



GUIDE LINE

March 2024

VOL 32, No 3

President's Message

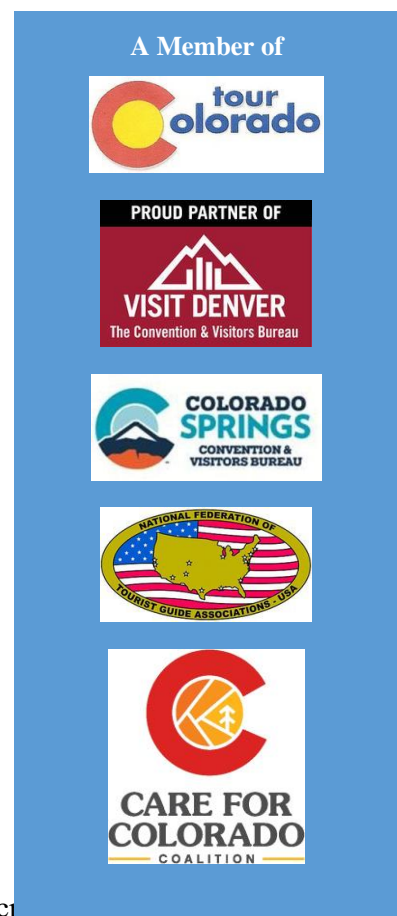
Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

The February Program/Meeting conducted online via ZOOM was informative for the nine members in attendance. Members received updated information about the organization and operation of the Rocky Mountain Guides Association presented by members Mike Pearl and Dawn Nelsen. A recording of the program is available in the members only section of the website.

Hans Kleinschmidt has graciously accepted the invitation to fill the position of Vice President, following the resignation of J. Mark Blaising effective February 1. Hans will continue the appointment until the change of officers May 31, the end of the officers' term. RMGA thanks Hans for stepping in.

The International Association of Tour Directors and Guides (IATDG) has announced that the 2024 TourConnect will be held in Aurora, Colorado! Dates are November 10-14. Place is Hyatt Regency Hotel Aurora, 13200 E 14th Pl, (just across from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. The staff at VISIT Aurora (RMGA Business Member) has been assisting TourConnect organizers with conference logistics. Steve Kaverman and I have met with organizers to offer assistance from RMGA. Watch for details for how you can be involved. Click [here](#) for information.

Tour Colorado has been promoting our state to group tour planners and a report of planners seeking specific information about services was sent to RMGA via email blast. Julianne Krogseng, Director, prepared the spreadsheet. I hope you've had a chance to review the notes and that you have reached out to potential employers. Good luck!



Please use the *Guide Line* to share some of your memorable experiences so that we can all learn. Email your submissions to the [Editor](#). You may also post them to the RMGA Facebook [page](#).

RMGA members continue 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

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FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the April *Guide Line* is **Friday, March 29**.

Future contributions should be emailed to *Guide Line* editor Eileen Pearl at rmgaeditor@rockymountaintourguides.com. If anyone has photos to share, please send them along with either a short description and/or names.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Communications Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen, Communications Committee Chair

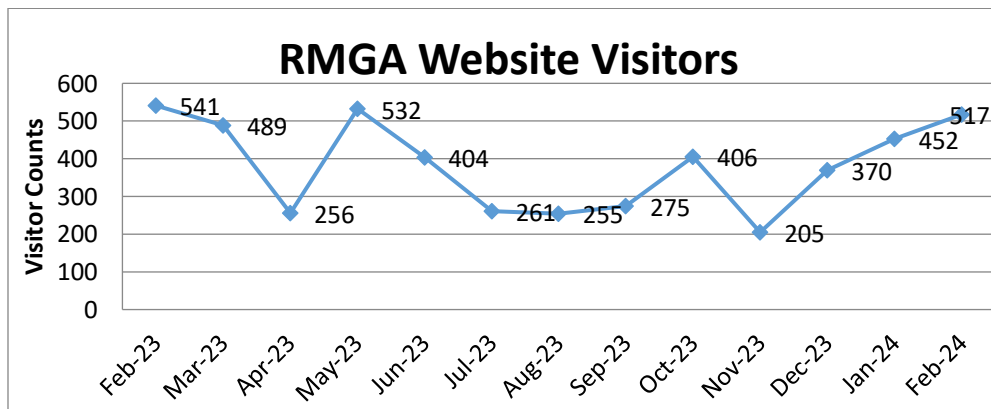
What's New on the Website?

