



Rocky Mountain Outdoors

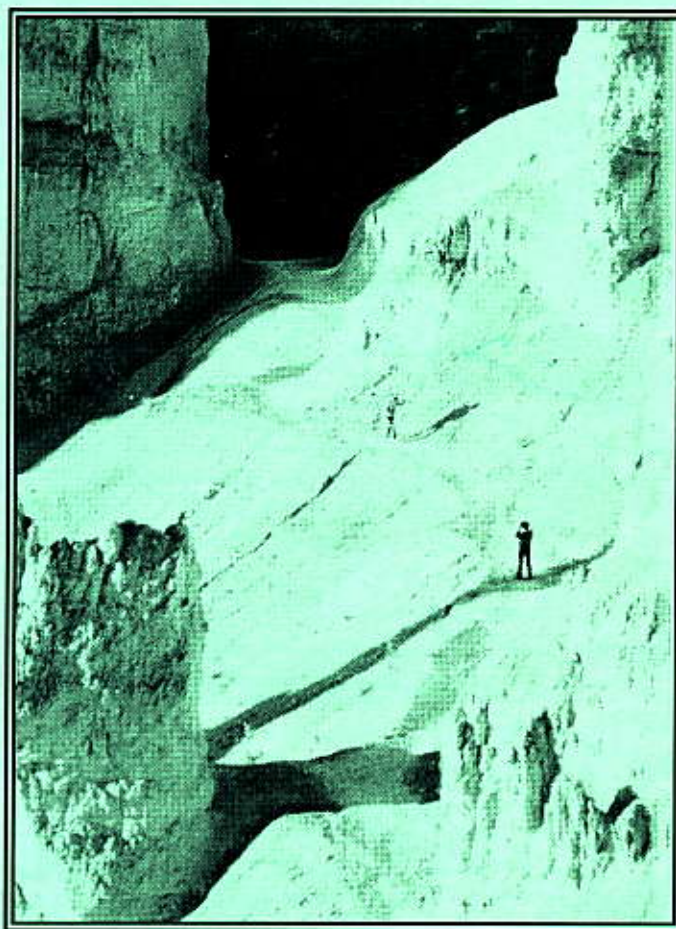
*Our
27th Year*

<http://www.edonnet.com/rmowp>

January 2000

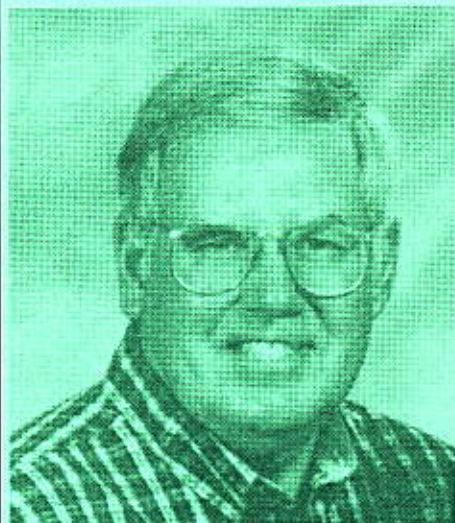
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Join Jack on the Navajo Loop Trail - it's worth the effort.

Photo by Barb and Don Laine



From the President

Calendar For The New Year

Lee Carr

I see you made it to the year 2000! You escaped the comet impact and didn't get involved in the War of Armageddon! Hopefully, you didn't have too many of the Y2K inconveniences. It seems like these century and millennium changes bring out a lot of "I told you so" doomsayers. It's a little difficult to see how they can make so much out of an arbitrary number like 2000. In other calendars our January 1, 2000 is a totally "normal" date: It is the Persian month day 1378; Jews record Tevet 5760 and the Islamic world celebrates the Ramadan of 1420. Astronomers would say this is year 4,500,000,000 plus or minus a few hundred million years, but that's a pretty long number to date every check you write. It is estimated that more than 40 different calendars are in use today throughout the world.

