



Rocky Mountain Outdoors

Our
28th Year

Aug./Sept. 2001

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

<http://www.rmowp.org>

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We Are Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers



Today

RMOWPers at Trinity Site, Alamogordo, NM Conference
2001

photo by Jack Olson

Five years ago

RMOWP at Harper and Effie Simms' Rociada, NM,
property at the Las Vegas, NM Conference in 1996.

photo by Jack Olson



Twenty-five years ago

RMOWP group at Lake Powell Conference, Utah,
1976

photo from RMOWP history book



From The President

Calling All Members

by
Russ Bromby



Three months and counting now and no recall petition, I think that's pretty good so far.

I need to beg a little in this issue of *Rocky Mountain Outdoors*. The organization is in need of an Awards Chair. Jeff Pederson did a tremendous job of coordinating the awards program for RMOWP for the past three years. He decided that that was enough and he is now serving as Vice President. But that leaves us with no Awards Chair and we need one. Just hold on a minute and put the phone down and I'll tell you the job description.

The Awards Chair coordinates (read: does the work) for our annual awards competition. She or he (1) arranges for judges of each of the categories; (2) writes an announcement and category

list for the competition in the Feb.-March issue of the newsletter and the web site, including deadline and where and how to submit entries; (3) compiles names of winners and arranges for plaques and certificates to be made; (4) chairs the awards ceremony at the annual meeting (next year in Denver, June 19-22); (5) returns submissions to members who cannot attend the conference; (6) lists award recipients for the newsletter, web site, and other publicity; (7) arranges for Selected Works photography recipient's photo to be enlarged and framed at RMOWP expense and delivered to the conference; (8) delivers a copy of the Selected Works writing submission to the conference.

That doesn't sound too hard, does it? Anyway, we need a volunteer. Please write (Colorado Division of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216, attention: Russ Bromby), call (303-291-7286) or e-mail (russ.bromby@state.co.us) me if you are interested and we can talk. Now pick up the phone.

The other item I need to talk about is the debate about membership qualifications for the organization. Some of you have heard that there has been a lot of discussion about whether or not we should change the membership qualifications. The board of directors will be discussing this issue at our Oct. 6, 2001 board meeting in Avon, Colorado. If you have comments about this subject, let me know. I am not going to move quickly on this, and I want to have input from all our members before a decision is made. After the October board meeting a report on the board's recommendation will be in the newsletter. I'm not sure what the bylaws say on the subject, but I want all members to have a say in a change of this magnitude. If you have comments or questions prior to the October board meeting please let me or one of the other officers or board members know.

And again - we need an Awards Chair - please?

Rocky Mountain Outdoors

Published bimonthly by Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc.

Officers

President: Russ Bromby, Denver, CO
V. President: Jeff Pederson, Santa Fe, NM
Secretary: Anne Sullivan, Datil, NM
Treasurer: Sue Baker, Stillwater, OK

Executive Director

Craig Springer, Edgewood, NM

Newsletter Editor

Maryann Gaug, Silverthorne, CO

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Lee Allen, Tucson, AZ (2003)
Jim Baker, Stillwater, OK (2002)
Bob Good, Leadville, CO (2003)
Dr. Beto Gutierrez, Edinburg, TX (2002)
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Hal Shymkus, Espanola, NM (2002)
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(Supporting)

Web Master

Phil Springer, Rio Rancho, NM

Supporting Member Liaison

Dusty Lee Fullinwider, South Fork, CO

Medical Advisor

Dr. Beto Gutierrez, Edinburg, TX

Awards Chair

Open Position

Past-Presidents' Council

Lee Carr, Chairman, Cedaredge, CO
John Catsis, Stillwater, OK
Kelly Gatlin, Datil, NM
Dr. Beto Gutierrez, Edinburg, TX
Jack Olson, Denver, CO

Scholarship Chair

Jeff Pederson, Santa Fe, NM

Membership Chair

Paul Homan, Colorado Springs, CO

Directory Updates

Note: The web site is your best source for accurate directory listings.

New Addresses

Roger S. Beadle
202 South 1st Ave., Ste. 202
Yuma, AZ 85364

Merrilyn D. Hartman
9519 E. Meadow Brook Ln.
Stillwater, OK 74075

New Addresses cont'd.

Dr. Douglas Yajko, M.D.
1830 Blake Ave., Ste. 202
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

New Member

William Dunn
2301 Algodones NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Rethinking Membership

I'm staring into the ugly face of deadlines and I've got a dreaded affliction. Dare I say it? Writer's block. My heart just hasn't been in it, or maybe my head has been elsewhere.

A mind-body dichotomy does not exist. No way, no how. Folks that get the weeps get physically ill. Get a nasty cold and see if you can think clearly. I can't.

So, when you put pen to paper, are you writing from the head or the heart? The better copy comes from the heart. Writers that pour their hearts on the page get published. I know you know what I'm talking about, when all eight cylinders are firing. Some of my best articles have come from my passions: grouse hunting, cutthroat trout, natural history, and my boy, Carson.

You can't name a better venue for inspiration to write passionately -- about the things that tug at the heart strings than the out-of-doors?

It's that abiding interest in the outdoors, our telling in words and pictures the outdoor story across the Rocky Mountain West that binds us as an association. Our bond is codified in our membership creed.

