

## VOL 30, No 1

### President's Message

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

A big "Thank you" goes to J. Mark Blaising and Wendy Pickering for managing the festivities for the RMGA virtual holiday event during December's monthly meeting and program. RMGA is fortunate to have members who are willing to take the lead in setting up events that challenge our knowledge of Colorado.

A big "Thank you" goes to Ximena Pareja who has agreed to serve RMGA as Secretary. She will attend her first Board of Directors meeting January 3.

Optimism for the coming tourism season has been dampened by the latest reports of the Omicron Variant of COVID 19. All RMGA members are looking forward to meeting in-person (finally).

The National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (NFTGA), of which RMGA is a member, is not hosting its biennial conference in January 2022. Instead, NFTGA is setting up a live presentation with touring guru Rick Steves. Register for your spot (\$15.00 per RMGA member, plus \$1.00 processing fee) at <https://nftgaregistration.com/>.

FAM Tours are probably more important to us now that we are emerging from the cover of COVID-19. Send your ideas to Education Committee Chair [David White](#) 720-217-8643

Like many businesses and organizations, the COVID-19 Pandemic has caused Rocky Mountain Guides Association to alter its means of operations. We are now gathering virtually via ZOOM for our monthly meetings. To join in on the meetings without using a video connection, you can use your phone connection. You will first need to have the Zoom mobile app installed on your smartphone. Check out the easy directions <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-joining-a-meeting>

RMGA members need to determine in what ways the organization is beneficial to them, then join to actualize that vision. Please email your ideas and thoughts about the future direction of the organization to [rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com](mailto:rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com). – Mike Pearl

January 2022



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## FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the February, 2022 *Guide Line* is **Thursday, January 28**. Future contributions should be emailed to *Guide Line* editor Eileen Pearl at [rmgaeditor@rockymountaintourguides.com](mailto:rmgaeditor@rockymountaintourguides.com). If anyone has photos to share, please send them along with either a short description and/or names.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Treasurer's Report – Liability Insurance



Submitted by Wendy Pickering, Treasurer

Liability insurance is available for 2022 through the NFTGA policy. Please send me your premium payment of \$99.00 as soon as you can after receiving my email with information and instructions.

### Communications Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen

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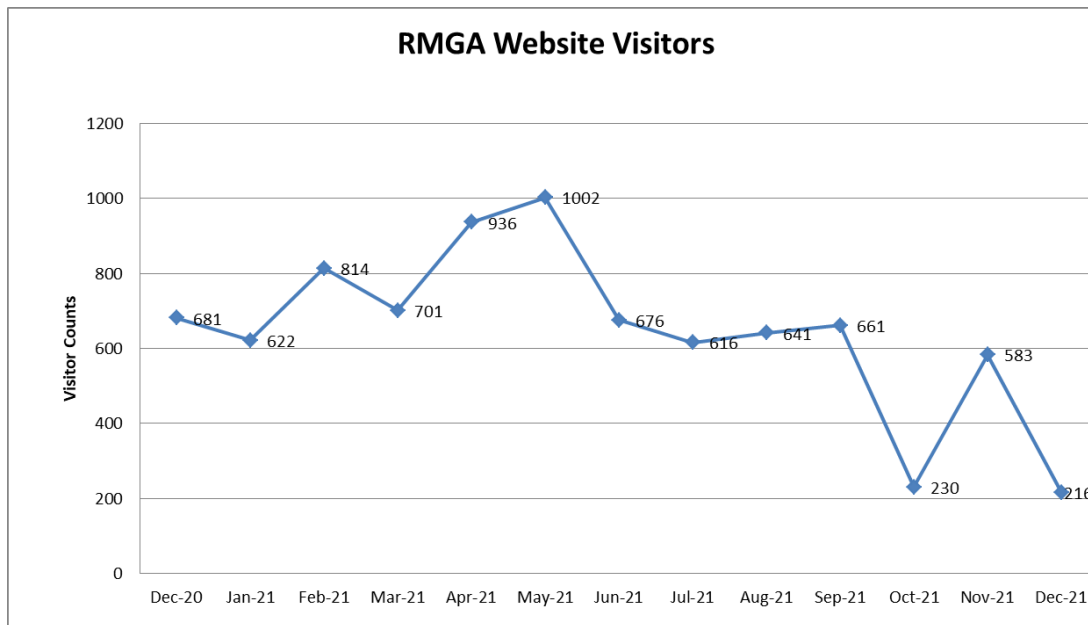
#### *What's New on the Members Only Page?*

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- *Created new page for 2022 Program Schedules*
- *Added January Program to Schedule Page*

## Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

The monthly visitor to our website remains constant. As of December 29, 2021, the December number of hits is 216.



