



# GUIDE LINE

**November 2023**

**VOL 31, No 8**

## **President's Message**

Submitted by Mike Pearl, President

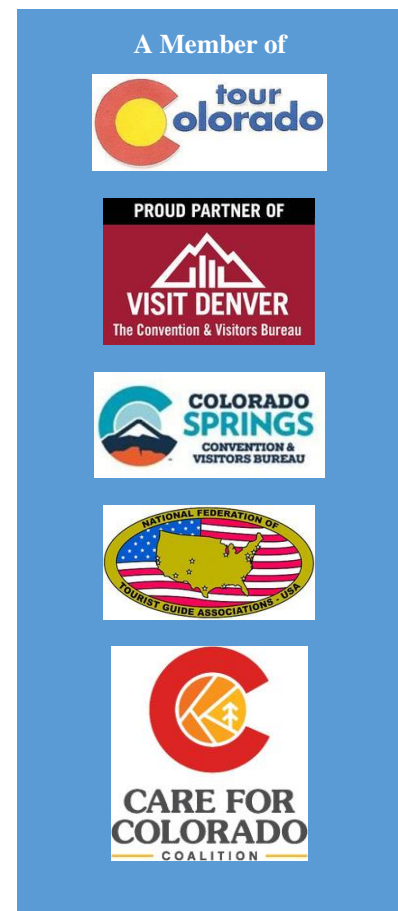
The October Program/Meeting at the Sugar Cube Building was informative for members attending and beneficial to RMGA. Thanks to Wendy Pickering who led the group on a tour of the Gove & Walsh designed warehouse. In many places, the original construction was visible. I'm often amazed at the engineering abilities of designers and builders who didn't have access to modern technology.

During the business meeting, two Familiarization events for spring 2024 were announced. Michael Dulude is putting together a FAM at Denver International Airport. Wendy Pickering is organizing a FAM of Boulder in coordination with the Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau. They're in need of help with tasks such as registration, programming, coordination, food & beverage, and other details. Contact them with your offer of assistance.

Preliminary planning for the Holiday meeting also occurred. The event will be held at Dawn Nelsen's home on Monday, December 11. Contact Dawn or Lily Ewing to offer your help.

Thanks to those in attendance at the October meeting: Tom, Mark, Lily, Michael, Wendy, Mike, Adrian, and Carol on-site, and Ellen via ZOOM.

RMGA has two new professional member candidates. The RMGA Board of Directors will review and ratify their membership at their meeting Sunday evening, November 5.



Please welcome them at the program and meeting November 13.

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](#).

What's your score on my challenge? Send stories to the [Editor](#).

I challenge members to demonstrate their commitment to RMGA by doing these activities over the next nine months:

- After reading the *Guide Line*, email the Editor thanking her for publishing it and include a note about what you appreciated about it. Do this for at least 8 of the next 9 issues.
- Attend 7 of the 8 program/meetings October through May, either in person or online.
- Bring one person with you to a program/meeting October through May, either in person or online.
- Go to the RMGA Facebook page and click on "Like" for the postings. Write a public comment for 3 postings over the next 9 months.

I agree that we're all busy with our families and lives. I urge you to express your gratitude for the time and effort that the volunteer leaders of RMGA by acknowledging their contributions. Attendance at programs/meetings validates everyone's membership. Without a little bit of effort on the part of all members, RMGA will become unhealthy.

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](mailto:rmgapresident@rockymountaintourguides.com).

Mike Pearl, President, RMGA

## FROM THE EDITOR

Deadline for submissions for the December *Guide Line* is **Tuesday November 28**.

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

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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Communications Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen, Communications Committee Chair

#### E-mail distribution

- Distributed e-mails that were of general interest to the members including requests for tour guides/directors for 2023.

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

Have you checked out the RMGA Facebook Group?

Good stuff!



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

### Education Committee

**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 is putting together a FAM at Denver International Airport. Wendy Pickering is organizing a FAM of Boulder in coordination with the Boulder Convention and Visitors Bureau.

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.

Membership Renewal begins December 1. There is no increase in dues for 2024. Also, plan to send your premium for liability insurance to Wendy Pickering so she receives it before December 31.

RMGA's membership stands at 39 members: Professional-24; Business-7; Professional/Business Multiple Listing-2; Retired-5; Friend-1. Please examine the membership directory, then reach out to someone you don't know very well 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**

No submission.