It reads: "I believe that the profession of outdoor reporting is a trust to be maintained through the dissemination of information in words and illustrations in a dedicated, accurate, and impartial manner. Financial considerations will not influence my judgment or responsibility in the pursuit of facts to be honestly presented."

Think about the wording a moment. "Profession" imparts a sense of "responsibility" which requires sound "judgment," that we be "honest" in what we do with our talents we are "trusted" with.

The creed demands something of me as a communicator, and frankly I find it invigorating to read, much like a full breath of cool mountain air fills the lungs.

The creed may not be the elixir for my current affliction but it reinforces what I already know. It instills a sense of pride and propriety, that I, as a member of RMOWP am entrusted with my talents. It challenges me to "dedicate" my creative energies, to get my heart on paper.

I challenge you to do the same.

Outdoors With The ED

by
Craig Springer



In the scores of queries I've sent out over last year, fewer than five have been stuffed in an envelope. Editors like the simple convenience of email, and recognizing that many of us query by email -- and publish on the Internet -- I've set up online tear sheets at rmowp.org. If you've published online recently, and need to show your editors and art directors your tear sheets, they are now only a click away. Forget the photocopies and the SASEs, direct your clients to the web page. To get your tear sheets online, send recent outdoor story or photo links to phil@rmowp.org.

The streamlined navigation on the web page will make finding other beneficial items easier to find. The Featured Outdoor Story is a place to hawk your wares; this is intended for unpublished stories that should include your contact information. If you've got a camera to sell, or a bird dog to trade in, the classified are available to you.

Feedback on the Photographer of the Month slide show was tremendous. Garold Sneegas' work was well received, and this month's photographer, Jim Tallon, gives Sneegas a run for the money. Go take a gander. September will feature professional wildlife photographer, Lynn Starnes.

Lastly, the RMOWP by-laws are posted online and writer's guidelines are posted as they come to me.

Web Master's Corner

by Phil Springer

Just want to update you on the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers Web Site, www.rmowp.org. Since the last newsletter we have started a few new features for the web site.

I have redesigned the site a little to make the navigation easier. I have also updated photos throughout the entire site with photos from Al Marlowe, Jack Olson, Craig Springer and others including myself. John Catsis sent me a series of photos taken at this year's photo workshop, which I made into a slide presentation on the photo workshop page.

New features:

- Classified Ad Section...we already have something on the site offered by Jim Tallon.
- Photographer of the Month...a slide presentation of photo works of our members. In July it was Garold Sneegas and in August it is Jim Tallon.

- RMOWP Featured Outdoor Story...unpublished works from our talented membership. I would like to get 4-5 stories a month on the site to show your hard work. Maybe a publisher will like what they see.
- RMOWP On-Line Tear Sheets...a feature to list some of your recent online photo and writing credits.
- Press Releases and Writing Opportunities pages have been updated.

I encourage you to take time to go through the web site to see what new stuff we've done...I think you'll like it.

Editor's Note: For those of you without internet/email access, if you have a story or photos you'd like to submit to Phil for the RMOWP web site, please snail mail them to him on an IBM-compatible disk. Unpublished stories must be in Word format (maximum 750 words) and photos in jpeg format. Sorry, no type-written documents (retyping them is inefficient). Please call him first for details: (505) 896-2501.

RMOWP Loses A Founding Member

by Don and Barb Laine

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers has lost a good friend, one who was an inspiration to many of us. RMOWP founding member D. Harper Simms passed away July 14 in Albuquerque at the age of 88. A native of Alamogordo, NM, Harper and his wife, Effie, also a native New Mexican, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 8. Until the past few years Harper was very active in both RMOWP and New Mexico Outdoor Writers and Photographers, and he and Effie hosted RMOWPers for a picnic at their Rociada, NM ranch during our 1996 conference in nearby Las Vegas, New Mexico. Harper was also a longtime member of Outdoor Writers Association of America.

An accomplished author and photographer, Harper is remembered as a kind, soft spoken man who was always willing to share his knowledge and experience with fledgling professionals. His interests included wildlife, hunting, fishing, travel, western history, and natural resource conservation. He authored three books on western history, news features on hunting and fishing in Mexico and New Mexico, and numerous other articles, booklets, and scripts.

Educated at Park College, Missouri; New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (now New Mexico State University), and the University of Missouri, Harper worked as a public information specialist for the Dept. of Agriculture in Albuquerque and Washington, D.C. for 30 years. After retiring in 1968, he and Effie divided their time between Albuquerque, Rociada, and Kino Bay in Mexico.



photo by Jack Olson

Memorial services for Harper were held Saturday, July 21 in Albuquerque. The family has requested that memorial contributions be made in his name to Meals on Wheels, PO Box 92614, Albuquerque, NM 87199, or Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 114 Carlisle Blvd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87103.



Harper Simms at Black Canyon of the Gunnison. 1994

photo by Jack Olson

Memories of Harper Simms

by Jack Olson

Harper Simms was a warm, kind, gentle man. I knew him more as a person than a fine writer, but he was a bedrock of RMOWP. He was a founding member and he did us proud. A most special day was the big lawn picnic we had with Harper and Effie at their Rociada ranch on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. A memory of Harper that will never fade is his expressive face, creased by a warm smile, all the lines going up. A finer man you'll never meet.

