

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

MARCH/APRIL 2006 VOLUME 2

THE BIG EVENT

ALL ROADS LEAD TO MOAB!

In case you haven't heard, this year's RMOWP conference will take place in the spectacular red rock country of Moab, Utah, from May 3 to 7, 2006. Workshops, programs, and field trips will offer abundant opportunities for both writers and photographers to polish their skills, and we're particularly fortunate to have a special workshop from famed scenic and nature photographer Tom Till, who just happens to be a Moab resident.

Check out the schedule and the descriptions of activities below, then mark your calendars, make your motel reservations, and please send in your registration forms by **March 25**.

For more information on the conference contact organizers Don Laine (505-758-8922; lainedb@newmex.com) or Jack Olson (303-777-8998; jackolson1@aol.com), and for additional information on the Moab area, contact the **Moab Area Travel Council** (800-635-6622; www.discovermoab.com), and for Utah information, contact the **Utah Office of Tourism** (800-200-1160; www.utah.com).

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Tentative Schedule

Conference Headquarters: La Quinta Inn, Moab.

All events in La Quinta Inn Meeting Room unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, May 3

1-5 pm Registration

2-5 pm Board of Directors Meeting

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Double Arch, Arches National Park, Utah.
Jack Olson Photo



Officers

President, Jim Baker, Stillwater, OK

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Silverthorne, CO

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Supporting Member Liaison

Jon Sheppard, Avon, CO

Historian

Barb Laine, El Prado, NM

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

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Editor

Ron Kerr

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Newsletter contributions as feature articles, news items, tips, letters to the editor, etc., are welcomed. When mailing manuscripts please send as a disc or letter quality hard copy. Include photographs whenever possible, complete with captions.

Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 20th of the month preceding month of publication.

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Mar /Apr May/June July/Aug

Sept/Oct Nov/Dec Jan/Feb

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Email Address alert

Attempts to contact the members listed via e-mail have been met with messages from the electronic postmaster: "user unknown," "unavailable," etc. These members are asked to contact the editor (e-mail: rmowp@shaw.ca) with a new contact address. The changes will be printed in the RMOWP newsletter under Directory Changes. If no response is received within 30 days the following newsletter will indicate that there is no e-mail address for that individual.

Members' name and e-mail address currently on file.

Name

e-mail address on file

Julius Fullinwider

scenic@fone.net

Jack Samson

samsonflyfisher@aol.com

Ben Moffat

benmoffett@att.net

Jeff Pederson

pedersonjeff@msn.com

Stanley Sizeler

size@earthlink.net

Your cooperation in helping to keep the directory current is appreciated.

Ron Kerr

Newsletter editor

E-mail rmowp@shaw.ca

Most good things in life
are lost by indifference
than ever were lost by
active hostility.

– Robert Gordon Menzies

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JIM BAKER



Jim Baker

The Flatlander Chapter of the RMOWP met at Jim and Sue's for food, fun, and photography. There were five invited guests who we hoped would see the light and become members of our fine organization. All the invited guests were interested in photography. In fact,

three were so interested in photographing deer in rut that they chose not to come to the meeting. Instead, they went to take pictures. All are still candidates for prospective membership.

Members from our area were Tom and Barb Cumming, Ruth Raupe, Marilyn Hartman, and Sue and I. Everyone was asked to bring pictures and they did, including the non-members. We all had our oohs! and ahhs!, and talked about the photographs. Tom showed us a commercial that he is putting together and it looked really good.

If you know people in your area that you have observed as being interested in writing or photography, getting them together for a fun evening may get us some new members. Remember to tell them about Moab in May and the photo school in June.

Sometimes all you have to do is extend the invitation. For example, two of the people at this meeting have joined RMOWP and have their reservations in Moab. Also one of the guests, a student, has made an application for the RMOWP Scholarship.

RMOWP Board Stays Home & "Meets" by Email

Saving time and thousands of miles of travel, the RMOWP Board of Directors took care of business in February via email. A meeting had been tentatively set at Betty and Becky Minor's home in Golden, Colorado, but that was canceled after it was determined that only fairly routine matters were on the agenda and it was not likely that a lot of discussion would be needed.

