

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

JULY/AUGUST 2006

VOLUME 4

Part II: Identifying An Effective Website

Making Money While You Sleep

By Bob Knopf

What makes an effective website? Here are a few considerations.

Make sure you present your important information to a visitor in two or three clicks. This means keep it simple, and be sure to clearly and simply identify what a person will find in each site section.

You should have easily understood site sections and descriptive section heads with links, such as: "Bio", "View Sample Photos", "Buy: Books, Photos, Tapes", "Contact Me", "Editors Click Here", "Download Photos," etc. Once a person clicks on a link, they should get a minimum of message. Keep it concise, ideally to the visible area of the first screen, without scrolling.

Also, each page should download in 25 seconds or less (15 seconds is best) using a 56K modem. Clock page download and adjust page size/graphics accordingly. This means you will need to control graphics, probably eliminate backgrounds (they're distracting anyways), and use the latest web compression technology. Sound and animation is fun, but make sure you control download time.

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To show photo capabilities, thumbnails are a good idea, with a click to enlarge feature that opens the photo in a sub-page window. Show a wide variety of photos, and indicate how many photos you have on key outdoor topics.

As a way of diagnosing your site, ask yourself these questions:

Is my home page clean? Does it promote delving further into the site? Does it download quickly? Is my most important stuff in each section visible on the first screen, without scrolling? Do I have disgusting side scroll bars to read left and right? Are my links orderly and understandable? Do I have a slogan or statement about who I am on each page? Is a link to my "Contact Info" and "Buy" on every page? Does each page download quickly? Do I have a common header and link panel to speed downloading of pages? Does each key page and graphics have proper descriptions and metatags for search engine registration? Does my site view the same to visitors using Netscape and MS Explorer browsers? Can visitors get to my important stuff in 1-3 clicks? Does my email address use my web site url (website address)? Do my stationery and business cards promote my website?

Once you have a fast, attractive website, and can answer yes to the above questions, the next step is to market your website in everything you do. Unlike in "Field of Dreams" the slogan, "Build it and they will come," simply doesn't work here. You must market your site in all you do.

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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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.

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Newsletters are published:

Jan/Feb	Mar /Apr	May/June
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Two Markets Vanish

Two travel magazines are, or will, go out of business.

Travel America, published out of Evanston, Illinois, already is no more. A query I sent got returned, saying the magazine is defunct and editor Randy Mink is no more.

Country Discoveries, published out of Greendale, Wisconsin, will publish its last with the July/August issue. Editor Ken Wysocky, one of my favorites, will be out of work the end of May.

John R. Catsis

Directory Updates

Boyett, Shanna – e-mail: seb702@yahoo.com

Conneely, Sean - PO Box 60, Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545; home phone: omit; work phone: 970-881-3890; cell: 970-222-3882; e-mail: conneelys100@hotmail.com

Gatlin, Kelly – additional e-mail: kdgatlin@wildblue.net (omit: kdgatlin@gilanet.com if you had it)

MEMBER NEWS AND VIEWS

2007 Conference

RMOWP Heads to Colorado Springs

Mark your calendars for June 6-10, 2007, for the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers & Photographers annual conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Famous for its magnificent scenic beauty, historic sites, and outdoor recreation, Colorado Springs and the surrounding countryside promise to be a wonderful location for RMOWP's 2007 conference. In fact, the biggest task facing conference organizers is deciding which of the many area attractions and activities should be included in the conference agenda, and which will have to be left for another day.

Of course we'll have to go to the **Garden of the Gods**, preferably early in the day when the sun brings to life the park's huge natural rock statues, composed of spectacular red sandstone formations sculpted by rain and wind over millions of years. Another top attraction is 14,110-foot **Pikes Peak**, which offers panoramic views of Denver to the north and on a clear day all the way to the mountains of New Mexico to the south. Pikes Peak, called "unconquerable" by its namesake Zebulon Pike in 1806, can now be ascended by highway or a scenic Cog Railway.

A trip to the **United States Air Force Academy**, with its stunning Cadet Chapel, will offer some good photo opportunities. Other possible field trips include the **United States Olympic Complex**,



Garden of the Gods at sunrise, showing Pike's Peak

Jack Olson Photo

where thousands of athletes train each year for Olympic competition. We might also take in **Cave of the Winds**, an underground cavern complete with classic stalagmites, stalactites, crystal flowers, and limestone canopies; and always-photogenic **Seven Falls**, with seven separate waterfalls cascading over 180 feet down a granite cliff.

An excursion to the historic mining town of Victor is being considered. Also, a trip to see the fossil deposits and petrified trees at **Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument** is tentatively planned.

Of course there will be a variety of workshops and other craft improvement programs - we're planning one program on "How to Self-Publish Your Book and Actually Make Money!" - plus photo and writing critiques and the ever-popular sunrise photo shoot.