Harper Simms, second from left, and wife, Effie, McPhee Reservoir, 1986 (other two not identified)

Lee Allen—New Member and New Board Member

from Lee Allen

New Board Member Lee Allen, a transplanted Vermont Green Mountain boy, now makes his home in the Sonoran Desert city of Tucson, Arizona where he writes about anything involving fur, fins, fangs or feathers.

"And anything else that involves sunshine and fresh air," says Allen, who proves his Yankee heritage by pointing to the first dollar he ever earned in the communications business... a framed 1957 silver certificate hanging on his studio wall.

From radio and TV news to newspaper and magazine reporting to movie roles as a member of the Screen Actor's Guild, he's stayed busy for over four decades.

"Now I get to accept assignment topics that are fun to

research and write," he says. Recent examples include feature stories on gold-panning; trophy bass fishing in Mexico; summer fish kills in shallow western lakes and an advice column on Fitness for Fishing.

In between the outdoor articles, whimsical side trips lead to additional stories about Rock and Roll in the 1960s [Doo Wop Daze]; exploring how smart folks think [Inside the Mensa Mind], and a work-in-progress about the only community Diaper Bank in the country. Between stories, Allen is Arizona Editor for www.OutdoorNet.com, a weekly update of fishing conditions at 40 of the state's most popular waterways.

"This is more fun than an adult should be allowed to have," he says. "Whether you write for a living or because of an intrinsic love of the outdoors that can be captured through words or pictures, the field research is a heck of a job perk."

Craig Springer Lands Editor Job, Bass Column

John Gosselin, publisher of Vermont-based, The Grouse Point Almanac, www.grousepoint.com, named Craig Springer Contributing Editor. After three years writing his natural history column, Notes from the Fieldbook, Springer will take on duties of reporting news related to upland game birds in the West. He will continue to write features on a regular basis. Springer was also tapped in July to write a weekly column on black basses for the sportsmanguide.com.

Jack Olson's Latest Photo Publications

Jack Olson recently had photos published which were made at past RMOWP Conferences. KC Publications just released their latest national park book, Bryce Canyon, the story behind the scenery. Jack had three photos published, including one showing the sun's rays made at the sunrise photo workshop on the rim at the 2000 Conference.

The most interesting photo to the membership, though, might be the one on page 58. It shows a ranger hike and prominently features several of our members: Don and Barb Laine, the Minors, Georgia Colao, Kelly Gatlin, and others yet to be identified.

Jack also had a photo of Biosphere II published in Odyssey Magazine, Chevron's travel magazine. We visited the Biosphere at the Tucson Conference in 1999.

Al Marlowe's Books Listed by OWAA

In the June 2001 *Outdoors Unlimited* (Outdoor Writers Association of America newsletter), three of Al Marlowe's books were described: *A Hiking and Camping Guide to the Flat Tops Wilderness Area*, Fred Pruett Books, Boulder, CO; *Fly Fishing the Flat Tops*, Hidden Lakes Press, Evergreen, CO; and *Fly Fishing The Colorado River: An Angler's Guide*, Pruett Publishing, Boulder, CO. Check out these books if you get a chance!

Life with the Laines

In case any of you are thinking the Laines are taking it easy after their terms as Treasurer and Board member expired, think again. From a recent email: "[We] are totally swamped just now, with 4 books due in the next 3 months plus a building project! Yes, we're out of our minds."

Connie Catsis, Ph.D.

For those of you who didn't attend the Alamogordo conference, John Catsis proudly announced that his wife, Connie, would receive her Ph.D. in Interior Design on August 3, 2001 and was the successful applicant for an assistant professor position at Arizona State University in Tempe. Connie starts her new job teaching interior design this Fall semester. John will finish Fall semester at Oklahoma State University, retire, then join his wife in the Arizona sun.

A note from John: "And you can even say she will earn more than I am, and I am delighted by that! Gives me more time to photograph the outdoors."

Connie is an RMOWP member and an excellent artist. We wish you the best in your new job, Dr. Connie!



Jim Baker auctioning a Connie Catsis painting in Alamogordo.
photo by Maryann Gaug

Report from the 2001 RMOWP Photo Workshop by John Catsis

Despite a low turnout of five participants for the 2001 workshop, it was the most successful in terms of subject matter captured on film. Three participants managed to get shots of five three-quarter-to-full-curl bighorn rams from less than 100 yards away. Two student photographers captured grazing elk along Trail Ridge Road from less than 200 yards away.

On another day, three photographers exposed dozens of frames of two bird nests, featuring different woodpecker species, from less than 12 feet away. The nests had been located by Tom Ulrich, who is one of America's leading wildlife photographers. At the same time, two others were at Sprague Lake, where a

curious bull elk approached a participant and asked to be petted. He was, while the other clicked away!

The next day, John Catsis was resting on the shore of Sprague Lake when a duck and four of her babies swam ashore less than eight feet away and proceeded to take a 20-minute rest. Catsis burned two rolls on that good fortune.

Meanwhile, Jack Olson had plenty of opportunity to lead students to colorful flowers that were blooming throughout Rocky Mountain National Park.

These experiences are typical of RMOWP photo workshops. One of those attending was Ruth Raupe, who joined RMOWP at the Bryce Canyon conference last year. This year, two more participants indicated they would join our group.

New Books by RMOWP Members

Jay Warburton's *The Big Fifty*

Jay S. Warburton has published his first novel, *The Big Fifty*. From his flyer: "The language was unique, the love was simple, the excitement was real and the cars were special. The Big Fifty will take you to those times." Based in Colorado around a wealthy community "on the hill," the story revolves around a hockey team down in the valley and the first teenage gang in the city.