## Program Committee

Submitted by Mark Blaising



### November Members Meeting & Program:

**WHEN:** Monday, November 13, 2023

6:00 pm Networking

6:30 pm Business Meeting – Upcoming programs & FAMs; Introduction of new members

7:00 pm Program

**WHERE:** The Haven Boutique in Cherry Creek, 257 Fillmore St, Denver CO 80206

**WHAT:** A live presentation of hat shaping and information about the millinery tradition of the west with the one and only Parker Thomas!

**PARKING:** Cherry Creek North On-Street Parking is metered 8:00 am-7:00 pm Monday-Saturday. Click [here](#) for details.

**HYBRID:** The meeting will be available via ZOOM. Watch for an invitation.

**Hats** and the unique ability to shape them are a tradition in the American west. Parker Thomas is a part of that tradition. He comes from three generations of hat makers and shapers. An injury put an end to a promising football career but refocused Parker on the history and craft of hat making. “I remember the first time my grandpa showed me how to steam and shape a hat, I was intrigued and wanted to do more. The family aspect of this trade has always been an important part to me. Carrying on my family's tradition of custom hat making and shaping is why I get up in the mornings now.

Working at rodeos with my family showed me how rewarding it is to make custom hats for people just as unique as me. I love that a hat can tell a story about a person. It's hard to capture the full depth of a person, but a hat can be a fun way to tell your unique story.

I've shaped hats at the NFR Rodeo and also at Paris Fashion Week. I love the country, but I also love the city; I love hip hop music, and I can also get down to some country music too! Hats have helped me tell my unique story.”

RMGA is always on the lookout for unique ways to share the story of our region. Come join us on Monday November 13<sup>th</sup> 6-8PM at Haven Boutique in Cherry Creek-257 Fillmore St, Denver CO 80206 for a live presentation of hat shaping and learn about the millinery tradition of the west with the one and only Parker Thomas!

### Public Relations Committee

Submitted by Tom Jensen, Public Relations Committee Chair



### The End of an Era

The October 2018 Member Program was hosted by the Bandimere Speedway.

From local and NHRA races to the fan-favorite Night of Fire & Thunder, Bandimere Speedway has entertained Colorado racing enthusiasts for more than six decades.

After 65 years of calling Morrison home, the high-speed sounds at “Thunder Mountain” have gone quiet. As announced earlier this year, Bandimere Speedway hosted its final races this past weekend. But motorsport fans needn’t worry, because the Bandimere family has plans for a new racing complex to open for the 2025 season, although a new location has yet to be announced.





## Have you heard of this Colorado urban legend?

A whale-like creature that lives high up in the Rocky Mountains and feasts on unsuspecting tourists and hikers. This is the Slide Rock Bolter.

This tale goes back to the 1800's when lumberjacks and miners would recall stories of seeing this cryptid. Also known as **Macrostoma saxiperrumptus**, the Slide Rock Bolter perches itself high up on a mountaintop and waits. Waits for anything or anybody to wander by. That's when it strikes. The creature unhooks its tail and begins to slide down the mountain at great speed, building momentum with the help of a slick liquid that comes out of the corners of its mouth. It demolishes everything in its path until it is able to devour the unsuspecting prey.

Read More: The Urban Legend of the Colorado 'Slide Rock Bolter' | [https://kekbfn.com/the-urban-legend-of-the-colorado-slide-rock-bolter/?utm\\_source=tsmclip&utm\\_medium=referral](https://kekbfn.com/the-urban-legend-of-the-colorado-slide-rock-bolter/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral)





**Denver Arts Week**  
**November 3 – 11, 2023**



**Denver Arts Week celebrates The Mile High City's arts and culture scene with hundreds of events around the city.**

**<https://www.denver.org/denver-arts-week/>**

Explore vibrant art districts, check out museum exhibitions and outdoor sculptures, indulge in the performing arts, be inspired at film and literary events, and even buy some art of your own!

Denver Arts Week will kick off November 3, 2023 with expanded First Friday Art Walks across the city's creative neighborhoods, followed by **FREE** Night at the Museums on Saturday, November 4, when many of Denver's top cultural institutions will be open for free.

**On Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, Denver's best museums are open late and admission is FREE between 5 and 10 p.m.**

FREE shuttles make it easy to explore all evening! **[Take a look at the shuttle routes](#)** to plan your evening and check back soon for a downloadable map.



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Thank you to Kay Willson for sending this article.

