



DENVER

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture (RMSA)
P.O. Box 1106
Wheat Ridge, CO 80034-1106



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March is
"Cockatoo" Month at RMSA

Kevin Thurston
will be talking about the types of
Cockatoos and where they come from

Bring your Cockatoo to the March 8th Meeting

RMSA BOARD OF

DIRECTORS

President ('13-'14) Eric Nelson
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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF AVI- CULTURE REPRESENTATIVE (AFA)

State Representative:
Gabriele Alexander

AFA Delegates—'13
Kim Anderson and Glenda Pullum

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Anaconda Printing
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Exotic Bird Stands
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exoticbirdstands@yahoo.com

Healthy Habits Pet Supplies, Inc.
Theresa Rabinek, Parker, CO
www.birdstreetbistro.com

Pennywise Parrots
Seth and Megan Smith
www.pennywiseparrotproject.com

Roma's Catering
Roma Melrose
www.Romascatering.com

The Birdbrain
Julie Weiss Murad
www.thebirdbrain.com

Titus D. Peterson, Esq.
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VETERINARY MEMBERS

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Lakewood, CO 80215
303-238-6464

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303-771-7350

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14605 E. Arapahoe Rd Unit H
Aurora, CO 80016
303-680-2200

RMSA 24/7 HOTLINE
303-456-0068



President's Letter

March 2013

Living with a Cockatoo is never uneventful. Dogs and cats have been domesticated for almost two thousand years, birds have just started being domesticated the last 30 years, and they are still wild animals. It's easy to see how these white terrorists make their way into so many homes and hearts; they can be one of the cutest, cuddliest, affectionate, and demanding birds I know of. They are flock birds; they really want the same thing most of the people in the world want, someone to spend all their time with, doing things, interacting, socializing and living. It sounds simple, and easy to do, especially when one of them is snuggled up to your chest like you are its long lost parent come to reclaim it. It makes it easy to see why so many people take them home without thinking how long and how many hours of the day "forever and always" really are. Life with a Cockatoo can turn into an episode of the Twilight Zone.

Cockatoos can bond to their caregivers as if they are a mate and they can become confused and frustrated very easily. Our actions can be extremely confusing to a Cockatoo; they don't understand why we don't help them with nest building and egg laying. Why do we show affection for other people and other animals? How can you lock me in my cage? How can you go away and leave me each day? Their frustration can quickly turn your household into a nightmare. Most new Cockatoo owners don't realize how serious these birds are about commitment.

I live with a Sulphur Crested Cockatoo named Sid (yes, after Sid Vicious). I bought him from a Petco store 10 years ago. When I first saw him he was about 6 months old, sitting in front of the store at Christmas time, sleeping away while everyone carried on all around him. I thought what a good and calm bird, so at ease with all these people walking back and forth. Christmas passed and Sid was still there, he was moved further back into the store, I always stopped and talked to him when I was shopping at the store and the store clerks knew that we were friends, so every time I went to that store, they would let Sid come out of the cage and walk around the store with me while I shopped. Sid was excited to see me each time – until I had to put him back in his cage (I started keeping bandages in my truck). Sid got moved even further back into the store and with every move he got louder. I started to worry about him and wonder if he would ever find a good home, the store was asking \$1500.00 for him and it looked like nobody was going to pay that for this now noisy little Cockatoo.

Finally, the store manager asked me if he gave me a great deal, could I get the devil bird out of their store. So we argued over the price, I wrote a check and took Sid and his cage home. We have had our share of emotional battles since then. He chased the kids all over the house attacking their shoes; at first they thought it was funny. He is famous for talking high jumps off of anything higher than the ground, onto someone walking by, and he usually lands by anchoring his beak into his target. We have defiantly had our moments, he is as determined and hard headed as they come, sometimes I thought "That's it – he's out of here" but I knew I was all he had, I adopted him, and I took him in, gave him a home.

If I had given up on him he probably wouldn't recover, he would be in home number 4 or 5 by now. Sid has settled into his routine now. He has gotten older, wiser and secure with his surroundings. Sid's one on one time is feeding time each day. Before I start changing water and filling food bowls, I go and find Sid and he jumps up on my shoulder and off we go. He sits up on my shoulder like he is supervising every action. When he thinks I'm not paying attention, he reaches over and grabs my ear, just enough to make me jump. He'll bounce back and forth watching both ears for the perfect time. Between playing with the 4 Macaws in their room, playtimes and dinner duty, Sid stays pretty content these days.

But having him around lets me know what a rough time most of these Cockatoo's probably have gone through, and how it is our job to make sure they find a good home now. I couldn't even imagine living with more than one Sid or not having Sid in our home. Remember, "You're all they have".

Eric

AAB update

The following birds will be up for adoption at the March **2013** General Meeting:

5 Ringneck Doves, 3 Parrotlets (all 3 of Parrotlets have no cage), Vosmaeri Eclectus, 4 Cockatiels, 1 white parakeet, 3 blue parakeets

Many of the birds do not have cages, so please remember to bring a carrier for any of the birds that you might be interested in adopting.

Valerie Layman, AAB Manager

RMSA Treasurer's Report February 2013

Guaranty Bank

Last reported balance:

General	13,267.48
Raffle Fund	<u>3,498.90</u>
Total	16,766.38

Deposits

General	653.71
Raffle	-0-
Checks Posted	(1,293.24)
Bank Fees	(30.76)

5 payees 1. AFA 10.00 (Magazine Postage) 2. Anaconda Printing 139.52(February Newsletter) 3. Century Link 45.01 (Phone Line) 4. Denver Post 238.40 (2 months ad) 5) Westech Mechanical 860.31 (Reimbursement for deposit made to RMSA Checking Acct.)

Balance As Of February 28, 2013

General Fund	12,597.19
Raffle Fund	<u>3,498.90</u>
<u>Total</u>	16,096.09

RMSA has 777.49 in US Bank account. This account should be closed and transferred by March 2013.

