

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

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VOLUME 3

Part 1 of 2: Your Website - Initial Considerations

Making Money While You Sleep

By Bob Knopf

Today, most writers and photographers have a website. If you're a holdout, it's time to get started. As the (old) Nike' slogan said, "Just Do It." You can start small and build upon your site as your business needs grow.

If you have a website, is it working? Does it do you justice? What do you hope to accomplish with it? Are you making money from it?

In my early writing years, I remember an excellent book by Art Spikol, titled, *Magazine Writing: The Inside Angle*. Author Spikol stressed the importance of writing a specific subject and purpose for each story we write. Once identified, we don't allow ourselves to wander from our stated subject or purpose.

This is also the starting point for developing or improving a website. Identify your primary subject (it will probably be you and your skills). Write out your intended purpose (hopefully it will say something about making you some money).

After completing the previous two items, list the ways you hope to make money on the web. Your list will look something like this:

In this Issue:

Conference Information4,5,7,8, 9

Member news3, 6 & 7

Craft Improvement1 & 10

- Sell my past writings (radio tapes, videos, books) online
- Sell my photos online
- Use my website to showcase my works (sell myself) to editors
 - Help editors and others find me and my stuff
 - Use the website as a transport means to get my photos to buyers
 - Make myself look good (professional, competent) to my customers
 - Develop my name/authority in the outdoors
 - Author an online subscription service or newsletter
 - Network with other communicators
 - Sell other people's stuff online

You may have other items, but the above list is a good start. Now ask yourself if your current website meets these needs. If not, change it so it does. Too many websites are merely statements that Joe Communicator is a wonderful writer, TV personality, and book author. Remember that your website is your International STORE. It's seen worldwide; it's open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Remember that your website is working while you sleep, fish, hunt, hike or bird watch. This is the primary job of a website, to make money and do business while you aren't at your computer. A properly designed website will do exactly that.

Bob Knopf is a freelance writer, photographer, and speaker on a variety of outdoor related topics. Bob is also an Internet consultant and corporate communications specialist. He makes his home in Woodland, WA with wife Becky. His article is reprinted here with permission.



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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

2006 Scott-McKenna Memorial Scholarship Awarded

By Ruth Raupe

The winner of the RMOWP scholarship this year is Shanna Boyett, a student at Oklahoma State University. Shanna is working on a master's degree in communications. When Shanna came to OSU after receiving her bachelor's degree at the University of Georgia, she intended to get her master's in public relations. However, after taking a photography class at OSU, she changed her plans.

Her main interest is taking photos of wildlife, and she included several of her shots of wild animals in her application packet. She now hopes to become a freelance writer and photographer for outdoor magazines. As she says "I know this dream will not be easy to realize, and may not have me rolling in dough, but I believe it will lead me to a successful, happy life."

Barbara Cummings Passes Away

Barbara Cummings, a friend to many RMOWP members, passed away February 21 at the family home in Cushing, Oklahoma. She was 72. An outgoing and warm person, Barb participated in the RMOWP conferences the past two years with her husband Tom, an RMOWP member who is also coordinator for RMOWP's photography workshop.

A native of Oilton, Oklahoma, Barb moved to Cushing with her first husband, John Martin, in 1955, where they operated the Martin Tank Truck and Casing Pulling Company. John died in 1989, and she married Tom Cummings in 1994.

Barb was active in community organizations in Cushing, and enjoyed china painting, travel, and photography. Tom, who says she was his best friend as well as his wife, credits her with being an inspiration and strong supporter of his photographic work.

Survivors include Tom, sons Kenny and Gary Martin, and stepchildren Steven and Chad Cummings and Mandy Franks. The family has requested that remembrances be in the form of donations to Judith Karman Hospice, P.O. Box 818, Stillwater, OK 74076 or the First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 888, Cushing, OK 74023. Arrangements are under the direction of Davis Funeral Home (www.davisfh.net).

Bring your "Members' Choice " Photographs to the conference

By Maryann Gaug

Please remember to bring up to three of your favorite matted prints to the Moab conference to display for the Members' Choice award! Last year we had many fantastic entries and would like to see even more people submit their photography for everyone in the group to admire.

