



Garden Director Bartje Miller, HT

Rose Ramblings

<http://spokanerosesociety.org/>

Newsletter of Spokane Rose Society
 Affiliated with the American Rose Society

Vol. 64, Issue 9

October, 2011

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 26, 7 pm

This is our one official business meeting of the year, where we elect new officers and vote on the budget for the coming year. It's where people can 'take up the torch' so to speak, if they desire, and we encourage nominations from the floor before we vote on the candidates. This is not to scare you away but to encourage you to come to the meeting and be an active voice in *your* rose society.

Our program will be an interesting one, too. Beyond the rose, our favorite flower, lilacs are the floral emblem of Spokane, and most of us have at least one in our yard. There is a Spokane lilac, believe it or not, and I'm sure **MarvaLee Peterschick** will give us the details.

As they have done for at least a couple years, our hostesses for the evening will be Pati Brown and Sue Wilmoth who love the Halloween thing, so...no, it will not be a spooky evening, but you will enjoy it.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cliff Winger, President

This month is our annual "business" meeting where we approve the 2012 budget and elect officers. I want to thank each of the officers and board members who have served us so well these past years. We have a great slate of new officers and board members being voted into office at this month's meeting. Please give these new officers and board members your support so our Rose Society can continue to help us in our Inland Empire rose gardening in 2012 and beyond. Remember this is a volunteer organization and we appreciate the sacrifices these past and new board members make on our behalf. You may wish to thank each of them yourself.

This month we are looking at the historic Danish Poulsen roses; some are parents to roses you may have in your rose garden today. The PoulSENS have a delightful way of grouping roses into Party, Parade, and Patio Hit "collections." What is there not to like about this way of viewing roses?
 (Cont. on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....	1
Nominations for 2012.....	2
Rose Logic.....	3
2012 Proposed Budget.....	4
Meeting Notes	4
People, Places & Events	5
Water for Roses in Winter.....	5
National Convention Reflections.....	6
2012 Dues Notice	7

COMING EVENTS:

**Wednesday, Nov. 16, 6 pm – dinner meeting at Golden Corral,
 Steve Smith, Guest and featured speaker**

President's Message (Cont. from page 1)

The Poulsen family started breeding roses in Denmark and was founded in 1878 by Dorus Theus (D.T.) Poulsen (1851 - 1925) The earliest roses they bred were polyanthas. These early polyantha roses were a bridge to the modern floribunda. Floribunda (cluster-flowered) roses are the result of crossing polyanthas and hybrid teas. Much of the original work on floribundas was done by D.T. Poulsen, who was attempting to raise roses that would flourish in the harsh winters and short growing seasons of Scandinavia. The early hybrid polyantha class established by the Poulsens became a bridge between the old polyantha rose and the new floribunda rose and by the 50s these hybrid polyanthas were considered floribundas. Poulsen introduced what is considered the first floribunda, 'Rodhatte', in 1912, and his sons Dines and Svend continued his work with this type of rose.

Pernille Olesen (Poulsen) and her husband, Mogens, are now the proprietors of this world-famous nursery: Poulsen Roser A/S. Near the end of the twentieth century they bred a number of ground cover roses that are ironclad in their health and foliage: Essex, Kent, and Sussex are among them. Taller roses are the shrub Queen Margrethe (Zone 5) whose roses are a lovely soft pink, Tivoli (Zone 7) is a healthy hybrid tea in a strong primrose or unique soft yellow, Baby Grand (Zone 6) can be a stand-out when trained as a standard, and Karen Blixen (white Zone 7) is a sculpturally perfect hybrid tea rose.

The objectives of the Poulsen breeding program are: long decorative value, outstanding keeping quality, continuously flowering, excellent health, strong and intense colors, character elegance and fragrance.

