

THE RTS NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Association of American Geographers

Specialty Group on Recreation, Tourism, and Sport

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Visit the RTS Home Page at www.for.nau.edu/geography/rts

FROM THE CHAIR

By now we are all looking forward to the 1998 AAG meeting in Boston. Despite the early call for papers and the small show of interest in poster sessions, the conference has a number of really interesting RTS-themed sessions. All of them are concentrated into a two-day period-- Thursday, March 26 and Friday, March 27. In addition to the RTS business meeting, there are ten RTS-themed sessions (including five paper sessions and two panels sessions organized by the RTS SG) and a poster session that includes some RTS-themed displays. A brief listing of the sessions will be found elsewhere in this newsletter, together with instructions for obtaining more detailed information.

We already have some entries for the student paper competition, but any student who will be presenting an RTS-themed paper at the AAG meeting can still enter [the final paper deadline is 2 March].

At the 1997 RTS business meeting in Fort Worth, we agreed to set aside up to \$1,500 to help defray the travel expenses of students presenting papers in the RTS sessions at the 1999 AAG meeting in Honolulu. Each student will receive the same amount for travel, but the student paper competition offers the opportunity to get additional funding based on the quality of research.

Some interesting developments are underway, most notably the birth of two new journals--Tourism Geographies (edited by Alan Lew) and Current Issues in Tourism (edited by C. Michael Hall). Congratulations to Alan, Michael, and the others who are helping to launch these important new outlets for RTS research. I am eagerly awaiting them both. I look forward to seeing you all again in Boston. Over to Bob for the rest of the news. **Barbara Carmichael** (Wilfrid Laurier University) 519-884-0710 bcarmich@mach1.wlu.ca

EDITOR'S CORNER

Let me hasten to add that the resuscitation of Sport Place ranks as one of the more welcome developments of 1997. Publisher John Rooney and Editor Allen Finchum deserve hearty congratulations for putting new life into a journal that many had given up for dead. Okay, so let's get those manuscripts flowing to Sport Place again.

Another development that really caught my attention is Rob Bristow's new distance education course on "Recreation Geography." I have been teaching DE courses for many years, and I can tell you from personal experience that DE has tremendous outreach value. This is a very positive development, folks. In addition

to getting RTS out there in general circulation, Rob is going well beyond the confines of traditional correspondence courses and taking advantage of the Internet's powerful online features. Let's hope that Rob's initiative triggers more interest in producing RTS distance education courses.

We note with interest that the new editors of *The Professional Geographer* (Annie Ross, Stuart Aitken, and Janet Franklin) will continue to use "focus sections"--groups of related articles--as a mechanism for encouraging high-quality submissions to the PG. An RTS-themed focus section in the PG would be mighty welcome. Perhaps this Specialty group should get behind this idea and give it a big push?

As near as I can figure, the RTS Specialty Group came into existence in 1974 when Lisle Mitchell began an eight-year (!) stint as the first-ever Chair of this esteemed organization. Our 25th anniversary is close at hand. Since we only get one chance to celebrate our Silver Anniversary, perhaps we should start thinking about doing something special?

This issue contains a new feature called "RTSers at Work and Play." It is meant to let you know what some of your fellow RTSers are up to these days. You can help make this feature a success by sending me a brief (100 words or so) description of your research projects, publications, teaching initiatives, travels, travails, or whatever. This is meant to be a newsy, grassroots column, not just a "brag sheet" for overachievers.