Not long ago the RMOWP by-laws required all board decisions to be made in person at an actual board meeting, but RMOWP joined the modern electronic world at the Lander, Wyoming conference in 2003 when the membership approved a motion to allow board action via email, telephone, and postal service.

Since then several board votes have taken place by email, but it is believed this was the first real email meeting.

Board members, who reside in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Texas, received reports on the website, newsletter, scholarship program, annual contest, photo workshop, upcoming conference, and other subjects, and then voted on several issues.

Seven board members - a quorum - sent their email votes to RMOWP President Jim Baker, who reports that the board approved all measures they were asked to vote on.

These included a money-saving change in the newsletter printing and mailing. The newsletter will continue to be edited and compiled by Ron Kerr in British Columbia, Canada, but will be printed and mailed from Denver, under the direction of RMOWP Secretary Betty Minor, with assistance from daughter and board member Becky Minor.

The board also approved getting price quotes and possibly changing printers for the annual membership directory, possibly printing the directory's cover photo in color, and paying newsletter editor Ron Kerr \$100 to compile the directory.

As requested by Conference Committee co-chairs Don Laine and Jack Olson, the board members approved two measures that Laine and Olson said would help keep down the individual cost for members to attend the conference.

Approved were the use of up to \$400 from the RMOWP treasury to subsidize this year's general conference expenses, and also for RMOWP treasury funds to be used, if necessary, to make up any extra expenses in conference lodging and meeting room costs if we fall short of our commitment to La Quinta Inn of Moab for the negotiated room rate.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO MOAB, CONT'D

6:00 pm Welcome: RMOWP President Jim Baker and Moab Area Travel Council Director Marian Delay. Followed by Happy Hour & Light Buffet

8:00 pm Presentation of Photo Contest Submissions

Thursday, May 4

8 am Guided Field Trip: Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve (lots of birds)

10 am Photography Tom Till Style – A Digital Slide Show & Workshop

11 am Round Table Discussion: Making a Living As A Freelancer

12:30 pm Carpool to Red Cliffs Lodge (14 miles north of Moab; along the river, very scenic).

1 pm Buffet Lunch at Red Cliffs Lodge (great photo ops from restaurant deck)

2 pm Tour Moab Movie Museum & Castle Creek Winery (both at Red Cliffs Lodge)

2:30 pm Return to Moab via La Sal Mountains Loop Drive (45 miles; allow at least 2 hours)

OR

Tour Canyonlands National Park and/or Dead Horse Point State Park on Your Own

6:00 pm Dinner at Moab Brewery, Order Off Menu

8:00 pm Photography Critique: Jack Olson

Friday, May 5

7:00 am Hiking/Photography Excursion at Arches National Park (for serious hiker/photographers): Jack Olson

OR

8:00 am Guided Bus Tour of Arches National Park, with Time for Photos and Short Walks

12:00 pm Lunch at The Broken Oar, Compliments of the Moab Area Travel Council

1:30 pm Workshop: Migrating to Digital Photography, with Steve Schweitzer

3:00 pm Workshop: The Digital Workflow - From Camera to Print, with Joe Zinn

4:30 pm General Membership Meeting

5:45 pm Dutch Oven Dinner & Sunset Boat Ride

Saturday, May 6

5:30 am Sunrise Photo Shoot: Jack Olson

9:00 am Workshop: Website Creation 101, with Steve Schweitzer

10:15 am Writers Critique: Anne Sullivan

11:30 am Lunch on Your Own

1:00 pm Meet at Dan O'Laurie Museum of Moab for Tour by Museum Director Rusty Salmon, followed by a Guided Petroglyph Tour with Moab rock art expert Dell Crandall (carpool)

3:30 pm Auction to Benefit Scholarship Fund: John Catsis and Jim Baker

6:30 pm Happy Half Hour

7:00 pm Banquet and Awards

Sunday, May 7

8:30 am Board of Directors Meeting (Laine room at La Quinta Inn)

Field Trips:

Arches National Park - Natural stone arches and fantastic rock formations, which look as if they were sculpted by an artist's hand, are the defining features of this park, and they exist in remarkable variety. Just as soon as you've seen the most beautiful, most colorful, most gigantic stone arch you can imagine, walk around the next bend and there's another—bigger, better, and more brilliant than the last. It would take forever to see them all, with more than 2,000 officially listed and more being discovered or "born" every day. Ambitious hiker/photographers will set out early on foot to catch the best light, while those who want to take it a bit easier, but see more of the park will join a guided bus tour.

Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve - Owned by the Nature Conservancy, this lush oasis attracts more than 200 species of birds and other wildlife, such as river otters, beavers, and muskrats. There is a handicapped-accessible one-mile loop trail, boardwalks over the wet areas, and a two-story viewing blind. Our group will be given a guided walk, with opportunities for photography. Bring long lenses, and also some mosquito repellent.

Note: There are no restrooms at the preserve.

Sunset Boat Ride - This 30-mile jet boat ride on the Colorado River is designed especially for photographers, with the boat stopping at the best scenic spots along the river. In addition to colorful rock cliffs and canyons, there are arches, petroglyphs, and American Indian ruins. The trip, operated by Canyonlands by Night, will be preceded by a Dutch oven dinner. Participants should wear light jackets or sweaters.

Guided Petroglyph Tour - American Indian rock art is found throughout this area, created by prehistoric people including the Paleo-Indians, who lived here as long ago as 10,000 B.C., and the later ancestral Puebloans and even modern Utes. Most of the images that have survived are petroglyphs - designs pecked into rock surfaces - but there are also some pictographs - painted designs. We'll be led to some of the more interesting rock art sites with local expert Dell Crandell.

Sunrise Photo Shoot - On Saturday, at 5:30 a.m., those intrepid photographers who choose to rise early will head for a location fairly close to Moab. We will look for good morning light, inspiring landscapes, and any other targets of opportunity. Strictly optional.

Continued on next page

Dan O'Laurie Museum of Moab - The history of Moab from prehistoric times to the present is depicted at this growing museum, which begins with geology exhibits and gradually moves into modern times, including some hands-on activities. We'll learn about the area from museum director Rusty Salmon.

Film Museum and Winery at Red Cliffs Lodge - Moab and the surrounding red rock country have been a popular location for making movies since it was "discovered" by famed director John Ford. Red Cliffs Lodge provided the scenery for many of Ford's movies, including "Wagon Master" and "Rio Grande." A museum at the lodge has exhibits from the earliest films to the present, including props, posters, and photos, and the scenery's still spectacular. There's also a winery on site with free tastings. See www.redcliffslodge.com.

Workshops & Critiques:

Photography Tom Till Style - This digital slide show and workshop is being presented by Moab resident Tom Till, an internationally-known scenic and nature photographer whose work you've seen in magazines, calendars, books, and as framed fine-art photography. He has a gallery in Moab at 61 N. Main Street, and you can also see his work online at www.tomtill.com.

Round Table Discussion: Making a Living As A Freelancer - Working pros from RMOWP will be joined by local reporter Lisa Church, who writes for the *Times-Independent* of Moab and the *Salt Lake Tribune*, to explore the different ways that freelancers can actually make enough money to pay the bills.

Photography Critique - Entertaining and informative for all, whether you brought photos or just sit and enjoy them, this program looks at various photographs with an eye on how they could have been improved upon. Those who want their shots critiqued should bring 3 to 5 slides or digital images on CDs to the meeting room 15 minutes prior to the program.

Migrating to Digital Photography - Studies indicate that in four short years, 90% of professional photos will be shot with digital cameras. This workshop, presented by Steve Schweitzer, will guide us through the transition from film to digital, explaining the differences between the two formats, how a digital camera sees color, what white balance does, and how to use the camera's advanced functions to get professional results.

The Digital Workflow - From Camera to Print - Photographer Joe Zinn continues our exploration of digital photography by looking not only at the

camera but at the process beyond the camera. He'll be exploring how to read histograms and how to make the most of digital photography techniques.

Website Creation 101 - It seems like everybody has a website, and if we're going to succeed as outdoor writers and photographers we're going to have to at least consider jumping on the bandwagon. In this workshop, web guru Steve Schweitzer explains the basics of setting up our very own websites, and the pitfalls to avoid.