Please submit your photos for the Members' Choice award at registration on Wednesday afternoon. Photos will be displayed in the meeting room starting at 8 pm Wednesday during the photo contest submission presentation. Voting will start Thursday about noon after our morning indoor workshops. Hint: to be sure people consider your entries, submit them at registration on Wednesday or find Maryann Gaug or Frank Zurey by 11 am on Thursday.

Here are the rules in case you misplaced the award contest rules.

Members may submit matted prints that are black and white or color. Altered/manipulated images are eligible. Print size is a maximum of 8 x 12 inches that is matted with a final size not to exceed 12 x 16 inches. The entries should not be framed. These entries will be displayed at the conference. Members will judge entries at the conference. Place your name and designate "Members' Choice" on the back of each submission.

Note - the photos may have been taken in any year and you may submit up to three entries.

We look forward to your entries and judging by RMOWP membership!

Maryann Gaug: maryann@rmowp.org or 970-468-6219.

Membership withdrawn...reluctantly

Charlotte and Jay Myers of Santa Fe tell us they won't be renewing their memberships in RMOWP due to some nasty arthritis in Jay's back that prevents him from hiking, and, as Jay put it, he doesn't want to come to the conferences and not be able to participate in the outdoor activities.

The Myers are still keeping busy, though. Charlotte continues to do her beautiful paintings on porcelain and playing the harp, and western-history buff Jay recently finished and is trying to place an article about New Mexico's famed "Uncle" Dick Wooten, who in the late 1800s built a road over Raton Pass and set up a toll station to collect money from anyone who wanted to use it.

Conference Information

Grand Junction - More than an Gas Stop along the Interstate

By Don Laine

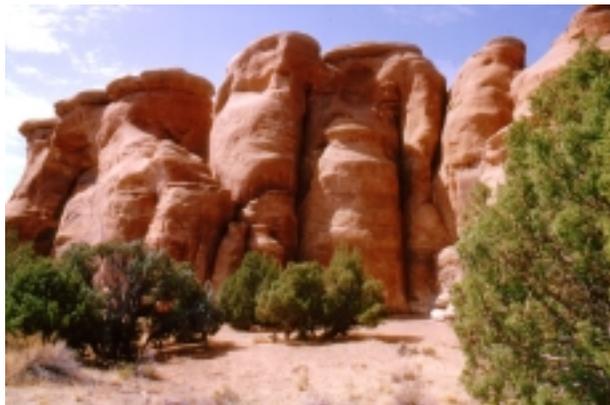
Many of us heading to Moab for RMOWP's annual conference will be passing through Grand Junction, Colorado - either driving along I-70 from Denver and other eastern points or because we flew into Grand Junction's airport and are renting a car for the trip to Moab. But Grand Junction warrants more than just a wave as we speed by, and either as part of our trek to or from the conference or at some other time, this big western town is well worth a visit.

Located about 250 miles west of Denver and 125 miles east of Moab, Grand Junction is an excellent base for those who want to drive or hike through the awe-inspiring red-rock canyons of Colorado National Monument, relax along the Colorado River at a state park, sample western Colorado wine at the area's more than a dozen wineries, or explore the community's many museums and its unique outdoor art.

Just minutes west of Grand Junction, **Colorado National Monument** is a

delight, offering a colorful maze of steep-walled canyons filled with an array of naturally sculpted spires, pinnacles, and other impressive rock formations. You can see much of the monument from your vehicle on the 23-mile Rim Rock Drive, and there are ample opportunities for hiking and

photography. Be on the lookout for bighorn sheep, golden eagles, mule deer, numerous lizards, and maybe even a mountain lion. The monument's Saddlehorn Campground, located in a piñon-juniper forest near the visitor center, has 80 sites, some shady, and restrooms but no showers or RV hookups.



The red rock scenery at Colorado National Monument is similar to what we'll see in southern Utah.

Don & Barb Laine Photo

For information, contact Colorado National Monument at 970-858-3617 or see its website, www.nps.gov/colm/.