Speaking of personal information, please take a few moments to provide or update the personal information I need to correctly describe you and your work in the 1998 RTS Directory. Internet users should check out their entries in the current version of the directory (see the RTS home page) and let me know about needed changes (janiskee@sc.edu). If you are not on the Internet, it is still easy to ensure that your RTS Directory entry is up to speed. You can phone me at 803-777-6739 (w) or 803-781-8651(h), or fax me at 803-777-4972 (mark the fax for Dr. Janiskee). If you prefer, you can write to Robert Janiskee, Dept of Geography, Univ of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208. Regardless of the method you choose, your update should convey the following information: full name and present position or job title (e.g., graduate student); date and university for each of your graduate degrees (e.g. MA, Clark Univ, 1984); complete mailing address; phone number (also fax, e-mail, and website, as appropriate); topical interests (e.g., ecotourism); area or regional specialties (e.g., Caribbean); RTS-themed courses/seminars taught; and other relevant information (e.g., new book out, prestigious award, won the lottery). I really do appreciate your cooperation in this matter, since the directory has proven to be a valuable tool. Barbara Carmichael used it just the other day to do a keyword search for RTSers doing environment-themed research. The students in my recreation geography seminar here at the University of South Carolina regularly use the Directory to determine who is doing what in the way of RTS research and teaching. The next person who writes an inventory and prospect article on RTS (like the *Professional Geographer* article that Lisle Mitchell and Dick Smith wrote back in the 1980s) doubtlessly will find the directory information highly useful.

Alert readers may have noticed that the Newsletter has a new look. [Sorry: the Internet version still has the clunky look.] Your editor finally bit the bullet, bought a pentium, switched to windows, upgraded to WP61, and discovered gizmos like newsletter templates. What an eye-opener! Reminds me of the classic joke whose punch line goes: "What's that noise?!".

As you can see, we now have the RTS home page listed in the newsletter masthead. My apologies to RTS webmaster Alan Lew for taking so long to give the website the prominent display it deserves. What a marvelous asset that home page is! If you Internet users haven't yet checked it out, shame on you. **RLJ**

1998 AAG MEETING

If you are a dues-paying member of the Association of American Geographers, you have probably already identified the RTS-themed sessions in your personal copy of the Preliminary Program for the 94th Annual Meeting of the AAG in Boston (25-29 March 1998). Since many readers of this newsletter do not receive this publication, we will provide a synopsis here. For more detailed info, borrow or steal a copy of the

above-mentioned Preliminary Program, consult the RTS home page, or contact the AAG Office (202-234-1450 or kklug@aag.org).

A dozen sessions on the Boston meeting program are wholly or partially oriented to RTS research and related Important Matters. The RTS Annual Business Meeting is slated for 6:45 PM on Friday, March 27. In addition, RTSers can gorge on eight paper sessions, two panel sessions, and one poster session offering RTS-themed Stuff. As RTS Chair Barbara Carmichael has pointed out, all are conveniently scheduled into the two-day period encompassing Thursday and Friday, March 26-27.

Paper sessions address the following themes [RTS-sponsored sessions asterisked]: Recreation and Geography; Tourism and Globalization: International Case Studies; (*)Diverse Perspectives in Recreation, Tourism, and Sport Research; (*) Sport Geography: In Memory of Harold McConnell; (*) Tourism and Development; Tourism and Globalization: North American Case Studies; (*) Economic Effects of Tourism at Various Scales; and Cultural Contexts of Tourism.

Both RTS-sponsored panel sessions are well worth attending. "Exploring New Paradigms in Tourism" features panelists Barbara Carmichael (organizer), Dimitri Ioannides, Klaus Meyer-Arendt, and Geoff Wall. The wonderfully-titled session "Whatever Happened to the Tourist Industry in Geography?" offers panelists Dimitri Ioannides (organizer), Keith Debbage, and Simon Milne.

Randy Baker, Rob Bristow, Allen Finchum, Brian Frye, and several others have RTS-themed displays in the potpourri-style poster session slated for Thursday morning. There are no RTS-sponsored field trips.

STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS FOR HONOLULU

The May Newsletter will provide application instructions for RTS grants to partially defray the costs of student travel to the 1999 annual meeting in Honolulu. Grants will be restricted to students presenting papers in RTS sessions at the Honolulu meeting. Students are also eligible to apply for \$200 travel grants from the AAG Central Office. The deadline for the AAG applications is 1 June 1998. For additional information, consult the AAG Newsletter or the AAG home page.

