

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

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VOLUME 1

What else is there to do in Silver City?

By Anne Sullivan

Even though Conference Chair John Catsis has done everything in his considerable power to stretch 24 hours into 36 (and believe me, he has tried), there still isn't enough time during the conference to experience everything that Silver City has to offer.

But you can do it on your own if you arrive a day before the conference or stay a day later, and here are a few suggestions:

The Western New Mexico University Museum has the best collection of Mimbres Pottery in the whole world. That alone should entice you to the museum which is located at College Avenue and 10th Street on the University campus. The museum is open from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The museum also features special exhibits. Right now they're getting ready for the opening of one on Russell Lee's and author Joan Myers' photographs in the book *Pie Town Women*.

I know this because the ladies down the road in Pie Town are busy baking pies for the occasion. Besides the Mimbres Pottery and other ancient artifacts, the building (circa 1916-17) is interesting.

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I especially like the drinking fountains and the big wooden staircase.

The museum shop has a great collection of books on local interests and history. No cafeteria, though. Otherwise, it's the perfect museum and well worth a visit.

Silver City is an up-and-coming artists' center. A walking tour of the Yankie Street galleries and studios is an afternoon venture with lunch or tea at Vicki's Eatery. Yankie Street is located in Silver City's historic downtown between Bullard and Arizona Streets.

Paintings, sculpture, jewelry, artistic furniture, pottery, folk art and more are all waiting to be seen and purchased at a dozen galleries and studios here. If you're not totally tuckered out by all this, you can see more galleries and studios in the downtown neighborhood.

While you're downtown, The Twisted Vine at 108 Broadway advertises daily wine tasting which I intend to try next time I have a spare moment in Silver City.

At 107 N. Bullard, Manzanita Ridge is a store that has just about everything. You can pass a happy half hour or more there surveying their vast collection of art, antiques, et cetera.

The Olde World Bakery on the corner of Broadway and Bullard is tailor-made for relaxing café sitting and reading.

Further afield on US 180 going East is the Outback Studio and Sculpture Garden which features The Green Gecko and other bizarre metal sculptures. Its hours are New Mexico vague and you'd better call Mike Ray at 505-534-0833 first.

That should keep you busy until the conference starts. After that, you'll have few chances to catch your breath.



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From the Editor's Desk

If the number of pages in this issue of *Rocky Mountain Outdoors* appears to be few, it's not just your imagination. That, however, makes the news within no less important, President Barb Laine has done an excellent job of explaining how the organization plans to solve the problems of the world...well some of them, well, at least those associated with RMOWP. It's definitely worth reading. Tom Cummings is excited about this year's **Photo Workshop** and Anne Sullivan adds some more tidbits about Silver City.

The rest of the package is made up of important information relative to the upcoming **RMOWP Conference in Silver City, New Mexico**. John Catsis and Anne Sullivan have done a terrific job in providing detailed information about the conference location, program, accommodations and just about everything you can think of to make this year's conference, enjoyable, memorable and hassle free.

The other component of the package is the all-important **Awards Competition**. Maryann Gaug and Frank Zurey have finalized all the details that you will need to enter the Competition. There are 26 categories to cover Photography, Writing, Publicity and Art, something for everyone. By far the largest number of categories in the competition is focused on photography. Any member that can hold a camera in their hands will find a category they can enter.

All things combined there are good reasons to be excited about what is up and coming with RMOWP.

RMOWP Board solves problems of the world...

Well, maybe not quite ALL the problems. But certainly we've solved a few of our dilemmas.

The RMOWP board of directors met February 5 in Golden, Colorado at the home of board secretary Betty Minor. I'm pleased to report that our organization – your organization – is not only looking ahead but is vigorously moving ahead. Attending directors included Frank Zurey, Maryann Gaug, Jack Olson, Betty Minor, Beto Gutierrez, and yours truly. Hosts Betty & Becky Minor graciously welcomed us into their home, and provided sustenance and comfort for a very productive meeting. Any member wishing a copy of the minutes should contact Betty (e-mail: bettyrminor@aol.com; phone: 303-279-6829).

Don and I, and our ever-present dogs of course, drove the 300 miles from El Prado to Golden the day before, and I have to admit to being somewhat frazzled from preparations for the meeting plus what seems like an unending list of unfinished projects that Don and I are trying to get caught up on. But I was overwhelmed by the unbridled enthusiasm and can-do attitude of the board members, and I know that Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers is stronger than ever and moving in the right direction.