Conference organizers Don Laine (505-758-8922; lainedb@newmex.com) and Jack Olson (303-777-8998; jackolson1@aol.com) would welcome your suggestions for programs and excursions, and conference details will be appearing in this newsletter and at www.rmowp.org as they become available.

In the meantime, additional information on Colorado Springs can be obtained from the **Colorado Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau** at 800 888-4748 or 719 635-7506; www.coloradosprings-travel.com.



USA Olympic Complex

Jack Olson Photo

Conference Highlights

The most...

By Anne Sullivan

The awards have been presented and the pictures taken of winners clutching plaques. The contest entries returned the birthday cake eaten and the room at La Quinta emptied. The 2006 RMOWP Conference is over, leaving, not only good memories, but also a feeling of solidarity and strength in the organization.

RMOWP hit a Rocky Mountain High with the 2006 Conference at Moab, smashing records left and right with:

- ‡ the highest number of attendees in over 10 years, numbering 46.
- ‡ the highest number of members attending who had never been to an RMOWP conference before, numbering 12.
- ‡ the youngest number of attendees I've seen under 50, and under 40 and, yea, even under 30.
- ‡ the most members arising early for Jack Olson's Dawn Photo Shoot at Arches National Park, numbering 17. "An all time high," said Jack.
- ‡ possibly the most money raised at a single RMOWP auction, and definitely the most money raised in the last four years — \$1837. This largesse was due in part to the generous donations of some large ticket items by Remington and the Wild Turkey Foundation.
- ‡ surely the highest register on the laughter meter during the auction due to the antics of auctioneer John Catsis and his deadpan sidekick, President Jim Baker. John even auctioned off a pair of his horrible hoary hiking shoes that had taken the long road when John and Connie got lost at Arches.
- ‡ the most meals either included in the registration or provided by the Chamber of Commerce or our friendly co-chairs Jack Olson and the Laines who furnished enough sandwich fixings, fruit and hors d'oeuvres at the Welcome Happy Hour to assuage the hunger of all 46 of us. This buffet will become a new tradition thus keeping the members old and new together and ready sooner for the Contest Slide Show to come.
- ‡ the most pictures taken with John Wayne at the Red Cliffs Movie Museum. Of the lunch spots, Red Cliffs Lodge got my vote for the neatest venue with its view of the Colorado River complete with rafters.

‡ the most Hawaiian shirts worn at any one Awards Banquet. John and Connie Catsis joined Don Laine in what may be the beginning of another new tradition.

‡ the most inspiring and informative visual presentation on ALS by new member Angelo Sciulli who may be in a wheelchair but has the most active laugh I've ever seen; he fairly shakes with mirth and mischief.

‡ the best slide show presentation on the 2005 Conference by Tom Cummings. What's in store for us next year when we watch 2006?

‡ the shortest and speediest General Membership Meeting in living memory. Due to rescheduling constraints because of a broken boat (don't ask) President Jim Baker was forced to squeeze the meeting between lunch and two afternoon workshops. It lasted a mere 12 minutes. President Baker did find time to say that due to the hard work of Jack Olson, Don and Barb Laine, "Everything has been a high."

‡ the longest and loveliest boatripe through the canyons of the Colorado River viewing petroglyphs, red rock cliffs and the rear ends of the most photographers lying on the bow of the boat to get their shots, thereby being targets for next year's photo contest.

‡ the least birds sighted during the morning walk through the Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve. One very dead bird was proffered by the guide. But it was a pleasant walk anyway.

‡ the best time had by all, whether at Arches National Park, the La Sal Mountain Loop Drive, Dead Horse Point State Park or Canyonlands National Park or learning more about the craft of writing and photography from the many worthwhile workshops and critique sessions.

‡ the most sincere thanks to Jack Olson, Don and Barb Laine for making it all possible.

‡ Well now, these bullets won't go away and I don't know how to stop them so my concluding paragraph which was supposed to be unbulleted will have to be as it is. I was going to say that RMOWP rides again with more and more active new members but still retains its friendliness. To paraphrase Sally Field, "They like us! They like us!" Perhaps it's because we are what we are as we exude an aura of enrichment and encouragement with enjoyment of nature and each other. (How's that for the most alliteration in one sentence?)

Conference Highlights

Writers Critique Session

By Richard Holmes

"Learn something from everyone you meet." This is the message inside the foil wrapper of a Dove promise chocolate I just dispatched. I'm reading it right now in a Canyonlands campground where I'm unwinding from the Moab RMOWP conference. And as I sit here reflecting upon the conference I feel I did just that -- I met so many and learned so much.

In particular, I found the writing I've yearned for got a jump from the critique session. The readings were provocative and the comments constructive and insightful. As noted by Wayne Turner, we had a diverse group of writings, and each of the six was completely different from the others.

I had not realized what a driving force it would be to participate in a critique session and read something aloud before an audience. Just listening to others reading their work forced me to be alert and attentive, knowing at some point I would be next.

