



# Crime Scene



Summer 2000

Volume 26, Issue 2

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**Caption This!**

**and MORE!**

## **President's Message-- Summer 2000**

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Lisa Caughlin, Roger Ely and the Sacramento Co. Crime Laboratory for their work and efforts in putting on an excellent Spring meeting. A great time was had by all and we even got to meet Canada's newest playwright and actor—our own long time member and past president Larry Campbell.

Our fall meeting is hosted by Matthew Noedel and the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory Division. I want to encourage all of you to attend this meeting and more importantly, present a paper. Our meeting in Sacramento was workshops only so lets have a full program of papers.

Pam Barnes and the Bend Oregon Laboratory is hosting the Fall 2001 meeting in Bend and Don Wyckoff and the Idaho State Patrol is hosting the Fall 2002 meeting in Coeur d'Alene. We obviously need a host for our Spring 2001 meeting—please contact any of the NWAFS officers.

We also elect next year's officers at the Seattle meeting so please contact any of the present officers with your nominations. We particularly need a nomination or a volunteer for Member-at-large. I look forward to seeing you all October 9-13 at the Seattle meeting and more importantly hearing your papers. Matt and crew have an excellent meeting planned and let us all support their efforts.

*William (Bill) Adrian*



*Editor's Message*

**WORK  
THAT CASE!**



How can two competent scientists evaluate the same evidence and come to two diametrically opposed opinions? If we assume that both are adequately trained then-- either one is correct, the other is correct, or neither is correct. This scenario plays out in courts across the world over and over again.

How does this happen? Science is science right?

With overwhelming case loads and impossible deadlines, we often find ourselves doing the minimum and defending that minimum even when additional useful work can be done. I fear that we are allowing our industry to become accustomed to doing just the minimum and I think this is a bad trend.

To combat this attitude, my challenge to you is to take a case, any case, and truly work it to the maximum. Go beyond simply answering the immediate question at hand and exercise your scientific curiosity by proving every

aspect imaginable. Try different methods or use a different approach along with your standard routine.

In doing so, I think you'll find that while mired in productivity based forensic science, we lose sight of the very nature of what we should be striving for. By doing this every once in a while, we keep sharp on the scientific method and remind ourselves of what is possible and more often than not, we can learn something!

Let's all try to fight the temptation, at least once in a while, to production line our work to such an extent that we lose sight of the real emphasis--SCIENTIFIC TRUTH!

Thanks and Enjoy the Summer--see you in Seattle.

*-Matthew Noedel, ed.*

mnoedel@wsp.wa.gov

**NWAFS OFFICERS for 1999-2000**

**Executive Committee**

- President Bill Adrian, Colorado Division of Wildlife-Ft. Collins, CO (retired)
- Vice-President Annalivia Harris, Montana State Crime Lab- Missoula, MT
- Member-at-Large Jay Henry, Utah State Crime Laboratory--Salt Lake City UT
- Secretary-Treasurer Linton von Beroldingen, Oregon State Police-Portland, OR

**Secretaries**

- Membership Julie Doerr, California Department of Justice-Watsonville, CA
- Technical Lisa Caughlin, Sacramento Co. Crime Lab-Sacramento, CA
- Editorial Matthew Noedel, WSP Crime Lab-Tacoma, WA

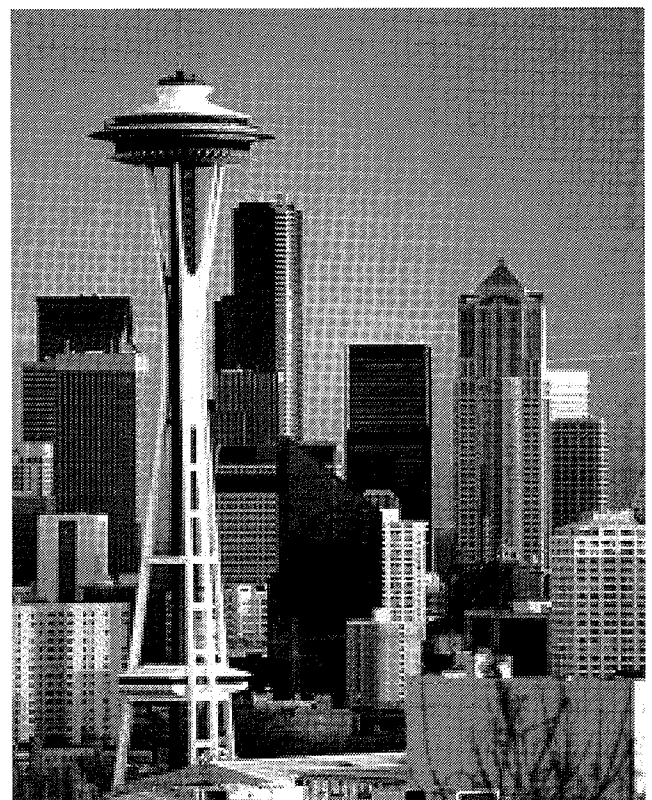
# NWAFS Fall 2000 Meeting: Seattle, Wa. Oct. 9-13, 2000

PLAN EARLY TO ATTEND AND ***DON'T*** MISS THIS MEETING!!!!

