

Rocky Mountain Outdoors

the newsletter of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers & Photographers, Inc.

September - October 2017

Conference 2018 Only A Year Away!

RMOWP's 2018 conference is planned for the **Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve area**, with headquarters in **Alamosa, Colorado**. Dates are **Sunday, September 23 through Wednesday, September 26, 2018**, with a post-conference all-day trip on the Cumbres and Toltec narrow-gauge steam train (www.cumbrestoltec.com) on Thursday, September 27.

Most workshops and other sit-down presentations will take place at Adams State University, and lodging will be at the Alamosa Super 8, which has offered us a group rate of \$89 per night for one or two adults. Don't make your reservations yet, though – we haven't gotten the contract. Alamosa is about 235 miles southwest of Denver and 200 miles north of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The conference will involve some driving – Great Sand Dunes (www.nps.gov/grsa) is about 35 miles from Alamosa – but it will be well worth the effort. Late September should have wonderful fall colors, especially along the steam train's route up and over 10,015-foot Cumbres Pass, and the weather will be cool (downright chilly in the evenings).

Other area attractions include several national wildlife refuges (www.fws.gov/refuge/alamosa) and the Nature Conservancy's Zapata Ranch (www.zranch.org), which offers tours to see its herd of some 2,000 bison. There are also historic museums, several hot springs, and southern Colorado's famous alligator farm (www.coloradogators.com) and UFO Watchtower (www.ufowatchtower.com).

Additional details will be forthcoming, but in the meantime block out those dates!



Sunset and Driftwood - the last light of day highlights a piece of driftwood in Medano Creek at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve © William Horton

RMOWP Scholarship Winner Announced



Heather Androwick, 2017 scholarship recipient

This year's \$2,000 scholarship winner is **Heather Androwick** of West Chester, Pennsylvania. Scholarship Chair Clare Gutierrez tells us that Heather has started her senior year, working toward her Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major concentration in photography, at Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pennsylvania.

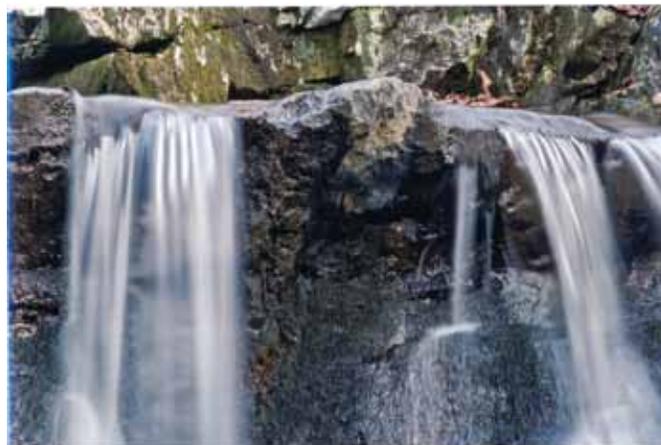
Heather's transcripts show she has taken courses in Darkroom, Intro to Digital Media, Intro to Digital Photog-



Davis, West Virginia © Heather Androwick

2018 CALENDAR

May 30 ~ RMOWP Scholarship deadline
June 23-27 ~ RMOWP Photo Workshop, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado
June 22 ~ RMOWP Contest Deadline
September 23-26 ~ RMOWP conference, Alamosa, Colorado & Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve



Jarrettsville, Maryland © Heather Androwick

raphy, Theme Practices in Photography, History of Photography, Advanced Photography and Photography Studio. She is especially interested in landscapes, according to Clare, and has applied for internships with state and national parks.

This year there were just over 50 scholarship applications from across the country. Clare said there were quite a few from the East Coast, especially New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Florida, but also from Utah, Idaho, Texas, and California.

Clare also reports that she contacted last year's scholarship winner, Carlen Smith of Boyd, Texas. Carlen is continuing her studies at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, moving forward with the same major — Wildlife Sustainability/Ecosystem Science. She spent this summer with the Tarleton State Wildlife Office, study-

ing rare plant species for the state of Texas, and Clare tells us that Carlen again thanked RMOWP for our assistance.



Kennett Square, Pennsylvania © Heather Androwick

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Writing an OMG! Moment

by Virginia Parker Staat

*“Words have life and must be cared for.
If they are stolen for ugly uses or careless slang or false promotion work,
they need to be brought back to their original meaning – back to their roots.” ~ Corita Kent*

David and I have just returned home from a four-month camping trip through Alaska and Canada. After the RMOWP conference, we traveled north through Utah and Washington. On our first ferry up the Inside Passage, we met a delightful Australian couple. We soon became fast friends and, while island hopping over the next month, learned some wonderful Aussie slang. As an example, after waiting three hours for a lack-luster bore tide, Liz called it a *fizzer*. After six days of rain, we all agreed it was a *bugger*.

