



ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

MARCH-APRIL 2007



Sunrise at Garden of the Gods, with Pikes Peak peering through a break in the formations.

photo by Jack Olson

RMOWP HEADS TO COLORADO SPRINGS

Spring is finally arriving in the Rocky Mountains, and that means it's time to make plans to attend the 2007 conference of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers. This year's conference, scheduled June 6-10 in Colorado Springs, Colorado, promises to be an exciting time for both photographers and writers - as well as those of us who practice a bit of both - with a variety of field trips, tours, workshops, and other programs.

Photographers can look forward to an intensive field photography workshop led by top-flight professional photographers Wendy Shattil and Bob Rozinski (www.dancingpelican.com), plus a workshop by our own digital camera and computer expert Steve

Schweitzer (www.windbrookranch.com) on the often tricky task of keeping those digital SLRs free of spot-producing dust, and failing that, how to clean up our spotted images in the computer.

Also scheduled is a program on computer-assisted panoramic photography by Colorado Camera's Dave Shrum (www.coloradocamera.com), as well as the always-popular photo critique session with Tom Ulrich (www.tomulrichphotos.com) and Jack Olson (www.agpix.com/jackolson).

Those interested in writing - either for its own sake or to accompany their photos - won't want to miss "The Art & Craft of Nature Writing," with Colorado author Mary Taylor Young (www.marytayloryoung.com), and "How to Self-Publish Your Book - Oh, and You

Expect to Make Money, Too?" with author, photographer, and former RMOWP president John Catsis. In addition, member Anne Sullivan will again lead the Writers Critique, so be sure to bring a sample of your writing for the group to examine.



View from Garden of the Gods Cafe
~ photo by Jack Olson

Field trips will include Garden of the Gods, a fantastically photogenic city park, and a trip to the United States Air Force Academy, with its stunning Cadet Chapel. We'll also travel to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument to examine the ancient fossilized sequoia stumps and fossils, and the historic mining town of Victor.

Still in the planning stages is a Saturday morning trip to one of the area's scenic public parks. This will likely be either Paint Mines Interpretative Park, a county park that boasts strange and beautiful rock formations, or Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Colorado's newest state park, that goes from prairie into Ponderosa pines and is home to a variety of raptors.

A break from the workshops and field trips takes place Friday evening with dinner and entertainment at Iron Springs Melodrama Dinner Theater in nearby Manitou Springs. The family-style dinner includes oven-fried chicken or barbecued beef with all the trimmings, which is followed by an old-time melodrama, sing-along, and vaudeville olio show.

Headquarters for the conference will be Quality Inn & Suites Garden of the Gods (see "Where to Sleep in the Springs," below). The Saturday evening banquet, to be followed by the annual awards presentation, takes place next door to Quality Inn at the Ranch Steakhouse, an upscale restaurant that prepares all its food on the premises using organic ingredients.

For additional information on Colorado Springs, including most of the local attractions we'll be visiting, see www.ExperienceColoradoSprings.com, and for more on the entire state, visit www.colorado.com.

RMOWP Conference 2007 **Still Tentative Schedule**

Wednesday, June 6

- 1:00-5:00pm Registration
- 2:00-5:00pm Board of Directors Meeting (open to all members)
- 6:00pm Welcome: RMOWP President Jim Baker & Pam Sherfesee of the Colorado Springs CVB
Followed by Happy Hour and a Taco/Nacho Bar (included in registration fee)
- 8:00pm Presentation of Photo Contest Submissions

Thursday, June 7

- 8:45am Welcome and Important Announcements
- 9:00am The Art & Craft of Nature Writing: Mary Taylor Young
- 10:00am Break
- 10:15am The Big Clean-Up: Keeping your digital cameras, lenses & sensors dust-free, and removing spots from digital photos when you don't, with Steve Schweitzer
- 11:45am Lunch on your own
- 1:00pm Bus to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument (Presentation by Jeff Wolin)
- 3:30pm Bus to Historic mining town of Victor
- 5:00pm Bus departs Victor for Quality inn
- 6:00pm Dinner on your own
- 7:30-9:00pm Photo critique session with Tom Ulrich & Jack Olson