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

- No updates have been made.

Monthly Visitors to the RMGA Website

Below is a year-to-date comparison of the number of visitors that viewed the RMGA Website. The number of visitors to the website continues to increase.



What's Coming Up

Access to Members Only Page – In February members will receive the new access code and instructions for the Members Only page. On this page you will discover archived copies of the Guide Line, Program reviews, FAM trip reviews, and governing documents.

Profile Update – Profiles from people who did not renew will be removed. A year will be added to the “Years Experience” category. If you have changes to your Profile, send them to rmgawebsite@rockymountaintourguides.com.

E-mail distribution

The distribution of e-mails continues to be done on a temporary basis. If you are 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

Have you checked out the RMGA Facebook Group?

Good stuff!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RMGAssoc.>

Education Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl

Call for Familiarization (FAM) Tours. Did you come across an experience that all members should know about? Is there a venue, attraction, or place that you'd like to learn about? That's a great excuse for a FAM trip. We haven't had many since COVID that we've forgotten why and how conduct them.

FAM trips usually occur over a 6-hour time (say, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm) on a weekday. Members get an inside look at a venue or attraction (or two) during a morning session and an afternoon session and have lunch together in the middle. The event provides a great opportunity for members to sharpen their knowledge about places and to network with venue and attraction operators.

Michael Dulude (720-236-5345) is putting together a FAM at Denver International Airport. Wendy Pickering (217-621-1960) is organizing a FAM of Boulder in coordination with the Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau. Contact either or both of them with your offer of assistance.

Organize a FAM Trip. Contact President [Mike Pearl](#) to get the ball rolling.

Membership Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl, Membership Committee Chair

The RMGA Board of Directors thanks you for your membership. The latest membership directory is posted on the Members Only page of the RMGA Website.

RMGA welcomes two professional members:

Karen Allen Failing of Centennial. She has over 10 years in the Tour Industry, planning itineraries, leading groups through Haiti, and guiding in Denver with clients secured through Travel Curious. Karen is also a home-based travel agent. She is affiliated with the International Air Travel Association (IATA) and International Association for Tour Directors and Guides (IATDG). Karen has taken tour director training through the TripSchool. Her website is www.haitianvacation.com.

Welcome!

May Forshee of Loveland. She volunteers for Quiet Hours Ministry and has lead mission trips overseas for the Ministry since 2015. She has led groups to Thailand, Panama, Colombia, India, Ethiopia, Bosnia, Peru, Indonesia. May reports that she usually leads one or two 10-day trips a year. She wants to add more tour guiding and tour directing to her résumé, and she wants to add Colorado attractions to her skill set.

Welcome!

Please examine the membership directory, then reach out to a tour guide you know who isn't a member yet and give them a call.

As RMGA seeks to improve the professionalism of tour guides in our area through education, each one of us is only as strong as all of us.

RMGA welcomes new members! Do your part to improve and expand RMGA's knowledge base by increasing the number and diversity of our members. The best means is for each of us to make a personal connection with non-member tour guides.

Invite tour guides to RMGA's next meeting in-person or 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

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

Nominations are being sought for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director-at-Large. When a member of the Nominations Committee contacts you about serving as an officer for the 2024-2025 term of office, please give serious thought to that request. Better yet, contact a current Officers with your interest. Nominations will be announced at the March Program/Meeting. Elections will be held at April's Annual Meeting. Officers begin their term June 1.