In commenting from the audience Jake Fagan used the expression, "finding your voice". Only when I heard him say it did I feel the true impact of that observation.

Although each of us strives to be heard, how many of us have found our own voice? It must be a comfort to find our stride. Some well-known writers have spent years groping and searching, tapping their strengths, learning their bounds, before finally finding their voice. I think when we do find it we somehow sense it.

Writing is such a wonderful form of communication. Whereas speaking is like a rough draft, writing is a medium we can modify and hone to our own satisfaction. We massage it until it feels right. And writing helps me to keep a train of thought. It's right there. I can take that thought and mull it over in my mind, set it to paper, leave it, come back, and it is still as I left it, awaiting further improvements. Writing, then, enables me to refine my thoughts.

So what did I get from the writer's critique? I got inspiration and motivation -- the inspiration to conceive of something to write, and the motivation to actually do it. I knew I really wanted to return to the writing I left off from some years ago. I became enthusiastic. And isn't enthusiasm the prime mover for most of our ambitions?

Cloudy Arches

by Maryann Gaug

I think Jack Olson has finally figured out a way around his jinx. At each RMOWP conference, Jack leads a red-eye special photography shoot to catch those glowing sunrise rays. However, his track record for rays is less than stellar -- clouds often block sunrise and sometimes sprinkler systems douse participants. This year Jack decided to lead a photography hike in Arches National Park at a reasonable morning hour the day before the sunrise photo shoot.

Of course the morning dawned mostly cloudy. Instead of the two-mile jaunt to Landscape Arch he originally planned, the "hike" turned into several mini-hikes to various vistas.

We first stopped at the area called Park Avenue, probably named for the tall red walls towering above a little valley, reminiscent of the place of the same name in New York. We stood around, fiddling with tripods and cameras, occasionally glancing skyward hoping for a ray of sunlight to penetrate and create wonderful light for photos. While sky gazing, Frank Zurey pointed to a rock seemingly balanced at an angle on not much surface at the top of one towering cliff.

Continued on page 11



Egyptian head (named by Maryann)

Photo by Maryann Gaug

Photography and Writing Contest Sets new Records

By Frank Zurey

The 2006 contest was a resounding success. There was a 60 percent increase in the number of individuals who entered the contest. This resulted in an increase in competition in most categories. A slide show of all photography entered was presented at the conference in Moab. The writing submissions were on display at the conference. Short excerpts of the videos that received awards were also included in the awards presentation. A special thanks is due to all members who entered the contest and shared their photographic and writing accomplishments.

Digital photography has come of age at an incredible speed. Eighty percent of the photographs were submitted digitally. Two years ago we did not even accept digital images in competition with slides. This is the second year that the contest featured the integration of film and digital images, recognizing that film and digital capture of an image is equivalent and that the resulting image is dependent on the same photographic skills.

The Judge for the photography categories was Tom Ulrich. A freelance photographer

since 1975, Tom Ulrich is highly acclaimed around the world for his nature photography skills. Numerous magazines and other publications have used many of his 350,000 plus transparencies. Tom has been the recipient of many prestigious awards. Most recently, Tom received the North American Nature Photographers Association Fellow Award in 2005. For many years Tom has been leading photo tours to remote parts of the world.

Tom is also busy conducting photography seminars and workshops around the country and lecturing at numerous universities. He is one of the instructors at the annual RMOWP workshop.

The judge for the writing and video categories was Joe Reid. He has more than 22 years of experience as a writer, editor and publisher in the Rocky Mountain Region.

During that time he has written on subjects ranging from the endangered humpback chub to Latin jazz great Poncho Sanchez. He is a founding member of Book Organizations of Colorado, a nonprofit that connects Colorado's book community. He currently works in the Public Information Office for the City of Westminster, Colorado. A child of the West, he always wishes he had more time to fish.

A few of the many highlights of the contest include the following: Best of Show for Photography was awarded to Tom Cummings for his entry, Michigan Stream, in the Scenic category. Best of Show for Writing was awarded to Dan England for his article "The Longest Mile" that was published in the Greeley Tribune on May 31, 2005. Member's Choice consists of matted prints that are voted on by the members in attendance at the annual conference. Thirty-six impressive prints were entered in the Member's Choice contest this year. Tom Ulrich received first place for his photograph of a squirrel in a precarious predicament.

If you did not enter this year's contest, commit to entering next year's contest. It is an opportunity to share your photography and publications with the membership. The slide show and awards presentation are some of the highlights of each RMOWP conference and your participation will make it that much better.