Before recorded history we find cultures devising tools to determine the time for planning agriculture, hunting, migration cycles and for maintaining cycles of religious or civil events. Structures like Stonehenge in England or

the rock circles common to the Americas were used as crude calendars. Since the first recorded calendars of the Babylonians and Romans to our modern day, difficulties have been encountered to make an accurate one. Complexities arise since the astronomical cycles, (rotation of the earth, revolution of the earth around the sun, and the revolution of the moon around the earth) do not comprise an integral number of days. The moon's rotation is 29.53 days and the solar year is 365.24 days. Therefore, a calendar year of an integral number of days cannot be perfectly synchronized to the solar year. We have to add a "leap year" every four years. Another adjustment will have to be made in 3,000 years since the leap year adjustment is not exactly a full day.

Most calendars have a beginning at some epoch event. The Islamic calendar begins in 622 when Mohammed escaped from Mecca. The Christian calendar uses the birth of Christ as the beginning epoch. The work done by sixth-century scholar Dionysius Exiguus did not establish an accurate date for the birth of Christ, however his work is still used. Many scholars now believe Christ's birth was 6 to 7 years before Dionysius established 1 AD. Also, since the first millennium began with the year 1 and not "zero" the next millennium doesn't start until 2001. But who cares - merchants can have millennium sales and events and we can celebrate for a

whole year.

By 1582 the discrepancy in the Julian Calendar, then in use, was off 10 days from the vernal equinox so church holidays did not occur in the appropriate seasons. To get the calendar back in sync with the solar year, Pope Gregory XIII issued a decree dropping 10 days, that year, from the calendar. This calendar was gradually accepted by most nations and is now the world standard at least for civil life. The terms AD (Latin - anno Domini, "in the year of our Lord") and BC (before Christ) are now called CE (Common Era) and BCE (before Common Era) to accommodate the secular world.

The calendar is an important tool for us to organize our time. Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers has two important events we hope you will organize your time to attend. The first one is 29 days after the 5th new moon and the next one is 6 days after the 6th new moon in the New Year. If this is a little cumbersome to keep track of, mark your Gregorian calendar (the one the hardware store gave you) with June 1-5, 2000 for the Photo Workshop in Estes Park, Colorado and June 8-11, 2000 for the Annual Conference at Bryce Canyon, Utah. You won't want to miss out on these Millennium events.

**Dues
Are
Due
Soon**

Rocky Mountain Outdoors

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Outdoors With The ED

Al Marlowe

And Editor

Skipper

RMOWP members have been busy in the past year or two. Browse through book stores in the Rockies and you will find a number of publications authored or contributed to by our members. Those I am aware of include Bob Saile, Jack Sayers, Jon Sheppard, Barb and Don Laine, Supporting Members Bruce Holt and Gary Loomis, and your *RMO* editor. Walt Brown and his partner Boots Campbell produced a video of one of the West's premier wilderness areas. Along with these members are the many who regularly write articles published in regional and national periodicals, edit publications, shoot photographs, and create art works. The future for our members appears productive, too. Board members Craig Springer and Maryann Gaug recently signed contracts to do a couple of guide books on fishing and hiking. Springer will work with Wilderness Adventure Press and Gaug's hiking guide will be published by Beachway Press, the company that we learned of at the Tucson conference.

Remember the promotional plan Russ Bromby put together? One of the member benefits of the plan is pre-paid conference registration for those who sign up at least two new members in a year. Well, two members have qualified; John Catsis and the editor. I'm no great salesman, although John is. Neither of us likely went to great effort to recruit members. More likely, all John and I did was to tell friends and acquaintances of the advantages of membership.

Perhaps you ask *what benefits?* One thing to point out is our writing and photography/art competition. It's a good way to have your work recognized by the judges and receive an award. Another is the chance to communicate with our Supporting Members. Some supply story information on their products. Some offer discounts on their goods for personal use. Some supply products for testing and review. New members can contact us experienced



writers and photographers to answer their questions or seek support. There's more RMOWP can offer but these benies come to mind quickly.

So here's something to use to recruit new members. If I can sign up members, anybody can do it. You will find it rewarding.

* * *

Russell Hopper, a fly fisherman living in Bowling Green, KY, compiled a book entitled *Angler Profiles*. It's a collection of some legendary anglers favorite flies, foods, rods, and waters. I mention this book because three of our members contributed to it: Supporting Members Bruce Holt and Gary Loomis, and yours truly.

