



Rocky Mountain Outdoors

Our
28th Year

Oct./Nov. 2001

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

www.rmowp.org

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Times of Our Lives

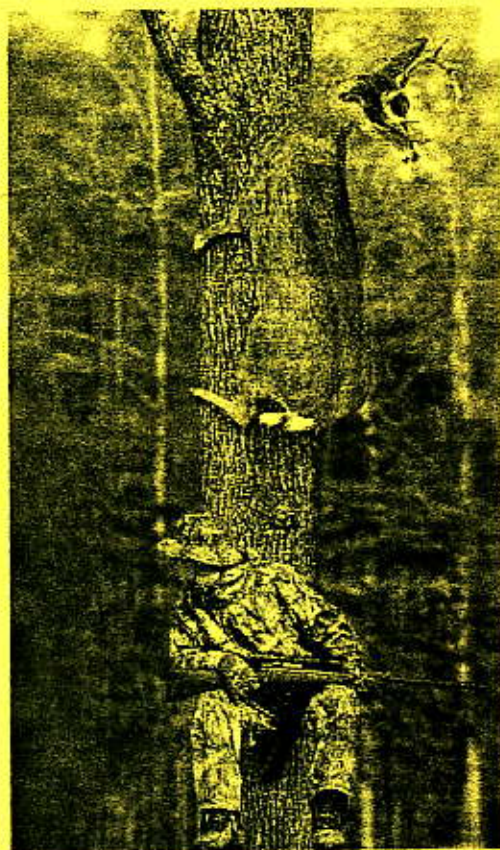


Photo from Kelly Gatlin

"The hunter photo is a real scene I photographed near my home. We have a reputation here for very smart deer and very dumb hunters! Actually, I got it from someone else as I recall." Kelly said he doesn't know how this photo was created.

Feeling a little uptight and out of sorts these days?

Ron Hellbusch shares timely thoughts about these interesting times on page 4. Hopefully we can find comfort in our professions and share the joy of the natural world to help our readers and ourselves with the healing process.

This little hummingbird sat on the feeder support for a long time looking ever so cold after a snowstorm in Colorado's high country on September 7 and 8, 2001.



Photo by Maryann Gaug

From The President

Potpourri

by
Russ Bromby



Remembering What's Important

Since my last message the world has changed. The events of September 11 have altered the way we think about everything. And some days it's still hard to think of anything else but the continuing tragedy. Some days it still seems unreal. That it couldn't possibly have happened. That we will wake up from this nightmare. But this is our new reality and we will have to learn to cope and move forward by remembering what's important in our lives.

RMOWP Board Meeting Cancelled

Regretfully, I had to cancel our October 6 board meeting in Avon. For a variety of reasons, many board members and officers were unable to attend and we would not have had a quorum to act

on the business of our organization. My thanks to Jon Sheppard who made the arrangements for the meeting, and my apologies for having to cancel it. The board and officers will conduct business by correspondence, e-mail and telephone. The discussion of membership standards will be delayed until the board meetings at the annual conference June 19-22, 2002.

Board Approves 2002 Photo Workshop

Even in absence of an actual meeting, the RMOWP Board has voted to continue the Photo Workshop for 2002. This was done by e-mail and phone-in votes in early October. John Catsis has conducted the annual Photo Workshop for four years. This year's Photo Workshop will be held in the Rocky Mountain National Park area June 5-9. Instructors are Tom Ulrich, Jack Olson and John Catsis. If you know of someone who might be interested in signing up for this terrific opportunity, have them contact John Catsis. The number of participants is limited, so sign up early!

Awards Chair Appointed

Long-time member and current board member Ron Hellbusch of Westminster, Colorado has graciously volunteered to chair the awards program this year. Anyone wishing to assist Ron with the effort should feel free to contact him. I really appreciate Ron stepping forward to volunteer for this very important job in our organization. The awards presentations are always a highlight of the annual meeting. Look for information on competition categories and deadlines in an upcoming newsletter.

That's about it for this message. Maybe I'm not too inspired right now or maybe it's just very busy at the Division of Wildlife during hunting seasons this year. Be kind to one another.

Rocky Mountain Outdoors

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

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Paul Homan, Colorado Springs, CO

Words cannot convey the incredible void I feel since the terrorist attack on this great country. I feel violated. President Bush has urged us to get back to normal. We should. Easier said than done. The terrorist attack hit especially close to home; a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service wildlife biologist, Richard Guadagno, 38, was aboard Flt 93 that crashed in the Pennsylvania woods. A letter from Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, intimated that Guadagno was part of the group of heroic men that prevented the terrorists from flying into Washington. Guadagno was after all a law man.

Since September 11, the shock wave of the attack has reverberated through our lives and our economy. The stock market felt an immediate crunch, a "correction" as they call it -- an odd term I must say for an event that loses people money.

A month after the terrorist attack, the market has rebounded, perhaps showing our resolve as Americans. Other measures of the economy show things on edge. Spending is down. Some states have cut budgets in the face of reduced spending by you and me. And that is also showing itself in the dot-com world. Though some analysts say the slow down showed itself well over a year ago, it's really evident today. If you've been writing for outdoor web sites, it may be evident in your revenues.

Alloutdoors.com took a fall over the summer. Several RMOWP members had produced copy for this web site for a few years. They paid on time and did their business by contract (as we always should). But in the face of a slowing economy, they went south leaving some of us high and dry. You can't get water out of a stone, but with unpaid contracts, perhaps there is some recourse.