After approval of the minutes and treasurer's report, several general housekeeping details were dealt with. Of first importance to members is that **dues will increase** from \$35 to \$45 beginning in January of 2006, with the provision that additional family members would pay \$30. Student membership will remain at \$5. The last dues increase was in January of 1998.

The board also discussed plans for the upcoming annual conference, and I hope everyone has marked **June 8-11, 2005** on their calendars to be in **Silver City, NM**. John Catsis and Anne Sullivan have worked hard organizing this conference, which promises to be one of the busiest ever, filled with terrific field trips and great workshops and speakers.

The **2006 conference** will be held in **Moab, Utah** on **May 3 through 7**. These dates should afford us some good motel rates and weather that's not scorching. Suggested locales for **future conferences** included Grand Junction, CO, Yellowstone National Park, the Black Hills of South Dakota, the north rim of the Grand Canyon, and Monument Valley in northeastern Arizona/

southeastern Utah. Input from the general membership is always welcome on this topic. The 2007 conference site should be decided at Silver City this year.

Shortly after this year's Silver City conference is the **Photography Workshop** in Rocky Mountain National Park (June 28 – July 3). Ably organized by Tom Cummings, with returning instructors Jack Olson and Tom Ulrich, each year is better than the last. Check our website for the latest information, or contact Tom (e-mail: TomC1114@cox.net; phone: 918-225-2721).

The board gave a **vote of appreciation to Ron Kerr** for the outstanding job he's been doing on this newsletter, and the excellent printed directory he put together for us. Many thanks, Ron.

RMOWP's **historian** Kelly Gatlin has decided to step down, and the board accepted my offer to take that on when my term as president expires. So as of July 1, I will be the new historian. I may be calling on some of you to share your photos of past conferences and meetings for publication in our history.

The other position I've been doing on a volunteer basis is **webmaster**, since Cindy Stone stepped down last summer. The board would like to make a permanent appointment for a nominally paid webmaster at the Silver City meeting in June, and would welcome applicants from the membership. Please contact me (e-mail: lainedb@newmex.com; phone: 505-758-8922) or Jack Olson (e-mail: jackolson1@aol.com; phone: 303-777-8998) for more information.

Two positions were filled at the board meeting: supporting member liaison and administrative assistant.

Jon Sheppard attended the meeting to volunteer to be our **supporting member liaison**, for which we heartily thank and commend him. Jon, who has served on the board in the past, spoke with me the week before the meeting about the duties of supporting member liaison, said he was interested in the position, believed he could do a good job for the organization, and would attend the meeting to discuss it with the board. At the meeting, ways and means were debated, and the board unanimously and enthusiastically accepted his offer as volunteer supporting member liaison. After Jon had left, the board decided to compensate him for this effort, and accordingly we voted unanimously to pay a commission of 10% for renewals and 20% for each new supporting membership. As with all RMOWP's paid positions, it's nominal.



Continued on page 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

The second position is a more behind-the-scenes version of executive director, now dubbed **administrative assistant**, and was proposed by **Don Laine** (although he prefers the title of chief flunkie). Don based the job description on the executive secretary job for which we had unsuccessfully advertised in the last two newsletters. Naturally he described the job as he would be willing to undertake it, and was promptly awarded the position by the board! The main duties are public relations coordinator, conference committee chair, and acting as a communication conduit for the organization. Staying on top of all the little things that need to be done in a timely manner, plus keeping all and sundry persons informed on a variety of topics, may not be overly creative or exciting but are very important for the health of any organization. This position has a nominal pay of \$100 per month.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the **new guidelines for our annual photo and writing competition**. I hope you all will take the time to go through your photos and published works to find submissions. A highlight of our annual conference is always seeing what fellow members have done recently, and applauding everyone's accomplishments.

Something else to consider in the near future is applicants for the **scholarship**. An anonymous donor – one of our longtime members – has swelled our fund by \$500, which will be added to the auction proceeds and awarded to a qualifying student. **Ruth Raupe** is our Scholarship Committee Chair (can a person really be a chair!?) and would be glad to answer any questions you might have (e-mail: Raupe@pldi.net; phone: 580-455-2421).

In the next few weeks, the Past Presidents Council will be putting together a slate of officers and directors for the **upcoming election**, and you might get a call. Please consider serving in one of these capacities. RMWOP continues to strengthen and grow through the efforts of its members, and your time and energy will help. Anyone interested in running, or learning about officer and director duties, can contact Lee Carr (e-mail: dlcarr328@earthlink.net; cell phone: 970-261-8609).

