

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

July 2007 Volume 31, Issue 7

Skyscapes

Text and photos by Russ Burden

Sky photography offers an ever changing array of subject matter. Influenced by many factors, the chances of getting the same conditions to ever repeat are slim. Time of day, seasons, the jet stream, cloud

FILTER IT - Whether you're shooting film or capturing your images digitally, getting it right at capture is essential to obtaining a better picture. Although many photographers rely on Photoshop to boost colors or saturation, every time you alter the



patterns, and weather are just some of the variables that dictate the face of the sky. Capturing a dramatic one that goes beyond the point and shoot variety can be a challenge. Here are some helpful hints that will bring your skyscapes to the next level.

pixels, you're degrading them. Being a slide shooter for many years has engraved in me that if I don't get it right before pressing the shutter, I lose the shot. With this being said, there are a handful of filters I never leave home without. I use a polarizer to help

saturate the colors by removing glare from the surface of the compositional elements. I carry one stop, two stop, and three stop graduated neutral density filters to even out the exposure between the sky and foreground. Finally, to punch up the color in the sky, I use an enhancing filter, a Cokin sunset, or a number 30 magenta filter. The image of the silhouetted rock formation was made using a two stop grad ND and a combination of the Cokin and enhancing filters.

DAWN AND DUSK - Before sunrise and after sunset, there's a quality of light that's very unique. Known as alpenglow, when it's strong, it creates a magnificent gradation of color from a deep cobalt blue to tones of red, orange and yellow. Ordinary subjects become extraordinary when silhouetted against this beautiful wash of color. I love to shoot this phenomenon when the moon is in its crescent phase as it sets in the eastern sky. This is the only time the moon sets in the same location the sun rises.



DOUBLE YOUR PLEASURE - As a dramatic sky starts to develop, look for surfaces to reflect its color. Water is a favorite as are windows, any metal reflective surface, puddles, etc. If the water is still, you'll get a mirror image of the sky. If it's moving, the color will ripple off its surface adding compositional interest. Look for interesting ways to include both the sky and its double. Try using one or more of the previously mentioned filters to punch up the color.

Always remember, when making skylscapes, things are looking up!



At The Last Meeting ...

Jan France and Fi Rust presented the club's twenty images which were submitted as the club's entry into the *Nature's Best* national competition. In addition, Charlie Summers presented 80 images depicting the club field trip to the wild horse refuge in South Dakota. We got a good look at the horses, but also saw images of other wildlife in the area, as well as the—very wet—conditions to which the photographers were subjected.

Of Interest

All are invited to a reception Saturday, July 14th 7pm – 9pm for the Great Western Art Gallery's photographers, including our own **Irma Backelant**. The reception is at 1455 Curtis (three doors from the performing arts center), during the downtown Second Saturday art walk.

The Wildlife Experience Exhibit

DATES TO REMEMBER

(THERE CAN BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE DEADLINES!)

July 5 6:00 PM emailed entries. NOTE this is Thursday after July 4!

July 5 6:00 PM slides to Charlie Summers for scanning

- July 11** Competition at the regular meeting.
- July 20** Written description of winning images to Kathy Lingo
- Sept 1** Exhibit opens

FAQ's

The Wildlife Experience has invited our club to exhibit our work from September 1 through November 11 in the Community Gallery. The theme will be Wildlife Babies. At the July 11 meeting, club members will choose 22 images to be included in the show. All club members may enter a maximum of three images into the competition. No member will have more than one image selected for the exhibit. Only club members that have paid their club dues may participate.

1. How do I enter? Before 6:00 pm Thursday July 5, email your entries to Milehighphotoclub@gmail.com. **Please title you email with "TWE". Give your images a short recognizable name, like "Bobcat in Snow" so competition organizers can tell which image is which. You must also include your name in the image title too.** You will have a chance to give your image a more artistic title later if you get into the show. Competition entries should follow standard club competition JPG format of 72 dpi and 1024x768ppi if it is a horizontal shot, or 768 on the vertical if it is a vertical shot. Files should be 350Kb or less for emailing. If you want to enter any images from an original slide (not digital), you must submit a digital scan for the competition. Local photo shops like Wolf, Mike's Camera, Denver Digital can scan slides for a few dollars or Charlie Summers before has offered to scan slides for you. **Please refer to the Digital Image Submission Guidelines**

published on the club website www.MHWPC.org or in the newsletter for more details on image requirements.