## YouTube Channels

The recordings of the Zoom monthly member meetings and programs are now available on YouTube. Because one of the benefits as a member is access to the research materials presented at the meetings, these recordings are only available if you have the link. The link is under 2020 or 2021 Program Reviews on the Member Only page. For many programs there is also a link to the PowerPoint slide deck or other reference material.

Now if you were not able to attend a program, you can view the business meeting and the program.

The October program on **Colfax: Past, Present, and Future** is available for viewing. It is an outstanding program about our most famous street. Take time to view it. There is so much to learn even if you've been guiding for years. Thank you Mark.

Also the November program on **Western Slope Update and Care for Colorado** is now available for members only. You'll learn that Grand Junction is now a destination itself (think James Beard nominated chef, jetboat rides, a dynamic downtown) as well as the surrounding natural beauty and delicious fruit and wines. Care for Colorado teaches us how we and our visitors can take care of our beautiful environment while preserving it for the future. Thank you Barb.

To access this educational material:

1. Go to Members Only Page. If you don't remember how to contact Tom Jensen

2. The GovCon notes are on this page -- right hand side; half way down
3. For the Recordings of the Programs select 2021 Program Reviews (bottom left); then click on the picture for Colfax or Grand Junction
4. The passcode you need to open the October program is: ep9+YJBr

It's easy

### **E-mail distribution**

The distribution of e-mails continues to be done on a temporary basis. If anyone is interested in sending out the e-mail blasts, contact Mike Pearl at [rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com](mailto:rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com). The contact list is current with the membership roster. If you are not receiving e-mails please contact Tom Jensen @ [rmgacommunications@rockymountaintourguides.com](mailto:rmgacommunications@rockymountaintourguides.com).

### **Facebook**

If you are not a member of the RMGA Facebook page, here is what you missed:

- RMGA member Charles Foster was recently interviewed by Kyle Harris a reporter for Denverite regarding the replacement doors on Cervantes Masterpiece Ballroom on Welton Street in Five Points
- Colorado has an active volcano
- A Wonderful Holiday Performance by our one and only Jim Watson at Red Rocks
- Videos and photos of the Tour Guide Social 2021 in Red Rocks Park hosted by Ximena Pareja.

Be sure to join the RMGA Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RMGAssoc>. You'll find postings of upcoming events, industry happenings, and photos. All members are welcome send in their pictures or posting.

### **Membership Committee**

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Membership Committee Chair

Membership renewal time has arrived. The RMGA Board of Directors has agreed to keep the abbreviated rates instituted for 2021 into 2022. You should have received Membership Renewal information via email.

The deadline for early bird renewal is January 15.

RMGA welcomes new members! Do your part to improve and expand RMGA's knowledge base by increasing our membership roster. Invite tour guides to RMGA's next gathering on Zoom. Send their contact information to Membership Committee Chair [Mike Pearl](#) so that they can be included on the Zoom Meeting Invitation.

## Nominations Committee

No submission this month.

## Program Committee

Submitted by J. Mark Blaising, Program Committee Chair

**WHAT:** January Meeting and Program (Virtual) (see additional write-up and photos on Page 9).

**WHEN:** January 10, 2022

6:00pm – Networking

6:30pm – Short Meeting

6:45pm – Program

Virtual tour of South Park

**WHERE:** Your place, via Zoom Video Communications

**PROGRAM:** Please join us for a “presentation on the fascinating history of the South Park ghost town in Fairplay. Learn about the famous events and people of this town during the 1800s. Listeners will learn about them in relation to the authentic 1800's buildings and houses that comprise the ghost town. (Presenter) George Koukeas is a freelance writer and history speaker. He has studied Frontier history for the last 2 decades. He has spoken extensively on ghost towns, vigilance committees, famous battles, Buffalo Bill Cody, General George Custer and other famous persons in our country's history. His approach is factual and not politically correct. And he believes in preserving our history through careful research, respect for facts and logically supportable conclusions.”

**DIRECTIONS:** Here is the link for the meeting <https://zoom.us/j/94758592551>. Beginning at 5:50 pm. click on “Join” and wait to be admitted.

