

Thanks for your interest in contributing to *Wildsam* magazine! *Wildsam* is a first of its kind national magazine dedicated to road trips, recreational vehicles and the outdoors. With a reverence for the textures, stories and characters of the open road, *Wildsam* offers unexpected insights into place and culture, vehicles and the outdoors, foodways and folkways, and more.

We're always looking for new ideas and perspectives. A few things a prospective contributor should know:

- *Wildsam* accepts unsolicited queries/pitches for the magazine's departments and features, but we prefer not to receive unsolicited manuscripts.
- Pitches can be sent to submissions@wildsam.com or to our individual editors. We prefer to receive pitches by email (one or two story ideas at a time, please). We will not respond to pitches or submissions sent by postal mail and assume no responsibility for unsolicited photos or manuscripts.
- Pitches should be accompanied by two or three published clips, as attachments or links, to give us an idea of your writing style.
- We try to acknowledge all unsolicited pitches within three weeks. Please feel free to nudge us with an email if you haven't received a response in that time.
- We are not seeking any unsolicited poetry or fiction.
- Submissions should be targeted to a specific section of the magazine. If you can't tell us where in our pages you feel your idea would fit, it's less likely that it's a story for us.
- Rates are roughly \$1/word and can vary with the complexity of an assignment.
- *Wildsam* is focused on road trips across the U.S. (and, to a lesser extent, Canada and Mexico). Pitches about overseas travel are not for us.

Departments open to pitches include:

PILGRIMAGE A ~500-word reported dispatch about a town (or similarly tight, one-day-trip geography) that is *the* place to go for a cultural or consumer experience. Implicitly, this story argues that our readers should go to this place and do/acquire the signature thing at least once in their lives.

(Examples: Steamboat Springs, CO for hot springs; Keeneland, KY for horse racing; St Helena, SC to see the shrimp fleet in action.) zachary.dundas@wildsam.com.

ON THE ROAD An 800-word profile of a person of cultural note, with a focus on the role road travel and exploration plays in their life/career. We're looking for a magic combination of a) a person of some note and recognition, even niche; b) a timely reason to cover them; c) their field of expertise is relevant to *Wildsam*. So far, we've profiled the likes of songwriter Margo Price, film director Jeff Nichols, and TV food personality Maneet Chauhan.

jennifer.justus@wildsam.com

ROAD ICON A smart, surprising, ~300-word micro-history of a classic road-trip ride: the Airstream Clipper, the Vanagon, the Shasta trailer, the Town & Country Woodie. The stories of

these vehicles are a lens on the evolution of cross-country travel. Address pitches to editor Jennifer Justus at jennifer.justus@wildsam.com.

THE SPECIAL A 300- to 500-word item in praise of an undersung eatery, big on character and with a menu worth a pilgrimage. The best subjects take some effort to reach. Ideally these restaurants evoke a classic and nostalgic feeling of discovery. A good pitch will surprise us with a restaurant we haven't been to or read about elsewhere. Address pitches to editor Jennifer Justus at jennifer.justus@wildsam.com.

SHOP TALK A 500- to 700-word introduction to a brand making a big impact on the world of RVs and cross-country travel: the startup rethinking fiberglass trailers, the little shop getting big attention for its camper-van buildouts, the designers of the game-changing roof rack that just broke Kickstarter, the legacy manufacturer turning heads with a fresh approach. The trunk of a Shop Talk piece is a Q&A with a principal, with some emphasis on the nitty gritty of design and production. Address pitches to editorial director Zach Dundas at zachary.dundas@wildsam.com.

OUTDOORS A 400- to 500-word first-person tribute to specific outdoor pursuit in a classic North American location: why Minnesota's Boundary Waters are a bucket-list paddling destination, why every angler should fish the Gallatin River after the runoff, why the San Onofre surf breaks are all-time classics. A specific seasonal hook is a plus. Address pitches to editor Jennifer Justus at jennifer.justus@wildsam.com.

Wildsam's **FEATURE STORIES** range as widely as our readers. The best way to get a sense of what we look for in a pitch is to read through recent issues. We're open to profiles of compelling personalities who've shaped or been shaped by the American road, as well as to reported pieces on the trends and happenings affecting its culture, infrastructure and iconography.

Like the *Wildsam* Field Guides, *Wildsam* magazine publishes original essays by some of the country's most exciting writers. We're open to pitches for essays that capture the mystique of the road-trip ritual and an authentic sense of place. We'd love to hear about the desert highways and mountain circuits you've driven again and again, the instance of crossing that one incredible landscape that's stuck with you long after, the chance encounter on the road you've never been able to shake. Please send a one- or two-paragraph summary of the piece you have in mind, accompanied by published clips or links to your work. We regret that we don't have the capacity to read unsolicited manuscripts.

Some of our features we think of as "quests"—reported narratives of a writer ... following the migration of the monarch butterflies, seeking a Wisconsin fish-fry that still serves local perch, playing the last three machines of a rare pinball game on the Jersey Shore. Both the bar and the ceiling for creativity here is high, a timely hook is a plus, and the best pitches will show evidence of reporting. Driving around to hot springs or dive bars sounds fun—what's going to make it an enlightening magazine feature and not just a trip report?

Service stories are written almost exclusively by our staff or assigned to regular contributing writers. Most feature stories run between 1,500 and 3,000 words. Address pitches to submissions@wildsam.com.

We are always seeking photo submissions for our back page **SIGN OFF** item. The ideal image is an evocative photo of a sign spotted on the road: A faded billboard welcoming you to the nation's persimmon capital. A vintage storefront marquee conjuring a town's bygone heyday. A warm neon welcome to an out-of-the-way watering hole. The images convey a strong sense of place, and the page's accompanying text is written by our staff. Address submissions—preferably a folder of low-res image files, with your name in both the folder and file names—to photo editor Sam Shanahan at submissions@wildsam.com.

Elsewhere in the mag, *Wildsam* assigns photography to a range of contributors. For consideration for photo assignments, please fill out [this](#) form to add yourself to our photographer rolodex. If you have ideas for photo-driven stories, please address pitches to photo editor Sam Shanahan at s.shanahan2@wildsam.com.