

VOL 29, No 7

President's Message

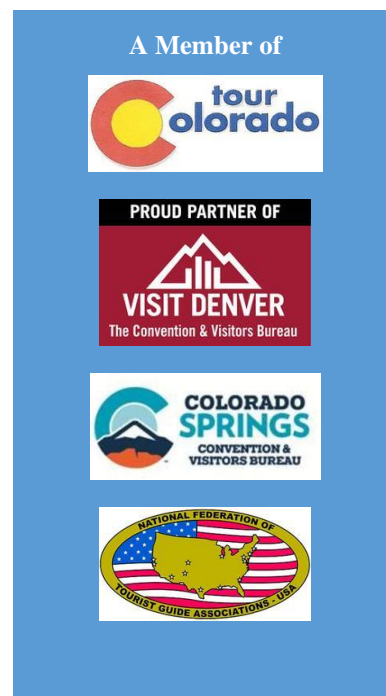
The number of group tours in Colorado is increasing, and RMGA members are getting back into the swing of leading motorcoach tours. We are all seeing several negative changes that have occurred in the sites we visit after the events of 2020. One of the sites of concern is Denver's Civic Center Park. Members have contacted me expressing their distress in seeing the amount of urban camping on the grounds, the trash build-up, the visible misbehavior by the campers, and the damage being done to the centerpiece of Mayor Speer's City Beautiful. The area is not only unsightly, but it is dangerous. On August 6, 2021, three people were shot in an altercation, one of whom died as a result of the wounds.

What are you doing on your tours in response to the situation? Are you avoiding Civic Center Park on your city tours? Are you diverting your guests' attention as you drive by? Do you walk through the area? Share your thoughts with other RMGA members. Post on the RMGA Facebook page, send a comment to Eileen Pearl to include in the Guide Line, and/or bring the topic up for discussion at our next Zoom social, September 13. Keeping the Rocky Mountain Region's sites available for visitors is a responsibility for all of us. Otherwise, what do we have to show our guests?

Whenever you are out and about, stop by the venues and offices of those who have presented at meetings. Do say "hello" whether you're leading a tour or just passing by on your own journey. It's a very personal and direct way that we RMGA members can express our appreciation for their donation of time and expertise to us. A list of venues and presenters is located in the RMGA Website, Members Only page, Resources from Meetings, FAM Trips, and Seminars. This gesture is an effective way for you to develop your own network within the industry.

Thanks for attending the gatherings online in July, August, and September. Tom Jensen's computer skills kept us all connected. (Thanks, Tom!) J. Mark Blaising's facilitation is resulting in some informational sessions. (Thanks, Mark!)

September 2021



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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. – Mike Pearl, President, RMGA

FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the October *Guide Line* is **Monday, September 27**. Future contributions should be emailed to *Guide Line* editor Eileen Pearl at rngaeditor@rockymountaintourguides.com. If anyone has photos to share, please send them along with either a short description and/or names.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Membership Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Membership Committee Chair

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

May Meeting follow-up– see page 15.

Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen.

Eighth in a Series on the history of RMGA written in preparation for the RMGA 20th Anniversary in 2013; originally published in May, 2013.

ANOTHER ORIGINAL RMGA MEMBER: DON FOX

After talking to RMGA member **Don Fox** for a short time, it is easy to understand why he was drawn to a second career as a tour guide. Naturally friendly, Don enjoys getting acquainted with people from everywhere! He tells about a family from Pakistan for whom he was a driver-guide. Like this family, “sometimes you learn more from the tourist than they may learn from you.” And he met people from *everywhere*, “I think I get more out of it than they did.” That doesn’t mean he didn’t have some favorite rules to keep tours on track—like warning people they may have to walk home if they were too late or the bus—he said with a smile!

Don’s first career was in Facilities Management/General Services Administration at the Denver Federal Center. Outside of his regular job there, he found ways to preserve the history of the Center. Because he enjoyed it, he was chosen to give the tours at the Federal Center. That’s when he was hooked on becoming a tour guide. As he approached retirement, it made sense that he would seek opportunities in the guide business.