**PARKING:** Your garage, driveway, or curbside.

**GUESTS:** Members are encouraged to invite potential members as a guest to the meeting.

**CONTACT:** [J. Mark Blaising](#), Program Chair 303-830-8440 (voice) 303-263-8647 (text)

## Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen

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## Tour Colorado

No news this month.

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COLORADO  
TOURISM OFFICE

**New Colorado Electric Byway:** The Colorado River Headwaters was officially designated as a Colorado Electric Byway by the Colorado Scenic & Historic Byways Commission on Dec. 8. Eight of our state's 26 Scenic & Historic Byways are now under this designation, including:



1. Collegiate Peaks Scenic Byway
2. Colorado River Headwaters Scenic Byway
3. Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway
4. Grand Mesa Scenic Byway
5. Lariat Loop Scenic Byway
6. Silver Thread Scenic Byway
7. Top of the Rockies Scenic Byway
8. Trail Ridge Road Scenic Byway

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## RMGA Facebook Group



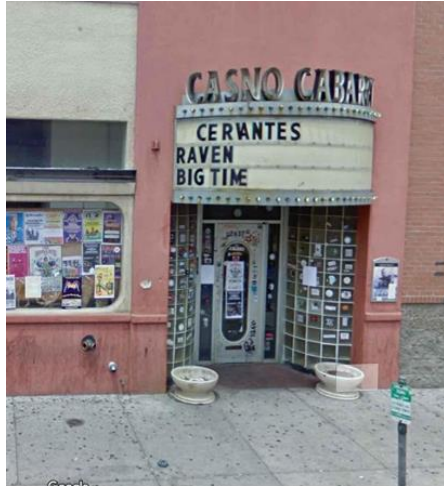
The RMGA Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RMGAssoc> is active once again. Members can post an item of interest to share with the other members. Perhaps it is a photo from your last tour, fall colors in the Rockies, a shot of you quarantining at your kitchen table, or a pet that has become part of your family. This will be a quicker way to communicate among members.



Be sure to subscribe to our Facebook group. It is not limited to only Members. Invite your friends.

### **In Case You Missed it On Facebook**

RMGA member Charles Foster is on a crusade to convince the owners of Cervantes Masterpiece Ballroom on Welton Street in Five Points to restore the original lead-glass and wooden doorway to their historic building which still boasts the Casino Cabaret sign. Charles is also advocating newcomers to respect Five Points and keep it in its original form and fashion.



Original Door



Replacement Doors

Charles was recently interviewed by Kyle Harris a reporter for Denverite. Here is a link to that article: [https://denverite.com/2021/12/13/cervantes-demolished-the-casino-cabaret-doorway-five-points-elders-want-it-back/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=denverite&utm\\_campaign=denverite20211213](https://denverite.com/2021/12/13/cervantes-demolished-the-casino-cabaret-doorway-five-points-elders-want-it-back/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=denverite&utm_campaign=denverite20211213)

Charles also has been featured in a story on Channel 7: <https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/five-points-advocates-fighting-to-get-casino-cabaret-entrance-back-to-original-design>



## ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

Rocky Mountain Guides Association represents professional tour guides in the Rocky Mountain Region to tourism-related organizations.

### RMGA Facebook Page

Another way for members to communicate with each other is the RMGA Facebook page. Find it at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RMGAssoc>. It's a great place for members to post pictures and tidbits of information that we all can use.

### RMGA Leadership Opportunities

Members are encouraged to volunteer to lead these committees:

- Certification (Must have the RMGA Colorado Certification)
- Email Blasts

Contact any Board member with your interest.

RMGA has become a Stewardship Partner with the Care for Colorado Coalition. Check out the RMGA logo alongside other Stewardship Partners at <https://www.colorado.com/care-colorado-coalition>. Watch for this logo on the RMGA website and the *Guide Line*:



Like many destinations in the West, Colorado is forecasting a warm, dry summer and many communities across the state have [fire restrictions](#) in place. Check out how our visitors to Colorado can be careful with fire and can check local restrictions before enjoying a campfire, fireworks or other activities that use an open flame on this video, produced by The Care for Colorado Coalition <https://www.colorado.com/videos/care-colorado-be-careful-fire>

The ideas expressed in the video can't be an exhaustive list. What ideas is the video missing? Send your thoughts to the *Guide Line* [Editor](#).