There's also plenty to do and see at **James M. Robb - Colorado River State Park** (970-434-3388; www.parks.state.co.us), which has several sections. Island Acres, on the east side of Grand Junction at I-70 exit 47, offers hiking, picnicking, camping, fishing, and plenty of good spots to lay back and gaze out at the river. The Fruita section, west of Grand Junction, covers 81 acres and has all of the above, plus boating and a swimming lagoon.

Another recommended stop in the Grand Junction area is the **Western Colorado Botanical Gardens** (970-245-9030; www.wcbotanic.org), along the Colorado River, which offers a delightful escape into the natural world with a wonderful butterfly house, greenhouse, paved trails, and outdoor gardens.

Located in downtown Grand Junction on Main Street from Second to Seventh streets, **Art on the Corner** is a fascinating outdoor sculpture exhibit, with more than 100 works on display. The sculptures were created in a variety of styles in bronze, chrome, iron, and other materials. Especially appealing is the large bronze pig named *Sir*, located on the east side of Sixth Street at Main, and *Greg La Rex*, a sculpture in steel that depicts a dinosaur skeleton atop a bicycle, at the corner of Third and Main. The surrounding shopping park has art galleries, antiques shops, restaurants, and a variety of retail stores, with wide, tree-lined pedestrian walkways.

While Colorado isn't the first region to come to mind when most of us think of wine-making, it does have its share of good **wineries**, and most of them are in the fertile valleys outside Grand Junction. Many are in the community of Palisade, about 12 miles east of Grand Junction along U.S. Highway 6 (take I-70 Exit 42). Most of the wineries offer free tastings and some offer tours.

For information on these and other area attractions, plus lodging possibilities, contact the **Grand Junction Visitor & Convention**

Bureau, 740 Horizon Dr., Grand Junction, CO 81506 (800-962-2547 or 970/244-1480; www.visitgrandjunction.com). There's a visitor center on Horizon Drive at I-70 exit 31, and a Colorado Welcome Center at I-70 exit 19 (Fruita and Colorado National Monument), 12 miles west of Grand Junction.

Zion Canyon Field Institute Plans Photo Workshops

Photographers planning trips to southern Utah this year might want to check out several workshops being offered by the Zion Canyon Field Institute in Zion National Park and Cedar Breaks National Monument. The programs offer guided hikes to see and shoot the area's natural wonders and in particular its flora. One-day workshops, which cost \$80, are scheduled in Zion National Park on May 17 and December 16, and a two-day program, which costs \$160, takes place September 22 and 23. On July 12, a wildflower photography workshop is planned at Cedar Breaks National Monument, with a botanist who will identify the wildflowers and a photographer who will help participants get the best possible photos. For information contact the institute at 800-635-3959 or 435/772-3264, or see its website, www.zionpark.org.

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.

Can you read this?

Olny srmatt poelpe can.

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Petroglyphs are practically everywhere in the Moab area.

Photo by Jack Olson

Directory Updates

Welcome, new members

Boyett, Shanna – 125 Brumley, Apt. 12, Stillwater, OK 74074. Winner of the 2006 Scott-McKenna Memorial Scholarship Awarded

Drew, David – 328 North Mission Rd., Wichita, KS 67206; phone: 316-304-8995; work phone: 316-612-4580; e-mail: davidjdrew@sbcglobal.net; mentor: no; status: Individual; sponsor: Jack Olsen.

Skills: Photographer, Writer, Freelance, Television, Video.

Interests: I have 25 years experience in broadcast and video production. I am a skilled videographer, photographer and writer. Most of my writing has been for television and video, however I have been asked to write for print. I like to be able to weave natural history and conservation issues and education into my writing for television.

Credits: I am the owner of David Drew Productions. My clients include Bass Pro Shops and the Primedia enthusiast magazines. I serve as a field producer for *Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World Television* and *Bowhunter Magazine TV*, both of which run on the Outdoor Channel. I also write and edit for *Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World Television*. I am developing other outdoor clients including Orion Multimedia, The Outdoor Channel, and The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. In addition to these clients, I also serve a variety of corporate clients.