His first foray into guiding outside the Federal Center was at the Molly Brown House Museum. There he met Jean Labo, and other guides, from whom he learned about the Professional Guides Association of America, the precursor to Rocky Mountain Guides Association. He joined PGAA immediately. Next, he was graduated from the International Guide Academy. Besides helping at the **Molly Brown House** and the **Buffalo Bill Museum**, he was a step-on guide, a driver-guide, worked conventions and more.

Even though eye problems caused him to give up guiding a few years ago, he still volunteers at the **Arvada Historical Society** four hours or more a week.

Don speaks fondly of his growing years in **Deer Trail, CO**, *home of the first organized rodeo in 1876!* The big prize? A suit of clothes from the former May Company. Don gave a historical overview of Deer Trail, making me want to visit—a good guide! He keeps in close touch with his roots by occasionally helping at the **Deer Trail Museum** and often has been in charge of the *Old Timers Get-Together*.

Don was on the committee that put together RMGA’s Articles & ByLaws in 1993. He served as RMGA membership Chair for several years and has been involved in some other RMGA activities since. *He is another person to thank for beginning and sustaining our strong RMGA organization.*

Written by Mary Thompson, 20th Anniversary Chair, RMGA President [Mary passed away in 2014.]



In honor of Historic Denver's fiftieth anniversary, their 50 actions for 50 places campaign helped identify the places and spaces that the Denver community feels are worthy of preservation attention in the coming years

The list is now out!

Highlights include the Aztlan Theater, the remarkable residence of African American attorney Irving P. Andrews, Sakura Square, the area where Denver's Chinatown once thrived, the AIDS Memorial Grove, Denver's longest running watering hole, My Brother's Bar, and a collection of mid-century modern homes designed by Cliff May in Harvey Park.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more and to check out all 50 sites.



Tom Jensen is representing RMGA at the Pawnee Pioneer Scenic and Historic Byway Summit. RMGA was invited by longtime supporter of RMGA, Lenore C. Bates, Colorado Byways Program Manager at the Colorado Department of Transportation.

The Pawnee Pioneer Byway is in northeast Colorado running from Ft. Morgan through Raymer, Grover to Ault. It also includes Sterling and Stoneham. <https://www.codot.gov/travel/colorado-byways/northeast/pawnee-pioneer-trails>

The purpose of the Summit is to activate and enhance coordination for partners along the Pawnee Pioneer Trail. The project is focusing on building teams, identifying assets, and expanding communication to build awareness for locals and visitors.

Currently representatives from communities along the Byway are identifying those assets that will attract visitors to that part of the state. These are some of the themes -- Birds, Bikes, Buildings, and Business. Focus areas are Communications, Conservation (it's not scenic without conservation), Preservation, Touring and Arts + Creative Content

A key point that was presented is **“Rocky Mountain Guides sharing information on their Tours.”**

The Rendezvous where all these ideas will come together is scheduled for September 15 and 16th in Ft. Morgan.



STR

The forecast calls for U.S. hotel industry occupancy of 54.7%, average daily rate (ADR) of \$115.50 and revenue per available room (RevPAR) of \$63.16. The occupancy and RevPAR figures use STR's total-room-inventory (TRI) methodology, which assumes no closures due to the pandemic. In 2019, the recovery benchmark, (66.0 percent), ADR (\$130.91) and RevPAR (\$86.35) were all at or near all-time highs.

Santa Fe Trail 200

Thank you to Kay Willson for providing information on the upcoming celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail. The symposium looks interesting and fun and should be of interest especially if someone is new/newer to guiding and wants a bit of information on the Santa Fe Trail/early Colorado. See the Industry Calendar of Events in this newsletter for information on the

Santa Fe Trail Association's national symposium at Bent's Old Fort NHS and Otero County, CO, Sept. 22 – 26.

