

The Newsletter of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers



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Out 'n About in Lander

This year's conference site brushes against the slopes of the Wind River Range. Lander, Wyoming is a small, Western town, along the banks of the Popo Agie River, sheltered from the wind in its cottonwooded valley.

Its primary street is lined with most of its businesses, including art galleries, specialty stores and restaurants. The library and other points of interest lie just off Main Street, easily accessible to the Pronghorn Lodge with its Monarch Conference Hall and Oxbow Restaurant, where this year's conference will be held.

The community is one of long-time residents, but it also includes many people from across the United States and foreign lands. Small businesses, professional people, and service industries make up the population, although the town serves an agricultural community, and during boom years, both the uranium and petroleum industries (Wyoming's first oil well was nearby). A large medical facility attracts many to Lander, and government agencies, such the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service all are located in Lander.

The community also is home for the Wyoming Outdoor Council and the National Outdoor Leadership School.

Lander hosts several festivals, such as the Pageant of the Old West and Rodeo in

by Tom Bishop

July, along with the International Climber's Festival. In south Pass City, a visitation site for conferees, Gold Rush Days draws spectators. In August, the Lander Jazz Festival and Chokecherry Festival attract crowds. In September, the Lander One-shot brings in the celebrities.

Lander's micro brewery, the Snake River Brewery, just hauled in a prestigious prize. The brewery is housed in the newly renovated "Cowfish" building in the same block with the Gannett Grill and the Lander Bar, just steps way from the Pronghorn Lodge.

~continued p. 10

Special Conference Activities

Since Friday will be spent in the Atlantic City and South Pass country, Wyoming's only significant gold mining area, I suggest a guided wild horse photography trip or a guided walking tour of historic Atlantic City and some its mines for the morning.

We have set aside places for members for lunch at the Atlantic City Mercantile, a National Register building. Following lunch, people either can continue to look for wild horses or can tour the renovated town of South Pass City near Atlantic City. Special trips can also be arranged to see historical and natural sites that are in the area.

From the President



John Catsis, RMOWP President

The President's Final State-of-the-Organization Address

I am <u>really</u> looking forward to Lander! That's because on the evening of Saturday, September 6, 2003, which also marks my 34th wedding anniversary, I will relinquish my office as President. What a ride it has been!

Yes, it's been a hectic time, but the worst appears to be behind us. And the next President probably will not have the same challenges that drained the energy and enthusiasm of so many good members over the past 15 months. The next President, however, will be facing new challenges. I will address these in this final letter to you.

First, however, I would like to discuss the state of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc. During the turmoil of the spring, summer and fall of 2002, we lost some good members. And we lost some others, as well. I'll spare the adjectives, except to say that several were elected board members. We should acknowledge that all of those we lost are good people. But a few had different and myopic views of what RMOWP should stand for, and how it should be run. Fortunately, we still enjoyed a democracy where everyone is permitted the opportunity to express their opinion...and to vote. As a result, reason and a democratic majority eventually prevailed over polemics.

RMOWP was, and always will be, an organization that welcomes newcomers, and encourages communication of <u>all</u> outdoor activities. It is not predominantly a "hook-and-bullet" organization, although hunters and fishers continue to be welcome here.

Yes, RMOWP also stands for more. It stands for communicating the activities of hiking, camping, bird watching, rock climbing, RV travel, and photography, plus the issues that involve our Rocky Mountain environment and ecology.

We strongly support those who are just starting out as writers and photographers. At our last board meeting in April, we underscored this by proposing a simplification of our membership standards. You will be asked at the Lander conference to confirm these commitments by approving the board's proposed bylaw changes.

Let us remember that we are an inclusive, not exclusive organization. We should be here for everyone; the youngster just starting out, as well as the big-name pro who believes it's time to give a little back in the way of knowledge, time, and encouragement.

During my short, second term as your president we also had some good news. We succeeded in obtaining a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service, granting our request for non-profit status. (We've always had non-profit status with the State of Wyoming, where we are incorporated.)

We have a new webmaster who is continuing the same fine work as her predecessor. Cindy Stone also serves as editor of our newsletter, for which she has received numerous accolades.

We have continued the photo workshop for the sixth year. These workshops serve a dual role of recruiting new members for our organization, plus increased funding for our scholarships.

