

NORTHWEST OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION
NOWA FIELD NOTES

NOWA NEWS MARCH 2017



...Northern pike are just one of many fish swimming in Sandpoint, ID area waters...North 40 Flyshop photo

NOWA 2017 CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
UPDATED REGISTRATION FORMS (NOTE PHONE #)
CRAFT IMPROVEMENT/BOARD & 2ND VP NOMINEES
THINGS TO DO/WRITE & PHOTOGRAPH
MEMBER/SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

NORTHWEST OUTDOOR WRITERS ASSOCIATION

NOWA NEWS MARCH 2017

www.northwest-outdoor-writers-association.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The following was written by Dave Kilhefner when he was NOWA's president. We reprint it here because its message is both wise and appropriate. I also happen to know that Dave is a serious angler and as with all anglers, they remain optimistic even under the most difficult of circumstances. "Hope everyone takes advantage of attending the conference and the opportunities it brings to members. We have some very talented speakers lined up. Sandpoint Chamber is very excited to have NOWA and is sponsoring Friday night dinner with wine tasting and beer tasting from local winery and brewery." Happy reading.

...Craig Schuhmann

WHAT WE DO IS VERY IMPORTANT

By Dave Kilhefner

Complaining about the state of the economy has become a new national pastime. I wish I could say I was immune to this but there have been a few times I couldn't resist wallowing in woe. I wish it helped in some way but it has not. I only end up feeling like I've eaten a bad cheeseburger.

The other day, three of my friends came to visit my wife and I while we were camped out at our secret spot on the Sandy River. One is out of work, one is employed part time and the other was self employed some of the time. Hard times or not, they took the time to get out and enjoy life.

It seems they had taken up a new hobby. Panning for gold. So while I brought beer to enjoy the weekend, they brought buckets, shovels, gold pans.....and guidebooks.

Their enthusiasm was contagious. Soon, I was wielding a shovel and digging black sand in the 90 degree heat because the guidebook said you had a better chance of finding gold in black colored sand.

We dug a few five gallon buckets of sand, drug them over to the rivers edge and shot the breeze with our feet in the cool water, swirling sand & water out the sides of the pans.

Did we find any gold? Why yes we did, a speck so small that it was worth less than an empty beer can. But still, we did find some gold and I felt proud. We all felt it was a reason to celebrate, and so we did.

It struck me that no matter how bad things may seem, there will always be a need for what we do so people can get out and enjoy life in the great outdoors.

For my part, that little speck of gold (and I'm not even the one who found it) put a spark back in my desire to write and take pictures. I saw how much fun my friends were having following the written advice of a knowledgeable author and this in turn made me feel important, because sometimes I fill those shoes.

I felt important because I'm getting paid to do a dream job and real people depend on what I write to have a good time. Sure, my pay scale right now is flatter than the plains of Kansas but it could be worse.

So, this new found motivation helped push out four new stories I didn't know I had in me. It seems that little speck of gold was worth a lot more than I thought.

NOWA BOARD/2ND VP NOMINEES

John C McFarland III, Klamath Falls, OR

Harold Pfeiffer, Spokane, WA

Jerry Smalley, Columbia Falls, MT

Chris Batin, Talkeetna, AK (2nd VP)

Look for Bios and Photos in April NOWA News...

WHY WE INVEST IN TOBACCO STOCKS

"Why are you investing in tobacco stocks with NOWA's money? Don't you know that tobacco kills people?" These are questions that NOWA members in recent years have posed to the Investment Committee, which has included these stocks in NOWA's investment portfolio.

Yes, we do know that smoking is contrary to good health. But there are several misconceptions behind these types of questions. First, when we purchase Altria, Philip Morris, or Reynolds Tobacco stocks, our funds in no way benefit these companies. These stocks are bought and sold in the secondary market, which means our purchase dollars go to the guy who previously owned the stock, not to the company. It is only on the public offering that the company gains revenue, which probably occurred decades ago. A current purchase of tobacco stocks brings no money to the company.

Second, we buy these stocks because they offer some of the highest sustainable dividend yields of any sector of stocks, typically in the range 4%-6%. The dividends are high because these companies fear that a legal judgement could force them to make a sizeable payout. By paying out to shareholders most of their earnings each quarter, the tobacco companies keep their retained earnings low and their dividends high.

With the steady stream of dividend earnings that NOWA receives from these companies, we offer scholarships, fellowships, and support programs that benefit NOWA and the environmental causes that we promote. You might say that we put "bad" money to "good" use.

...Peter Schroeder

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

A familiar saying among scuba divers is: Plan your dive and dive your plan. The reason? It's easy to get sidetracked and lose sight of the goal, meanwhile using up all our air, money, or time.

My plan in 2016 as Executive Director was to increase our bottom line, increase our membership and increase our visibility, while adding stability to the organization. We ended the year in the black, grew our membership by ten percent, incorporated social media, email marketing and an updated website to reach out to new members and editors.



In 2017 I will encourage our membership to develop a plan and work together in a way that gives the greatest benefit to all. How is this possible? By attending the conference and participating on committees there's the opportunity to learn new skills, make valuable connections and increase the bottom line. When we all succeed, it adds stability to NOWA.

Saturday's luncheon at the Sandpoint Conference will be sponsored by NOWA. It will be a working lunch with roundtable discussions. We'll focus on strategic planning and building NOWA through committees.

What's your plan? To develop your abilities as a writer/photographer to the point where you win awards, capture the attention of your reader and garner income every month from editors? How will you implement this plan? If you haven't established a plan, it's merely wishful thinking. If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

I was deeply saddened this week to learn fellow photographer and friend, Tom Ulrich passed away. Tom set the bar in the OWAA Scavenger Photo hunts. He planned all his shots required by the contest before he tripped the shutter. He had an incredible eye for composition, considering every detail, analyzing what lighting situation would be best for the subject and considered all the angles. Through Tom's commitment to excellence, he left a legacy in his incredible volume of work, classes taught, tours he guided and people's lives he touched.