Submitted by Larry Anderson, Treasurer

Upcoming Events

- ✎ March 8th, Friday evening, @ 7pm the General Meeting Speaker will be: Kevin Thurston (RMSA member) giving presentation on Cockatoos — "Cockatoo identification and habitat (see front page details).
- ✎ Cage Auction: If you have any cages you would like to donate, please bring them to Westech Mechanical . The dates for the Cage Auction will be posted in an RMSA announcements and email. You can bring any other item, that is of good quality, to sell at the cage auction (not garage sale type item!).
- ✎ Spring Bird Expo : May 4 & 5 (Saturday & Sunday), 2013 See details on flyer on next page.!
- ✎ One of our Big Events in 2013, will be having Robin Shewokis of 'Leather Elves', speaking and having an interactive workshop on Saturday, June 22, 2013. So, save the date. Details on Page 8.

Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture Presents:

Rocky Mountain Bird Expo

May 4th & 5th
Saturday 9am-5pm & Sunday 9am-4pm
National Western Complex
4655 Humboldt St. Denver CO 80216

**Admission
\$8.00
Under 12
Free**

Birds, Bird Toys, Bird Supplies, Many Vendors,
Cages, Stands, Carriers, Perches, Gifts,
Clothes, Information, Art Work, Fun

"NEW" Childrens Play Area

**Guest Speakers
Great Family Fun
Raffles - Silent Auctions**

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rmsabirds.com

For More Information Call:
303-456-0068



RMSA Board meeting
02/03/2013

In Attendance: Eric, Gabriele, Scott, Larry, Kim, Lisa, Jon, Trish, Sharon, Valerie, Bear, Warren, Dr. Mark Davis.

Andy Hall will be the general meeting speaker for February 2013.

✂ RMSA has added a veterinary consultant to the board. It was proposed this becomes a voting position. Our organization may contact Dr. Mark Davis DVM for consulting. Dr. Davis, DVM present at this meeting. Even though he is on call each weekend.

✂ Mark Davis can offer a Veterinary Hospital Tour - open house style on a given Saturday from 12 - 2pm

✂ Mark Davis - web site has Q&A and email docdavis@ghb.com ??

✂ Veterinary speakers once per year get list of vets from the newsletter (suggestions)

Treasurer

✂ Larry presented the treasurer report. US Bank Account will be closed out this month, and any remaining funds will be transferred to RMSA's new bank, Guarantee. The treasurer is still awaiting some of the November Expo charges to be billed.

Fund Raising

✂ We need to create an inven-

tory list. We need to re-search possible online auctions. The new proposed Expo dates will be May 4 & 5, 2013. - this is to accommodate Centurion Cages schedules. (They are one of our anchor vendors)

✂ The best advertising for the Expo is the email list, Craig's List, Facebook and Westwood magazine.

✂ There will be a Board Expo meeting on Sunday April 28, 2013 at 8:30 am. The General Club meeting will be on Friday May 10, 2013

Upcoming Events:

✂ On Saturday June 22, 2013 Robin Shewokis will present a 3 hour talk and workshop for capacity 100 people at a hotel banquet room to be selected by Eric in the near future, (Probably Doubletree or Ramada Inn near 92xSheridan)

✂ there will be some giveaways

✂ get posters to Veterinary embers, libraries, coffee shops, kiosks, magnetic car stickers - donated? newsletter advertisements.

✂ Price:\$15 admission for general public, \$10 admission for members.

Publicity - email list from Lisa Holt, announcement list. We will advertise at the Denver Aquarium for both the Expo and Special event with Robin Shewokis.

Education

Send speaker suggestions to

Trish. Ideas for subject matter for presentations:

- ✂ full spectrum lighting
- ✂ Excello bird food owner
- ✂ Please email Trish with any ideas (members included)

AAB

✂ fostering - needs more volunteers

✂ Bird pricing set by AAD or by the board

✂ The number of birds that may be adopted out per person per year also set by AAB or the board

✂ The AAB meeting following this board meeting will determine the number of birds that may be adopted

✂ When vet referred please streamline the adoption process (e.g. may not need a home visit)

✂ Home Visit database spreadsheet Lisa & Johnney Holt volunteered

Games Manager

✂ Bear (Russ) - letter from the State Department received as to being certified game manager for RMSA. He is now able to set up Bingo games for the club, and of course, the Raffles. More information will come as to a date for the special BINGO night!!

General

✂ Board members should wear name tags at the general meetings.

✂ Give name tags for all of the visitors each meeting.

Submitted by Scott Krone

RMSA General Meeting February 8, 2013

Andy Hall presented
www.rightathomepetcare.com
www.facebook.com/RAHPCT
720-509-9738

IAATE
International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators

The goal of training is to build trust
trust in the trainer
trust in the environment
trust in the behavior

Every interaction is training

Reading body language - study your bird for subtle body language
Give your bird choice and control - a level of control is required for trust and training

Offer positive reinforcement

Choice to participate
Remove force from interactions and vocabulary
Listen to their communication
Reinforce their communication by backing off
Redirect to a positively reinforceable behavior
Avoid coercion, negative side effects, punishment
Provide something the bird values
Create willing participation
Find their favorite food
This is valued reinforcement
The timing of actions and rewards is critical
behavior repetition
be consistent with reinforcers
Don't get angry
Don't go away angry
Stop on a positive note
Engage your bird in short interactions

Submitted by Scott Krone



Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

Presents

Robin Shewokis
"The Leather Elves"

"Don't miss this
learning event"



RMSA Store
Raffles
Drawings
Bring your
bird

\$15.00 General Admission
\$10.00 Members

One day Workshop
Saturday June 22nd
1pm - 3pm

Enrich Your Parrot's Life
A workshop for all companion parrot owners.