### What Are Our Guests Learning about Colorado?

Have you ever wondered about the advertising messages about Colorado that are sent to other areas? It's prudent to be aware of those messages, because they set guest expectations. [Do Colorado Right](#) is the 2021 advertising campaign from the Colorado Tourism Organization. The videos are entertaining and instructive for potential visitors to Colorado. In this episode, follow the lead of *Alone* star Barry Karcher and hire a local guide to find the best places to get outdoors in Colorado. <https://www.colorado.com/video/do-colorado-right-hire-a-local-guide>



## JANUARY MEMBER PROGRAM

### The South Park Ghost Town



**WHAT: RMGA MEMBERSHIP MEETING –**

**WHEN: January 10, 2022**

**6:00 pm – Networking**

**6:30 pm – Short Meeting**

**6:45 pm – Program: The South Park Ghost Town**

**WHERE: Via Zoom**

To Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84252873933>

Meeting ID: 842 5287 3933

One tap mobile phone: +17207072699,,84252873933# US (Denver)

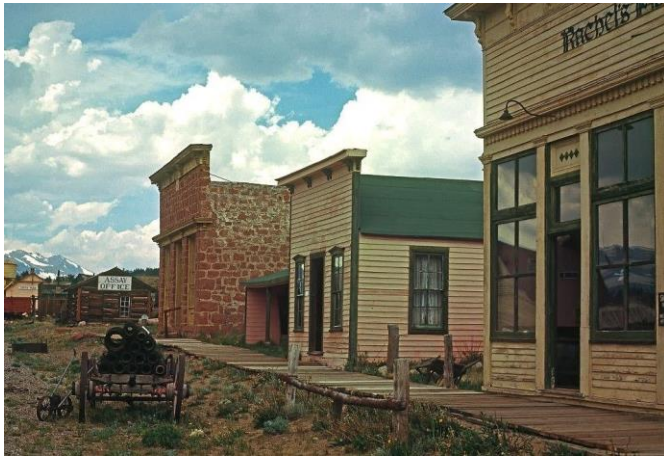
**PROGRAM:** The South Park Ghost Town in Fairplay by George Koukeas

Please join us for a presentation on the fascinating history of the South Park ghost town in Fairplay. Learn about the famous events and people of this town during the 1800s. You will learn about them in relation to the authentic 1800's buildings and houses that comprise the ghost town."

"George Koukeas is a freelance writer and history speaker. He has studied Frontier history for the last 2 decades. He has spoken extensively on ghost towns, vigilance committees, famous battles, Buffalo Bill Cody, General George Custer and other famous persons in our country's history. His approach is factual and not politically correct. And he believes in preserving our history through careful research, respect for facts and logically supportable conclusions."

Many members will remember that George did our May, 2019 program on George Custer.

**FOOD: Provide Your Own**



**DIRECTIONS:** To Join the Meeting click on the link above or copy it to your browser. You may start to join the meeting at 6:00 pm. click on "Join" in the invitation, enter the necessary codes, and wait to be admitted.

**PARKING:** On Your Own

**GUESTS:** Members are encouraged to invite potential members as a guest to the meeting.

**MEETING NIGHT CONTACT:** J. Mark Blaising, Program Chair 303-830-8440 (voice) 303-263-8647 (text)



## NFTGA LEADERSHIP MEETINGS AND TOURISM

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

RMGA is a member of the National Federation of Tourist Guides (NFTGA), a collective of local tourist guides associations and guilds across the US. From time to time, RMGA Members receive notices from NFTGA via our email Blast system.

- NFTGA leadership has decided to postpone its biennial conference set for January 26-28, 2022 in San Antonio, Texas. And reschedule it to January 2023.
- However, on Thursday, January 27, NFTGA will present a keynote address by **RICK STEVES!** Find details below.

To see resources for tour guides, go to NFTGA's [Guide Resources](#).

Join us for a very special NFTGA-USA LIVE Virtual Presentation  
10:30 a.m. CST on January 27, 2022

We postponed our 2022, NFTGA Conference to ensure that our attendees would be able to thoroughly enjoy the conference without Covid restrictions. While we wait, why not do something to further your education and prepare for what is next? Sign up for this very special virtual meeting and treat yourself to a couple of fun and educational hours.

### JANUARY 27, 2022

10:30 a.m. CST      The NFTGA President, Ellen Malasky (a member of The Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington DC) will provide opening remarks, a brief update on the activities of NFTGA, introduce our the incoming NFTGA Board and welcome our special guest, Rick Steves.