Poulsen Roser groups their rose selection into "collections." A selection of five inch micro roses is called the Party. Some miniatures (11" to 12") are in the Parade and the PatioHit collections. They also produce some great full size roses such as climbers, hybrid teas, and floribundas. Not all the roses are hardy to our cold zone in the Inland Northwest. Some that can grow in Spokane are: Chinatown deep yellow climbing floribunda, Zone 5 (a fragrant rose used by David Austin in his breeding program but not sold today); Pernille Poulsen medium pink floribunda Zone 4; Ingrid Bergman dark red hybrid tea Zone 4 (There are many rose aficionados who believe Ingrid Bergman is the best of the red hybrid tea roses.); H.C. Andersen dark red floribunda. Zone 4; Kent white blend shrub Zone 4; Queen Margrethe light pink modern shrub Zone 5; and Victor Borge orange blend hybrid tea Zone 5. Also, it seems difficult to find these beautiful roses in the United States. Poulsen does not sell their roses from their own nursery in Denmark, but many of their roses are available in the Euro Zone and a few Canadian nurseries (like www.pickeringnurseries.com). The Poulsen website <<http://www.poulsenroser.dk/>> has great photos of their roses and links to international nurseries. Purchasing great Poulsen Zone 4 and 5 roses are a challenge for the rose grower who needs that rose that no one else has.

(Internet sources HelpMeFind, RoseFile, Poulsenroser.dk/, and Wikipedia)

NOMINATIONS FOR 2012

As mentioned elsewhere, we encourage anyone interested in being involved in the workings of Spokane Rose Society to have their name placed in the running wherever you wish to be involved. We want 'new blood' because that is the life of any organization. Beyond that, your board has come up with some people who are willing to be nominated, and we will be voting at the October meeting. This is our current slate proposed for your vote:

President – Gwynne Mee
Vice-President – Scott Ingles
Secretary – Pat Vacha
Treasurer – Lynn Schafer

Board members – Two-year term
Greg Mee
Pati Brown
Board members – One-year term
Carol Newcomb
Lynn Pierce

(Note: Because Kent Zwick has served his two years on the board and because of other current commitments Sue Wilmoth asked to be replaced, with Pat Vacha and Scott Ingles running for Vice-President and Secretary, that decimated our board, requiring a total replacement, so to get it back on proper rotation we have set one- and two-year terms.



Rose Logic

Lynn Schafer
Master Consulting Rosarian

Ah! The smell of fall is in the air. No, we don't smell the burning leaves anymore, but you can smell the fresh air of the mornings, reminding us the days are shortening and soon we will once again see our breath on the frosty air. In the meantime, there are many things to do.

First, we haven't had the killing frost that signals the end of the roses, so you need to keep up the watering. As I write this we have had a little rain, but until we get substantial rainfall, it won't get down where the roses want it. This is one important part of fall – keep the soil hydrated for a good survival rate through the winter.

Does your memory go back to November, 2010? That was when the temperatures went from lows in the 30s to single digits and even in some places **negative** numbers. Your editor recorded a low of -13 with blowing snow by evening. That was what really hit our roses last year, as they were still actively growing. We can do everything possible to encourage them to go to sleep, but sometimes that isn't enough, as they need the *slightly* freezing temperatures to signal that, and last year was NOT it!

The weather people keep telling us this is an El Niño year, meaning warmer, wetter weather, but I do recall a time or two when they missed the mark, so we will have to wait and see. In the meantime, you want to prepare your roses as much as possible for cold, because winter here is seldom without cold.

If you have been a member of the rose society for some time, you already know how to prepare roses for winter, but we have to remember that we have people just starting to grow roses all the time, and that is what we want to encourage, so bear with me.

The first thing we want to consider is the condition of the rose. Is there any sign of mildew or blackspot? If so, now is the time to apply one more fungicide, while the bush is still open. You can also remove any leaves that show disease, as this will help next spring. If you have had a killing frost to stop the roses from growing before you begin this task, you can even use a dormant spray which will smother any over-wintering insects (the bad guys). Here again, prevention is better than cure, but sometimes fungus disease can sneak up on us when we least expect it.

There are two main types of roses grown in the Spokane area – own-root roses and grafted roses. Grafted roses are budded onto some rootstock, usually Dr Huey, and therefore have that knob at the base of the rose from which the new canes or basal breaks originate. That budhead is the place from which the named rose grows, and if it freezes, you have lost the rose you purchased. Often you will see bushes blooming in the spring around Spokane with dark red roses on them. They only bloom once and then send out long canes. That is because, while the named rose died, the rootstock, namely Dr Huey, survived and sent out shoots from errant bud eyes below the graft. Dr Huey is a Hybrid Wichurana which can grow up to 10-12 feet tall, hence the long canes. Well, this isn't the rose you purchased, so there goes your \$15 to \$25 rose bush, just like that.