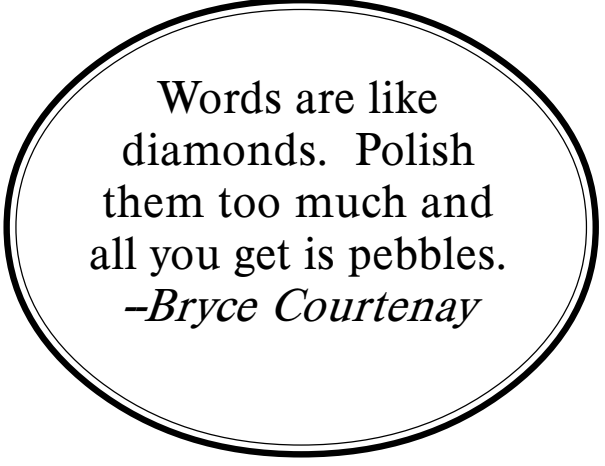
Writers' Critique - Here we critique (gently, positively) the work of members with the purpose of improving that particular work. Those who wish to participate should bring at least 5 copies of no more than 4 pages of double-spaced unpublished work. This should not be your best writing; it should be something you need help with. This is a chance to receive help and advice from other writers. If there's time we'll talk a little about writing groups.

Lodging:

Conference headquarters is the **La Quinta Inn**, 815 S. Main Street. RMOWP has arranged a special discounted rate for the conference of \$68 per night for one or two people. This rate is guaranteed only until April 1. La Quinta will quite possibly be booked solid in May so make your reservations early. Contact La Quinta directly at 435-259-8700 (fax 435-259-8601) state that you are with Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers. If there is any confusion or if you have special requests, ask for Kelly Frandsen.

Those who prefer to camp will find a variety of public and private campgrounds in the area, including **Canyonlands Campground & RV Park**, a shady and quiet campground right downtown. It has 144 sites, a dump station, self-serve laundry, store, and swimming pool. It's located at 555 S. Main St., Moab, (800-522-6848 or 435-259-6848; www.canyonlandsrv.com). Rates in May for one or two people are \$19 tents, \$24 to \$28 RVs. Advance reservations are recommended.

Questions? Contact Don Laine (505-758-8922; lainedb@newmex.com) or Jack Olson (303-777-8998; jackolson@aol.com).



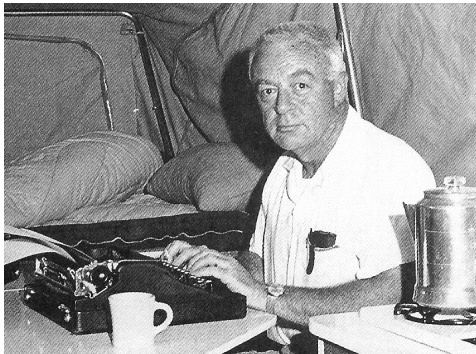
Words are like
diamonds. Polish
them too much and
all you get is pebbles.
-Bryce Courtenay

Member News and Views

RMOWP Loses a friend

Charles "Chuck" Cadieux, an avid outdoorsman, writer, and photographer, and a friend of many in RMOWP, died at his Albuquerque home on January 14 at the age of 86.

Born and raised in North Dakota, Chuck earned a degree in history, worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad (following in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather)



and served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during World War II. After the war he worked for various state and federal wildlife agencies throughout the country, and during that time he also wrote about and photographed outdoor recreation subjects. Chuck retired from wildlife management in 1978 and moved to Albuquerque, where he continued writing.

He authored eleven books – including *Great RV Trips* and *The New Mexico Guide*, both published by Fulcrum Publishing – and more than 1,000 magazine articles.

Chuck was an active member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, serving two terms on that group's board of directors and one term as president, and also was a member of the New Mexico Outdoor Writers and Photographers Association, where he served as newsletter editor.

Survivors include Elida, his wife of 60 years, son Dan Cadieux, and daughter Marie Hodges. The family has requested that remembrances be in the form of donations to the Marianites of Our Lady of Annunciation Church, 2532 Vermont NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110.