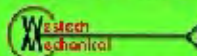
The workshop is a combination
of lecture and hands on activities

Ramada Plaza Denver Central Hotel
4849 Bannock Street, Denver, CO 80216 US

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R.M.S.A

For further details www.birdtee.com- 303-456-0068



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South Dakota's Premier Breeding and Educational Aviary®

Cockatoos: Think CAREFULLY before buying!

Every month I write an article for Today's Pet. Every month I tell you how great birds are; and they are! This month however I would like to talk about problem birds and the pet shops that sell them. Hardly a week goes by that we don't get a call from a future bird owner wanting one of those cuddly Cockatoo's. Or we want one of those birds like was on Beretta. Buyers beware.

Owning a bird is a commitment - a huge commitment. It is not like owning a dog. One of the most mentally and emotionally complicated parrots to deal with is a Cockatoo. Some sub species are worse than others. Few people are equipped to provide for the many needs of these special birds. Rescue organizations are full of unwanted Cockatoos. The average Umbrella or Moluccan Cockatoo is in its second home by the time it is 3 years old. There is much more than meets the eye when considering a parrot such as these. Many pet stores and breeders only want to sell birds: it helps to pay the rent. However, if they were advised to do their homework, to read and study and are armed with the realities about cockatoos, the potential buyer would probably make a wiser selection such as an Amazon, or Eclectus or any of a wide variety of more socially acceptable bird.

Yes, cockatoos are the cuddlers of the bird family (especially the Umbrella and Moluccan varieties). Yes, cockatoos are smart. Very smart. They can be very entertaining. But, depending on the variety, a cockatoo can cause you more grief, aggravation, and headaches than any ten children. They really can drive you over the edge! That's why there are so many in Rescue programs. We currently have one in our Rescue program. He is 4 years old and we are his 3rd placement.

The problem centers around their screaming. Cockatoos in the wild have periods in the day when they naturally scream: usually in the morning and evening. They do not necessarily lose this natural instinct just because they become a pet. And when they scream you can literally hear them as far as a city block. And when they scream in your home the sound penetrates and resonates unnaturally to the rhythms of your mind. It's no one's fault: it just what they do. Added to the natural times they scream, they also are a very, very needy bird. They need constant attention. They need to know that you are near by most of the time. That means you absolutely should not have a cockatoo if no one is home or if the bird is left alone during most of the day. Definitely not good! That will probably set the bird to picking its feathers; and once that very bad habit begins it's very difficult, if not impossible, to have the bird stop destructive behavior! Think of it as leaving your young child in a playpen every day for 8-10 hours alone day after day; month after month without attention!

These very important things are usually not told to the potential buyer. And after having the cockatoo for a while and the new owner calls and says they cannot live with the birds anti-social behavior they become even more frustrated because the seller won't take the bird back much less refund their money. They're out their big bucks and the cockatoo ends up in a rescue program. And the bird will live for 55-65 years. We at Mt Rushmore Birds go to extreme lengths to educate potential cockatoo owners of the possible and probable consequences of owning several varieties of Cockatoos because we feel obligated for them to have sufficient information so they can make an informed and intelligent decision. As reputable breeders we feel it is our ethical responsibility to do no less.

Back to the scenario of having an umbrella cockatoo. So now you're gone to work at least 8 hours a day. Sometimes you don't come home for dinner or there are the children's activities at night and after

school. Your cockatoo is home alone in his little cage and now he is screaming and picking his feathers out. You bought a cuddly little bird that most likely was under 5 months old and it took him about a year before he started to show all these anti-social traits. I truly believe if you are going to have a happy well adjusted Cockatoo he needs to be out of his cage on play stands or in huge flights most of the day; and don't be surprised if he gets off the play stand while you are out of the room for just a minute. That is how long it will take your Cockatoo to eat your favorite antique. They are the Houdini's of the bird family. They'll do anything, including screaming, and chewing your favorite furniture simply because they yearn for your continued attention.

We are seeing a lot of ads regarding folks trying to sell their Cockatoos. We are getting a lot of calls. We belong also to the Rocky Mountain Avian Society. Rescuing cockatoos is a big problem in that area as well. Think long and hard before you consider a Cockatoo. It could be the mistake of your lifetime and the bird also suffers greatly. Every year many parrots end up in a rescue shelter because people were uninformed or misinformed or found out too late the sacrifices it takes to own one of the several varieties of cockatoos. The birds suffer even more than the owners because they keep going from owner to owner because of behavioral problems; or even euthanized. There are a lot of wonderful birds out there that make wonderful pets. Cockatoos in all their wonderful cuddliness might not be the bird for you. Never, ever buy a bird on impulse. Spend lots of time and do the homework. An informed decision will help insure that you and your pet bird will enjoy many years of compatibility, love and mutual bonding.

Barb Paur
Mt Rushmore Birds

<http://mtrushmorebirds.com/>

The American Federation of Aviculture, Inc.



AFA is a 501 (c)(3) Education Organization

AFA IN BRIEF

January/February 2013

Editor - Carol Lee

Midtown, Raleigh, North Carolina. For detailed information or to register online, go to: http://www.afabirds.org/convention_index.shtml. AFA is pleased to announce our keynote speaker for the 2013 convention is Mark Hagen, Director of Research at Rolf C. Hagen, Inc. and the Hagen Avicultural Research Institute (HARI).

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Happy New Year to all of our AFA members, we appreciate each and every one of you and sincerely hope the coming year is filled with the joy and wonder of keeping birds!

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*****New***** Our Membership Committee is undergoing exciting changes. Be on the lookout for your official and beautiful AFA membership cards coming out in 2013!

