



THE MONOLITH

A PUBLICATION BY THE COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT ASSOCIATION ■ WINTER 2007-2008

Renewal and Reinvestment:

Rim Rock Drive Rebuilt; Junior Ranger Program Expanded

By Joan Anzelmo



Photo Courtesy of Christopher Tomlinson, The Daily Sentinel

Greetings from Colorado National Monument. It's hard to believe that summer has drawn to a close and we are well into the fall season! I have enjoyed meeting many of you since arriving at the monument in May. I deeply appreciate your interest and support of Colorado National Monument through your membership in the Colorado National Monument Association. Your annual membership dues as well as the sales of CNMA books and other items are making a huge difference in our ability to carry out our mission of education and community outreach. So thank you!

If you have been in the monument lately you hopefully have enjoyed the new Rim Rock Drive. The primary road construction is complete and the road is now in excellent condition and even a bit wider in a few places. Still it is a road that everyone must drive with caution. When it rains or snows the new asphalt may make the road quite slick. So please do be careful.

If you have been reading or hearing the local news reports you may be aware that we have launched a proactive campaign to slow motorists down while driving Rim Rock Drive and to encourage cyclists and motorists to respectfully share the road. We have recently added new information for cyclists and motorists on our website www.nps.gov/colm and are handing out a new flyer at our entrance gates to further encourage sharing of the road. We have purchased and installed a speed warning trailer on East Rim Rock Drive as a way to remind motorists to slow down. We are adding signs along Rim Rock Drive as well as reminding everyone to turn on car headlights and illuminate bikes in all tunnels. Please help us and lead the way in setting a good example as you travel the monument by fol-

lowing the speed limits, turning on headlights and respectfully sharing the road.

On September 29, National Public Lands Day, we celebrated the new Rim Rock Drive and closed 15 miles of the road from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. to allow for cyclists, runners and walkers to enjoy the new road without cars. This was quite popular with those who came but it was an especially windy day and kept many others away. We will try this again and hope that many CNMA members will take advantage of this fun opportunity. Adding to the spirit of the day, CNMA offered a 10% discount for all items in the store throughout that day.

In the last few months we have had individuals and businesses express an interest in helping the monument achieve some of its goals for expanding education and community outreach. I asked the CNMA board to allow the park to have those donations deposited in a new account with CNMA so that the donors could receive a tax benefit for their generosity and we the park could easily access the funds and even allow them to accumulate beyond the fiscal year. This gives us

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Rededication of Newly Constructed Rim Rock Drive

September 29, 2007



After a two-year road construction project, Colorado National Monument hosted a rededication ceremony to celebrate one of the greatest scenic drives in America. The road was closed to motorized traffic from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. so walkers, runners, and bicyclists could enjoy the newly constructed road surface. After the ceremony, a parade of antique cars traveled east bound across Rim Rock Drive to celebrate the finished road.



Ranger Michelle Murphy and Chief Ranger Phil Akers assist Superintendent Joan Anzelmo and retired NPS employee Larry Overbye with the ribbon-cutting during the rededication ceremony.



Road construction workers rebuild a collapsed section of Rim Rock Drive.



A great deal of heavy equipment was needed in the reconstruction effort.

Renewal

Continued from page 1

more flexibility to achieve more with funds that can be accumulated giving us a larger sum to work with.

At the moment our primary area of focus for these donations is our Junior Ranger Program. Should you feel extra generous, we are always happy to see that specific CNMA fund grow through additional direct donations. Investing in the youth of our Valley and growing new stewards for the environment and for historic resources is a high calling. The Junior Ranger

Program is a first step on this path of growing tomorrow's leaders. In a recent newsletter I shared the good news that through the NPS Centennial Challenge and with the matching funds pledged by CNMA, we will expand our Junior Ranger Program to include two Junior Ranger Day Camp sessions for underserved youth of the Grand Valley during the summer of 2008. So again, thanks for your support.