Hammond, Mike – 4805-52nd, Lubbock, TX 79414; phone: 806-793-9236; work phone: 806-548-0246; e-mail: mamom1971@earthlink.net; spouse: Debra; status: Individual; sponsor: Anne Sullivan.

Skills: Photographer.

Interests: Outdoor and landscape photography.

Credits: "I am a Texan."

Holmes, Richard W. – 3475 Heidelberg Dr., Boulder, CO 80305; phone: 303-494-7183; e-mail: rwholmes2@earthlink.net; status: Individual; sponsors, Jack Olson, Tom Ulrich.

Skills: Photographer, Writer, Newsletter.

Interests: Nature photography, especially birds. Writing - essays, articles. Outdoor activities - hiking, explorative trips. Reading - Utah & Arizona are areas of inspiration for me. From the canyons come reflections on life, the cosmos, and the unimpeded thoughts that flow from solitude.

Credits: Photography - published in magazines, books, calendars and field guides. Recent magazine: *Birder's World*. Recent book: *Peterson Field Guide to the North American Prairie*, by Steve Jones. Writing – edited

Colorado Mountain Club newsletter seven years (1988-1994). Contributed articles afterwards. Edited various photo club newsletters.

Mayhew, Dan – 974 East Belmont Ave., Salt Lake City, UT 84105; phone: 801-359-8238; work phone: 801-924-6801; e-mail: moabmac@mac.com; mentor: yes; spouse: Jennifer; status: Individual.

Skills: Photographer, Writer, Video.

Interests: Bicycling - road & mountain, trail running (usually with golden retrievers), photography, computers, hiking, backcountry travel & exploring - looking for photo ops!

Sciulli, Angelo – 1886 Little John Drive, Lancaster, SC 29720; phone: 803-286-9833; work phone: same; e-mail: angelo@virtual1.net; web site: www.scnature.com; mentor: yes (but only by e-mail); spouse: Janet; status: Individual.

Skills: Photographer, Writer, Editor/Publisher, Book Author, Magazine, Newsletter, Newspaper, Lecturer, Freelance, Web Designer, Movie.

Interests: Wildlife, ALS awareness & fundraising.

Credits: *Nature Photographer* magazine, *Montana* magazine, *Sinra*, *Quest*, *Sandlapper* magazine, *Clemson World*, *WE* magazine, *Jakes*, *Wheelin' Sportsman*, *Primo*, newspapers, newsletters.

Walker, Carol – PO Box 1923, Grand Lake, CO 80447; phone: 970-627-3696; cell: 805-441-3920; winter address (till April 15): 523 Whidbey St., Morro Bay, CA 93442; phone: 805-772-0628; e-mail: clwalker@rkymtnhi.com; mentor: maybe; spouse: Robert; status: Individual.

Skills: Photographer.

Interests: Amateur photography, specifically outdoor, nature, landscape. Have used Canon equipment and a year ago purchased the 20D and am learning the digital process.

Credits: I have won several awards in the local country fair, an honorable mention in the Coastal Commission's annual contest, have had several showings in local businesses, and have sold photos as a result.

The Fascinating Four Corners

By Don Laine

The Four Corners area - where the borders of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah touch - is the archaeological center of the United States, with evidence of a vast complex of ancient villages that dominated this entire region in times past. Here, among the reddish-brown rocks, rugged canyons, and broad mesas, you'll discover another world, once ruled by the Ancestral Puebloans (also called Anasazi), and today largely the domain of the Navajo.

Those heading to Moab from the south can easily take some short detours to see some of these prehistoric ruins, but you'll also see spectacular scenery that has made this region a favorite of Hollywood directors, have opportunities to mingle with the Navajo people, and see the only spot in the United States where four states come together at one point.

Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, which straddles the Arizona-Utah state line about 150 miles south of Moab, should look familiar even if you've never set foot in this region before. That's because you've seen its majestic stone towers, delicately carved arches, lonely windswept buttes, and forbidding cliffs in numerous films, TV shows, commercials, and magazine advertisements.



Want to visit four states at once? Then plunk your butt down on the Four Corners Monument.