SEE--the fabulous city of Seattle  
STAY--Right Down town at the  
Seattle Hilton

RIDE-- the Seattle monorail to  
the Banquet--  
*At the Space Needle*

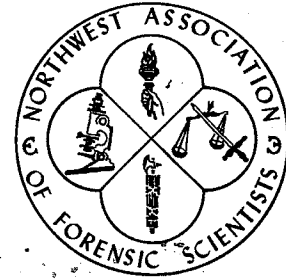
Attend hands on work-  
shops in all forensic  
areas!!



TAKE ADVANTAGE of  
the generous rates to arrive  
early or stay late and visit  
beautiful  
Seattle, Washington.



NWAFS Fall Seminar  
 October 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2000  
 Seattle Hilton Hotel  
 Seattle WA



**Preliminary REGISTRATION FORM**  
 (Much More to come!!)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

NWAFS Member? YES NO

**Meeting Registration** Includes admission to the scientific sessions and breaks, Wednesday vendor reception, 2 lunch tickets, Thursday banquet at the Space Needle and round trip mono-rail ticket.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>NON-MEMBER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
\$175	\$200	

**Workshops:**

**Full-Auto Armory and Workshop**

Monday Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>—8:00 to 5:00

\$50	\$75	
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**Capillary Electrophoresis-Practical Applications**

in Forensics Monday Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>—8:00 to 5:00

\$50	\$75	
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**Fingerprint Recovery from Bodies**

Monday Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>—8:00 to 5:00

\$50	\$75	
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**Gizmos and Gadgets—Crime Scene Tips Session 1**

Tuesday Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>—8:00 to 12:00

\$50	\$60	
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**Gizmos and Gadgets—Crime Scene Tips Session 2**

Tuesday Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>—1:00 to 5:00

\$50	\$60	
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**HP 5973 Maintenance—Session 1**

Tuesday Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>—9:00 to 11:00

\$35	\$50	
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**HP 5973 Maintenance—Session 2**

Tuesday Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>—1:30 to 3:30

\$35	\$50	
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**Perkin Elmer “Capillary Electrophoresis for DNA”**

Wednesday Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>—8:00 to 5:00

\$50	\$75	
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**Late Fee:** Any Registration Received or Postmarked AFTER September 20, 2000

\$30

Total Registration Enclosed.....

Payment by Check or Money Order (NO Purchase Orders Please) should be made out to “NWAFS” and mailed to:

**NWAFS Fall 2000**  
**c/o Matthew Noedel**  
**Crime Laboratory-2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**2502 112<sup>th</sup> Street East**  
**Tacoma, WA 98445**

# CALL FOR PAPERS

We need your participation! Have an interesting or novel approach to a case, seen an unusual something that's worth sharing--present it at the scientific session Thursday and Friday, October 12, 13 at the NWAFS meeting in Seattle.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Abstract:**

Fax, e-mail or snail mail your abstract for presentation to:

Matthew Noedel  
2502 112th Street East  
Tacoma, WA 98445  
mnoedel@wsp.wa.gov  
fax: 253-536-4290

## Laboratory Tips:

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### Tips for getting 3-D information with a transmitted light microscope

*PACIFIC COAST FORENSIC SCIENCE INSTITUTE*

#### Problem:

While examining a mounted sample, do you ever need to get a better idea of the overall shape, and wish you had examined it first with reflected light microscopy or SEM? Do you have an irregular biological sample with little internal contrast? Do you sometimes have trouble picturing the "optical section" of fibers or hairs by focusing up and down? An interference contrast method might help if it is available to you, but phase contrast is suitable only for thin samples, and differential interference contrast methods (DIC) such as Nomarski, Hoffman modulation, etc., are often not available, or available only for certain objectives and certain microscopes in a laboratory.

#### Two Solutions:

1. Increase the proportion of oblique illumination by tilting the auxiliary condenser in an Abbe' condenser assembly, or by turning the condenser turret in a phase contrast condenser slightly off the brightfield setting. This method works best with lower magnifications objectives (10x and sometimes 20x or 25x).

2. Block the very center of the light path at the condenser, allowing mostly oblique illumination to pass through the sample. You can do this by placing your business card on top of the condenser (below the auxiliary condenser), with the corner in the center of the light beam. With only a little practice, you can get contrast that looks almost 3-dimensional. This works best when you can insert the card close to the condenser-level focal point of the light path.

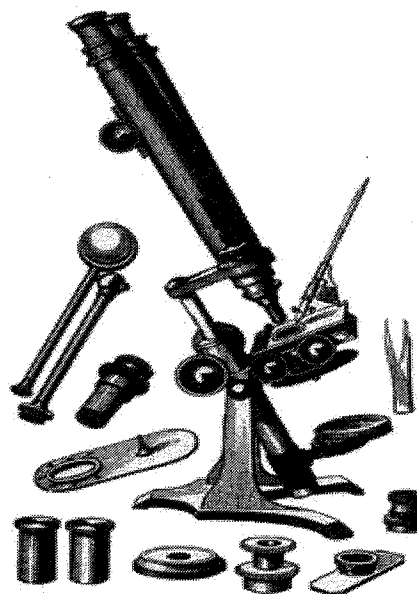
#### Other benefits:

1. These methods can be used with crossed polars and a retardation plate, which also provide information about thickness in birefringent materials.