Along with our three members, contributors include some well-known names such as Jack Dennis, Pete Parker, "Chico" Fernandez, Jack Samson, Barry and Cathy Beck, Gary LaFontaine, and ... well, you get the picture.

Each contributor was asked for a quote, either by themselves or from someone they respect. One person quoted Ben Franklin, who said, "Fish and visitors smell after three days." Past-president George Bush said, "Each of us can make a difference in the life of another." Perhaps one of the more profound statements comes from Paul Fling, who said, "Flyfishing is a lifetime of frustration interrupted by hours of sheer ecstasy." That fairly well describes fishing as well as many other of life's pursuits.

Recipes and favorite foods varied from a simple desert mix of two fruits to the elaborate. The food ideas alone make this book a worthwhile addition to an outdoor enthusiast's book shelf.

Angler Profiles is available from The Hope Group, Inc., 510 Fairmount Ave., POB 62, Bowling Green, KY 42102-0062 for \$24.95 plus \$3.25 S&H. Hopper plans to donate proceeds from sales to conservation organizations such as Federation

of Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited, and others.

* * *

Some of our more mature angling members may recall a large volume, *McClane's Standard Fishing Encyclopedia*, published in 1965 by Holt Rinehart Winston and edited by the late A. J. McClane, angling editor for *Field & Stream*. This 1000-plus page work thoroughly covered the subject of fish and fishing. That was 35 years ago, however, and Ken Schultz of *Field & Stream* was given the job of bringing out an updated edition. The result is *Ken Schultz's Fishing Encyclopedia Worldwide Angling Guide*. It is published by IDG Books Worldwide and sells for \$60.

This work dwarfs McClane's encyclopedia. Nearly 2000 pages this weighty work covers everything and more a person would need, or want to know on the subject of angling. It's not the kind of book a person will always read from cover to cover but it has so much good information, it's easy to get engrossed in it while leafing through the pages. What makes this volume valuable is that the reader does not need to be a fisherman to appreciate it.

Schultz's book includes detailed information on probably every known fish species, not only regarding angling for them but basic biological info, behavior, distribution, habitat, and size. Related subjects are also included. For example, Shultz has three pages regarding personal flotation devices. He covers boat handling while playing fish. Five pages are devoted to the matter of angling ethics and etiquette.

Exotic (non-native) species are a growing concern in many areas and more than a page is used on dealing with the problem.

When you need information on fishing in the U.S and other countries around the world, the encyclopedia covers it. I had the opportunity to write the section on fishing in Colorado. And once again, another RMOWP member - Bruce Holt of G. Loomis - contributed photos to this volume. As I said earlier, it's been a busy time for our membership.

It's not an inexpensive book but for its price it contains a wealth of information. This is an outstanding reference work that anglers and writers will find valuable.

From An Amateur Mymecologist

My Ants Are Slugabeds
J.Jay Myers

Inspired by our good president to become better acquainted with that broad academic discipline called mymecology, I have lately set aside some time every day to personally study the lives of some ants I see everyday. These are my findings:

I cannot deprecate the personal habits of ants all over the world. I can only write about the ones I personally know, and they are not early risers. My ants - the ones that are constructing their colony headquarters at the end of my driveway, near the mailbox - are never up when I go out to get the morning paper. Sometimes my trip out there occurs as late as eight o'clock and there still will not be even one ant that has emerged from the nest

Now, in the summer the sun has risen at least two hours before that. I have asked myself why it is that my ants do not fit the stereotype I have in mind. Knowing that ants have this reputation for overdoing busyness, I have been disappointed, to say the least, about the hours kept by my Reddish-Brown Mound Builders. Yes, I have gone to the library and I do know there are 15,000 species of ants, but my colony is a Mound Builder colony because my colonists are the right color and they are making slow but steady progress toward constructing a large mound.

