

How “Western Outdoor News” gets their information: This should not surprise you.

To all you anglers out there and to our thousands of viewers who might have noticed a bit of what appeared (well, factually to be precise) to be plagiarism in the May 28th Issue of Western Outdoor News.

This was brought to our attention from our viewers who noticed that the credits to our information were vague, missing and appeared to be used in order to bolster credibility of certain individuals who discredited themselves in the weeks prior to opening weekend by stating that Eagle Lake’s elevation came up over 2 ft from the winter.

With mixed reports, my website stating the true lake elevations, their “reports” just throwing up numbers to make it “look” good. One of our viewers made the trip up to the lake to take a look and see what report was actually correct....that just happened to be us. Apparently more of our viewers also knew that “the other” report was inaccurate and called them out on it which made one particular guide have to apologize for his “misstatement” on a couple of the fishing “chat sites” as well as a radio program (I have little respect for the “guide” (Fish Traveler) now also).

So, in the WON issue dated May 28th, Robin Wade reporter for WON copied and pasted directly from our Ramp Conditions page on our website...verbatim. Ms Wade used as little credit to the information as possible so that no one knew where to go or who to contact for the information. Our name was mentioned however not stating that **OUR** information completed Ms Wade’s Eagle Lake story. **I did get a good laugh at her copy and paste of a mistake I left on that page.** My personal abbreviation for Eagle Lake Marina (as my viewers have seen over the last 6 years) is EL Marina....that was above the ramp conditions of Eagle Lake Marina...spelled out....obviously Ms Wade didn’t have a clue that the stolen information contained a priceless mistake. **The last several paragraphs of Ms Wades story which started on page one and continued on page 9 contained verbatim information copied from our website and used in WON without proper credits or OUR permission to republish our work.** Our information finished Ms Wade’s Eagle Lake story however, it seems that Ms Wade didn’t tell Western Outdoor News subscribers that she took that information verbatim from our website. Since I save everything I publish in dated files an published files I was able to send my attorney some information regarding the dates I published the copied information.

A week later I received an email from Ms Wade that stated that Bill Karr suggested she email me and ask me if I would like them to use some of my reports to post in WON...you know, to help me out ya see. Yep, after Ms Wade already used my information AS her own AND WONS’ for her personal benefit and to the benefit of others named in her Eagle Lake story in May 28 issue, she then asks me if I would like for her to use it....interesting now don’t you think? The email to me from Robin Wade WON is below. **(NOTE: I have never asked nor intended to ask WON to post my reports....I have requested that from no one. We do it the old fashioned way and let our viewers come to us...and believe me folks, I really didn’t know you would like our website so much...but I am glad you do and appreciate you all...many of you covering my back without my asking...and I thank you all for that as well. Below is Ms Wade’s email to me a week after she copied my intellectual work claiming only herself as the author.**

----- Original Message -----

From: [Robin Wade](#)

To: val@localnews1.net

Sent: Saturday, June 05, 2010 4:21 PM

Subject: Western Outdoor News

Hi Val-Robin Wade here from WON. I cover Eagle Lake and Bill Karr suggested I ask you if you would like some of your report to go in my weekly article on the lake?

Robin Wade
Baja-Mexico Editor
Western Outdoor News

After speaking with my attorney regarding the matter it appeared that we needed to make sure that **Western Outdoor News would not break the #1 cardinal rule of journalism (that appears to be plagiarism) again, and that if they used my information it is proper journalistic courtesy (cardinal rule of journalism #2) to let people know where it came from rather than what appears to the readers as benefiting others listed in the paragraphs above our information. I am not going to mention any names because my viewers know who they are, WON knows who they are and THEY know who they are....I also know who they are. I have little respect for WON, the "guide" and the NON PROFIT who's names benefited from our copied information.** My attorney prepared a letter to WON regarding a cease and desist from copying my information without proper credits and permissions to do so (which is common courtesy in journalism) . Below is the email from my attorney AFTER emailing WON a copy of that letter which was also sent certified/return receipt thru USPS.

From: rep-home@comcast.net [mailto:rep-home@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2010 12:50 PM
To: baja@wonews.com; bill@wonews.com
Subject: EagleLakeFishing.Net, Wade/Karr 6/05/10 E-mail

Ms Wade and Mr. Karr:

I am the attorney representing Val and Randy Aubrey in this matter. I have prepared the attached written notice on behalf of my clients. A duplicate original has been transmitted to each of you via Registered U.S. Mail, Return Receipt Requested.

Robert E. Paterson, Esq.

Below is Mr. Bill Karr's response to that letter regarding the lack of crediting the true author of the last portion of Ms Wade's Eagle Lake opener story and in the future if our intellectual information is used WON was to give proper credit to where the information came from and how and where to find it. Ms Wade's story only stated that Eagle Lake Fishing Information had some phone numbers for ramps however, not leading the viewers to believe that from that paragraph to the end of Ms Wade's story was copied verbatim from our website Ramp Conditions page. The June 5th email from Ms Wade that was suggested by Mr Bill Karr came without my asking appears to indicate that **WON already knew what was stated in Ms Wade's "own" article is not going unnoticed however they had not received the letter from my attorney at this time.**

BELOW IS WESTERN OUTDOOR NEWS' BILL KARR'S RESPONSE TO THAT LETTER RECEIVED VIA EMAIL:

From: Bill Karr [mailto:karr@wonews.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 5:23 PM

To: rep-home@comcast.net

Subject: EagleLakeFishing.Net, Wade/Karr 6/05/10 E-mail

Mr. Paterson, we are in receipt of your notice, and of course, will comply. Please note that the only information used was what ramps were open at Eagle Lake, and nothing else was used, but of course, even that should have been noted as to the source. Which, of course, we have no intention of ever mentioning in WON again. Best Regards, Bill Karr, Editor, Western Outdoor News, NorCal

“PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ONLY INFORMATION USED WAS WHAT RAMPS WERE OPEN AT EAGLE LAKE, AND NOTHING ELSE WAS USED...” Yep, only 5 paragraphs.