There is a way to protect grafted roses, and that is by mounding them with compost or soil about six or more inches over the graft. This keeps the soil around the graft from freezing, so if your rose was in good condition at winter's onset, you probably won't lose the rose. In my garden I rarely lose a hybrid tea rose to winter, and I mound with compost. One of the nice things about using compost is you can spread it out over the beds during spring pruning to improve and replenish your soil. Some people in more protected or warmer areas can use pine needles, but with the wind I experience here, that would never do, and they don't break down over winter, either, so they have to be removed. If you are going to put out the money for a rose bush, you need to take care of it. They really aren't annuals, folks!

Own root roses have no graft to protect, so they don't need to be mounded, but it won't hurt them if you do, and it may get them off to a better start in the coming year, as you are protecting the lower part of the canes. I know that Northland Rosarium's rose garden showed the effects of that sudden temperature drop, even though they are own root roses there. Old Garden Roses and shrubs tend to be hardier and normally are grown on their own roots, so you probably won't need to do anything with them.

If the modern roses (hybrid teas and grandifloras) are quite tall, you should cut them back to two or three feet to prevent them from whipping around in the wind, but don't cut them lower than that. Wait for spring to do the major pruning. Clean your tools and apply oil or WD40, put away the hoses and accessories, blow out the automatic sprinkler systems to avoid major repairs next spring, and then sit back and plan what you want to do with roses in 2012.

PROPOSED 2012 SPOKANE ROSE SOCIETY BUDGET

	2011 BUDGET	2011 ACTUAL YTD	% USED	2012 BUDGET
INCOME:				
Bank Interest	\$1.00	\$0.35	35.00%	\$1.00
Miscellaneous	\$50.00	\$35.91	71.82%	\$50.00
Raffle Tickets	\$100.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$40.00
Membership Dues	\$500.00	\$535.00	107.00%	\$500.00
Plant Sale	\$2,000.00	\$1,966.00	98.30%	\$2,000.00
Draw on Investment	\$5,994.00	\$1,500.00	25.03%	\$5,804.00
TOTALS	\$8,645.00	\$4,037.26	50.24%	\$8,395.00
EXPENSES:				
ARS Dues	\$70.00	\$70.00	100.00%	\$70.00
Courtesy	\$25.00	\$13.44	53.76%	\$25.00
Garden Tour	\$50.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$50.00
Insurance	\$250.00	\$162.50	65.00%	\$200.00
Library	\$100.00	\$54.24	54.24%	\$100.00
Misc.	\$50.00	\$40.00	80.00%	\$50.00
Nat'l Convention Representative	\$800.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$700.00
ARS Contribution	\$300.00	\$300.00	100.00%	\$300.00
PNW District Contribution	\$300.00	\$343.71	114.57%	\$300.00
Plant Sale	\$2,000.00	\$1,140.60	57.03%	\$1,900.00
Printing and Mailing	\$500.00	\$285.62	57.12%	\$300.00
Program	\$1,000.00	\$492.12	49.21%	\$1,000.00
Publicity	\$400.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$400.00
Rose Hill	\$500.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$500.00
Rose Show	\$2,000.00	\$1,755.47	87.77%	\$2,000.00
Rose Show Luncheon/Banquet	\$300.00	\$119.72	39.91%	\$300.00
Spokane Interstate Fair	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$200.00
TOTALS	\$8,645.00	\$4,777.42	52.77%	\$8,395.00

NOTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Rose Jacobus, Secretary

The program for the September meeting was a video presentation by Penny Simonsen, director of the Master Gardener Program here in Spokane. Rather than the topic suggested in the newsletter, Penny chose to talk about the Master Gardener Program.

Penny described the development and growth of the Extension arm of WSU. Programs offered by the present Master Gardener Program include: Youth Gardening, Gardening for Life/Adaptive gardener, Community Information Booth, Public Education Classes, Community Gardens, Horticulture Class Series, Cabin Fever Program, Public Speaking, and the Plant Clinic & Resource Center.