Slang has ever been a part of language, and America has certainly had its share. In the 60s it was *groovy*, *cool*, and *far-out*. In the 80s, super superlatives were all the rage, including *radical*, *grody to the max*, and *gag me with a spoon*. Today's slang doesn't even sound like English to me. When I photographed a friend's wedding and the groom told me *you're da bomb*, I was initially mortified. I simply cringe whenever I hear *my bad*.

When we use slang in our writing, it dates our work. A new danger to good writing, however, is the onslaught of electronic messaging. Texting has reduced much of our slang into acronyms such as LOL (lots of laughs) and TMI (too much information). Even our emotions have been diminished to a few letters, including SOBT (stressed out big time), MEGO (my eyes glazed over), and OMG! (oh, my gosh).

Dare we include an acronym such as OMG! in our writing? No... please, no. We writers must remember our craft requires us to use the artistry of words rather than digress into slang, acronyms, or smiley faces. The question, however, remains: How do we express what today's slang would call an OMG! moment? First of all, whatever we write, we resist typing words in all caps and omit exclamation points.

We begin writing emotion by showing rather than telling. Seton Hill University English professor Dennis Jerz explains, “‘Telling’ states facts or observations. ‘Showing’ invites much deeper understanding.”

Becca Puglisi, author of *The Emotion Thesaurus: A Writer's Guide to Character Expression*, explains that readers want to feel emotion along with our characters rather than being told. She says, “The best way to do this is by giving emotional cues that the reader can relate to.” She advises using a three-pronged approach. Whenever possible, we show emotion by choosing physical, internal, and mental responses that are fresh and not overused.

Writers do this by moving beyond facial expressions. We use active verbs. We use adjectives rather than adverbs. We focus on action and response. We remove filters to say, “My heart raced” rather than “I felt my heart racing.” We show details that imply our emotional reaction to the problem. We give our readers a reason to feel the emotion along with us. Rather than clichés, we use imagery and simile, choosing our words with deliberation.

J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* offers a beautiful example of explaining an emotion with simile. Bilbo says, “I am old, Gandalf... Why, I feel all thin, sort of stretched, if you know what I mean: like butter that has been scraped over too much bread.”

We can also heighten emotion for our readers through writing syntax. In *Alone with All that Can Happen*, author and creative writing professor David Jauss writes, “Given that syntax is not just structure but a sequence – a flow – that generates ‘dynamics of feeling,’ it stands to reason that one purpose of syntactical variation is to convey rhythmically the emotion we wish to create in the reader.” He concludes that we can write structurally and rhythmically to mirror emotions, much like a soundtrack mirrors emotions in a movie.

Outdoor writer Peter Matthiessen excelled at this kind of writing. We can see how his use of syntax adds to the drama of a moment in his personal narrative *The Snow Leopard*: “My foot slips on a narrow ledge; in that split second, as needles of fear pierce heart and temples, eternity intersects with present time.” Within the rhythm of this sentence, Matthiessen expresses his emotional response. He uses action verbs, avoiding weak filters like “I felt.” His poetic words pulse with energy and build to a crescendo.

Writing an OMG! moment begins when we recognize our own physical, internal, and mental responses to situations. It is enhanced when we offer our readers a reason to feel along with us, enveloping them with language and syntax that mirrors the dynamics of the emotion. Once mastered, in the words of our Aussie friends, I can guarantee it'll be *good on ya, mate*.

Jack's Jaunts

One of Those Trips of a Lifetime

Article & photos by Jack Olson

It seems like it was ages ago. It seems like it could have been last year. About half my life has passed since I made the incredible trek to Mt. Everest.



Mt. Everest from bottom to top from Kala Patar

In 1976 I went to a friend's house to view a slide show of a trek to Mt. Everest, highest peak in the world at 29,028 feet. Her trek was organized by the REI cooperative. The photos were magnificent, like nothing I'd ever seen or experienced. Their only problem was that they encountered heavy snow on the final day and had to turn back due to danger of avalanches. So close and yet so far. They never

saw Mt. Everest.

