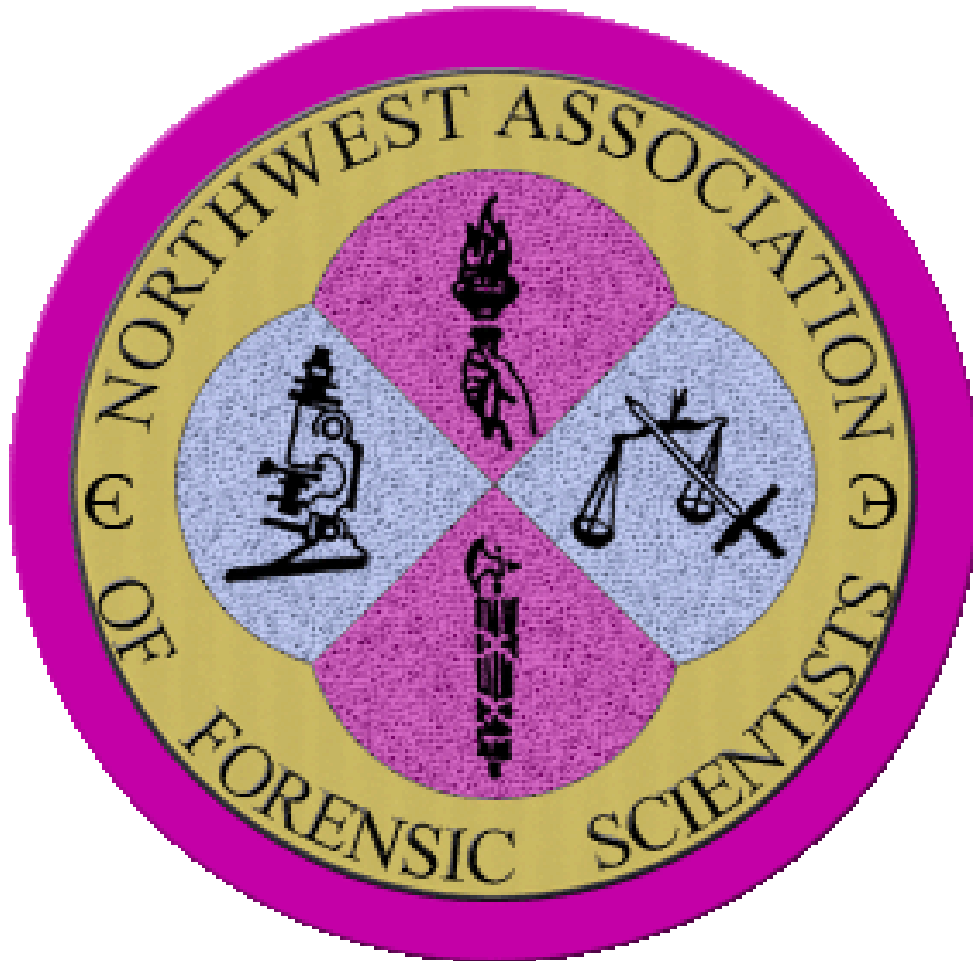




Crime Scene

Spring 2010

Volume 36, Issue 1



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NWAFS OFFICERS for 2009 - 2010

Executive Committee

President	Glenn Davis Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory Cheney, WA Glenn.Davis@wsp.wa.gov
Vice-President	Vacant
Member-at-Large	Andrew Pacejka Utah Bureau of Forensic Science Salt Lake City, UT. apacejka@utah.gov
Secretary-Treasurer	Robert Heegel Pacific Northwest National Lab Richland, WA Robert.Heegel@pnl.gov

Secretaries

Membership	Corinna Owsley Idaho State Police Meridian, ID Corinna.Owsley@isp.idaho.gov
Technical	Bahne Kietz Montana State Crime Lab Missoula, MT Bkietz@mt.gov
Editorial	Jeff Jagmin Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory Seattle, WA Jeff.Jagmin@wsp.wa.gov

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to begin my first president's message by sharing the success of our Fort Collins meeting. By having a joint meeting with the Rocky Mountain Division of the International Association of Identification, we were able to collectively offer a selection of workshops that appealed to a wide audience. Forensic scientists, sworn officers, and people with other roles in law enforcement came from all over to attend. In fact, we had a member come from as far away as Maryland, and a significant percentage of attendees were not members of either the NWAFS or the RMDIAI. This speaks volumes about the variety and quality of our workshops and lectures.

