



Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

May 2008 Volume 32, Issue 5



TWE Exhibition – The Decisive Moment



At the Last Meeting...

This was a night for some serious competition. In lieu of our regular program and competition, we had two competitions judged by the attending members. The members voted on 40 images to be submitted for the club's entry into Nature's Best competition. Last year, MHWPC took first place in the club competition.

After the break, another grueling round of voting was required to select the images for the TWE exhibition. There were 107 images submitted by 42 members that had to be pared down to 22 images.

Editor Needed

Frank Weston is stepping down as editor of the MHWPC newsletter. Anyone interested in editing the newsletter, please contact any of the club's officers or board members.

Of Interest...

Gordon and Cathy Illg, and **Russ Burden** will be presenting a NANPA Regional event on Mount Evans in June. Visit the following website for all the details:

http://www.resourcenter.net/Scripts/4Disapi3.dll/4DCGI/events/161.html?Action=Conference_Detail&ConfID_W=161?

Field Trips

If you are interested in participating or are able to lead one of these trips, please contact Chuck Winter, 303-972-2538, cwinter@mii-rmcc.com.

Spring in RMNP, Pawnee Buttes, Burrowing Owls May 17

We still need a trip leader. The suggested destinations include – RMNP, Pawnee Buttes,

or if ANYONE has heard of a reliable spot to find Burrowing Owls that is close to Denver, please let the club know.

Mount Evans or Burrowing Owls, Rocky Mtn Arsenal June 7

Wildflowers Jul 18-20 American Basin, Lake City

Wildflowers Jul 25-26 Yankee Boy Basin, Ouray

Maroon Bells Sep 19-21

Rocky Mountain National Park Sep 26-28

Bosque del Apache NWR Nov 27-30

Rocky Mountain National Park Dec 20 Big Horn Sheep Rut

Upcoming Programs

May:
Ron Eberhardt will discuss pano techniques.

June: TBA

Braggin' Rights

Cathy Sheeter's photo of zebra whiskers took first place in the Monochrome division at the Lone Tree Juried Photography Art Show

Hospitality for April Meeting

A big thank you from all of us!

Snacks: Sharon Heidebrecht
Drinks: Sharon Holmes

New Competition Schedule

In addition to the new Masters Level that will start with June, the Board agreed to some other additional changes to the competitions (see below). With the new levels, we expect to have more entries in the competitions and we have been running out of time already. So we will be alternating the competitions categories.

Competition entries – each member may enter a maximum of 3 images in any regular monthly competition with a maximum of 2 images in any one category. A new email address is needed for masters entries.

Competition frequency - July will be the last slide/print competition with only digital thereafter.

To allow more appropriate time for our monthly program as well as for allotting more time for judging the competition, it was decided to split the monthly competitions as follows:

Wildlife and Open

- January
- March
- May
- July
- September
- November

Scenic & Hand-of-Man Wildlife

- February**
- April**
- June**
- August**
- October**

December – holiday party - no competition

We will begin this rotation starting with the June 2008 meeting. July 2008 will be the last prints/slides and all 4 categories will be allowed for this meeting.

MHWPC Mentor Program

by Chris Loffredo

As announced at the March 2008, the Board of Directors and Officers of MHWPC has decided to implement a new Mentor Program for members. While our regular club competitions offer a great opportunity to see and hear feedback on images, some members may also want to have a more personalized image critique session.

For those Club members that would like to have images critiqued by one of our Master level members, please contact Chris Loffredo (see the club's website for my info) via email to participate. I will partner you with a MHWPC Master (new advanced level also announced at the March meeting). We have some Masters that are professional nature photographers that have volunteered to help start the Mentor program.

The first step is to exchange contact information of email and phone numbers. The member should also meet the Mentor at a club meeting. Feel free to introduce yourself or see me. I will be happy to introduce you to the Mentor. Please see me before a meeting or during the break.

The Member may then submit a maximum of 15 images to the Mentor. This will most likely be done via email or on a CD, but it's up to the Mentor and the Member to work out the details. For viewing images on the computer screen, file sizes may be significantly reduced. The minimum you need is 72 dpi and 7 inches on the longest side. Larger files are OK but they take up more room on a disk and may exceed email program attachment size limits. If you are unsure about how to resize your photos, please either see the club's instructions for resizing images for our

digital competition on our website or contact the Mentor. Please make sure the images have names that will be easy for you and the Mentor to follow. Images should be of nature subjects, consistent with the club's guidelines.