One of our supporting members, eAngler.com is still online, but is not buying copy at present. In fact, they are still hawking products but all of the feature stories have been removed. When that may change I have not learned.

World Wide Angler.com, a top-notch fishing web site also went bye-bye. It seemed to have the ingredients for success, but something may have been missing from the mix. That component may have been products to sell. According to David Eders, head of the outdoor web site eders.com, web sites that relied mostly on advertising have been hit hardest.

by
Craig Springer



"The market isn't as big as we thought," Eders told me. "Web sites without a second line of revenue -- a product to sell -- couldn't stay alive."

Frank Ross, editor of Cabelas.com, corroborated the notion of advertising failing to pay the bills. According to Ross, web sites with editorial content and no product won't last.

"The new economy is nothing new at all," said Ross. "You still have to have something to sell."

Cabelas.com is successful since they have a product, a well-established business, and a means to effectively distribute their goods. Web sites that sell products not housed under one roof face additional shipping charges which cut deep into profits, so said Ross.

Few things in life are certain: death, taxes, high phone bills. I think we can add to the list the Internet. It is here to stay. And outdoor writers and photographers will probably continue to rely on the medium as a source of sales. But economics is not an exact science. External influences longer than the Alaskan Pipeline make the direction of the economy uncertain. How things play out in an age of uncertainty, is, well, uncertain. But I am certain about one thing. I will keep trudging along and will strive to get things back to normal as best I can. I'll keep writing.

Directory Update

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

New Fax Number
Bob Good
719-486-5058

Email Changes
See page 5.

New Members

Tim Cummings
1611 E. 9th St.
Cushing, OK 74023
H 918-225-2721
F 918-225-2777
tomc1114@aol.com

Bill Dunn
2301 Algodones NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112
H 505-298-2190
W 505-298-2190
fishnm@hotmail.com

Mark Duda
130 Franklin Street
Harrisburg, PA 22801
H 505-432-1888
mdduda@rica.net
responsivemanagement.com

Harley G. Shaw
P.O. Box 402
Hillsboro, NM 88042
H 505-895-5385
hgshaw@zianet.com

New Members

Thomas Wiewandt
P.O. Box 5118
Tucson, AZ 85703
tom@wildhorizons.com
www.wildhorizons.com

Ken Wyatt
56 Aspen Dr
Woodland Park, CO 80863
H 719-687-1428
W 719-310-5418
ken@wyattphoto.com
www.wyattphoto.com

New Supporting Member

Michael W. Cook
REDTT (Rural Economic Development Through Tourism)
Box 30003, Dept. 3HRTM
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8003
H 505-523-6788
W 505-646-8009
miccook@nmsu.edu
www.nmquest.org

The Outdoor Scene

By Ron Hellbusch

We have struggled with so many thoughts, so many emotions, so many uncertainties. Life has not been the same since September 11th. The real question: will it ever be? Not since 1812 have Americans been attacked on their home soil. There have been hundreds of thousands of words written in the past two weeks, all attempting to capture the feelings, reactions, confusion, the emotion and the uncertainty for the future. Other thoughts that have occupied our minds and hearts, not withstanding, we have found ourselves stopping and thinking long and hard about what is really important in our lives and are we living the full life we really want?

If the outdoors is important to you, if a day on a trout stream excites you, if a sunrise at timberline moves you, if watching birds in flight takes you away or if camping in an aspen stand makes you see life at its best, you should make sure you have more of these experiences in your life. We might ask why should the outdoors be at issue in times like this? We should not, nor do I think we can, ever lose focus on the events of September 11th. But we need to reflect on our lives and especially what is important to us, what enriches our lives and what helps us heal in difficult times. Our days become filled, they are taken away from us and we get distracted. Time moves ahead leaving a lot of us watching from the sidelines. September 11th makes us rethink our priorities, rethink how we spend our time, rethink what fills our days. Our question for those solitary moments of thought is simply, "is our life in balance and are we doing what is important to us as we cope with September 11th and life in general?"

Spending more time outdoors, absorbing the peace and tranquility it offers, thinking and reflecting in nature's quiet environment is healing for many of us. And that helps deal with the events of September 11th. One of Denver's daily newspaper's sportswriters said something similar a week ago. He suggested it was good and healthful, even helpful for citizens and the nation to return to baseball and sports. Sports, he suggested, is a "diversion" from life's events. However momentary a diversion sports or the outdoors may be, they still allow us to escape the trauma and emotion of thoughts and feels. When the outdoors is important in our lives it becomes fulfilling, and facilitates the healing process everyone is experiencing in their own way, in these days.

The outdoors is invigorating, it is fresh, it is natural, it is soothing and it regenerates us. Since September 11th one who has a passion for nature will find a new perspective, a new awareness, even a new reassurance, confidence and healing. Dust off the fly rod if you haven't been on the stream lately, plan a day hike in the high country, fill the camera and plan a day photographing birds, wildlife or nature's scenes. Book a late season float trip or plan a fall camping outing. If you hunt, this is your season. Start earlier this year. Try hunting grouse, rails or the fading days of the mourning dove season. If you have a big game license, start your trip planning early and scout out the region you hunt. Touch up those aging decoys or clean rods, reels, guns and camping gear.

Your mind, emotions, and your heart need some time to regroup, regenerate and retool. The political and public debate is just beginning and the military response is yet to impact us. Find that healing diversion in nature and outdoors. Look in that direction, you owe it to yourself.



