

ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOORS

THE NEWSLETTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2009

2009 Conference just around the corner

by Barb Laine

As I look out at snow drifting more than two feet in places here in northern New Mexico, it's hard to realize we'll be heading for southern Utah in about two months. Ever since the weather people predicted a drier than normal winter, the snow has hardly stopped.

But happily, many of you remembered to send in your lodging reservations before the end of the year and we have reserved 22 rooms, one suite, and 4 cabins at Zion Lodge for our Conference at the end of March. Enclosed with this newsletter is a receipt with your lodging request noted. Please look it over and let us know if we got anything wrong. For those of you who missed the lodging deadline there are still a few units available. Contact Don Laine at don@rmowp.org.

Also in this newsletter is an **updated schedule** and a **registration form**. You will notice that a workshop entitled "*Action Nature Photography in Alaska*" has been added to the mix. This is a multimedia presentation by RMOWPer Al Perry and is scheduled for Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

*Meet me in Zion National Park
March 25-29, 2009*



two views of Echo Canyon on
the East Rim Trail
Zion National Park

both photos © Jack Olson

Ten years ago ~
Conference in Tucson, Arizona

April 1999

(Found this in our archives,
photographer unknown ~ does
anyone want to claim this
group shot? ~ editor)





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Fremont River and Waterpocket Fold in Capitol Reef National Park

© Jack Olson

Upcoming Election

by Barb Laine

Ballots will be going out in early February. Thanks to those who have served and are retiring from the board this year: vice-president Maryann Gaug, treasurer Lee Carr (he seems to think 6 years is long enough), and board members Cecilia Travis and Jim Blakeslee.

According to our by-laws, president & VP terms are for 2 years and one can be re-elected once. Board member terms are three years, and one must take off a year before running again. Both treasurer and secretary terms are 2 years but can be re-elected indefinitely. Some time back we decided to alternate years for some officer positions to provide continuity.

Immediate Past President Jim Baker and the Past-Presidents' Council have created another slate of excellent **candidates** for the available positions. President **Tom Cummings** has agreed to run for re-election and **Al Perry** has agreed to run for VP, **Barb Laine** for treasurer, and **Sherry Zurey** and **Clare Gutierrez** have agreed to serve as board members if elected. The ballots will also have space for write-ins. If Al is elected VP, his board position will be available for appointment by the president.



Member News

If you're in the vicinity of Dillon, Colorado this month, stop at Gallery 108 to see a display of nature photography by **Fred Lord**. The show is titled "from mini to MASSIVE" so there will be something for everyone to enjoy, and will hang through January 30. The gallery is downtown at 124 Main Street, on the Dillon Plaza across from La Riva del Lago. For information call 970-262-2006.

To the left is the poster for the opening, just to give you an idea of what to expect.

Don't Forget!

Important Deadlines

1 Feb. 2009 - Humorous Photo submission
 20 Feb. 2009 - Final room payment & last chance for changes or cancellation

see also
www.rmowp.org

Wildlife Instructor Chosen for 2009 RMOWP Photography Workshop

Workshop coordinator Nic Showalter has announced that **Jared Gricoskie** has been hired as the wildlife instructor for RMOWP's Photography Workshop.

Jared Gricoskie has operated Yellow Wood Guiding since 2007, specializing in Nature Tours and Photo Safaris in Rocky Mountain National Park. He was inspired at a young age by great wildlife programs like *Marty Stouffer's Wild America*, and a large backyard to explore in central Pennsylvania. Jared has been a professional naturalist since he graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Environmental Interpretation in 2002. After working as a naturalist and photographer across the country he settled in a location that he loves, the Colorado Rockies.

In 2008 Jared was a presenter at the Photographic Society of America's International Conference and has partnered with the Rocky Mountain Nature Association leading various seminars and personal workshops in Rocky Mountain National Park. Over the last few years he has taught thousands of people about the wonders of the natural world, and the art of photography.

For more information on the workshop contact Nic Showalter at photoworkshop@rmowp.org.