After Penny's presentation we discussed the positive experience at the Spokane fair this year. It was a combined effort by Northland Rosarium and Spokane Rose Society, and it was felt that we should do this in the future, perhaps creating more of a garden atmosphere rather than just a table, so for this reason the suggestion was made to move some out of the Mini Rose Sale and the National Convention Representative line items into the line item for the fair to allow for some materials for this feature.

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

As you can see by the pictures below, one of our very distant members, **Sharon Askelson**, from Kalispell MT who had some very lovely rose arrangements at our June show doesn't limit herself to roses. One of these was at the local mall and the other at their fair.



Outstanding Exhibit of the Show
Kalispell Center Mall Show
Champion Arrangement – “Rocky Mountain High”
Sharon Askelson – Kalispell, MT



Outstanding Exhibit of the Show
NW MT Fair Dahlia and Gladiolus Show
Champion Arrangement – “Rocky Mountain High”
Sharon Askelson – Kalispell, MT

And Sharon wasn't the only one to win accolades this past year. **Sandra Rendle** was awarded the Distinguished Educator Award along with 3 other teachers from Logan Elementary School where Sandra teaches. They received the award for collaboration as a team and for the high test scores that their 6th graders had achieved. Way to go, Sandra! You see, there are a lot of great teachers out there, and Spokane has some of the finest, as shown here.



Water for Roses in Winter?

by Cliff Winger

And now there came both mist and snow,
And it grew wondrous cold:
And ice, mast-high, came floating by,
As green as emerald.

And through the drifts the snowy clifts
Did send a dismal sheen:
Nor shapes of men nor beasts we ken -
The ice was all between.

- *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Rosarian Jim Wagner (an upstate New Yorker living in USDA Zone 5) suggested in the September-October *American Rose*:

“Hydrating your roses around Thanksgiving weekend. Check on how much rain you have had in the past couple or so weeks. Unless your soil is well saturated and before the soil is likely to freeze firmly, thoroughly soak the soil with at least one to two inches of water so that the root system is well hydrated for the winter season.”

Winter hydration[†], to me as a chemist, is one of the best, easiest, and effective forms of advice for wintering your roses. First, I will assume you have roses of the proper USDA zone and they are own root roses, or are grafted roses with the bud unions protected by several inches of soil or mulch. The reason for this is not much will help the survival of a rose that is in the wrong zone when we have a colder than average winter. Also, since harsh winters can kill unprotected plant parts, a graft union can easily be killed by sudden arctic temperatures, or prolonged temperatures in the negative double digits.

Secondly, I assume most all the readers here in the Inland Northwest area have sandy/rocky soil that drains well. Soils that drain well dry out quickly. (Clay soils hold water for a longer time since they drain poorly.) Also on the sunny side of the Cascade Range, we get less rainfall before freezing weather hits than they do on the West Side. Our soils typically “dry out” in the root zone as we move into the freezing months.

Let me back track here and explain some physical chemistry on the most important chemical to gardeners: **water**. Water (H₂O), which covers about 71% of the Earth surface, exists in three states of matter on the earth surface: liquid (oceans, lakes, and rivers), solid (glaciers, ice, and snow), and as a vapor (steam and relative humidity). As water changes physical states, it takes large amounts of heat energy to melt ice or to produce steam. Conversely, much energy is released (absorbed by the environment) as steam becomes water, and water freezes. (Your refrigerator takes heat energy out of water to make ice cubes and releases that heat energy into your home.)

To heat one gram (or one milliliter) of water one degree Celsius requires one calorie of heat. It takes 540 times this energy to evaporate that gram of water, and one must add 79 times this energy to melt a gram of ice. Additionally, ice is about as good an insulator as concrete and stone.

If the ground is saturated with water, it takes a lot of energy to form ice at the surface. This ice will help keep warmer soil below from freezing by trapping some of the summer soil heat below the ice layer. As the summer heat is removed from the soil, the ice (frost zone in the soil) slowly gets thicker, but the freezing rate slows as this thickening ice zone adds some insulation to the lower roots. Some studies in Colorado show that the surface soil temperatures in the Rockies under snow pack can be as warm as 34 degrees Fahrenheit in January. This heat comes from residual summer solar heat in the soils and heat given off by soil microorganisms protected by the snow's insulation. Using this data, we can expect temperatures in the lower root zone of roses to remain near the freezing point of water in saturated soils with a layer of ice or snow at the surface and sufficient moisture for soil microbes to add some heat. Saturated soils allow the rose root cells to adjust and not burst from quick freezing since there is a greater mass of water in the root zone. It is quick freezing that burst cells in the canes and roots which kill these plant parts.