Coincidentally, I had just joined REI and received my first catalog. I opened it and saw the announcement: Go to Mt. Everest. YES! They were offering treks in spring and fall 1977. It was Christmas Eve but I immediately called the Nepal embassy in Washington, D.C. The embassy was closed but I got the ambassador's home. A young boy answered. I blurted out, "Are the Himalayas better in spring or fall?" He told me he didn't know, he'd only lived in Washington, D.C. "I'll ask. Call me back in an hour."

I don't think I breathed that whole hour. When I called back he said, "Oh, the spring is so beautiful, with all the bushes in bloom and the flowers. Fall is also very nice and maybe a little better



The author on top of Kala Patar, across the valley from Mt. Everest

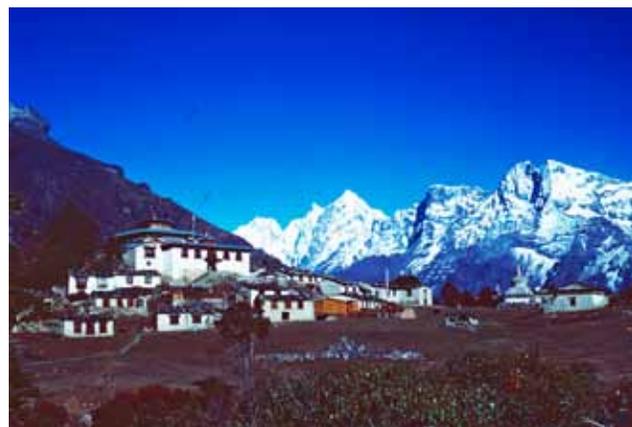
weather." I thanked him profusely. Spring was sooner than fall, so I would go in spring. I really, really wanted to go to Mt. Everest.

It was March and we flew all day to get to Delhi, India. We had to spend the night there since the Kathmandu airport could not accept night landings. There was a little excitement in the Delhi airport. Officials there had no interest in the vicious ice ax I was carrying but spent several minutes buzzing, in Hindi, I guess, over my Swiss army knife. I got to keep it.

The trek began a few days later and we piled into the back of a truck which took us to a village near the Tibetan border. Expectation and excitement overflowed as we took the first steps on what would be 180 miles of up and down over six mountain ranges before we finally swung north toward Mt. Everest.



Tibetan border and 19,000-foot Lho La Pass



Tengboche Monastery, at about 13,000 feet, on the way to Everest

The lowlands in Nepal are mainly Hindu but as we started our final slow trek we entered the Buddhist Sherpa country. The leaders of our trek were all Sherpas. Some welcomed us into their homes for a cup of tea but all of our camps were in the outdoors. Up, up, up we trod, always being greeted by friendly Sherpas: "Namaste," they called.

Our group of nine, plus Sherpas, porters and yaks, passed through the main Sherpa village of Namche Bazaar where I honed my non-existent bargaining skills. We camped outside the Tengboche Monastery, where monks performed some of their religious rituals. Our trail continued above timberline and we camped for two nights at 14,500 feet to acclimatize. It was strange to be standing higher than at any time I'd been on Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks, and be on a valley floor with ramparts of Himalayan

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walls towering above us. When we started climbing the next day we found that about an inch of snow had fallen overnight. At the end of the day we topped the terminal moraine of the Khumbu Glacier.

We were camped at 15,500 feet and my tentmate, Sam, and I were both sick. Real sanitation was just not possible in Nepal at that time. The plan was for our group to move ahead to our base camp at Gorak Shep, at about 17,300 feet. The next day we would ascend Kala Patar, something over 18,500 feet, to get the classic view of Everest. You couldn't see it from our base camp due to the massive walls of rock and ice. Sam and I didn't think we could hold out two days. We needed to get up in one day and then get down to a small clinic at about 14,000 feet, run by some Americans. We got permission from our trek leader to try it.

The climb up the Khumbu Glacier was gradual, but steady. Technical climbing equipment was not necessary. We got to the base of Kala Patar in no worse shape. We began to plod, to slog upward. It was much slower than any pace I'd ever had to set on the Colorado 14ers. We got about halfway up, turned, and we could see the top of Everest. Was that good enough? Strangely enough, it wasn't. Is this a guy thing? I left my pack there and went ahead with just my ice ax and camera.

From here on the climb became an imperceptible trudge. Five breaths and a step, five more breaths and another step. But you could always take another step. We neared the top, stepped on the top. I turned and was swept by the full view of Mt. Everest, from bottom to top. For a fraction of a second, an infinitesimal fraction, I was the happiest person in the world.