Warburton has published hundreds of feature articles in 52 national magazines and has produced over 40 full-length film and video productions.

The book is available at Barnes & Noble Bookstores, www.bn.com, Amazon.com, or directly from Jay for \$17.50 at: The Big Fifty, 412 Camino Real, Ft. Collins, CO 80524.



The Pet Set, by James E. Baker, D.V.M.

Jim Baker, an RMOWP Board member, has just published his first book, *The Pet Set, Stories About Pets & People*. Illustrated and edited by his wife, Sue, RMOWP's Treasurer, and with echo poems by John Jobe, the book is a collection of short "stories [that] were first written as weekly articles in the local newspaper" according to the book's Introduction.

Contact Jim at 1024 Oak Ridge, Stillwater, OK 74074, (405) 372-7254 if you'd like to buy a copy.

2001 RMOWP Directory Is Here!

Hopefully each of you found the latest and greatest RMOWP membership directory tucked inside this newsletter. If you didn't, please give Maryann Gaug a holler at 970-468-6219 or maryann@rmowp.org.

Please carefully check your listing, and if there are any corrections, including email addresses or phone numbers, please contact Phil Springer ASAP at 505-896-2501 or phil@rmowp.org. Phil is our membership database guru.

RMOWP History Books Available

RMOWP has an interesting binder with pictures, past conference information, award winners, and a lot of history from 1973 to 1995. If anyone has not received a copy, please contact Anne Sullivan and she'll mail you one. Anne can be reached at (505) 772-5509.

News from Other Outdoor Writer and Photographer Groups

Take Advantage of this Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity!

New Mexico Outdoor Writers and Photographers cordially invites all members of RMOWP to attend their 2001 Fall Conference on September 7 - 9 in Pie Town, New Mexico.

See and photograph the wonder of the Pie Town Pie Festival. Tour the Very Large Array Radio Telescope (where RMOWP Historian Kelly Gatlin works). Visit the house where Agnes Morley Cleaveland lived. Enjoy meals in Magdalena, Datil, and Pie Town as well as a picnic breakfast in Swingle Canyon. Eat pie.

Call or write Anne Sullivan for registration and housing information. PO Box 132, Datil, NM 87821 (505) 772-5509.

Editor's Note: At the Alamogordo Conference, Kelly Gatlin displayed an article he wrote about Pie Town along with digital photos he took there. The article was published in "American Profile Magazine."

From Florida Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc.

From an email sent to Craig Springer:

Good day: Thank you for sending me the *Rocky Mountain Outdoors* newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc. I am taking the liberty of adding your name and address to our mailing list for our newsletter, *The REPORTER*.

In the past FOWA has offered other outdoor writers the opportunity to attend our annual fall conferences. This year we will be meeting Sept. 5 through 8 at the South Seas Resort, Captiva Island (on the southwest coast of Florida). Information on this is also on our website, www.fowa.org.

Again, thank you for sending us your newsletter. I believe that networking is very important and hope we will keep in touch. Nancy J. Scharmach, E.D., FOWA

Editor's Note: For those of you without internet access, you can contact FOWA about their conference at: FOWA, 411 N.E. 18th Ave., Ocala, FL 34470 or phone (352) 236-1177.

2002 RMOWP Photo Workshop Date Change

by John Catsis

A scheduling conflict has caused the 2002 RMOWP Photo Workshop at Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado to be moved up. The new dates are June 5 - 9, 2002. The base of operations remains the popular YMCA of the Rockies, located just outside picturesque Estes Park, Colorado.

This will be the fifth straight year that the photo workshop has been held at the same location, primarily because of the ready availability of wildlife, scenery, slide processing and airline connections.

For the third straight year, instructors Jack Olson, Tom Ulrich and John Catsis have agreed to serve on the workshop faculty.

Jack's Jaunts Shuttle Happens

By Jack Olson



I recently visited Zion National Park on the way to the OWAA meeting in St. George, Utah. I'd heard that the National Park Service was operating shuttles into Zion Canyon, the most popular region of the park, and wanted to ride the shuttle and document the experience. I was prepared to be unhappy about this interference with my independence.

You know, the shuttle wasn't that bad. They have a big new visitor center near the campground outside Springdale. There's a huge parking area around the center, with more parking in the town when the big parking area fills up. Shuttles leave every six minutes between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM; at hours before and



Zion Shuttle

photo by Jack Olson

after this peak time, you still don't have a long wait. The shuttle stops at all the trailheads and Zion Lodge. Only visitors registered at the Lodge are allowed to drive into the canyon and they must leave their cars there. Even park employees must use the shuttle.

The thing I really liked was the lack of traffic and noise along the canyon road. And when we pulled into the Weeping Rock parking area, there were NO OTHER VEHICLES. If you've been to Zion, you know what a surprise that was. The last time I was there, cars were jammed into the lot and parked illegally down the road.

The fact is, we nature lovers have just crowded our parks to overflowing. The shuttles are one answer to this problem. And it's not just in Zion. Shuttles are now a feature of the Bear Lake Road and some trailheads in Rocky Mountain National Park, the south rim of Grand Canyon, and Yosemite Valley. All of these shuttles are free. For visitors who need them, handicap vehicles are available.