This commitment by long-time members gives NOWA the deep roots it needs for stability. For new roots to grow, new and potential members need to be nourished through encouragement. Membership committee member, Dennis Dauble, developed a new NOWA Tshirt for new student apprentice members as incentive to spread the word about joining NOWA. The Tshirt I'm wearing went to a new student apprentice member from Idaho.

I hope **you plan** to attend this year's conference in Sandpoint, Idaho. The room rate at LaQuinta is reasonable and includes free breakfast: **call 208-263-9581 for reservations**. Carpool to Idaho with a friend to cut down on the cost of gas. Plan a pre or post conference activity to generate an article or two. Bring story ideas to discuss with supporting members. Sponsor a new member and learn the joys of paying it forward!

...Adela Jackson

SANDPOINT HIKING & BIKING TRAILS



Surrounded by state and national forest lands the Sandpoint area has countless roads and trails for hikers and mountain bikers.

The following shops can provide bikes, gear and local knowledge.

- Outdoor Experience, 208-263-6028
- Greasy Fingers Bikes 'n' Repair, 208-255-4496
- Sandpoint Sports, 208-265-6163
- Sports Plus, 208-263-5174

The guidebooks, "Trails of the Wild Selkirks" and "Trails of the Wild Cabinets," by Dennis Nicholls, provide trail descriptions for trails in both the Selkirk and Cabinet Mountains surrounding Sandpoint. The Selkirk book indicates which of 170 trails are suitable for mountain biking and rates the level of difficulty. The guidebook "Legendary Lake Pend Oreille" offers 30 more trail descriptions for trails that lead to or have great views of Lake Pend Oreille. They are available in the Sandpoint General Store or at local book, bike and outdoor stores.

Past editions of "Sandpoint Magazine" contain a wealth of information.

For forest service trail information by district please visit:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/ipnf/recreation/hiking/recarea/?recid=6796&actid=50>

...Submitted by Chuck Robbins

TENTATIVE Conference Program Sandpoint, Idaho

Thursday, April 27, 2017

- 8:00 am – 4:00 pm **NOWA Annual Board Meeting**
- 5:00 – 7:00 pm **General Registration for Conference** in lobby area
- 6:00 pm **Photo Shoot-Out Begins**
- 7:00 – 9:00 pm **Wine Tasting Social and T-shirt Exchange.** This popular event is your opportunity to get reacquainted with friends and colleagues before the business of the conference begins
- Bring a bottle (or two) of wine from your *local* winery
 - Silent Auction during the Wine Tasting Social. You will get your first chance at silent auction items. (Donations permitting)

Friday, April 28, 2017

- 7:00 am **Breakfast**
- 8:00 am **Welcome by President Craig Schuhmann. Introduce Green Ribbon Members. Announcements by Jim Foster, Conference Chairman**
- 8:15 – 11:00 am **Field Trips and Activities Preview and Signup**
Supporting Member Presentations:
Backcountry Hunters & Fishers and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Noon – 1:00 pm **Lunch sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation.**
- 1:00 - 4:00 pm **Raffle –Open for business**
- 1:15 - 5:00 pm **Supporting Member Activities: Fishing Derby and NSSF Shoot**
- 6:30 - 8:00 pm **Dinner sponsored by Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce**

Saturday, April 29, 2017

- 7:00 am **Breakfast**
- 8:00 am **Welcome and Announcements** by Jim Foster, Conference Chairman
- 9:00 am **Photo Shoot-Out Ends...Turn in by 10:00 am**
- 8:00 – Noon **Raffle – Open for business**
- 8:15 – 5:45 pm **Conference Workshops:**
- 8:15 - 9:15 am **Investing in Your Future** -Peter Schroeder
- 9:30 - 10:30 am ***How to Write Award-Winning Articles, Create Money-Making Photos, and Make Lots of Money Selling Yourself*** -Chris Batin
- 10:45 - 11:45 pm **Show Don't Tell** -Henry Hughes
- Noon -1:00 pm **Lunch and Round Table Discussions sponsored by NOWA**
Committees, Building NOWA: Strategic Planning
Nature Conservancy and Idaho Fish and Game
- 1:15 - 2:15 pm **Say Something Funny** -Alan Liere
- 2:30 - 3:30 pm **All About Cats** Sandpoint Humane Society
- 3:45 - 4:45 pm **Annual Awards Banquet sponsored by Ram Trucks/Chrysler**
- No host bar
 - Silent Auction
 - What The Heck is That?!
 - Award Presentations: Excellence in Craft Awards, Enos Bradner Award, Fred L. Peterson Award, Photo Shoot-Out presentations

Sunday, April 30, 2017

- 8:30 am **NOWA General Meeting**
- 9:00 am **Feedback/Discussion Session – Let your voice be heard**
- 10:00 am **Raffle – NOWA wraps up its annual conference with the traditional annual raffle blowout**
- Noon **Hotel checkout and departure**



2017 NOWA Conference Registration

April 27 – April 30, 2017, Sandpoint, Idaho

- Wine Social & T-Shirt Exchange: Thursday evening, April 27
- Supporting Member Day, Friday, April 28
- Seminars & Awards Banquet, Saturday, April 29
- Raffle & General Meeting, Sunday, April 30

La Quinta Inn & Suites • 415 Cedar Street • Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

NOWA's Conference Rate: \$65 for single/double • *Please book your room by March 20, 2017*

Reservations: 208-263-9581 • <http://www.lq.com/en/findandbook/hotel-details.0470.html>

Room Share: Are you interested in sharing accommodations/cost? _____

Phone number to contact: _____

Book Display: Do you have a book(s) to bring to the conference for display? _____

Your Name(s) _____

New Member

Address/City/State/Zip _____

1st Conference

Guest or Spouse Name(s) _____

Guest Name(s) _____

Conference Registration – Member: _____ people x \$ 110. = \$ _____

Conference Registration – Guest or Spouse: _____ people x \$ 110. = \$ _____

Banquet Only (see Notes) – Guest or Spouse: _____ people x \$ 60. = \$ _____

Non-member Registration: _____ people x \$ 170. = \$ _____

If a non-member joins NOWA within 30 days of the conference the membership dues will be waived for the current year

Registration After April 1, 2017: _____ Late Fee x \$ 10. = \$ _____

Please add a \$10 late fee per person

Credit Card # _____ **TOTAL (US funds) \$** _____

Name on Card _____ **Exp.** _____ **CV** _____

Signature _____ **Enclosed CHECK #** _____

Notes:

Banquet only applies to guests and/or spouses who are not attending any other function than the Banquet on Saturday evening. All members are subject to the Registration Fee. Full Registration Fee includes the banquet *plus* break refreshments *plus* hosted meals.