Back in Kathmandu Sam and I were having breakfast in the hotel. He looked over at two middle-aged couples and exclaimed, "That's Dolf Reist." "Who?" I said, clueless. "Dolf Reist. He's the second man to climb Mt. Everest." Only Sam would know that. He said we should go over and introduce ourselves. Sam was pushy like that. We talked awhile and then I impulsively asked if he would autograph a postcard of Mt. Everest. He did and then he wrote the date, April 9, 1977. I gasped, "It's my birthday!" So Sam, three others and the second man to climb Mt. Everest sang "Happy Birthday" to me.

It seems like it was yesterday.



Joyfully showing the tee shirt my sister made for me

Benefit Planned For Member Ken Papaleo

RMOWP member Ken Papaleo, a Denver area resident who was a photographer with the *Rocky Mountain News* for 28 years, winning two Pulitzer Prizes along the way, was recently diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome, a rare bone marrow cancer. His condition is terminal and he will be undergoing chemo treatment indefinitely.

Ken's friends are holding a silent photo auction and requesting monetary donations, with funds raised to be used to enable his wife to take a year off from work to help Ken and spend some quality time with him.

RMOWP members in the Denver area will have known Ken through his work with the *Rocky Mountain News*, and those who attended the 2015 conference in Ouray, Colorado, will remember meeting Ken and watching his presentation, "The Evolution of a Professional Photographer."



Ken Papaleo about to begin his presentation at the Ouray conference © Diane McKinley

The silent auction is planned at the Denver Press Club, October 7 from 6 to 10 p.m., and donations of framed photographs can be sent by September 20 to Helen Richardson, Denver Post – Photo Department, 101 W. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80202. Those wishing to make monetary donations and learn more about Ken can go to www.kenpapaleo.com.



*"Nature's Window" © Ken Papaleo
2016 3rd Place, Image from Last Conference category*

Trials for Border Collies

Article & photos by Kenita Gibbins

Three things can positively make a photographer excited. Facing a snake with a waving rattler, being at the right



A trainer and her dog await their turn

spot for a perfect sunrise or watching Border Collies round up ewe for the trials that happen in Meeker, Colorado.

The trials at Meeker occur once a year with participants from all over the country.

Border Collies love their job. Each collie will sit next to his/her trainer and be ready to go. The trainer sees a wave

from two cowboys who guide five ewe up the side of the mountain. The trainer signals the dog who is off and running faster than the average photographer's eye can follow. The ewe can't see the dog approaching, but when they spot him they are on their way to the exit they entered.

not afford more than one dog. They started experimenting breeding with Whippets, who are sight hounds and also have an instinct for herding. The farmer needed a dog with good eyes and one that could smell in case a lost sheep needed to be sniffed out. Therefore, Pointers and Setters were mixed in with the breeding experiments. Today,



Agressive herding by the Border Collie

herding dogs have great athletic attributes plus light, quick movements.

The first sheep dogs became assets in Northern England and Southeast Scotland about 1894. The eastern states of this country began to get herding dogs when they came with British farmers. Over the years, the dogs were taken to the western territories. Today not all of our herding dogs look alike, but they all want to work. They are high-energy animals with gentle mannerisms. They only bite if they think they are in danger. They really want to please.

The first trials were in Wales in 1873. The first trial in the United States was in Philadelphia in 1880. The first official trial was in 1928 at Bennington, Vermont.

Today's Trials

The trials are a big deal today. The trainers use their dogs for real work. Everyone wants to show off the joys their special partners give them. As the trials continue over



two Border Collies gather their herd

The ewe used for the trials are free range animals on the western side of Colorado. This means they are not used to being made to do much of anything. They are big, strong females with of course minds of their own. For years the Basque people led the way in raising sheep. Now most of the sheep are raised by people from Peru.

A Little History

There have been herding dogs in Britain as far back as the time of the Roman Empire.

The early dogs had natural instincts to gather sheep, but they were rough with the animals. Small farmers could



Horsemen rope an errant ewe

the five days the tasks for the dogs become more difficult. The dog must separate the two sheep with orange kerchiefs from the other three.

Each trainer has a different way of signaling and helping

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his dog either by his own voice or using a whistle.

There are events where two dogs work with 10 sheep and later 20 sheep. If the team should fail or a single dog fails, they are called back to their handlers. A third dog and a rider on a horse finish the round-up of the sheep. When the dogs complete their tasks they are called by their handlers. The sheep are guided out by the third dog and the rider on the horse.

One ewe was determined to get away from the DARN



Success!

dogs. She leaped the fence and found more trouble - no way out. Riding horses and roping animals is not out of style in Meeker, Colorado. Thus the ewe was saved to go to her home.