~ continued p. 4

ALL ABOUT US

About RMOWP

Formed in 1973, the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc. is a regional non-profit organization of professional and aspiring communicators, dedicated to the improvement of communicating the outdoor experience in the Rocky Mountain west.

Visit our website at mowp.org for more information about the mission, activities, and membership of RMOWP.

"Dedicated to the improvement of communicating the outdoor experience."

RMOWP Organization

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Cindy Stone

Webmaster Cindy Stone

Medical Advisor
Dr. Beto Gutierrez

About the Newsletter

RMOWP publishes the Rocky Mountain Outdoors newsletter bi-monthly.

Share your outdoor media, writing, & photography expertise, experiences, and achievements with fellow members. Help showcase and improve the talents of members. Keep us informed of important issues affecting the outdoor lifestyle and media profession. We'd love

to get craft improvement and any other relevant tips, articles, and photos!

Send articles and photos to the editor, Cindy Stone, at:

cindy@rmowp.org 1352 Chardonnay Dr Richland WA 99352-7303 Fax & Phone: 509-627-4747

Next Newsletter Deadline August 24 2003

Please send submissions to be received by this date for the September/October 2003 issue.

Cover title bar photo:

Rock formations near Soap Creek north of Blue Mesa reservoir in southwestern Colorado.

Photo by Cindy Stone



Editorial Note

All URLs in the newsletter are shown without the "www." prefix to save space; unless otherwise noted, assume that you need to include the prefix when entering the URL in your browser address.



Rustic fence in Rocky Mountain National Park, by John Catsis.

From the President

from p. 2

We are working to establish greater long-term continuity and financial responsibility by eliminating mandatory term limits for the secretary and treasurer positions. At the same time, their activities will continue to be monitored by the board, and, in the case of the treasurer's position, by the proposed establishment of an Audit Committee. The membership will be asked to approve this change in our bylaws, as well.

We are also working to streamline the way we handle new member applications. In short, the board has been working to update and modernize the way we do business.

With membership blessing, the new President and new board will continue the work we have started. The new President also will have the task of selecting a new coordinator for the photo workshop. I announced at the April board meeting that I no longer plan to perform this function after this year.

However, the biggest challenge for the new administration is an old challenge: increasing our membership. I have discussed this with you many times in the past. In my view, it is our number one problem.

What I fail to understand is why so few of you encourage and sponsor new members. This failure, is our greatest weakness. We get more members from our annual photo workshop and from the internet. I don't believe that's the

way it should be. The growth and vitality of this organization depends on each and every one of us. Yes, including retired old geezers like myself!

The challenge of growth, therefore, is what I believe is the greatest single issue to face future administrations. It shouldn't be hard. We now have made it easier than ever for an interested outdoor communicator to become one of us and to take part in the great camaraderie we all enjoy. I, for one, have enjoyed many new friendships since joining RMOWP at its tenth annual conference in Flagstaff, Arizona, in 1983.

Now, 20 years later, I will be handing the gavel to our new president at the 30th anniversary of our organization.

I believe that is a good time to sit back and just be a member. Therefore, I am announcing that I will not serve in any official position in the future, other than following through on my commitment to help organize the 2005 conference in Silver City, New Mexico.

It is time for youth to be served. It is time for new members to step forward and get involved. It is time for RMOWP to embrace the future with enthusiasm and energy. It is time to grow.

If we don't, the terrorists will have won.

~ John Catsis, RMOWP President

Make Lander Reservations NOW!

Three things you have to do this week: 1) Block out time to go to the Lander, Wyoming conference; 2) Fill out and mail the registration form (on p. 9); and to be sure you have a cozy place to sleep, 3) Reserve a room! Or a cabin! Or a place to park the ol' RV!

Do it now!!

The conference headquarters will be the beautiful Pronghorn Lodge at 150 East Main Street, Lander. Tom and Buellah Bishop have arranged special rates for RMOWP members. To reserve your room at the Pronghorn, call 1-800-283-4678.

For those who wish to camp, there are an abundance of public and private campgrounds located in the greater Lander area. You can find them on the internet at <u>landerchamber.org</u>.