Of course, all of this could not happen without the hard work and dedication of many people. Thanks go to the Board of Directors, as well as our functional area liaisons. These fine folk have arranged the workshops based on input from our membership, and strive to produce great teaching opportunities. I would especially like to thank our last president, Matt Jorgenson, who served as our meeting host. Matt worked with Brenda Harris from the RMDIAI and together they produced a fantastic meeting. We also had a fine group of vendors which demonstrated some fantastic products and services.

Speaking of meetings, our next meeting will be in Portland, Oregon September 27th to October 1st. Information on the workshops will be made available soon. Keep an eye on our website www.nwafs.org for news about this meeting. To make registering for this and future meetings easier, NWAFS now accepts PayPal. I hope to see you there!

I'd like to close with two requests regarding the future of our organization. The first is a survey which will be released soon asking your opinion as to what we are doing well and what improvements you'd like to see. Please take a moment to fill it out and let us know what you think. Those who complete the survey will be entered into a random drawing for either a 50 dollar iTunes gift card or a 50 dollar Home Depot gift cart. We have two of each to give away, and you can let us know which one you would prefer on the survey.

The second request is to get more involved with NWAFS. You can hold an office, teach a workshop, host a meeting, offer a lecture, work behind the scenes, present your research or an unusual case, or help new and young forensic scientists join. Apathy is deadly to our organization. Please take a hand in its evolution and direction. Seeing our attendees brought together in Fort Collins reminded me of the amount of knowledge, experience, innovation, and dedication that our association has as a whole. You have a lot to offer and share.

Glenn Davis
NWAFS President

Editor's Message

Wow, how time sure seems to fly by. Not only is it spring, it is 2010...a brand new decade! And as time goes by, there is always change such as I am not the NWA FS editor...yikes!

For many of us, spring means a new beginning or fresh start. Many take this time to clean, organize or put things in order. In looking over the NWA FS roster which I received in March of 2009, I could not help notice that many of our members do not include their email addresses. Of the 324 members in the 2009 roster, 88 did not include an email address...that's greater than 25%. Even more interesting, some of the emails which were included were incorrect! I realize that many of you were getting unsolicited emails from having your information being on the NWA FS website. Because of this your email information is not, nor will it be, publically posted on the NWA FS website. Your contact information is only in the members sections. Now is a great time to put this in order!

The newsletter has been set up to be digital and I know that you do not want to miss an issue. My first request to our members is to make sure that your email information is current and correct. If we cannot contact you, you may miss out on this valuable information in this newsletter. Please contact our membership secretary Corinna Owsley at Corinna.Owsley@isp.idaho.gov or our NWA FS webmaster, Jeff Borngasser, at Jeff.Borngasser@state.or.us or Borngasser@yahoo.com. Please contact them even if you think your information is correct!

*Thank you,
Jeff Jagmin*

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 January, April, July, and October. 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 compact disk (CD). For more information regarding the Newsletter contact

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A TRIBUTE TO THE NWAFS EDITOR

You may be thinking by the title that my motivation for writing this article is because this position deserves praise. Well, I do! But this praise is not for me, but for the editors that have previously "stepped up" and put their butts on the line. In preparing for this first newsletter, I have revisited the past by looking over all of the NWAFS newsletters that are in archives...Amazing! Not only does it show what a great organization the NWAFS is, but the dedication that the previous editors had. Here are the last four editors that served in the late 90's till 2010:

Kori Barnum, Oregon State Police, 2007-2009

Jon Dyer, Oregon State Police, 2005-2006

Josh Spatole, California Department of Justice, 2000-2005

Matt Noedel, Washington State Patrol, 1997-2002

I just want to mention these former editors who, in some way or another, have helped me make my decision to become the current NWAFS editor.