2006 RMOWP Photo Workshop June 20-24

Open to all skill levels

Need manually adjusted camera – film or digital

Instructors Jack Olson & Tom Ulrich
Over 30 hours in the field photographing
Classroom instruction + critique sessions
Wildlife, scenics, waterfalls, wildflowers & people in the outdoors

Limited to 15 participants

Workshop fee \$795 – same since 1997

Includes transportation in park, entrance fees and 1 year dues in RMOWP

Call or email Tom Cummings to reserve your spot or for questions

918-225-2721 or tomc1114@cox.net

Please help spread the word about the workshop to those in your area. Tom can supply flyers for camera shops, club meetings and etc. Just let him know. Thanks

Nikon to eliminate most film cameras

Nikon said it would halt production of all but two of its seven film cameras and most lenses for those cameras "one by one".

Nikon made the decision because sales of film cameras have plunged. The announcement might trigger a brief revival in sales as film photography buffs rush to buy the cameras before production stops. Nikon made its first film camera in 1948. The quality and durability of Nikon's cameras made them popular for decades among amateurs and professionals alike, turning Nikon into one of the industry's best known brands. The first Nikon cameras arrived in the United States in the 1950's.

2006 Consumer Electronics Show

Support Your RMOWP Auction!

You never know what's going to happen, but it's always noisy, entertaining, and certainly worthwhile. That's the annual RMOWP auction to raise funds for the scholarship fund, and which will take place on Saturday afternoon during the annual conference in Moab.

Auctioneer John Catsis and his assistant, RMOWP President Jim Baker, always make the auction an event not to be soon forgotten, and a bonus is that in addition to the entertainment we have opportunities to get wonderful items at sometimes bargain prices (and sometimes not - you know what can happen at an auction).

This year we're off to a great start with a gift from supporting member Remington of an SPR 310 Over & Under Shotgun - either 12 or 20 gauge (you can see it at www.remington.com).

Although we're not sure at this time what else will be coming, in the past we've had digital mapping software, books of maps, binoculars, fishing equipment, knives, ice chests, lanterns, camp stoves, and even skiing vacations. And that's just the donations from supporting members. RMOWP's individual members have been equally generous, bringing their own photos and books, plus crafts, gift items, food and drink, and anything else they find lying around the house.

So start loading up the car now, with your donations for the auction. Or contact conference organizers Don Laine or Jack Olson to help get your stuff to Moab. Remember that all proceeds are used for the RMOWP annual scholarship.

Wright, Kevin – 1720 N. Main, Canton, IL 61520; phone: 309-647-6989; e-mail: wrightsrca@prodigy.net; web site: www.kevinwrightoutdoors.com; mentor: yes; spouse: Laurie; status: Individual.

Skills: Photographer, Writer, Magazine, Newsletter, Newspaper, Freelance.

Interests: Fly fishing for all species. Nature - wildlife photography.

Credits: Weekly column *Canton Daily Ledger* (13th year), *Adventure Sports Outdoors* magazine, *Midwest-Outdoors* magazine - Iowa Editor, *Fishing & Hunting News* magazine, *Spoon River Country Outdoors* newsletter, *Fur-Fish-Game*, *Midwest Fly Fishing*, *Sportsmansguide.com*, *Countryslife.net*, *Anglersport* magazine, *Meadowlark* magazine, *Big River Outdoors*.

Member changes

Donoho, Kathryn – membership withdrawn

Directory Updates

Welcome, New Members

Anderson-Varner, Laurie – 6370 Vacquero Drive, Castle Rock, CO 80108; phone: 303-660-9300; e-mail: jvarner@editbay.com; spouse: Jim Varner; status: Individual.

Varner, Jim – 6370 Vacquero Drive, Castle Rock, CO 80108; phone: 303-660-9300; e-mail: jvarner@editbay.com; spouse: Laurie Anderson-Varner; status: Individual.

Turner, Kathleen P – 9304 N. Western Rd., Stillwater, OK 74075; phone: 405-377-0592; e-mail: ktturner@provalue.net; mentor: yes; spouse: Wayne; status: Individual; sponsor: James Baker.

Skills: Photographer; Public Relations.

Turner, Wayne C. – 9304 N. Western Rd., Stillwater, OK 74075; phone: 405-377-0592; e-mail: wayne.turner@okstate.org; mentor: yes; spouse: Kathleen; status: Individual; sponsor: James Baker.

Skills: Writer, Editor/Publisher, Book Author, Magazine, Lecturer.

Interests: Outdoor writing, especially hunting and fishing.

