

# Things in Motion ...

## TAKE THE PRISTINE PATH!

**T**HERE MUST BE a large degree of satisfaction in taking the “road not traveled” in life because so many people do take that road and don’t travel. These are the ones who choose to observe rather than to participate. In matters such as sky diving or bull fighting I happily take that road also, but in those things that interest me to such an extent that I take the steps necessary to be eligible to participate, I participate. What is the point in obtaining, for example, a valid driver’s license, yet never driving—or of registering to vote, yet never voting? Is there some justification for merely acquiring the right to do something? Why would one want a license to hunt or to fish if he never planned to do either? Given the number of people who deliberately seek eligibility but never use it, I just don’t understand the logic they employ and certainly not the rewards of their actions.

More to the point here, I am referring to the “silent majority” of AAPA members who renew their membership every year but never participate in AAPA functions. What a dynamic group we would be if even half of us were active! Let me explain “active” from my viewpoint. If one opens the bundle and reads only one journal, he can say that he is active; but if he sends a comp card or an e-mail to the publisher of that journal and expresses his opinion on the contents, then

both he and that publisher can say that he is active, and if his opinion is published in the bundle, then everyone can say that he is active. That is *ajay* at its best, when ideas or opinions are published, reactions are made known, counter-opinions or agreements are expressed and a continuing exchange becomes the norm. I am not advocating that we constantly bicker, argue principles or take sides in every controversy; I am saying that we need to discuss, maybe debate points of interest in orderly fashion—and do so thru the medium of amateur journalism.

In these days of “political correctness” it may well be that free expression is significantly squelched, yet the AAPA has an excellent opportunity to illustrate how a diverse group can support one of America’s greatest freedoms without violence or ill will among the members. But we can’t do it convincingly with only a small percentage of the group participating. Perhaps I missed a page of the instructions, but my perception is that *ajay* is more than a number of monthly journals which contain only stories or articles or essays. These are all good and a most valuable part of it, but where is the snap, crackle and pop of interaction between publishers, between journals, between those who have something to say and dare to say it? That spirit seems to be missing from the bundle now. I’d welcome it back!



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