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

Don & Barb Laine Photo

2006 RMOWP Award Winners

Photography - Best of Show

Tom Cummings - Michigan Stream

Writing - Best of Show

**Dan England – The Longest Mile,
Greeley Tribune, May 31, 2005**

Member's Choice - Photography

- 1st** Tom Ulrich – Oh, Sh..!
- 2nd** Frank Zurey – Morning Light at Tawny Dunes
- 3rd** Tom Ulrich – Sun Dawg

Photography

People in the Outdoors

- 1st** Frank Zurey - High Country Skiing
- 2nd** Beto Gutierrez - Escape
- 3rd** Tom Cummings - Closeup
- HM** Richard Youngblood - Kids Under Waterfall

Scenic

- 1st** Tom Cummings - Michigan Stream
- 2nd** Jack Olson - Colorado Nat Mon - CO
- 3rd** Steve Schweitzer - Oarless
- HM** Beto Gutierrez - Machu Pichu

Flora

- 1st** Jack Olson - Colorado Blue Columbine
- 2nd** Frank Zurey - Western Columbine
- 3rd** Kathy Turner - Coneflower
- HM** Sherry Zurey - Blowing in the Wind

Fauna

- 1st** Kathy Turner - Camouflaged
- 2nd** Kathy Turner - Lady Bug on Seed Head
- 3rd** Tom Cummings - Cool Water
- HM** Richard Youngblood - Lizard
- HM** Tom Cummings - Smooth Landing

Best Slide From Last Conference

- 1st** Frank Zurey - Look Out Below
- 2nd** Tom Cummings - Gitty Up
- 3rd** Sherry Zurey - Cowboy Poet
- HM** John Catsis - Anne Shops - Heck She Always Shops

Historical

- 1st** Richard Youngblood - log cabin
- 2nd** Frank Zurey - The 1920s
- 3rd** Frank Zurey - Petroglyphs
- HM** Kathy Turner - Abandoned Coast Guard Station

Cultural

- 1st** Tom Cummings - By the Horns
- 2nd** Donna Harvey - Skirt dance
- 3rd** Beto Gutierrez - Mexican Doll Maker
- HM** Kathy Turner - Harbor 4th

Events

- 1st** Frank Zurey - Life After the Big Fish Fire
- 2nd** Jack Olson - Cloud on Kebler Pass - CO
- 3rd** Jack Olson - Big Thompson Running High -

Photography - Altered/Composite Images

- 1st** Kelly Gatlin - VLA in Rosy Glow with Wildflowers
- 2nd** Tom Cummings - Fall
- 3rd** Richard Youngblood - Remembering D-day
- HM** Frank Zurey - Panorama of Moran Park

Color Prints

- 1st** Anne Sullivan - On the Yangtze, China
- 2nd** Richard Youngblood - Stump in Bluebonnets
- 3rd** Beto Gutierrez - Lost in Quiet
- HM** Ruth Raupe - Canyon Outlook

Black and White Prints

- 1st** Frank Zurey - Lookout
- 2nd** Steve Schweitzer - Dinner
- 3rd** Steve Schweitzer - Partners with Time

Novice Slides or Digital Images

- 1st** Donna Harvey - Cone Flower
- 2nd** Richard Youngblood - Rocks in Stream
- 3rd** Richard Youngblood - Sprague Lake Reflection

Novice Prints

- 1st** Richard Youngblood - Chipmunk

Award Winners cont'd

Color Published Images

- 1st** Jack Olson - Indian Peaks Wilderness - Colorado Scenic Byways, Midwest Traveler, March/April 2005
- 2nd** Steve Schweitzer - Structurally Sound - Marketing Brochure for Ground water Engineering
- 3rd** Jack Olson - White River National Forest - Colorado 2006 Calendar
- HM** Angelo Sciulli - Jakes Cover, Fall 2005
- HM** Steve Schweitzer - Moving a Mountain - Marketing Brochure for Ground Water Engineering

Writing

TV/Movie/Video

- 1st** Andy Lightbody - American Heroes – Rocky Mountain Television, Spring 2005
- 2nd** Steve Schweitzer - Whiting Farms Promo Video
- 3rd** Andy Lightbody - SHOT Show 2005 – Rocky Mountain Television, Fall 2005

Books and Scripts for TV/Movie/Video

- 1st** Don and Barbara Laine – The New Mexico Guide, Fulcrum Publishing, 2005
- 2nd** Robert Stone – Day Hikes Series (Orange County, California Southern Coast, Yellowstone National Park), Day Hike Books, 2004 & 2005
- 3rd tie** Angelo Sciulli – Challenging Nature Photography, eBookstand, 2004
- 3rd tie** Maryann Gaug – History of the Land: The Giberson Preserve, Continental Divide Land Trust, August 2005

Published Article on 2003 or 2004 Conference

- 1st** John Catsis – Silver City, New Mexico: Mountains, Art and Victorian Architecture, Pilot Getaways, Jan/Feb 2006

