



# Rocky Mountain Outdoors

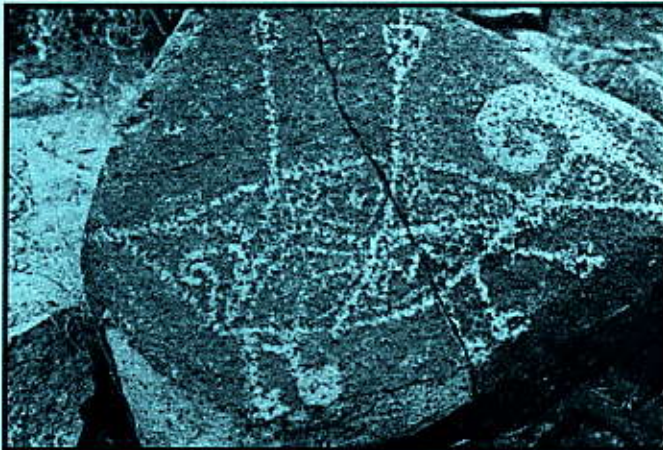
*Our  
27th Year*

**Dec 2000/  
Jan 2001**

The Newsletter of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc.

<http://www.rmowp.org>

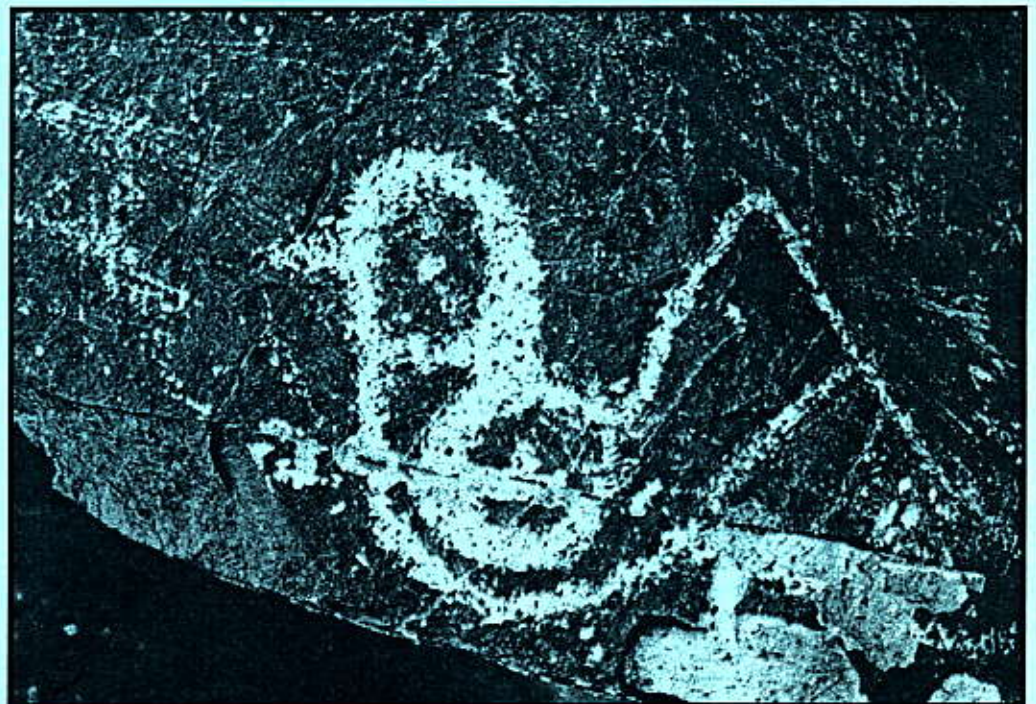
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Left: The Mogollon creator of this petroglyph was probably either celebrating a good hunt or hoping for one. Three Rivers Petroglyph Site.

Below: Can anyone identify this bird? Three Rivers Petroglyph Site.

Photos by Don Laine





## From The President

### Movin' Right Along

Lee Carr



**H**ave you noticed how fast we are moving? The earth is spinning about 1000 miles per hour at the equator. At our latitude we are spinning about 800 mph. At the same time we are spinning we are also in an elliptical orbit around the sun going at a clip of more than 65,000 mph. We saw some evidence of that in the middle of November when our orbit passed through the debris of the Swift-Tuttle comet providing us with the Leonid meteor shower. Some subtle but important moves are the earth's precession (like the "wobble" of a spinning top) and nutation (the tilt of the orbit to the plane of the solar system) which is now 23 degrees but moving toward 22 degrees. These motions, coupled with our elliptical orbit around the sun determine our climate, like as in ice age or global warming. And our solar system is not standing around either. The sun and its other 100 billion neighboring stars are revolving around the gravitational center of our Milky Way Galaxy. This pace is about 575 thousand mph; a speed necessary for the sun to complete one orbit every 224 million years. But the moving

doesn't end there. The Milky Way is only one of an estimated one billion other galaxies, which we like to call our Universe. Many astronomers believe it is still expanding. So, the great outdoors is on the move, not unlike RMOWP which is movin' in new directions, but maybe not at these astronomical speeds.

Many of you may already be aware that Al Marlowe, our combined Executive Director and *Rocky Mountain Outdoors* newsletter editor, would like to "retire" from these positions. I'm sure there is a certain amount of burnout after three years on the job, but in addition, some physical limitations are prompting Al to tender a resignation. That gimpy right shoulder will probably even cause him to become a left handed fly fisherman! I, for one, extend Al a hearty thank you for a job well done; not only for carrying a major burden of the organization's workload but also for promoting RMOWP near and far.

This move has obviously prompted a search for a new person(s) to fill these positions. The job descriptions for both executive director and newsletter editor

are presented in another part of this newsletter and I hope there will be serious interest among our members to apply for the positions. The jobs can either be combined or performed by two different people. It just depends on the desire of those applying. The executive director position pays \$100 per month. The Board recently authorized paying the newsletter editor a \$100 per issue stipend, a first for our organization.