First, **Kori**. She didn't always get a lot of input but she kept going. You encountered a lot of changes during your time as editor...way to hang in there!

Second, **Jon** and **Josh**. Thank you both for keeping the newsletter going!

Third, **Matt**. My appreciation to Matt goes far beyond the NWAFS organization. Not only did he do a great job as NWAFS editor, but he is a true friend, and I am truly better to know him.

Every one of these editors did a great job and maintained the highest standards for our organization. If you happen to see, work with or be friends with one of these former editors, please extend your thanks for their work. You may not have always liked what they wrote, but they always kept the newsletter going. The bench mark is set high for me, and just as the editors before me, I will work very hard for the NWAFS.

Jeff Jagmin - NWAFS Editor

NWAFS Fall Conference
Fort Collins, Colorado
September 23, 2009
Meeting Minutes

Acting secretary: Andrew Pacejka

12:20 – Business meeting called to order.

Board Introductions: Matt Jorgenson – President
Glenn Davis – Vice-President
Andrew Pacejka – Member-at-Large
Corinna Owsley – Membership Secretary

Not in attendance: Robert Heegel – Secretary-Treasurer
Kori Barnum – Publications Secretary
Bahne Klietz – Technical Resources Secretary



12:22 - Attendance taken.

Matt J asked if a quorum had been met. Corinna O reported that Regular Membership was 213 members. To meet the 7% member attendance in order to conduct a business meeting, we would have needed 15 members. Attendance at this meeting was 14 regular members.

Decision was made to suspend business for one year. This includes, but is not limited to:

- No nominations for office.
- All offices will be suspended. Officers will retain their duties for one more year.
- No elevation of membership status.
- Only “operational necessity” business will be conducted in the course of the year via telephone or email.
 - Kori Barnum will be stepping down as Publications Secretary and, as an “operational necessity” Jeff Jagmin will be appointed in her place. Jeff’s interest in the position was confirmed by Matthew Nodel.
 - Board will need to discuss the 2011 meeting site.

12:25 – Business Meeting ends.

12:25 – Discussion of 2009 Fort Collins meeting:

- \$16,385 in Registration Fees
- \$8,300 revenue from the vendors
 - QiaGen and Applied Biosystems stepped up and covered the travel and lodging costs of the DNA speakers
- Meeting did not make money, but it did not lose money
- Meeting relied heavily on speaker volunteerism
 - We could not pay speakers, because of our non-profit status
 - We did cover costs of travel and lodging
- Hotel accommodations were very good
 - \$3000 charged for room space, to be split with RMDIAI
 - No room block requirements
- 77 people registered
 - Of the 77, only 35 were members of NWAFS and/or RMDIAI

- ~One month ago, there were only 30 people signed up
- Discussion of the apparent delay in signing up
 - Dan A. suggested it was money availability
 - Matt Gamette suggested it had more to do with motivating people to sign up on time
 - Corinna O. asked if a late registration penalty could be assigned
 - Dan A. indicated that it had been done before, and did not work
- Discussion of meeting representation:
 - Individuals attending from a number of places nationwide, including Massachusetts State Police, San Diego County and Sacramento.
 - The DNA workshop was credited, in part, for this success
 - Matt J. also credited the Forensic Area Leaders (FALs) for their hard work bringing in quality instructors. Although the Explosives class fell through (thanks to al Qaeda) and the Trace class did not materialize (most likely due to the Trace Symposium in Orlando last week), the Firearms class, Digital Evidence class and NecroSearch class were well attended.