2. Tilting the condenser can sometimes increase the resolving power.

#### Discussion:

Both techniques are cousins of darkfield microscopy, in which the field of view is dark until you put a sample into the light path. In darkfield microscopy, the only light that enters



the objective is that which is scattered or refracted by the sample back into the objective. This is accomplished by blocking the central rays of light, resulting in a hollow cone of light that passes through the sample at oblique angles, a hollow ring of parabolically reflected light from a reflecting condenser, or a hollow cone of reflected illumination.

The techniques suggested in this column also produce oblique illumination. However the field of view is still somewhat bright even when there is no sample in the light path, because not as much of the surrounding light is being blocked. In addition, the light that does go through is not uniform.

As in the true darkfield techniques, inserting a business card blocks the central rays of light, or at least blocks most of them. It also blocks a part of the oblique rays. This results in a combination of diffuse illumination and shadowing, which gives an image which looks 3-D even though it is not.

Tilting the condenser does not block the central rays, unless the tilt is extreme, but it does minimize the amount of light which is perpendicular to the sample. The illumination is oblique, and from one direction only, unlike darkfield, which is from all around. Again, this produces diffuse illumination and shadowing. Depending upon the numerical aperture of the objective and the angle of tilt, this method can increase the resolving power by allowing more orders of light to enter the objective.

Rotating a turret condenser produces oblique illumination because the light path is not going through the center of the lens, so the light rays emerge at a refractive interface at an angle to perpendicular — i.e., oblique.

You will find a discussion of resolving power and its relationship to numerical aperture and orders of light in most microscopy texts. Personal favorites are three books from The Microscope Series published by Microscope Publications Ltd., which can be ordered from the McCrone catalog: *The Optical Performance of the Light Microscope*, Parts one and two, by H. Wolfgang Zieler, and *Special Methods in Light Microscopy* by Robert B. McLaughlin.

**Chesterene Cwiklik** (bi492@scn.org)  
Cwiklik & Associates (206-623-3637)  
and  
Pacific Coast Forensic Science Institute

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***Pacific Coast Forensic Science Institute:***

*Dedicated to sponsoring and supporting scientifically sound forensic science practices in the evaluation, examination and interpretation of physical evidence through teaching and research.*

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Laboratory Tips is a new column written and sponsored by the Pacific Coast Forensic Science Institute. We'd like to know what you think, and would welcome questions and comments about this article.

# NWAFS MEETING PLANNER

*Written by Maria Fassett*

*Edited by Arnold Melnikoff; Reviewed by, Matt Noedel, Lisa Caughlin and Roger Ely*

Outline of Contents:	Introduction
	Accommodations
	Food (meals, breaks)
	Technical Session
	Workshops
	Vendor Solicitation
	Advertising meeting

Introduction: There are multitudes of details that warrant consideration in every aspect of hosting a conference. Many details are learned (some too late) as a result of experience, with little of the experience being passed on to succeeding hosts. The primary purpose of this planner is to serve as a resource guide outlining the considerations based on past experience. But remember the meeting is yours to sculpt as you wish.

Former NWAFS Meeting Coordinators are a great resource for advice on planning a meeting. Take advantage of their past experience and expertise and contact them. They can be a great resource.

Date	Location	Meeting Coordinator	Address and Phone Number
Fall 1999	Cheyenne Wyoming	Tilton Davis	Wyoming Crime Lab. 316 West 22nd Street Cheyenne Wyoming 82001 (307) 777-7607
Spring 1999	Anchorage Alaska	George Taft	Alaska DPS Crime Lab. 5500 E. Tudor Road Anchorage, Alaska 99507 (907) 269-5740
Fall 1998	Sun Valley Idaho	Donald Wyckoff	Idaho DLE Crime Lab. 209 East Lewis Pocatello, Idaho 83201 (208) 232-9474
Spring 1998	Portland Oregon	Beth Carpenter	OSP Crime Lab. 1111 SW 2nd Ave. Rm. 1201 Portland, Oregon 97204
Fall 1997 (Joint Meeting)	Las Vegas Nevada	Randy Stone	Las Vegas Metro Crime Lab 6761 W. Charleston Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 (702) 229-3941
Spring 1997	Missoula Montana	Annalivia Harris	Montana Crime Lab. 2679 Palmer Street Missoula, Montana 59805 (406) 728-4970



If someone has already volunteered your facility to host an upcoming meeting: start early, and DELEGATE. Conferences have been organized by one individual before, but they are never the same person after the experience.

If you are considering hosting a meeting: read through this guide book and talk to any number of people that have hosted previous meetings. Contact other Associations to consider the likelihood of a joint conference-attendance is better and the work is spread out more equally.

This guide is organized into two sections: written guidelines and sample materials from past meetings.