In closing I invite you to let me know if you have topics of interest you would like to know about relating to Colorado National Monument. I will try to address them in the next newsletter. We are

working to create a variety of new e-mail lists to be able to quickly communicate directly with several interest groups. In that vein – please send your e-mail address to me at colm_info@nps.gov as soon as you receive this newsletter so that we may create an electronic list for CNMA members. This list will be used for quick communications and breaking news. If you do not have an e-mail address you will continue to receive important information through the regular mail. And, as always, if you have urgent concerns, please feel free to call our offices at 858-3617 ext. 300.

Tough Job:

The Trails and Rails Program

Story and Photographs by
Joe Virgona and Mary Mastin



Mary & Joe at Denver Union Station

“It’s a tough job, but somebody has to do it.” That could be the motto of the Trails and Rails volunteers who ride Amtrak’s California Zephyr along one of the most spectacular routes in the country, if not the world. The Zephyr travels along the Colorado River, through four canyons while crossing the Rockies, and under the Continental Divide. Approximately 40 Grand Junction and Denver based interpretive guides make the scheduled day-light eight-hour trip between Grand Junction and Denver four days a week from mid-May through mid-September. Each two-member team leaves Grand Junction and Denver on Thursdays and Saturdays and returns to their respective home bases on Fridays and Sundays.

The 30 Trails and Rails Programs on Amtrak routes throughout the country are coop-



Union Pacific Steam Locomotive 844
leaving Denver Union Station

erative agreements between Amtrak, the National Park Service, and other federal and state organizations. The Colorado National Monument serves as the host park for this particular segment, which is in its fourth season.

The docents discuss the history, geology, scenery and railroading along the 275-mile route. One docent presents the 24-page Trails and Rails script to the passengers via the public address system throughout the train or just in the sightseeing/lounge Car, depending upon the direction of the train conductor. The other team member traverses the train answering questions, discussing the on-board exhibits, and visiting with the passengers, including those in the ADA sections of the train. Sometimes, we see trains that do not travel in our region frequently such as the Union Pacific steam locomotives and the American Orient Express.

The volunteers meet many wonderful and interesting people from around the world and also learn from the passengers and crew on each trip. Some rail fan passengers seem to know the route by heart. Feedback is usually positive. The frequent ‘complaint’ is

“How come volunteers are not on the trains every day?”

Each volunteer attempts to schedule at least three trips each season. However, during the last two seasons many trips have been late or even cancelled because of significant freight traffic and/or track work both west and east of Grand Junction. When track work is scheduled in advance, the trains are usually rerouted from Salt Lake City to Denver through Wyoming along the historic trans-continental line bypassing Grand Junction. Also, occasional ‘service disruptions,’ including freight derailments, significantly affect the schedule. The east and west bound Zephyrs are scheduled to pass one another in Glenwood Canyon, but this does not happen regularly.

Assuming sufficient Amtrak and Park Service funding next year, consider becoming a Trails & Rails volunteer in 2008 and taking on this ‘tough job.’ Please e-mail colm_info@nps.gov for an application.

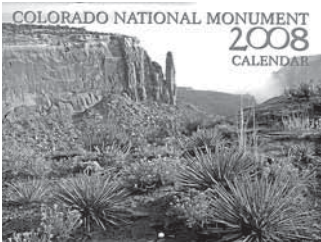


The late Ned Barker made numerous trips during the first two seasons training new volunteers and filling in when there was a schedule vacancy.

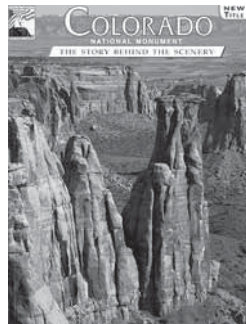
Bookstore Bests

Annual CNMA “Members Only” 20% Off Holiday Sale

It's holiday time again, and the CNMA has lots of great gift items featuring Colorado National Monument to please your family and friends. Mugs, magnets, t-shirts in a large variety of sizes, jewelry, games, maps, and books for children and adults – we've got it all! A membership to the CNMA also makes a great gift – you give a gift with great membership benefits as well as supporting the park you love!