Friday, June 8

- 5:00am Carpool to Garden of the Gods for sunrise photo field trip with Wendy Shattil & Bob Rozinski
- 8:00am Carpool to Garden of the Gods for late sleepers
- 8:30-9:00am Field Workshop: Scenic Photography with Wendy Shattil & Bob Rozinski
- 9:00am Breakfast at Garden of the Gods Cafe (individual pay) or free time
- 9:30am Depart Garden of the Gods for Quality Inn
- 10:00am Workshop: Panoramic Photography is a Mouse-Click Away with Dave Shrum
- 10:30am How to Self-Publish Your Book---Oh, and You Expect to Make Money, Too? with John Catsis
- 11:45am Lunch on your own
- 1:00pm Writing critique session with Anne Sullivan
- 2:30pm Bus departs for U.S. Air Force Academy
- 5:00pm Bus departs Air Force Academy; quick stop at Quality Inn
- 6:00pm Bus to Iron Springs Melodrama Dinner Theater for dinner and show (\$29 adult, \$16 child 6-12)
- 10:00pm Return by bus to Quality Inn

Saturday, June 9

- 8:00am Bus to A Scenic Park*
- 12:00pm Box lunch (included in registration fee)
- 12:30pm Bus returns to Quality Inn
- 2:00-3:00pm General membership meeting
- 3:30-5:00pm Auction to benefit scholarship fund: John Catsis & Jim Baker
- 6:00-7:00pm Happy Hour (cash bar) at Ranch Steakhouse
- 7:00-10:00pm Banquet (\$26) and Awards at Ranch Steakhouse

Sunday, June 10

- 8:30-9:30am Board of Directors Meeting (open to all members)

* This trip, still in the planning stages, will be to either Paint Mines Interpretive Park, an El Paso County park known for its colorful rock formations, or to Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Colorado's newest state park, known for its diverse flora and large number of raptors.

JACK'S JAUNTS ~ CONFERENCE SIDE TRIPS

story & photos by Jack Olson

We've got a great conference coming up June 6-10. But we couldn't include EVERYTHING in that short time. So let's take a look at a few attractions you might visit along the way, or on the way home.

If you're coming north on Interstate 25, say from New Mexico, or our many Oklahoma members, stop off in Trinidad, Colorado. There's a Colorado state welcome center there, where you can get many of your own ideas for places of interest. But be sure to stop in the well preserved downtown. Brick streets take the visitor past Victorian buildings, art galleries, and the Miner's Memorial, honoring the city's coal mining heritage.



Sculpture along Pueblo's scenic and relaxing Riverwalk

Farther north, don't miss surprising Pueblo. Their very attractive Riverwalk curls through downtown, with sculptures, flower beds, concessions, all beautifully landscaped. You might even find that they're running the flat bottom boats on the river. The nearby El Pueblo History Museum explores the rich history of the area, and includes an outdoor adobe trading post and plaza and an archeological excavation of the 1842 trading post.

There are some locations right in the Colorado Springs area that we won't be able to visit as part of the conference, but which may be of interest to many members. Right downtown, in the 1903 county courthouse, the Pioneers Museum is chock full of fascinating exhibits recounting the history of the Pikes Peak region. If you're a serious shopper, check out Old Colorado City, on the west side of town.

Manitou Springs has many shops, galleries, the historic Victorian Miramont Castle museum and the Cave of the Winds. And it's here that our members could take the Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway to the top of Pikes Peak. We are not making this excursion an official part of the conference, but are suggesting that those interested could take the early train on Wednesday morning, June 6, and still be back for the Board meeting, registration, and mingling. We will have more information for those who send in their registrations, but this is an exceptional opportunity to take a thrilling ride to the top of one of Colorado's most famous 14,000 foot peaks.



The Cog Railway atop Pikes Peak.

An alternate way to the top of Pikes Peak is a 19 mile toll road, accessed about eight miles west of the city on U.S. 24. Be aware that it will be much colder on the 14,110 foot summit than far below, so bring warm clothing. Also, some people experience altitude sickness just from being at this elevation, and we don't recommend it for anyone with heart or breathing

problems. However, there is no climbing. The parking lot is right on top and there's a summit house with a café, souvenirs, and restrooms.