I will admit, though, that once my Hymenoptera Formicidae have awakened and come out of their nest, they are really busy, or seem to be. You have noticed that I have not used the word industrious. To me, industrious connotes working intelligently and skillfully. In my lexicon, effort that may be mindless busyness is not an indication of being industrious. And, frankly, many of my ants seem to indulge in mindless busyness. I have seen many of them come out of their entrance-exit carrying nothing. They wander about on the mound for a brief sojourn and then duck back

into the entrance-exit.

It is possible, of course, that these particular ants are performing some important function. They could be the colony's weather observers and prognosticators. If I lived in their underground domicile, I certainly would want a warning about the approach of a big rainstorm so I could close the floodgates. I cannot, however, easily credit them with meteorological expertise because they do not even pause and look skyward, or even wet an antenna and hold it up to check the wind currents.

These wanderers could, I admit, be working slavishly on some worthwhile project down below and have just come up for a breath of fresh air and a bit of breeze. Again, though, I do not see them do what most of us would do under similar circumstances. Not one of them ever stops and takes a big breath, lies down on his back, crosses his legs, relaxes and watches the clouds float by. So I must rule out that possibility.

It may be, I realize, that those wanderers are retarded. Perhaps they are capable of nothing else. Every society has some unfortunate members who are not able. I would not want to be guilty of judging my whole colony by the actions of a very few individuals, but there is so much of this activity that I cannot believe it is all carried out by just a few incompetents.

It may also be possible that those wanderers are not wandering aimlessly. They may be akin to those great, skilled, human goldbrickers whom we all have admired, those who have attained the ultimate level of artistry in avoiding work. These may be ants with unbridled imaginations and outrageous boldness. They may indeed be worker ants with the splendid artful-dodger qualities we so respect and envy in human beings. If so, they deserve the highest esteem, because they have no props to aid them

in their audacity. They cannot carry a briefcase or even a manila envelope to help them assume the appearance of a man-on-a-mission, a ploy that has been used with great success by enterprising personalities for a very long time. It is also possible these ants are "on something." They may have found some natural substance, an edible insect containing the element of an "upper" or a "downer." I would be hard pressed to find fault with any worker in an ant colony who was trying to find escape from the drudgery of being a worker. From my observation and from my reading on the subject, worker ants have only one satisfaction in life, and that is the joy of working. (Idle feet and mandibles are the devil's workshop.) I imagine that some workers try to escape from their tedious routine with flights of fantasy and illusions of grandeur. It may well be that the ones I have seen idling around on the ant hill have made their way there to try their wings, to fly off to some great adventure, to some wonderful unknown. They may well believe they can become anything they want to become if they just want to badly enough, if they just try hard enough. Alas, if they believe that is their *raison d'être*, they are not destined for any exotic adventure, because they do not have wings and they never will have. Only the queen and a few males have wings. The wingless workers will never get far away from my few acres. So much for ant upward mobility. Once a wingless worker, always a wingless worker.

And that may be the most important clue about my slugabed ants. Why get up with the sun when you cannot better your lot in life? Why start the long workday any earlier than you have to start it? Yes, I believe that is it. I think I understand the slugabed daily habits of my Mound-Builders. And I also think I will forego any further pursuit in the world of mymecology.

Y2K Dues are due

Your renewal form will arrive in the mail soon, along with your directory listing.

Send your dues to Barb Laine
Send directory changes to Al Marlowe

RMOWP History Minute

by Kelly Gatlin

Have you wondered about the beginnings of our fine group? Good, you're in luck; here's the story:

The Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers & Photographers association was an idea germinating in the head of Joe McKenna, living in Denver in the early 1970s. Joe was an experienced organizer of sports shows, also a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA), and he recognized the need for this region to have an association of outdoor oriented writers and photographers.

Joe was familiar with the New

Mexico Outdoor Writers & Photographers Association (NMOWPA), which had been formed in 1969. This group, coupled with his local contacts in OWAA, seemed an ideal base for a regional group; consequently, he invited many interested parties to an organizational meeting in Denver, in September 1973.

The Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers & Photographers came into being at that meeting, with 16 founding members and Joe McKenna as its first president. A preliminary set of bylaws was drawn up and the wheels began to roll. The first annual conference was held the following summer in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. In this short time, 70

members had already come on board, comprising the charter membership.