Photo by Don Laine

Directory Updates

Anderson-Varner, Laurie – Interests: Owner of a small public relations firm. Writes articles that appear almost weekly in various newspapers on behalf of clients (real estate and health care). Interested in developing a new niche in travel writing. Credits: Awards - see www.prexports.com/awards to view multiple awards and credits.

Blakeslee, Jim – e-mail: basecamp@vcn.com

Pederson, Jeff – e-mail: pedersonjeff@comcast.net

Varner, Jim – web sites: www.editbay.com & www.prexports.com; Skills: Photographer, Writer, Public Relations, Freelance, Web Designer/Developer, Internet/Webmaster, Web Hosting, Video. Interests: As the owner of a multimedia communications company I am personally involved in photography, videography and graphics design. All of these skills are used in the production of web sites, CDs and DVDs. I tend to specialize in database connected web development. On the photography side I work in 35mm, digital and 4 x 5 formats. Landscape and outdoor photography have been an interest for over 30 years. Credits: Web: gatesski.org, mygconstruction.com, coliteracy.org, patientnow.com, thesentinelsprc.com, ksainteractivegames.com, prexports.com. Video: Ocean Journey, Elitch Six Flags, Hiwan Golf Club, US Geological Survey, Intelagard.

In fact, for many of us, Monument Valley is the Old West. It started in 1938, when Harry Goulding, who had been operating a trading post for local Navajo for about 15 years, convinced Hollywood director John Ford that Ford's current project, *Stagecoach*, should be shot in Monument Valley. Released the following year, *Stagecoach* not only put Monument Valley on the map, but also launched the career of a little-known actor by the name of John Wayne. Operated as a tribal park by the Navajo Nation, Monument Valley has a visitor center/museum, a 17-mile self-guided loop that lets you see most of the major scenic attractions of the park, and also offers tours with Navajo guides that often explore less-visited areas and get a first-hand view of the area. Tours are available at the visitor center and at Goulding's Lodge, (800/874-0902 or 435/727-3231; www.gouldings.com), which operates a motel, restaurant, campground, museum, and other facilities. The tribal park administration also operates a campground.

For information, contact Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park(435-727-5874) or the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department (928-871-6647; www.navajonationparks.org).

Also operated by the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Ute tribe, is **Four Corners Monument**, the only place in the United States where you can stand (or if you prefer, sit) in four states at once.

Continued on next page

The Fascinating Four Corners, cont'd

There's a flat monument marking the spot where Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona meet, official seals of the four states, and surrounding the monument are the flags of the four states, the Navajo Nation and Ute tribes, and the United States.

There are often crafts demonstrations, and jewelry, pottery, sand paintings, and other crafts are for sale, along with tee shirts and other souvenirs. In addition, traditional Navajo food, such as fry bread, is available, and there's a small visitor center with information on visiting the Navajo Nation.

To the north, mostly in southeastern Utah, **Hovenweep National Monument** (970-562-4282; www.nps.gov/hove), contains six separate archeological sites where you'll see some of the most striking (and most isolated) ruins in the Four Corners area. These include castle-like towers, cliff dwellings, a kiva (a circular underground ceremonial chamber), stone rooms, walls, and petroglyphs. *Hovenweep* is the Ute word for "deserted valley," appropriate because its inhabitants apparently left around 1300.

Hovenweep is known for its mysterious and impressive 20-foot-tall sandstone towers, some of them square, others oval, circular, or D-shaped. Built by the Ancestral Puebloans, the solid towers have small windows up and down their masonry sides. Archaeologists have suggested a myriad of possible uses for these structures—their guesses range from guard towers to celestial observatories, ceremonial structures to water towers or granaries. In addition to the towers, you'll encounter the remains of cliff dwellings and a kiva, petroglyphs, stone rooms, walls, and a reconstructed dam.



Wilson Arch, a landmark on the road to Moab from the south.

Don & Barb Laine photo

The walk among the 700-year-old buildings will take you through yucca, cactus, saltbush, juniper, and even some cottonwood trees. Watch for lizards, snakes, rabbits, hawks, ravens, and an occasional deer or fox.