They Came, They Saw, They Ate

By Anne Sullivan

New Mexico Outdoor Writers and Photographers (NMOWP) came, saw many sites and sights, consumed many slices of pie, and thoroughly enjoyed their Fall Conference in Magdalena, Datil, and Pie Town, New Mexico.

Over 20 members and guests, most of whom are also members of RMOWP, convened at the Magdalena Café at noon Friday, September 7th. From there they visited the Hall Hotel, admiring the renovations and the veranda. An extensive tour of the Very Large Array (VLA) followed, led by Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA) site tech and NMOWP and RMOWP member, Kelly Gatlin. Then it was time for dinner at the Pie-o-neer Café in Pie Town with the chicken pot pie as popular as the dessert pies.

NMOWPers spent Saturday at the Pie Festival, photographing, buying, and eating. In between the Festival activities Kelly Gatlin conducted tours of the VLBA site, his Agnes Morley Cleveland home, and the Morley Monument. Steak dinner at the Eagle Guest Ranch in Datil followed with, of course, pie for dessert.

Sunday breakfast, the only pieless meal, had been scheduled as a picnic at Swingle Canyon. The surprise 28-degree weather forced a change in venue to inside the house where 20 people scarfed down eggs, sausages, fruit bowl, and cinnamon biscuits.

After a tour of the Baldwin Cabin Public Library conducted by NMOWP and RMOWP member, Anne Sullivan, the group departed, amazed and impressed that there is so much to see, do, and eat in and around Datil.

Newsletter Notes

By Maryann Gaug

Thank you to the writers who submitted tips this month. Please keep sending in those ideas to share.

Photographers, we could use another tip or two for each newsletter. How do you keep all those slides cataloged so you can find them when you need them, which I'm sure is usually on brief notice? Please send a short tip on cataloging and I'll include at least three ideas in the next newsletter.

I promise to interview either a new or old member for next newsletter. People have requested that. Two long-time members have been featured—in remembrance. Anyone who would love to be interviewed and featured, one of you silent types out there, please email me at maryann@rmowp.org, or call at 970-468-6219. Otherwise, I have some people in mind...

Another **photographic** request: please send me some winter photographs, jpeg or tiff format. I can scan prints or slides, too. Most photos I have are from conference, so let's get some winter pix in our newsletter. Holiday photos would be great, too!

**New Member's Book Reviewed**

By Lee Allen

I'd like to alert you to the September 1 release of a fantastic coffee table book, *THE SOUTHWEST Inside Out: An Illustrated Guide to the Land and Its History*, 200 pages [300 color photos, 30 drawings and several customized maps].

Written by Thomas Wiewandt who has led photo safaris and natural history tours in the Southwest for years.

Tom's credits include National Geographic, Smithsonian, National Wildlife, Geo, et al, so you know photo quality is outstanding. I'm working with Tom to announce the availability of his book that covers the Greater Southwest with lots of Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah images and information.

A book preview is available at www.wildhorizons.com. Book images or a personalized author interview for RMOWP member publication are available at tom@wildhorizons.com. [Author Wiewandt may also be reached via fax at 520-743-4552 or at 520-743-4551, 1-800-925-9777]

**ATTENTION!!!!
RMOWP Members Lost!**

Some of our members have been lost electronically, and perhaps via phone and snail mail, to the web master (our directory guru) and any of us trying to send them information.

Please check your entry in the new membership directory. If there is a mistake or change, please contact Phil Springer, phil@rmowp.org, and let him know your changes. Right now—drop everything—ASAP!

A recent email to members resulted in several nasty messages from the electronic postmaster of the world and made the task of sending the rest of us email an arduous one.

Newsletters have been returned as well. Please help us keep you in the RMOWP loop!

Traveling by Motor Home

By John Catsis

I just spotted a story, with photos, of course, by Jim Tallon, in MotorHome magazine. (That's how MotorHome calls itself.) It's titled "How to Really See Yellowstone."

Editor's Web Browsing

I typed James Tallon in my web browser (Netscape). I didn't have quite the success Jim mentioned above. Netscape search brought up many Tallons. I then typed "James Tallon" in the little search box, which brought up RMOWP's website: www.rmowp.org/2001Awards.htm. Jim won two awards last year.

For fun I typed my name in the little Netscape search box. I was amazed at what that brought up. I won't go into detail, but you might, for fun, type in your name and see what comes up!

In talking with Russ Bromby one day, I mentioned how much information one can find on the internet. He replied, "Sometimes too much." I see what he means...

Email Changes to the 2001-2002 Directory

Glenn & Maxine Bamburg - gmbambur@flattops.net (leave out last "g").

Rich Beaudry - use rbeaudry@pagosa.net not editor@gunweb.com

Julius A. "Jay" Fullinwider - delete jfull@amigo.net and use scenic@fone.net

John Kimak - John_Kimak@lasvegas.com (case sensitive)

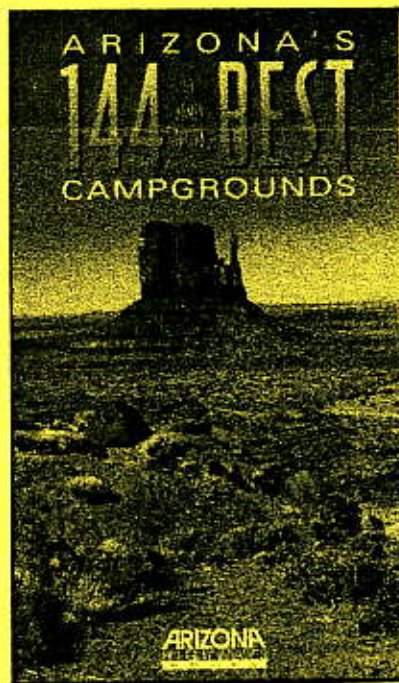
Jack Olson's new email - JACKOLSON1@aol.com