Registration Deadline: Conference Registration must be received at NOWA headquarters by **April 1, 2017.**

After April 1: Your registration fee is \$120. If registering after April 1, email adelajackson@hotmail.com to indicate you will be attending. Please bring your registration form and payment to the conference.

Cancellation / Refund Policy: Refunds of conference registration fees will be made on the following basis:

30 days prior to the conference date of April 27, 2017 Full refund

15 days prior to the conference date of April 27, 2017 50% refund

7 days prior to the conference date of April 27, 2017 No refund

Conference registration **late fees are non-refundable.**

Make check payable in US funds to NOWA and send with this form to:

NOWA HQ • PO Box 82222 • Fairbanks, AK 99708

907-322-8000 • adelajackson@hotmail.com



2017 NOWA Conference

Supporting Member Registration

April 27 – April 30, 2017, Sandpoint, Idaho

La Quinta Inn & Suites • 415 Cedar Street • Sandpoint, Idaho 83864
NOWA's Conference Rate: \$65 for single/double
 Please book your room by March 20, 2017 • Reservations: 208-263-9581
<http://www.lq.com/en/findandbook/hotel-details.0470.html>

Please join our Wine Social & T-Shirt Exchange: Thursday evening, April 27

Your Name(s) _____ New Member

Company Name _____ 1st Conference

Guest or Spouse Name(s) _____

Banquet Only: Guest or Spouse Name(s) _____

Conference Registration – Supporting Member: _____ people x \$ 110. = \$ _____

Conference Registration – Guest or Spouse: _____ people x \$ 110. = \$ _____

Banquet Only (see Notes) – Guest or Spouse: _____ people x \$ 60. = \$ _____

Product Display Tables required: _____ tables x \$ 25. = \$ _____

Registration After April 1, 2017: _____ Late Fee x \$ 10. = \$ _____
 Please add a \$10 late fee per person.

Check # _____ **TOTAL (US funds) \$** _____

Notes:
Banquet only applies to guests and/or spouses who are not attending any other function than the Banquet on Saturday evening. All supporting members are subject to the Registration Fee. Full Registration Fee includes the banquet *plus* break refreshments *plus* hosted meals.

The following information is due no later than April 1:

Supporting Member activities are on Friday, April 28, 2017

Do you wish to make a short presentation during the morning session? Yes No

Will you do a teaching workshop or lecture session? Yes No

Please indicate what equipment you require: _____

Will you participate in the afternoon product display? Yes No

Registration Due Date: The Conference registration deadline is **April 1, 2017.**

After April 1: Your registration fee is \$120. If registering after April 1, please email adelajackson@hotmail.com to indicate you will be attending. Bring your registration form and payment to the conference.

Cancellation / Refund Policy: Refunds of conference registration fees will be made on the following basis:

30 days prior to the conference date of April 27, 2017	Full refund
15 days prior to the conference date of April 27, 2017	50% refund
7 days prior to the conference date of April 27, 2017	No refund

Conference registration **late fees are non-refundable.**

Make check payable, in US funds, to NOWA and send with this form to:
NOWA HQ • PO Box 82222 • Fairbanks, AK 99708
 907-322-8000 • adelajackson@hotmail.com

WRITE MORE, WRITE BETTER

When I first joined NOWA, writing was a painfully slow process for me. The thought of taking on a writing assignment without at least six weeks to get it done was intimidating and made me pass up several good opportunities.

Many of my outdoor writer friends are slow writers as well. For the most part we are outdoors people first and journalists second. Still, I wanted to be a success and the biggest hurdle to clear was gaining the ability to write stories faster.

With Internet trends cutting pay scales in half, the need to write more in less time is greater today than ever before.

Tip #1: Write First, Edit Later

Early in my career I fell into that common trap of believing every word I wrote would be part of the final draft. As a result I'd get side tracked writing perfect sentences when I should have been focusing on roughing out the whole story while the concept was fresh in my mind.

Tip #2: Write Every Day

We've all heard this tip before but it bears repeating. If you are floundering and always sweating deadlines try setting a goal of writing 1000 words per day, which is roughly 3 typed pages. If this is too much, set a goal of writing for 45 minutes each day.

Tip #3: Use Outlines

After writing every day you'll soon find you have collected a lot of written words but not too many finished stories to sell. That's okay; it's part of the process. Streamline your workflow by making a rough outline of your story; don't get tied up in the details, 3 to 5 main points is usually fine to get a standard length article roughed out.

Tip #5: Quotes are Gold

Write down quotes, especially if a guide is hosting you on a trip. They will love seeing their words in print and this personal touch will improve your story.

Tip #4: Develop a Writing Style

How do you convert the thoughts in your head into written words in a story? Typing for me is not a natural act so I often write out at least some of my article longhand then dictate the words using Dragon. Anything to avoid typing with my fingers helps me.

Stories have a beginning, middle and an end. If you're writing a fishing article a good standard formula is to grab your reader's attention with a big fish story and quote from your guide, cover 5 main points in the body and then close with a call for action or conservation.

Limit paragraphs to 3 to 5 sentences. Nobody likes reading a big blob of text.

Tip #5: Rewrite to Write Better

Check out the acknowledgements at the back of many best-selling novels and you'll find a flowery thank you to the editor and typist for all the help they gave in the Rewriting process.

That said, don't be intimidated by rewriting. It's an organization issue. Get your rough draft done early so you've got a little time to let your story cool off before trying to spruce it up. Don't rewrite with a tired mind if you can help it. Plus, when you're fresh it goes a lot faster.

After the rough draft is done & dictated it's time to take inventory. What's the target word count? What elements does the editor want? Take this info and begin the rewriting process.