Credits: Author approx. 200 professional articles in journals and magazines. Author 3 text books (18 editions spanning a total of 70 years). Editor (technical): two journals. None of the above are outdoor writings. Lecturer: approximately 600 short courses for industry personnel.

In certain trying
circumstances,
urgent
circumstances,
desperate
circumstances,
profanity furnishes
a relief denied
even in prayer
Mark Twain

Are film cameras a thing of the past?

Submitted by Kelly Gatlin

InfoTrends, the leading worldwide digital imaging and document solutions research and consulting firm, is pleased to announce the release of its highly anticipated multi-client study, *North American Professional Photography Market*. The study provides camera, printer, software, supplies, and service providers with the information necessary to support their marketing efforts, product planning, and distribution initiatives in the professional photography market in North America.

According to the study, there are over 131,000 professional photographers in North America, and they spend nearly \$800 million a year on cameras, lenses, printers, ink and media, software, and other accessories. Approximately 65% of these professional photographers use film cameras for some of their shoots, however, InfoTrends' estimates that 70% of all professional photos are taken with digital cameras.

The study indicates that by the end of the decade, 90% of professional pictures will be taken with digital cameras, and less than 40% of professional photographers will still use film cameras. Pro photographers continue to purchase new digital cameras and backs as performance improves; however, falling prices are keeping overall camera revenue flat.

"The transition to digital is changing the economics and profile of the professional photography industry," commented Jeff Hayes, Group Director at InfoTrends. "Digital technology is lowering the barriers to entry and increasing competition. Successful pro photographers in the future will have more automated workflows from capture through publishing, establish a strong Web presence, and diversify their offering to include more post-capture products and services."

The prevalence of digital cameras in this industry is increasing, but many professional photographers are struggling with photo editing, management, and printing issues due to the volume of digital pictures taken, the learning curve associated with software, and demands from their clients. Photographers indicate that they are spending more of their time in post-shoot activities and less time marketing and taking pictures.

"Many photographers struggle with pulling all the pieces together to get the most out of digital technology, especially after taking the shot," noted Hayes. "While advances in image sensors, lenses, and photo printers are exciting, many of the biggest productivity and business improvements are coming from editing, color management, workflow, photo management, and collaboration."

Research for the study consisted of interviews with over 1,750 professional photographers, 200 commercial photography customers, and 1,200 consumers that have used professional photography services. All the market sizing and research findings are split by key segments, including commercial, editorial, portrait and wedding, fine art/nature, and school photography.



Turret Arch seen through North Window, Arches National Park, Utah.

Jack Olson photo

Jack's Jaunts

Canyonlands Needles District

By Jack Olson

President Jim Baker said we couldn't do it. The Board said we couldn't do it. Don Laine said we couldn't do it. We couldn't make our 2006 Conference last a whole week. No way. So I'm going to suggest a pre- or post-Conference side trip that may be interesting, even exciting, for our members.

Canyonlands National Park is in the vicinity of Moab, but the distances are such that they don't lend themselves to a Conference field trip. We do have one afternoon where there's an option for attendees to drive to the closest Canyonlands district, Island in the Sky. But there's a separate area south of Moab, the Needles District, that is unique, beautiful and is worth considering for a detour on your own.

Driving south from Moab, you go 42 miles on U.S. 163/191, then turn west on Utah 211. Or drive north from Monticello on U.S. 163/191 14 miles to Utah 211. From there, it's about 33 miles west to the Needles District.

On the way to Needles, be sure to stop at Newspaper Rock, one of the best displays of petroglyphs you'll find in the West. This rock, with pictures of hunters, animals, and symbols, is such visually important American prehistory that it was chosen as one of only five photographs on the cover of National Geographic's new *Almanac of American History*. Newspaper Rock is very accessible, but that has also occasioned some vandalism.

In the Needles District, there are numerous trails, from very short nature trails to long distance treks. The visitor center can furnish you with information on trails that might meet your time or physical constraints. Be advised that it could be very hot in this area in May. Take sufficient water. Also, be very careful if rain threatens. Some tight, or slot, canyons can be subject to flash floods.