The association busily proceeded down the trail, so it was 11 years before the Founders gained official recognition. At the annual conference in Pahaska Tepee, Wyoming, the 8 who were still living and had retained their membership were awarded Founding Member certificates. These visionary folks included Don Domenick, Dr. Bob Kline, John Malo, Dorie McKenna Clarke, Fred Patton, Harper Simms and Bill and Marge Staley. Most of these Founders are still with us and remain our supporters.

—For more details, see your RMOWP History Binder, page 5

New Members

We welcome the following new members to RMOWP. Thanks for joining us.

Roger S. Beadle

Active

Spouse: Lesly

377 S. Main St.

Yuma, AZ 85364

Phone: W 520-783-0071

E-mail: rbeadle@visityuma.com

Activity: PR

Professional Credits: Yuma Convention and Visitor Bureau

Karen Rae Christopherson

Active

Spouse: Jim Thompson

26961 Hilltop Rd.

Evergreen, CO 80439

Phone: H, W 303-674-0252

E-mail: kc@coloradofishing.net

Web: www.coloradofishing.net

Activities: LE, WP, WR

Interests: Fly fishing, geology, Colorado

Professional Credits: Web master, published in numerous geological and geophysical journals, lectures which include outdoor photographs

Merrilyan D. Hartman

Active

Rt 1 Box 483

Stillwater, OK 74075

Phone: H 405-372-7819

Activities: PH, WR

Professional Credits: Asst. Professor at OSU; Educator, lecturer, ceramics artist, photographer

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance

Supporting

Tim Richardson, TRCA Media Coordinator
6707 Old Stage Rd.

Bethesda, MD 20852

Phone: 301-770-6496

Fax: 301-770-6497

E-mail: tlrs@erols.com

Craig Springer will begin soon updating our web site. It will include a page for members to list their e-mail and web address. All members who are interested in publicizing themselves are encouraged to fill out the form below and send it to Springer. It's a way to promote yourself as a writer, photographer, or artist.

List Your E-mail and/or Web Address on the RMOWP Web Site

Name _____

E-mail _____

Web _____

Enclose check in amount of \$15 payable to RMOWP. This is a one-time fee to pay for setting up the web page on the RMOWP site. Mail to: Al Marlowe; POB 2243; Evergreen, CO 80437-2243. We need only 20 listings to make this happen.

Jack's Jaunts

By Jack Olson

Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah
Queens Garden-Navajo Loop Trails



Major trail-heads are located at each point. The Queens Garden Trail drops into the

the frame.

The crescendo of this trail is the Queens Garden, ruled by the Queen Victoria rock formation. Go back to your October issue of "Rocky Mountain Outdoors" and see Barb and Don Laine's picture on the first page. Formations abound in this area. Some have names; others are beautifully nameless. At this point, you could return to Sunrise Point, but I'm suggesting that you continue on the trail to the intersection with the Navajo Loop Trail.

The Navajo Loop features some spectacular trees and formations, and a stunning hike out of the canyon. At first, you'll be hiking in the trees. Some of these grow in attractive spots in the rocks. You'll cut through a narrow canyon called Wall Street and can take a brief side path to view Twin Bridges, two natural bridges high above the trail. As you near the ascending part of the trail you'll come upon some towering Douglas firs. They seem to be stretching toward the sky through impossibly narrow slots. You can get unbelievable photos here. Look straight up the tree trunks and see the rock walls closing in on the treetops far above. Or step back a bit and view a vertical world where a tree trunk seems to reach up forever. For photography, and for scale, have a person by the tree. One of Bryce Canyon's most well known rock formations, Thor's Hammer, is also visible from this trail.

Now comes the most exciting part of your hike. In a narrow red rock defile, surrounded by looming spires, the trail climbs through 29 switchbacks to the rim. This is an amazing passage. Look down, look up, and look out for photo opportunities galore. If you just want to experience this serpentine path without the whole hike, walk to Sunset Point and hike down, look at some of the wonderful tree and rock displays at the bottom and climb back up.

I expect to be leading a hike on this loop on the morning of June 8 for members who arrive before registration. Check the final schedule for details. If you can't come along with me, do try to take all or part of this trail. You'll be delighted. And look for all the socks along the trail.

