

**THE BACKBONE**  
JUNE-JULY 2015

Matt Roberts Family  
Austin, TX  
Marcia K Marshall  
Minneapolis, MN



Richard Ingebretsen  
Salt Lake City, UT

Bill Stokes  
St. Petersburg, FL



Jim Case  
Flagstaff, AZ

Stephen Smith  
Louisville, KY



Paul Cleary  
Tulsa, OK

Kathryn  
Jackson  
Moab, Utah

Karilyn & John Brodell  
Jackson, WY

ALSO JOINING THE BACKBONE!  
Wyndee Hansen, Moab UT....  
Mikko Zuckner, Wausau WI

and thanks to John Zarndt, Bozeman WI...  
Lewis Downey, SLC UT  
Dale Lee, Sandy UT....



Alan Joslyn  
Highlands  
Ranch, CO



Annie Payne  
Salt Lake City, UT

HELP? We REALLY need your support. PLEASE Join the BACKBONE

**THE BACKBONE...Aug/Sept. 2015**

Catherine Shank  
Moab, UT

THANKS ALSO TO...

Timothy Hurley...Rio Rancho NM  
Ginette Ethier...Montreal Quebec



OMAR TATUM  
Louisville, KY



Brent Swanson  
Idaho Falls, ID

Kay & Tuck Forsythe  
Ellensburg WA



**CARSTEN NAEHER**  
Switzerland



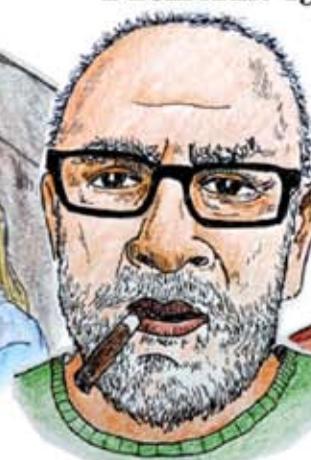
BOB & FRANCES AVERY  
Salt Lake City, Utah



THANKS ALSO TO:  
Suzie Dutton  
Dennis De Mots  
Dale Lee

CRISTA WORTHY  
Boise, Idaho

**THE ZEPHYR BACKBONE**  
DECEMBER '15...JANUARY 2016



MIKE MAROONEY  
'South of the Border'

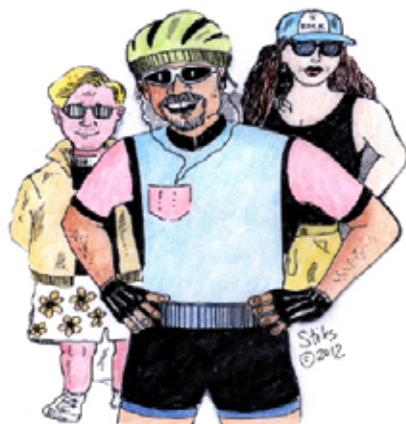


TOM McCOURT  
Price, Utah

CURTIS FISHER  
Tulsa, OK



'LIKE'...THE ZEPHYR???  
"Yeah...like...right, Dude."



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The WATCHERS

## TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT (CONTINUED)

(WIND SUBSIDIES...)

dollars without seeing any major contribution to U.S. energy supply.”

<http://instituteeforenergyresearch.org/analysis/obama-budget-make-wind-subsidies-permanent/>

The climate change-denying website, cfact.org, in an article called, “Wind Subsidies a Massive Failure, wrote, “What is astonishing is the way both the U.S. and Europe adopted renewable energy production because it is unpredictable and mindlessly expensive. A major factor why the global warming hoax is collapsing is that it has cost everyone here and in Europe billions in loans and subsidies. Both solar and wind require a backup from traditional power sources that utilize coal, oil, and natural gas.”