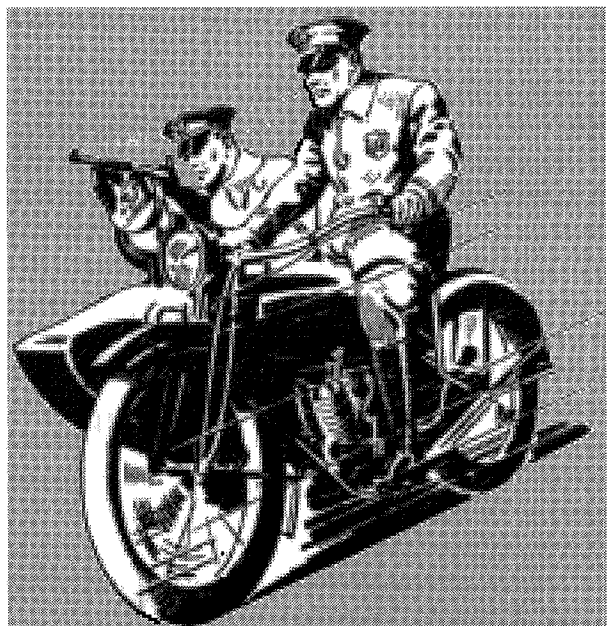
### ACCOMMODATIONS:

Depending on the location, several hotels should be "interviewed" before deciding on a location for the conference. Have one particular week in mind but a few others in reserve. Hotels tend to work with you more if you stay away from peak times. (Find out when other nearby associations are holding their meeting to avoid conflicting times.) Spring meetings have been held in April and May and Fall meetings have been held in September and October. Here are some of the considerations to discuss with the hotel staff before deciding where to hold the conference:

A) What is the charge for the meeting rooms? Some hotels will provide the meeting room "free of charge" if meal functions (some or all?) are provided by the hotel, while other hotels will charge. Consensus at this time is that "free with meals" is the best option. Meeting rooms have always been provided free when at least one meal was served to the association on each day that meetings were held.

B) Break service and meals: the catering department should provide you with a brochure outlining the costs. A continental breakfast with rolls, fruit and coffee is desirable, at a minimum, coffee service, for the mornings and with sodas in the afternoons of the technical sessions. It has also been customary to have a banquet on Thursday of the week of the meeting. All meals and break service should be calculated into the registration fee and don't forget the applicable sales tax (we shouldn't have to pay taxes if we are a registered non-profit agency) and automatic gratuity. Some vendors in the past have agreed to sponsor one or more breaks-don't overlook this opportunity. Inquire if sodas that are for an afternoon break will be sold on a consumption basis or a set number-this makes a big difference and consumption basis is preferred. If that is not an option and a set number has to be selected, make sure that any left over are taken to the hospitality suite.

C) What are the charges for Audio-Visual Equipment? This category can add a couple of hundred dollars per day depending on the hotel's charges and policy. The hosting agency should provide a slide projector and overhead projector when possible to do so. The association owns a LCD projector, which is available for all NWAFS meetings. If outside equipment can be brought in, local law enforcement agencies usually have all of the equipment necessary for the conference. The presenters must advise you ahead of time of any audio-visual equipment that is necessary for their presentation-including workshops. Normally, a slide projector, an



overhead projector, a microphone and a flip-chart easel are used. If the hotel will allow outside equipment to be brought in, shop around. If a VCR and monitor are absolutely necessary, either consolidate their use to one or two days, reconsider their use all together, or possibly purchase them (after consulting the executive board) and then raffle them off.

D) Hospitality Suite: The cost of this room, or a portion of it, is (sometimes) written off based on the number of rooms rented for the conference. The additional cost of stocking the room with liquor and snacks make this aspect of the conference a costly one. Past expenditures for the hospitality room have approached \$1000. Thus, a hospitality suite that is continuously open for the duration of the meeting is becoming a dinosaur. Consider offering only beer, wine, sodas and snacks. Limiting the hours that the hospitality suite is open is another option under serious consideration. Other options include an evening reception with a hosted or no-host bar or a designated room can be opened for a limited number of hours before dinner (5-7pm?). If a stocked hospitality suite is your option, inquire beforehand if there will be a corkage fee for beverages brought in from the outside, this can add \$100 - 200 to the cost. Having a different vendor or vendors sponsor the hospitality room each night is a good way to cut the cost of having a hospitality room.

E) For planning purposes, the number of people attending a meeting is between 30 - 60 (this number increases when a joint meeting is held) and generally each person will spend 2-3 nights with a fair number sharing rooms.

F) Cost of rooms: most hotels have government rates-check this price vs. the convention rate. If the later is higher, negotiate. Otherwise, attendees may book under the government price and room/night credit will be lost. The cost of the room may also influence the cost of the hospitality room.

G) Inquire if the hotel will extend the negotiated room rate to the weekend before or after. Some people purchase airline tickets that require a Saturday night stay.

H) Does the hotel offer a continental or cooked-to-order breakfast? This can save on per diem costs. Inquire about airport transportation and parking availability-this information should be included with the registration material

**Before signing any contract**, let the Board review the contract, and then **receive in writing authorization** to sign the contract as an agent of the NWAFS Association from the Board.

I) Contractual agreements should be signed as a representative of the NWA.FS.

#### TECHNICAL SESSION:

The beginning of the technical session is usually started by introductory speeches and welcoming addresses by a local dignitary (sheriff, police chief, district attorney), laboratory director or invited guest. The designated host for the meeting should provide the introduction for each of the speakers.