AWARD NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

To nominate someone for the Roy Wolfe RTS Award or the John Rooney Applied RTS Award, contact RTS Secretary/Treasurer Lisle Mitchell at 803-77-2986 or mitchell@garnet.cla.sc.edu. The Roy Wolfe Award, which originated in 1988, is made in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field and discipline of recreation, tourism, and sport geography. The John Rooney Award was inaugurated in 1997 with a presentation to Rob Britton of American Airlines. It honors contributions in the area of applied RTS, which is generally construed as RTS-themed work outside academia and oriented to problem solving or policy- and decision making.

TWO NEW JOURNALS

Perhaps understandably, most RTSers have preferred to publish their research results in tourism journals, not geographical ones. With the inauguration of *Tourism Geographies* [yup, that's the title], we now have a geographical journal that should help to consolidate the work done by RTS geographers and provide a clearer perspective on the body of knowledge the subdiscipline has generated. Editor Alan Lew explains that "The plural, æGeographies,' is used to indicate a sensitivity and effort to reach out to the diversity of perspectives that fall under this subject matter, including both academic and applied research, regional traditions from Europe, North America, Asia-Pacific, and other parts of the world, and disciplinary

approaches from geographers and related professionals, such as anthropologists and other social scientists, landscape architects, urban and regional planners, and environmental scientists and managers." For subscription information and instructions to authors, contact editor Alan Lew at alan.lew@lew.nau.edu. [Alan will be at the National University of Singapore until May, but his regular e-mail address at Northern Arizona University will still get you through to him.] To see the evolving home page for the journal, check out www.for.nau.edu/geography/tg/. Until May 1998, mail for Alan should be addressed: Dr. Alan Lew, Dept of Geography, National University of Singapore, 10 Kent Ridge Crescent, Singapore 119260. The phone number there is (65) 874-3858, and the fax number is (65) 777-3091. After mid-May 1998, mail should be addressed to Alan at: Dept of Geography and Public Planning, Northern Arizona University, Box 15016, Flagstaff, Arizona 86011-5016. The phone number there is 928-523-6567 and the fax is 928-523-2275.

Another brand-new outlet for RTS research is *Current Issues in Tourism*, which is published by Multilingual Matters (Bristol, UK), the same outfit that publishes the Journal of Sustainable Tourism. Editor C. Michael Hall explains that Current Issues in Tourism is meant to be a new type of tourism journal that will address both applied and theoretical work and also encourage in-depth discussion and critique of key questions. Each article in this international journal will be followed by informed commentary designed to spark further reader response and debate. Two issues will be published in 1998, and then the journal will go to a quarterly schedule. For information about subscriptions and article submissions, contact editor C. Michael Hall: phone +64-3-479-8520; fax +64-3-479-9034; cmhall@commerce.otago.ac.nz; or check the website at divcom.otago.ac.nz:800/tourism/. You may also write to: Dr. C. Michael Hall, Editor, Current Issues in Tourism, Centre for Tourism, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

SPORT PLACE LIVES!

The folks over at Oklahoma State University have been burning the midnight oil to revive Sport Place. Thanks to the efforts of publisher John Rooney and editor Allen Finchum, urged on by the usual batch of suspects on the editorial board, the flagship journal of sports geography is up and running again. A few months back, the mails brought the Fall/Winter 1994 issue, the Spring/Summer 1995 issue, and a promise of more to come. If you are at all interested in the geography of sport, be sure to check out the new and improved Sport Place. [Tom Rumney's bibliography of sports geography in the Spring/Summer 1995 (Vol. 9, No. 1) issue is outstanding]. For subscription info and contributor instructions, contact Allen Finchum [405-744-6250 or finchum@okway.okstate.edu]; the website is at <http://www.geog.okstate.edu/users/sprtplac/sprtplac.htm>

CONFERENCES

4-6 February. Southeastern Recreation Research Conference. Charleston, South Carolina. Contact Bruce Hull, 540-231-7272 or hullrb@vt.edu.

4-6 February. Anchorage, Alaska (at Alaska Pacific University). Fifth Annual Ecotourism in Alaska Conference. Contact Ellen Maling at 907-463-3038 or awrta@alaska.net; also see www.alaska.net/~awrta. [The wrta stands for Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association.]