Photo shoot during 2008 workshop in Rocky Mountain NP

© Nic Showalter

RMOWP Conference 2009
Zion National Park, Utah
Tentative Schedule
All meals and workshops at Zion Lodge

Wednesday, March 25

- 7:30am-4:00pm Pre-Conference Guided Hike to Double Arch Alcove with Jack Olson (11-person limit)
- 4:00-7:00pm Registration
- 5:30-7:00pm Welcome Reception: RMOWP President Tom Cummings
Happy Hour and Light Buffet - Laine & Olson rooms (included in registration fee)
- 7:30-9:00pm Presentation of Photo Contest Submissions

Thursday, March 26

- 8:00-8:30am Welcome & General Membership Meeting
- 8:30-9:15am What Makes Zion Special: Talk by a Park Ranger
- 9:15am Break
- 9:30am-noon Guided Walks (easy & not-so easy) on Emerald Pools Trail
- Noon Lunch on your own
- 1:30-5:00pm Photo Field Trip - We will divide into small groups (8-10) and take guided photo trips led by a few of RMOWP's top nature photographers
- 6:00pm Dinner - Italian Buffet (\$24 including tax & tip)
- 7:30-9:00pm Photo Critique Session

Friday, March 27

- 8:00-11:00am Photo Field Trip - We will divide into small groups (8-10) and take guided photo trips led by a few of RMOWP's top nature photographers
- 11:00am-noon ArtFull Photography, with Connie Thibeau Catsis
- Noon Lunch on your own
- 1:30-3:00pm Writing Critique Session
- 3:00pm Break
- 3:30-5:00pm Panel Discussion: How to Survive in the Changing World of Freelance Writing & Photography
- 5:00-7:30pm Dinner on your own
- 7:30-9:00pm Showcase of Selected Members' Photography

Saturday, March 28

- 6:00-8:00am Continental Breakfast (included in registration fee)
- 6:30-9:00am Sunrise Photo Shoot with Jack Olson
- 9:30-noon Board of Directors Meeting (open to all members!)
OR
Free Time
- Noon Lunch on your own
- 1:30-2:30pm Action Nature Photography in Alaska, with Al Perry
- 2:30-3:00pm Break
- 3:00-5:00pm Auction to Benefit Scholarship Fund: John Catsis & Jim Baker
- 6:30-10:00pm Banquet Buffet - beef, chicken, etc. (\$28 including tax & tip) and Awards Ceremony

Sunday, March 29

- 10:00am Zion Lodge Check-Out

Not-to-Miss Zion Area Attractions

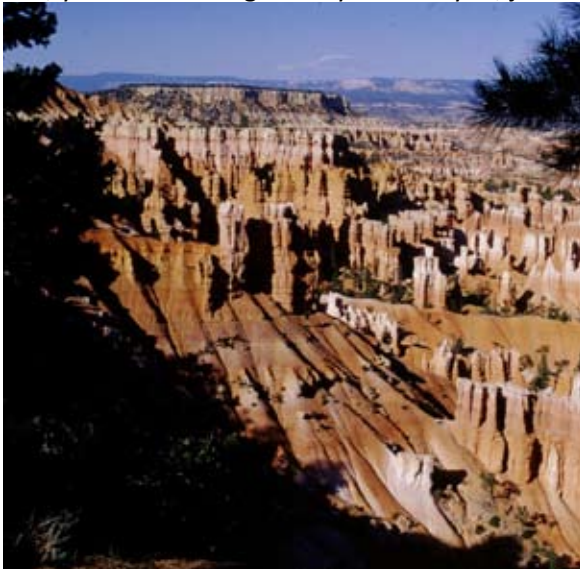
Story & photos by Jack Olson

Before you know it, we'll be saddling up and heading for spectacular Zion National Park. We'll have a full schedule of field trips within the park and additional trails were suggested in the last newsletter. But there are other wonderful scenic and adventurous opportunities on the way to and from Zion. We'll examine a few of them.

But first, I want to again mention that the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park will be closed, as it always is at this time of year. Also, Cedar Breaks National Monument will almost certainly be closed due to snow.

If you've never been to **Bryce Canyon National Park**, or even if you have, Bryce is probably the single most amazing natural feature in the area. It's about 85 miles from Zion, off U.S. 89. You access the park from Utah 12, possibly one of the country's most beautiful Scenic Byways. Coming from the west, you drive through lovely Red Canyon, just

a hint of what's to come ahead. When you reach Bryce Canyon and walk to the rim, it hits you with everything it's got. There's a vast expanse



of eroded red hoodoos jumbled below you. A

Hoodoos in Bryce Canyon National Park as seen from the Rim Trail

trail traverses the rim, and there are several trails dropping down into the canyon. I recommend Queens Garden-Navajo Loop. The elevation at Bryce is some 9,000 feet, so it may be chilly, with snow on the ground. Some trails may be closed. Sunrise is an especially good time to view the canyon, although sunset offers very different lighting conditions on the formations.