If you want to visit a genuine old mining town, drive about 23 miles west of Colorado Springs on U.S. 24 to the town of Divide. Take a left on Colorado 67 and drive 16 miles to Cripple Creek. Stop at the overlook above the town on the right and take in an expansive view over Cripple Creek and the distant Sangre de Cristo Range. Casinos have changed the character of the town somewhat, but the architecture remains as it was in the gold mining heyday. There's an excellent history museum in the old railroad depot and a 45 minute tour on the Cripple Creek & Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad, with narrated information about the history of the area. If you drive four more miles you'll encounter the basically unchanged town of Victor, which we do plan to get to during the conference. This scrappy mining village was home to Lowell Thomas, Jack Dempsey fought in the bars, and the Marx Brothers performed on stage.

Following are some web sites that may be helpful. You probably know how to Google better than I do. www.manitousprings.org, www.cograilway.com, www.pikespeakcolorado.com, and www.puebloharp.com.

WHERE TO SLEEP IN THE SPRINGS

Headquarters for the 2007 RMOWP conference June 6 to 10 will be **Quality Inn & Suites Garden of the Gods**, formerly the Rodeway Inn & Suites. The recently upgraded hotel has offered RMOWP members an excellent rate of \$68 per night, single or double.

Rates include a deluxe continental breakfast with a make-your-own Belgian waffle bar, hot and cold cereals, hard boiled eggs, fruit, muffins, and the usual beverages. Some rooms with small refrigerators are available at the same rate on a first-come first-served basis, and suites are available at \$10 extra per night. Pets are not permitted.

The Quality Inn is located at 555 W. Garden of the Gods Rd., just west of I-25 exit 146. Call 800-828-4347 or 719-593-9119. For more information, search for the hotel at www.choicehotels.com. The hotel site, www.qualityinnandsuitescs.com, should be up and running soon.

To guarantee the rate and room availability, **make your reservations by May 5**, and be sure you tell them you are with the Rocky Mountain Outdoor

Writers and Photographers conference to get the \$68 per night rate.



Conference Headquarters
Quality Inn & Suites Garden of the Gods

Those who prefer to camp have several choices in the area. These include the **Garden of the Gods Campground**, 3704 W. Colorado Ave. (800-248-9451 or 719-475-9450; www.coloradocampground.com), which has 340 sites and two large outdoor swimming pools. Rates are \$38 per night for one or two people for full-hookup RV sites and \$35 per night for one or two people for tent sites. Pets are accepted.

A smaller campground, without a pool but with lower rates is **Goldfield RV Park**, 411 S. 26th St. (888-471-0495 or 719-471-0495; www.goldfieldrvpark.com), which has 50 full hookup RV sites and rates from \$28 to \$34 per night for one or two people. One small pet is welcome and others accepted at manager discretion.

CALL FOR PHOTOS – HUMOROUS PHOTO CHALLENGE

Frank Zurey

Send a humorous photo and share the fun!

We have added a new photo challenge for this year's conference. It can only be successful if you send your entries. Angelo Sculli suggested a humorous photo challenge. This idea has been around for a while but it took a suggestion at the right time to get the ball rolling.

We think this idea sounds like a ton of fun and laughs so here's the scoop. Please email your humorous photo entry (two photos per person) to Frank Zurey, zurey.photo@mric.net, by Friday April 6, 2007. The humorous photo should be an outdoor theme and can be in contest Categories 02 through 08. See the 2007 RMOWP Awards Competition Rules for category descriptions. No manipulated humorous entries!

Please follow the contest rules for sizing. (Here they are for convenience: Digital image size should be six inches on the longest side at 300 ppi in high-

resolution jpg format. If you do not have the software to resize the image, submit the file as produced by your camera.) The file name of the humorous entry should be hum underscore photographer's last name underscore photographer's first initial underscore image title. (Example: hum_smith_r_elk lounging).

Angelo will judge the entries and select the top three and we will show all of the entries at the 2007 conference in Colorado Springs.

The 2007 RMOWP Awards Competition is underway and I hope that everyone has their entry submitted by the time you read this. We look forward to members sharing their writing and photography work through the 2007 RMOWP competition. Submissions can lead to recognition for your efforts in the past year. Your material will also provide professional growth and enhancement for everyone in RMOWP.

ATTENTION RMOWP MEMBERS!!