I'm looking forward to Silver City and seeing the many friends I've made through the years, and I hope to welcome new friends to the circle. RMOWP is a wonderful place to grow in our profession and a nurturing group for those starting out. See you in Silver City!

Barb Laine
President RMOWP

RMOWP POSITION AVAILABLE

Webmaster Needed

Have web-design skills?

RMOWP is accepting applications for the position of webmaster, to be responsible for maintaining and updating the RMOWP website, www.rmowp.org.

The webmaster receives a nominal monthly fee of \$50.

Contact web-liaison

Jack Olson at

JACKOLSON1@aol.com.

The board plans to make a decision during the Silver City conference in June.

Welcome New Members

Donoho, Kathryn - 600 Cindy Pl., Las Cruces, NM 88005; phone: 505-525-0393; work phone: 505-463-5148; cell: 505-463-5148; e-mail: dkathy@peoplepc.com; mentor: yes; significant other: Chris Munro; status: Individual.

Skills: artist/cartoonist, freelance, photographer.
Interests: hiking, camping, archaeology, environmental, kayaking, backpacking.

Directory Updates

Individual Members:

Staley, Margaret - deceased

Stone, Cindy - e-mail: cindy@escapademediamedia.com

Scholarship Offered

By Ruth Raupe

If you know any college students or high school seniors who are interested in a career in outdoor writing and photography, please let them know about the Scott-McKenna Memorial Scholarship. The application can be printed from the RMOWP website. The deadline is March 31, 2005 and the application needs to be signed by a sponsor who can be a member of RMOWP or an instructor or dean at their college.

Founding Member, Marge Staley, Passes

We are saddened to hear of the death of Margaret Eleanor Hayward Staley on November 23, 2004 in Denver. Marge was a founding member of RMOWP in 1973. Marge and her husband Bill, also a founding member, operated Staley Studios in Denver for many years, producing film strips, videos, and slide shows for public schools and other clients. After retirement, Marge and Bill moved to Arizona, later returning to Denver. Marge's hobbies were those of the outdoors—hiking, photography, and golf. She was a member of the Red Hat Society. She is survived by her husband, three brothers, and many nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews.

As a personal note, I worked near Staley Studios and always had them make up my prints. Marge was so kind and had a big smile whenever I came in. She was liked by everyone in our organization and we all owe her a debt of gratitude for being there at the beginning. Her legacy remains.

Jack Olson

2005 RMOWP Photo Workshop

By Tom Cummings

Things are looking great for the 2005 workshop. We have commitments for this year's workshop from 2 of last year's participants and one is returning with her daughter as well. We also have approximately 5 who have verbally committed to this year's workshop. We offer a well organized top-notch workshop that will compare to any workshop available.

We are adding a new trip this year. We will venture up the Old Fall Trail one afternoon for waterfalls, flowers, scenics and wildlife. This should be a great addition. Plus we are really excited about a new sponsor. EzPnP has agreed to donate for our photo contest at the workshop a portable storage device to download your image cards directly to CDs. This is a \$270 retail value. I am hopeful of adding a couple of more new sponsors before the start of the workshop.

We are reworking the workshop page on our website and it should be up and running by the time you read this. New links and larger pictures. CHECK IT OUT. It should be impressive.

This is our workshop and I would appreciate any help you can give in promoting it in your area. I can email to you any information about the workshop you might require to pass on to your local clubs, groups or camera shops. Just let me know or give them my email or phone number and I will be happy to supply them with the information.

White River National Forest Safari

By Jon Sheppard

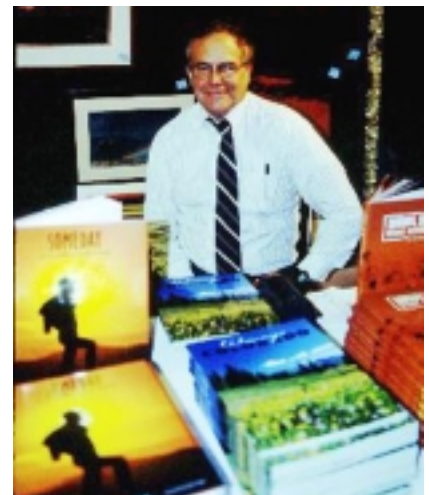
As you may know I do photography and write books. I also do photo safari trips and this is what this article is about. I travel all over for my treks but I live right in the middle of White River National Forest, Avon, CO on I-70 about 100 miles west of Denver.