Rewriting is where you "write better" and polish your story. Truthfully it usually takes me 2 to 5 edit sessions lasting 15 to 45 minutes to really get the story perfect, meaning I cannot make it any better. This may seem like a lot of extra work but this is where the quality of your work goes up and you start to climb up the money making ladder. I do realize not every publication pays top dollar for quality, so it is up to you to decide how much time you can afford polishing every word. When you're getting paid \$50 for a story, good enough happens pretty fast!

Tip #6: Read it Outload

Reading your story out loud is the fastest way to catch errors and improve flow.

Tip #7: Remarket

If you've taken the time and care to write a good story it will sell more than once. Set a diary date to remarket your story. The key to this is keeping your computer files organized and regularly backed up onto an external hard drive. What's more, you should always be able to sell at least two or three versions of your story: a 250 to 500 word internet shorty, a 1200 to 1500 word standard length article and maybe a 4000 word feature.

In closing, please remember that the story you finish is always better than the story you don't. Happy writing!

...Dave Kilhefner

**SEE YOU IN SANDPOINT, ID
APRIL 27-30, 2017**

SPRING GOBBLER HUNTING

Idaho's spring gobbler season runs April 15, 2017 through May 25, 2017. Most of the Panhandle units are all open under a general tag and a 2nd tag can be purchased anytime before season's end with no wait period.



A Colorful Rio Grande Gobbler Struts His Stuff in the Warm Spring Sun.

IDAHO TURKEY HUNTING

Idaho Panhandle Turkeys:

Turkeys are found throughout the Panhandle Region, except in the mountainous units 7 and 9. Turkey hunting is usually pretty good in the Panhandle region however this past winter may have taken a toll on turkey populations. Nest success in 2015-16 was decent due to warmer, dry springs that produced abundant young birds.

The 2016-17 winter had above normal snowpack, with lower elevations also receiving a good amount of snow. Birds will be concentrated in areas with feed following the receding snow lines.

Good hunting opportunities can be found on public land adjacent to private land in lower elevations, especially in units 1, 2, 3 and 5. Obtaining permission from private landowners is a good option for finding turkey hunting spots. Many private landowners will provide access because they want turkey flocks reduced on their lands.

Idaho Clearwater Region:

Turkeys are found throughout the forested portions of the region with the highest concentrations:

Adjacent to the Clearwater River drainage up to the Lochsa and Selway rivers.

The Snake River drainage up to the Salmon River, and lower Salmon River to White Bird.

The Dworshak Reservoir area.

Good opportunities for turkey hunting are also found on Fish

and Game's Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area south of Lewiston, as well as state and federal land, private agriculture land and corporate timber land.

Turkey production in the past three years has been near the long-term average in the Clearwater Region, resulting in numbers that should provide hunting success consistent with recent years.

Mild conditions during the past few winters have resulted in good survival into spring and also serve to aid in allowing hunter access to higher elevation. However, this year hunters will need to focus lower in elevation to find success.

Hunting Snow Birds:

That being said, it is now time to figure out how to effectively hunt turkeys in locations with higher than average snowpack. I have had some very good success during years with plenty of snow at elevations between 3,500-4,500 feet. "Healthy riparian areas and wet meadows can really boost poult health and survival as an excellent source for protein. As summer turns to fall, turkeys will start doubling down on nuts, seeds, and cereal grains to put on body fat for winter, says Mikal Moore NWTF regional biologist. However, this winter has been tough on the birds. Overwinter survival is likely lower than it has been in several years. "Pines are a vital food source on the east slope of the Cascades, the Rockies, and the Blue Mountains. Of course, the cereal grains are found on the private land margins and open country in between the forests," adds Moore. This being said hunters on the east side of the Cascades and near the mountain west can likely expect to find most of their birds at lower elevations during the opener.

I have personally seen several flocks in locations where they are nestled in close to a good food source below the snow lines. This poses the next problem for hunters to be able and obtain permission to hunt these birds. Normally, mountain birds can readily be found on NFR and BLM lands but during our harsh winter may have moved to private ranches or range that is on private property. Regardless, a hunter will need to adapt to the area in which they plan to hunt. "Weather (especially moisture), forage, predation, and catastrophic events (e.g. fire, flooding, and blizzards) are the main factors that affect whether you are looking at a wild turkey down the bead of your shotgun," states Moore. This year more than ever we will need to scout and pay close attention to flock movements. Really it is pretty simple and many hunters already know that flocks will follow the receding snow lines in search of fresh plants (creeping buttercup, dandelions) and insects. However, birds may also be found in more concentrated flocks especially early in the season.

On stormy days they will find sheltered locations and not move much or long distances. When the weather breaks and warms they

...Continued

SPRING GOBBLER HUNTING/TRAINS

will be out feeding and following the snow lines up slope to higher elevations. I like to concentrate near creek drainages as they have plenty of aquatic life, insects and freshly sprouted plants. Birds will also be more vocal during fair weather as they move about, strut and dust. Hillside with dry dirt, near old burns or lightning strikes also provide places for mature gobblers to set up shop. Hens will frequently visit these areas to dust and feed where gobblers will be waiting or not far behind. These are some of my favorite locations to hunt especially on warmer days during the late mornings and afternoons when the dirt warms and dries out.



Author took this high mountain Merriam's Gobbler a few seasons back.

...Article and Photos, Troy Rodakowski

SANDPOINT – TRAINS AND HISTORY



Whenever I hear a distance train whistle, I think of someone heading out on an adventure. To me it's a romantic wistful sound. Even before familiar landmarks were on the map, the rails were laid and trains were hauling people and products all across the United States. Conversing with locals whose families have been here for generations, they can tell you first-hand how the railroad added to the growth and prosperity of our area. A colorful aspect of our train history is Cottage Island, which was an 'island of ill-repute' for the railroad workers. You can learn all about this particular bit of history from Linda Mitchell aboard the history cruise from Lake Pend Oreille Cruises.

Sandpoint has a unique distinction of being called a 'Funnel Rail Town', which in essence means all trains converge here. We are one of two railroad funnel towns, the other being on the edge of the

Okefenokee Swamp in Folkston, GA.