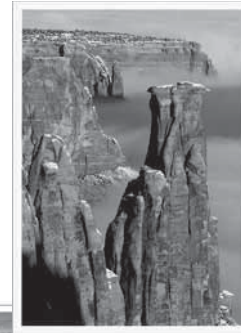


Colorado National Monument 2008 calendar: \$9.95



Colorado National Monument
The Story Behind the Scenery
\$9.95

This book was introduced in June 2007, and it is already the best-selling title in our bookstore.



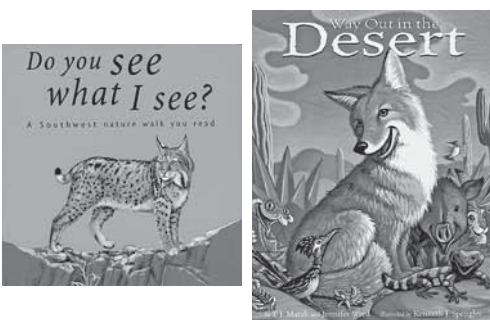
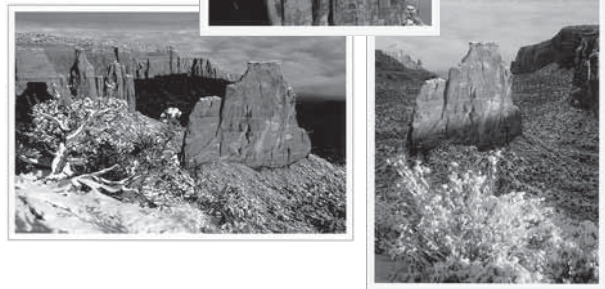
Christmas card packets in a variety of styles: Prices range from \$12.00 to \$16.95



Silver Jewelry by JC:
This lovely jewelry, inspired by the Colorado National Monument, makes a wonderful gift. Available in a variety of styles and prices.



Tote bag made from 100% organic cotton: \$16.95



Children's board books:
Do You See What I See?: \$6.95
Way Out in the Desert: \$6.95



Water bottle with Colorado National Monument logo: \$7.95

Stocking Stuffers:



Enameled Hiking Medallion: \$3.95
Embroidered Logo Patch: \$3.95

If you are a CNMA member, you already receive a 15% discount on your purchases, and during our annual holiday sale, you will receive an additional 5% off. Our annual 20% off “Members Only” holiday sale starts November 22 and lasts through December 31. Just show your membership card at the cash register to receive your discount. If you can't make it up to the bookstore, you can still take part in the sale. Call 970-858-3617 ext. 308, e-mail us at colm_cnma@nps.gov, or check out our website at www.coloradonma.org.

Colorado National Monument Calendar Photo Contest

Colorado National Monument Association publishes an annual calendar featuring a variety of images taken in the monument.

Twelve full-page photographs are required, as well as approximately 14 smaller grid images. For the 2009 calendar, we would like to feature a variety of topics.

Wildlife: This can include our larger mammals such as big horn sheep or bobcats, and smaller ones such as rock squirrels. Pictures of birds and lizards are popular; butterflies always add color.

Plants: Spring flowers and blooming shrubs are excellent; but don't forget that old twisted juniper. Fall colors are also important.