I was recently awarded a permit to take my photo workshop classes on White River National Forest property. That is no easy task as the White River is the number one popular Nat'l Forest in America. This year they are celebrating 100 years as a National Forest. So I am very pleased to have the opportunity to do photography in this area.

As for my photo safari trips I take people out and show them how to take pictures as I do. Based on my clients needs we start from the beginning of composition and framing to getting rather technical as to what it takes. My happiest moment is when my client(s) say they really learned a lot and got a lot of education and information out of the class.

The classes are one day depending on light and go into multiples of one day.

For more information contact Jon at 970-949-9131 (h) or e-mail: jonshepp@vail.net



Jon Sheppard in his booth at the grand opening in December of the new Colorado Convention Center in Denver.

Jack Olsen photo.

Make it Sing

By Terry Hodges

We lost an outdoor writer a few years ago whom I greatly miss. Gene Hill was a columnist for *Field & Stream* magazine and for *Guns & Ammo* before that. Some of you perhaps knew the man. Not only was Gene a superb storyteller, but he was considered by many, me among them, to be our finest contemporary outdoor writer. He wrote prose akin to poetry and could move us to tears or laughter at will.

I mention Gene Hill because he was a master of the more subtle things in writing that make the difference between mediocrity and greatness, and there is much that we can learn from him. Among his greatest gifts was his ability to grasp and convert to words the very essence of the outdoor pursuits we love, the things we all feel but have difficulty expressing. He wrote with great affection of guns and dogs and salmon drifts and brisk fall mornings, and he could treat us, with equal ease, to the sweet anticipation of a day afield or the bittersweet memories of the best of days gone by.

This is not to say that everything Gene Hill wrote was profound or soul-moving or memorably artistic, for it was not. He could certainly deliver such power when a piece called for it, but he was also quite capable of writing highly engaging stories about relatively mundane subjects, perhaps the highest measure of a writer. For example, he once wrote a 2500 word piece about pocket knives, and another on flashlights.

And he did so with such easy warmth and good humor that even readers new to his work instantly liked him and were entertained by his every word. In short, as a writer, he was everything most of us want to be.

He had a love affair with words, and he combined words and phrases into sentences that read like music. He was aware that readers read with their ears as well as their eyes, and that the sounds of words read aloud are often as important as their meaning. He knew that good writing has a certain rhythm to it, a lilt, a varied and compelling cadence that sweeps a reader along with ease.

The point of all this is that you and I should not forget the truly great ones of our craft. We should visit them often through their writing and study them and learn from them. It's not as though they horde the secrets that put the magic in their words. On the contrary, they bare their souls in black and white for all of us to see. We need only read their work with a critical eye and glean from them the bits of wisdom that will make us better.

I believe there is a higher level of performance that all of us can attain if we put our minds to it. To do so we must reach deep within ourselves for every bit of creative ability we have and apply it in everything we write. We must send along nothing but the absolute best work we can produce. When we edit our work, after we've tightened it and excised all clutter, we must scrutinize it yet again to hear how it strikes the ear. We must read it aloud, not only to identify minor problems that would otherwise go unnoticed, but to better evaluate the piece as a whole. How does it flow? Is there variety in the length and structure of our sentences? Have we considered, in our choice of words, emotional weight as well as meaning? Would reversing the order of a sentence here or there provide more punch or better rhythm?

We can better answer such questions if we refresh our memories often as to how really good writing sounds. We should refer often to the best of Gene Hill or others of the truly great ones of our profession and tune our ears to their music. The more we listen, the more their genius will become a part of us and become evident in our work.

I've heard it said that poor writers "just don't hear the music." I believe this to be true, that many are simply deaf to good writing. The rest of us, however, must not forget the music. We must listen for it in everything we write and improve on it. We must apply the lessons we learn from the masters, the subtle touches of meter and voice that will captivate our readers and make our writing sing.

Terry Hodges is a retired California game warden. Terry is a staff writer for Outdoor California and is the author of several books including Sabertooth, Tough Customers, Sworn to Protect and Predators. This article was previously published in the NOWA newsletter and is reprinted here with permission. Terry makes his home in Oroville, CA with wife, Cathy.