Evaline O. Shuster - typo in email address: should be geswho1@juno.com

Norman Tempel - typo in email address: should be nornd7@juno.com

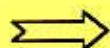
A Note from Jim Tallon

Lovely People: Go to the web. Type in James Tallon. When using AOL, it puts James Tallon at the top of a list of over 1,000 Tallons, regards "Arizona's 144 Best Campgrounds," published by Arizona Highways. There are links. Try them. Thanks to Maxye Henry at MotorHome for the great review. Incidentally, the book is listed as out-of-print. Not so. There's a second printing. It's an award-winning book, but in some book stores it is easier to find a Gutenberg Bible than the campgrounds book.

**News from the Catsis Family**

from John Catsis

Dr. Connie is doing well in Tempe, enjoying her new job. John's been driving U-Haul trucks of belongings westward. They anticipate closing on a house in late October. John will join her at Christmas after he retires from Oklahoma State U. To contact Connie via email, Connie.Thibeaucatsis@asu.edu, case sensitive. They'll let us know their new address and phone after closing.



Conducting The Interview

By Lee Allen

Over nearly half a century as a professional communicator, I've conducted all kinds of interviews with all kinds of people in all kinds of places discussing all kinds of topics.

Sometimes variations on a theme are required, although the basic process is the same be your interviewee a Queen or a queen, a cop or a con, a miner or a minor.

First, location. Assuming you have the luxury, pick a discussion site free of distraction. Lacking that ability, position the interviewee where they have only you to focus on. Seat them in the chair facing you and the wall or you'll lose their attention when someone walks by (a guaranteed faltering of brain synapses if it's a member of the opposite gender).

Second, amenities. Offer coffee, tea, water—some sort of libation. Interviewees are often nervous and something to drink will wet a dry throat or at least offer a diversion and something to do with nervous hands.

Third, preparation. Hopefully your respondent has the answers you seek. You just need to be smart enough, or prepared enough, to ask the right questions. "Tell me what you think I ought to know," will not elicit barnburner responses. Show your interviewee you've done your research homework and lead them down the path you want to go on by asking specific questions that require more than a yes or no answer.

Fourth, involvement. Once you ask a question, listen—actually listen—to the answer. Not just for the fact or explanation, but how it is phrased, how the response is delivered. Are the adjectives raw or refined? Is delivery pensive or punitive? Observations such as these provide grist for story transitions in which you describe interviewee attire, posture, attitude, et al.

Assuming you have the right interviewee and you've made them comfortable in a neutral setting, what next?

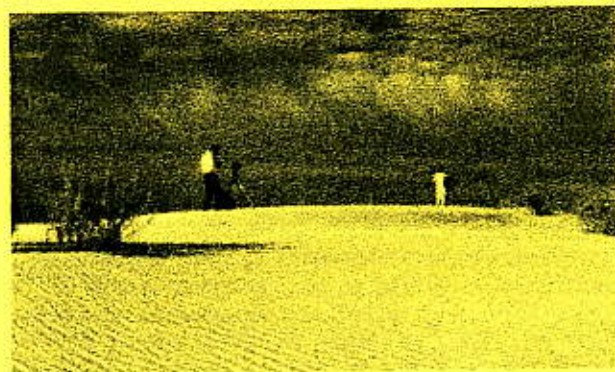
Are we making friends here? If so, sugar beats vinegar and carrots beat sticks. Start out with some lob pitches and let the interviewee hit a few out of the park. Even if you'll never use those particular quotes. Once your respondent has gotten comfortable, turn up the intensity level as far as you want to take it. Make sure you have enough to write your story before you address any touchy subjects as the interviewee is under no obligation to sit there and be beaten on.

If a photo is required, I get that done at the start just in case a disagreement might arise during the actual questioning and you ultimately find yourself sitting alone at the table, without quotes or photo.

I'll use a reporters notebook to jot down key discussion points, but I prefer to turn on a small tape recorder to capture verbatim quotes. If your interviewee dislikes recorders, take the machine off the table and stick it in your shirt pocket—but don't turn it off. It's hidden, but it's still taking audio notes for you.

Assuming all goes well, ask the right questions. Probe for colorful answers and don't hesitate to either lead or push your interviewee down a specific path. Don't be afraid to ask for a re-statement (tell the same answer in a different way) because a second take on a specific thought may bring far more detail.

Unless your interview is antagonistic from the get-go, a handshake and/or a Thank You are appropriate session closers.



Jon Sheppard (left) and Sherryl Brands (right) during morning photo shoot at White Sands National Monument.

photo by Maryann Gaug

Editor's note: Jon submitted four photo tips to Rocky Mountain Outdoors. This tip is the second one of the series.

Photo Tips

By Jon Sheppard

Well now that the car is loaded and equipment is in place let's head on down the road and do scenic shots. Always try to be at your location at the proper time, be it first thing in the morning, afternoon or evening. When you are driving and spot something that interests you stop and take a good long look. Many times I will drive on past that location to see what else there is. Often the better shot is down the road. Next decide what lens to use. Get the tripod out and set up. Personally I really enjoy my circular polarizers. They punch the color, not only of the sky, but also flowers, trees, land and all that is in the frame. One note on circular polarizers: for best results shoot at a 90 degree angle to the sun. At noon everything is 90 degrees.