Get more info about the conference such as schedule, events, registration form, and more starting on page 8. For more info about accommodations in Lander, see p. 10.

Last Call for Mugs

This may be your last chance to get an RMOWP coffee mug. There are only nine left. Price is only \$10 for each mug, whether you order one or all nine, and this includes careful packing and mailing.

As you may recall, these special mugs were commissioned by the board as part of RMOWP's 25th anniversary conference in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, along with the stone coasters. The mugs depict old Indian drawings combined with images of reporters and photographers scattered

throughout. They are really quite cute.

These mugs make a great gift. Just send your payment to John Catsis at 300 West Straford Drive, Chandler, Arizona 85225-7117. And yes, we really do accept Visa and Master Card! His email is john@catsis.org.



Bluebird photographed by John Catsis

Don't Miss This at the Conference — Photo Critique Session

Do your photos lack impact? Did you have a problem with exposure? Do you wonder how your composition can be improved? Jack Olson will help answer these and other questions at a new critique session to be held at the Lander Conference on Thursday, September 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to participate...even those who don't bring slides for Jack to critique. For those who want his expertise, just bring up to six slides for Olson to project and comment on. This session is certain to be entertaining, as well as informative.

Critique sessions have been highly praised by participants at the RMOWP Photo workshop. There, Jack Olson is one of three instructors who has provided this valuable instructional tool for the past six years.

Don't miss out on this chance to learn from a pro. Bring up to six slides and join the fun....and the instruction!

Pssst! The Next Password Is...

The RMOWP website user name and password will change with each newsletter issue, and will be available only to those members who have paid their dues.

The next username and password will be **meetmein** and **lander03** and will become active about July 31.

Dues are \$35 and should be mailed to Barbara Laine, RMOWP Treasurer, P.O. Box 1200, El Prado, NM 87529-1200. Student dues are \$5. Don't get left out!

Remember, only the oldest few issues will be posted online in the public area of the website. All recent and future issues will be accessible only in the members section (one of your membership benefits).

I will send the username and password in the newsletter announcement email, so if you don't get hardcopy, you can still get the access info.



No Way, EBay! Bring it to the Auction

As you may know, a significant part of our scholarship income comes from the auction held at every conference. Since we are currently foregoing an Executive Director whose job it would have been to solicit items for the auction, we are counting on you to be a sport and be proactive and bring at least one item that can be auctioned on Saturday afternoon, September 6.

The item can be anything at all. A book. A photo. A collector's item. Outdoor gear. Indoor gear for couch potatoes!

Don't list it on eBay. Bring it to Lander. It's more fun. Especially when the auctioneer and his sidekick get the show rolling.

June Photo Workshop Another Success

The sixth annual RMOWP photo workshop proved to be a financial success, as nine individuals signed up for the five-day session last month at Rocky Mountain National Park. Although final totals have not yet been compiled, the workshop is assured of a profit. Proceeds from the workshop help fund an annual college scholarship. A full report will be presented at the board of directors

MEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

meeting on Wednesday afternoon, September 3, at the Lander conference.

For the sixth straight year Nikon and Kodak are co-sponsors of the workshop, providing gifts and film students. Their donations permit RMOWP to keep the workshop fee low. In fact, the fee of \$795 has not changed since the first workshop at Yellowstone National Park in 1997.

The next workshop is scheduled during the height of fall colors and bugling elk, from September 29 to October 3, at Rocky Mountain National Park. Instructors will again be members Jack Olson and Tom Ulrich. Anyone can sign up for the workshop, including RMOWP members.



John Catsis lands a giant red breast fry, enough to feed a family of ants for 3 days. Catch his seminar on "Fishing for Survival in the Wild" at the conference. And hear stories about the one that got away.

Photo by Matt Lindler, NWTF.

You Gotta Pay Your Dues if You Wanna...

...keep getting the newsletter and the other benefits of RMOWP! This could be your last newsletter! If your dues payment is not received by Treasurer Barbara Laine by July 31, you will be dropped from the membership rolls. That means you won't be able to receive further issues by regular mail or through our website. And you'll also be excluded for accessing our membership list. That's because we'll be changing the password on July 31 and with every newsletter issue.