12:30 – Discussion of 2010 Portland meeting:

- Site host Dan A. was encouraged to utilize FAL's for the 2010 meeting
- It was asked if a May announcement for the meeting was too late
 - Dan A. suggested that such an announcement may not be feasible, as most of the instructors that he has talked to have not been thinking that far ahead. He expressed a fear of 'advertising a letdown' should we announce a class that won't pan out.
 - Corinna O. pointed out that we could list general subjects, as the course descriptions for the 2009 meeting came much later than the announcements
 - Matt G. indicated that, at least for his agency, most training decisions are usually made in May
- Dan A. asked how the 2009 meeting was advertised
 - Matt J. indicated that a number of law enforcement agencies were contacted, as well as posting on the NWAFS and RMDIAI Yahoo sites and the NWAFS, CAC AAFS and SWAFS web sites.
 - Matt G. informed every DNA technical leader he knew about the DNA class
 - Matt J. lauded the efforts of Brenda Harris of the RMDIAI, who talked up the meeting among her membership, spearheaded the RMDIAI end of the meeting and made most of the on-site arrangements with the hotel.

12:40 – Matt J asked the rest of the Board if they had any business to discuss.

- Andrew P. – no
- Corinna O. – no
- Glenn D. – wanted to remind everyone that we have a PayPal account with credit card access, and that membership dues and meeting registrations are accepted through that payment method.

12:42 – Dan A. was asked to talk about the 2010 Portland meeting (which he will be hosting).

- Meeting fact sheet was distributed among members
- Meeting will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Portland-Downtown Convention Center, Portland, Oregon on September 27 through October 1, 2010.
- The Crowne Plaza was chosen for their rates and their willingness to work with us.
 - We were given every bit of their conference space for our meeting
 - 1 board room, 1 foyer and 6-7 conference rooms reserved
 - Hotel rooms were locked at \$120 federal per diem rate for all attendees



- We only need to meet 155 room/nights total for the 5-day period
- \$10,000 Food/Beverage fee + \$2,000 tax = \$12,000
- Other fees waived
- Hotel shuttle from the airport
- Location of hotel
 - 3 blocks north of Max Trax
 - Connect to airport
 - Connect to downtown Portland
 - 8 blocks from FBI's Regional Computer Forensics Lab
 - Possibly have available classrooms for use
 - Near the Lloyd Center Mall
 - Location is considered in-state travel for Washington State Patrol
- Slides of hotel:
 - Remodeled in 2008
 - Pool, Workout Room, 24 hr. Café
- Possible classes for the 2010 meeting
 - Dan A. asked for suggestions from all members
 - Matt J. indicated that the Explosive instructor would teach if we could secure a range
 - Dan A. indicated that we probably could get a range
 - Matt J. indicated that the FALs are Dan A's pick
 - Suggested classes/disciplines:
 - Measurement of Uncertainty
 - QC Issues in light of the NAS Report
 - Firearms
 - Explosives
 - Toolmarks / Bone
 - Armorer School
 - DNA Mixture
 - Statistics (latent prints, footwear/tire, etc.)
- Dan A. asked for suggestions for a theme for the 2010 meeting

12:50 – Discussion of Association Membership

- Rockland McDowell asked if we will be losing members this year due to unpaid dues.
- Matt J. reminded the meeting attendees that members are issued two warning notices before termination of membership
- Corinna O. reported that 14 Regular Members and 10 other Members were terminated on Monday's ad hoc Board Meeting. Nine additional Members had resigned.
- Matt J. suggested posting "Do you know these Members" lists of delinquent members at meetings to help track these Members down