Many times the sky or snow covered mountains will overexpose the frame. When I suspect that, I tilt the camera down some and meter on the land portion. Then I lock in the exposure, reframe the shot and off it goes. Many times having a plant, flower or something in the foreground will give you a very nice depth perspective. If that is the case be sure and hyper-focus the shot by focusing on the closest part of the scene in the frame. Set the f stop to f22 or the highest aperture on the lens and take the shot. Oh yes, if you are using AF focusing, after focusing on the up close portion in the frame, switch the focus to manual. Try to cover the lens with shade from your hand, hat, etc. After all this, patience is always necessary for the best shooting results. I usually shoot 50 or 100 speed film. I set the self timer on five seconds so that I am not touching the camera when the shot is taken to avoid camera vibration. Don't forget to take both horizontal and vertical shots.

Jon has two award winning photography books titled, *Someday in a Place Out West* and *Always Colorado*. You can reach Jon at: PO Box 18101, Avon, CO. 81620. 970 949 9131. email: jonshepp@vail.net.

Editor's Note: On the following page, I decided to retype Rusty's letter so people could read his wisdom. The letter image shows the strikeouts, corrections, and signature on page 2 of his letter.



Hi!

Letters from Rusty Annabel (To Jim Tallon)

introduction by Jim Tallon

I met Russell Annabel when I was a kid working on a ranch at Flagstaff, Arizona. In a corner of the bunkhouse was a big stack of outdoor magazines and I lived on them. Rusty's stories grabbed me the most and years later, Ted Kesting, editor of Sports Afield, would tell me Rusty did more for the magazine's circulation than any other writer. I would also learn that Ernest Hemingway called Rusty, "the best of the outdoor writers."

A couple of decades later I was writing myself and doing a saltwater fishing story at Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, on the coast of the Sea of Cortez. I met a fellow there by the name of Tommy Jamison, who said, "I have a friend who is a writer." And when I asked who, he said, "Russell Annabel."

I told Tommy I had been reading Rusty's stuff for years, and Tommy gave me Rusty's address, which was in Zapopan, near Guadalajara, in Mexico, should I ever go that way—and wife, Vicki, and I did and found Rusty living in a small, second story apartment with his Mexican wife, Pachita. He was a tall fellow, gray hair swept straight back, friendly and eager to chat with "someone who spoke English." (Rusty spoke fluent Spanish.) We hit it off, as they say, and he and I exchanged letters from November 1970 to his death in January 1979, over 100 each way.

Russell Annabel was the most interesting writer I have met and wrote the most interesting of letters, by far the best of those who have exchanged letters with me over the years - sorry fellows; most of you could have done better. In fact, vastly more intriguing than—Hemingway's letters. Here is a sample:

The original second page of Rusty's letter

to sound like me—and in which, if that was the intention, I came out a pretty bad phony backwoodsman. Each attempt parody a cow, marriage him. Hemingway suffered from that a lot. In my case a -unstable man, who was ^{unintentionally} ~~unintentionally~~ moved some 800 miles, and what was supposed to be a wilderness spot was actually an Alaska Railroad construction headquarters. And "Yukon technique" was attributed to soundbought in the Anchorage area. And Jim Bridger dialect was put ^{into} the mouth of a gent operating 40 years ago. But the overall technique was undeniably mine—and it could have been an intentional bit of malicious lampooning.

Oh well. It's the price a man pays when he does work that bears his imprint. It'll happen to you. You are doing the right thing when you imitate. It's the best way to produce what the editors want—and in fact they recommend it when they tell you to "study the magazine." Of course a man has got to do his homework, or anyway he should. I know you do. Research and hard work are evident in every story of yours I have read. I particularly remember one about antlers. With a photo of an elk too. Of some grass or brush with his head tines. That one contained some swell research. Things I never knew about antlers—after all the antlers I've handled.

Boy, I am writing this at 2 a.m. I woke up thinking about you and your good fight to become a top writer, and thought I had better tell you about my own bouts of imitating. I remember one night above timberline on the north slope of the Alaska Range. I was afraid the hobbled horses would hit the backtrail. So I got up to watch them. The midnight sun ~~was~~ the northern horizon. A hundred lanterns shining like polished gold. Some earless whistling. And me sitting with my back against a boulder rewriting Jack London's short story "The Faith of Men." With a pencil stub in a kid's-type copybook. At 2 a.m.

Don't keep it up, boy. You are right. ...And I'm going back to bed now.

Your Friend,

Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico
Valle Juarez 143
24 July 1973

Dear Jim:

Well, I need to explain to you about imitation. It is a necessary part of learning. Robert Louis Stevenson, the great

stylist of his period, advised all young writers to "Play the sedulous ape" to successful writers whom they admired. And Stevenson wrote a book on style "The Philosophy of Style" which is still valid. Me, I started out imitating Jack London. I would take his northern short stories apart and then rewrite them, using different endings and characters. I would change the goal or as I called it "the treasure" of the story. I would make the central character a woman instead of a man, or an Indian instead of a white man.

Then I took on O. Henry's short stories—to learn to handle an anecdote. I always moved his big city stories into the Alaska wilds. I also tried to understand the overall anecdote of a story—so that I could tell the whole story in one short, uncomplicated sentence.

I worked on the stories of London and O. Henry until I used to say that if their stories were ever lost, I could supply most of them from memory.