**“For example, on wind energy, we get a tax credit if we build a lot of wind farms. That’s the only reason to build them. They don’t make sense without the tax credit.”**

**Warren Buffett**

<http://www.cfact.org/2014/03/21/solar-and-wind-subsidies-a-massive-failure/>

Opinions from the Right were almost unanimous. Breitbart offered this headline: “Wind Turbines are ‘Expensive, Unreliable, and Inefficient.’” The Washington Times complained that, “Wind Energy Gambles with Taxpayer Chip.” Another “The Hill” headline proclaimed, “Wind Power Production tax credit: Wall St. wolf in green clothing.”

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Keep in mind, these aren’t my own views on alternative energy, they are the outspoken voices of America’s conservative movement. Personally, I like the idea of wind and solar power, but on a much smaller scale. The technology for rooftop solar is already available and could be implemented across the country. Imagine being able to reduce your monthly electric bill via the photovoltaic panels mounted on your roof. And I love the idea of being free and clear, or at least less dependent upon the Big Energy Companies that we are always beholden to.

I’d also have been in favor of wind power for Monticello, had a local wind farm been constructed for the purpose of reducing the town’s dependence on, and cost from, traditional power sources and Empire Electric. Again, the technology is there; all the idea lacks is the political will to do something different.

But ‘alternative energy’ on a corporate level, subsidized by the government, fails to impress me. It’s just business as usual, in an artificially green suit.

And yet, across America, the only conservative strongholds that embrace and support federal wind subsidies are the ones who—you guessed it---RECEIVE federal wind money. Even Sam Brownback, the ultra-Right Republican governor of Kansas turns a blind eye to his own pronounced opposition to runaway federal spending and quietly takes the wind money and runs.

But it took a billionaire DEMOCRAT to sum it up best. While other ‘progressives’ claim to support wind energy as a viable option and a way to save the world, Warren Buffett said, “I will do anything that is basically covered by the law to reduce Berkshire’s tax rate,” Buffett told an audience in Omaha, Nebraska last week. “For example, on wind energy, we get a tax credit if we build a lot of wind farms. That’s the only reason to build them. They don’t make sense without the tax credit.”

In San Juan County, I understand that the wind farm was built on private land and that it was the landowners’ decision to lease their property. Fair enough. But that isn’t the issue here. Wind subsidies are the topic of the debate---in Monticello, a town where 90% of the residents opposed President Obama in the last election, one would think that an equal number would be in opposition to federally mandated wind subsidies. But clearly support for the subsidies is stronger than that. The bottom line is---without the federal subsidies, ‘private’ developments like Latigo would never have happened.

And so it comes as a surprise, to me at least, to discover how many Closet Obama Lovers apparently reside on the flanks of my beloved Blue Mountains. Personally, I kind of like the guy too, at least some times, even if we sharply disagree on corporate wind farms and the federal money that makes them possible.

The world continues to astound me.

### WHY READ THE ZEPHYR?

“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be...The people cannot be safe without information. Where the press is free and every man able to read,

All is safe.”

Thomas Jefferson

## “WHAT’S PAST IS PROLOGUE”

(CONTNUED)

turing and inform them that they could lose their jobs, literally in a matter of minutes, with no warning?

\* Did the mayor and city council know, on the evening they voted to restructure the city staff, that the next day Ken Davey and David Olsen would be summarily dismissed and required to leave the building?

\* Does the city administrator plan further ‘restructuring’ and more dismissals and changes in Moab City’s staff in the same dramatic fashion that city workers in Kemmerer experienced?

\* Does the Mayor and Council feel the severance offered to both employees was fair, given their years and decades of service to the community? Was the City aware of the severance package that Davidson received when she left Timnath?

\* The City of Moab employed the company Tayo, Inc. to perform IT security services, three weeks after Davidson assumed her Moab duties. The co-owner of Tayo, Inc., Tara Smelt, was her ‘Director of Communications and Events’ in Kemmerer and was, according to official records, still employed there when Tayo, Inc. was hired. Was there an urgency to hire Tayo, Inc, so quickly and was there a conflict of interest hiring Smelt?

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On January 4, 2016, three new Moab City Council members were sworn into office--Rani Derasary, Kalen Jones, and Tawny Knuteson-Boyd were the top vote getters in Moab’s municipal election in November and now assume the responsibilities of their office, to represent the citizens of their community to the best of their ability. None of the three played any role in the events and incidents that have played out in Moab in 2015. They take office with a clean slate and hopefully open minds.