Another winter problem is evaporation of plant water under windy conditions. Saturated soils will allow water deep in the root zone to be available for the rose in extended dry and windy weather. This should help reduce some of the cane damage in dry windy winter months.

Summary:

From this science, it would be best in the climate of the Inland Northwest, to go into freezing periods with saturated soil deep into the rose root zone. The physical properties of water should decrease damage to the entire plant by keeping the root zone at higher temperatures and allowing hydration of the rose canes during long dry spells in winter. When we get days above freezing and the ground thaws out, it would be advisable to re-saturate the soil before the next cold cycle blows into the Inland Empire from the Arctic.

A corollary to this advice: if you use compost as a soil amendment, your soil will retain more water and the soil will have more microbial activity than untreated native soil in winter months. These two benefits of a healthy amended soil will help to increase soil temperature and the chance of your garden plants surviving a very cold winter. Compost is extraordinary in our rose beds by not only providing essential nutrients and retaining moisture to give us healthy roses during the growing season but helping our roses survive harsh winters.

† *Roses for Dummies* by Lance Walheim and The Editors of the National Gardening Association suggest two things to help winter roses in cold climates: The first was winter hydration, the second was "hilling." The University of Illinois Extension has a good web article on hilling at <<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/roses/winter.cfm>>.



ARS NATIONAL CONVENTION IN RETROSPECT

I must admit that having the District conference right on the heels of the fall national convention is putting me under not too little stress, since I have to get this newsletter sent out between the two plus several other tasks. Nonetheless, I thought you might like to know what went on there.

First, the board meeting went rather smoothly, which is a great improvement from the 90s. Jeffrey Ware is staying on as Executive Director, rather than moving to Planned Giving, and B. J. (Beverly) Harrington has been hired for Planned Giving. She hails from North Carolina. In an effort to make the American Rose Magazine appeal to a larger audience, Pat Shanley showed us a sample new cover for the magazine. Sean McCann's book The Rose for Today is available for promotionals by paying the cost of shipping. (We all miss Sean's presence at our conventions, but our favorite Irishman is battling health issues and can no longer travel. Sean has hybridized more than 90 repeat blooming roses of all types.

The International World Federation President, Sheenagh Harris was in attendance to invite everyone to attend the WFRS convention next October in South Africa. In fact, there were actually exhibitors at LA from Australia and New Zealand. Believe me, that's a *long* way to travel for a rose show!

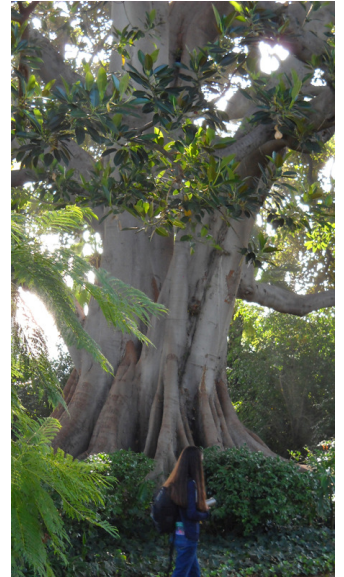
While there were no private garden tours this year, we visited the Tournament House and Wrigley Garden where the Tournament of Roses Parade originates each year. The rose on the front of this bulletin was a beautiful example of the rose garden roses (and I was told will not be available for sale next year, not until 2013). It is a Meilland rose, 3½-4 in, 27 petals, high-centered, borne mostly solitary, slight fragrance, really unique and gorgeous. We also went to Huntington and were privileged to have Clair Martin, the retired curator of Huntington as our guide. The garden was in great form, as I am sure it always is, and we could have spent a lot more time there, but that's the way it is with conventions...so many things, so little time.