Now you don't want to miss out, do you? Support RMOWP and yourself by keeping yourself active and in touch with this great group of people. Save yourself and your webmaster (aka membership data manager) a whole lot of trouble and don't get deleted from our records, just to be added back later because you don't want to be left out!

Send your dues of \$35 to Barbara Laine, P.O. Box 1200, El Prado, New Mexico 87529-1200. You've only got a few days, and this will be our last extension of this deadline!

Another New Member!

Last minute addition...the photo workshop has resulted in another new member. He is **Joe Katzenberger** of Lexington, South Carolina. Joe won two awards for his photography at the closing session of the five-day workshop at Rocky Mountain National Park. He lists his interests as wildlife, scenic, and flower photography. Joe was sponsored by Tom Ulrich, the great recruiter. Welcome, Joe, we hope to see you in Lander!

MEMBER ARTICLE

Jack's Jaunts: Sinks Canyon State Park

by Jack Olson

It's getting closer to time for the annual RMOWP Conference in Lander, Wyoming. And there's a state park

that's close to Lander and worth a visit while you're in the area. They call it Sinks Canyon and it offers a mysterious disappearance and reappearance of the Middle Fork of the Popo Agie River.

The Popo Agie tumbles out of the Wind River Range and squeezes through the canyon six miles to the south of Lander. At one point the river sinks into cracks in the rocks and disappears, giving the park its name. About a quarter of a mile farther down the canyon, the river reappears in a pool, called The Rise. From here, the river continues its descent into the valley.

Most likely the geologic features of Sinks Canyon were formed during a previous Ice Age. They are certainly thousands of years old. Native Americans were aware of them for hundreds of years and fur trappers came across them in the 1800s.

Sinks Canyon State Park is known for its wildflower

display, but, at the time we're visiting, most of those flowers will have closed up for the year. More likely to be observed

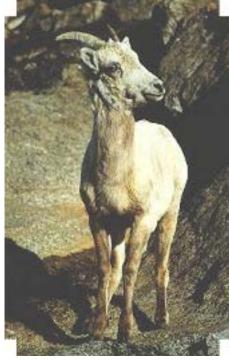
is an abundance of wildlife, including mule deer, bighorn sheep, a great variety of birds, and maybe even a lucky sighting of a moose.

Fishing for trout is permitted in the park, subject to Wyoming Fish and Game regulations. Fishing is not allowed, however, in The Rise, although the trout may be viewed from an observation platform.

There are two campgrounds in the park, Popo Agie and Sawmill, but neither has RV hookups. There are drinking water and latrine restrooms in both campgrounds. Access is available on a first come, first served basis. There are two hiking trails near the Popo Agie Campground. Drive out Wyoming 131 to the park.

For more information on Sinks

Canyon State Park, go to: http://wyoparks.state.wy.us/sinks.htm. Or call (307) 332-6333.



Welcome New Members!

We are pleased to welcome three more new members who have recently joined RMOWP

Kira McCoy of Boulder, Colorado enjoys hiking and nature photography, especially flowers, sunrises, and sunsets. She has plenty of opportunity to enjoy all of those while living at the doorstep of the Rockies with her husband Malcolm, and we look forward to her getting involved with RMOWP and sharing her interests and experiences with others.

Bill Vieth is also a new member and he and his wife, Mary Ellen, have two places to call home—Evansville, Indiana and Breckenridge, Colorado. He joins us through Tom Ulrich, and is a writer, photographer, and lecturer and has achieved numerous credits, including Backpacker, Outdoor Life, Trailer life, Outdoor Indiana Magazine, and more. He also is affiliated with several organizations such as Association of Interpretive Naturalists, Society of Environmental Journalists, and the American Fisheries Society.

Welcome, Kira, Bill, and Joe! You'll find we have members with a wide range of interests, experience, and credentials, and are fortunate to be able to add you to our mix. We hope to see you both and your spouses and families at the conference in September!

RMOWP Conference 2003 Schedule

Conference Headquarters

Pronghorn Lodge, 150 East Main Street Lander, Wyoming 82520

> 1-800-BUDHOST or 1-307-332-3940 Fax 1-307-332-2651 info@pronghornlodge.com

All meetings and selected events will be held at the Pronghorn Lodge Convention Building

Wednesday, September 3

1 – 5 pm Registration

2 – 5 pm Board Meeting

5 pm Mixer and Happy Hour. Host, RMOWP.