In Rocky Mountain, riding a shuttle is not mandatory, as it is at Zion and Grand Canyon. But Bear Lake is terribly crowded in the summertime and finding a parking place after 9:00 AM is a crapshoot. Shuttles leave campgrounds and a lower parking area every 6-8 minutes at peak time. An added advantage of using the shuttle is that you can start a hike at one trailhead and make a loop, ending at another trailhead, where the shuttle picks you up. It's an alternative to hiking into the backcountry and retracing your steps back to your car.

A friend of mine just got back from Yosemite and reported that the shuttle circles the valley, making about twenty stops at trailheads, campgrounds, waterfalls, the visitor center, lodges, and shops. He said use of the shuttles is encouraged, but not mandatory. The shuttles in effect become mandatory when parking lots are full.

In our most popular parks we're going to have to get used to restrictions, such as shuttles and backcountry reservations. They're all that the youth following us will know. Of course, we can always visit Death Valley in the summer.....

Newsletter Notes

by Maryann Gaug

Attention, all you writers!!

I'm not complaining, but I've been receiving lots of photo tips and articles from various members. I included two this month and have several more in reserve for future months. Craig Springer writes in his column about writing from the heart. So, writers, how about sharing some hints and tips or articles about writing? Here are a few ideas, and I know you'll think of others.

- share your favorite or worst story about dealing with an editor.
- what did you do to convince an editor your story was worth publishing?
- what are your experiences about reading back issues to help you write a good query letter?
- what are the differences, if any, between writing for a magazine and writing for a newspaper?

Now pick up your pens, er, turn on your computers, and share some how-to-write and how-to-sell-articles information with your fellow RMOWPers.

Book Authors and Photographers

Let me know when your book has been published or where your photos are appearing so I can put it in the newsletter to share with other members. Not only is it nice to give you recognition, but it also gives inspiration to members just starting, or still struggling, in our business.

If you're not on the internet yet...

Because not everyone is on the internet or has email, we've tried to add information about how you, too, can have your articles and photos published on our web site. We hope you will take advantage of our web site. And next time you're visiting a friend with internet access or are in a library with internet computers for use, log on to www.rmowp.org and see what's new in RMOWP.

Next Newsletter after October Board Meeting

The next newsletter will be published after the October Board meeting on October 6 in Avon, CO. That way you'll have the latest and greatest news from your Board and Officers. If you have any thoughts, be sure to share them with someone who will be attending before they head to Colorado's high country.

**Deadline for Oct./Nov. 2001 newsletter will be :
October 14, 2001**

Send articles and photos to Maryann
email: maryann@rmowp.org,
fax: 801-991-8686, phone 970-468-6219 or
mail: PO Box 2842, Silverthorne, CO 80498-2842

Photographer's First Aid Kit

by Dr. Beto Gutierrez, RMOWP Medical Advisor

The seasoned nature photographer leaned softly against the gnarled mesquite tree, adjusted his tripod, and waited for the elusive Painted Bunting to show again. The bird returned and the shot was made. That afternoon the published shutterbug called me at home complaining of small welts on his neck and upper back. They were itching and he was scratching. His wife applied Aloe Vera crème with little effect.

"Doc, will I catch Hantavirus or Lyme Disease from this? I can't stand the itching and they are getting bigger."

I calmed him down and told him to come over so I could better assess his problem. He arrived a few minutes later, still upset but not in critical condition. A quick visual inspection revealed numerous insect bites on his neck and upper back. He had raised red welts commonly seen with ants, chiggers, etc. I advised over the counter steroid crème and Benadryl tablets after taking a good lathering shower. I explained he was reacting more than usual to common tree ants and there was no worry, as they lack dangerous toxin. He called the next day feeling better and thanked me for helping him. The photographer asked me to compile a list of supplies for a first aid kit he was putting together. "I'll carry it with me from now on when I go out photographing in the woods."

I feel all persons engaging in outdoor activities whether hunting, hiking, fishing, photography, or bird watching should carry a few basic items in case of minor injuries or other urgent

medical problems. It would be nice to carry every item necessary to use in every medical situation, but it isn't feasible or economical for most people. Unless you carry a photographer's black curse, you should be able to handle most medical problems with the following items in your backpack.

First one needs to buy a small box or container to hold the supplies. I found that a fishing tackle box made of clear plastic such as those manufactured by Plano in the 6 x 8 inch size is spacey enough. This box should hold enough supplies for a couple of hikers or photographers. A group of outdoor enthusiasts would need a bigger container for more supplies. I especially like clear plastic boxes due to visualization of the supplies. You don't have to grope around looking for tape as you would in a canvas or dark plastic container or bag.

The following items are over the counter sales and do not require a physician's signature. They can be bought in most retail stores or well-stocked grocery outlets.

Occasionally I prescribe an antibiotic for persons who suffer from frequent sinus infections, bladder infections, etc. However, I do not routinely give antibiotics for preventive measures.

The list I outlined should help treat common ailments or injuries in your trek through the woods. A fever lasting more than two days, chest pains, especially in a smoker, or stomach discomfort of severity to make you sit down raises a red flag and medical attention is warranted.

There are other items people with special needs and wants can include at their pleasure. It is better to be prepared for an unfortunate medical problem when trekking in the wild looking for that cover photo.