Why carry an AFA membership card? Well, they are just too beautiful to not carry around with you. Pay attention to the ever growing "Member to Member Advantage Program" (AFAM2M). All AFA individual and commercial members will have their own personal membership card which will have their name and membership number on it. You will use your number to get your DISCOUNTS that are highlighted in the AFAM2M Program. Check out the most recent *AFA Watchbird* publication for the list of commercial businesses that are offering the 10% off discounts to AFA members like you! Simply contact that business and they will give you the discount. You will need your AFA Membership number which appears on your new AFA membership card. While you are waiting for your official AFA membership card, you can simply get your membership number off of your shipping label found on your latest *AFA Watchbird Journal*. Support our AFA commercial members.

Concetta Ferragamo
Northeastern Regional Director
Membership Committee

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Not an AFA member yet? Want to learn more about everything AFA has to offer?

If you would like more information on becoming an AFA member, please go to <http://www.afabirdinfo.weebly.com/> to get to know us better and learn how.

**Don't Miss Another Convention! Please Join Us in North Carolina in 2013!**

\*New\* Convention Payment Plan!!! Choose the plan that fits your budget and plan to attend.

AFA Convention 2013 is in Raleigh, North Carolina. The convention will take place at the Hilton North Raleigh/

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Your club can get \$65 off of 2014 affiliation and have a chance to win a 2013 convention registration! Details coming soon!

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Sponsor a membership for those that cannot afford it, or for younger people to become more interested in aviculture. Simply pay for a membership online [www.afabirds.org](http://www.afabirds.org) and place "sponsored membership" in the comment field. Memberships are assigned to those that express interest but admit they cannot afford to join.

### Call for Papers for the AFA 2013 Convention in Raleigh.

We invite you to submit a proposal to present a paper at our 2013 convention. Proposals should be submitted in the form of an abstract, accompanied by a brief biographical sketch identifying the author's experience with the topic to be presented and other relevant information. Abstracts will be accepted through January 31, 2013. [http://www.afabirds.org/pdf/Call\\_for\\_papers\\_2013.pdf](http://www.afabirds.org/pdf/Call_for_papers_2013.pdf)

### Exciting news for the Lory League Hook-bill Show at the AFA Convention in Raleigh, NC 2013.

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The Lory League Shows are being Co-Sponsored by Triangle Bird Club of Beaumont, TX and will be on Saturday, August 10th. Sanctioned Shows will include ALBS-African Love Bird Society, NAPS-North American Parrot Society, NCS-National Cockatiel Society, and SPBE-Society of Parrot Breeders & Exhibitors. There will also be a Junior Class where kids 16 and under show free, so bring the Family, and your birds, and come join the fun. For more information, contact Julie Corwin (Lory League) at blconnection@hotmail.com or by phone at 206-501-7428.

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**Win a Garmin GPS and a paid AFA membership.** Send your North Carolina quarters to the AFA Business Office for a chance to win a new Garmin GPS navigation system and a one year membership in the AFA.

The person that enters the most quarters will win the prize. Mail in quarters must reach the AFA Business Office no later than July 31, 2013. Quarters may also be entered into the draw at the AFA Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina. Entries are cumulative, so start sending your quarters today. Be sure to include your name and address when submitting quarters. Mail to: AFA Quarter Challenge, P.O. Box 91717, Austin, TX 78709.

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FOA - Fundamentals of Aviculture Level II "Introductory Prices"

This course is amazing. The online classes are detailed, interesting, and extremely informative. You and your birds will benefit from these courses.

The Intermediate Aviculture Course (FOA II) is offered in 15 chapters covering conservation and research, courtship and nesting, basic avian genetics, color mutations, hybrids, breeding stimuli, incubation, hand-rearing, non-parrot studies, basic microbiology, illnesses, first-aid, avian enrichment and more. Admission to this Level II course requires that all students complete Level I prior to enrollment, and that they be members of the AFA. The introductory admission fee for the Level II course is \$75 for current AFA members. Non-members can qualify by purchasing a one year membership during admission. Courses are self-paced. No books or teachers. Visit <http://www.fundamentalsofaviculture.com/>

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**AFA DELEGATE NEWSLETTER**

Want to learn information in advance? Read the AFA Specialties & Affiliates Quarterly on the AFA Website. This AFA delegate newsletter is designed to keep you informed, with information especially for AFA Delegates. By loading each newsletter to the website, you can locate it easily and choose whether to open it or save it to your computer. Learn about upcoming convention activities and other AFA news in advance by checking the newsletters regularly.

Visit the website at [AFAbirds.org](http://AFAbirds.org) and click on "Affiliates" under the Membership tab; then click on "Specialty Resources." You'll find a selection of current and past issues available as .PDF downloads, the 2012 affiliation form, and other resources. Volume 3, No. 3 was released in April; with Volume 3, No. 4 was added in July. Or, visit this link for direct access: [http://afabirds.org/specialty\\_resources.shtml](http://afabirds.org/specialty_resources.shtml).

Selected AFA Specialties & Affiliates Quarterly newsletters are also found by clicking "News," under the Press tab. The Press tab is designed to feature AFA public relations news directly to journalists and members of the media. Visit: <http://www.afabirds.org/news.shtml>.

AFA Delegates: Do you have official affiliation news you wish to share? Are you an AFA Delegate with event information about your 2012 Affiliated Specialty or Club? Send it in to the newsletter to gain wider exposure. An added

advantage: if AFA includes your affiliate's ad in the newsletter, it may also be read by members of the press on the AFA News Page. Publishing deadlines are included in each newsletter. Submit your event flyer in .jpeg, .gif or .png format and send it directly to Specialty Organization Director Linda S. Rubin at mail to: [LSR@CockatielsPlusParrots.com](mailto:LSR@CockatielsPlusParrots.com).

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NEW from AFA - Register Your Pets Today! AFA - Exotic Bird Registry Program http://www.afabirds.org/exotic_bird_registry.shtml

Every year hundreds of pet birds are accidentally lost. Some are never recovered simply because the finder cannot identify who owns the bird. Birds registered in the AFA Exotic Bird Registry will be easily identified making contact and recovery easier.