Newspaper columns/editorials

- 1st** Dan England – The Longest Mile, Greeley Tribune, May 31, 2005
- 2nd** Dan England – Bat Man, Greeley Tribune, February 17, 2005
- 3rd** Dan England – Peak Predicament, Greeley Tribune, August, 11, 2005

Newspaper Articles

- 1st** Lee Allen – Lassoing Lizards at Catalina State Park, The Desert Leaf, March, 2005
- 2nd** Lee Allen – Snake Savors, Tucson Weekly, August 18-24, 2005
- 3rd** Don Laine – Carved in Stone, Journal Santa Fe North Summer Guide, Summer 2005

Magazine Articles

- 1st** Mary L. Peachin - Spirit Bears and Grizzlies of the Great Bear Rainforest, Hawk Air Northern Routes, Fall 2005
- 2nd** John Catsis - Life on the Mesa, Motorhome 2006
- 3rd** Lee Allen - Arizona's Trail of Pools, Rocky Mountain Game and Fish, January 2005

Newsletter Writing of Any Kind

- 1st** Maryann Gaug – Mexican Wolf Reintroduction, RMOWP Newsletter, Jul/Aug 2005
- 2nd** Anne Sullivan – Final Countdown to Silver City, RMOWP Newsletter, Apr/May 2005
- 3rd tie** Jack Olsen – Jack's Jaunts, RMOWP Newsletter, Sep/Oct 2005
- 3rd tie** Anne Sullivan – Sylvia's Story, APAS Newsletter, Oct 2005

Spark Plug Award:

Frank Zurey

Selected Works, Photography:

Jon Sheppard

Selected Works, Writing:

Maryann Gaug

Directory Updates

Welcome, new members

Adamczyk, Ted – PO Box 3437, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-3437; phone: 520-458-6362; e-mail: tadamczyk1@cox.net, Historic.Icons.Photos@cox.net; mentor: yes; spouse: Mary Alice; status: Individual.

Skills: Photographer, Writer.

Interests: Returned to medium format photography after retirement in 2001. Interests include historic and cultural architecture, and nature/landscape photography. Since retiring, my wife and I spend time each spring and fall photographing missions, historic churches and surrounding scenery in National Parks and Indian Reservations.

Anderson, Walter - 4909 Naniloa Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84117; phone: 801-277-3646; e-mail: waltia@msn.com; status: Individual; sponsor: 2006 Photo Workshop Participant.

Skills: Photography.

Brown, Thomas - 15 B Chili Line West, Santa Fe, NM 87508; phone: 505-424-7373; e-mail: tabrown1932@aol.com; status: Individual; sponsor: 2006 Photo Workshop Participant.

Skills: Photography.

Chelf, Anthony – PO Box 701, Ouray, CO 81427; phone: 970-325-4074; work phone: 970-325-7068; cell: 970-596-4697; e-mail: tac@ouraynet.com; mentor: not at this time, later; spouse: Tonya; status: Individual; sponsor: Joel Evans.

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

Interests: Flyfishing, (guide part-time), photography, writing short stories, freelance writing/photo.

Credits: Guest speaker at Ridgway State Park, flyfishing article in visitor guide, fishing in the area, promo video, flyfishing.

Ennis, Carolyn – 1312 Tulip Circle, McAllen, TX 78504; phone: 956-686-8577; e-mail: cjennis_2000@yahoo.com; spouse: Randall; status: Individual; sponsor: Alberto Gutierrez.

Skills: Photographer.

Ennis, Randall– 1312 Tulip Circle, McAllen, TX 78504; phone: 956-686-8577; work phone: 956-968-4133; e-mail: rpe78504@yahoo.com; spouse: Carolyn; status: Individual; sponsor: Alberto Gutierrez.

Skills: Photographer.

Interests: Nature photography.

Credits: Published in: (magazines) Birder's World, Wild Bird, Bird Watcher's Digest, and (books) The Lens and the Land, Focus on the Wild, Spirit of the Chaparral, Vision of South Texas.

Gibbin, Kenita - 5441 E Gill Place, Denver, CO 80246-1410; phone: 303-399-2119; e-mail: kenital@comcast.net; status: Individual; sponsor: 2006 Photo Workshop Participant.

Skills: Photography.

Kulesza, Tom - 4 Cobbs Lake, Lake Ariel, PA 18436; phone: 570-698-5659; e-mail: tkayak@echoes.net; status: Individual; sponsor: 2006 Photo Workshop Participant.

Skills: Photography.

Martin, Linda – 511 E. Board St., Elkhville, IL 62932; work phone: 618-453-7062; cell: 618-924-2183; e-mail: martin@coissu.edu; status: Individual; sponsor: Tom Ulrich.

Skills: Photographer.

Owings, Kent - 5055 Granada Way, Douglasville, GA 30135; phone: 770-942-3303; e-mail: sksosro@aol.com; status: Individual; sponsor: 2006 Photo Workshop Participant.

Skills: Photography.