For the past year or so our web site has become a source of embarrassment since all our efforts to keep it current have been thwarted by the unresponsiveness of our current server. A new member, Phillip Springer, has stepped in to tackle the problem. With his knowledge of the inner workings of this world and his desire to help us out he has spent many hours to set up our new web site. Note, we have a new domain name and lots of new information on the site. And most importantly, it's being kept up to date. Give it a try at [www.rmowp.org](http://www.rmowp.org). Eventually this address will be showing up in the major search engines. Phil, thanks for your tremendous job.

Some other moves from our September 28th Board meeting in Santa Fe:

- New contest categories have been added that recognize digital photography and E-Zines.
- Our bank balance was reported to be \$5700.
- Next year's scholarship award will be \$1000.
- The photo workshop in Rocky Mountain National Park is scheduled for June 27-July 1, 2001.
- A committee has been set up to restudy our membership requirements.

### *Rocky Mountain Outdoors*

Published monthly by Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc. Printed by Rocky Mountain Outdoor Network, POB 1240, Evergreen, CO 80437-1240.

#### Officers

President: Lee Carr, Cedaredge, CO  
V. President: Betty Minor, Golden, CO  
Secretary: Anne Sullivan, Datil, NM  
Treas: Barbara Laine, El Prado, NM

#### Executive Director Newsletter Editor

Al Marlowe, Evergreen, CO

#### Directors

Jim Baker, Stillwater, OK  
Sue Baker, Stillwater, OK  
Maryann Gaug, Silverthorne, CO  
Bob Good, Leadville, CO  
Dr. Beto Gutierrez, <sup>Edinburg</sup>McAllen, TX  
Don Laine, El Prado, NM  
Betty Parker, Albuquerque, NM  
Hal Shymkus, Española, NM  
Craig Springer, Edgewood, NM  
Gina Kroft, Mt Crested Butte, CO. (Sup-

porting)

#### Medical Advisor

Dr. Beto Gutierrez, Edinburg, TX

#### Membership

Paul Homan, Colorado Springs, CO

#### Awards

Jeff Pederson, Santa Fe, NM

#### Past-President's Council

John Catsis, Chairman

Kelly Gatlin

Beto Gutierrez

Jack Olson

#### Web Master

Phil Springer, Santa Fe, NM



**R**MOWP has a new web site. This has been under consideration for most of the year. At the September board meeting in Santa Fe, we stopped talking about it and did something to make it happen. New member Phil Springer (brother of board member Craig Springer) took on the job of web master and the results can be seen at [www.rmowp.org](http://www.rmowp.org).

When you visit the site notice that we now have a page, "What's New," dedicated to market news. This will be updated as information regarding publications and web sites that are in need of articles, books, and photos. Another page, titled "Links" is a list of information sources for outdoor communicators. For those of you who are still not connected to the web, this is another reason to do so. The reality is that members either need to get online or be left behind.

Another web site of interest to many of our members is the Outdoors Network, [www.outdoors.net](http://www.outdoors.net). You may remember this web site of forums from the years it ran on CompuServe. Outdoor communicators Joe Reynolds and Tony Mandile, names that will be familiar to some of

## Outdoors With The ED

Al Marlowe

and  
Editor

Skipper

you, head forums on fishing, hunting, outdoor writing, photography, and other subjects. Under the Outdoor Writers Forum, RMOWP has a message area for communicating with members of other writers organizations.

This issue of *Rocky Mountain Outdoors* is the last that I will edit and publish. On Page 4 you will find a notice for two job openings with RMOWP, for Newsletter Editor, and Executive Director. Both jobs come with a stipend. While not large it does compensate those who will put in extra time on a regular basis each month.

Any member interested in either or both of these jobs should contact me or



any board member for information.

The next issue of *RMO* will have the 2001 writing/photo contest rules. That means you have only a month to shoot photos to enter if you haven't done so already. Or to have a story published. Get with it.

This issue has the first information on the 2001 Conference at Alamogordo, NM in May. Mark your calendars for the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>.

On a final note with any luck by the time you read this the vote count in Florida may be completed – unless Gore comes up with another excuse for another recount.

### Address Correction

Craig Springer  
Edgewood, NM 87015 (Not Santa Fe)

### New Address

Bob Good  
New PO Box  
POB 968  
Leadville, CO 80461

Shirley Miller  
POB 872486  
Vancouver, WA 98687-2486

Denny L. Vasquez  
14706 Tilley  
Houston, TX 77084  
H-281-859-6884  
M-713-249-5068  
Email: [denvas@pdq.net](mailto:denvas@pdq.net)

### New Email

Rich Beaudry  
[rbeaudry@pagosa.net](mailto:rbeaudry@pagosa.net)  
[editor@gunweb.com](mailto:editor@gunweb.com)

### Directory Update

Maryann Gaug  
[meaug@earthlink.net](mailto:meaug@earthlink.net)

### New Members

Lynn B. Starnes  
POB 308  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
H: 505-242-9321  
W: 505-248-6620  
[lynnstarnes@prodigy.net](mailto:lynnstarnes@prodigy.net)

Garold W. Sneegas  
716 Lake St.  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
H: 785-842-1407  
Email: [gwsnr@sunflower.com](mailto:gwsnr@sunflower.com)  
Web: [www.nanfa.org/aki/aki.htm](http://www.nanfa.org/aki/aki.htm)

### New Supporting Members

Women's Shooting Sports Foundation  
Contact: Shawna Thomas, Marketing Director  
1561 Vapor Trail  
Colorado Springs, CO 80915  
719-638-1299

Fax: 719-638-1271  
Email: [wssf@worldnet.att.net](mailto:wssf@worldnet.att.net)  
Web: [www.wssf.org](http://www.wssf.org)

eAngler  
Contact: Doug Kelly  
3821 Henderson Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33629  
813-639-9636  
Email: [dkelly@eangler.net](mailto:dkelly@eangler.net)  
Web: [www.eangler.com](http://www.eangler.com)

### Renewals

Tom Fridmann  
381 Sanctuary Ct.  
Henderson, NV 89014  
H: 702-454-5838

J. James Heim  
4040 Arjay Cir.  
Ellicott City, MD 31042-5608

Lynn K. Witzon  
223 S. Abbey Ln.  
Stillwater, OK 74074  
405-372-8056



## RMOWP Wants You

By Lee Carr

Are you interested in a position with RMOWP? Unlike most positions with our organization these happen to pay real dollars because they do require extra effort. The position of Newsletter Editor pays \$100 per issue published (a new stipend recently established by the Board of Directors) and the position of Executive Director pays \$100 per month. Like most who have held these positions in the past you will probably put more into them than you get paid for, but you in turn provide a great service to the organization. Both positions can be held by the same person or by two different people.