2-3 April. Normal, Illinois. Sports Tourism Research Symposium (component of the Third Annual Sport Tourism Marketing Conference). Contact Doug Turco at 309-438-5972 or dmturco@ilstu.edu.

5-7 April. Bolton Landing, New York (at The Sagamore on Lake George). Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium. Geographers should contact Rob Bristow at 413-572-5595 or r_bristow@foma.wsc.mass.edu.

17-19 September. Washington, DC. TEAMS æ98: Travel, Events, and Management in Sports. This is the only international conference that discusses sports as a travel phenomenon. Write Lisa Delpy, The George Washington University, 2206 Eye Street NW, Washington, DC 20052, e-mail Lisa at delpy@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu, or see the conference website at www.gwu.edu/~cms/sporttour.

8-11 April.. Orlando, Florida. "Retirement Cultures" has been approved as a new topical area for the Popular/American Culture joint convention. For information about this focus, the Travel Culture focus, and other aspects of these large, multidisciplinary conventions (held around Holy Week each year) write Fred Schroeder at 5756 North Shore Drive, Duluth, MN 55812 or e-mail him at fshroed@bulldog.d.umn.edu.

27-31 May. Columbia, Missouri. Colloquium on Sustainable Tourism (part of the 7th Annual International Symposium on Society and Resource Management). Contact R. Neil Moisey at 573-882-9518, moisey@showme.missouri.edu, or see the home page at www.missouri.edu/~moisey/index.htm

7-10 June. Fort Worth, Texas. TTRA Travel Research Workshop. The theme for the 1998 conference is "Branding the Travel Market." Contact David Klenosky at 765-494-0865 or klenosky@purdue.edu. [Mark Okrant also tracks TTRA doings.]

16-20 July. Leeds Metropolitan University (UK). The Big Ghetto: Gender, Sexuality, and Leisure. Contact Sheila Scraton (Leeds Metropolitan University School of Leisure and Sports Studies; s.j.scraton@lmu.ac.uk) or M. McFee at 100722.2234@compuserve.com.

17-19 August. Hawaii. Symposium on Consumer Psychology of Travel, Hospitality, and Leisure Research. Contact Martin Oppermann, Griffith university.

27-30 August. Estoril, Portugal. Meeting of the IGU Study Group on the Geography of Sustainable Tourism. The study group is holding its meeting in Estoril (just outside Lisbon) in association with the main IGU Regional Conference that will take place in Lisbon from August 30 to September 2. Contact Fred Helleiner at (fax) 705-748-1205 or fhelleiner@trentu.ca. [The RTS home page provides links to the Study Group's home page at www.geog.nau.edu/igust/index.html, where additional information is provided.]

9-12 September. Oswald Hall, SAC Auchincruive (near Ayr, Scotland in the South Ayrshire countryside). Rural Tourism Management: Sustainable Options. Contact Mike Burr or Fiona Carswell, leisure@au.sac.ac.uk. Calls for Papers

Festival Management & Event Tourism. Special issue oriented to ethnic-themed events. Contact guest editor Bob Janiskee (University of South Carolina); 803-777-6739 or janiskee@sc.edu.

Journal of Cultural Geography. Special issue oriented to festivals, fairs, and other special events. Contact guest editor Bob Janiskee (University of South Carolina); 803-777-6739 or janiskee@sc.edu.

Journal of Convention & Exhibition Management. Special issue on the convention industry in Australia/South East Asia. Contact Martin Oppermann, Griffith University.

RTSERS AT WORK AND PLAY

Alan Lew is finishing a one-year visiting position in the geography Department at the national University of Singapore. While there he has been examining the role of Singapore as a gateway to Southeast Asian regional tourism and working on papers dealing with Singapore MICE activities and the Southeast Asian cruise industry. In addition to taking on most of the work of establishing the new journal *Tourism Geographies*, Alan also recently completed editing a new book on *Tourism and Gaming on American Indian Lands* (Cognizant Communications Corp; due out in early 1998). Alan plans to return to Northern Arizona University in May 1998.