- Matthew N. asked if there were any applications this year.
- Corinna O. reported 9 new Regular Member applicants and 1 Associate Member applicant
- There were also 5 Members to be elevated this year (although this will be put off until next year because of a lack of a Quorum at the Business Meeting)
- Rockland Mc asked if there would be less than 200 Regular Members by next year's Business Meeting
- Corinna O. stated most probably
- Question was restated to the attendees where to post a "delinquent Members" list
 - In the past, they have been posted in newsletters
- Matt J. pointed out that even though we have been losing Members, we are in an opportune time to do a lot of recruiting
 - Law enforcement agencies
 - Universities
 - Research companies
- Dan A. suggesting restructuring the format for meeting paper presentations to attract researchers and college students
 - Matt J indicated that 5 nearby universities were notified of the meeting
 - Travis Gover suggested a "young forensic scientist" forum with workshops such as "Getting a Job"
- Dan A. stated that job applicants that he has interviewed, when encouraged to attend NWAFFS meetings to "get their foot in the door", had remarked that the meetings were too expensive.
- Matt J. suggested a scholarship program, with expenses paid for students if they present, or as a prize for best presentation
- Matt G. indicated that it might be good to have an office of an Educational Liaison, who could coordinate with university forensics departments
- Matt N. asked whether we were limiting ourselves by appealing to the "forensic" portion of science, rather than the "science"
 - There are a number of overlapping sciences that can be applicable to forensic disciplines
- Matt J. stressed the NWAFFS's "Call to Service" and expressed a desire to turn that criterion to the Members of the association
 - As an organization, what are we doing for our members?
 - What are we not doing?
- Matt J. indicated that there will be a series of polls, possibly on the NWAFFS website, asking Members what the NWAFFS can do to improve the quality of the association.

13:11 – Post-Business Meeting called to an end.





**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR
SPONSORS FOR THE FORT
COLLINS MEETING!**



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MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Association of Firearm and Tool Mark Examiners 41st Meeting

May 2-7, 2010

Green Valley Ranch Resort & Spa

Henderson, NV



International Association for Identification 95th Educational Conference

July 11-17, 2010

Spokane, WA



Inter/Micro 2010

July 12-16, 2010

Chicago, IL



Impression & Pattern Evidence Symposium

August 2-6, 2010

Clearwater Beach, FL

American Society of Questioned Document Examiners

August 28-September 2, 2010

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada



Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists

September 27-October 1, 2010

Portland, OR



Northwest Association of Forensic Scientists 2010 Annual Meeting



Hosted by:
Dan Alessio
Oregon State Police
Forensic Services Division
13309 SE 84th Avenue, Suite
#200



Room Rates: \$120 (USD) single/double occupancy (specify NWAFS for group rate). Rooms are subject to a general room tax of 12.50% (subject to change). Reservations must be received no later than September 13, 2010 to take advantage of the group rate. All rooms and common areas are non-smoking. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. and check-out time is noon. Please note that all rooms are based upon availability and will be either a King bed with a full size sleeper sofa or 2 Queen beds.

Group Rates: Valid 3 nights prior and 3 nights after the dates of September 27-October 1, 2010 (subject to availability).

Cancellations: Cancellations must be made 24 hours before arrival to not be charged a fee.

Rooms Include: Free morning paper, cable TV, DVD player, stereo, coffee maker, microwave, mini refrigerator, free Wi-Fi internet access, hairdryer, iron/ironing board, air conditioning.

Guest Services Include: ATM, concierge, room service, laundry facilities, ice machine, gift shop, newsstand, convenience store, fitness center, indoor pool and whirlpool, dry cleaning, recreation and sports court.

Guest Parking: Daily self parking for \$10.00 (USD) per day.

Ground Transportation: The Portland International Airport is 11 miles away from the hotel and the approximate costs for transportation are: FREE complimentary airport shuttle, \$35.00 (USD) taxi one-way, and \$2.30 (USD) MAX light rail transit system one-way.

ATTRACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Portland's Saturday Market
Washington Park Rose and Japanese Gardens
Nike Town
PGE Park
Chinese Gardens
Mount Hood Recreation Area
Pearl District
University of Portland

Oregon Convention Center
Rose Garden Arena
Memorial Coliseum
Lloyd Center Mall
Pioneer Courthouse
Oregon's Museum of Science and Industry
The Oregon Zoo
Year Round Ice Skating



CALL FOR PAPERS

NWAFS 2010 Meeting
September 27- October 1, 2010
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Downtown Convention Center
Portland, Oregon



The NWAFS 2010 general meeting technical session will be held on Thursday and Friday, September 30 - October 1, 2010. The call for papers is now open.