SANTA FE TRAIL 1821-2021

In 1821, the Santa Fe Trail was opened as a commercial route between Missouri and New Mexico by William Becknell and his party of five traders. The famous “Commerce of the Prairies” developed and grew until the railroad reached Santa Fe in 1880. The Trail was a route of conquest during the war with Mexico, 1846-1848, was the scene of significant Civil War actions, 1861-1865, and was in the middle of the Indian Wars of the 1860s and 1870s. It provided a path for the settlement and change of the territory of the Louisiana Purchase. Considered the most important commercial route across the Great Plains during the 19th Century, the Trail brought together a diverse mix of cultural groups. The Santa Fe Trail 200th is a commemoration of a living part of the American experience connecting people in commerce, conflict and culture. Today, the Santa Fe Trail remains crucial to American history in its many forms and provides an opportunity for education, engagement, awareness, exploration and discovery.

For more information use this link: <https://santafetrail200.org/>

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.

Website Committee

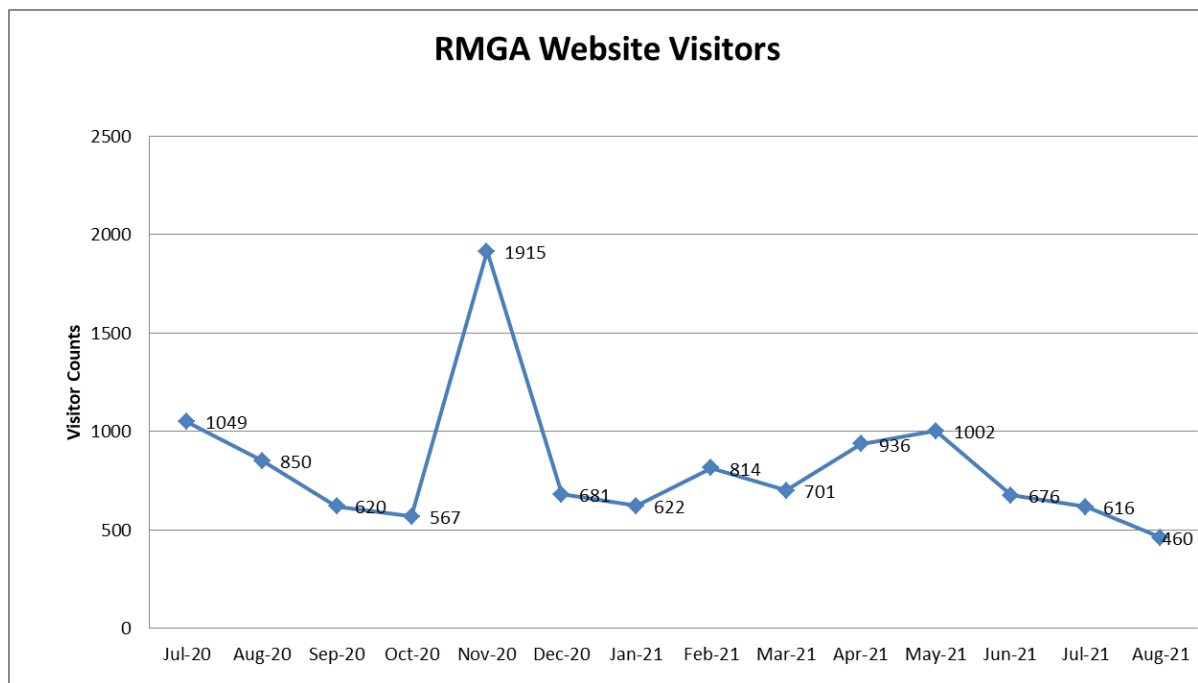
What's New on the Members Only Page?

These updates have been made to the website since the June report:

- *Sent instructions to members on how to access the members only page*
- *Sent video recordings of the George Custer program to George Koukeas who presented the May, 2019 program.*
- *June program uploaded to YouTube and Member Only page updated*

Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

The monthly visitor to our website remains constant. As of August 28th, the August count is 460.



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.