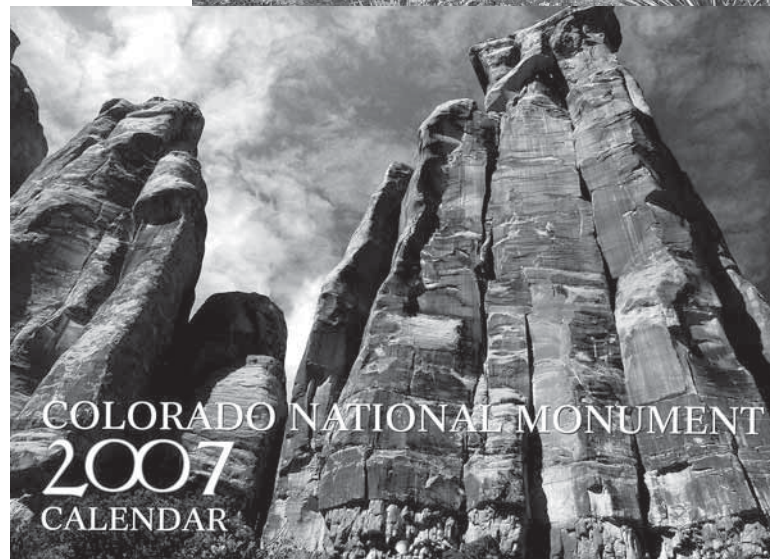
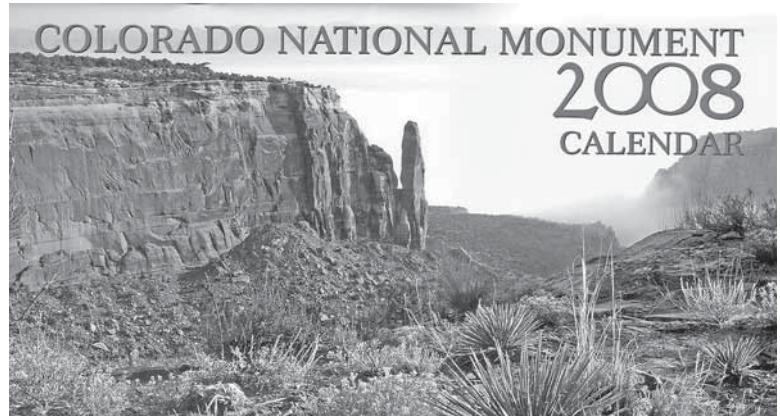
People: Many activities are enjoyed in the monument – hiking, biking, picnicking, camping, rock climbing, etc.

Landscapes: All four seasons are emphasized (yes, we do know that winter is often a photographer's delight), as well as unusual and perhaps less known rock formations and monument features.



In order to ensure that all submissions are judged fairly, we ask that you submit prints. We request 8" x 10" color prints in landscape format. The maximum to submit is 10. Guidelines and submission forms can be downloaded from our web site at www.coloradonma.org.

Our yearly calendars are not only an important sales item for the bookstore, but also an important venue for local and distant photographers to showcase their skills.



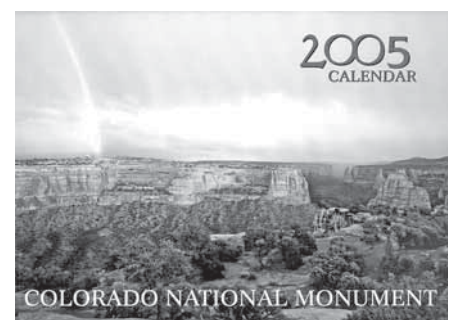
“Payment” for the use of your image(s) will be 10 calendars for one or more full-page picture and 5 calendars for one or more smaller grid picture – not to exceed 10. Photographers will be given credit for their photographs in the calendar.

Please contact us if you have any questions. Feel free to forward this information to other photographers with great photos of our monument. Deadline for submission is February 8, 2008.

Contact Lace Stevens or Dolores Schroeder, Project Coordinators (970) 858-3617, ext. 307. E-mail: Lace_Stevens@partner.nps.gov.

Thank you for your participation in our 2009 calendar.

CNMA is a non-profit 501(c)3 National Park Service cooperating association. Its mission is to assist Colorado National Monument with educational, scientific, research, and historical projects. CNMA generates most of its income through sales from the bookstore in the visitor center.



The Road More Or Less Traveled...