If you wish to submit a proposal for a presentation, please complete the form below. Submissions of proposed presentations **must be received by June 30, 2010.**

Presenters will be notified no later than July 30, 2010 that submissions have/have not been accepted for presentation. Additional information will be gathered from the selected presenters at a later time. Each presentation will be allotted 20 minutes. Special arrangements may be possible if additional time is necessary.

Presenting Author(s): _____

Affiliation/Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Title of Presentation: _____

Please indicate the status of the research/work that will be the basis of your presentation.

- ☐ work not yet started ☐ project in early stages ☐ project nearly complete
☐ project complete, working on presentation ☐ project and presentation completed

Brief Summary of Presentation/Project:

(Note: Official abstracts for accepted presentations will be solicited at a later date.)

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM VIA EMAIL, FAX, OR MAIL TO:

Rhonda Banks
Oregon State Police – Portland Metro Forensic Laboratory
13309 SE 84th Ave, Suite 200
Clackamas, Oregon 97015
Phone: (971) 673-8308 Fax: (971) 673-8309
Email: rhonda.banks@state.or.us

MY NWAFS JOURNEY

A lot of our NWAFS members are familiar with the organization only when a meeting comes rolling into our local town. Some of us are familiar because we took a great workshop or gave our first forensic presentation. Many have NWAFS friends; remember the banquets and hospitality suites. Yes, I am in agreement with all of that and have many fond memories and have met some high quality people.

If you have been a NWAFS member for even a small period of time, you probably have heard people say, “What are you going to do for the NWAFS?” Well, I just want to share with you how the NWAFS organization has helped me.

1996 - My forensic career started with the Washington State Patrol, Tacoma Lab, performing controlled substances analysis. This is also the year that I joined the NWAFS.

1998 - I was in the thick of responding to suspected clandestine laboratories all over Washington State along with performing the analysis on the bench. I remember stuffing NWAFS newsletters into envelopes with Matt Noedel in his backyard, and I believe this is where I realized that this organization had a lot to offer. I created the short-lived Chemist’s Corner (only 1 article in Crime Scene, Summer 1998, Vol 24/3). I attended my first NWAFS meeting, Portland, where I presented “The Ammonia/Alkali Metal Manufacture of Methamphetamine” (authors; Jeff Jagmin, Tami Kee and Kim Hefton). I believe a few scientist’s (to remain nameless) got permanent mementos at this meeting: a clown fish and Da Vinci’s Vitruvian Man.

2000 – The Seattle meeting was where I participated in presenting information on the chemistry of clandestine laboratories in the workshop “Methamphetamine - From Cradle to Grave”. The banquet at the Space Needle is still being talked about, and I also happened to meet my wife, Amy, at this meeting.

2002 – I moved from the chemistry section into the microanalysis section where I was performing explosive examinations along with training in hair screening, impressions and fiber examinations. I attended the Spokane meeting where I instructed (along with Ron Wojciechowski and Bill Schneck) the “Analysis of Black Powders and Black Powder Substitutes” workshop. I also got some great training in wood and animal hair examinations. Who would have thought that sperm races would be so competitive?

2002 continued – This same year I also got the opportunity to go to the Cour d’Alene meeting, but to do this I had to room with Ron W. and Terry McAdam. I got an opportunity to meet some new friends, one who now goes out with me on north-west fishing expeditions.

2003 – I presented “A Look at Explosive Disrupters” at the Portland meeting and learned a few things about footwear examinations. By now, I was newly married, and was able to attend this meeting with my wife. Who knew that an accordion could play such great music?