"Call for Papers" announcement will usually be sent out 6 - 9 months in advance of the meeting and is included with the initial registration and meeting announcement packet. The NWAFS Membership Secretary will provide a list of members to the meeting host. Provide a form for the abstract and insist on either typed or on disk (specify format). All of the accepted abstracts will be submitted to the Editor of the Newsletter for publication in the next issue. Written acknowledgment of the receipt and acceptance of abstracts should be sent out. The exact day and time for presentation can follow. Some presenters may request a certain day or time because of restrictions on their travel. If you know this a head of time, it can make scheduling a little easier.

If there are enough papers to warrant a poster session, the vendor exhibit room should be used for displaying the posters.

Usually, one and one-half days are set aside for technical presentations. The time allowed for this depends on the number of papers and the length of presentation. Every conference has a few papers that are canceled at the last minute. Possible presentations from a member of the hosting laboratory can be held in reserve for such an occasion. The order of papers should be rearranged so that a gap in the middle of the session does not occur. These gaps affect coffee break service, which is provided at specified times. Effective scheduling of papers is an art. Invited guest speakers should be scheduled at times of peak attendance—the beginning of the first day. Local speakers and presenters from the hosting laboratory can then be scheduled accordingly. Some thought should also be given to the topic of the paper. Avoid putting too many papers with similar topics together; dynamic speakers or popular subjects should be interspersed with the mundane. On occasion, which sometimes has occurred during joint meetings with other Associations, the number of papers to be presented warrants having concurrent sessions according to topic. If such is the case, make sure that the sessions are likely to be equally competitive for an audience. If one session is very popular, don't split the session. **After the meeting a list of all NWAFS members who paid to attend any part of the meeting is sent to the membership secretary.**

Schedule 30 minutes breaks in the morning and in the afternoon. All refreshments should be offered in the exhibitor room. Twenty minutes is usually sufficient for a presentation—ask if additional time will be required (this can be included on the Call For Papers form.)

A business meeting for the Association also has to be scheduled into the conference. It is imperative that the meeting be held when the majority of members will attend. Traditionally the business meeting has been held on Thursday afternoon, prior to the banquet. Depending on the schedule for the meeting, many attendees have yet to arrive by Wednesday and many are on their way by Friday afternoon. Business meetings in the fall require more time because of the election of officers.

Leave Friday afternoon free to allow attendees to travel home for the weekend.

Select moderators for each morning and afternoon session. Have volunteers assigned to help with the audiovisual equipment and with the lights. Advise presenters to bring a carousel for their slides and also have an extra one on hand for those who forget.

#### WORKSHOPS:

**The NWAFS has a policy regarding paying workshop instructor expenses and it should be included in the registration packet.** All individuals solicited or proposing a workshop should be made aware of the policy. In addition all instructors receiving a fee or an honorarium of \$600 or more the association is required to report the fee or honorarium on an IRS-Misc. form.

Training is often the key for many attendees to get their trip approved. An especially popular workshop can draw many individuals to the meeting that normally would not attend. The Association will compile a resource book that lists Association members who have the expertise and experience to teach a particular workshop. The NWAFS has many talented professionals that can be approached to conduct a workshop. This resource should be utilized and often their agency will pay for the instructor to attend the meeting. If a resource outside the Association is requested to conduct a workshop, negotiate the fee and consider if lodging and transportation costs will be included. Many of the workshops are of interest to allied professionals so don't forget to advertise not only the meeting but also workshops as well to law enforcement agencies, prosecuting offices, judges, and local colleges/universities. The fee for a workshop should be worked out with the instructor to cover necessary materials, A-V equipment, break service, etc. The association can help to defray the costs.



Any expenditures for the speakers, workshops, libations and other items should be approved by the

Executive Board. Failure to do so may make you liable for the expense if it wasn't authorized.

Plaques or a small, personalized "thank you" gift is a nice touch (especially if it is a product that the area is known for) for the individuals conducting the workshop. These individuals should also be given free registration to the meeting. Anything additional will depend on the budget for the meeting and should be authorized by the Board.

### FINANCES

The general goal is to have the meeting financially break even. Examine every aspect of the meeting-meeting rooms, break service, A-V equipment, cost of workshops. Prepare a projected outline of costs vs. expected income from registration, workshop fees and vendors. There are several computer programs available to help keep track of all of the finances, if you

wish to computerize the task.

**Detailed accounting of the expenses and the income must be submitted to the treasurer of the association after the meeting so that good recording keeping is a must. Keep ALL receipts and bills for the Secretary-Treasurer.**

A checking account specifically for the meeting must be opened up; if necessary, an advance in money can be obtained from the Secretary-Treasurer. Some banking institutions will want to charge a monthly fee for the checking account-this too, is negotiable since we are officially a nonprofit organization. Non-profit organization status also means that we are exempt from state and local taxes!! One or two authorizing signatures for the checking account should be sufficient-but, only **one person** should be authorized to charge at the hotel/meeting site!

Free registration should be offered to workshop presenters and to special invited speakers. Some consideration should be given to offering discounted registration fee for NWA.FS members. Other than these situations specifically mentioned, everyone is expected to pay unless the executive board grants a waiver. See registration forms from prior meetings for fees charged in the past.

Specify on the registration form that purchase orders (POs) cannot be accepted and all fees are payable in U.S. funds only. Government vouchers are an acceptable form of payment including personal checks and cash at the door. Warrants are equivalent to checks.