Program Committee

Submitted by Mike Pearl

March Members Meeting & Program:

WHEN: Monday, March 11, 2024

6:00 pm Networking

6:30 pm Business Meeting

6:45 pm Program

WHERE: Online via ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85080265207>

Meeting ID: 850 8026 5207

WHAT: Member Forum

The International Association of Tour Directors and Guides (IATDG) is meeting in Aurora/Denver November 10-14, 2024. How do RMGA members register to attend? How can RMGA play host to IATDG's members? What happens at the IATDG conference? Join the Forum to learn more about IATDG's TourConnect 2024 conference.

Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen, Public Relations Committee Chair



2024 Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference

Crested Butte is the host destination of the 2024 Conference. The conference will be held at Crested Butte Mountain Resort & Elevation Hotel on Sept. 25-27, 2024.

Save the date for this year's Colorado Governor's Tourism Conference (Gov Con), taking place Sept. 25-27, 2024, in Mt. Crested Butte! Gov Con is the state's premier travel industry event, bringing together hundreds of tourism leaders and partners for three days of insightful programming, educational sessions and valuable networking opportunities. The Gov Con Planning Committee is currently accepting session topic proposals for the 2024 conference, including short presentations, 75-minute breakout sessions, one-hour workshops and onsite activities. Don't miss the chance to contribute—submit your proposal by April 9, 2024, and be a part of shaping this year's conference agenda!

Submit Your Ideas

Denver Restaurant Week Serves Up Its 20th Year



Come celebrate the 20th annual [Visit Denver's Denver Restaurant Week](#) presented by Superior Farms American Lamb (March 1–10).

Dine out with family and friends at hundreds of The Mile High City's best restaurants, including award winners from both the MICHELIN Guide and the James Beard Foundation.

Make your way to gourmet food halls and world-class cuisines right here in Denver. And — with price points at \$25, \$35, \$45 and \$55 for [multi-course meals](#) — there's more to love and more to eat. Explore menus at [denverrestaurantweek.com](#).

EXPLORE MENUS >

Three New EV Byways Designated in Colorado

Last week the Colorado Scenic & Historic Byway Commission proudly announced the addition of three new byways to the Colorado Electric Byways program. The Peak to Peak Scenic & Historic Byway, Mt. Blue Sky Scenic & Historic Byway and Gold Belt Tour Scenic & Historic Byway are officially recognized as Colorado Electric Byways. With the latest designations, Colorado now boasts a total of 17 Electric Byways, representing 65% progress towards the state's goal of electrifying all 26 scenic byways. The CTO sent out a [press release](#) in collaboration with CDOT and CEO that provides more information on these byways and the byways program.





History Colorado

In Good Company

Last March, the Amache incarceration site, also known as the Granada Relocation Center, was added to the National Park System. One year later, America's newest national park, the [Amache National Historic Site](#), was formally established on February 15 to preserve an important piece of our country's Japanese American story. The area joins a list of other parks and historic sites in Colorado that enjoy [designation anniversaries](#) this time of year. Our most visited, Rocky Mountain National Park was created on January 26, 1915. Amache will join [Curecanti National Recreation Area](#) in celebrating a February anniversary, while [Hovenweep National Monument](#), Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, and Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve all share March anniversaries. And although it's not in Colorado, the grandfather of our national park system, Yellowstone National Park, was designated on March 1, 1872. Nearly all of our national parks are open year-round, so plan your trip today!

Bruce Randolph Avenue

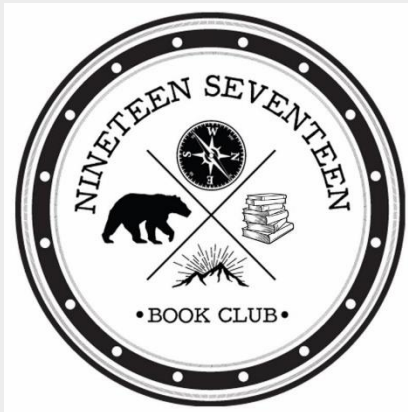


Most Denverites know of the roadway bearing his name. But do you know the legacy behind the street sign? “Daddy” Bruce Randolph would have turned 124 years old this year on his February 15 birthday. Renowned across the city for his mouthwatering barbecue (he catered for the Broncos!), his incredible generosity and desire to nurture transcended the grill pit. [Learn more about the inspirational “Daddy” Bruce](#) from James Beard Award-winning author and BBQ master Adrian Miller, in a feature he wrote for *The Colorado Magazine*.