Have you wanted to attend the annual RMOWP photo workshop? Now's the time.

This year existing RMOWP members will receive a \$200 discount when they sign up.

The workshop, which takes place at Rocky Mountain National Park from June 24-28, is open to all skill levels. A manually-adjusted camera - either film or digital - is required, and instructors Jack Olson and Tom Ulrich provide classroom instruction and critique sessions, plus there is over 25 hours in the field photographing wildlife and scenics, from waterfalls to wildflowers.

The workshop is limited to 15 participants, and housing is available at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park.

The fee is \$795 (\$595 for RMOWP members as of March 15, 2007) which includes transportation in the park, entrance fees, and 1 year of dues in RMOWP.

For details and to sign up, contact photo workshop coordinator Tom Cummings (918-225-2721 or tomc1114@suddenlink.net).

REMEMBER: This is an RMOWP sponsored event. Please help spread the word about the workshop to those in your area. Tom is happy to supply flyers for camera shops, club meetings, etc.

MEMBER NEWS

Don Laine

RMOWP keeps growing, with new members arriving from across the country.

Welcome to **Clint Craft** from Springfield, Missouri, a writer and editor for Bass Pro Shop's Outdoor Site Library and an internet webmaster. Clint does a lot of outdoor product reviews, so he would be a good one to check with before making that expensive purchase. Check out his work at www.basspro.com/library.

Also new to RMOWP is **Lance Masoner**, a photographer who lives in Louisville, Colorado, just a stone's throw from all that spectacular scenery in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Barbara Bradley of Lancaster, South Carolina attended last year's conference in Moab as a guest of member Angelo Sciulli, and I guess she liked what she saw because she has now joined RMOWP. An established freelance newspaper, newsletter, and magazine writer, Barbara tells us that one of her reasons for joining RMOWP is to improve her photography.

Tonopah, Arizona writer/photographer **Nancy Schaut**, is another new member to RMOWP. Nancy works with her husband Jim on articles and books with an emphasis on Southwest destinations off the beaten path. You can see some of their work at www.autohobbies.com.



Member Kathy Turner photographing an evening primrose at last year's sunrise photo shoot (Moab, UT)
~ photo by Jack Olson

In other member news, **Tom Cummings** from Cushing, Oklahoma, was married recently to the former Lynda Lee, also of Cushing. The new **Lynda Cummings** apparently caught the highly contagious photography bug from Tom, and has joined RMOWP,

listing her interests as wildlife photography. Tom tells us that Lynda will be retiring soon from her job at a local bank, and then the couple plan to do some serious traveling and side-by-side shooting.

Some of our members seem to have wanderlust, or at least have new homes. **Tom Fridmann** informs us that he has a new address: 2085 Idaho Falls Drive, Henderson, NV 89004, and telephone 702-236-5395; and **Steve Schweitzer** also a new place to hang his hat: 5513 Thistle Place, Loveland, CO 80537. Also, **Robert Stone** writes that he has returned from his California address to his home in Montana: P.O. Box 865, Red Lodge, MT 59068.

JOHN "JACK" SAMSON, 1922 - 2007

John Catsis

Jack Samson (RMOWP member 1983-1995, former board member) was a journalism icon. Best known as editor of *Field & Stream*, he was much more than that.

Samson died March 18, following a brief illness, at his home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, one day short of his 85th birthday.

Samson was born in Providence, RI, and moved to New Mexico at the age of eight. Barely out of his teens, Samson joined the Army Air Corps during World War II. He flew 52 missions over China in a B-24 Liberator bomber, and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Jack attended the University of New Mexico, graduating with a degree in journalism. His first writing job was as a public relations officer for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. One assignment was to create a forest fire prevention campaign using as a symbol an irascible abandoned bear cub named "Smokey."

Jack also worked for both the Associated Press and United Press. In 1960, he was awarded a Neiman Fellowship at Harvard, which eventually led him to the editorship at *Field & Stream*.

During his career, Samson wrote 23 books and numerous magazine articles, while also managing to hunt and fish around the world. He helped establish salt water fly fishing as a new sport, while also working to protect endangered billfish from commercial long line fishing.

Jack leaves his widow, Victoria, a sister, Charlotte, and sons John, Donald and James.