The job descriptions for both positions are printed below. If you are interested, give the present ED, President or any Board Member a call to either indicate your interest or to get more information. We would also like to get a brief resume from you that could be shared with the Board. The Board wants to make a decision on these positions by early January, so your prompt action is important.

The following job descriptions outline what each person will do, although the Newsletter Editor and Executive Director are free to do the jobs according to a schedule and in a manner each will establish. Some expenses the Executive Director may incur will be reimbursed with prior approval of the President or the Board. In the past the Executive Director has worked as an Independent contractor. The Newsletter Editor will also work as an Independent Contractor.

### Newsletter Editor

1. Establishes deadlines for receiving material to be included in the next issue of *Rocky Mountain Outdoors*.
2. Contacts the following on a regular basis, to solicit information for the newsletter: President, Treasurer, Secretary, Executive Director, Membership Chairperson, Awards Chairperson, Scholarship Chairperson, Conference Chairperson, Awards Chairperson and Photo Workshop Coordinator.
3. Assigns stories to others, as needed.
4. Encourages members to send in stories about themselves or other mem-

bers.

5. Creates special features, such as: (1) profile of new member, (2) feature story on an established member, (3) sidebars on RMOWP History, (4) questionnaires, as suggested by the Board or Officers.
6. Works with the Supporting Member Liaison and Executive Director to receive Supporting Member material for inclusion in the newsletter.
7. Originates stories on his/her own.
8. Work with the Executive Director to determine what newsletter material should be sent to the web master for inclusion on the web site.
9. Selects material to be included in the newsletter.
10. Prepares newsletter for publication (edit, style, and layout).
11. Select method of printing and completes printing at least possible cost. This may include self-publishing on a home computer or through a printing firm.
12. Distributes newsletter to membership.
13. Annually compiles membership directory from information provided by the Executive Director and has it published and distributed.

### Executive Director

1. Actively promotes RMOWP with agencies, suppliers, organizations, and perspective members. Maintains contacts with other outdoor writing and photography groups to keep abreast of changing opportunities for our membership.
2. Contact potential Supporting Members to join RMOWP and to advise how RMOWP can help them.
3. Send out dues notices to Supporting Members. Provide liaison with Supporting Members to maintain favorable relationships.
4. Inform membership, in the newsletter, of discount or other benefits offered by Supporting Members.
5. Contact all members whose membership has lapsed and encourage them to renew.
6. Keep current list of membership and send mailing labels periodically to person circulating the newsletter and the treasurer.
7. Serves as clearinghouse regarding writing/photo opportunities for

members. Scope out market opportunities where members can publish. Inform members about publishers that are delinquent in payment or slow to return material.

8. Order and distribute new RMOWP stationery each year. Maintain a supply and distribute logos or other organization sale items.
9. Maintain a file of blank membership certificates. As the need arises, get President, Secretary, and Treasurer signatures on them.
10. Provide the newsletter editor and web master with membership information for the directory. Proofread draft copy of RMOWP directory before final printing.
11. Assist in planning and setting up annual Conference by helping appointed Conference committee and site selection committee. Make sure all agreements with host area are fulfilled satisfactorily.
12. Acts as facilitator to Conference Committee when hospitality rooms are associated with the annual conference. Specifically, this means making sure food and drinks are available, served, and cleaned up at the close of the Conference.
13. Maintain a Conference headquarters and registration area. See that all registrants and guests have identification badges.
14. Solicits Conference door prize drawing and auction items from Supporting Members and arrange delivery to the Conference site.
15. Delivers auction items, from members not attending the Conference, to auctioneer at Conference.
16. Web site liaison: The ED is the final arbiter on the information included on the Web site. The ED will originate changes and/or take members suggestions for web site changes and will forward them to the web master. The ED is also the primary web site contact to answer inquiries for membership and other questions about the organization.
17. The ED reports to the President.
18. The ED is the designated contact for the Wyoming Secretary of State regarding incorporation, requiring filing an annual report.
19. Other duties as assigned.



**Scott-McKenna Memorial  
Scholarship Program**  
By Betty Minor, Vice President

J.B. Scott was a lifelong outdoor enthusiast. His long career in the U.S. Forest Service included work as information specialist on the Pike National Forest and he was the liaison with Colorado Dept. of Transportation on the building of Vail Pass highway. He was a founding member of RMOWP.

Joe McKenna was a veteran sport show organizer in Denver and the inspiration behind the founding of RMOWP in 1973. He and his wife Dorie (McKenna Clarke) were instrumental in the early formation of the organization.

Both men were ardent supporters of young outdoor writers and photographers; therefore, in 1991 when a scholarship program was established, it was named in their memory. The scholarship

is awarded annually and the Vice president is chairman of the committee consisting also of Jack Olson and Dusty Fullinwider.

The Board of Directors sets aside an amount each year after reviewing our finances. Proceeds from the auction as well as profits from the photo workshop contribute to this fund. The fund also benefits from donations and you can contribute through a board member or the treasurer. In the nine years of the program, one to three scholarships have been awarded each year in the amounts of \$100 to \$1,000. We have \$1,000 available this year.

Candidates must be nominated by a current member of RMOWP. High school seniors are eligible, as are students currently enrolled in college undergraduate and graduate programs. Applicants' career goals MUST be in the fields of outdoor writing and/or photography. Appli-

cations MUST be postmarked by January 15, 2001 in order to be eligible for this year's award.

Last year's winner is Erin Gee, a photography major at University of Findlay, Findlay, Ohio. She writes "I wanted to ... thank you. Winning the scholarship was one of my greatest accomplishments. It has given to me the confidence to know that I can and will be a wonderful nature photographer. Knowing that people believe is what makes me work even harder."