Submitted by member Kay Willson



March Meeting of the 1917 Book Club



On Wednesday, March 20, 2024 the 1917 Book Club returns to the Estes Park Museum to explore local titles and authors. Discussions will take place every third Wednesday of the month from January through March, 2024. The program runs from 10 – 11:30 a.m. and is held in the Museum Meeting Room. Light snacks will be provided. This program is free and open to the public. It is strongly encouraged that participants read each selection prior to the program to take part in the discussion.

The March title is *This Blue Hollow: Estes Park, the Early Years, 1859 – 1915* by Dr. James H. Pickering.

"Pickering examines the environmental transformation of the Estes Park region, from its beginnings as a hunting reserve for the Front Range pioneer aristocracy, to its allure for intrepid mountaineers, to that of a central piece of Rocky Mountain National Park, complete with lodges, civic boosters of all stripes, businesses, and ultimately a thriving tourist industry that allowed the area to flourish." Museum staff will facilitate a lively discussion.

For any questions, please contact Curator of Interpretation, Mikaela Fundaun, mfundaun@estes.org.

The mission of the Estes Park Museum is to conduct activities that preserve, share, and respect the unique history of Estes Park. For more information, call the Estes Park Museum at 970-586-6256 or visit the [Museum's website](#). Museum gallery hours: Wednesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

New mailing address for former member Mary Bendelow

Mary Bendelow
5514 Asot Ln SE
Lacey, WA 98503

ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

Rocky Mountain Guides Association represents professional tour guides in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Region to tourism-related organizations. As president, I meet with other leaders of US tour guide associations and guilds through monthly Zoom meetings. We report to RMGA members the information from those meetings.

President Mike Pearl represents RMGA to

- National Federation of Tourist Guides Associations monthly leadership meetings, and
- Care for Colorado Partners quarterly meetings

Tom Jensen and the Public Relations Committee lead in keeping RMGA and us professional tour guides in the forefront of the minds of local tourism industry leaders. The PR Committee is our liaison to VISIT Denver, the Colorado Tourism Organization, VISIT Colorado Springs, and Tour Colorado, among other such organizations. Do you know of a tourism organization with which RMGA should be affiliated? Contact Tom with information.

VISIT Denver “Go the EXTRA Mile” Training

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

VISIT Denver’s Front Line Staff Training Program “Go the EXTRA Mile” has returned. Many members of RMGA have taken the training and have found it very valuable. The training program is free to RMGA members because of RMGA’s partnership with VISIT Denver.

The training program is completely online. Once you have completed the course, you will receive a certificate and access to the Go the Extra Mile Savings Pass. Go to <https://qrs.ly/uufb2z5>. There you will set up an account, then proceed through the course information and learning modules.

After you receive your certificate, add that information to your biography on the RMGA website.

What’s in Your Library?

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

RMGA members wanting to form a book club, contact President Mike Pearl.

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 Guide Line

The official way that RMGA as an organization communicates with members is by means of the newsletter, *Guide Line*, published September through May. Editor Eileen Pearl collects articles submitted by members for the benefit of professional tour guiding. In addition to RMGA members, the *Guide Line* is sent to the

Colorado Tourism Organization (CTO), the National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (NFTGA), and other tourism-promoting organizations. The newsletter is distributed by Tom Jensen, in his temporary role as transmitter of the RMGA email Blasts. Send your articles to [Eileen Pearl](#).

RMGA Leadership Opportunities

Members are encouraged to volunteer to lead these committees:

- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Certification Committee Chair (Must have the RMGA Colorado Certification)
- Email Distribution Committee Chair
- Program Committee Chair

Contact any Board member with your interest.