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**Now available through AFA:**

AviMate - Bird Breeder Management Software for Windows

AviMate Bird Breeder Software - Take control of your bird breeding records plus contact management, invoice generation, and expense tracking [http://www.afabirds.org/avimate\\_productinfo.shtml](http://www.afabirds.org/avimate_productinfo.shtml). Download a working copy for a free 30 day trial.

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We've Made Changes - AFA's Website Has Been Redesigned!!! Because of your feedback, there have been changes and additions to the website and more are planned! Also, you are now able to make purchases from the AFA website using your PayPal account! We hope you like it! www.afabirds.org

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**AFA Disaster Relief ~New~**

AFA's Disaster Relief Program is prepared to assist those who may be affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and the like. The AFA disaster relief team has Regional Directors as well as State Coordinators in place and on stand-by at this time. If you become impacted by a natural disaster and need assistance or know of someone who needs help with their birds as a result of these events, please notify the Team as soon as possible. The Disaster Program is solely funded by donations from individuals, as well as Bird Clubs and Businesses interested in helping those affected.

If you would like to help by making a donation, you may do so by clicking here <http://www.afabirds.org/donation.shtml> or by calling the AFA office at 512-585-9800. If you are available to assist in affected areas, please notify us, and we can direct you to the person where help is needed. You may contact the Disaster Relief Coordinator, Fred Smith at 863-858-6739 or by email at [mail-to:fredsmith@wildblue.net](mailto:fredsmith@wildblue.net).

**Legislative Alert-** the USFWS has proposed the listing of the Scarlet, Military, Buffon's and Hyacinth Macaw under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

The listing of these four macaw species will mean that anyone desiring to sell a representative of this species across any State line will need to acquire a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additionally, under the Endangered Species Act, sales as pets are "not consistent with the intent of the law" and therefore will most likely be denied. Your AFA legislative committee has made comment on this important issue.

**To read the AFA's official response, go to:** [http://www.afabirds.org/pending\\_legislation.shtml](http://www.afabirds.org/pending_legislation.shtml).

A few months ago the AFA was successful in getting a "Special Rule" installed under the act for all captive Moluccan cockatoos bred and/or traded within the United States. No interstate commerce permits are required for commerce with this species despite the fact that it is now listed as "threatened" under the United States Endangered Species Act. This is a major accomplishment for AFA, conservation, and aviculture nationwide.

**Notice:** The USFWS has now announced its proposed listing of the Blue-throated Macaw under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The announcement and call for comment was published in the January 11, 2013 Federal Register. AFA encourages you to make comment through the U.S. government portal. Encourage the USFWS to evoke the Special Rule for all captive-bred representatives already here in the United States.

**AFA Board Meeting:**

Teleconference on February 9, 2013. Details to follow and will be posted on the AFA website calendar.

**Attention Watchbird Contributors - Past and Present**

We need your help! The American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. (AFA) is attempting to preserve the history of AFA and of Aviculture since the start of AFA, by digitizing the Watchbird issues to be accessible

on our website. Please contact Mary Ellen Lepage by email at <mailto:mail@birds2pet.com> to acquire a release form, or contact the AFA business office at <mailto:afaoffice@afabirds.org>.

*Deadline for AFA Watchbird XL article submissions is February 28, 2013.*

**2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 AFA Convention DVDs!**

Selected videos of presentations from the 2009, 2010 and 2011 AFA Conventions are now available on DVD from the AFA Store! Proceeds from the sale of these DVDs help further AFA's efforts in Conservation and Research, and are a great addition to your library of educational material. Quantity discounts apply. Visit the AFA Store for more information. <http://www.afabirds.org>.

2012 DVDs can be ordered in advance. <http://www.afabirds.org/dvds.shtml>

**Have You Been to the AFA Store Lately?**

CITES Pin number 28, featuring the Caique, is now available. Order yours today and keep your sets complete. All CITES pins can

be purchased online at [www.afabirds.org](http://www.afabirds.org) and follow the links to the store. CITES Pin #28 featuring the Black-headed Caique will definitely be sold out soon. Quantities are very limited. Get yours today at the AFA Store.

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*Affiliate Your Club for 2013!*

Whether you are renewing your club affiliation or your club is affiliating for the first time, all clubs must complete this form each calendar year. Affiliation forms, along with applicable fees, are due to the AFA Office by January 1st. Affiliations must be received by April 30th to receive all benefits. To affiliate your club for 2013, affiliate online or complete the attached form [http://www.afabirds.org/pdf/Affiliation\\_form\\_2012.pdf](http://www.afabirds.org/pdf/Affiliation_form_2012.pdf) and return it to the AFA Office, or for questions - contact the AFA Office: <mailto:afaoffice@afabirds.org>

Affiliate resources can be found on our AFA website at <http://www.afabirds.org/affiliates.shtml>.

Looking for leg bands? Customize your own leg bands or buy AFA coded bands already in stock. Check the AFA Store here: [http://www.afabirds.org/leg\\_bands\\_stock\\_closed.shtml](http://www.afabirds.org/leg_bands_stock_closed.shtml)

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# Goffin's Cockatoo Invents and Modifies a Tool – a Parrot “First”

Hello, Frank Indiviglio here. Thanks very much for your interest.

I'm recently retired from a career of over 20 years with the Bronx Zoo, and have participated in field research efforts with a variety of birds in several countries. I currently write and manage [ThatBirdBlog](http://blogs.thatpetplace.com/thatbirdblog/) <http://blogs.thatpetplace.com/thatbirdblog/>, which is sponsored by ThatFishPlace/ThatPetPlace <http://www.thatpetplace.com/pet/index.web>.

I address the conservation, natural history and care of parrots and other birds, and answer readers' questions pertaining thereto. New articles are posted 2-3 times weekly.