2004 – The Missoula meeting was one of the best for not only instruction, SEM metrology, but for the beauty and appeal of a wonderful town. I will never forget the “Warm Beer and Cold Burgers” nor the brains and eggs at “the OX”.

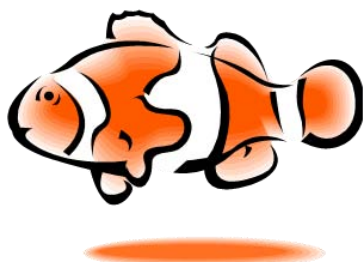
2006 – I actually went to the Colorado Springs meeting because I was going to start working on an air bag case...perfect timing. I wish I would have stayed longer and learned some more from Tom Hopen. Nothing like a good toga party.

2008 – On January 1st of this year I moved to the Seattle laboratory where I was promoted to Supervisor of the microanalysis and Questioned Documents sections. My goal for doing this was to help preserve microanalysis for the years to come. There happens to be a new organization “in town” for trace examiners; check out ASTEE on page 17.

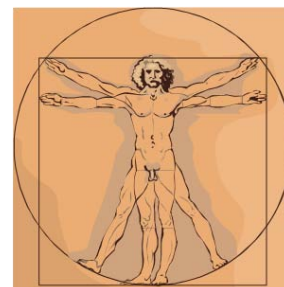
2009 – In the fall I volunteered to be the new NWAFS editor.

I hope that you were not only amused by this but I hope that you realize how valuable the NWAFS organization is. It was founded by scientists, and there are some fantastic resources out there if you reach out and grab them.

I truly believe in the NWAFS organization and I look forward to this new decade and the new opportunities it will bring. I hope to see you all out at the Portland meeting. Please contact me, even if just to say hello or if you have anything that you would like to share.



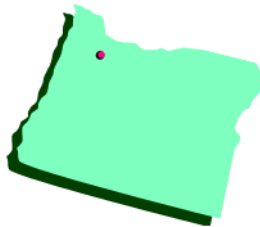
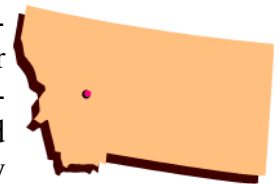
Jeff Jagmin – NWAFS Editor



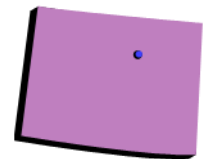
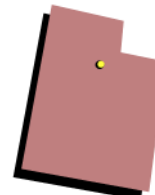
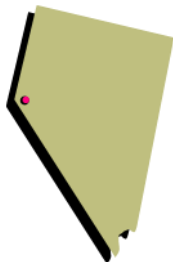
NWAFS NOTES



In preparing for this first NWAFS newsletter I went to the basics by asking the question, “Who are our NWAFS members and where do they come from?” To help answer this question I created this amateurish map of where most of our members are located. Wow, our NWAFS membership clearly spans a vast area of the United States and Canada. This should not only be viewed in acreage but in scientific knowledge and experience of our membership; which, in my opinion, is our organizations strength.



Now, looking over this map, think about the forensic, political and economic issues in any of these states or territories that impact the bench level scientist. These issues may be similar to what is going on in your lab or they may be totally different. With this, I am asking all of our members to share in their knowledge and experience so that as a membership we will not only be better informed but may be better to assist one another.



So, do you have an interesting case, technical note or project, or have information in which you wish to share with our membership? If so, please submit to Jeff.Jagmin@wsp.wa.gov as I would like to make this page the membership’s page but I do need your help!

Jeff Jagmin – NWAFS Editor

ASTE E

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRACE EVIDENCE EXAMINERS



The mission of this organization is to encourage the exchange and dissemination of ideas and information within the field of trace evidence through improved contacts between persons and laboratories engaged in trace evidence analysis.

The Society's goal is to stimulate research in the development of new and/or improved scientific techniques for forensic trace applications and to promote high standards of performance and professional ethics.

<http://www.asteetrace.org>