Gauze pads 4 x 4 inch size—for abrasions and small lacerations
Aspirin or Tylenol—for pain or discomfort
Sunscreen lotion—recommended especially if very light skinned
Band-Aids—multiple uses
Antiseptic crème—Neosporin, Bactroban, etc.
Benadryl—allergic reactions, hay fever
Dramamine tables—for nausea, motion sickness
Imodium AD or Pepto-Bismol—for diarrhea or upset stomach
Cortisone crème—for minor rashes, insect bites, mild sunburn
Ace bandage—for sprains and/or immobilizing joints
Insect repellant—a lifesaver sometimes
Antacids—Pepcid AC, Mylanta, Maalox
Visine eye drops—for irritated or tired eyes
Tape—1 inch, several important uses
Large safety pins—excellent for tying things together

Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Card

by Maryann Gaug

It's the end of a long day hiking in the backcountry taking scenic photos. Suddenly the unthinkable happens. Your ankle twists on a rock and you hear a sickening "Crack." Now you're six miles from the trailhead. You tape your ankle with tape from the above 1st Aid kit. With luck your cell phone actually has coverage and you call 911. In a couple of hours, the friendly search and rescue (SAR) group shows up, transports you to the trailhead, and an ambulance whisks you away.

Who pays for the rescue? In Colorado each county sheriff is charged with SAR responsibilities. Neither the all-volunteer SAR

groups nor the sheriffs typically charge for rescue, unless the rescuee was extremely negligent. Your medical insurance covers the ambulance ride and medical expenses.

But how does the SAR group and sheriff's office fund their rescue equipment and training? The sheriff's office uses county tax money to offset costs and help the SAR groups. Usually it's a very small amount, and can be quickly expended if several helicopter searches are required. SAR groups are non-profit and hold fundraisers and write grant proposals, hopefully successful ones. What if they damaged a litter or vehicle during your rescue?

Colorado has a Search and Rescue Fund, which receives \$0.25 of each hunting and fishing license, OHV, snowmobile, and boat registration. If the rescued person owns one of those, the (continued on page 10)

Photo Tips

by Jon Sheppard

We all love to get out and take gorgeous pictures of grand vistas and beautiful wildlife. So after getting the pictures back from the photo lab they look, well, kind of mediocre. The elk looks more like a black ghost. The scene of the mountains image is half over exposed or underexposed. Or, "I went to a camera store and this is what I bought. How does it work?"

Let's start at the beginning. Most people today shoot 35mm film. This is the most economical system to use. What kind of film do you want to use? What is the end means for the images? Is it for family and friends to view? Does it go to a magazine or book? There are color negative, black & white negative, or color slide films. It all depends on what you want. With scanners and low cost color printers, color negative films are a great way to go. Digital we will discuss later.

So first things first. Let's get organized.

- Where are you going? What are you going to shoot? Know your goals.
- Or, "shoot from the hip" traveling along and you see a beautiful shot.
- Research your areas. Is it a morning or evening shot setting? Plan ahead.
- Keep a list of all your equipment. Keep a copy with you and one at home.
- Instruction booklets for your equipment are essential.
- Carry an extra bag for nonessential items.
- Bring lots of film and extra batteries.
- Keep all equipment in the same place all the time, in your car also.
- Bring waterproof covers and containers for all equipment.
- Keep zippers closed. You don't want equipment falling out of your bag.
- Loose tripod legs mean trouble. When in use make sure legs are tight.
- Be careful when you are carrying your camera on a tripod. Make certain that your camera is locked down tight and all safety locks are on. Carry your camera and tripod across your chest or over the shoulder.
- Remember that the camera is either loaded or empty. Make certain that your film is really rewound before opening the back.
- Always check the settings that you use: ISO speeds, programming, shutter, or aperture priority, etc.
- Remember to keep everything organized

Suggested equipment list

- Carrying bag
- 28-70 zoom
- 70-300 zoom
- Circular polarizer
- Sunset filter, warming filter, other filters
- Close-up or Macro lens
- Cable release or use the self timer function
- Cleaning cloth and/or air can
- Tripod
- Flash unit and extension cord for flash
- Small flashlight
- Note pad to record important information
- Pen, pencil, sharpie

Jon Sheppard is a new Board member. He had some great influences while growing up. As a young adult he pursued

underwater photography in the tropical Caribbean. In Nashville Jon did television production as a camera man. Now in the high country of Colorado, he has two award winning photography books: *Someday in a Place Out West* and *Always Colorado*. You can reach Jon at:

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Web Wanderings

by Phil Springer

I review web sites related to our fields of endeavor and interests. The links to these sites and other resources are located on our web site www.rmowp.org under "Links and Resources." Please inform me of any other sites that you believe could be helpful or of interest to the membership of RMOWP. I will review them and as Webmaster, I will post them on our web site. Please send me the links at phil@rmowp.org.

Al Tompkins' Morning Meeting (Al Tompkins is the Broadcast/Online Leader at The Poynter Institute.)
poynter.org/morningmeeting/index.htm.

If you want tips regarding Journalism and Photojournalism this site is a great source. You must go through this one...
poynter.org/dj/tips/index.htm.



Remember waiting in line for a toilet that didn't work well?
White Sands Missile Range—2001 Alamogordo Conference
digital photo by Kelly Gatlin

Freelancers Win in the Supreme Court

On Monday, June 25, the Supreme Court handed a 7-2 victory to six freelancers who sued The New York Times, Newsday, Time Inc. and other publishers over inclusion of their work in electronic databases.

