, John Catsis received a similar inquiry. John duly noted in his email to me, "What's interesting about this is that nothing is said about payment." An excerpt from the email follows.

Dear John R. Catsis,

Greetings. We are looking for writers to submit stories and photographs to our new online dive and travel magazine called, Xray Mag. It will be published six times a year by Blue Horizons Expedition & Dive Club. Both the club and the magazine will be launched in January at the international travel conference in Copenhagen. We would be very grateful if you would pass on the information below to the members of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers.

Already we have submissions from some the top dive writers and underwater photographers in the world. In return, we offer our writers and photographers international exposure, free advertising on the Blue Horizons website and in Xray Magazine with your article, free membership in the dive club and priority status for standard compensation on submissions in the future as the magazine generates sustaining operational income.

At the moment, we are accepting articles on diving, dive & adventure travel, dive equipment, high altitude & cave diving, marine life & ecology, fish, oceans, reefs, wrecks, marine archeology, etc. in English and Scandinavian languages as well as marine and dive destination and travel photography. You may have submitted your stories to the major dive and travel publications already and may have been denied publication for lack of space. Since our magazine is online, our publication space is unlimited. It is an opportunity for your stories and photographs to be seen rather than collecting dust on the shelf.

Please send or email your stories in a Word document, photographs in slide or jpeg format and your ad/logo in jpeg format and link information to the address below. Thanks for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Gunild Pak Symes Managing Editor & Art Director

[gunild@aquascope.biz](mailto:gunild@aquascope.biz)

If any members have any experience with these Danish magazines, please share them with RMOWP members by emailing your story to [maryann@rmowp.org](mailto:maryann@rmowp.org) for the next newsletter.

Especially share with us how best to send articles and photos, how payment works, copyrights, etc.

I checked out [www.aquascope.biz](http://www.aquascope.biz) and discovered Gunild's husband, Peter, is a diver and underwater photographer.

We're on the web at  
www.rmowp.org



*Address Service Requested*

RMOWP Webmaster  
Cindy Stone  
1352 Chardonnay Dr.  
Richland, WA 99352-7303

## The Newsletter of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers

### RMOWP Calendar

#### 2004

- April 17 Board meeting, El Prado, NM, at the Laine's house
- June 11-15 RMOWP Photo Workshop, Estes Park, CO
- July 7-10 RMOWP Conference, Durango, CO
- Oct. 15-17 NMOWPA Conference, Aztec, NM

#### 2005

- June TBD RMOWP Conference, Silver City, NM

### March/April Newsletter Deadline will be:

**February 29, 2004**

Email articles and photos to Maryann at [maryann@rmowp.org](mailto:maryann@rmowp.org) (if we have a new newsletter editor, I'll forward all to him/her). You can also mail articles, preferably on a disk or CD, to Maryann Gaug, PO Box 2842, Silverthorne, CO 80498-2842 or phone me at 970-468-6219 if you have questions.

## DUES ARE DUE!!!

Dues renewals were sent out Jan. 26. Please remember to fill out the renewal form and send it in with your renewal check.

Don't let your renewal get buried in a pile! Process it as soon as you receive it in the mail! The time to act is NOW!