

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

November 2007 Volume 31, Issue 11

Break the Rut

text and photos by Russ Burden

When you're down, there's only one direction in which to go and that's up. So when you reach that down point in your photography, it's time to celebrate as things can only get better! Hold a party in your mind thinking about all the ways you can get out of your Rut. So many positive things can come out of being in a rut, it's a wonder we don't wish them upon ourselves more often! So what can you do to get out of a rut? First off, as I said, celebrate the occasion as a whole new aspect of photography may become a passion. Celebrate as you'll be creating new and exciting images. Celebrate in that you're about to try something new. Celebrate in that once you're out of your rut, you may fall back into another allowing you many more celebrations! Here are some suggestions to get you on the road to celebration should you experience the photographic doldrums.



Work a Different Angle: Break away from the obvious composition. You've shot thousands and they all look the same. If the standard photographic rule says that A+B

equals C for a given situation, try using a D in place of A or B. For instance in portraiture, the "rule" says the subject should be looking at the camera. If you like taking images of people, break away from this rule and photograph the subject from behind, from the side, with the subject looking away, with a skewed horizon, or any other way you can think of that deviates from your standard compositions. Anything and everything goes. Press the shutter even if you think it may not work. If it's a bust, the delete key is a mouse stroke away.

Use a Point and Shoot: Realize that every time you press the shutter, you don't have



to create a masterpiece. In other words, have some fun out there. Leave the SLR at home. Go out for a walk with a point and shoot and snap away as if you just bought a camera and everything before you is a new subject. Don't be conscientious of looking silly if you lay down on the sidewalk to try a close up shot of your neighbor's lawn. There is nothing in front, to your side or behind you that shouldn't be photographed.

So what if it's a snapshot, you're having fun. On my most recent Nature Photo Tour to the Tetons and Yellowstone this spring, I played with my Panasonic TZ3, a point and shoot, and took some wildlife shots using it instead of my standard equipment. I chuckled when I heard the simulated point and shoot shutter sound. But I was having

of the box and realize there's a plethora of subject matter beyond your comfort zone. Not only do I encourage you to temporarily abandon your standard subject matter, I implore you to try a technique you never utilized. Dust off and remove the cobwebs from the flash, dig for the filter that hasn't seen daylight for the past five years, walk



Cathy Illg and Gary Lawrence beam in front of MHWPC's display at the Smithsonian.

Photo provided by Rita Summers

fun. What blew me away was the quality of the photo. So for the rest of the morning, I used the point and shoot right along side my SLR and had one of the most memorable shooting experiences in a long time.

Assign Yourself a Subject / Try Something New: If you're primarily a _____ shooter (fill in the blank), get out and shoot anything and everything but this subject. The idea is to get you to think out

the environment in the evening with a tripod and set the shutter speed to those so seldom visited ones below 1/4 second, photograph nothing but silhouettes, use the lens that's hidden in the closet you thought you'd sell on Ebay but never got around to it. How about breaking out the film camera and shooting a roll reminiscing about the "old days?" Regardless of what you choose, make a choice so you'll get out and realize that the rut you thought you may be in has

just opened a whole new door to your passion for photography.

At The Last Meeting ...

Gordon and Cathy Illg came through with one of their trademark presentations on the past years photo experiences.

Of Interest ...

Thanks to **Charlie Summers** for another successful Wild Horse trip to South Dakota.

It's possible that there may be a club field trip to Bosque and/or White Sands between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Parker Artist Guild is sponsoring a presentation and workshops by photographer David Black November 3rd.

There is very nice write up on YourHub.com about Rita Summers and MHWPC winning *Nature's Best*. You can get to it by going to: www.yourhub.com and selecting Colorado, then Parker, then look for a blog by Joe McDaniel "Parker Photographer's Remarkable Achievement."

Upcoming Programs

November – **Ron Eberhart** will present his workflow and a demonstration of his panoramic techniques.