Please address applications (or requests for same) to:

Betty Minor  
3110 Gardenia St.  
Golden, CO 8040  
Phone: 303-279-6829

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**Why You Should Have A Business Card**  
by Denny L. Vasquez

**I** Writing and photography are two career fields where the line dividing the professional and the amateur is often vague and ill defined. It has become increasingly hard to distinguish between those who write or photograph a few pieces a month, mostly for their own personal enjoyment, and those who survive on the revenues generated from their work. What starts out as a hobby sooner or later ends up with the writer or photographer being asked to take a picture for a friend, to sell a photo or article we have taken or written, or in some other way, to take compensation for our efforts.

These activities are different from say, fishing, hunting, field sports, bird watching, sailing or some of the other hobbies that we can become involved. The average person will never be asked to participate in these kinds of activities for compensation. On the other hand activities such as writing, photography, video production, wildlife management or becoming an accomplished musician, require years of training and dedication to learning a particular expertise. For example, syndicated newspaper columnists have usually spent years at their craft while struggling to get to their current position. Success in these career

fields also brings with it a recognized professional standing in the form of acceptance in such organizations as the Outdoor Writers of America, Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers or the American Society of Journalist and Authors.

Many of these activities, like the brain surgeon, fire fighter or peace officer often have rules and regulations that the practitioners must abide by. There are also guidelines that deal with such issues as working conditions and compensation. But when it comes to writers and photographers, these guidelines and regulations are lacking, for the most part. These activities are usually carried out in our spare time, while we pursue other activities such as being a truck driver, accountant, dentist or gunsmith. Should you consider yourself a pro if you write or photograph on a part time basis? If you only sell one picture or article in your lifetime are you a pro? Or, do you have to work exclusively in these fields to reach the coveted level of being a professional? What separates the professional from the hobbyist? Does it really matter?

When asked, most of our viewing or reading public will say that there is big difference in the abilities of a professional when compared to those of a hobbyist. Many times though, if you look behind the façade of professionalism you

will find that the professional and the hobbyist look exactly alike. Some of the more infamous writers that I know have monthly features in what are considered to be "premium" outdoor related publications. But if you ask them, they consider their writing to be a hobby that allows them to pursue their first love, hunting, shooting, or fishing. On the other hand, I know of a writer from Alabama that published one article in a small regional hunting magazine about 10 years ago. Now he goes around to outdoor shows and gatherings promoting himself as the "Ultimate Outdoorsman" by claiming to be a professional writer.

Where does a business card come into all of this? Have you ever noticed that people are more receptive to those who have a business card that says they are a professional in a specific area of expertise? But don't get all excited about what a business card can do for you yet. If you use a card or other means of advertising to bill yourself as a professional then it would be best if you at least knew something about the credentials you are advertising.

Now, don't get me wrong, having a card that advertises you as a professional writer or photographer can be quite handy. You can use it to gain entrance to

Continued on Page 6



exhibits or shows that you would otherwise have to pay for. Or you could use it to gain access to hunting properties that would otherwise be denied to the non-professional. But is this type of privilege worth risking your career over? Of course not. Don't try to advertise yourself as something that you are not, you may be asked to prove it.

Instead, your business card should be used to show that you are serious about your craft. It doesn't necessarily say that you are a professional, but it leaves people with a record of your contact information and demonstrates that you are serious about certain types of activities, i.e., writing and photography. In other words a professional looking business card can make you look legitimate. This legitimacy can help you gain entrance into circles that can help to expand your capabilities and selling venues.

At this point you might ask where you can get business cards for yourself? Look around. Almost every city and town in this country has a Kinkos, Office Depot, Office Max, Staples or some other office supply/printing shop. Even the newer postal service stores, such as Post-Net, offer business card printing along with their FEDEX, shipping and postal services. Shop around though as not all shops are alike. Prices can vary greatly as well as available printing options.

Before you decide to rush out and have your own business cards printed up there are a few questions you have to ask yourself. But don't be daunted; taking the time to carefully consider your options will insure that you get the right business card for the image you wish to portray.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, business cards simply had the person's name listed on them. Today's world is much more complicated and thus business cards carry the bare necessities, your name, address, phone number, fax number, pager number and email address.

You could stop there, but today, many people go on to adopt a name for their business. Though not absolutely necessary, a business name does add a bit of professionalism to your card. For example, "Photography by Denny" or "Vasquez Outdoor Media Resources" not

only have catchy rings to them, they are more expressive of what my interests are than just having Denny Vasquez on a card along with my address.

However, there is one concession that you may have to make and that is that no business name is better than a "dumb" or "cute" name. This is one of the easiest mistakes to make when deciding on how to format your business card. After all, we are all trying to find that special angle that makes us stand out from the crowd, thus making us easier to notice. For example, "Sexy Photos by Hot Thing" or "Custom Bikes by the Road Hog". I think you can see my point.

Now please don't get me wrong, I am not condemning the individualized tastes or cranial capacity of my fellow humans. However, it often seems that we go out of our way to embarrass ourselves with dumb and cute names. Just visit any small airport, yacht club or marina. Take a look at the dumb, cute and often-tasteless names we give our airplanes and boats. Yes, you don't have to have a business name to put on your business card, but if you do, give some careful thought to how it will be perceived by others before committing to printing it on your card.

Another issue you need to consider when designing your card is whether or not you want to list your specialties on your card. If you are a photographer, do you put down that you specialize in filming weddings or portraits? If you are a writer do you list hunting and shooting as your areas of expertise? Many times we limit our opportunities by listing such specialties. For example, the public perception is that if you are a photographer you can shoot any type of assignment that comes your way. By listing that you specialize in weddings or portraits on your card, you may not get that call to film the Daytona 500 for Car and Track magazine, even though you are perfectly capable and willing to do so.

Now I am not advocating that you take all offers that come your way. You must carefully consider each offer to determine if you would feel comfortable with it. Are you capable of shooting underwater footage of large mouth bass in the Trinity River? Do you have the right equipment? If you have been primarily a

gun writer all of your life, can you knowledgeably address the issues that a bow hunter might encounter on their first trip to Africa?

Many times in the world of photography all we get is one chance to take that perfect picture. If you don't have the right equipment or expertise, this opportunity can slip right past you or worse yet the photos you do take will be less than perfect. If you write a piece about a topic that you don't really understand, making statements that are clearly inaccurate, will your readers make allowances for your ignorance? Make sure that you do not advertise yourself to be something that you are not and that you only accept assignments that you can competently complete.