Martin Oppermann moved to Griffith University, scarcely missing a beat on his many and varied projects. Also on the move was Colin Michael Hall, who is now holding forth at the Centre for Tourism, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Gundars Rudzitis, author of *Wilderness and the Changing American West*, was featured in an April 1997 article in the *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*. Gundars' book, which is aimed at the general public, deals with the dramatic changes in the old west and the mismanagement of the western wilderness.

Klaus Meyer-Arendt has kept busy with teaching--including a Coastal Environments class--and running the Mississippi Geographic Alliance. In his spare time, he has been putting the finishing touches on his and Rudi Hartmann's co-edited volume on *Casino Gambling in America: Origins, Trends, and Impacts*. After several delays, the book is due out in early January, just in time for use in Klaus' *Geography of Tourism* Course in the Spring. Several other publications on Mississippi gambling are out or near publication, including "Mississippi Casinos and Geographic Concepts" (for high school and community college teachers), "Mississippi Gaming" in a new *Atlas of Mississippi*, and "Casino Gaming along the Mississippi Gulf Coast" in a *Citizens Guide to the Mississippi Gulf Coast*.

Rob Bristow has put together a distance learning course entitled "Recreation Geography." The course, the first fully administered online course ever offered by Westfield State College, is available on the Internet at www.bondo.wsc.mass.edu/dept/garp/recgeog.htm. Students who register for this "no classes, no books to buy" course will be subscribed to the semester-long listserv to facilitate online discussions and debates. This is an exciting new initiative for Rob, and he is eager to get suggestions and constructive criticism. E-mail him at r_bristow@wsc.mass.edu or phone 413-572-5595.

Lisle Mitchell continues to focus on the conceptual/theoretical and spatial aspects of LRTS [the L is for leisure, a distinction that Mitch champions]. Currently in the works are articles on the leisure business districts of Myrtle Beach, gender differences in leisure activity space, and sports regions of the Carolinas. Long term projects encompass an examination of linear nearest neighbor techniques and their application to LRTS, several studies of tourism along the Blue Ridge Parkway, the application of travel/spatial gradients to recreation and travel patterns, and a history of recreation geography from 1930-1999.

RTSers at Southwest Missouri State have been busy, as usual. Dimitri Ioannides took a trip to Europe and Yongwei Zhang went to China. Bill Cheek got rid of his boat and took up flying. Milt Rafferty is enjoying his well-earned retirement.

Over in New Hampshire, Mark Okrant and his two associates (including Laurence Goss Jr., Geography Dept, Salem State [MA] College) have begun their eighth year as the tourism research arm of the New Hampshire Office of Travel and tourism Development, and have been working on seven projects for OTTD. Mark is putting the wraps on two projects in Alaska that involve studying the tourism development potential in two Yupik (Eskimo) communities. He is also working on a project for Bar Harbor, Maine that will involve interfacing with the folks at Acadia National Park. Other projects are examining the impact of skiers and ski areas on Maine's economy and evaluating international visitor services in New Hampshire. Congratulations to Mark for his promotion to the directorship of the Institute for New Hampshire Studies.

RTSNET-L UPDATE

RTSNET-L, our listserv for the exchange of RTS-related information and ideas via e-mail, had about 160 subscribers as of mid-December. To subscribe, e-mail the list manager, Bob Janiskee, at <janiskee@sc.edu>.

WAY COOL URLS

The IGU Sustainable Tourism Study Group's TouristInfo Newsletter #8 (December 1997) is now available in both English and FRENCH via the RTS website at www.for.nau.edu/geography/igust/.

The Journal of Geographic Information and Decision Analysis, a new online GIS journal, can be seen at www.geog.uwo.ca/gimda/journal/journal.htm.

Free copies of federal tax forms are available at www.irs.ustreas.gov [Just wanted to see if you were paying attention.]