11:00 a.m. CST      International travel guru Rick Steves will speak about the changes in tourism that have taken place since COVID, and then help us all imagine what travel may look like in a post-COVID world. He'll also be responding to questions from our attendees.

12:00 p.m. CST      Get a sneak peek of the next in-person NFTGA conference, scheduled to take place [January 25-27, 2023](#), in San Antonio, Texas! The hosting association, the Professional Tour Guide Association of San Antonio (PTGASA), coordinated the first-ever NFTGA conference in 2002. It is appropriate that they help us enter a new era of tourism going forward. Their representatives will provide information on the conference hotel, sights to see in San Antonio and the surrounding area, and an overview of the seminars that will be offered during this valuable three-day investment in your career!

Don't miss this! The only way to "see" this virtual presentation is to BE THERE at this special day and time! The presentation will NOT be recorded, nor will it be available to watch afterwards.

Payment is required at least 24 hours in advance to be sent the link for the meeting. Registration is only online at <https://nftgaregistration.com/>. Payment can be made using PayPal or a credit card and the registrant must agree to pay any fees associated with registration.

NFTGA (RMGA) Member fee: \$15 + \$1 processing fee

Non-Member fee \$20 + \$1.25 processing fee

**Find your next tour job at [www.TourGuidingJobs.com](http://www.TourGuidingJobs.com)!**

Simply sign up for a free account and start looking through the job listings. We will be adding more jobs weekly as tour operators, destinations, attractions, and travel companies who send us their job opportunities looking for talented professionals like you!

[TourGuidingJobs.com](http://TourGuidingJobs.com)

A Free Resource to Find Your Next Tour Guiding Job!

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

Monday, January 3, 2021 (6:00 pm)

(Meeting via ZOOM; email Webmaster Committee Co-Chair [Tom Jensen](#) for an invitation)

Monday, February 7, 2021 (6:00 pm)

All Members are welcome and invited to attend.

## **MEMBERS MEETINGS**

The second Monday of January, February, March, April, May, October, November, December

Monday, January 10, 2022 (6:30 pm)

Monday, February 14, 2022 (6:30 pm)

(Meetings via ZOOM; an invitation to attend is emailed to Members, who are encouraged to forward the invitation to prospective members.)

### **PURPOSE of the ROCKY MOUNTAIN GUIDES ASSOCIATION**

The nature of the business and activities of this Corporation is educational and the objects and purposes thereof to be transacted, promoted, or carried on are TO PROMOTE THE HIGHEST DEGREE OF COMPETENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM AMONG PERSONS WHO ACT AS TOUR GUIDES AND TOUR MANAGERS/ DIRECTORS, TO PROVIDE ETHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AGAINST WHICH ALL TOUR GUIDES AND TOUR MANAGERS/DIRECTORS ARE MEASURED, and, in pursuing said basic purposes,

1. To hold meetings and familiarization ("FAM") trips for the improvement and continuing education of its members;
2. To provide opportunities for the exchange of experiences and opinions regarding tour guides and tour managers/directors and their profession;
3. To provide a forum for development and promotion of common professional interests and concerns of tour guides and tour managers/directors;
4. To cooperate with other related and non-related organizations in a common endeavor to promote the profession of tour guiding, tour management and tour directing and to promote the public awareness of said profession. – *Articles of Incorporation*, Rocky Mountain Guides Association

<b>Officers</b>		
President	<a href="#">Mike Pearl</a>	303-868-0023
Vice President	<a href="#">J. Mark Blaising</a>	303-830-8440
Secretary	Ximena Pareja	303-565-5600
Treasurer	<a href="#">Wendy Pickering</a>	217-621-1960
Director-at-Large	<a href="#">David White</a>	303-868-0023

<b>Committee Chairpersons</b>		
Certification		
Education	<a href="#">David White</a>	303-868-0023
Hospitality	<a href="#">Lily Ewing</a>	303-250-9679
Membership	<a href="#">Mike Pearl</a>	303-979-7594
Newsletter Editor	<a href="#">Eileen Pearl</a>	303-868-0021
Program	<a href="#">J. Mark Blaising</a>	303-830-8440
Public Relations	<a href="#">Tom Jensen</a>	303-968-0515
Email Blasts	<a href="#">Tom Jensen</a>	303-968-0515
Nominations	<a href="#">Mike Pearl</a>	303-868-0023
Website	<a href="#">Tom Jensen</a>	303-968-0515