E-mail distribution

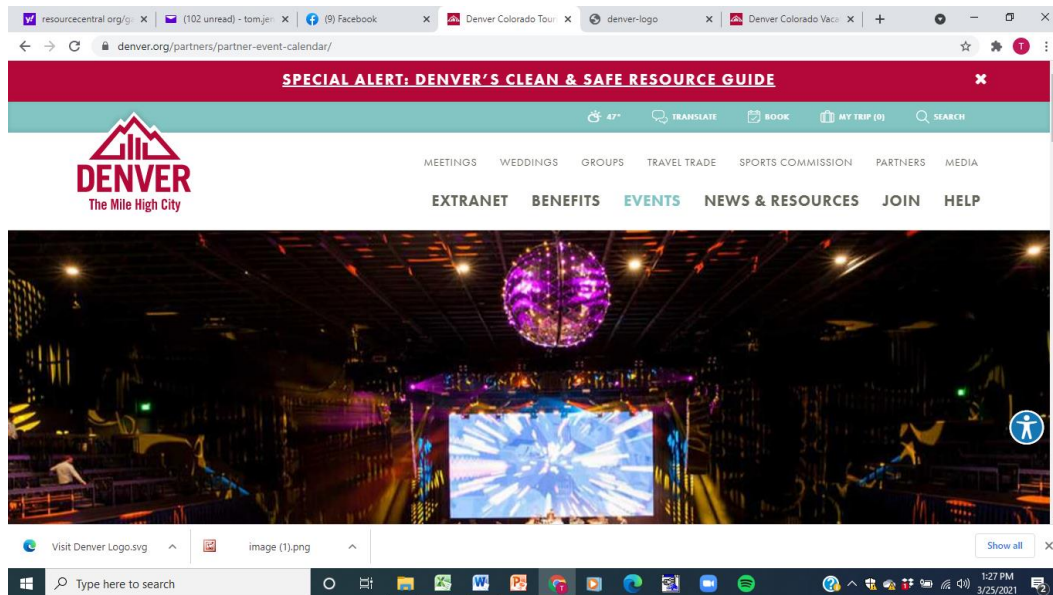
The distribution of e-mails continues to be done on a temporary basis. If anyone is interested in sending out the e-mail blasts, contact Mike Pearl at rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com. The contact list is current with the membership roster. If you are not receiving e-mails please contact Tom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

Facebook

“Pages” is a new feature has been added to the RMGA Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RMGAssoc>. Pages are places on Facebook where RMGA member businesses or other organizations and nonprofits can connect with their fans or customers. When someone likes or follows a Page on Facebook, they can start seeing updates from that Page in their News Feed.

Upcoming Industry Events

Submitted by Tom Jensen



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

SHIFT WORKSPACES

1001 Bannock St.
Denver, CO 80204

You may pay in advance online or pay at the door with cash, check or credit card. Advance payment is non-refundable. \$12/person

This event is only open to VISIT DENVER partners. RMGA is a partner.



2021 Santa Fe Trail Bicentennial Symposium

2021 will mark the 200th year since William Becknell and his trading companions traveled from Franklin, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico, resulting in the opening of a route of commerce that would continue for the next sixty years.

The symposium will present living history at Bent's Old Fort NHS, speakers, tours of Southeast Colorado, social events. It is an opportunity to learn more about this part of Colorado.

For more information: <http://2021sfts.com/index.html>



2021 Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference



The 2021 Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference has moved! The conference will now be held at the Pueblo Convention Center Nov. 4–5, 2021.

**Don't Miss Out on Early Bird Pricing —
Register for 2021 Gov Con Today!**

Don't miss your chance to secure the lowest rate possible for the annual Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference Wednesday, Nov. 3, through Friday, Nov. 5, 2021. Gov Con 2021 will take place at the Pueblo Convention Center.

Be sure to book your hotel room soon to ensure you get the hotel of your choice. Hotel rooms are booking up fast!

Book Your Hotel Room Now

Early Bird Registration ends Sept. 10, 2021.

Register for Gov Con Today

The CTO has postponed its plans for 2021 GovCon in Snowmass as The Westin undergoes renovations, but save the date as GovCon will be in Snowmass Sept. 20–23, 2022, in a beautifully updated space. Keep an eye out for more GovCon information to come, and we will see you in Pueblo!



Going to the Colorado State Fair?