The next step is to arrange a live personal phone conversation to critique the images. Both the Member and the Mentor should have the images open on their computer during the review session. While some may prefer a face to face sit down, the logistics and time involved really do not make that practical. Such would only inhibit the process of providing as much assistance as possible. The theme of this critique should be along the lines of what makes it a good or bad image and how could it be made better. The Mentor should give open and honest feedback to make it a true learning experience. The Mentor may also be able to give you some basic Photoshop tips and instruction too. But please realize this gets harder to do over the phone with more advanced Photoshop techniques. Please make sure to tell the Mentor, what image viewing/process software you have. If you don't have anything, I would highly recommend you get a copy of Photoshop Elements. Elements is a "light" version of Photoshop that does all the basic photo adjustments as well as many of the advanced process and typically sells for \$100 or less.

MHWPC reserves the right to change the program rules as we go along. We need volunteers to make this program be successful and we have to be respectful of their time as well as to make the program available to as many Members as possible. We will ask that members please limit their Mentor critiques to no more than 2 per year.

The Digital Group

There is a small group of members that have formed what is referred to as The Digital Group. The group was started by several individuals who do digital photography, and post work with Photoshop and other programs to enhance,

repair and perform other manipulations to the digital files. We formed the group to allow each of us to learn from the other members and grow in our knowledge of digital photography and its many uses. We primarily concentrate on Photoshop, and some of the other programs that can be used in conjunction with it. There is such a great capability within Photoshop and each member has specific interests and things they use it for, so we each do presentations on those areas to the rest of the group, to help us all learn more about the program and what it can do, and apply those techniques to our own photography.

We would like to open up the opportunity to other members of the MHWPC to join us, and find out what kind of interest there might be. We meet at Russ Burden's house now, on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Because of space restrictions, we must limit the attendance to 15 people. Some of our members have dropped out because of time conflicts, moving away, etc. so we have a couple openings at this time. We would like you to sign up with Russ if you are interested and give us some idea of your experience with Photoshop. You should have a fair amount of experience that you can bring to the group, it is not really a beginners group. Every member is expected to do a presentation and offer additional input if they can. It is an open discussion type setting where we all contribute. The intent is to help each other grow and learn from the others.

If you are interested, contact Russ so we get you on a list. rburden@ecentral.com Please realize that with becoming a member of this group, a strong commitment to it has to be made. This entails attendance at every meeting unless there is an emergency or you're traveling. If you're out of town a lot, this would be a deal breaker. You must be able to meet on the fourth Wed of every month, except December. In November, we change the date depending on Thanksgiving. Finally, you must feel comfortable with making a 30 minute presentation to the group every third or fourth month. The group members learn new techniques and tricks via the presentations that each of us do. On any one given night, there are three presentations.

Getting to Know You...

Steve Goodman



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

I've been doing it since I was a kid, although not seriously until a few years ago. I grew up in Montreal where the saying is "The only wildlife in Montreal are the hockey players." We camped in the Laurentian though, so I got to see a lot of nature. That's really far north with a bunch of moose wandering around; you only need to get chased down by an elk once before you realize there's some pretty neat stuff out there. There weren't a lot of good cameras then, I mean the 35mm were great if you were good photographer to begin with and had time. I never had the time for it. When I was in medical school – a real busy time in my life - I had a Kodak camera that did everything automatically – so I basically got out of it what I put in to it, which is not much. When we came here in 1965, I got better and better cameras, but I was still not serious about it because I was so busy. Then about six or seven years ago I got an award for something and it came with a cash prize - found money as it were, so I decided to upgrade my camera, and lenses. Bought a Minolta Maxim 7 with a really good lens and the more I got into photography the more it mushroomed. I think good lenses improve good photos by quantum leaps. When you start getting decent images you realize you can improve and set goals for yourself.

2. What piece of camera gear is next on your wish list?

No big wish list right now, I've got all that I want right now, but if somebody comes out with an improved 500 or 600 lens, I might get it. My big wish list is for destinations. I'd like to go back to South Georgia Island (where Shackleton went after they got stranded in the Antarctic) - one of most magnificent places on earth, something about that place, is beyond belief. I'd go back to the Falklands. One place to go back to for

magnificent landscape is Patagonia. Kodiak and Kamchatka are also on my to-see list.

3. What's your favorite photo shoot story?

That happened kind of early, on one of my first trips to Africa. I was on a tour of Kenya, led by Adam Jones, (a well-known Canon contract shooter), and we were in Nakuru. We came around a bend, in our Jeeps, and found we had this lion racing at us, and just behind him was a herd of Cape buffalo chasing him. He had obviously been circling the herd, looking for a free meal. Well, they chased him, and as he neared us, he veered off to one side and scooted up a tree. All of were clicking away like mad at this poor lion in a tree surrounded by a bunch of buffalo looking like "Okay, mother, what do I do now?" Oh, yeah, there was also the time in Kodiak when I almost stepped on a baby grizzly curled up in the brush - not a fun situation because its mom was right there sleeping.

