



## Insider Info



**JON ROMBACH**  
WALLOWA COUNTY WRITER  
AND RIVER GUIDE

Native Oregonian Jon Rombach grew up in Pleasant Hill, just down the road from famed writer Ken Kesey. Rombach attended school with second-generation Pranksters, making it an interesting experience.

Rombach attended three different colleges and worked in Hawaii and at Glacier National Park in Montana, and taught journalism at a junior college in Thailand. Friends ordered Rombach to make a visit to the Wallows, and he immediately fell into its grasp.

The country inspires Rombach's writing. "There's a lot of yin and yang around here. You can be up in the Wallows holding a seashell fossil and drop 6,000 feet and pull cactus spines from your foot by sundown. It is an awfully big country that's been through major historical and geological changes," he says.

Rombach is currently working on a book with photographer David Jensen.

### WHERE I TAKE VISITORS:

"I like to combine our beautiful drives and outstanding local milkshakes. To Boggan's on the Rattlesnake, through Troy for another milkshake, Little Bear Drive-in in Wallowa with more options in Enterprise and Joseph. I've had people visit and claim they don't have time to see Wallowa Lake. I don't allow that kind of behavior."

### MY FAVORITE THINGS IN WALLOWA COUNTY:

"The mountains were the first thing to grab me. Then I started spending time on the rivers and they got ahold of me. One of my favorite things is seeing the 'Entering Wallowa County' sign after I've been gone awhile."

# BE INSPIRED

With its spectacular beauty and end-of-the-road isolation, it's no wonder Wallowa County attracts artists and creative people of every kind. Or folks already living here are inspired to become artists, musicians or writers.

Wallowa County's thriving arts community includes an arts council, bronze foundries and galleries, musical organizations and events, a community theater group, a literary nonprofit, a new cultural center and more.

## WALLOWA COUNTY BRONZE

Bronze sculptures cast in Wallowa County foundries – the first one was established in Joseph in 1984 – have found homes all over the world and established a reputation for quality bronze in the art world. Contact local foundries to see if a tour can be arranged.

## VALLEY OF MUSIC

Music of all types fills the Wallowa Valley year round, and there are many musical events in the summer months geared for locals and visitors alike. Free Thursday evening concerts in Enterprise throughout the summer months on the courthouse lawn, a fiddle camp in Wallowa and a big blues concert in Joseph are a few musical calendar items.

## JOSEPHY CENTER FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

The Josephy Center for Arts and Culture on Main Street in Joseph is three years old and hosts a myriad of art shows, classes and musical performances all year. Be sure to stop by and see what's going on.

## FISHTRAP, INC.

Fishtrap is a literary nonprofit that caters to writers, teachers, librarians, and anyone who loves the written word. It hosts programs all year but its biggest activity is the Fishtrap Summer Gathering of Writers, which celebrates its 28th year at Wallowa Lake in the summer of 2015.