### VENDORS:

Arrangements for the vendors can be one the most time-consuming aspects of the meeting. Solicitation letters

must be sent out at least one year in advance and preferably mentioning the next meeting. Include information about when, where, and who to contact. Attentive follow-up by phone can pay off. Start with the companies you know and deal with the most and talk to your local representatives about whom to contact. Consider appropriate vendors for the workshops planned—they might sponsor a workshop or a break or help to defray the costs.



Since different meeting sites have different contact sites for the vendors, it is difficult to establish

a "one-for-all" mailing list (Follow with a list of participating vendor from past years.)

Talk with your hotel coordinator for the meeting on a set-up room for vendors. Don't forget electrical service! Find out table sizes and include a floor plan with your solicitation letter. Inquire about electrical outlets for the vendors—not all vendors will require electricity. Consider having table signs prepared for each vendor. Ask if the hotel has storage facilities for vendors who want to ship equipment prior to the meeting. Consider having a professional organization to coordinate with the vendors and the hotel, especially if the number of vendors start to exceed ten or so. The hotel will be able to provide recommendations. The added cost of approximately \$20 per vendor can then be worked into the budget. Include mailing and shipping information to the vendors who sign up so that they can send their materials and equipment on ahead.

Inquire if a union worker will have to transport the vendor's gear in for them from the car into the set-up room. Even if the vendor does it himself or herself, the fee must be paid either by the vendor or the Association.

Insure that the hotel will provides adequate security for the exhibition room this usually involves that the exhibition room is locked when vendors are not present and that hotel security routinely checks the room when it is locked.

In the past, Wednesday has been set-up day for the vendors. Some one needs to be there to assist with arrangements and answer questions about the meeting. Wednesday evening is a good time for an opening reception to be held in the vendor exhibit room. Break service should also be set up in the exhibit room. Wednesday afternoon through Thursday may be sufficient for the vendors and allow Friday for takedown.

Alternatively a vendor can sponsor a break. The vendor can be there at the meeting for a short period of time and then get back to his or her business. This idea saves on the costs associated with the exhibit room but it does limit the number of vendors. Other vendors may sponsor a workshop, program printing, door prizes, etc.

Consider selling 1/2 booth space and space for setting up and distributing literature.

Past table prices: Find out the costs that were charged per table at the last couple of meetings. (Prices go up for joint meetings.)

Include lunch and banquet meals and meeting registration for one representative in table price. Send written acknowledgment to vendors who sign up. Request that they register at the hotel

under the meeting organization so that the NWAFS is credited for the room.

Local law enforcement agencies, universities, colleges, research centers, etc. should be invited to the workshops, meeting and especially to talk to the vendors. It is important to the vendors to get as much exposure as possible from the meeting. One or more of the vendors might want to consider a special time for demonstrations.

Acknowledge all vendors who participate in the meeting in the meeting program: include the full address, phone number and the names of the representatives present. After the meeting send a thank-you letter to all participating vendors and include information on the next meeting, including dates, place, meeting coordinator and phone number. Prepare a list of all attendees work addresses and phone numbers and include this list with the thank-you letter.

#### REGISTRATION PACKETS:

Specify when registration begins. Generally, the night before and 1/2 to one hour prior to the meeting. If a large number of people are expected to attend, registration can be held for a short time in the evening before the official start of the meeting. People who pre-register for workshops should be provided with their registration packets early. A receipt for - meeting and workshops registration, which specifies money, received or money owed must be generated and placed in the packet. Receipts can be mailed back but why not save on the extra time required, stationery and mailing costs.

A program guide to the meeting, a name tag and holder, hotel information, local tourist information, pens, writing paper, advertisements, and donated items (key chains, etc.) can also be included in the packet.

**The program for the meeting should include a schedule of events, room names/numbers for the meeting rooms, appropriate phone numbers, name and affiliation of the hosting laboratory, list of the vendors and sponsors, abstracts and authors (if available at press time-or at least title of the paper). Printing of the program does not have to be fancy printing centers like KINKO'S can provide fast reasonable service.**

#### DOOR PRIZES:

The inclusion of door prizes that are given away during the breaks can help to increase the number of attendees during the technical session. Local businesses and the vendors can be approached to donate items to be given away such as tee shirts, mugs, and dinners, on up to calculators, guns, etc. Some items can be purchased with the proceeds of the meeting.

#### ADVERTISING:

An invitation to the meeting should be sent to all NWAFS members (a directory is available on disk). The meeting should also be announced as an upcoming event in the newsletters for the American Academy, newsletters for other associations, as well as our own newsletter. Some hosting agencies will pay for the expense of mailing, if not, the Association can approve the expenditure for pre-stamped envelopes. Official Association letterhead can be obtained from the President, the Secretary-Treasurer, and the Membership-Secretary for the correspondence regarding the meeting. Keep copies of ALL correspondence and send them to the Secretary-Treasurer at the completion of the meeting.

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Continued on page 18

## WILDLIFE LAB SERVICE DIRECTORY

President Bill Adrian has been instrumental in working with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group in the production of a reference source titled:

**"North American Wildlife Forensic Laboratories--A Directory of Facilities and Specializations".**

The directory is a compilation of survey data that details which wild life laboratories offer which services. The hope is that when procedures or identifications are needed that you yourself cannot provide, a quick consultation through the guild will identify labs that may be able to help you. This guide should provide a great enhancement to the communication and cooperation between wildlife enforcement agencies. A version of the directory will also be available on the web @

[www.cec.org](http://www.cec.org).