Reid, Joe - 11541 W. 29th Pl., Lakewood, CO 80215

Interests: Writing judge for last conference.

Rice, Jim - 3091 Rock Creek Dr., Broomfield, CO 80020; phone: 303-466-2073; e-mail: j.rice@CableLabs.com; status: Individual; sponsor: 2006 Photo Workshop Participant.

Skills: Photography.

Showalter, Nic - 27 N. Deer Lake, Villa Grove, IL 61956; phone: 217-832-9473; cell: 217-714-2905; e-mail: nic512@yahoo.com; status: Individual; sponsor: 2006 Photo Workshop Participant.

Skills: Photography.

Soo-Hon, Steve - 1738 East 15th St., Brooklyn, NY 11229; phone: 917-670-1642; e-mail: Steve_soonon@yahoo.com; status: Individual; sponsor: 2006 Photo Workshop Participant.

Skills: Photography.

Steinke, Scott - 176-15A Oakdale Bohemia Rd, Bohemia, NY 11716; phone: 631-312-4166; e-mail: srsteinke@optonline.net; status: Individual; sponsor: 2006 Photo Workshop Participant.

Skills: Photography.

Stewart, Charles - 11152 Westheimer Rd #398, Houston, TX 77042; phone: 832-465-5982; e-mail: stewartce@mindspring.com; status: Individual; sponsor: 2006 Photo Workshop Participant.

Skills: Photography.

Thornton, John - 1215 S. Serenity Lane, Stillwater, OK 74074; phone: 405-377-3797; e-mail: zooljw@netscape.net; status: Individual; sponsor: 2006 Photo Workshop Participant.

Skills: Photography.

Waters, Robert - 15652 E. Custer Place, Aurora, CO 80017; phone: 303-752-2306; e-mail: r.waters@comcast.net; status: Individual; sponsor: 2006 Photo Workshop Participant.

Skills: Photography.

Colorado Camera Co., Inc. – 2480 Kipling Street, Lakewood, CO 80215; phone: 303-265-6226; toll free phone: 866-265-6226; fax: 303-237-5207; e-mail: lab@coloradocamera.com; web site: www.coloradocamera.com; contact: Dave or Keith Shrum, CEO & Pres.; sponsor: Betty Minor.

Colorado Camera Imaging Center has been in business since 1957. We are a full service Imaging Center, specializing in photographic digital output. Our FREE Online Finishing service allows you to upload, share, store and print your digital images. For photographers that are looking for an Imaging Center to fulfill their high volume orders, we offer very competitive pricing, excellent quality, and the ability to custom design printed products.

Nature Photography in a Wheelchair

By Angelo Sciuilli

In 1997, I was fortunate to retire from my day job as research director to pursue a second career as nature photographer and writer. A year later I was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), commonly called Lou Gehrig's disease after the Hall of Fame Yankee baseball player who died from the disease in 1942. As you might imagine, my life was dramatically changed and I found purpose in continuing my photography but with a focus to raising awareness for ALS.

I found my illness to be progressive and I continued to lose the ability to do things that a healthy person takes for granted. Even mundane functions such as tying a shoe become difficult for someone that can't reach his feet. My life became an ever-constant process of compensating for what I lost. I went through a process of a cane to a walker to a wheelchair simply to maintain my independence. Along the way, I developed some guidelines that are useful if you ever decide to try wheelchair photography to put on your resume or simply want to gain a fresh perspective on how I see the world.

The Wheelchair

A good working wheelchair is important but not as important as the cushion. It is a given that the chair will get the wheel bearings checked and greased every 500 miles during clinics. I submit that having the wheels come off while racing down the concourse is dangerous if not downright messy. Alternatively, when you need to sit without the possibility of walking to stretch your legs,

a comfortable cushion is vital. A severe case of numb buttocks will convince the non-believers amongst you if not the annoying prickling feeling when blood rushes back to the glutes!

The Assistant

My chair is a manual model and my hands are usually tied up with moving the chair. I have a backpack to store stuff in while I am out but I still need an assistant to help retrieve whatever I need. My assistant will also help me place my tripod and camera bag and then I am pretty much on my own. Once I am "good to go", I function as every other photographer and can make all of the typical exposure-composition-horizon mistakes.

Wildlife Photography

I still know where to find critters to photograph. My problem is safely accessing where they are. When I was healthy, I would simply decide what critters I wanted to photograph and then make plans to go. In the national parks, I pretty much have accessibility by van. More remote locations require much more extensive planning to make sure I can use my wheelchair let alone the facilities. For instance, those shiny steel bars in the handicapped stall are not for leverage during bouts of constipation – they are necessary for people that have difficulty standing. If you want to know what it is like to have no leg strength to get up, just super glue your buttocks to the seat and try to stand up.