Success is when the dog and handler get the five sheep in the shedding ring within the time allotted.

Looking Ahead

The 2018 Trials will be September 7 - 9. Early hotel reservations are a must. One possibility is Blue Spruce Inn, 488 Market St., Meeker, CO. 970-878-077. For information see www.meekersheepdog.com. Check the dates when the new year arrives.

[Author's Note: The history was taken from Meeker Classic handout "About the Herding of Dogs".]

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Let us know: info@rmowp.org

subject: E-mail RMO

Thanks!

RMOWP Welcomes New Members

RMOWP welcomes **Andrea (Ande) Savage**, of Hereford, Arizona. Ande is a photographer who, in addition to photography, enjoys gardening and basic woodworking.

Also new to RMOWP's ranks is **Heather Androwick** of West Chester, Pennsylvania, winner of this year's scholarship. See "RMOWP Scholarship Winner Announced" on page 2.

BUCK KNIVES GIVES DISCOUNT

Buck Knives has announced a discount program for members of the outdoor community, offering special pricing on many Buck products. The Industry Pro Program is open to members of outdoor associations such as RMOWP and OWAA, plus professional guides, outfitters, wildlife government employees, full-time employees of outdoor industry manufacturers, and retail associates of outdoor specialty retailers.

Buck officials said that the program was created to recognize "industry professionals who share and preserve our love of the outdoors."

For details, go to www.buckknives.com and click on Pro Program under Customer Support at the bottom of the homepage.

The company has a similar program for members of the military and first responders, and plans to offer a program for U.S. military veterans in the near future.



*"Front Row seat at Point Lobos" © Kent Taylor
2017 Honorable Mention, People in Nature category*

Corporate Friends News

New Products and Fun Facts

No one can say that RMOWP's corporate friends haven't been busy.

Buddy Beds, a Denver-based company that has sent its luxurious memory foam dog beds and other dog-related products to a number of RMOWP's auctions, has announced that it has listened to its customers and brought back its three-sided bolster beds. Buddy Beds makes the bolster beds with either three or four sides, creating a nest that



Zoe, whom some of you might recognize as accompanying the Laines to recent conferences, loves her Buddy Bed -- snoozing quite comfortably in her three-sided bolster bed alongside her people's bed.

lets your furry friends curl up and snuggle down. The orthopedic memory foam helps prevent painful pressure points, and the beds have waterproof, breathable fabric liners and easily removeable washable outer liners.

Debra Holte, founder and owner of Buddy Beds, whom many of you met at the Ouray conference, tells

us that she uses the best memory foam available, certified non-toxic (no formaldehyde or other harmful chemicals), plus other top quality materials. Yes, this insistence on quality makes Buddy Beds more expensive than many other dog beds on the market. But, it also means that Buddy Beds last much longer than other brands and provide much better support, eliminating painful pressure points and helping your dog's joints age gracefully.



Ms. Holte also shares this bit of fun information: According to the Petco Community, the top ten dog names in 2017, in order, are Bella, Max, Lucy, Bailey, Charlie, Daisy, Molly, Cooper, Buddy, and Lola.

For information on all Buddy Beds products and a variety of informative dog-related articles and tips, visit www.buddybeds.com, and be sure to check out the Dog Bed Blog.

Need a new knife? Longtime RMOWP friend **Buck Knives** recently announced several new knives for anglers and hunters, plus commemorative knives honoring firefighters, military, and law enforcement officers.



Buck's 101 Hunter

Buck's new 101 Hunter looks a lot like Buck's popular 110 Folding Hunter.

What's the difference? The 101 Hunter is a fixed blade version of the 110. It weighs almost two ounces less than the 110, but has the same Macassar Ebony Dymondwood handle and 420HC blade with clip point. Buck also announced a number of new fishing products, including the Abyss Fillet knives with Kryptek camo rubberized handles. Their flexible trailing point blade has full tang construction to make efficient and clean cuts.



Buck Knives' tribute knife to firefighters: the 722 Red Line SpitFire.

The Buck 722 Blue Line Spitfire is a tribute to military and law enforcement, and the 722 Red Line Spitfire is a tribute to firefighters. The Blue Line knife features a gray anodized aluminum handle with the "Thin Blue Line" American flag logo, and the Red Line Spitfire has a black anodized aluminum handle with the "Thin Red Line" American flag logo. Both feature 420 HC steel blades, one-hand opening, and a lock-back design to keep them locked open.

For information on these and Buck's other products, see www.buckknives.com.

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