Publishers now have to obtain permission from writers before posting their material online. The ruling mainly affects articles, photographs, and illustrations produced before freelancer's contracts provided for their material to be used electronically.

The lawsuit had flipped flopped from ruling for publishers to ruling for freelancers in two lower courts.

Summarized from www.msnbc.com/news/592017.asp.

This article is the third in a series of three. Last month's article discussed film choice, film protection, and tripods.

Theft is always on the mind of those of us who travel with our expensive photographic equipment, so it is best to be prepared before you leave the house. How can we protect ourselves against this all too familiar problem?

First, insurance is cheap! Make sure that you have adequate coverage for both your equipment and yourself before leaving home. Unfortunately most people rely on their homeowner's policy to cover things such as equipment theft. However, many times this coverage is woefully lacking, and it is best to purchase an "add on" or "floater" policy for your equipment. Even then, shop around. You may find that an equipment specific policy is cheaper than a floater on your homeowners. Also, the little extra that a "current replacement value" policy costs is well worth the added expense.

Second, to help deter theft, carry your equipment with you at all times. In some instances this may be impractical, but when you can it is best to keep your equipment with you where you can personally keep an eye on it.

If it is impossible to carry all of your equipment with you at all times, then do everything that you can to make it as inconspicuous as possible. In particular, avoid those fancy aluminum and plastic camera cases have "steal me" written all over them in bold capital letters. Instead, consider packing your equipment in a piece of well-padded soft-sided luggage. In this manner it will appear to be a normal set of traveling luggage instead of expensive photographic equipment.

Third, while on location it is very important to remain cognizant of your surroundings, always thinking ahead. For example, after a tiring day of filming, do not go into the local café and set your camera on a table or dangle it from a chair. Once, in Thailand, after completing our assignment, another photographer friend of mine and I decided to treat ourselves to a quiet meal and a cool drink in one of the many roadside cafes that are found throughout Bangkok. I had been carrying my camera, spare lenses and film in a rather shabby looking fanny pack, which I was able to leave strapped around my waist. My partner did not have a carrying case and had simply worked all day with his camera around his neck. Upon entering the café, he set his camera down on the chair next to him. Upon completion of our small celebration he turned to retrieve his camera only to find that it had disappeared, even though it had been in plain sight the

whole time. It only takes a small distraction and a few seconds for your equipment to make good its escape.

No matter how you are traveling or at what point you are at while on assignment, don't leave your equipment in plain view where it can be easily stolen. Keep it out of sight and secured. After all, as the old saying goes, "out-of-sight, out-of-mind," and therefore, not as tempting to would-be thieves.

If you are traveling outside of the US, passing through customs in another country can be a trying experience. The most likely problem will arise when it comes to proving when and where you purchased your equipment, especially if it is relatively new. If you cannot provide a copy of the documentation pertaining to your purchase, the customs inspector may be well within his rights to impose a sometimes exorbitant duty on your equipment.

Therefore, it is best to attempt to prevent this type of problem by carrying documentation proving that you possessed your equipment prior to starting your trip. This proof can be in the form of sales receipts or a copy of an insurance policy equipment listing. If you are unable to find all of your sales receipts you can go to the customs office at your local airport and request a form to register your equipment with the customs department. Complete this form with as much detailed information as possible, such as make, model, serial numbers, identifying marks, etc, and then have the customs department stamp the form. The extra half-hour or hour you take to have this done could be a trip saver later on.

Finally, heat is probably the worst weather related problem that you will encounter in your travels, especially if you are traveling by auto. Never leave your equipment baking in a superheated trunk or direct sunlight such as on a dashboard. It is best to place your equipment in a cool shady spot. When the inside of your vehicle is air-conditioned, it is best to keep it inside with you. If you must leave your equipment in an unattended vehicle for an extended length of time, then it will be necessary to insure its protection from extreme heat. My favorite method is to place my equipment and film into a cooler or ice chest. One word of caution on using a cooler, be sure to use waterproof bags to protect your equipment from excessive moisture. A good rule of thumb to remember, if it is uncomfortable for you, then it is uncomfortable for your equipment.

Well, now you know how to properly prepare your equipment, you are ready to travel. Have a safe and productive trip. Until next time.

CORSAR card cont'd from page 8

sheriff can apply for and be reimbursed for damaged equipment, volunteers' meals, or other expenses from the SAR Fund.

You don't have any of the above. The litter was damaged carrying you out. You've either just cost the taxpayers some money or caused the SAR group to raise more funds. Well, mainly because sportsmen complained that hikers, bikers, skiers, and climbers were being rescued but not paying into the Fund, the legislature created the Colorado Hiking Certificate in 1996. Costing \$1 per year, \$0.25 went into the SAR Fund and \$0.75 went to Colorado Division of Wildlife. Due to complaints and other problems, the legislature created the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (CORSAR) card in 2001, effective July 1, to replace the Hiking Certificate. Note multi-year hiking certificates still help until their expiration date. The CORSAR card costs \$3 per year with \$2 going into the SAR Fund and \$1

staying with the vendor, which can be a SAR group or other outdoor group to help raise funds.