I'm assuming that everyone is going to the 2000 Conference at Bryce Canyon June 8-10. But if, by chance, someone can't make it, I hope my suggestions will be helpful at a later time.

Our Conference headquarters is at Bryce Canyon Lodge, an historic structure located well within the park boundary. Our cabins nestle in the woods nearby. We couldn't be in a better spot. Just a few minutes on a path will take you to the Rim. When you get there, Bryce Canyon hits you with everything it's got. The red rock spires, or hoodoos, spread before you, stretching from north to south. At this point you're on the Rim Trail, which sticks to the edge of the escarpment for eleven miles.

There are two designated viewpoints within easy walking distance of your spot on the Rim Trail. To the left, you can walk about a quarter mile to Sunrise Point. To the right, you walk an equal distance to Sunset Point. Actually, the sun sets behind you and behind trees, which obscure the horizon. So you aren't watching the sun, but are watching what the setting sun does to the hoodoos and the eastern sky. On the other hand, sunrise may be spectacular, as you view the eastern horizon and the direct sun on the rocks. Sunrise Point may be a bit better for viewing the sun on the rocks, as it presents a better angle. It also presents a crowd of people. In this stretch, between the two viewpoints, look for an isolated, small tree on the rim. It makes a great foreground frame for a picture.

The proximity of Sunset and Sunrise Points is important for another reason.

canyon from Sunrise Point and, hiked by itself, covers 1.5 miles. Similarly, the Navajo Loop Trail leaves Sunset Point and is 1.5 miles long. I'm going to suggest a combination of the two trails, though, which travels three miles, with a 521-foot ascent at the end.

You could start at either trailhead,

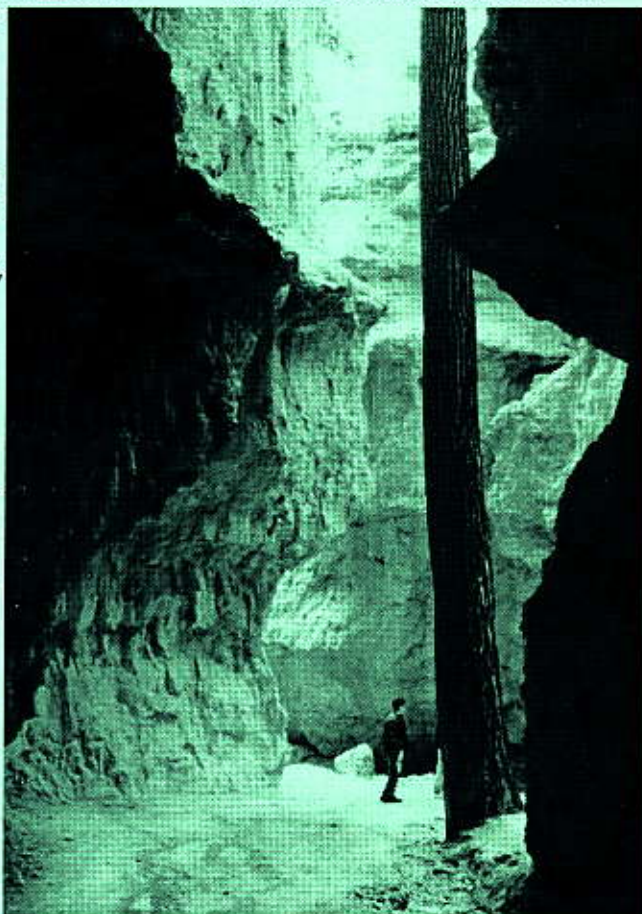


Photo by Jack Olson

but I prefer starting on the Queens Garden Trail at Sunrise Point. You will drop down, on a fine trail, into a sculpted wonderland. This is one of the most colorful sections of the park, so hold onto your socks or the views will knock them right off. One striking feature of the first part of your hike is a small tunnel cut through the rock. It makes a perfect frame for photography. Put scenery in the frame or, alternatively, put people in

RMOWP Invades Southern Utah

by Barbara Laine

June's getting closer, and that means it's almost time for the annual conference of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, to be held at Bryce Canyon Lodge in southern Utah's spectacular Bryce Canyon National Park on June 8, 9, and 10.