4. How did you create your most memorable photograph?

The lion and Cape buffalo was it, I think. I've never looked at what I do as being terribly creative; I think landscape guys do the creative stuff. All I have to do is be in the right place at the right time, I'm at the mercy of what the animals and birds are going to do. I do try to look at an area and see what's okay, what could work, where the sun is going to be and hope to hell something is going to come into sight. I don't see myself as terribly creative, but what I think I have learned is to compose an image properly, so I don't have to crop to make it right. Definitely want to learn more about composition and what draws the eye to into a landscape.

5. What's the first thing you tell newcomers or interested folks about Camera Club?

I've told a few people that there's a group of people in there that are amazingly good - just phenomenal. All you have to do is just sit around and listen to these guys and you'll learn a lot, watch the competition, listens to the critiques, and don't get carried away by their final conclusions. Don't worry about the number

because that's subjective, what they are talking about in the critiques, now that is objective. So don't get discouraged by low scores or elated by high ones, listen to the details.

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

My prime thing is being a pediatrician and biochemical geneticist at the University of Colorado, at the Fitzsimmons campus. I run a lab there. I've been doing this for 43 years - teaching and practicing in a small corner of medicine. Mostly what I do is research. The usual way people come in contact with me is when they have baby who is getting screened for a number of diseases. Lots of diseases are a result of body biochemistry that goes awry. If we can detect abnormalities early, before they have created something irreversible, investigate them, treat patients with them, then we have a better chance of success. We operate a lab that gets samples from all around the world. Well, I'm trying to prepare for retirement, but I still like it too much. What I would miss is the daily preoccupation with unanswered questions. There's a disease discovered 30 years ago that I've been thinking about every day for the past 30 years. My guess is that I'll still do some of it even if I retire. I can't see myself walking away from it totally; I'll be doing it until I can't ask the questions anymore.

Ron Eberhart



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

When I was a kid I was into fishing and hunting and lots of things like that. Guess you could say I've always been outdoors and

pretty interested in wildlife. I'm a Colorado native and I've done a lot traveling all over Western US. I got my first camera early in my adolescence - a Brownie Instamatic which shot 127 film; definitely got the photography bug then. One of my first self-assignments was to

document the Denver flood of 1965 which flooded an area close to our house. My dad was shooting with a Minolta when I was in high school, so I played around with his quite a bit. I didn't get my own until I was in the service. That was when I got pretty serious about some other kinds of photograph. Bought a telephoto lens and joined a camera club there in North Dakota.

2. What piece of camera gear is next on your wish list?

I've been shooting a lot of digital lately and I use a Minolta D7, so I think my next piece of equipment would be a Sony A700. Eventually I'd like to upgrade to ultrasonic telephoto lenses which have a faster autofocus feature.

3. What's your favorite photo shoot story?

When I was in Wyoming with a group doing a wild horse shoot, we'd found a pack of about 45 wild horses and five of them became extremely curious about me. Their ears perked up every time my shutter would go off. I had set up where I could get some good shots of them when they did a false charge (although I didn't know it was a false charge right at that moment) and they started coming right at me, and I'm thinking "What do I do? I can't out run 'em..." so, I just stood there and kept shooting. The image I got just as they stopped was published in 2001 in National Geographic Traveler. It was a fabulous moment, but, yeah, kinda frightening.

4. How did you create your most memorable photograph?

One of my favorite photos was one I created on a trip with Russ to Hunts Mesa. I shoot panoramic and I have a wonderful panoramic of a sunrise there that is fourteen frames long covering roughly 140 degrees of angle. It was certainly one of those moments you don't want to ever forget. Creating panoramic to me is much more artistic than a point-and-shoot single picture. There's a lot of creativity in the process of stitching all those images together. The Hunts Mesa sunrise took about thirty seconds to shoot. My largest panoramic includes 110 images and took about 30 minutes to shoot.

5. What’s the first thing you tell newcomers or interested folks about Camera Club?

I encourage them to participate. The amount of talent in this club is phenomenal, just unbelievable. I always encourage people to get involved in other things like joining NANPA, competing in Nature’s Best. I want to encourage newcomers to participate in the mentoring program; it can help them become great because there is such a great pool of talent to help them along.

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

I’m involved in a lot of things. By trade I’m a systems analyst, and my wife and I love to figure skate. We train and compete in pairs skating. We also love to ballroom dance and, of course, travel. We definitely plan on going to Ouray for spring flowers and hope do a fall colors tour.