Message from the CNMA President

By Greg Gnesios

During my almost 30-year career with the National Park Service, I was often at odds with the agency's balancing act between preservation and public use. On the one hand, we were tasked by the Organic Act of 1916 to preserve park resources for future generations. On the other hand, I'm not sure anyone back in 1916 knew just how many generations would be visiting our national treasures all at the same time. After World War II, with Americans' increased mobility, the floodgates were really opened... and park managers were faced with new and daunting challenges.

In the past few weeks, I was reminded of this in several ways. The documentary series on *The War* by Ken Burns just recently finished its run on many PBS stations, making very explicit the sacrifices made by Americans both at home and abroad.

During that time, a great deal of pressure was put upon our national parks to open them up for the extraction of minerals, harvesting of lumber and other commodities for the war effort. But public and congressional support staved off these threats. And, as mentioned earlier, at war's end the public began flocking back to these protected lands to re-connect with nature and the American landscape. Now I understand that, on the brink of the National Park Service's centennial celebration, Ken Burns is creating his next big

documentary on... our National Park System.

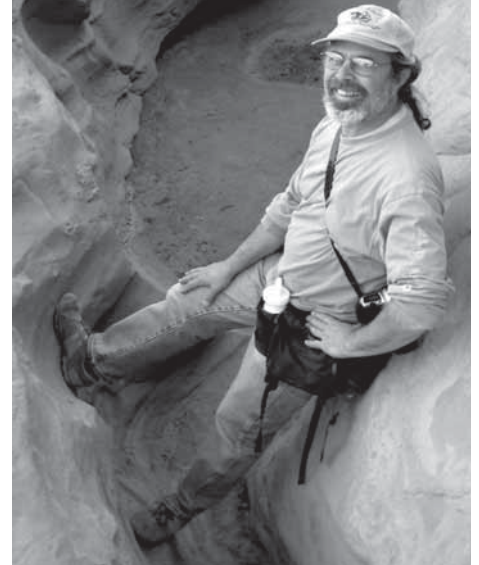
Last month on a trip through Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks, I was overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of visitors who were utilizing and enjoying those areas. At Bryce, I hiked with a large group of French tourists who seemed thoroughly delighted by the awesome surroundings. In Zion National Park, the shuttle bus parking lots were filled to capacity as visitors left their cars behind to take the free shuttle through the canyon.

While the crowds in the parks were a bit intimidating at times, I drove up to the East Rim at Zion, walked a few hundred yards off of the road, and found total solitude.

By simply taking the route less traveled, I found the peace and serenity I was looking for.

I did the same thing last week at Canyonlands National Park. By simply taking the route less traveled, I found the peace and serenity I was looking for. Both kinds of experiences – the tourist-filled trails and the solitary, private walks – seemed valid to me. I was gratified to see that so many people are still enjoying our National Park System in one way or another.

Colorado National Monument offers similar experiences and rewards. For the visitor with little time or experience, a drive along



the 23-mile Rim Rock Drive can be exhilarating and breathtaking. I recently rode with a bus load of folks from Wichita, Kansas, along this historic road and could hear audible gasps most of the way.

On the other hand, on one of the park's busiest weekends, I took a short walk on the Alcove Trail just across the street from the park visitor center and, within minutes, found myself alone with the silence of the canyons.

Visits to national parks are what we make of them. So take the time to learn about our local treasure, Colorado National Monument, either through the park's many interpretive trails, the visitor center exhibits, or in your own special, private way. It is all part of the National Park experience.

Thank You CNMA Members!

There are over 450 paid memberships in the Colorado National Monument Association. Your membership supports educational programs at Colorado National Monument. In 2006 the CNMA donated \$54,000 to the Monument. We couldn't do it without your support!

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Fall Walks & Talks Update



Participants on the “Desert Bighorn Sheep Hike in Lower Monument Canyon” led by Kathleen Tadvick on October 19 encountered a herd of 28 desert big horn sheep during the hike! Make sure you don't miss out on any future CNMA-sponsored programs by keeping your CNMA membership up-to-date. Pictured are three of the sheep photographed by Terri Ahern.





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