The balance of my time is spent writing books, consulting for zoos and museums and (when luck favors me!) in field research. My biography is posted at <http://blogs.thatpetplace.com/thatbirdblog/2008/04/11/that-pet-place-welcomes-zoologist-frank-indiviglio-to-that-avian-blog/>.

A Goffin's Cockatoo living at the Vienna University stunned researchers by exhibiting behaviors never before seen in any parrot species. The bird, known as Figaro, went far beyond “mere” tool use. When confronted with an out-of-reach treat, he first searched for a stick to use, and then modified the stick so as to better suit it for his purposes. Figaro's accomplishments are especially surprising because he had not been trained in any way, nor had he observed other tool-using birds. He seems to have “envisioned” a concept and acted upon it. Please post your own “smart parrot” stories below.



## [Spontaneous and Unexpected Tool Use](#)

Parrots are considered among the most intelligent of birds, but tool use has not been documented in their ranks. True, the majestic Palm Cockatoo bangs wood against hollow trees in order to communicate (please see this article) and many species wedge nuts into crevices to ease the job of opening them, but advanced tool use seemed beyond their abilities.

Figaro's talents came to light purely by chance. A researcher happened to be nearby when Figaro dropped a stone behind a metal cage divider. Unable to reach the plaything with his feet, the enterprising cockatoo flew off and returned with a piece of bamboo. He used the bamboo to push the stone within reach. Intrigued, the researcher tempted Figaro with a nut and a stick that was not long enough to reach the treat. Undaunted, the cockatoo used his powerful beak to remove a long wood splinter from the cage's wooden floor, and then swept the nut within reach with the new tool. In time, Figaro made a variety of tools from the floor and a tree branch, modifying them to fit each situation and always succeeding in retrieving his rewards (please see video and photos of tools linked below).

Another Goffin's Cockatoo who watched Figaro perform his magic tried to imitate him when tested. This bird did not succeed, but perhaps will improve in time. This unique situation may provide an interesting opportunity to study the evolution of learning abilities...I'll post future updates.

## Crows, Herons and other Avian Inventors

Crows, Ravens and their relatives (Family Corvidae) excel at fashioning and using tools. In fact, it has been suggested that Ravens' abilities in this area rival those of the Great Apes. In Japan, I saw evidence of the intelligence of the local Carrion Crows, which not only use passing cars to break nuts but also seem to understand the functioning of traffic lights! New Caledonian Crows have proven unbelievably inventive, going through several steps and a number of different tools in order to obtain a reward. Please see articles linked below for more on these fascinating birds.

Green Herons are quite adept at recognizing and using tools to improve their fishing success. Wild individuals drop small sticks on the water's surface to lure fish close enough for a strike, while those colonizing fish farms will do the same with trout chow and bread (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVtFcQXbRWI>).

I was once impressed by the behavior of a related species. For quite some time, I fed fish to a wild Night Heron that lived near an outdoor exhibit under my care at the Bronx

Zoo (please see photo). The bird never failed to appear when I arrived, yet did not show up on my weekends, even though co-workers wore the same uniform and carried the same food bucket (studies show that Mockingbirds can recognize individual human faces...please see this article Goffin's Cockatoos in the Wild



and Captivity

Goffin's Cockatoos are captive bred in large numbers but endangered in the wild. Listed on CITES Appendix I, they are endemic to Indonesia's Tanimbar Islands. Introduced populations live on Tual Island (Indonesia) and in Singapore. Please see the articles below for more on their natural history and captive care.

Want to brag about your bird's intelligence? Please

post your stories below!

Please check out my posts on Twitter and Facebook. Each day, I highlight breaking research, conservation news and interesting stories concerning just about every type of animal imaginable. I look forward to hearing about your interests and experiences as well, and will use them in articles when possible.

Please also post your questions and comments below... I'll be sure to respond quickly.

Thanks, until next time,  
Frank Indiviglio

(Editor's note: You can find all of the references and hyperlinks in this article in Frank's couple hyperlinks below.)

<http://blogs.thatpetplace.com/thatbirdblog/2012/12/26/goffins-cockatoo-invents-and-modifies-a-tool-a-parrot-first/>

<http://blogs.thatpetplace.com/thatbirdblog/2009/06/01/research-mockingbirds-quickly-recognize-individual-faces-in-a-crowd/>).

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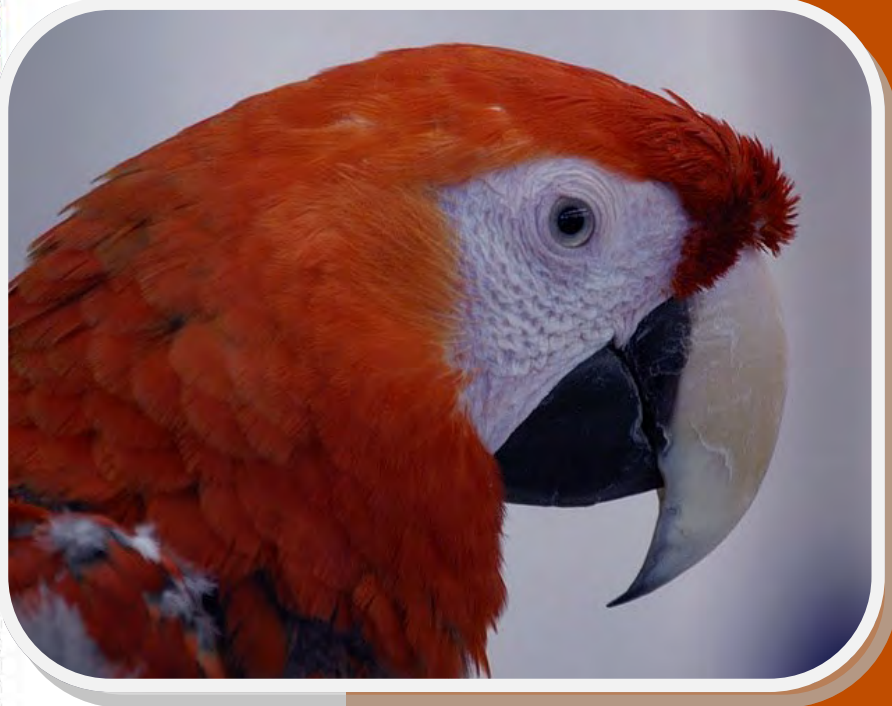
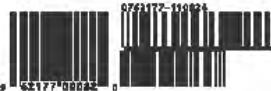
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RMSA attended a outreach at the Western Center for Russian Jewry on February 28<sup>th</sup>. They were having a fundraiser with a Hawaiian Luau theme. They asked if we could bring some tropical birds to add to the theme of their fundraiser. John Vincent and his Super Birds were also performing their bird show for the attendees. Eric, Lisa And Johnny attended. Eric brought Jackson (his Macaw), Lisa and Johnny brought six of their birds, Serenity, Bella, Mowgli, Winston, Peter, and MoJo! The event was attended by families from the church. The birds were a big hit with the many children at the event! Many of the kids had their pictures taken while holding the birds!