And I worked on the stories of DeMaupassant, remembering the advice of his teacher Flaubert, to write hard for 10 years and tear up everything. So, I would often, on the trapline, write a story by candlelight every night, and tear them up next day.

I don't know how else I could have learned what I now know—a pitifully small bit—without imitating.

Hell, I even took a crack at Conrad, and gave up only when, in his Lord Jim, I came across a sentence that actually had six sets of quotes around it, one guy quoting another until it was like that mirror trick where an image is repeated into infinity.

But for the man who gets imitated by a clumsy operator, it can be pretty bad. The other day I read one that I believe was intended to sound like me—and in which, if that was the intention, I came out a pretty sad phony backwoodsman. Such attempts parody a man, burlesque him. Hemingway suffered from that a lot. In my case a mountain range was arbitrarily moved some 800 miles. And what was supposed to be a wilderness spot was actually an Alaska Railroad construction headquarters. And Eskimo technique was attributed to soundbought in the Anchorage area. And Jim Bridger dialect was put into the mouth of a gent operating 40 years ago. But the overall technique was unmistakably mine—and it could have been an intentional bit of malicious lampooning.

Ah well. It's the price a man pays when he does work that bears his imprint. It'll happen to you. You are doing the right thing when you imitate. It's the best way to produce what the editors want—and in fact they recommend it when they tell you to "study the magazine." Of course a man has got to do his homework, or anyway he should. I know you do. Research and hard work are evident in every story of yours I have read. I particularly remember one about antlers. With a photo of an elk tossing some grass or brush with his brow tines. That one contained some swell research. Things I never knew about antlers—after all the antlers I've handled.

Boy, I am writing at 2 a.m. I woke up thinking about you and your good fight to become a top writer, and thought I had better tell you about my own bouts of imitating. I remember one night above timberline on the north slope of the Alaska Range. I was afraid the hobbled horses would hit the backtrail. So I got up to watch them. The midnight sun on the northern horizon. And me sitting with my back against a boulder rewriting Jack London's story "The Faith of Men." With a pencil stub in a kid's-type copybook. At 2 a.m.

You keep it up, boy. You are right. ...And I'm going back to bed now.

Your Friend, Rusty

Photo sent by Phil
Phil Springer doing what he loves best after being web master (or
is that before?).



Web Master's Corner

By Phil Springer

Just want update you on the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers Web Site. Since the last newsletter we have made some progress with some of our new features for the web site. I am continuing to upgrade the site a little more to make the navigation easier and the site look more professional.

RMOWP web site changes...Attention, all you web browsers! Please note an important change to www.rmowp.org. To see the member directory and credits, you now need a username and password. Username = rmowp. Password = freelance. These are case sensitive. The main reason for this is our members' information is privileged information and should not be freely disseminated without their permission and it will also help stop others from spidering our site and sending mass junk email to all of us. I've received complaints about it already. Also, there is other information on our site that we have worked very hard to disseminate to our membership and we should not be giving it to the rest of the world who are not members. I'm still working on this feature of the web site. If you have any questions, please contact me at phil@rmowp.org.

RMOWP Photographer of the Month...a slide presentation of photo works of our members. The last two months featured members were Jim Tallon and Lynn Starnes. This month (October) it is I. It's mid-month and I need a new photographer for November. Please contact me at phil@rmowp.org.

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. We still need some of your work on the web site. The only story shown for this feature is mine, and I'm getting lonely here and could use some company. Please contact me at phil@rmowp.org.

RMOWP On-Line Tear Sheets...a feature to list some of your recent online photo and writing credits. This feature has had a few more of our members post their credits, but we need more. We have 124 members and we only have 7 members' credits listed. Come on guys, help me fill the page with your credits. I'll work as hard as you want to help you promote your work. Just send me the information and I'll post it on the web site. Please contact me at phil@rmowp.org.

We have several new members who are noted in this newsletter and on the web site. Please welcome our new members. By the way, I need your help...please let me know of any changes in your stats such as addresses, phone numbers, emails, etc.

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.

Easybib.com

EasyBib.com is a website dedicated to helping writers create bibliographies. We realize that at times, looking up all the correct forms of punctuation and order in a bibliography can often be a tedious and timely process. Whether the source may be an encyclopedia, a book with three authors, or an online database, the individual formats can often be confusing. However, at EasyBib.com, you don't need to worry about format and punctuation. Easybib.com adheres to the 5th Edition of MLA Handbook for Writers and Researchers. Try it at <http://www.easybib.com/>.

Maptech

Maptech is one of our supporting members. You may be familiar with Maptech but one feature you may not know about is their free online "MapServer." The Maptech MapServer provides you with access to topographic maps, nautical and aeronautical charts, aerial photographs and satellite images covering the United States. Browse, view, print and email the maps for free. It consists of a small window with the capability of three scales of view. The advantage is it's free.

Their Terrain Navigator is a series of CDs with similar features except they are on CD. I always use my 3-D Terrain Navigator CD before I go fishing or camping. I think this can be a valuable tool for all of us that hunt, fish, camp, hike, etc. as a prelude to writing our next story or taking our next photo for a magazine or paper. You can visit the site at <http://mapserver.maptech.com/homepage/index.cfm?BPID=MAP0060030900>. Try it—I think you'll find it is a valuable tool.



South Texas Shootout Photo Contest

from Beto Gutierrez

Here is some information on our fantastic photographers contest here in the Rio Grande Valley. Print out for the members in our newsletter, and if anyone has further questions, they can call me at 956-787-6808 for more information.