December – Club Christmas Party

October Competition Results

Judge: Gordon Illg

Open



1st Place

Cosmos in whirlpool

Irma Backelant

2nd

Chuck Summers

Giraffe Tongue 2

3rd

Charlie Summers

Buffalo before rising
full moon

Wildlife HoM



1st Place

Chimpanzee cuddling young-both snoozing

Charlie Summers

2nd

Fi Rust

Female Merlin-resized

Scenic



1st Place

Oregon Coast Candlelight
Patrick Devereaux

2nd	Reb Babcock	Nootka Lupine
3rd	Roger Kinney	Kansas Sunset
HM	Fi Rust	View from Longdraw Road

Wildlife



1st Place

White Baby Sea Lion
Patrick Devereaux

2nd	Bob Stocker	Red Squirrel
3rd	Chuck Summers	Female Broadtail Hummingbird 2
HM	Bruce Norman	Mooses
HM	Charlie Summers	Western Black-tailed Prairie Dog...

Braggin' Rights

Chuck Summers just had his first photo published. It's a photo of a pika published in an educational workbook put out by Continental Press.

Nick Burden won a Highly Commended in the Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition in the Youth Division ages 15 - 17. It's a shot taken in Monument Valley in the Mystery Valley area of a depression in the sandstone filled with water. Very unique to the area in that it's a once in 100 year event.

Ron Eberhart had a coot chick photo (Balancing Act) selected for the 2008 issue of Expressions, the NANPA print journal.

Mary Paetow received Best of Show in the Photography division at the Gateway to the Rockies Art Exhibit at the Aurora History Museum. The photo was entitled "Running Horse".

Hospitality for November Meeting

Snacks: Dale Honeamann

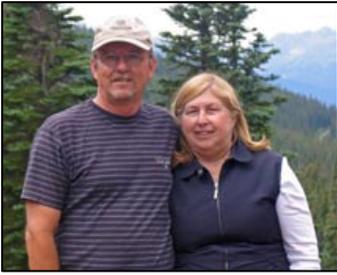
Drinks: ?

Getting to Know You...

(Editor's Note: We've stearnly chastised ourselves and send our humblest apologies to Fred Stearns for misspelling his name in this column last month.)

Betsy Lamb

1. **What drew you to nature/wildlife photography? When?**



Always did photography. My dad loved it and he always had a camera. He took a lot of 8 mm movies of us. About half of our wedding pictures have dad's

imprint on them – he left his thumb over the lens! And, of course, I love the outdoors. We have a condo in Keystone, so we get to ski and hike and generally enjoy the outdoors quite a bit.

2. What format/equipment do you use?

We haven't graduated to the pro equipment yet. We use a Canon ProShot for our digital stuff. Recently I bought a Canon EOS Rebel at a garage sale, and we do a lot of our film photography with that.

3. What's your favorite photo shoot story?

I love to photograph moose and a group of us were up in Rocky Mountain National Park one day when a big old bull moose came wandering into the field. He was between me and the rest of the group who were sincerely worried about my safety, but I was worried about the shot. I stood my ground and he ate his lunch. I got my picture and slowly backed out of there. There was the time, too, again up at Rocky when my brother was with us. My brother is also a photographer, but he's a rather impatient one. We were hiking near the Colorado River and my brother got way ahead of us. I had stopped and was just looking around when I spotted a moose lounging in the grass not too far from us. Well, even closer than that. I got some really good face-to-face shots of that fella. My brother never saw him.

4. Other than your camera, what piece of equipment would you return home to get if you'd forgotten it? (i.e., your most important piece of field equipment).

Film. Even though we have the ProShot, sometimes it's the film camera that does the job. We were in Vermont last summer and had hiked to the top of Mt. Killington, the ProShot froze, so I got out the Rebel and got those once in a lifetime shots.

5. What's the best thing to tell newcomers about Camera Club?

To listen to the critiques, to gain further knowledge on how to set photos up. We're not quite ready, but I know someday we'll have something we want to share with everybody.