Marianne Love explained it best to a reporter in a USA Today article in 2010, she said the funnel is 'the site where east-west rail-ways in the northern states converge'.

Over 60 trains per day roll through our town and believe me, visitors and new arrivals notice. At the Visitors Center we either hear, 'boy those trains are loud I didn't sleep at all', or "We love the sound of the trains". Ask locals and we say 'what trains'? We're so used to the sound, we can't hear it unless we stop and pay attention.

Railfans from all over come to watch trains in our area, the iconic railroad bridge at over 8,000 feet long, is one of the most spectacular railroad bridges in the United States. Not to mention the beautiful surroundings of Lake Pend Oreille and the mountains. The power of the big locomotives and vastness of the lake is truly an awe inspiring combination. Whether the lake is calm and serene in the summer or roiling in the winter, it always provides a photo opportunity.

The trains are ingrained in the history of our area and continue to be today. At the Chamber we get numerous calls from Railfans asking about the trains and wanting to know where they can watch them as they roll down the tracks. Riding the train is a fond memory for those of us who have experienced it. I remember riding from Colorado to Wyoming where my grandparents lived and taking all the sugar cubes I could carry for my horse. We rode in the dome-roofed car and to a 6 year old, it was spectacular. You can still enjoy the same lulling rhythmic experience by catching Amtrak's Empire builder at the historic Sandpoint Train Depot on its daily run from Chicago to Seattle. Each year over 2 million people ride the Empire builder and Sandpoint is the only Amtrak stop in the state of Idaho. Yes, the only.

Family train vacations are on the rise for the experience and as a way to see the country from another perspective, a kind of 'behind the scenes look' at America's back yard. Amtrak offers a Rails and Trails programs which includes stops at National Parks, along with recommended lodging and onboard educational opportunities about the area you wish to visit. It's an extended field trip for the entire family. Bicycle riders from Portland and Seattle come to our area on the train, ride the International Selkirk Loop, get back on the train and go home. It's a great way to travel, you get to see extraordinary scenery not viewed by normal travel options and experience the history of our nation via the rails. Try it once, you'll be hooked and you too will be a Railfan.

Marianne Love, one of our favorite local writers, told the story of her mom's very first look at Sandpoint after arriving on the train to join her husband in 1945 who was a logger. The town had a very wild West atmosphere, she wrote "My mom got off the train and it was an awful, wintry, wet night. She walked across the old Cedar

...Continued

TRAINS/MOST BEAUTIFUL SMALL TOWN

Street Bridge, walked down to First Avenue, and it was filled with bars, with beer bottles flying out of the bars. She thought she had come to hell.”

Thank goodness she stayed and we were blessed with Marianne. Oh, and the sugar cubes I took for my horses, they never made the trip back home. I ate them.

We can tell you all about trains.

See you around town.

...Article and Photo Courtesy VisitSandpoint.com

SANDPOINT: COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY BREATHTAKING NATURAL BEAUTY



Surrounded on all sides by stunning foothills and mountain vistas (of three different ranges, to be exact), this Idaho gem is literally engulfed by natural beauty. Truly, its backdrop is magnificent - the 8,000-foot Selkirks, plus the blue-hued Bitterroots and Cabinets. Even the distant Coeur d'Alenes can be seen on a clear day.



But add in epic waterfront views of Idaho's largest and deepest lake and you'll feel like you're on the coast, but without the salty air or endless crowds. The vibrant blue waters of Lake Pend Oreille truly stretch as far as the eye can see in most places, and boy is it incredible!



The 2-mile Long Bridge was once the longest wooden bridge in the world. No longer made of wood, the most recent update to the bridge was in 1981. Connecting Sandpoint to Sagle, today the updated bridge is side by side with a scenic bike path over the water - what was once one of the original bridge versions - which is treasured by locals and visitors alike.



Sandpoint's local restaurants and shops regularly top Idaho's dining lists: Pend Oreille Winery, Joel's Mexican Food, Baxters on Cedar, Loaf & Ladle, Trinity at City Beach... need I go on? Still rural views are still everywhere you turn, though!



Check out the Western Pleasure Guest Ranch to be fully immersed in the natural wonders of Sandpoint outside the city center.

For more please visit:

<http://www.onlyinyourstate.com/idaho/natural-scenery-town-id/>

ALAN LIERE

Alan Liere lives “on the edge” between Spokane and Deer Park, Washington. He is an award-winning back-page columnist for four magazines. He freelances both humor and destination pieces to newspapers and national publications such as *Gun Dog* and *Sports Afield*. Although he describes himself as “an avid outdoor enthusiast,” Liere admits that “zealot hunting and fishing nut cake” is closer to the truth. He has written four collections of outdoor humor.

Say Something Funny will entertain, inform, and just possibly show the way to more sales. “I like to write humor,” Liere says, “but that does not necessarily mean one comic image after another, a’la Pat McManus.” By occasionally inserting well-considered phrases and humorous images, I think even writers of where-to/how-to articles can grab an editor and an audience and increase the readability of his story. I can’t make you a humorist, but perhaps I can help you fine-tune your sense of humor and show you how to make it work in your next magazine submission or broadcast.

PETER SCHROEDER

After pursuing careers in nuclear engineering and international business, Peter Schroeder became a full-time freelance writer and photographer 20 years ago. He specializes in recreational boating, snow skiing, and adventure travel. His work appears in most national boating, adventure, and skiing magazines as well as in publications in Europe, UK, and Austral-Asia. Previously he was Boating Contributing Editor of The Seattle Times newspaper, US Editor of SA Yachting Magazine, and Northwest Editor for Boating Industry Magazine. He joined NOWA in 1992 and is in his third term as a board member.

Do You Work for Your Money or does Your Money Work for You?

Learn basic investment techniques for outdoor writers that assure solid annual returns with minimal risk, techniques that have grown NOWA’s initial \$40k investment by 40% in six years. Whether you’re planning for retirement or just starting your career, this session is for you.