Safety

With my health issues, a broken leg or hip might mean I would never have the mobility to do any more photography. Therefore, I tend to avoid any activity that involves unacceptable risk. I don't use my walker on rocky ground and I avoid slippery surfaces. Critter safety involves a certain amount of risk because of the unpredictability of the particular animal. For those of you that do not know me, I have a passion for bear photography. I can also tell you that I can't outrun a rock and needed to invent a safe way of photographing bears. My "patent applied for soon" bear safety kit is to carry a can of cheese spray and, should a bear charge, I simply spray my retreating associates with cheese. I call it leveling the playing field!

Readers interested in learning more about ALS, my advocacy or my photography can visit my website at www.scnature.com.



Sealioness

Photo by Angelo Sciuilli

Cloudy Arches cont'd

Satisfied that the hiking trip was not a total waste, we meandered past the gathering hordes of people in the parking lot to the short quarter-mile trail to Double Arch. Of course, the gray clouds closed in again as we headed across the landscape to admire the two arches which provide an arch within an arch photo opportunity.

Standing under the giant rock rainbows, Kathy complained to Jack about how frustrated she was with the contrast and gray skies. Suddenly Native flute music floated across the area, following the contours of the rock, gathering under the arches and flowing out again. Kathy suddenly felt calm and relaxed. The music came from a pine flute played by another frustrated photographer sitting under a juniper. When the universe doesn't cooperate with sun rays, at least the universe provides natural music through the breath provided by a willing human. President Jim commented later that if there were less people around and some smoke wafting up from a camp fire, he would have been back in the old times when native peoples lived in the area.

With photography and gray skies in a new perspective, we travelled up the road, past the red rocks of the Fiery Furnace to Sand Dune Arch under a blazing sun. Shutter bugs found the arch less interesting than the little lizard scampering around the rocks below. Then Jake found an interesting dead tree in which to perch like a partridge in a pear tree – sans leaves and pears. Many found his pose amusing with the arch in the background and snapped away. At least Jake didn't fall out of the tree like Humpty Dumpty, and our intrepid photography crew headed back to Moab for lunch at the Broken Oar Restaurant.

The skies may not have fully cooperated, but the hiking trip proved interesting from various aspects. And the next day at Jack's sunrise photography shoot, no clouds blocked those early red rays.

Letters

Fellow RMOWP members:

No matter how long a writer has been churning out stories and photos, no matter how many new clients get added each year, no matter how many flashes of inspiration end up as the printed word, and no matter how jaded one starts to become—it's always nice to be recognized by one's peers for those efforts.

Although I was unable to join you in Moab this year, I repeat my "thank you" message given last year at the Silver City, NM banquet. The colorful RMOWP trophies and certificates help brighten up an otherwise mundane office decor and provide additional impetus to write even more...and better... for next year's competition.

Best,

Lee Allen

Scholarship Appreciated

Open Letter

I am writing to thank you and the RMOWP for funding my scholarship application. You may be pleased to know that the \$1000 will go directly toward a 10-day photo tour I will be taking with a class this summer. Also I am very excited to be a new member of your organization. Please let me know of any way I can help the organization.

Shanna Boyett



Monument Valley

Photo by Angelo Sciulli

RMOWP Board Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2006, Moab, Utah

Meeting was called to order by Pres. Jim Baker at 2:10 p.m.. Present were Don and Barbara Laine, Tom Cummings, Lee Carr, Jim Baker, Jon Sheppard, Jack Olson, Frank Zurey, Maryann Gaug, Rebecca and Betty Minor. The agenda was approved with the addition, moved by Barb and seconded by Jon, of the formation of an audit committee. President Jim Baker reported the organization is in good condition, with many new members and good attendance for the conference.

Lee Carr gave the treasurer's report and added there were other conference and newsletter expenses out. Barb moved, Frank seconded the report be accepted; motion passed. A motion was made by Lee Carr that "Bank of the West" be designated as a depository for the funds of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, and that Lee Carr, Betty Minor and Jim Baker are granted the power to open any deposit or share account and endorse checks and orders for the payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds on deposit with Bank of the West. The motion was seconded by Jack Olson and passed by a vote of the Board.

Don and Jack reported on the upcoming 2007 conference in Colorado Springs. They offered a choice of two hotels, the Silverwood and Rodeway Inn on Garden of Gods Rd., Exit 146 of I 25. Don and Jack recommended renting a bus for easier transportation in metro area; they also recommended using the Rodeway Inn if the meeting room size will be increased.

Maryann moved we use the Rodeway and let Don and Jack work out details; Barb seconded, motion passed. Lee Carr moved, Barb seconded we approve dates of June 6-10, 2007. Motion passed.

Due to a schedule change, Maryann moved, we change time of general membership meeting to during lunch at the Broken Oar; Barb seconded; motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Awards: Frank Zurey purchased Pro Show Gold software.

Membership: defer till chairman Beto Gutierrez is here. Lee reported several old members have not renewed; will re-bill and send newsletters to some.