Future Conferences

Are you going? Send stories of your experiences to the [Editor](#). Post comments to the RMGA Facebook [page](#). This way, we can all learn.

International Association of Tour Directors and Guides (IATDG) [TourConnect](#), November 10-14, 2024, Denver/Aurora.

National Federation of Tourist Guide Associations (NFTGA-USA) Philadelphia, January 2024

Support for the Martin Luther King, Jr. “I Have a Dream” Memorial in City Park

Following the recent vandalizing of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial in Denver’s City Park, VISIT Denver is inviting its Partners, of which RMGA is one, to contribute to the effort to refurbish the memorial. A news report about the incident can be found [here](#). VISIT Denver’s letter to partnership members and a link to the Go-Fund-Me page can be found [here](#) or by clicking on the link <https://bit.ly/3OVZylU>

Are You Colo-Ready?

RMGA is 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*:



The Care for Colorado Coalition has joined with Do Colorado Right to amplify the message. RMGA has access to Care for Colorado assets such as stickers and flyers. Contact President [Mike Pearl](#) with your request for materials.

Do Colorado Right Campaign Targeting Residents

The CTO launched its Do Colorado Right summer campaign recently, specifically targeting residents throughout the state in conjunction with 9News. This campaign features relevant topics including fire safety and prevention, backcountry safety, trash mitigation and more. Check out the [website](#). <https://www.colorado.com/do-colorado-right>

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

NFTGA Leadership Meetings

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.

Michael Dillinger, president, announced that the remodeled NFTGA website will be active by January 2024. James Carr of the Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington, D.C. reported that the Guild will conduct training for guiding in the District in January 2024. Check their website for more information. <https://www.washingtondctourguides.com/>

The associations “next door” to us are the Utah Tour Guide Association ([UTGA](#)) and the Santa Fe Tour Guides ([SFTG](#)). Check out their websites. When you’re traveling, check the NFTGA membership [page](#) to locate the web address for the organization serving your destination. Then, reach out to the organization and make a connection.

The next NFTGA Delegates Meeting will be held Thursday, January 11, 2024 via ZOOM 6:30-8:30 pm. All RMGA members are welcome to sit in on the meeting. Contact President [Mike Pearl](#) for a link.

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

Find your next tour job at 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!

MEETINGS

Board of Directors Meetings

Sunday, March 3, 2024 (7:00 pm)

Monday, April 1, 2024 (7:00 pm) (Easter is on March 31)

Sunday, May 5, 2024 (7:00 pm)

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

All Members are welcome and invited to attend.

Member Meetings

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

Monday, March 11, 2024 (6:00 pm) (Meeting via ZOOM and/or in person: watch for details; an invitation to attend is emailed to Members, who are encouraged to forward the invitation to prospective members.)

Monday, April 8, 2024 (6:00 pm) Annual Meeting. VISIT Aurora, Stanley Marketplace, 2501 Dallas St, Aurora, CO 80010. (Meeting via ZOOM and in person: watch for details; an invitation to attend is emailed to Members, who are encouraged to forward the invitation to prospective members.)

PURPOSE

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 | <i>Vacant</i> | |
| Secretary | Dawn Nelsen | 303-898-6853 |
| Treasurer | Wendy Pickering | 217-621-1960 |
| Director-at-Large | Tom Jensen | 303-968-0515 |

| Committee Chairpersons | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Certification | <i>Vacant</i> | |
| Communications | Tom Jensen | 303-968-0515 |
| Education | <i>Vacant</i> | |
| Hospitality | Lily Ewing | 303-250-9679 |
| Membership | Mike Pearl | 303-979-7594 |
| Newsletter Editor | Eileen Pearl | 303-868-0021 |
| Program | <i>Vacant</i> | |
| Public Relations | Tom Jensen | 303-968-0515 |
| Nominations | Mike Pearl | 303-868-0023 |