2. How are images selected to the show? The club members in attendance on July 11 will vote to select 22 images for the show, including two "Best of Show" images that are prominently featured and displayed at larger size in the show. Initially, the single best image from each member will be selected. Then the top 22 exhibit images will be selected and lastly 2 of these images will be selected as Best of Show. It may help your voting to have a piece of paper and a pen to take some notes on your favorite images as they are shown.

3. Who pays for the prints and frames? The Wildlife Experience pays for printing, matting, and framing. Denver Digital (formerly, The Slideprinter) makes the prints for the show. They donate much of the cost, so stop in and say thanks. And if your image is in the show, you will get to keep the print (without matte) after the show is over!

4. If I enter digital images, what else should I bring July 11? If you are entering digital files, bring a CD with high-resolution TIFF files to the July 11 competition. 20 of the images will be printed on 16x24 inch paper. The two best of show images will be printed on 20x30 inch paper. The files should be at least 300ppi and 24 inches on the long side. Even though you already emailed low-resolution files, we will need a high-resolution file for printing from all the winners. It is okay to put all three of your digital high resolution images on one CD.

5. If I want to enter slides, what else should I bring July 11? Bring the original slide with you, even though it has already been scanned at low resolution for the competition. If your image is selected, we'll need the slide from you, the night of the

competition, to get a high-resolution scan made. If you already have a high-resolution scan of your slide, please bring that instead.

6. Can I enter a mix of digital and slides? Absolutely. Just bring the original slides and high-resolution files of the digital captures to the competition.

7. If my image is selected to the show, what happens next? The night of the competition, we will need your CD or original slide to get the print made. You'll get the CD or slide back at the August meeting. Also the night of the competition, the winning photographers need to sign a permission form to get the prints made. By Friday July 20, you will need to email or snail-mail a 50-word maximum written description of your selected image to Kathy Lingo. This will be displayed alongside the image so museum visitors can learn something about it - what kind of animal it is, where did you take the picture, were there any interesting things going on, etc. Ask Kathy for suggestions if you want help with this.

8. What if I want to enter the competition, but can't come to the July 11 meeting? You might win! So you need to send the applicable items listed in items 4, 5, 6, and 7 above to the meeting with someone else: the high-resolution files on CD; and/or original slides; and written, signed permission for Denver Digital to make one print for the exhibition.

9. Are captive subjects allowed? Yes, at the April club meeting it was voted that images of captive or animals in controlled conditions are allowed. So entries that would fit the regular club category Wildlife – Hand of Man are allowed. After that, it's up to the judges.

Braggin' Rights

Carolyn Derrington-Tate was one of 20+ photographers who had photos on display for the Open House at Denver Digital Imaging (aka The Slideprinter) on June 6.

Carolyn Derrington-Tate currently has a photo exhibit at the Cozy Cottage Restaurant, 2423 S. Downing St. (1 block north of Porter Hospital--west side of the street). Her photos will be there through October 2007. She also has an ongoing exhibit in the art gallery at Provin' Grounds Coffee and Bakery in downtown Leadville, CO, across from the courthouse. Her photos are also on display at Englewood Health Alternatives, 3475 S. Marion, through July 2007.

Upcoming Programs

July - The Wildlife Experience Exhibit competition.

August- Don Mammoser presents a program entitled "My Favorite Colorado Shooting Locations".

Club Field Trips

Listed below are tentative dates for club field trips.

- Wild horse photo shoot in South Dakota, September 22nd. Contact Charlie Summers.