Scholarship: we need a hyperlink to schools on the website to notify of scholarship. Jack will talk to webmaster.

Supporting members: Jon Sheppard reported little response for donations to the auction, with the exception of the Nat'l Wild Turkey Federation who sent a beautiful bronze elk statue and Remington who

donated a shotgun. Singh-ray, a new member also sent donations. We have 6 paid supporting members; Lee will send Jon a list.

Photo Workshop: Tom Cummings reported we have 13 applicants.

Website: Steve Schweitzer will be here tomorrow.

Awards: RMOWP now have 25 categories and the cost of plaques is becoming great. Maryann moved we do away with 1st place plaques, substituting certificates. Becky seconded, motion passed. Barb moved we create a financial reward of \$50.00 for best of show in each of photography and writing, Lee seconded, motion passed. The \$10.00 entry fee will continue. Regarding categories, the judge questioned categories in which people entered their work. After some discussion, Barb moved we leave defining and combining categories to the discretion of the committee; Jack seconded, motion passed.

Regarding the Directory, it was decided to set the date the end of June, have it out by mid-July. It should contain a list of Spark Plug Awardees, Selected Works Awardees, past conference locations and the cover should be in color. Barb moved, Jack seconded, motion passed. It was also decided to include RMOWP history on the website.

Maryann moved to make Jake Fagan a Board member representing the supporting members. Barb seconded, motion passed.

It was suggested we raise Tom Cummings' salary to meet the other two instructors of the photo workshop. Tom declined such a raise. He was instructed to write a proposal for a scholarship for the photo workshop.

Barb moved, Jack seconded, meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

RMOWP General Meeting

May 5, 2006, Moab, UT

Meeting called to order at 1:15 p.m. by President Jim Baker. Don Laine announced the next conference will be in Colorado Springs, Colorado, June 6-10, 2007.

Barb Laine announced the results of the election: Tom Cummings and Cecilia Travis to the Board replacing Ruth Raupe and Kelly Gatlin, whose terms expired. Lee Carr and Betty Minor will continue as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Jake Fagan will be the Supporting Member Board Liaison.

Continued on next page

Marilyn Murphy invited members to the NMOWP conference in Albuquerque, NM Sept. 22-24.

Barb moved, Beto seconded, meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

RMOWP Board Meeting

May 7, 2006: Moab, UT

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Jim Baker. Present were Beto Gutierrez, Jack Olson, Barb and Don Laine, Jim Baker, Lee Carr, Tom Cummings, Cecilia Travis, Maryann Gaug, Betty and Rebecca Minor.

Membership: It was decided to drop Al Marlowe, Dorie McKenna, Evie Shuster and Jay and Charlotte Meyers, as requested by those members. Maryann as Vice President, will serve as membership chair. We need more supporting members.

We need to write more stories on sites of conferences, such as Moab. Jack was offered expenses regarding researching conference sites, but refused such payment.

There was some discussion of John Catsis' proposal to have a Hawaiian shirt contest. Suggestion was made to have it during the auction. Conference program chairs, Don and Jack will decide.

Barb noted the large plaques for Selected Works awardees is becoming unwieldy. Beto moved we drop them, Jack seconded, motion passed.

Beto pointed out we need to welcome new members. It was pointed out we are doing a good job, but could e-mail board members regarding new members so they could call or e-mail a welcome to them.

Don will get out a questionnaire including choice of locations for 2008 conference. He reported the Rodeway Inn had notified him they will expand their meeting room before our conference there in 2007.

Beto moved, Barb seconded, meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

In the confrontation between the
stream and the rock, the stream
always wins—not through
strength but by perseverance.

H. Jackson Brown



Awarded Best of Show - Michigan Stream

Photo by Tom Cummings

The Last Page

Part 3 of 5

Photo Tips

by Jon Sheppard

The flowers are in full bloom. Grab your camera and equipment and let's go. Start wide and move in closer using a wide angle lens, a normal lens, and a macro lens to help you chose the most unique shot.

The following tips are for extreme close ups.

When using a macro lens the end of the lens can get extremely close to the subject depending on the macro lens. This is when a very low positioning tripod is most helpful. Using manual focus seems to be a better way to get the right part of the subject properly focused.

Focus on the closest part of the subject to the lens. Then set the f-stop to f-22 or the smallest aperture for a tack sharp image, or a wide-open f-stop for a defused, softer effect.

Extra hints:

- When there is wind know that the higher the camera is from the subject a faster shutter speed can be tried to stop movement.

- There is always a time when the wind briefly pauses. That is the time to 'click.'
- Use your hyper-focus.
- Back lit shots are beautiful. Put the sun behind a flower, get close and shoot again.
- Use a fine spray bottle to add water drops to leaves and flower petals.
- Again try both horizontal and vertical shots.



Jon Sheppard Photo

Return to:

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