What about when you move, change your name or need to change part of your data? Let's be honest, nothing looks tackier than a business card or letterhead on which the printed information has been crossed out and new data written in by hand or typewriter. This not only looks amateurish, but is very unprofessional as well. As cheap as it costs to have a set of business cards printed today, there is no excuse for not having new ones printed up when some of your data changes. Then each time you hand out a card, the information on the card will always be current and will look professional.

Now that you have a business card what do you do with it? Use it! Put a supply in your camera bag, briefcase, billfold, purse, cardholder and leave some on your desk. Include one in your correspondence with others or hand them out to those you meet. After all you never know when you will get a phone call or letter asking you to do something to earn a little extra compensation. This is one of the most personal forms of advertising that you can use – put it to work for you. I can't begin to tell you how many times I have gotten calls for assignments, some times years later, just because I have left my card with an editor who has never even met me.

So take the time to carefully design your card so it conveys the image to others that you want it to and then put it to work for you.



## RMOWP Plans Alamogordo Conference

By Barb and Don Laine

Members of Rocky Mountain Writers and Photographers will meet in Alamogordo May 16-20, 2001 for the group's 28th annual conference. Dubbed "2001 - A Space Odyssey," because planned activities include a visit to Alamogordo's famed International Space Center, the conference will also include field trips to the stark white gypsum sand dunes of White Sands National Monument, the scenic and historic Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, and the renowned Three Rivers Petroglyph Site, which has more than 20,000 prehistoric petroglyphs.

A highlight of the conference will be a rare escorted trip onto White Sands Missile Range to see the White Sands pupfish. This field trip will be led by RMOWP member Craig Springer, an authority of the pupfish, who calls it "a biological antique...that survives in water three times saltier than the sea." He adds that this trip into the restricted missile range will offer dramatic photographic opportunities.

Other planned activities include a workshop on wildlife photography by noted New Mexico wildlife photographer (and RMOWP member) Joe Roybal and a program on the latest on digital photography to be presented by member Kelly Gatlin. In the planning stages are several writing workshops, including a talk from an outdoor magazine editor. As usual, the conference will include a writing critique session, writing contest, and awards ceremony.

Details will be published in future editions of *Rocky Mountain Outdoors* as they become available, and those with questions or suggestions are invited to contact organizers Don and Barbara Laine (505/758-8922; [lainedb@newmex.com](mailto:lainedb@newmex.com)). Also helping organize the conference is relatively new RMOWP member David Travis of Ruidoso, New Mexico.

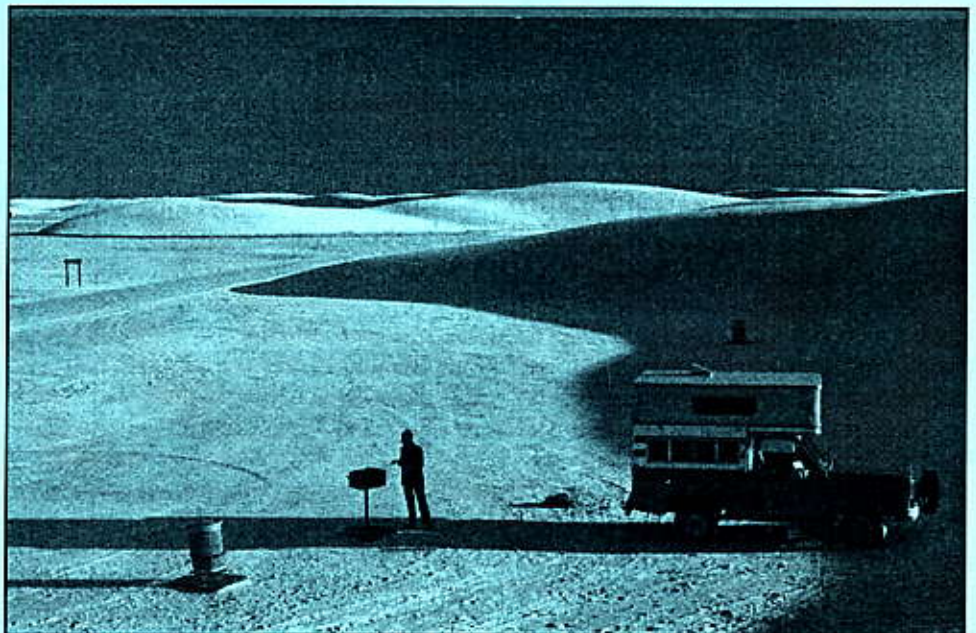


The invisible photographer... White Sands National Monument.

Photo by Barb Laine

Picnicking in the Heart of the Dunes at White Sands National Monument.

Photo by Don Laine





## Writer's Market News

### Fly-Fishing Articles

YourRiver.com, an Internet "sportal" for the approximately 6.5 million fly-fishermen/women in the U.S., seeks articles in the following categories: fly-fishing technique, equipment, gear; women and/or children fly-fishing articles; destination specific travel articles; short stories; and jokes, cartoons, and humorous essays. Feature articles should range between 1,000-1,400 words, including a 150-250 lead, and must be submitted with photography, preferably high-quality digital images. Also, feature packages should include a 200-word gear-specific sidebar advising the reader what clothing, rods, reels, flies and other equipment make the destination an enjoyable one. Upon acceptance, payment ranges from \$100-\$250 for feature and destination articles, from \$40-\$100 for short stories and from \$25-\$40 for jokes, cartoons and humorous essays. In addition, previously published fly-fishermen/women are invited to apply for a columnist position. Please send all submissions and requests for additional information to [Kathy@yourRiver.com](mailto:Kathy@yourRiver.com).

### Bass Fishing Writers

OperationBass.com needs writers with knowledge of bass fishing. Writers will write monthly columns, feature articles and cover tournaments.

**Monthly columns:** Writers will cover bass boats and boating-related equipment; fishing equipment – rods, reels and tackle; fishing with children; conservation as it applies to bass fishing and water resources; and bass fishing tips and techniques. OperationBass.com is also looking for a new writer to cover the business side of tournament fishing (The Pro Angler): How to find sponsors, how to keep sponsors, what sponsors are looking for, making contact with the media, working with the media, handling yourself in interview situations, appearance, public appearances, seminars, etc.