FROM THE PRESIDENT ~ NOTES FROM A PHOTO SEMINAR

Jim Baker

I'm writing to you today from Stillwater, Okla. That is the home of Matt Holliday, the star of the Denver Rockies Baseball team. It is also my home and the home of about ten other RMOWP members—if we count the suburbs.

Oklahoma City, about sixty miles southwest, is the home of the International Photography Hall of Fame, which is housed in the Kirkpatrick Center, which also houses a gallery, a few museums, and a science omniplex.

Today, Sue and I spent about 8 hours at the IPHF 9th Annual Photo Seminar and Camera Show.

Our first speaker of the day was David Fitzgerald, a photographer who seems very successful in building coffee table photo books. He apparently has learned his limit, because he always has someone else write the story and the explanation of the images. He is 71 years old and still loves his work. Most of his pictures are at sunrise and again near sundown. I know why he takes them early and late, but at 71, he must take a nap at noon.

Our second speaker was Yousef Khanfar. Mr. Khanfar was born and raised in Kuwait and now all of his boyhood friends are dead as a result of violence. He wants all of his images to relate to the viewer that his theme is peace.

His question to us was “What are you trying to say?” He believes that if you are a photographer worth your salt, you should have a theme and you should have a body of work to support your theme. Your heart, mind, and pen should push your passion so that others understand your theme. He said that your pictures are your art and that you should not compromise your art to please someone else, even your publisher. You should fight for what you think is right, even if you have to get another publisher.

After lunch, we had an entertaining talk by Bill Waugh who is in charge of the photojournalism department at the *Daily Oklahoman*, with seven photographers working under him.

He told us about the kind of images that are most often accepted by the newspaper. They like close-ups of peoples' faces showing some emotion. Faces of people in sports who are straining to reach the ball or the goal make good pictures. They like everyday happenings like kids having fun at a new park or

playing in the water after a rain. They like faces that show joy after winning, disappointment after losing, shock after tragedy; but they want it done in good taste without being offensive. He suggested that a long lens might help get these pictures.

The editors like surprises, he said, such as happenings that you would not normally see. They like your picture to capture a moment in time, and they also like pictures made the following day, after the happening has become significant.

Mr. Waugh suggested that you, too, may be a photojournalist by e-mailing an image from your cell phone or digital camera.

It was a good talk with a lot of information.

Did you know that there is an International Association of Panoramic Photographers? Our next speaker was Dr. Glenn Cope, a certified member of this group, who gave us guidelines for making digital panoramic images.

Our last speaker for the day was my kind of guy. The title of his talk was “Lazy Man's Guide to Nature Photography,” and he told us how he took prize winning pictures around his yard and neighborhood, seeing things that we see every day. His name is Kent Vinyard and he utilizes the city parks and protected areas for much of his photography.

Mr. Vinyard grows flowers for butterflies and feeds the birds to bring them in, using a blind to photograph them. His passion is white tail deer, and he said he has a load of large buck pictures to back up that statement. With a tripod set up in his car, he photographs the deer out the window.

If this has stimulated your mind any at all and you have thought of a subject that you would like covered in one of our meetings, please give me a call (405-372-7254).

Do not forget to reserve your room for the Colorado Springs meeting. You will have a good time.

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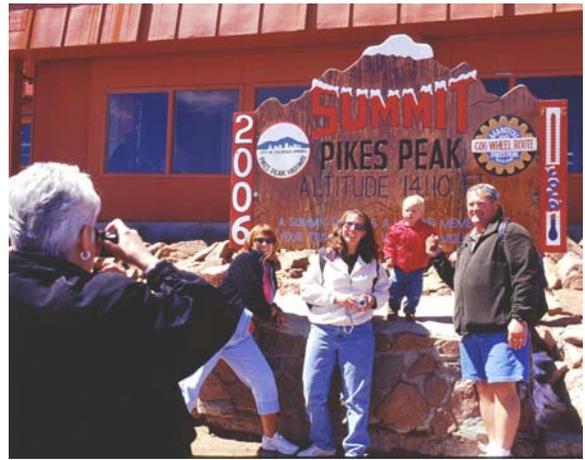
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Always get your picture taken by the sign
to prove you've been there.

~ photo by Jack Olson

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