If you roam Colorado's backcountry on two wheels or feet and don't hunt or fish, buy a CORSAR card to help SAR groups. Money left in the SAR Fund at year's end is awarded to sheriff's departments through grant proposals for SAR groups' training and rescue equipment. It's not insurance for you, but it helps fund needed equipment and training for dedicated SAR volunteers.

RMOWP Patches and Mugs On Sale

Official RMOWP patches and mugs are available for \$9.95 a set including shipping. Email Craig Springer or call him at (505) 286-1770. The red, green, and blue patch is the logo on the newsletter's first page. The mug, designed by member Connie Catsis, has the logo and various petroglyph type figures on it.

Supporting Member News

From Forbes Darby, American Sportfishing Association **Fighting Back Against No-Fishing Zones** *ASA's Freedom to Fish Act Introduced in Congress*

Public access to the nation's ocean and coastal resources is being seriously threatened by the increased use of marine protected areas. Angered by this proposition, the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) and the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) worked closely with Congressional leaders on legislation to protect America's 12 million saltwater anglers. Yesterday [August 5, 2001], Senators John Breaux (LA) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) reintroduced this legislation as the *Freedom to Fish Act* (S. 1314).

From California to Florida, no fishing zones are increasingly becoming the marine resource management tool of choice. While recreational anglers account for just 2% of all the fish landed in U.S. ocean waters, some environmental groups are calling for sport fishing to be eliminated in anywhere from 5% to 20% of U.S. coastal waters. These arbitrary figures have nothing to do with good science contend the supporters of the *Freedom to Fish Act*.

"The proponents of arbitrarily closing off these areas should be ashamed of themselves for short changing America's conservation-minded anglers," says Mike Nussman, ASA vice president. "Many no-fishing zones ban recreational fishing even when the science clearly shows that anglers are not causing a problem to the resource. That's just not smart management."

Nussman goes on to point out that recreational anglers already are managed by a strict set of regulations ranging from closed seasons to catch limits to size limits and that when enforced correctly, these regulations have proven to be effective at ensuring healthy fish stocks.

"Time and area closures can be effective management tools when based on good scientific data," said David Cummins, President of CCA, "but arbitrary restriction of recreational anglers merely displaces fishing effort, increases regulatory confusion, increases user group conflicts and casts doubt on the entire fishery management process."

Blanket marine closures take away the single most important element to sport fishing – the public's access to the water. The *Freedom to Fish Act* would establish common sense guidelines and safeguards to preserve the public's freedom to use and enjoy these resources.

According to the legislation, only in those cases where recreational fishing has demonstrable adverse effects could a specific, well-defined area be closed. Further, once established targets were achieved, that area would reopen immediately to recreational anglers.

"Restricting public admission to our coastal waters should not be our first course of action, but rather our last," concluded Senator Breaux.

Take action! Support the *Freedom to Fish Act*! Visit <http://www.asafishing.org/programs/govtaffairs/> and write your member of Congress urging them to sign on to the *Freedom to Fish Act* (S.1314). Your five minutes will make an enormous difference.

For more information, e-mail fdarby@asafishing.org or call (703) 519-9691.

Rural Tourism Project Sponsors Travel Writer FAM Tour Of Historic Sierra County, New Mexico

Stops Include Silver Mining Ghost Towns, Natural Hot Springs, Bath Houses, Historic Museum, Elephant Butte Lake

LAS CRUCES, NM – A travel writer familiarization tour of historic Sierra County, New Mexico will be conducted Tuesday, September 18 through Thursday, September 20, 2001. The tour is sponsored by the Rural Economic Development Through Tourism (REDTT) Project, which is based at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, N.M.

The tour itinerary will be as follows:

Tuesday, September 18, 2001

3 pm: Welcome and reception: **Geronimo Springs Museum**, 211 Main St., Truth or Consequences, NM. Learn about pre-historic Sierra County, including the T-Rex, and how this town got its unusual name.

6 pm: Dinner at **Sierra Grande Lodge and Health Spa**, 501 McAdoo, T or C. Learn about T or C's newest dining and lodging facility, which is one of the finest and most elegant in southern New Mexico. Learn about **hot mineral baths** which are scattered throughout downtown T or C.

Overnight at **Quality Inn in Elephant Butte, NM**. Learn about one of New Mexico's newest towns and the nearby lake that is the largest and most popular state park in New Mexico.

Wednesday, September 19, 2001

9 am: Visit **historic Sierra County ghost towns**. Cuchillo was founded in the 1850s and named for Cuchillo Negro (Black Knife), a local Apache leader. Then, it's on to the **Pioneer Store Museum** and a tour of **Chloride, N.M.**

3 pm: Tour downtown Truth or Consequences, including another hot mineral bath.

Overnight at **Quality Inn in Elephant Butte**.

Thursday, September 20, 2001

9 am: Visit **Elephant Butte Lake State Park**, Elephant Butte, N.M. Cruise the lake on a luxury houseboat and learn how the lake was built in 1911 (then the largest man-made lake in the world) by the Bureau of Reclamation. Learn about the towns that were flooded out of existence when the lake was built. See the outcropping that gives the lake and the town their names.

Noon: Tour **Oasis Golf Resort and Cabana Restaurant**, Elephant Butte, NM.

Truth or Consequences is located about 125 miles northwest of El Paso, Texas and about 150 miles south of Albuquerque, N.M. It is located along Interstate 25 and the Rio Grande.

For more information about the tour or the county or to sign up for the FAM, contact

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