## **Sprague Lake Boardwalk Replacement Project is Complete Inside Rocky Mountain National Park**



The Sprague Lake Boardwalk Replacement Project is now complete inside Rocky Mountain National Park. Located along Bear Lake Road, the Sprague Lake Loop is a 0.7-mile trail around the lake. Sprague Lake is a popular destination where visitors can enjoy scenic views of the lake and the Continental Divide as well as activities like fishing and wildlife viewing. There is also a picnic area and vault toilets located near the parking area in addition to an accessible backcountry campsite located a short distance from the lake.

On Friday, October 20, 2023, Gary Ingram, Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park, and RMNP staff members were joined by Rocky Mountain Conservancy Board President Brian Ross and other members of the Conservancy Board and staff to celebrate the completion of this important project.

Over the 2023 summer season, NPS Staff and partners worked to replace a 230-linear feet section of the Sprague Lake Trail (or 2044-square feet). This section of trail included an elevated boardwalk that crosses riparian habitat along the southwest shore of the lake. This project worked to replace an old boardwalk that was built in 2000 and had outlived its lifespan, addressing structural deficiencies and widening the trail to improve accessibility for visitors who use wheelchairs and strollers.

This project involved removing the old wooden boardwalk, improving the substructure, installing a steel frame as the support base to protect wetlands areas, widening this section of the trail, and installing new wooden boards on the surface of the boardwalk. This project also widened and improved two scenic overlooks. The new boardwalk contains nearly 50,000 pounds of materials.

Many people were involved with the successful completion of this project, including Rocky's trail crew staff, members of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy-Conservation Corps, NPS staff from the Denver Service Center, Northern Colorado Helitack, volunteers with Teens Inc. and volunteers with Heli-Pile.

This project was funded primarily through recreation fee dollars with additional funds from the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. Thank you to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy for helping to support the Sprague Lake Boardwalk Replacement Project for the enjoyment of current and future generations.





## 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 vice president and president, Mark Blaising and 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 and vice president J. Mark Blaising represent 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. He 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.

### **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:

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

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)** Annual Tour Connect. Astor Crown Plaza Hotel, New Orleans, LA November 5-9. [Information](#)

**National Travel Association (NTA)** NTA Travel Exchange, Shreveport Convention Center, Shreveport, LA, November 12-15, 2023. [Information](#)

**World Federation of Tourist Guides Associations (WFTGA)** 20<sup>th</sup> International Convention, Siracusa, Italy, January 18-29, 2024. [Information](#)

## 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). <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/> Michael Dillinger is leading a session at the 2023 conference of the International Association of Tour Directors and Guides in New Orleans November 6-9. The topic for the panel concerns how tour guides set their fees. Michael invites RMGA members attending IATDG to join him on the panel. Contact him at [president@nftga.com](mailto:president@nftga.com). I'm assisting Michael in preparing a worksheet for the session, even though I won't be attending IATDG.

The next NFTGA Delegates Meeting will be held Thursday, October 12, 2023 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](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!

## Memorable Experiences on Tour

Submitted by Mike Pearl

I've led tours to Rocky Mountain National Park since 2012, and I've visited the park many times on my own. I've seen elk, moose, squirrels, bighorn sheep, coyotes, wild turkeys, and numerous birds. I've visited the park during all four seasons of the year and times of day. However, until September 2023 I had never seen a bear in the park. On that Saturday morning, my guests were gathered at the west parking lot of the Alluvial Fan waiting for the coach to come collect them. Several were scanning the mountain slope casually when one blurted out, "Is that a bear?!" Quickly, binoculars were trained on the area where the guest was pointing. Sure enough, a bear was midway up the slope of the mountain foraging for food around a rotting fallen tree. While I have no photo of the bear to share here, several of my guests were able to get an image. What a memorable experience for me and my guests.

## Board of Directors Meetings

Sunday, November 5, 2023 (7:00 pm)

Sunday, December 3, 2023 (7:00 pm)

Tuesday, January 2, 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, November 13, 2023 (6:00 pm)

Monday, December 11, 2023 (6:00 pm)

Monday, January 8, 2024 (6:00 pm)

Meetings 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.

## 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	<a href="#">Mike Pearl</a>	303-868-0023
Vice President	<a href="#">J. Mark Blaising</a>	303-830-8440
Secretary	<a href="#">Dawn Nelsen</a>	303-898-6853
Treasurer	<a href="#">Wendy Pickering</a>	217-621-1960
Director-at-Large	<a href="#">Tom Jensen</a>	303-968-0515

Committee Chairpersons		
Certification		
Communications	<a href="#">Tom Jensen</a>	303-968-0515
Education		
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
Nominations	<a href="#">Mike Pearl</a>	303-868-0023