Further east on Utah 12 is **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument**. At this time of year, you need to be aware of local road conditions. Perhaps the most accessible areas for poking around are Kodachrome Basin State Park, Grosvenor Arch, the Calf Creek Recreation Area, Escalante River Trail, and Devils Garden.

Even farther east and north is **Capitol Reef National Park**, one of the country's lesser-known, but striking, national parks. Utah 24 slices right through the heart of the park; there are pull-offs and short side roads to natural features. There is also one long side road south into Capitol Gorge. Just a few of the enjoyable sights are Hickman Natural Bridge, Grand Wash, Waterpocket Fold views, and

Panorama Point.

There are a couple of state parks near Zion which are open year-round and offer hiking and camping facilities. **Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park** lies 12 miles off U.S. 89 between Mt. Carmel Junction and Kanab, less than 45 miles from Zion. The dunes are a vibrant color, less



Hickman Bridge in Capitol Reef National Park

expansive than White Sands or Great Sand Dunes, higher than White Sands but not as tall as Great Sand Dunes. For photography or the most pristine viewing, I recommend early morning. I found that dune buggies soon broke up the textures and lines of the dunes. I believe there are some areas off-limits to the dune buggies.

St. George, Utah, on Interstate 15 southwest of Zion, nestles at a lower elevation on the way to Las Vegas. The temperature is likely to be milder than Zion in late March.

Snow Canyon State Park lies north of the city on Utah 18. Hiking and photography are easy and enjoyable in this park. Red Navajo sandstone is overlain by volcanic over-



Yucca at Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park

flow, presenting a unique vista. At this time of year, the shortest way to get to **Grand Canyon National Park** from Zion is clear around the barn, some 250 miles, to the South Rim. I don't think I need to go into details; Grand Canyon is simply one of the greatest natural wonders of the world. If you haven't been there before, it may be worth the long detour.

For further information on these parks, go to: Bryce Canyon National Park: www.nps.gov/brca; Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/grand_staircase-escalante.html; Capitol Reef National Park: www.nps.gov/care; Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park: www.utah.com/stateparks/coral_pink.htm; Snow Canyon State Park: www.utah.com/stateparks/snow_canyon.htm; Grand Canyon National Park: www.nps.gov/grca.

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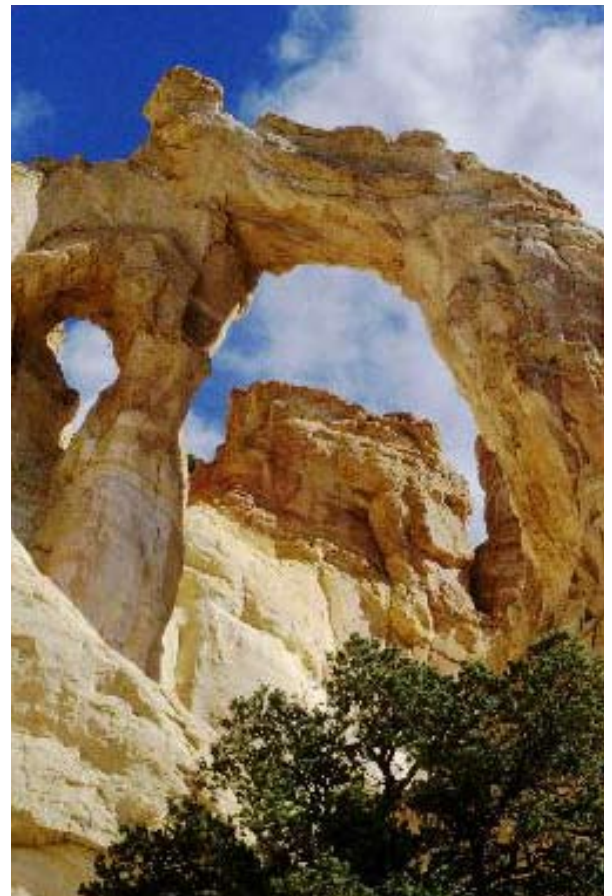
© Barb Laine

This chilly fellow is wondering what happened to sunny New Mexico... this past week more closely resembled Fargo, North Dakota



Devil's Garden in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

© Jack Olson



© Jack Olson

Grosvenor Arch in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, not far from Bryce Canyon National Park