In the "Ask the Pro" column, users of OperationBass.com will submit questions related to bass fishing that are answered

by pro anglers. Scott Martin, Mike Wurm, Terry Bolton and Carl Svebek III have expressed an interest.

OperationBass.com needs two or three additional anglers or experts to round out the field. Topics could include boats, equipment, conservation, etc.

**Features:** Feature stories will include profiles on pro anglers, celebrity anglers, great bass fishing locations and general news stories about the bass fishing industry.

**Tournaments:** Pre-tournament coverage – stories about the fishing conditions and general lake conditions at upcoming tournaments. OperationBass.com needs local writers to cover Operation Bass events, especially the Red Man Tournament Trail.

For more information, contact Bill Petrowiak, OperationBass.com's content manager at [bpetrowiak@jacobs-mgmt.com](mailto:bpetrowiak@jacobs-mgmt.com) or call 612-349-2308.

### Cabela's

Cabela's is looking for articles on about every subject. Interested writers should review our site to get a grasp on what we've done to date, but all future needs are tied to seasons. We pay from \$25 to \$100 for previously published articles. Currently we are not assigning any new content, but would accept queries or submissions for consideration. For guidelines, see Sep/Oct RMO, or contact Frank Ross: [frank.ross@cabela's.com](mailto:frank.ross@cabela's.com).

### Web Wanderings

By Phil Springer

I will be reviewing web sites related to our fields of endeavor and interests. Below are the first few sites that I have visited. The links to these web sites and other resources are located on our web site [www.rmowp.org](http://www.rmowp.org) under "Links and Resources". Inform me of any other web sites that you believe could be helpful to the membership of RMOWP and I will review them, and as the Webmaster, I

will post them on our web site. Please send the links and your comments to [phil@rmowp.org](mailto:phil@rmowp.org).

**Writers Digest** - An excellent resource with helpful writing guidelines.

**The Outdoor Pressroom** - Valuable professional outdoor reference material, outdoor related news and more.

**Flyfish.com** - An excellent resource for outdoor magazines. There is additional valuable information from their home page.

**The Forest of Rhetoric** - "It's interesting that many (tropes) were identified by Aristotle 2,500 years ago or by Romans like Cicero later. They work today and if you look close you'll see some employed not only in writing, but in speech, and on TV commercials." Craig Springer suggested this site to me accompanied with the previous statement. I like to use tropes in my writings to describe events and places. In my opinion this site is an absolute essential which can improve your writing. (Phil Springer)

**Bigstep.com** - If you would like to make a presence on the "The Web" this is a site worth reviewing.

**The Publishing Law Center** - This site is devoted to providing quality information for the publishing community - publishers, authors, editors, web masters, and freelancers.

**eBookNet.com** - Until recently, the economics of publishing meant that most aspiring authors had little chance of seeing their work in print. eBooks and the Internet are changing the odds. Today writers can self-publish their eBooks on the Web, where distribution costs drop to zero.

**The Phrase Finder** - If you are trying to find the right phrase this is the place. Great Site.

**Bartleby.com** - A Collection of Passages, Phrases, and Proverbs Traced to Their Sources in Ancient and Modern Literature. "I have gathered a posie of other men's flowers, and nothing but the thread that binds them is mine own." John Bartlett



## Breaking Barriers, Connecting Habitats

Craig Springer, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Who hasn't heard about the monumental migrations of salmon and steelhead? Unimpeded, they can swim hundreds of miles for the single-minded purpose of procreation. Freshwater fish also migrate, but not nearly as far. Small fish like minnows and darters move about; so do

bass and trout. In terms of scale though, these smaller fishes move a long way. These fishes need to find the right habitats as the

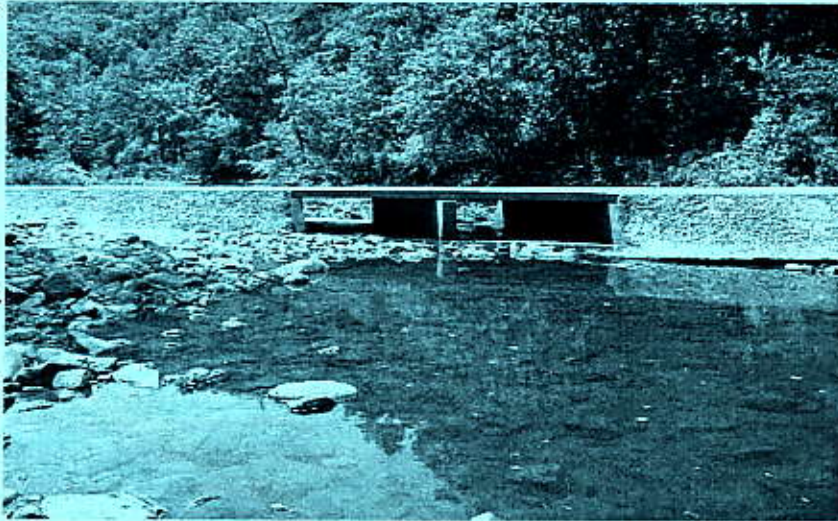
seasons change. But like salmon and steelhead of the Northwest, they run headlong into barriers.

Huge dams without fish ladders are obvious barriers to migrating fish. But that culvert you drive over on your way to work could keep fish from reaching necessary habitat, too. Culverts on small streams often block fish from reaching upstream areas. A culvert may have water in it and it may look swimmable, but the flows may be too shallow or too swift for fish to swim through. The culvert could be too long. And typically, flows are uniformly fast throughout the culvert, so fish have nowhere to rest and are washed downstream. Round culverts make fish passage nearly impossible. On the downstream end, concentrated flows often erode the stream bed and scour pools making a small waterfall too large for fish to jump over.

When fish populations become disjointed, inbreeding can occur. Isolated fish may not be able to reach all the habitats necessary to fulfill their require-

ments; the number of fish could be depressed and the general health weakened.