6. What do you do when you're not behind the camera? (i.e., occupation or other avocation).

I've officially retired from teaching, but I still substitute teach in the elementary schools. I also tutor special needs children, working especially with the dyslexic. I love to be outdoors, skiing, hiking, whenever the legs permit. We skied Keystone on opening day this year. Despite the arthritis, we were on the slopes by 9:20 that morning.

Joe Lamb

1. What drew you to nature/wildlife photography? When?

I've kinda been doing it on and off for about 15-20 years. I've been getting more serious about the whole process in the last couple years.

2. What format/equipment do you use?

We share the Canon ProShot for digital work and for film we have the Canon EOS Rebel that Betsy got at a garage sale. Mainly we work with Kodak film.

3. What's your favorite photo shoot story?

We were shooting moose of course. We were driving along the Colorado River at Rocky when we spotted a couple of moose standing in a beaver pond. I got out of the car and crawled into the mud of that pond and got a great shot of the moose reflected in the water.

4. Other than your camera, what piece of equipment would you return home to get if you'd forgotten it? (i.e., your most important piece of field equipment).

Warm clothing, absolutely warm clothing. We shoot a lot in Rocky Mountain National Park because I have a sister who lives in the area, and you have to have the right clothing for those cool and cold days and nights.

5. What's the best thing to tell newcomers about Camera Club?

Come and learn from the experts, get lots of tips, and don't be intimidated. Oh, and try to go on photo trips with people, you learn a lot.

6. What do you do when you're not behind the camera? (i.e., occupation or other avocation).

I'm an engineer for Raytheon. I like the outdoors and when I'm not skiing or hiking, (or taking pictures), I like to mountain bike.

From the Webmaster

The MHWPC website (www.mhwpc.org) now includes two new features:

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

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

Library News from the Lamb's



Stop by the library table at the next meeting and look at all of the goodies we have for you to check out. If you have items checked out PLEASE see me at the meeting or call 303-841-

2565. We have lots of neat materials to check out to you. REMEMBER –if you check an item out you are in the drawing for a little treat that

night. Stop by the table for a chocolate chip cookie this month – my treat to all who like books, videos, or DVD's.

We don't have anything new this month courtesy of a flood in our house when the toilet overflowed. We now have new floors in most of the house but no news. Stop by the library and check out something and talk about water damage.

See you at the table.

Joe and Betsy Lamb.

jinblamb@comcast.net or 303-841-2565

Wanted

Lens that fits a Nikon D70. Contact Chuck Winter, CWINTER@mii-rmcc.com, 303-972-2538

Workshops and Seminars

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

Destinations include:

- Dec. 1 - 7, 2007 - Bosque Del Apache and White Sands Natl. Mon.
- Apr 19 - 25, 2008 - Monument Valley / Slot Canyons
- May 10 - 16, 2008 - Arches & Canyonlands National Parks
- May 24 - June 2, 2008 - Oregon Coast - 10 day trip
- June 6 - 12, 2008 - Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Spring
- Sept. 24-Oct. 3, 2008 - Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Fall - 10 days
- Oct. 21 - 26, 2008 - Hunts Mesa - Aerial perspective of Monument Valley and Capital Reef NP for red rocks and fall color.
- Nov. 2 - 8, 2008 - Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks
- Dec. 10 - 16, 2008 - Bosque Del Apache / White Sands Natl. Mon.

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

- Bosque Del Apache, January 20-25
- Galapagos, February 4-14
- South Texas Birds, May 5-10
- Wild Horses, May 27-31
- Wildlife Babies, June 16-19
- Alaska Coastal Grizzlies, June 26 – July 3
- Rocky Mtn Wildflowers, July 20-25
- South Dakota Badlands, September 14-19
- Costa Rica, November 10-19

We are offering our NANPA discount to all club members also--\$50.00 discount on less than 5 day tours and \$75.00 discount on all other domestic tours.

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

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TEAM LEADERS

Monthly Programs: *Chuck Winter*
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Membership: *Rita Summers*
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Special Programs/Field Trips:
Chuck Winter
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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

November Meeting

Wednesday November 14
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm
at
THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE
10035 South Peoria

Competition: Prints/Slides

October Attendance: 49