The Square Tower Site, where the visitor center is located, should be your first stop. The other five sites are difficult to find, and you'll need to get detailed driving directions and check on current road conditions before setting out. At the Square Tower Site, part of the 2-mile self-guided loop trail is paved and suitable for wheelchairs with assistance. Also at the Square Tower Site is the park campground, which has 30 sites plus restrooms, drinking water, but no showers or RV hookups.

Mesa Verde National Park (970-529-4465; www.nps.gov/meve), which is east of Hovenweep in southwestern Colorado, is the largest archaeological preserve in the United States, with almost 5,000 known sites dating from A.D. 500 to 1300, including the most impressive cliff dwellings in the Southwest. The earliest-known inhabitants here built underground pit houses on the mesa tops, and then, in the 13th century, they moved into shallow alcoves and began to build complex cliff dwellings.

Some of the cliff dwellings can only be seen close-up on ranger-led tours, while others are open to self-guided tours. Tours are required to explore the Cliff Palace, the park's largest and best-known site, a four-story apartment complex with stepped-back roofs forming porches for the dwellings above.

The park has a visitor center, museum, scenic drive, lodge, restaurants, and a huge campground that is usually open only from mid-May through mid-October.

Located along the road to Canyonlands National Park's Needles District, south of Moab off U.S. 191, **Newspaper Rock** is famous for its large sandstone panel covered with petroglyphs that date from 1,500 to 2000 years ago. The fascinating panel was created by a long line of humans, from the Fremont people and then Ancestral Puebloans to more modern Utes and Navajo. The panel also includes initials and names left by early European-American settlers, including one J. P. Gonzales of Monticello, who herded sheep in the canyon in the early 1900s. The site is administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Monticello Field Office (435-587-1500; www.blm.gov/utah/monticello). There is primitive camping at a small campground just across the road from Newspaper Rock.

Also on the road to Moab from the south, along the east side of U.S. 191, be sure to watch for impressive **Wilson Arch**, a handsome natural stone arch just begging to be photographed.

Jack's Jaunts

More Fun Around Moab

By Jack Olson

In my last article, I wrote about the Needles Section of Canyonlands National Park, which would be a great trip either before or after the Conference. This time we'll check out some locations that could be visited before or after, and maybe even during, the Conference. We have a free afternoon on Thursday, May 4. Let's see what we can fill it with.

We'll be having lunch at Red Cliffs Lodge, about 14 miles east of Moab on Utah 128. From the Lodge, turn left on Utah 128 and drive about two miles to the Castle Valley road and turn right onto the La Sal Mountains Loop. This road covers about 45 miles back to Moab and about two hours should be allowed. We've been told there could be beautiful displays of wildflowers along the road. This will be about the only mountain scenery accessible in the area, known mostly for its canyons and rock formations.

Back to the east of Red Cliffs Lodge, maybe 8 miles on Utah 128, is the trailhead for Fisher Towers, a BLM site. Afternoon and later light is best here. The hike is only a couple of miles, but it involves climbing and has a little bit of exposure, for those who are concerned about heights. It's not an overly difficult hike, and takes you among towering rock formations, hence the name.

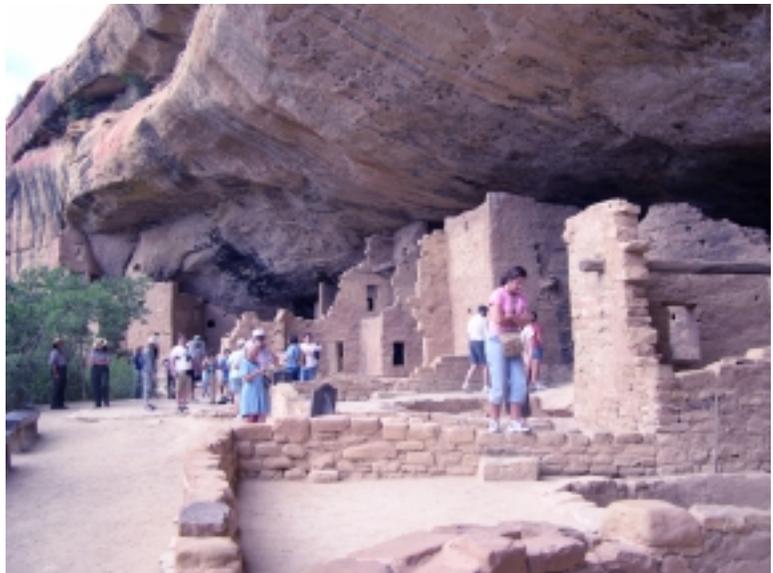
A trip that might be taken that afternoon is to backtrack to U.S. 163/191 at Moab. Turn right and drive about 9 miles to the intersection with Utah 313. Take a left and you can drive 23 miles to Dead Horse Point State Park. From this sweeping vista, you can look far out over the canyons of the Colorado River.