## Membership Update

*Please prorate your due date for May 1, 2014*

(Business) \$60.00 will be prorated at \$5.00/month  
(Family/Dual) \$30.00 will be prorated at \$2.50/month  
(Individual) \$25.00 will be prorated at \$2.08/month  
(Senior and Junior) \$10.00 will be prorated at \$0.83/month



Everyone is given one month grace period past the date due. Please complete the membership form (even for renewal) being sent to you & return completed with check to:

RMSA, PO Box 1106, Wheat Ridge, CO 80034-1106



*Please help me get this Membership list up to date, by sending in your dues & membership renewal form on time!! Thank You for your cooperation in this matter!!*

Kim Anderson—Membership Coordinator

**There now will be RMSA members to dremel your bird's claws and beaks at every General meeting. There is a limit to 2 birds per family. First come, first served. They will start promptly at 6pm and go through 7pm, trying to finish before the meeting starts. There may be times that they go over past 7, depending on the bird's needs. Being a non-profit organization, no payments can be accepted for this service. Donations to the club certainly are welcomed!**

## Membership meeting Friday, March 8th, 2013 @ 7:00pm @ Westech Mechanical

Those with the last names starting with ( X—E ) Please bring a dish to share. Plates, napkins, plastic ware, cups, coffee and tea provided.

### DIRECTIONS to Westech Mechanical for Monthly General Membership Meeting

Meetings are held the second Friday of each month at Westech Mechanical, 4755 Fox Street, Denver.

Coming from the east of I-25—Take I-70 W just past I-25 to the Pecos Street Exit, which is on the right-hand side of the highway.

Coming from the west of I-25—Take I-70 E to the Pecos Street Exit, just before I-25.

The rest of the directions are the same, coming from either direction:

1. You will be turning north toward Pecos Street from I-70, but before you go even a tenth of a mile, you will take a hairpin right turn onto 48th Avenue, heading east.
2. You will go up and over a bridge/overpass (do not go down the road to the right of the entrance to the bridge/overpass).
3. After you go down the other side of the bridge/overpass, you will see the Quality Inn and The Village Inn to your right on the frontage road that parallels 48th. Turn right at the stop sign just before the overpass.
4. Turn right in front of the Quality Inn, onto the frontage road, which will mean you are heading west again. You will pass The Village Inn on the left.
5. Go down the frontage road to the second street on the left—Fox Street.
6. Turn left, go down a block. Westech Mechanical is on the right hand side , #4755.





**John Fisher**

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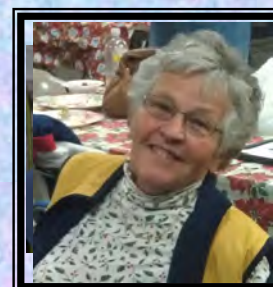
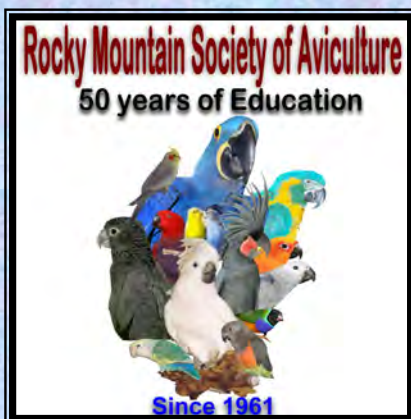
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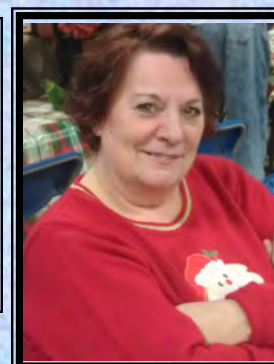
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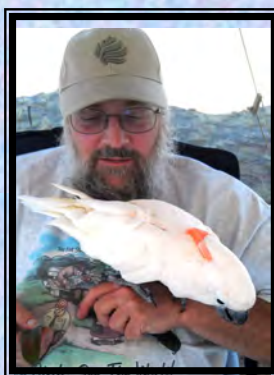
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Please contact Eric Nelson if interested in the position.

All of these positions will take full commitment to RMSA, "Education, Conservation and Preservation Fellowship with others interested in birds". We are a team of dedicated volunteers, that make decisions that are best for RMSA as a group, not for us as individuals. As officers, this is a forum to lay the problems and offered solutions, on the table. These positions necessitate coming to the scheduled meetings regularly, implementing your responsibilities & communicating in a timely manner. The end product, if we don't, affects our overall success & how we are viewed. We strive to think "out of the box" for new ideas to make us an exemplary Society.