One of the things we don't have here but which was amazing to me was their huge fig trees. This one was, as you can see, a huge tree at the Tournament House. Their roots splay out all around the tree, making a large footprint. Yes, there were roses, too, besides, such as 'White Out,' one of the Knockout roses by William Radler. This one starts out a pale yellow and fades as it ages to white. If it grows here as it does in LA, it will be a nice addition to the garden – a low grower like 'Knockout' in most areas and lots of bloom.



'Snuffy' was the Hybrid Tea Queen of Show – an orange pink I had not seen before. There was a good number of entries in both horticulture and arrangements. Sharon Askelson took five photos and got three seconds and two thirds for her efforts.

Stephen Scanniello was one of the speakers, and he gave a very interesting talk. I only regret that I didn't think about using the recorder on my iPad until his talk was about half over. We also heard from Burling Leong who owns Burlington Nursery. Since we had ordered some minis from them for our sale two years ago, it was good to be able to put a face with the name.



Yes, we had a tour of Hollywood, and after seeing the Hollywood Bowl (we missed Bill Clinton's fundraiser by a day when we could have had \$50,000 seats) I can attest to approximately 163 steps to the top of the nosebleed section and, yes, I walked every one of them. Having said that, it's good to be home again where we actually get a reprieve from gardening for the winter months.

October is the time for our annual business meeting. We will be electing officers, perhaps the slate listed in this newsletter. We will be also voting on the proposed 2012 budget and discussing any other pertinent things that need to be handled. Next month we will have our dinner meeting to close out the season. This is your friendly reminder that dues are due for 2012. If you want to avoid putting a stamp on the envelope, bring your payment to the October or November meeting and pick up your membership card to give you discounts at a number of local businesses.

If you can't attend the meetings, please send your dues payment made out to **Spokane Rose Society** along with the information below to: Lynn Schafer, 42108 S Bourne Rd, Latah WA 99018.

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

Email address _____

For those who wish to receive a full-color newsletter by Email, the dues are \$7 per person or \$9 per couple. If you wish to have a paper copy mailed to you (black and white only) the dues are \$10 per person or \$12 for a couple.

SPOKANE ROSE SOCIETY OFFICERS - 2011

Cliff Winger, President

1529 W Providence, Spokane 99205, phone 325-4623

Guinevere Mee, Vice-President

7315 N Magnolia St, Spokane 99217, phone 466-4205

Rose Jacobus, Secretary

17543 S Smythe Rd., Spokane 99224, phone 448-3178

Lynn Schafer, Treasurer and Editor

42108 S Bourne Rd, Latah 99018, phone 286-3655

Board Members: Pat Vacha, Kent Zwick,
Sue Wilmoth, Scott Ingles

Carol Newcomb, Past President

Greg Mee, Webmaster

Consulting Rosarians

Carol Newcomb, phone 448-4968,

carol@northlandrosarium.com

Lynn Schafer, Master Rosarian, phone 286-3655,

lynnschafer@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP in Spokane Rose Society is open to anyone. We meet on the **fourth Wednesday** of each month, February through November, 7:00 p.m. at **the meeting room by the conservatory at Manito Park** in Spokane, Washington, (unless otherwise noted) with a special program each month and a coffee hour following hosted by members. Guests are always welcome. Our rose library has rose-related books you can check out. A Basic Care Guide is also provided to each new member. Workshops may be held at pre-announced times throughout the year on meeting nights.

DUES are as follows: If you receive the newsletter by Email it is \$7 per person; \$9 for husband and wife. For those wishing to receive the newsletter by postal service it is \$10 per person, \$12 for husband and wife. Mail your check, made payable to SPOKANE ROSE SOCIETY to Lynn Schafer, 42108 S. Bourne Rd., Latah, WA 99018-9508. THIS NEWSLETTER, one of the benefits of membership, is published 10 times a year, to coincide with our monthly meetings.

If you wish to join the American Rose Society, dues are \$49 per person (\$46 for those 65 and older). You may pay this through the Spokane Rose Society as well. Three-year membership is \$140 (\$132 for seniors). Benefits of membership include *The American Rose Magazine*, *The Rose Annual*, and the *Handbook for Selecting Roses*. You also receive *The Northwest Rosarian*, our informative District quarterly

Spokane Rose Society

www.spokanerosesociety.org

Lynn Schafer, Editor

42108 S. Bourne Rd.

Latah, WA 99018-9508

email lynnschafer@gmail.com