From the Editor:

I condensed information on the brochure in hopes to entice you wildlife photographers to enter this worthwhile cause.

The mission of The Valley Land Fund is to preserve, enhance and expand the native wildlife habitat of the Rio Grande Valley through education, land ownership and the creation of economic incentives for preservation.

The goal of the Valley Land Fund Wildlife Photo Contest is to create a partnership among businesses, private landowners and wildlife photographers, where all participants benefit while promoting the conservation and protection of wildlife and habitat.

Landowners and photographers compete as teams and share equally in the significant prize money. Additionally, landowners and photographers promote wildlife conservation while participating in the toughest, most challenging wildlife photo contest in the world.

Amateur and professional photographers of any age are eligible. All photographs must be taken in South Texas on privately owned, registered lands in the eight southernmost counties of South Texas. The Valley Land Fund will provide assistance in matching photographers and landowners if requested.

Mounted 35 mm slides must be submitted. Maximum entry of 100 slides with up to three entries per class, one slide per species in a class, except the Mammals Division. Slides remain the property of the photographer. The Valley Land Fund and sponsors reserve certain rights to use the images for their purposes, including, but not limited to, production of brochures, promotion of future contests, and others.

Entry fees are \$500 for a team of two photographers and \$400 for a single photographer entry.

Prize money totals \$130,000 with a first place cash prize of \$30,000.

Paid entries are due by December 1, 2001. Photographs are to be taken February 1, 2002 through June 20, 2002.

So much information, so little space. For more details, log on to the website at www.valleylandfund.com or call Beto at 956-787-6808.

Deadline for Dec./Jan. newsletter will be :

November 30, 2001

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

RMOWP Organization Reports

With the cancellation of the October 6th Board meeting, various officers and chairpersons submitted reports. They are included here so all members can keep up with organizational happenings. Plus the editor didn't realize she was supposed to include reports after the Board meetings held at Conference.

Executive Director's Mid-Year Report to the Board

submitted by Craig Springer

Since the June 2001 conference, my main course of action has been recruiting primarily new members actively engaged in outdoor writing and photography. In the spirit that RMOWP is an organ to provide instruction, market tips, craft improvement, and mentoring, my efforts have been focused on bringing in people that can contribute toward that end for the benefit of all members.

I continue to serve primarily in a PR capacity, promoting RMOWP at any possible opportunity. I've issued press releases of member awards to those members that asked, and have made announcements in the OWAA newsletter of happenings in our group. I have networked with other regional and state outdoor writer groups via newsletter exchanges. Maryann Gaug has sent out at my request, comp copies of the newsletter to potential new members.

The web page continues to be a very good recruiting and promotion tool. Since June, I have modified the web page to include a number of features aimed at promoting our members. The Online Tear Sheets gives members that publish on the Internet the opportunity to list links to their publications that one could direct editors to that they are querying. The Photographer of the Month slide-show feature has been very well received. With each update, I have sent notices to editors and art directors at magazines and web sites. I recently started the Featured Outdoor Story, a place for our membership to post stories that they would like to sell; participation in this feature has been dismal. The by-laws are now posted online and the membership directory is password-protected. The membership directory should be proprietary information -- an exclusive member benefit. Everyone's ID and password are the same: [rmowp](http://rmowp.org), freelance. These are case-sensitive.

Recruiting supporting members is confounded by the fee structure or the lack of flexibility in billing mid-year or later. Businesses are reluctant to join RMOWP it seems after about April having to pay for an entire year, even though our membership fee is minimal. I would like the board to consider allowing us to pro-rate the supporting membership fee. Otherwise, I'm essentially limited to recruiting new members during the first of the year.

As a benefit to the membership, and at the suggestion of board member Lee Allen, I would like to put together with a committee, a market guide to publications that buy material related to the Rocky Mountain West. This guide could be published biannually and posted on our web page, password-protected like the membership directory, again, as an exclusive member benefit.

Respectfully

/s/Craig Springer

RMOWP Organization Reports cont'd.

RMOWP Conference In Denver

June 19-22, 2002

submitted by Betty Minor and Lee Carr Conference Co-chairs

The 2002 conference scheduled for June 19 through 22 will be held at the Forest Service Regional Office Conference Room in Lakewood with lodging accommodations provided by Travelodge (11595 West Sixth Ave., Lakewood CO 80215) which is next door to the Regional Office. More details of the conference field trips and workshops will be included in the next edition of the newsletter. This early prompt is for you to mark your calendars for next June.

Membership Report

submitted by Paul Homan

Editor's Note: Please see the list of new members from Paul's report on page 3.



Treasurer's Report

submitted by Sue Baker

Balance after June 2001 Conference \$8,186.10

Disbursements

ED and Webmaster Fees	\$1,023.40
Postage	79.40
Office supplies	143.34
Membership directory	231.73
Two newsletters	842.28
Awards	60.00
Photo workshop fee	600.00

Total Disbursements \$2,980.15

Income

Interest	\$12.84
Photo Workshop account	320.33
Membership fees	345.00

Total Income \$608.17

Balance as of September 30, 2001 \$5,884.12

2001 Photo Workshop Report

submitted by John Catsis

For the first time in four years that I have served as coordinator of the RMOWP photo workshop, the workshop showed a loss. The total loss was \$570.35, principally due to the lowest registration ever: five.

The major reason was a downturn in the number of students. In the past we have had no fewer than seven. Last year we had 11, but for 2001, the number dropped to five.