Check this out: · **Colorado Byways Photo Traveling Exhibit** – Aug 27-Sep 6,
Colorado State Fair, Colorado Building, Pueblo, *“All Roads Lead to the Colorado State Fair”*



Southern Colorado Tourism Summit

Tentative Date Oct 13th – Oct 15th, 2021

For the itinerary and additional information see <https://socotourismsummit.com/>

Doors Open Denver

Doors Open Denver 2021 will take place **September 27 through October 17**, featuring 10 sites never before offered during DOD. The 2021 event includes **virtual tours, in-person tours and archived virtual tours**. As with last year's event, this year's largely virtual format means that you can easily participate in more than one virtual tour, and even experience them ALL if you like. **See the complete lineup [here](#) and register beginning August 30!**

<https://denverarchitecture.org/events-programs/doorsopendenver/>

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

Rocky Mountain Guides Association represents professional tour guides in the Rocky Mountain Region to tourism-related organizations. Several RMGA executive board members and committee chairs will attend the Colorado Governor's Conference on Tourism, November 3-5, in Pueblo. Their participation in conference events will give visibility to the role of professional tour guides in the tourism industry.

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

The Board of Directors is seeking a Secretary. Contact any Board member with your interest.

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 (including a member-written quarterly newsletter the *National Standard*) from NFTGA via our email Blast system.

- NFTGA will host its biennial conference January 26-28, 2022 in San Antonio, Texas. See <https://www.nftga.com/> for presenters, workshops, and registration information.

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

TOUR GUIDE RESOURCE

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Membership Committee Chair

When you are leading a motorcoach group to Manitou Springs, finding a convenient parking space for the vehicle is a real issue. A little advance planning by the tour guide can ease the situation. Reserve street parking for the motorcoach by contacting Leslie Lewis, Executive Director, Manitou Springs Chamber of Commerce, Visitors Bureau & Office of Economic Development 719-685-5089 leslielewis@manitouchamber.com.

The service is free, and the parking is free.

I request a space on the street at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 808 Manitou Ave, Manitou Springs, CO 80829. When I arrive, the cones are in place and the motorcoach glides into place. My guests are delighted.

Thank you, Manitou Springs!



FOLLOW UP TO MAY PROGRAM

“Broadmoor Manitou and Pikes Peak Cog Railway”

On May 10th, Ginger Hoolahan, Traffic Manager, THE BROADMOOR Manitou & Pikes Peak Railway Co. and gave us a pre-opening update on the new Pikes Peak Cog Railroad. The Railroad opened on May 20th. The new Pikes Peak Summit Visitor Center is set to open in June.



Ginger’s Program is viewable on YouTube. For Members not able to attend the May meeting (or those who want to review the presentation), here is the recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hv57Q-4StKc>

The link of the Zoom recording is also available on the Members Only page of the RMGA website. Scroll down to the 2021 Program Review link. By clicking on it, you’ll have access to recordings of all programs this year.

Guest speaker Ginger Hoolahan's contact information:

Ginger Hoolahan
Traffic Manager
THE BROADMOOR Manitou & Pikes Peak Railway Co.
515 Ruxton Avenue 1 PO Box 351
Manitou Springs, CO 80829
O: (719) 476-6779 M: (719) 290-4130

Email: ghoolahan@broadmoor.com

Website: www.cograilway.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Tuesday, September 7, 2021 (10:00 am)

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

Monday, October 4, 2021 (10:00 am)

All Members are welcome and invited to attend.

MEMBERS MEETINGS

Member Meetings

Monday, September 13, 2021 (6:30 pm)

(Meetings via ZOOM; an invitation to attend will be emailed to Members)

Monday, October 10, 2021 (6:30 pm)

Additional Member Meetings

The RMGA Board of Directors has agreed to host monthly chat sessions during June, July, August, and September, when RMGA doesn't usually meet. The social events will be held via Zoom and are meant to keep members connected. Please invite possible guide/members to attend.

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

Officers		
President	Mike Pearl	303-868-0023
Vice President	J. Mark Blaising	303-830-8440
Secretary		
Treasurer	Wendy Pickering	217-621-1960
Director-at-Large	David White	303-868-0023

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