Our agenda will include guided walks along the Bryce Canyon rim, a short guided trek into a bristlecone pine forest, a talk on the area's Wild West history from a local history buff, and a program on the new and controversial Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Plus, for those who actually want to learn something, workshops on subjects such as digital photography and how to get that travel article published.

We've reserved a group of Bryce Lodge cabins, which provide the ideal location for exploring the park, but there are other options nearby for those who like amenities like swimming pools and televisions, or perhaps are looking for something a bit less expensive.

Probably the best deal for a modern motel just outside the park is **Bryce View Lodge**, on Utah 63 (the park entrance road), P.O. Box 64002, Bryce, UT 84764 (435/834-5180, fax 435/834-5181, www.bryceviewlodge.com). Rates in June are expected to be \$55 for two people, and pets are accepted (pets are not welcome at Bryce Lodge). This basic American motel consists of four two-story modular units, set back from the road. Rooms are simple but comfortable,

with an occasional western touch, and are quite quiet. Most rooms have one or two double beds, some have a queen; plus a table and chair. Guests have access to the pool, laundry, etc. across the street at Ruby's Inn (both under the same management), which is another, although more expensive option.

The **Best Western Ruby's Inn**, P.O. Box 1, Bryce, UT 84764 (435/834-5341, fax 435/834-5265, www.rubysinn.com) will be charging \$90 to \$115 for two in June, and also accepts pets. It's a pretty typical Best Western, with almost 400 rooms, and contains restaurants, two gas stations, tour desks, car rentals, a large general store, and a whole bunch of other stuff that makes it among the busiest spots in the park area.

There are also several smaller motels and B&Bs in the area; contact me for details.

Those planning to camp inside the park will have to arrive early (by 2 p.m. is best) because reservations for the two national park campgrounds are not accepted. There are no RV hookups, but the campgrounds are delightful, with plenty of trees and that "forest camping" atmosphere. **North Campground** has 105 sites and **Sunset Campground** has 111 sites. We prefer North Campground because it's closer to the Rim Trail. Neither has showers, but you will find modern rest rooms with running water, and hot showers are available at a general store in the park (\$2 for 10 minutes). Campsites cost \$10 per night.

Closest camping for those softies who demand RV hookups, a pool, and the like is **Ruby's Inn RV Park & Campground**, on Utah 63 next to Ruby's Inn (P.O. Box 22), Bryce, UT 84764 (435/834-5301, November through March 435/834-5341; fax 435/834-5481, www.rubysinn.com), which charges about \$22.50 for full hookups, \$21 for electric/water only, and \$14 for tents. It's actually pretty nice; many sites are shaded, including an attractive tent area, and facilities include a swimming pool, two coin-operated laundries, a game room, horseshoes, barbecue grills, and a store with groceries and RV supplies.

Meanwhile, there are still a few of the Bryce Lodge cabins available (indoor plumbing, no TVs and no pets) at \$99 per night for one or two people (cabins sleep up to four). Please let me know as soon as possible if you want one, as they're often booked solid 4 to 6 months ahead (P.O. Box 1200, El Prado, NM 87529-1200; e-mail: lainedb@newmex.com; or phone 505-758-8922).

Also, make sure you check out the Jack's Jaunts article in this issue for additional information on Bryce Canyon, and those with internet access may want to take a look at the Park Service web site, www.nps.gov/bryce.

Next month we'll discuss some lodging possibilities on the way to and from Bryce, and by then we hope to have a revised agenda, and details on meals and other incidental costs.

RMOWP 2000 CONFERENCE LODGING RESERVATION FORM BRYCE, UTAH JUNE 8-10, 2000

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ No. in party _____

Bryce Lodge Cabins @ \$99 plus tax per night for one or two people.

Please check one: Four nights (Wed-Sat) _____ Three nights (Thurs-Sat) _____

Please enclose a deposit of one-half of the total (not including tax) with a check to RMOWP and send to Barb Laine, P.O. Box 1200, El Prado, NM 87529-1200.