This downturn cannot be explained. Perhaps it was a reflection of the national economy. It was not from a shortage of advertising. Advertising in Outdoor Photographer was increased from two to three ads. And yet, the number of phone inquiries dropped appreciably, to a total of no more than five. In 1997, by comparison, phone inquiries were 30-40. This can be explained, in part, by our web page, which now replicates the brochure. The web page address is included in the Outdoor Photographer ad, and it must be presumed that today's modern photographer has access to the internet. The internet makes it much easier to gain information than the old fashioned way of calling or writing. Incidentally, the number of mail inquiries to our post office box dropped from about two dozen in 1997 to two in 2001!

Another reason for the loss was the higher-than-anticipated costs of processing. While the local camera store in Estes Park, Colorado increased prices by 10% over last year, the biggest reason for the added expense was that students were burning up film at a record rate. The faculty discussed this and decided to adopt a new policy next year, which should control processing costs better, without harming the goals of the workshop.

The 2002 photo workshop is scheduled from June 5-9. All three instructors (Jack Olson, Tom Ulrich, and John Catsis) have already agreed to participate, provided the board approves holding what would be the fifth annual 5-day photo workshop.

Frankly, I am encouraged that we can achieve enough students to once again make a profit for RMOWP, and this is the first time I have publicly been so optimistic. That's because three persons already have told me they intend to be with us in 2002.

2001 Photo Workshop Expenses

September 1, 2001

<u>Income</u>	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
12 participants	\$10,315	\$4,893	(5 people)
 <u>Expenses</u>			
Advertising	\$680	\$1,072	
Film Processing	600	782	
Other	<u>1,000</u>	<u>451</u>	
	2,280	2,305	
 <u>Instructor Expenses</u>	 \$5,780	 \$5,464	
 <u>Profit</u>	 \$4,535	 \$(570)	

Checkbook closed out and proceeds sent to RMOWP checkbook.

Supporting Member News

October 9, 2001

from Forbes Darby
(703) 519-9691

American Sportfishing Association Appoints Michael Nussman President

(Alexandria, VA) Michael Nussman has been appointed President and CEO of the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) effective October 1. The announcement was made last week during the association's annual business meeting held at the Wyndham Orlando Resort in Orlando, Florida. Nussman, 47, is ASA's second president, succeeding former Kansas governor Michael Hayden who resigned this past spring.

"The choice of Mike Nussman to be President of the American Sportfishing Association was probably one of the easiest board decisions of the year and was unanimous," stated ASA Chairman of the Board Burt Steinberg. "Mike is a true professional and has all the attributes, experience and leadership qualities needed to continue the growth and success of ASA. We are indeed fortunate to have Mike take charge."

Nussman assumes the leadership role after serving nine years as an ASA vice president. During that time, he was responsible for lobbying Capitol Hill on critical legislative and regulatory issues affecting the sport fishing industry. Nussman also oversaw the association's economic, conservation and research programs and most recently, the association's trade show, ICAST. In addition, for the past six months, Nussman has shared the day-to-day operational duties with ASA's other vice president Norville Prosser.

Prosser, who had previously announced his intention to retire early next year after nearly 30 years in the industry, feels confident that the Association is in good hands. "Having worked alongside Mike for the past eight years, I have observed first hand his dedication to the Association, and perhaps more importantly, his commitment to understanding and serving the Association's

members. I was pleased to extend my full and unequivocal support to Mike as the new ASA President."

Prior to joining the ASA in 1992, Nussman served for nine years as professional staff on the U.S. Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. There he helped mold U.S. ocean policy while directing the National Oceans Policy Study majority staff. His staff was responsible for providing the Senate guidance for nearly all ocean-related issues, including recreational and commercial fishery management.

Nussman is a native of North Carolina. He earned a Master of Science and a Master in Business Administration at the University of South Carolina. Nussman lives near Annapolis, Maryland with his wife, a professor at the University of Maryland, and their two sons.

ISE Booking Speakers for 2002 Shows

Scott Linden is booking speakers for the ISE sportsmen's shows. This is a great opportunity for RMOWP members who have a local newspaper column, current book, radio or TV show, or guide business. You'll get tons of exposure and publicity to 50,000 show attendees, plus a little compensation in the form of free tickets for you and your friends. You'll also get a nice, warm feeling inside from helping avid outdoors enthusiasts learn more about your favorite subject.

Rockies/Southwest Shows:
Denver, Jan. 24-27
Phoenix, Feb. 28 - Mar. 3
Salt Lake, Mar. 14-17

Check out their website, www.sportsexpos.com, for more information. Contact Scott at 541-385-3064 or email him at scottlinden@earthlink.net.

Fly of the Month

By Phil Springer

The fly this month is the "Mosquito Larva" a very good pattern for June. This fly should be fished in the surface film of the slowest moving water in a stream or in lakes during the early evenings after the water temperature has increased. Killer fly if the conditions are right.

Hook: Tiemco (Umpqua), #100 sizes 12 - 14
Thread: Black #6/0



1. Tie on grizzly hackle barbules for the tail.
2. Tie in stripped peacock herl (quill) to form the segmented body.
(The best way to strip the peacock herl is to soak in glycerin in an old long glass Alka-Seltzer bottle if you can find one) After you soak it overnight the herl comes off very easily. If you can't find a bottle I have one for sale for \$100.
3. Tie in peacock herl (not stripped) to form the thorax.
4. Finish-off the fly by tying in grizzly hackle barbules to form the antennae.
5. Whip finish and go fishing.