Moab’s municipal elections had always been non-partisan votes, where none of the candidates were defined by any particular political party, and until recently, ideology didn’t enter the discussion either. But as Moabites find their community more and more divided by polarizing politics, even the council elections this time were marked by candidates running as ‘blocks,’ and assumed to be “Left or Right.” In the minds of Moab voters this time, the ‘Left’ won.

As longtime Moabite and *Zephyr* contributor Kara Dohrenwend noted recently, “The issues facing Moab City need skills and attention to detail that are not necessarily illustrated by the left or right leaning of a political candidate.”

And yet, just today *The Zephyr* received a note from one of the city manager’s most ardent critics, who almost in the same breath expressed her delight that the “liberal” candidates had won the recent city council elections. Politically, “liberalism” is defined as “a theory founded on the goodness of human beings.” She failed to connect the fact that the most self-proclaimed “liberal” members of the council in 2015 were the current city manager’s most strident supporters and defenders. Maybe we need to look beyond ideology, beyond politics and beyond the notion that anyone even understands the ideology they claim to embrace. It’s a lot simpler than that.

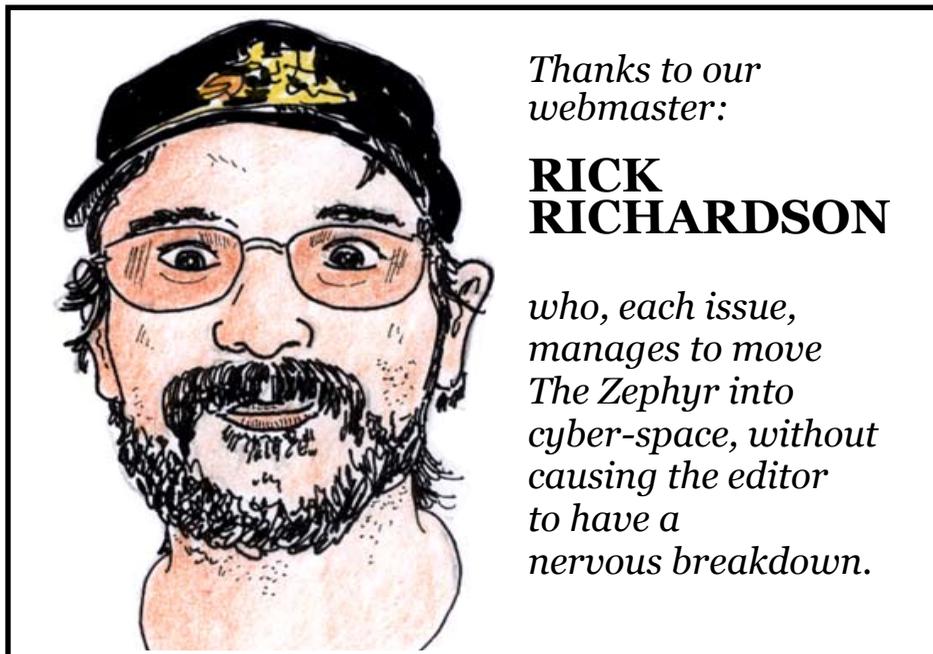
When a community, large or small, goes to the polls to elect their representatives, they vote with the hope and the belief that they are choosing *the best of us*---we hope that they’ll be intelligent and articulate and effective. But we also insist they show the other qualities that we cherish and hope to find in ourselves---like honesty and compassion, and honor and integrity. And humility. We hope in short to elect, “the better angels of our nature.”

Moab’s governing body and its city manager represent the community they serve. Its citizens need to ask if *they’re* being represented in a way that reflects the *community’s* ‘better angels.’ In the end, what else matters?

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Thanks to our webmaster:

**RICK RICHARDSON**

who, each issue, manages to move *The Zephyr* into cyber-space, without causing the editor to have a nervous breakdown.