A second choice on the same road, Utah 313, is to continue into the Island in the Sky Section of Canyonlands National Park. It's about 35 miles from Moab, and even farther to some of the attractions. This area could be especially entertaining if you can spend a longer time before or after the Conference. But in an afternoon, you can only hit a couple of high spots. I'd recommend Mesa Arch, a classic photographic location, and Grand View Point, from where you can look down over the Green and Colorado Rivers, toward where they join forces.

Another good trip, a hike really, is in Arches National Park. Delicate Arch is to Arches what Old Faithful is to Yellowstone, the signature feature of the park. It's even on Utah's license plate. First, drive into Arches. At about 9.2 miles, you'll pass Balanced Rock and the road into the Windows Section. Continue another 2.5 miles to a road turning to the right and go 1.2 miles to Wolfe Ranch and the Delicate Arch trailhead.

There's no water and precious little shade on this 1 ½ mile trail, so bring water, wear a hat, and use sunscreen. The trail involves climbing, although the footing isn't difficult. Nevertheless, it's somewhat strenuous. The hike might be done on Thursday afternoon or, again, before or after the Conference. Best light would be afternoon and later. It's spectacular around sunset. Delicate Arch is worth the hike. An alternative to the hike is to continue on the road past Wolfe Ranch to the Delicate Arch viewpoint. There's a short trail here and the arch is high above. A long lens might be useful.

For more information on the area, go to: www.discovermoab.com. For more information on Arches National Park, go to: www.nps.gov/arch. And for information on Canyonlands National Park, go to: www.nps.gov/cany. Mesa Arch is on the Canyonlands home page. See you all in Moab!



Exploring the ruins at Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado.

Jack Olson Photo

Part 2 of 5

Photo Tips

by Jon Sheppard

Now that the car is loaded and equipment is in place let's head on down the road and do scenic shots. How do you want the sun to light your image? Do you want morning, afternoon or evening light? Always try to be at your location at the proper time for the lighting and the angle you are shooting.

When you are driving and spot something that interests you stop and take a good long look. Then drive on past that location to see what else there is. Often the better shot is just up the road. Get the tripod out and set up for the shot. Now what lens do you wish to use? Do you want a wide-angle panoramic view, normal distance, or a telephoto long shot? If it's an outdoor shot circular polarizers punch the color, not only of the sky, but also flowers, trees, land and all that is in the frame. One note on circular polarizers, for best results shoot at a 90 degree angle to the sun. At noon everything is 90 degrees.

Often sky or snow-covered mountains will over-expose the frame. When this is a possibility, tilt the camera down some and meter on the land portion. Then lock in the exposure, reframe the shot and take the picture.

Having a plant, flower or something in the foreground will give your photo depth perspective. If that is the case be sure and hyper-focus the shot. To hyper-focus, focus on the closest part of the scene in the frame. Set the f-stop to f22 or the smallest aperture on the lens then reframe the shot. Switch from automatic to manual focus. Then take the shot.

Extra hints:

- Use self-timer or remote release to avoid camera movement especially if you are shooting slow film.
- Shade lens from possible sun flair - use hand, hat, notebook, another person, etc.
- Wait for clouds to neutralize the harsh shadows of the sun
- Try vertical shots
- When photographing people, flowers or other subjects watch for shadows, stray bits of grass or weeds, etc. in the shot.
- Look to all four corners for clarity and composition.

Be patient. Improving your skills in photography involves trial and error, a lot of pictures, and a little luck.

Return to:

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