To remedy such a situation in southeast Oklahoma, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Oklahoma Fishery Resources Office and Tulsa Ecological Services Office partnered with John Hancock Natural Resource Group to open up miles of stream on commercially forested land. A box culvert with the bottom on the



natural stream grade replaced a round culvert. Two species of fish are immediate beneficiaries: the federally threatened leopard darter and the Ouachita-strain smallmouth bass. Both occur in the Little River watershed. The Ouachita smallmouth is a fairly recent discovery, a form of smallmouth bass unique to that



part of Oklahoma and Arkansas. Removing the barrier has connected habitats crucial for these unique fishes.

"It's not uncommon for Little River headwater creeks to stop flowing in the heat of summer—culverts become barriers

to fish seeking out habitat at lower flow," said Brent Bristow, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist. "With the barriers gone, darters and bass can once again reach habitats they really need seasonally."

Spawning is one such season. According to Paul Balkenbush, stream fish biologist for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, improved culvert designs allow native smallmouth to reach necessary habitat at high flows. That helps assure a good mix of genetics and a robust fish population.

Finding spawning habitat may not be the only need to move about. In small streams, fish find refuge in deep pools to ride out the winter. Getting to the same pools may mean the difference of surviving a summer when flows drop and temperatures climb. Without the access to these necessary habitats, fish populations may suffer. Mobility is everything.

The Service's Arizona Fishery Resources Office is similarly engaged. The East Fork White River is important habitat for two fishes, both federally listed as threatened, the loach minnow and Apache trout, an important sport fish. But a low-head dam that delivered irrigation water also blocked fish movement. The White Mountain Apache Tribe and Arizona Fishery Resources Office redesigned the dam to continue delivering irrigation water. Flows are

now concentrated mid-stream over a natural bottom that easily passes fish.

"Many small, in-stream structures look innocuous," said Lynn Starnes, the Service's Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries in the Southwest Region. "But even small structures if not properly placed can have big consequences on fish populations. The Service is committed to connecting with stake-

holders to connect fish habitat—to improve the lot of stream fishes—to improve conditions for fishing and conserve imperiled species."



### Deer Feeding Study

Colorado Division of Wildlife  
Release Date 22 November 2000

MONTROSE-Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW) research biologists will be taking the next step to further understand the dynamics of the Uncompahgre Plateau deer herd when they begin an experimental nutritional study in December. The study will involve feeding a supplement to deer on DOW property south of Montrose then observing them during the following winter to check the survival of their offspring.

According to DOW researcher Chad Bishop, "The fawn/doe ratios on the Plateau have been low for nearly a decade indicating over-summer survival is a problem. We're trying to better understand several factors affecting the deer population and identify the cause of low fawn survival." The DOW began a fawn survival in 1998 and preliminary results indicate there might be a health problem, either disease or nutrition, affecting fawn survival.

This winter, the DOW will be feeding a supplement that consists primarily of wheat middlings, brewers grains, cottonseed hulls, and alfalfa. It also includes

a number of vitamins and minerals. It is the supplement the DOW uses when it is necessary to feed deer populations during abnormally severe winters. Prior to feeding, 40 of the deer will be trapped and fitted with radio collars.

Another group of 40 deer that will not be given the supplement will also be trapped in a different area and fitted with radio collars. Then biologists will compare the two herds in terms of the fawn/doe ratio in December 2001. Research biologists are theorizing that if nutrition is a problem, the deer being fed the supplement will be healthier and have healthier fawns that will be better able to survive over the summer. The DOW annually does trend and sex-ratio counts in December to keep track of the growth and health of deer herds.

"Since the two herds use similar wintering areas and occupy the same summer range, any disease and predation factors should be the same," Bishop added. "The supplemental feed will be the only factor different between the two herds. So if we observe a difference in fawn survival next year, we will be fairly certain the problem is poor nutrition."

Biologists think nutrition could be a problem on the Uncompahgre Plateau

because of the condition of the deer winter range caused by fire suppression. According to DOW biologist Bruce Watkins, the pinon pines and junipers have slowly invaded traditional sagebrush areas and formed a closed canopy under which very little can grow. In addition, as the mountain shrub communities continue to mature, they provide less nutritive value for deer.

"What we need to do is change these habitats to get both a wider variety of forbs and shrubs as well as more varied age classes," Watkins said.

Watkins is currently working with the Uncompahgre Ecosystem Restoration Project, an amalgamation of state, federal, and private interests, to look at various ways to improve the habitat. Possibilities include prescribed fires, roller chopping, hydro-axing, reseeding and prescribed grazing.

While it could be several years before biologists pin down the problem and then begin to try to solve it, DOW biologists are optimistic they are on the right track. The studies on the Uncompahgre Plateau are slated to continue for the next several years.

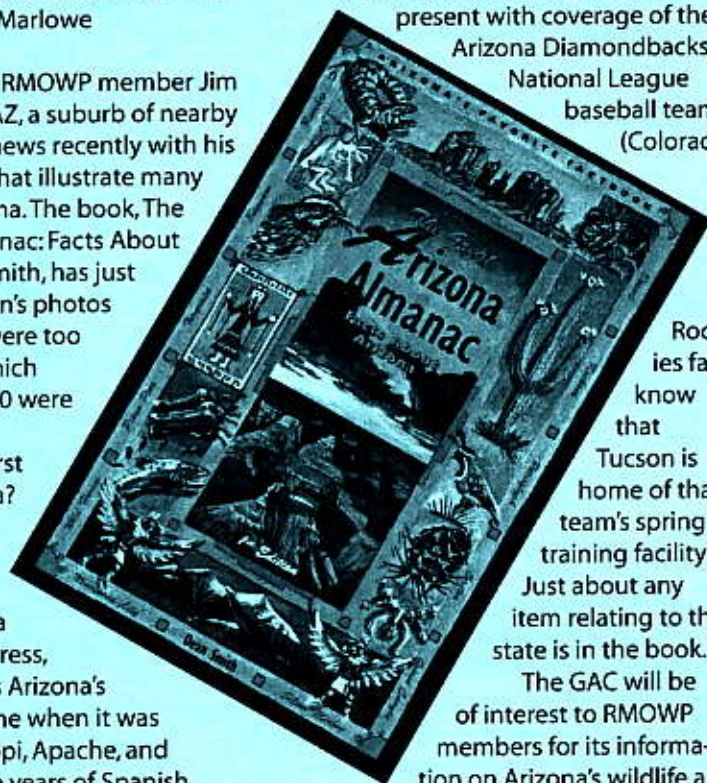
### RMOWP Member's Photos In AZ Book

By Al Marlowe

On-again-off-again RMOWP member Jim Tallon, of Phoenix, AZ, a suburb of nearby Ahwatukee, made news recently with his numerous photos that illustrate many attractions of Arizona. The book, *The Great Arizona Almanac: Facts About Arizona*, by Dean Smith, has just been released. Tallon's photos used in the guide were too many to count – which means more than 20 were used.