Some of the shorter trails, which I've found very enjoyable, are in Big Spring Canyon, Slickrock, Pothole Point, and Roadside Ruin nature trails. All of these are near the Squaw Flat campground. Big Spring Canyon takes the hiker among the wild sandstone formations. Slickrock and Pothole Point give you longer views. Roadside Ruin is very short and brings you to the site of an ancient habitation.

There's a three-mile dirt road past Squaw Flat to Elephant Hill. From there it's a five-mile round trip to Chesler Park.



Park Avenue, Arches National Park

Jack Olson photo

This hike concludes at a lovely meadow surrounded by fins and spires. This may be the best medium length hike I can recommend.

From Elephant Hill, there's a spectacular trail to Druid Arch, ten miles round trip. Along this trail, some of the time you're up on the slickrock, then you squeeze down in tight canyons. At the end, you clamber up a steep gully, and when you top out, this marvelous arch confronts you. It may be possible, if you continue past the steep gully, to view the arch from below, but I haven't done that.

Another nice hike out of Squaw Flat is the trail to Peekaboo Spring. It's 10.8 miles round trip, but I haven't gone all the way in. As it was, we scaled high in the slickrock and were treated with sweeping views of the Canyonlands. We also discovered a granary of the ancient people, with tiny corncobs within.

There are campgrounds at Squaw Flat, near Chesler Park for backpackers, and a private campground just outside the park on the east. Facilities are limited in the Needles. There's gasoline and some groceries at the private campground. If you plan to camp, I'd recommend bringing food with you, and filling the tank before you even drive in to the Needles.

Although we will be spending quality time in Arches National Park, and along the Colorado River, the Needles District will add to your Moab Conference experiences. To find out more about Canyonlands and the Needles District, go to: www.nps.gov/cany. You can download maps there. I'd still suggest the stop at the visitor center to confirm trail conditions and route suggestions.

Photo Tips

by Jon Sheppard

We all love to get out and take gorgeous pictures of grand vistas and beautiful wildlife. So after getting the pictures back from the photo lab they look, well, kind of mediocre. The elk looks more like a black ghost. The scene of the mountain image is half over exposed or underexposed. "Why don't my pictures like what I see! What am I doing wrong?"

Welcome to the world of photography.

First, let's get organized.

Decide where you are going and what you would like to photograph; scenic vistas, wildlife, people, sporting events, or whatever is in your heart.

Research your areas. Is it a morning or evening shot setting? Ask the locals when looking for wildlife, special places of interest, scenic vistas.

Keep a list of all your equipment. Keep a copy with you and one at home.

Carrying instruction booklets of your equipment is essential. Keep an extra bag for nonessential items.

Bring lots of film and extra batteries.

Keep all equipment in the same place all the time, in your car also.

Carry a notebook to record camera settings, time of day, weather, etc. while taking your shots.

Waterproof covers and containers for all equipment.

Protect your film always. In cold weather put into ziplock bags before bringing it indoors. Let it warm up to room temperature before removing. Store film in refrigerator or cooler on the road.



Great snow bumps and just where do you find them?

Jon Shepard photo



This cat is a pet and loves it when I bring it ice cream.

Jon Shepard photo

Keep zippers closed. You don't want equipment falling out of your bag.

Make sure tripod legs are locked. Loose tripod legs mean trouble.

Take care when carrying your camera on a tripod. Make certain that the camera is locked down tight and all safety locks are on.

Carry your camera and tripod across your chest or over the shoulder.

Make certain that your film is really rewound before opening the back.

Dress appropriately for the weather and prepare for the worst.

Depending on the weather bring: cell phone, map, sunscreen, bug repellent, hat, gloves, food, water, first aid kit, cold weather gear and tell a friend your itinerary and expected time back.

Suggested equipment list

Carrying bag

28-70 zoom

70-300 zoom

Circular Polarizer

Sunset filter, warming filter, other filters

Close-up or Macro lens

Cable release or use the self timer function

Cleaning cloth and/or air can

Tripod

Flash unit. Extension cord for flash

Small flashlight

Pen, pencil, notebook, and Sharpie

Now you are ready to begin your adventures in photography. Next issue Part 2.

PHOTOGRAPHY OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND AROUND MOAB



Photo by Juli Wilcox



Photo by Juli Wilcox



Photo by Jack Olson

The Last Page



Photo by Juli Wilcox

Return to:

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