The Ontario Sports and Recreation website, the virtual home of amateur sport in Ontario, is at www.onsport.org. This is an extensive site with links to amateur sport sites, program information, and a resource center with full text documents useful to coaches, athletes, and sport administrators.

The **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**, home of the 89-chapter, 400-page Nunavut Handbook, is a "hot site" that has earned high praise by USA Today, Canada's The Globe and Mail, and many other reviewers. [The book will be out in print in June.]

The Festival Management & Event Tourism home page is www.als.uiuc.edu/leist/fmet/home.html.

To see a sample of the Benefits Catalogue, which summarizes "why recreation, sports, fitness, arts, culture, and parks are essential to personal, social, economic, and environmental well-being," check out www.lin.ca/benefits.htm.

Elsevier Science has announced the expansion of ContentsDirect, the free, pre-publication contents alerting service for its journals, including Annals of Tourism Research and Tourism Management. More journal titles have been added and registration is now even easier via the new ContentsDirect registration site at www.elsevier.nl/locate/contentsdirect.

Ron Mader reports that the Eco Travels in Latin America website, www.planeta.com, now provides monthly updates and has become much more dynamic. In addition to online articles and other goodies it offers reports on special projects such as the Responsible Coffee Campaign.

NEW BOOKS

Butler, Richard W., C. Michael Hall and John Jenkins, eds. 1997. *Tourism and Recreation in Rural Areas*. Chichester, UK: John Wiley.

Hall, Colin Michael. 1996. *Tourism and Politics: Policy, Power, and Place*. Wiley.

Pigram, John J. and Ronald C. Sundell, eds. 1997. *National Parks and Protected Areas: Selection, Delimitation and Management*. Australia: Armidale, Australia: Centre for Water Policy Research, University of New England.

Pigram, John J. and John J. Jenkins. 1997. *Outdoor Recreation and Tourism: Management Issues*. Routledge.

Pigram, John J. and Salah Wahab, eds. 1997. *Tourism, Development and Growth: The Challenge of Sustainability*. London: Routledge.

Wearing, Stephen, and Joanne McLean. 1997. *Developing Ecotourism: A Community Based Approach*. [inc. citation]

OHMYGOSH!

In behalf of Tourism Concern, a UK-based NGO campaigning on the social and environmental impacts of tourism worldwide, Stuart Hume is studying rave tourism. For the benefit of the uninitiated, "raves" are things like acid parties, full moon parties, and goa trance experiences. Have you had a look at The Fielding Worldwide Guide to the World's Most Dangerous Places? It tells you where to get zapped by land mines, bandits, pirates, terrorists, kidnapers, and civil wars.

MISCELLANEA

The George Washington University has graduate assistant positions and half tuition scholarships for their Masters of Tourism and Masters of Business Administration concentration sport management programs in the School of Business and Public Management. For details, phone 202-994-6281.

The Sports Tourism International Council (STIC), in cooperation with their educational partner, the CSM-Institute of Graduate studies, has announced the establishment of a Certification Program in Sports Tourism Management. All ten courses required for certification will be offered through distance education (Internet, e-mail, fax, surface mail, etc.). For more details, contact coordinator Rena Choorland at stic@winning.com.

The Geography Department at the University of Waikato (Hamilton, New Zealand) invites applications from qualified masters graduates for a doctoral studies award in Tourism Studies. For additional details contact Lex Chalmers (64-7-838-4466 x8270; lex@waikato.ac.nz; or www.waikato.ac.nz/geog).

PARTING FACTOIDS

- * According to the AAG tally as we went to press, the RTS Specialty Group has 278 members.
- * Travel is America's third-largest retail industry, after automobiles and groceries. Already a \$492 billion/yr industry, travel is likely to be America's leading industry by 2000.
- * According to the Grammatik tool in WP61, about 10 percent of the words in this newsletter are "big words."
- * If laid end to end, the RTS membership would stretch nearly a quarter-mile, but would still fall short of a consensus on who should become the new editor of this newsletter. Regardless, this is the penultimate newsletter that current editor Bob Janiskee will be producing. (Aside to Lisle Mitchell; "penultimate" means next-to-last).

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