7:30 pm Photo Contest Slide Presentation. Ron Hellbusch & Maryann Gaug.

Thursday, September 4

8:30 am Welcome: John Catsis and Tom and Buellah Bishop

9:15 am Symposium: "Wolves and Grizzlies in the West....Do We Need Them?"

Speakers from local, state and federal agencies.

11 am Workshop: "What's New in Digital Photography?"

Noon Lunch on your own.

1:30 – 5 pm Field Trip: Guided tour of Sinks Canyon Natural Area. Personal transportation.

6 pm Barbeque Dinner, North Park, Lander.

7:30 pm Photographers Critique Session. Jack Olson, coordinator.

Friday, September 5

5:30 – 7:30 am Dawn Photo Shoot with Jack Olson.

9 am – 11:30 Field Trips. Choice of:

(1) Wild Horse hunt, guided with transportation provided.

(2) Walking tour of historic Atlantic City, including gold mine exploration.

Noon Lunch at The Mercantile, in Atlantic City. Use personal transportation.

1:30 – 5 Field Trips. Choice of:

(1) Wild Horse hunt, guided with transportation provided.

(2) Guided tour of restored South Pass City and ghost town of Miner's Delight.

6 pm Dinner on your own.

7:30 pm Writers Critique Session: Anne Sullivan, Coordinator.

Saturday, September 6

8:30 am General Membership Meeting

10 am Workshop: "Finding and Researching Ideas." Larry D. Brown, author.

11 am Workshop: "Making Subjects Become Photographs." Mike McClure.

Noon Lunch on Your Own

Afternoon Free Time

3:30 pm Auction. John Catsis and Surprise Helper.

6 pm Happy Hour and cash bar.

7 pm Banquet. Introduction of new officers. Awards presentations.

Sunday, September 7

8:30 am Board Meeting

Registration form should be enclosed with printed copies of this newsletter and is also available online to print out at rmowp.org.

Out 'n About in Lander

from p. 1

Near Lander is the gateway to Jackson Hole and Yellowstone National Park through the mountain town of Du-called the "rise." The trip for the water takes two hours, bois, while just north of Lander is the town of Riverton, the and, interestingly enough, more comes out than goes in. site of both the 1833 and 1838 Rendezvous. The Wind River Heritage Center is located in Riverton, and the town is the

gathering spot for the cowboy poets in September. Beyond Riverton is Thermopolis and its worldfamous hot springs and dinosaur museum.

The surrounding country - mountain and desert and high plains - harbors lakes and stream, and historical sites, such as Castle Gardens and its petroglyphs, the Oregon Trail, and the Pony Express Trail. And., of course, near Lander is Sinks Canyon with its disappearing river. The Middle Fork of the Popo Agie flows through the canyon

until it turns and enters a large limestone cavern and disap-

pears. It emerges a quarter of a mile down canyon at what is The Sinks Canyon Visitors Center is a favorite place

for travelers.

The Wind River Indian Reservation is next door to Lander. Many historic buildings remain standing at Fort Washakie for you to explore, and the Shoshone Tribal Cultural Center is another unique attraction in this

area.

and all the historic.

With the

RMOWP Conference

natural, and cultural attractions and character of this great western town, you'll find plenty to do

and enjoy in Lander.

Photo of mule deer by Jack Olson

Where to Stay in Lander

A block of rooms has been set aside for RMOWP members at the Pronghorn Lodge on Main Street. All meetings and the banquet will be held on site (150 E. Main Street, 1-800-BUD-HOST).

There are many other options for members, too. The Maverick Motel and Restaurant is on Main Street (808) West Main Street, 1-877-622-2300), while other motels are near to town. Since the town is small, everything is nearby. There are other motels and many other restaurants in Lander, one for anyone's, uh...taste, shall we say.

There are limited cabins and a bed and breakfast in Atlantic City. The Mercantile has A-frame cabins, while the Miners Delight is a bed and breakfast. Both are historic sites. The telephone for the "Merc" is 1-307-332-5143, and the Miners Delight number is 1-888-292-0248.