HENRY HUGHES

Henry Hughes is an Oregon Book Award-winning poet, essayist and anthologist. His memoir, *Back Seat with Fish: A Man’s Adventures in Angling and Romance*, was published in 2016 by Skyhorse. He is a professor of literature and writing at Western Oregon University. hughespoetry.com

Show, Don’t Tell: How Vivid Descriptions and Dramatic Scenes Strengthen Our Writing.

Nothing weakens prose more than prolonged abstraction, vague commentary, and airy speculation. The principle of Show, Don’t Tell reminds us to let concrete images, authentic dialogue, and specific details do the work of expressing feelings and ideas. Rather than just saying, “Henry felt defeated,” describe him “dropping the hopelessly tangled rig onto the deck and muttering ‘I’m done.’” Participants in this workshop will examine examples of concrete language and dialogue, consider the pitfalls of cliché, and write their own paragraphs to share and critique with others in the group.

CHRIS BATIN

Chris Batin is editor and publisher of Alaska Angler/Alaska Hunter Publications and a 42-year resident of Alaska. He has been an outdoor communicator for over 37 years, and a NOWA member since 1981. He has won over 150 national and regional writing awards, is the recipient of the Enos Bradner award, and the outstanding board member award from OWAA for producing the first comprehensive marketing plan for the organization. He also served as the local conference chair and helped coordinate the OWAA conference in Fairbanks, Alaska. For years he has served as a judge in the writing and video categories in national and regional contests. As the long-time Alaska Editor for TravelAge West magazine, he has traveled the world on pilgrimages climbing the 7,000 steps to Mount Taishan in China, to snaring caimans by hand in the northernmost reaches of the Amazon. He is included in a new book just published by the University of Alaska Press, entitled, “Alaska’s Greatest Outdoor Legends,” in which he also wrote the Foreword for the book.

How to Write Award-Winning Articles, Create Money-Making Photos, and Make Lots of Money Selling Yourself

Learn the secrets to writing award-winning feature/photo packages in copy that sells, and how to sell yourself and your expertise in the outdoors that include seminars, special appearances, adventure trips and other avenues that require outdoor expertise. Batin won four first place awards last year in the coveted magazine category in OWAA competition, including Column of the Year. He will give detailed pointers in how he sells his expertise in the outdoors, along with lots of photo and writing examples that sell in today’s market. This is a rare opportunity to hear one of Chris’ marketing and promotion seminars. Attendees will learn how to transition from a writing/photo based career to one of diversification, selling their knowledge and expertise in a variety of packages, and learning to identify the professional illusions that rob us our most precious assets: Life and time.

PARKS, BOAT LAUNCHES, PICNIC SITES, ETC.

Lake Pend Oreille has plenty of parks, boat launches, picnic sites and other attractions and facilities. Here is a guide to public parks and public access sites on Lake Pend Oreille, starting with the south arm of the lake and moving north, then going sideways west to Dover, back to Sandpoint and then east around the lake, including up the Clark Fork to Cabinet Gorge.



LAKE PEND OREILLE

Pend Oreille Scenic Byway



...Submitted by Mike Broadwater



Large mackinaw (lake trout) caught last year and a 20# 5 oz. rainbow caught a few seasons back from Lake Pend Oreille.

PART-TIME HELP WANTED:

OHA FIELD DIRECTOR



WE NEED A PERSON OF MANY TALENTS:



The people skills to soothe a savage beast.



The charisma to make a sexy gun look sexier.

WHAT WE NEED:

We're looking for about 20 hours a week from an individual who can take us to the next level by helping us establish stronger ties between our state organization, our chapters and our members, and by helping us reach out to the hunting and non-hunting publics.

We need someone who can help new chapters get organized, assist established chapters in conducting fund-raisers and tap other funding sources through partnerships with other organizations and agencies.

We also need this person to help host OHA's State Convention and Chapter Summit, as well as travel to chapters to provide support at organizational meetings, fund-raisers and booths at sports shows and fairs. This, of course, means some evenings and weekends out of town, particularly in winter and spring.

We need a person who can talk to members, address large groups, and communicate with the media.

Much of the equipment and know-how needed to do the job is already in place. We simply need an effective operator. The right person could work from a well organized home office.



Ability to work independently, yet closely with OHA staff & volunteers across the state.

For a job description and application information for this part-time position, please contact the OHA State Office at 541-772-7313, oha@ccountry.net

Application deadline March 20, 2017.

LATE SUBMISSIONS

YOUR UNNEEDED ITEMS COULD BE JUST THE TICKET

Spring is just around the corner and you need to clean out that closet, garage, shop, etc. Those treasures you no longer need could be of interest to someone else. NOWA's raffle and silent auction are always so much fun at the annual conference. Fun because of these treasures you no longer want. Bringing us those items you can donate will help us create a "fantastic collection." (And, since you are bringing so many things, please make us a list—thanks.)

This is our major fundraiser, so come prepared to buy lots of tickets! (Cash or check only)

Contact Jo Wilson, 503-390-4557 or gijowilson@q.com.

NOWA OFFERS FELLOWSHIP AWARDS TO ATTEND SANDPOINT CONFERENCE

NOWA members are invited to apply for the Stan Jones and NOWA Fellowship Awards to attend this year's conference at Sandpoint, Idaho. Since its inception the Stan Jones award has provided one or two fellowships each year to members to attend the annual conference.

In addition, last year the board decided to provide financial support in the form of NOWA Fellowships to members who may not otherwise be able to attend the conference. For more information about these awards, contact NOWA's executive director, Adela Jackson, adelajackson@hotmail.com.

These awards are funded through NOWA's investment portfolio.

...Peter Schroeder

ANNUAL NOWA PHOTO SHOOTOUT 2017

The Annual NOWA Photo Shootout will again be held at this year's conference in Sandpoint, ID. There will be three categories with 1st and 2nd place prizes awarded in each category.

Photos will be used by Visit Sandpoint to promote the Sandpoint area. Contest begins Thursday April 27 at noon and ends Saturday April 29 at 9:00 a.m. Images to be turned in to Dave Vedder no later than 10:00 a.m. Saturday.

Please bring a flash/thumb drive or CD for your entries. All entered photos will be shown during the final banquet on Saturday evening with winners announced after the meal.