Hospitality for July Meeting

Snacks: Melissa Sterns
Drinks: Reb Babcock
 & Alix Gallivan

June Competition Results

Judge: Jan France

68 Entries

Open

4 Entries



1st Place
Adams Falls
Roger Kinney

2nd Giraffe Rita Summers

Critique: 4 entries

HoM Wildlife

10 Entries



1st Place
Siberian Tiger
Charlie Summers

2nd Greater Flamingo Preening Fi Rust

3rd Lynx Brenda Fletcher
HM Prancing Paints Bruce Norman

Wildlife

30 Entries



1st Place
Bluebird with grasshopper
Chuck Summers

2nd Carmine bee-eater Charlie Summers
3rd Southern Elephant Seal James Hager
HM Yellow Warbler Nancy Stocker
HM Coyote and pups Robin Wilson
HM Wood duck ducklings Fi Rust

Scenic

20 Entries



1st Place
Shell and sand
 Roger Kinney

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2nd | Tangle Falls Cascade | Reb Babcock |
| 3rd | Coyote Buttes | Russ Burden |
| HM | Thundering chasm at Victoria Falls | Rita Summers |
| HM | Claret cup cactus | James Hager |

From the Webmaster

The MHWPC Website

The MHWPC website (www.mhwpc.org) is continuing to grow.

- Membership is handled online and a Member Directory is available to members who are logged in.
- Images from the club's submission to the 2007 Nature's Best Photography International Awards in the Camera Club category are online.

- Members can email broadcast messages to other members who agree to receive them.

Additions in the near term are geared towards enhancing communication within the club.

- A blog for current events like fall foliage and spring wildflower reports where all visitors will be able to view the entries, but only members will be able to post.
- A For Sale board will be created where members will be able to list items for sale, and any visitor to the site will be able to view the items.

If you have any suggestions for how to improve the website, contact the webmaster (webmaster@mhwpc.org).

Library News from the Lamb's



It has been fun displaying and checking out new materials at the library table. Stop by and see if you can find something to satisfy your

curiosity or ignite your interest in digital photography. Last month we checked out about ten items. Way to go club members. Remember, to bring it back to the next meeting,

My pick for this month's checkout is *The Photographer's Guide to Yellowstone and the Tetons*. It does a great job of telling you everything you've wanted to know about photographing these areas. The author, John Lange, signed this copy for the club. What a great place to go for Rand R, recreation, and gorgeous animals and

scenery Also, come by and check out the DVD Touring the Southwest's GRAND CIRCLE. It has many beautiful parts of Utah, Arizona, and Colorado.

See you at the table!!!

Joe and Betsy Lamb.

inblamb@comcast.net or 303-841-2565

Workshops and Seminars

Cathy & Gordon Illg – Workshops:
Adventure Photography 303 237-7086
gordon@advenphoto.com
www.advenphoto.com

-
- Glacier National Park, July 8 – 13

Russ Burden's Photography Tours
Visit russburdenphotography.com. Contact
Russ at 303 791-9997, rburden@ecentral.com

Destinations include:

- Sept. 22-Oct. 1, 2007 - Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Park in Fall -10 day trip
- Oct. 6 - 12, 2007 - Vermont in Autumn
- Oct. 20 - 25, 2007 - Hunts Mesa in Monument Valley and Capital Reef NP.
- Nov. 3 - 9, 2007 - Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park
- Dec. 1 - 7, 2007 - Bosque Del Apache and White Sands Natl. Mon.

James Hager Photography - Small Group Photo Safaris, www.JamesHagerPhoto.com
James@JamesHagerPhoto.com

- Kenya in Sept 2007: Classic safari to Samburu and Masai Mara National Reserves - 20 days, Sept 25 to Oct 14, 2007.

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

President: Chris Loffredo

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Secretary/Treasurer: Patrick Devereaux

patrick.devereaux@cushwake.com 303-683-7011

Newsletter Editor: Frank Weston

frank@frankweston.com 303-829-7494

TEAM LEADERS

Monthly Programs: Chuck Winter

cwinter@mii-rmcc.com 303-972-2538

Membership: Rita Summers

ritasummers@gmail.com 303-840-3355

Special Programs/Field Trips:

Chuck Winter

cwinter@mii-rmcc.com 303-972-2538

Competition: Russ Burden

Competition Scoring: Chris Loffredo

Competition Entries:

Judging Coordinator: Fred Stearns 303 400-0385

Snacks/Greeters: Roger Kinney 303-369-6120

Publicity: Buzz Soard 303-779-9933

Library: Betsy Lamb 303-841-2565

Webmaster: James Hager

<http://www.mhwpc.org> johager@earthlink.net

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Rita Summers * Russ Burden

Chuck Winter * Fi Rust * Frank Weston

July Meeting

Wednesday July 11

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: TWE

Submittal Deadline: July 5, 2007

June Attendance: 56