That information was for Stones Landing, Rocky Pt, Spalding, EL Marina (the abbreviated typing error on my part that Ms Wade obviously did not know that was MY mistake) and Eagle Lake Marina.

So Mr Karr's email tells me is that it is okay for WON reporters to take information from other sources without proper credit as long as it is just a little bit and not the whole thing. It appears that even prior to this communication from WON Bill Karr that Western Outdoor News already knew they could have a problem with Ms Wade's actions for the May 28th issue.

So it appears from this that **the main editor finds copying and pasting other individuals property is okay for WON publications, just as long as it is just a little....yep, several paragraphs is just a little....** Seems to me that Mr Karr is punishing us and fully intends to continue punishing Eagle Lake Fishing Information and Network for his reporters plagiarizing our information as her ownor is it because we caught his reporter and publication copying material. You make the call folks. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see this one.

I used to have a great deal of respect for Western Outdoor News for a printed paper their information was about as close as a print could get for current fishing reports. Now I see how Western Outdoor News, Bill Karr and Robin Wade get their firsthand fishing informationmaybe it is only a few of the writers and one editor and not all of them...but I cannot be sure now as the editorial staff seems to be fully engaged in allowing possibly even encouraging their reporters to take other businesses information and calling it their own

We DO feel sorry for those people who are so desperate to redeem themselves from the inaccurate statements they made that they stoop to such a low level as to use words not their own to make themselves look better. As stated above, we all know who these people are (look at Robin Wade's story in May 28 issue and see for yourself.... and no, they don't support what we do....that tells you something of their character as well.

However through this experience and discovering how Western Outdoor News apparently “gets” some of their information for their “fishing reports” we have little respect left for their publication and less respect for those benefitting from information that was not their own.... and I have had a subscription for nearly 20 years...now the only reason for me to buy it is to protect my intellectual content...way to go WON.

We did not seek an apology from WON, only credit where credit should legally go. **To me, WON disregarded the first two cardinal rules of basic journalism to benefit themselves**

and others. #3 broken rule apparently only shows the ETHICS supported by WON editorial staff....we can't help 'em with that issue.

Is that what you want from your fishing report newspaper? If so, then please don't come here. We don't play those games. However unfortunately, we HAVE to respond when our intellectual content is placed somewhere else to benefit some ONE else without our knowledge or permission let alone giving the proper journalistic courtesies of saying where they copied the verbatim information.

We certainly do not mind Mr. Bill Karr's remark about never intending to use our information again for their publication since we requested WON reporters give the customary credit for it. THEY were the ones already doing the taking from us prior to Mr. Karr's statement. On a personal note, I don't want to have any type of affiliation with publications that do such things....now YOU know how it works.

We are NOT sorry for creating a regularly updated, current, detailed and popular Eagle Lake Fishing Report website NOR are we sorry the controversial articles it contains. Our viewers keep growing and our numbers don't lie they are always available to anyone who asks...our sponsors know...and that's enough for us. We do not plan on stopping "what we are doing" any time soon but watching the expense of energy used by this group of people conspiring against us, we find quite amusing. Desperate acts is how I see it.

AND AS ANOTHER NOTE REGARDING OTHER PUBLICATIONS: IT IS OUR CHOICE TO WRITE OR NOT TO WRITE FOR THEM. THOSE REQUESTING IE LASSEN TIMES HAVE BROKE THE MUTUALLY SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP AS WELL AS ADDING THEIR WORDS TO MY STORY AND WE NO LONGER WILL BE CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR PAPERS...BY OUR CHOICE, NOT THEIRS.

WE ARE ALL EAGLE LAKE, ALL THE TIME AND WE INTEND TO STAY THAT WAY. IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, WE DON'T ASK YOU TO VISIT, WE DON'T THROW OURSELVES OUT THERE IN "IN YOUR FACE" ADVERTISING AND WE DON'T HAVE THE BIG FAT EGOS AND NARCISSISMS TO FEED AS THOSE WHO BENEFITED FROM OUR COPIED INFORMATION. IT JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU HOW LITTLE PEOPLE CAN BE. IF YOU ARE IN THIS GROUP, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER HOW THEY MAKE YOU LOOK IN THE PUBLIC EYE.

MORAL OF THIS STORY:

IF YOU ARE GOING TO STEAL INTELLECTUAL MATERIAL FROM ANOTHER PERSONS THOUGHTS....

- 1) FIND OUT THE "REAL" STATS ON A WEBSITE BEFORE BELIEVING THE FREE TRACKING WEBSITES NUMBERS.**
- 2) DON'T THINK THAT OUT OF 16,474 UNIQUE VIEWERS SO FAR THIS QUARTER (LAST THREE MONTHS) WITH ¾ OF A MILLION PAGE HITS THAT SOMEONE WOULDN'T LET ME KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AND TO GO LOOK AT IT.**
- 3) CHECK YOUR SUBSCRIPTION STATUS AND BE SURE YOU DON'T MAIL THE VERBATIM COPY/PASTE JOB OF THE INFORMATION TO THE PERSON WHO ORIGINALLY WROTE IT.**

SO FOLKS, THAT'S HOW IT APPEARS WESTERN OUTDOOR NEWS GETS THEIR STORIES. IS THAT NEWS TO YOU?