For RMOWP members with motor homes, there is the Sleeping Bear RV Park in Lander (715 E. Main, 1-307-332-5159, and just outside of town is Hart Mountain Hideout, with cabin rentals and tent camping along with RV sites (7129 Hwy 789/287 Lander, 1-800-914-9226).

SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

Remington Announces Writing Contest

To further promote the safe storage of firearms, Remington is sponsoring a writing contest open to all active, individual members of national, regional, and state outdoor writers' associations.

The contest will be open to any article published between July 1, 2003, and December 31, 2003, that covers the various options for safe, home storage of firearms and encourages all owners to ensure the safe handling and storage of firearms.

From the articles submitted, the one that best describes the range of home security choices and helps to educate gun owners will be selected as the winning entry. The grand prizewinner will receive a **Remington® Gold EliteTM 23** Safe with electronic lock and the contestwinning article will be featured on the Remington web site.

All entries must be received in the Remington Press Relations office by January 15, 2004, and the winner will be announced at the SHOT Show on February 12, 2004. Each entry must include a copy of the article with documentation of date published, title of publication, writers' organization affiliation and the name, address and phone number of the author.

Entries should be addressed to: Writing Contest – PR Dept, c/o Remington Arms Company, 870 Remington Drive, PO Box 700, Madison, NC 27025. Any questions regarding this contest or for a copy of the contest rules, contact the press relations office at (800) 537-2278.

Remington offers a comprehensive line of home security options

from economical cable locks to moderately priced gun cabinets to an extensive line of home security safes. Visit remington.com for product information and tour the on-line safety center.



Tri-Tronics Rewards Hunting Dogs in Training

Looking for ways to improve your hunting dog's responsiveness and performance out in the field? Tri-Tronics introduces the **Pro Control RL**, a radio-controlled eledtroinc device that is designed to help improve the bird work of both gun dogs and competitive field trial dogs.

The device gives the dog trainer precise control over training birds and retrieving dummies. These devices help dog trainers achieve precisely timed training scenarios that simulate hunting and field trial conditions. Trainer s of pointing dogs, retrievers, and flushing dogs all make use of these devices, because they place control over the hunting dog's reward directly in the trainer's hand.

With hunting season coming up, it's a good time to check out this innovative product at tritronics.com.

Coleman Outernet Comes to the Internet

Comprehensive outdoor travel and activity planning is just a mouse click away with the debut of the Coleman Outernet site at **coleman.com/outernet**!

A one-stop source of searchable information on more than 16,000 public and private campground locations throughout the United States, the Colemand Outernet is the most comprehensive website of its kind. It is geared toward helping people plan all types of outdoor trips and activities. For added convenience, many of the site locations on the Coleman Outernet can be reserved online. Through its interactive content, the Outernet also serves to connect people who enjoy the outdoors with others who have similar interests.

Offering this new outdoor travel planning tool is the Coleman company, the same one that has provided generations of outdoor enthusiasts with outdoor recreation products. It might be hard to find any among us that has never owned or used some handy, dandy Coleman product while camping, hunting, fishing, picnicking, or enjoying one of the many other outdoor activities we love!

Tapping into the growing popularity of using the Internet for travel and recreation planning, Coleman hopes to encourage Americans to "Get out There" more often and rediscover the beauty of our own national landscape, as well as to strengthen relationships with family and friends. Explore the Outernet on the Internet and see how it can help with your outdoor planning.

RMOWP Newsletter Editor Cindy Stone 1352 Chardonnay Dr Richland WA 99352-7303

Address service requested



We're on the web at www.rmowp.org

The Newsletter of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers

RMOWP Calendar

2003

Sep 3-6 RMOWP Conference

Lander WY

Sep 29-Oct 3

RMOWP Photo Workshop 2

Rocky Mtn Natl Park Estes Park CO

2004

July RMOWP Conference

Durango CO

2005

June RMOWP Conference

Silver City NM



Contribute to your newsletter!

Communicate With RMOWP!

Share your outdoor media, writing, & photography expertise, experiences, and achievements with fellow members. Help showcase and improve the talents of members. Send articles and photos to the editor, Cindy Stone, at:

cindy@rmowp.org 1352 Chardonnay Dr Richland WA 99352-7303 Fax & Phone: 509-627-4747

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