This register gathers and disseminates information concerning existing wildlife forensic centers in North America. It lists the centers in each of Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America at the State/Provincial and regional levels, gives important contact information and includes details on the type of organization and areas of specialization available. One of the goals of compiling and sharing the information in this directory is to foster improved knowledge and application of forensic techniques for enhancing enforcement of wildlife laws.

## BITS OF TID

--compiled by Matt Noedel

### FINAGLE'S LAWS:

1. If an experiment works, something has gone wrong.

2.1 No matter what result is anticipated, there is always someone willing to fake it.

2.2 No matter what the result, there is always someone eager to misinterpret it.

2.3 No matter what happens, there is always someone who believes it happened according to his pet theory.

3. In any collection of data, the figure most obviously correct, beyond all need of checking, is the mistake.

4. Once a job is fouled up, anything done to improve it only makes it worse.

~ ~ ~

On a seasonally adjusted basis, there are only six months in a year.

Science is Truth; don't be misled by facts.

~ ~ ~

### RULES OF THE LAB

1. When you don't know what you're doing, do it neatly.

2. Experiments must be reproducible, they should fail the same way each time.

3. First draw your curves, then plot your data.

4. Experience is directly proportional to equipment ruined.

5. A record of data is essential, it shows you were working.

6. To study a subject best, understand it thoroughly before you start.

7. To do a lab really well, have your report done well in advance.

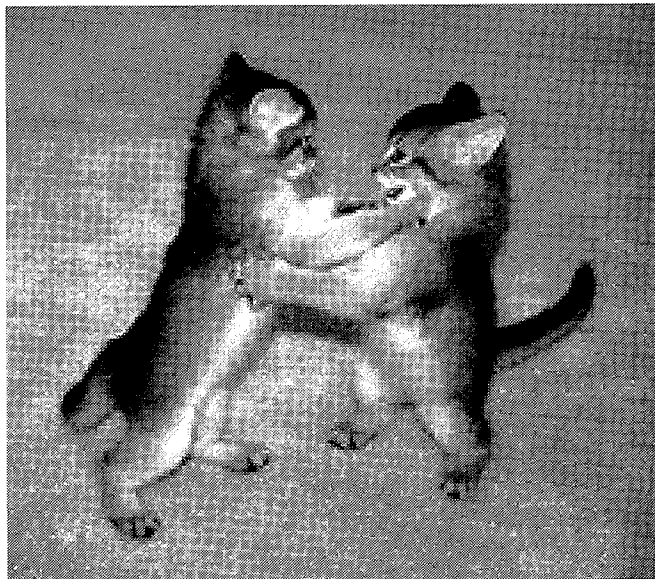
8. If you can't get the answer in the usual manner, start at the answer and derive the question.

9. If that doesn't work, start at both ends and try to find a common middle.

10. In case of doubt, make it sound convincing.

~

# CAPTION THIS !



**WE HAVE A WINNER!**

Past president **Robert Thompson**  
of the ATF lab in Walnut Creek  
Your Starbucks coffee is on its  
way!

“The WWF presents ‘Killer  
Hairball’ versus ‘Cat Scratch  
Fever’ in a no-holds-barred  
**SMACKDOWN**”

Honorable Mention to:

Mike Dornan’s “So if we’re both fixed, which one of us is supposed to lead?” and  
Aaron Brudenell’s “Tragedy strikes when a forensic drug proficiency test made up of cat-nip  
laced with PCP gets into the wrong hands”



### About the Newsletter...

The Newsletter is the official publication of the Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists. It is published 4 times a year in the months of February, May, August, and November. The Newsletter welcomes submissions from its membership such as technical tips, case studies, literature compilations, workshop or training notifications, reference citations, commentary, historical accounts, and other topics of interest to the membership. While not currently required, please submit material for publication in Microsoft Word for Windows format as an e-mail attachment or on a 3.5" floppy disk. For more information regarding the Newsletter contact

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## NWAFS BOARD MEETING MINUTES 5/17/00

Present: Adrian, Harris, Henry, Doerr, Caughlin, Noedel; Meeting called to order @5:20 P.M.

### Old Business

-no old business pending

### New Business

-There is a need for nominations for the following NWAFS board positions:

- Member at Large
- Technical Secretary

-Mr. Adrian received a new request from the ABC for NWAFS to supply them with a "Member at Large" to provide input on the steering of the ABC. The consensus of the Board members present was to not support this request, but will again open the idea to the membership at the business meeting.

### Upcoming Meetings:

Pam Barnes has requested to host the Fall 2001 NWAFS meeting in Bend Oregon and Dan Wyckoff has requested to host the Fall 2002 in Coeur d'Alene (Oct 6-10). This is OK with the board and will be offered to the membership for approval at the business meeting. This presents a problem as no organization has offered to host the Spring 2001 meeting. Jay Henry will consider Salt Lake City or possibly try to recruit a meeting in the Reno, NV area.