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**FYI: From the editor:**

*PACFA has met in session in early October proposing many major changes in the lines of restrictions and guidelines. This will include birds. Go to the site on left under the PACFA message.*

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Agriculture-Main/SDAG/1167928256523>

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Director—Kate Anderson, DVM

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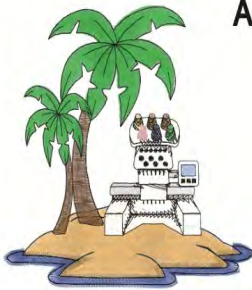
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**Deadline:** *March 29 2013*, for the next month's issue. Submit ads in Word or .jpg file format.

Not responsible for the visual quality of .pdf or .gif files.

**Reprints:** Original articles & drawings may be reprinted if credit is given to the author/artist

and to RMSA Newsletter. Only original items may be reprinted.

### Classified Line Advertising:

FREE to RMSA members. Take advantage of this member benefit! *Ads run for two months unless written request is made to extend the ad. Newsletter submission deadlines apply.*

**Non-Members:** \$3.00/20 words for two months. Ads that are family friendly, non-bird related, as well as bird-related, are welcome. To continue your member ad, notify the editor by the deadline.

### Print Advertising:

**RMSA does not invoice**—prepayment must accompany all non-member classifieds and all print advertising. Continuation of non-member classified ads and any print advertising is contin-

gent on written notification to the editor by the newsletter deadline for the issue in which the ad is to be continued, accompanied by the required payment. RMSA accepts PayPal on its website for your convenience.

### ALL PRINT AD ART AND BUSINESS CARDS MUST BE CAMERA-READY ORIGINALS FOR BEST REPRODUCTION.

Email file to [fitformylife@aol.com](mailto:fitformylife@aol.com) or call 303.456-0068 to arrange for faxing or USPS mailing.

### Ad Type

### Per Issue Per Year

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Business Card | \$5.00   |
|               | \$60.00  |
| 1/4 Page      | \$15.00  |
|               | \$180.00 |
| 1/2 Page      | \$25.00  |

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Full Page  | \$300.00   |
|            | \$50.00    |
|            | \$600.00   |
| Centerfold | \$100.00   |
|            | \$1,200.00 |

**(Disclaimer:** RMSA and the RMSA Newsletter Editor do not assume any responsibility for advertiser's claims or for the quality of the advertiser's products or services. The Newsletter Editor reserves the right to decline to publish any ad or article that does not support the goals of RMSA or for which the required payment has not been received by the submission for publication

**NOTE: Ads must be resubmitted every two months. Please remember to let the Editors know if you have sold the items in your ads, or if you wish them to be kept in the newsletter another 2 months. Thank You.**

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOCIETY of AVICULTURE**

**P.O. Box 1106, Wheat Ridge, CO 80034-1106**

**303-456-0068**      [www.rmsabirds.org](http://www.rmsabirds.org)

**Membership Application & Renewal Form**

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_:

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please add me to the RMSA Announcements email list \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no
- Hard Copy (black & white) \_\_\_ or color email pdf \_\_\_\_\_ of monthly RMSA newsletter.
- Types of birds owned or raised? \_\_\_\_\_

*RMSA works for you and aviculture through education, conversation, staying politically updated on avian issues, and conservation. Also, RMSA has fellowship with others, learning new and better methods of caring for our birds*

**Annual Dues:** (Enclose check or money order payable to RMSA for the appropriate amount:)

- \_\_\_ Individual \$25 per year  
Benefits: newsletter and one vote
- \_\_\_ Dual/Family (2 people/household) \$30  
Benefits: newsletter and two votes
- \_\_\_ Junior (17 years of age and under) \$10  
Benefits: newsletter
- \_\_\_ Senior (60 years +) \$10  
Benefits: newsletter and one vote
- \_\_\_ Business Member \$60 per year  
Benefits: two newsletters, one vote, a double size ad in the newsletter for one year, listing in business member column in the newsletter
- \_\_\_ Veterinary Member \$60 per year  
Benefits: two newsletters, one vote, a business card size ad in the newsletter for one year, listing in veterinary member column in the newsletter.

I am interested in helping in the following areas:  
(Please check at least 2 and you will be contacted)

- \_\_\_ Show/Mart volunteer
- \_\_\_ Show/Mart planning
- \_\_\_ Publicity/advertising
- \_\_\_ Education
- \_\_\_ Club photography
- \_\_\_ Historian
- \_\_\_ AAB/fostering
- \_\_\_ Library
- \_\_\_ Newsletter
- \_\_\_ Website
- \_\_\_ Hospitality

I would be interested in information on: (check all that apply)

- \_\_\_ The Basics of Feeding
- \_\_\_ Basic Bird Anatomy
- \_\_\_ Avian Diseases
- \_\_\_ Household dangers/poisonous plants
- \_\_\_ Signs and symptoms of illness
- \_\_\_ Cage and play gym size and set up
- \_\_\_ Appropriate toys for different species
- \_\_\_ Problem behaviors (screaming, biting, feather Chewing/plucking, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Avian obesity
- \_\_\_ Quarantine
- \_\_\_ Other, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

To adopt birds from the RMSA Adopt a Bird program, a questionnaire must be filled out and on file with the AAB Manager.

\_\_\_ I would like to receive an AAB Questionnaire.

Sign : \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Rocky Mountain  
Society of Aviculture  
P.O. Box 1106  
Wheat Ridge, CO  
80034-1106

**Please Note:** All due dates are being transitioned to May 1st of every year. Please check your due date located above your address label. If there are changes or updates to your contact information, call 303-456-0068 or email Kim Anderson (Membership) [fitformylife@aol.com](mailto:fitformylife@aol.com)

## *Upcoming Events 2013*

*See page 5 inside newsletter!*

*General Club Meetings 7:00 p.m. 2nd Friday of each month*

*Westech Mechanical • 4755 Fox Street • Denver CO 80216 • 303.762.9894*

*www.rmsabirds.com 303.456.0068*