

Ruh's Muse of the Month
As told to Chris Mandeville

Ruh (pronounced "Roo") is a service dog and PPW/C mascot. He likes stories of all kinds, especially those involving good chase scenes. His favorite things are writers, children, his cat Loki, and Fontina cheese.

OCTOBER 2007 – Ron Heimbecher

As I lay here enjoying the last of the summer weather, dozing off and on while listening to a baseball playoff game, I can't help but wonder what my good friend **Ron Heimbecher** is doing. My guess is he's home watching the game with Sailor the Dog curled up at his feet. Sometimes I envy Sailor, having his own Web site and such (check out SailortheDog.com), but I digress. I mention Ron because he's such an incredible, inspiring guy. We haven't been pals all that long--a tad over a year, I'd guess--but he's one of my favorite PPW guys. He started out volunteering as the PPWC Transportation Coordinator, and the next thing I know he's PPW Vice President. I tell you, I could not be happier about that. It means I get to hang out with him a bunch more. I particularly enjoyed seeing his performance at American Icon 3. He read from one of his Solace Creek stories, and man-oh-man, talk about inspiring. Writing as Ron Lynch Chalice, he's created an entire Colorado town of over 350 people, err, *characters*. There's a dozen associated Web sites, by golly, for his fictional newspapers, broadcast network, mega-retailer, church... It's like a real town. Don't believe me? Go see for yourself at RonChalice.com. I'm not telling you about this to "plug" his site (though I certainly wouldn't mind if you ordered a book, calendar or wallpaper from him). I bring this up because his work is so doggoned inspiring. Makes me wanna create my own make-believe town, or perhaps I should start smaller, like with a dog park. "Ruh's Ruff-n-Tumble Canine Playground." I could populate it with all sorts of dogs, from miniature Chihuahuas to the largest, droolin'est Mastiff. Maybe include some cats, too. And squirrels, definitely squirrels. Hey, do you think that Ron would make me a Web site for my playground and all the doggy tales (tails, get it?) that come out of it??? Oh, in case you haven't figured it out, Ron is my muse for October. Need a little inspiration in your writing life? Have a chat with Ron. He's got plenty to go around.