### Editorial Secretary Report

Mr. Adrian presented Mr. Noedel with a letter from NWAFS member Ron Nichols about his views on SWGDRUG for potential publication in the newsletter. The length of the letter in association with the instruction to publish it in an "unaltered, unedited form" will likely preclude it from being published in the NWAFS newsletter. This final decision will be with the editor, Mr. Noedel.

### Membership Secretary Report

Have received 7 applications--2 regular and 5 associates to be voted on in the fall.

-People are needed to serve on the Membership Committee and should contact Ms. Julie Doerr if they

can help. Committee members would have responsibilities to review applications for completeness and assist in the monitoring of dues.

### Secretary-Treasurer Report

-none presented at this time

### Technical Secretary Report

There is a need for nominations to replace the current technical secretary.

## BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

5/18/00

Meeting called to order @ 3:00P.M.

A count of the regular members present revealed that we have sufficient attendance for a quorum.

Previous meeting minutes approved as published in the NWAFS newsletter Ely/Fuji

### Secretary/Treasurer Report--VonBeroldingen

organization is financially healthy with ~\$25K currently in reserves

### Membership Secretary Report--Doerr

-A nomination for Member at Large is needed by August to be acceptable for voting in the fall meeting.  
-2 Regular and 5 Associate applications have been received; 1 regular and 1 associate member have resigned, and 202 of 276 members have paid their 2000 dues.

### Editorial Secretary Report

-newsletter submissions have increased of late and that is appreciated  
-A letter from Ron Nichols was received with his views on SWGDRUG regulations that may not get printed due to its length, and the request to publish in an "unaltered, unedited form".

### Technical Secretary Report

-there is a need for nominations to replace the current Technical Secretary

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**New Business**

The ABC letter requesting NWAFS to supply a "Member at Large" to represent NWAFS in ABC proceedings was presented to the membership. It was proposed that we do not participate in supplying a member in this capacity and this decision accepted (Harris/Doerr)

**Future NWAFS Meetings**

-Sacramento meeting registered 72 people and in general is a financial success. The response to an all workshop format was very positive.

-Seattle October 9th -13th, 2000-This meeting will be at the Seattle Hilton and will be of traditional format with workshops M-W and Scientific Papers Th-F. The banquet will be held at the Space Needle downtown.

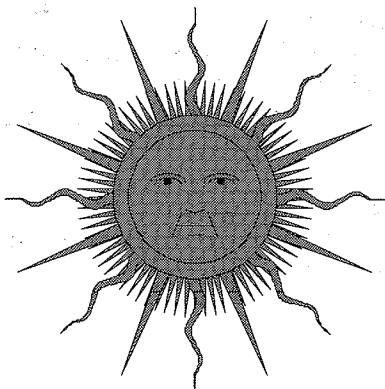
-Spring 2001-No one has offered to host this meeting. Jay Henry will consider Salt Lake City as a site but cannot commit at this time. Any organization interested in hosting the Spring 2001 meeting should identify themselves to President Bill Adrian at their earliest convenience.

-Fall 2001-Bend Oregon was approved by the membership for the site of this meeting.

-Spring 2002-No one has offered to host this meeting. Any organization interested in hosting the Spring 2002 meeting should identify themselves to President Bill Adrian at their earliest convenience.

-Fall 2002-Coeur d'Alene, ID was approved by the membership for the site of this meeting.

Meeting Adjourn--(Campbell/Ely)



Continued from page 14



The following publications can be used to advertise the meeting if contacted with sufficient lead-time:

**Crime Lab Digest**

Editor FSRTC FBI Academy Quantico, VA 22135  
(703) 640-1688 Fax (703)-640. 1394

**Microgram**

Drug Enforcement Administration Office of Forensic Sciences Washington, DC 20537

**AFTE Journal**

John Collins, Editor DuPage County Crime Lab. 501 N City Farm Road Weaton, IL 60187 (630) 682-7198  
Fax (630).682-7908

**AAFS Newsletter**

Editor P.O. Box 669 Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0669

**Journal of The Canadian Society of Forensic Science**

B Dixon, Editor Suite 215, Southvale Plaza, 2660 Southvale, Crescent Ottawa, Ontario, K1B 4W5  
(613) 731-2096

**FUN WORDS**--to be included in your everyday language:

**Aquadextrous** (ak wa deks' trus)--Possessing the ability to turn the bathtub faucet on and'off with your toes.

**Burgacide** (burg' uh side)--When a hamburger starts to burn and then crumbles through the grill into the coals.

**Electofixate** (e lek' to fix' ate)--The act of hitting an electronic object and actually fixing the problem in the process.

**Elevcellerate** (e' lev cel ir' ate)--Pressing an elevator button several times in the hope it will go faster.

**Lactomangulation** (lak' to man gyu lay' shun)--Manhandling the "open here" spout on a milk container so badly that one has to resort to the 'illegal' side.

**Peppier** (pehp ee ay')--The waiter at a fancy restaurant whose sole purpose seems to be walking around asking diners if they want ground pepper.

**Pupkus** (pup' kus)--The moist residue left on a window after a dog presses its nose to it.

**CAPTION  
THIS!**

O.K. kiddies—Here's the next installment of the ever popular captioning game that's sweeping the nation.

Remember, the best caption submitted for the photo to the right will win a pound of Starbuck's coffee.

Decision of the editor  
is final.

E-mail to:  
mnoedel@wsp.wa.gov