Who was the first governor of Arizona? The answer will be found in *The Great Arizona Almanac: Facts About Arizona* (GAC), WestWinds Press, Portland, OR, covers Arizona's history, from the time when it was occupied by the Hopi, Apache, and Navajo, through the years of Spanish

exploration and on up to the present with coverage of the Arizona Diamondbacks National League baseball team. (Colorado



Rocks fans know that Tucson is home of that team's spring training facility) Just about any item relating to the state is in the book.

The GAC will be of interest to RMOWP members for its information on Arizona's wildlife and

flora. Those interested in gold will be able to read about the Lost Dutchman gold mine in the Superstition Mountains. By the way, the mine really is lost – no one has yet determined its location though many have searched.

How many are aware that steamboats once transported freight and passengers on the Colorado River? The information is in the GAC, along with the names of the boats. There are few who have not heard of Grand Canyon National Park, but if you want to know of Arizona's state parks, you'll need to look them up in GAC. Incidentally, Tallon told me that when he worked at the Grand Canyon a frequent question he was asked was, "Is the Grand Canyon in Arizona?"

Anyone with an interest in Arizona should get this book. The information it contains is worth far more than the \$12.95 price tag.

And in case you were wondering, the first governor of Arizona was George W. P. Hunt, who served from 1912 - 1917.



## Supporting Member News

### Tackle Logic Has New Web Site

It's here, the Tackle Logic web site is now on-line. Go to [www.tacklelogic.com](http://www.tacklelogic.com) to find the latest tips from Tackle Logic professional anglers such as three-time B.A.S.S. Angler of the Year Kevin Van Dam. You'll also find information on our expanding Tackle Logic product offerings and our ever-changing Product Spotlight. Our classified page is the place to sell a boat or buy used fishing tackle. There's also a listing of professional guide services and how to contact them to book a trip. There's even a contest and the monthly winner gets a \$50 Tackle Logic storage system. This and much more is waiting for you at [www.tacklelogic.com](http://www.tacklelogic.com). Check us out today!

### Waterfowl Hunters Enjoy Historic Success

CONTACT: Laura Houseal  
(901) 758-3764

MEMPHIS, November 14 -According to numbers published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), today's waterfowl hunters are spending more time in the field and bagging more birds than any other time in modern history. Although the total number of active adult hunters remains relatively low, those who do hunt are setting new standards for North America's waterfowling sport. The FWS estimates that during the 1999-2000 waterfowl season, hunters in the United States spent an average of nine days in the field and harvested approximately 10 ducks and 2 geese each. In total, hunters spent 14.3 million days in the fields and harvested more than 15 million ducks--down only 7 percent from the previous season's all-time high. The 1999-2000 estimated goose harvest for the U.S. was 3 million birds, also only slightly below last year's all-time high.

"Waterfowl populations have increased steadily since 1993 as a result of favorable weather conditions on their breeding grounds, government-sponsored programs, and habitat restoration and enhancement work by DU and others

across North America," says Dr. Steve Adair, Director of Conservation Programs for Ducks Unlimited. "This surge in waterfowl population, coupled with the loss of half of our country's wetlands since 1790 has likely increased recent harvest opportunities by filling remaining wetlands with greater concentrations of birds."

### Walker's Game Ear Adds Eye Protection

Walker's Game Ear, Inc., the people who shooters and hunters have trusted to enhance and protect their hearing for over a decade, have announced a new line of sport glasses to also protect eyes.



Walker's new -ASG-™ All Sports Glasses by UVEX® are ideally suited for all indoor and outdoor conditions. The lightweight, adjustable frame comes packaged with three interchangeable lenses in gray, amber, and clear. The impact and scratch resistant lenses are twenty times stronger than glass and meet the ANSI Z80.3 standard for protection.

For more information contact Kevin Howard, or Blake Shaw, 573-898-3422; or visit [www.WalkersGameEar.com](http://www.WalkersGameEar.com).

### Hot Hands Adds Foot Warmers

A great day on the slopes is all too often cut short because of cold feet. Now you can make tracks all day with



Toasti Toes® air-activated foot warmers by Heatmax®. Toasti Toes are made of natural materials and are shaped to fit comfortably

in ski boots or shoes. Exposure to air activates the foot warmers, which produce heat of about 100 degrees for up to five hours. For more information contact Kevin Howard, or Blake Shaw, 573-898-3422; or visit [www.heatmax.com](http://www.heatmax.com).

### NSSF Ad Campaign Tells Industry's Side

Responding to controversial attacks from municipalities and state and federal government officials, Heritage Fund participants are taking their case to the American people with a strongly worded national communications campaign that underscores the firearm's industry's historical role in defense of our nation and in support of American freedoms. The multimillion dollar campaign, funded and administered by the Hunting and Shooting Sports Heritage Foundation, invokes the names of respected and traditional firearms manufacturers such as Remington, Browning, Winchester, and others. "In a time when certain mayors and federal officials are attempting to make our industry a convenient scapegoat for criminal violence, we feel it is important to reinforce the point that weak enforcement policies, not our products, are the heart of the firearm violence issue," said Robert Delfay, president and chief executive officer of Hunting and Shooting Sports Heritage Foundation. The campaign was launched with a hard-hitting commercial aired during the Republican and Democratic National conventions. "This ad pulls no punches in accusing certain elected officials of dismantling our most basic rights," said Delfay. "What these small number of self-important elected officials are trying to do to a responsible industry is very wrong."