If you would like to participate in this popular event, send an email to: dpvedder@comcast.com as soon as possible.

SEE YOU IN SANDPOINT!

TOM ULRICH 1948 TO FEBRUARY 10, 2017:

Tragically, Tom, a world renowned photographer, profoundly individualistic man, and genuinely good person, has passed away from complications associated with leukemia. His demise has created a void for his many friends.



Tom and I have been buddies since the mid-70s when we shared the aspiration of becoming photographers. Initially, Tom worked as a teacher, but he found the classroom too confining and decided to move to Montana where he lived out of his van until he built a cabin several years later. But in the 1970s he needed to balance his income, and to do so he tapped a unique situation.

At the time, countless thousands of salmon migrated each fall from Flathead Lake to the Flathead's upper reaches. Anglers flocked to snag the spawning fish, losing thousands of relatively expensive triple hooks in the process. Tom took advantage.

Donning scuba gear, he scoured the river bottoms retrieving lost hooks for resale. Pricing the hooks at eight for a dollar, returns were significant enough to keep him going.

Eventually his camera skills evolved into one of the most published photographers in the country. He honed his craft with complete dedication to his subject matter. He knew wildlife; he knew where they were going, what they were doing."

Growing a portfolio of over 800,000 photos, he published widely in such prestigious publications National Wildlife, Audubon, Outdoor Oklahoma, Sierra, American Hunter, Ranger Rick, Alaska, National Geographic and Montana Outdoors. Tom published seven nature books: "Mammals of the Canadian Rockies," "Birds of the Canadian Rockies," "Mammals of the Northern Rockies," "Birds of the Northern Rockies," "Once Upon a Frame," "Photo Pantanal," and "Mt. Reynolds: The Story."

Not only did he publish and lecture widely but he led photo tours around the world, which often focused on Africa, South America and the Galapagos. He made friends everywhere.

But more significantly, Tom Ulrich's photographs leave the world a better place. You know the man loved nature, and because of the way he reveals it you are inspired to do so as well.

...Submitted by Bert Gildart

For more please visit:

<http://www.courierpress.com/story/news/local/2017/02/11/>

MEMBER/SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

JOHN KRUSE

America Outdoors Radio is proud to announce the addition of three new affiliate stations as we roll into 2017.

KPAY AM 1290 in Chico, California, KZWY FM 106.3

HD in Sheridan, Wyoming and KXLE AM 1240 in Ellensburg, Washington are all airing the weekly radio broadcast covering fishing, hunting and the shooting sports. America Outdoors Radio is sponsored by Northwest Sportsman Magazine, the Alaska Sporting Journal, California Sportsman Magazine and the American Shooting Journal. The one hour show, launched in June of 2016, is now heard on 35 stations in nine states. You can find out more about the show and the host, John Kruse, at <http://www.americaoutdoorsradio.com/>



SCOTT LINDEN

IS YOUR DOG HUNT TEST/FIELD TRIAL READY?

Callbacks, final test segments, second days, additional stakes and long weekends. Field trials and hunt tests are a drain on man and dog. You've got Red Bull, strong coffee, carbohydrates and intestinal fortitude. But what does your dog have?

He's already stressed, and likely wasn't fed that morning because you want his best performance and a full gut will impact that. You want him to dig deep, for one more find, a long retrieve, that callback you've been hoping for.

You might consider this: Humans get quick energy from carbohydrates, but a dog's most potent fuel is fat. The fat in Kronch Pemmikan provides more than twice the energy of carbohydrates or protein. And fat calories are absorbed and metabolized fast, for quicker performance boosts.

Conditioning your dog before test and trial season is critical to long-term performance. But the demands of a multi-day trial or hunt test can tax even the fittest dog. And you won't find that out until it's "go time," and you need every ounce of your dog's will - and performance.

Nobody wants to hear "pick up your dog."

Kronch Pemmikan is a high-fat, low-volume "rocket fuel" for sporting dogs. Big energy in a small package, it minimizes the negative physiological and physical effects on performance caused by a full gut. It's a simple, convenient way to keep the hunt in high gear and maximize your dog's performance.

When your dog needs to perform at it's best there is no more concentrated source of fat ... and the energy that comes from it. Unconditionally guaranteed.

Limited-time offer - introductory price: \$10.95/bar + \$5.00 shipping/handling give your dog four days of extra energy!

Distributed to the U.S. sporting dog community by Scott Linden. To become a dealer, call 541-382-1726.

CHUCK ROBBINS/DAVE VEDDER



Chuck n Gale, Dave n Pam, along with our Montana friends, Terry n Karen, Gig n Barb spent several weeks in Arizona hunting desert quail, swapping lies, swilling a bourbon or two. The many campfire feasts, such as the delicious quail poppers we're munching down here, are, of course, always a highlight.

O'CONNOR PUBLICISTS

We were scheduled to speak at the NOWA conference but it looks like we won't make it. We would be happy to talk to any author who wants to talk to us by phone and we can explain to them how to promote their book. Members call us day or night and we can answer your questions. Promoting and marketing a book is very hard - more so now than ever. One of our specialties is outdoor and adventure books, so your group is right up our alley.

Since we live in Illinois, getting to your conference is hard for us, but our hearts are with you for sure.

Lynda O'Connor, O'Connor Communications, Inc.

Multiple award-winning book and author publicists

(847) 615-5462; lyndao@oconnorpr.com; www.oconnorpr.com

BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS & ANGLERS

Oregon State Land Board Votes to Sell Elliott State Forest

82,000-plus acres of prized fish and wildlife habitat to be privatized; public access a question mark under future ownership

Despite widespread support from sportsmen, conservationists and the public at large to work cooperatively on options to keep the Elliott State Forest publicly accessible, the state of Oregon moved forward on Tuesday with a plan to privatize the Elliott, Oregon's oldest state forest and a destination for generations of hunters, anglers and other outdoor recreationists.



The Oregon state land board voted 2-1 on Tuesday afternoon to accept a bid from Lone Rock Timber Management Company and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to purchase the 82,500-acre property, home to species ranging from Roosevelt elk and black-tailed deer to wild salmon, steelhead and coastal cutthroat trout.

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers has strongly opposed the Elliott's sale, urging the land board to decline the Lone Rock-Umpqua bid and work with stakeholders to pursue alternative solutions. One possibility could involve transferring the forest's ownership to a state agency with differing mandates, as Washington has successfully done with more than 116,000 acres of state trust lands. The land board will meet again on April 4 to seal the Elliott's fate.

Today, BHA criticized Oregon's decision to sell the Elliott State Forest while continuing to push for adoption of a public option. The national sportsmen's group, which works to keep public lands in public hands, cited the Elliott as an example of what likely would happen should public lands and waters be transferred to state ownership:

"For years the Elliott stood for public hunting and fishing opportunity and, more recently, a fight by sportsmen and others to keep these lands accessible to citizens," said BHA Northwest Outreach Coordinator Jesse Salsberry. "We remain committed to working with Gov. Brown and the Department of State Lands to find a solution that will satisfy the Common School Fund and keep the Elliott publicly accessible. Regardless of the outcome, however, the Elliott serves as a shocking reminder of how susceptible state lands are to fiduciary and political pressures – and how quickly we can lose our traditional public access when states are faced with such pressure."

Established in 1930, the Elliott State Forest was given to the state of Oregon by the federal government to provide a sustainable source of school funding through timber harvest. Over time, divergent public interests led to a net loss of revenue on the land and resulted in a state proposal to sell the high-quality hunting and

fishing destination and valuable fish and wildlife habitat.

Under Lone Rock-Umpqua ownership the following will occur on the Elliott State Forest:

The Elliott will be privatized, resulting in a direct loss of public hunting and fishing access on at least half of the forest acreage.

Unrestricted access fees could be charged on the remainder of the forest, opening the door to an access model that could eliminate much traditional use by sportsmen and others.

"The privatization of Oregon's oldest state forest is a tremendous loss for all Oregonians," said Ian Isaacson, chairman of BHA's Oregon chapter and a resident of Bend. "The fragility of our public lands and waters is not that of a fictitious tale. It is reality, and it is why sportsmen and women must continue to work together to fight for the wild places we love."

For more informative articles on Public Land issues and more please visit: www.backcountryhunters.org

BOAT US

Navigating Fog



When you're boating in fog, your perception of the world around you changes dramatically. Basic instincts don't work well, if at all.

Your normal sources of information about what's around you become virtually useless, and it's easy to grow confused and disoriented.

When fog descends, immediately turn on all relevant navigational instruments. Radar and other hardware require warming up, perhaps for up to three minutes — an eternity if you can't see and there's danger nearby. Turn on your navigation lights; verify the horn is working; have your bell ready, if you carry one; get out spotlights (they may help or hinder, but have them at hand); and ready safety gear.

Note your compass course and bearings to geographical features and dangers. These include boats, reef, shoals, and aids to navigation (ATON). Do this with the actual compass, and also use the chartplotter, radar, and paper charts. Program your chartplotter with appropriate waypoints and/or routes, if you haven't already done so. It may be appropriate to pick out a safe area and put in a "go to" route.

Everyone should wear life jackets outfitted with a strobe, whistle, and other appropriate safety equipment. You won't be seen if you go in the water.

If you're in restricted waters, stop if it's prudent. (More on this later.) If you're in open water with no known hazards, it's usually safe to proceed, slowing down to a speed suitable for the circum-

SUPPORTING MEMBER NEWS

stances, which usually means moving just enough to maintain steerage and control. The faster you're running, the quicker you must react to dangers that may present themselves with little advance warning. Begin sound signals as required by the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Rules. See Rules 35, 34, and 2 as well as all others applicable to the situation.

For the rest of the story and more from BOAT US please visit:

<http://www.boatus.com/magazine/2017/february/navigating-fog.asp>

MACK'S LURE

Ice Fishing for Kokanee



The Pacific Northwest has a fishery that is gaining popularity in a hurry - it's called Kokanee fishing. These landlocked Sockeye Salmon are feisty and finicky to say the least. There are so many variables that must be taken into consideration when it comes to fishing this species of fish, also called "silvers", or "blue backs". Trolling speed, water clarity, water temperature, colors of lures, baits and scents, are just a few things an angler must align. Here's a challenge, try fishing for them.

For the rest of the story and more please visit:

<http://www.mackslure.com/mackattack/mackattackmar17.pdf>

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

Oregon Court Accepts RMEF's Brief in Wolf Lawsuit

The Oregon Court of Appeals granted the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's application to file a friend-of-the-Court brief in a lawsuit by animal rights groups seeking to eliminate state wildlife management in Oregon.

"We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, its professional biologists and wildlife managers, and the Fish and Wildlife Commission in carrying out their duty of managing all of Oregon's wildlife," said David Allen, RMEF president and CEO.

"Oregon's science-based wolf plan indicates wolves reached delisting criteria five years ago."

As of December 31, 2015, Oregon's minimum wolf population estimate numbered 110, marking a 26 percent increase over the 2014 population and a 42 percent increase since 2013. Biologists also indicate the actual number of wolves currently in Oregon is likely greater than the minimum estimate.

For the rest of the story and more please visit:

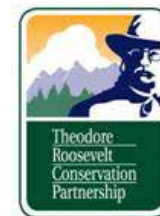
www.rmef.org



THEODORE ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

This morning, U.S. Congressman Ryan Zinke was officially given the top job at the Department of the Interior, where he'll be responsible for the management of public lands, minerals, migratory birds, and endangered species. Hunters, anglers, and the conservation community look forward to working with Zinke to support habitat conservation, sportsmen's access, and increased public involvement in the management of America's public lands.

To stay abreast of breaking news concerning public lands and other issues of concern to sportsmen (aka outdoor writers) please visit www.trcp.org.



NAVIONICS

Good afternoon outdoor writers! Navionics has a great promotional rebate going on right now and some cool things happening with one of our Chart Plotter partners...check it out:

Navionics+, Navionics+ Regions \$50 Rebate

Web Link:

<http://www.navionics.com/rebate>