Eric Moore



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

I really started getting into photography seriously around 2000 when I decided to take it to the next level, now I have a part-time photography business. My wife and I moved to Denver from Washington D.C. in July of 2007 – it was a quality of life move, five hours of commuting daily rips the soul out of body, ya know. I love landscape, I’ve always been a fan of Ansel Adams, and love Art Wolfe’s images. They all are just inspiring to look at and I want to see the places they photograph. Initially I tried to imitate them but now I’ve developed my own style.

2. What piece of camera gear is next on your wish list?

Well, I finally switched to digital in 2006, when I bought a Canon 20 D, I’d like to jump up to the 5D sometime this year.

3. What’s your favorite photo shoot story?

No one story particularly, but my favorite shooting trip was in 2003 when we went to South Africa. Started in Cape Town, and then drove to Namibia where we spent most of our time. It’s just such an incredible place to visit. Met with lions, tigers, and had some great abstract photo opportunities - incredible sand dunes, just a spectacular place to visit! The Namib Desert - the oldest desert in the world, offers fantastic surreal abstract shots like their sand dunes, they’re 1000 feet high, and have a strong apricot glow to them at sunrise and sunset, I have a website (www.ebmphotography.com) which has some of those pictures.

4. How did you create your most memorable photograph?

My most memorable photographs are always accidents. One of those pictures – the one selected for Nature’s Best, for instance, was taken in Death Valley, down at what’s called “the race track area” where moving rock leaves trails on the crusted ground. I went to shoot that, and that in itself was a neat experience, but as I was leaving for the day and it was starting to get dark, I dropped a piece of gear and when I went to pick it up, I glanced over my shoulder and saw the grandstand of the race track in this amazing silhouette. I had my 35mm then, and was shooting with Velvia, I dropped a three stop grad filter on to my lens, and started looking through the view finder thinking “Man, that’s a great shot!” The best shots are things you never planned on, you know. It was a unique and special experience - plus it’s a bear to get to that place, three hours on a horrible road!

5. What’s the first thing you tell newcomers or interested folks about Camera Club?

First thing is that I never knew about this club until the Nature’s Best article and saw all this fantastic stuff. Back in D.C. there are a lot of

photo clubs but mostly they are filled with novices - which is fine since you get to work with people and get to share stuff. Still, looking at everybody's photography in this club, it's just amazing - the vastness of the talent in one group!

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

Actually, I'm an electrical engineer with the Bureau of Reclamation where we are doing all the 9/11 security upgrades to the federal dams. I've got two boys who are my other two hobbies. They are 17 and 3, so there's never a dull moment.

From the Webmaster

The MHWPC Website: www.mhwpc.org

Would you like to receive email notices when competition image submission windows open? Would you like to receive email notices about upcoming meetings? Do you have a photography-related website and want a link to it in order to drive traffic to it? Have you moved or changed email accounts lately? Would you like to post a picture of yourself to be included in the online Membership Directory?

If you answered yes to any of the above, login to your MHWPC website account and go to your Manage Account page. The "Login" button is tucked away in the extreme upper right corner of each page, and after you login, a "Manage Account" link will appear at the very top of the page.

On the Manage Account page, you can update your contact information, control the amount of contact information that is shown to other club members, add a picture of yourself, edit your email preferences (to receive notices or not), and add a link to your photo-related website.

If you and your family member(s) have different contact information, like individual phone numbers or email addresses, you can add this information by adding an additional family

member in the "Other Family Members" section of your Manage Account page. All members of the family share the same account (membership status) and physical address, and each member can have his or her own name, phone number, and email address.

In order to prevent spam filters from intercepting emails from the system, add "system@mhwpc.org" to your list of approved email addresses. Emails that are sent through email lists retain the "from" and "reply-to" information of the original sender.

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

Library News from the Lamb's



Welcome to spring – a fresh time to take new pictures, visit new places, or revisit old ones, and to learn more about your hobby or job. We've got many items to get you thinking!!!! Check

out a DVD on Arches National Park or one that includes the Circle route – Arches, Canyonlands, Grand Canyon etc. There are so many possibilities. Remember, club members have trips scheduled to some of them. We have a new book called The Joy of Photography that you might like to check out. Also, thanks to club members for donations. The Illg's have donated a video and DVD of their Texas adventures. Also, if you have books out please check them in with me. Please note – if you see anything –i.e. books, magazines below the library display, please do not take them. I lost a couple of magazines which were supposed to go into our collection from under the table. Extend your knowledge, refresh your memories, and stop by and see us at the May meeting.

Joe and Betsy Lamb
inblamb@comcast.net or 303-841-2565

Workshops and Seminars

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

Destinations include:

- 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

- 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.

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

- Bats in Aug 2008: shoot bats in flight in a controlled setting, Arizona, Aug 30- Sept 3
- Kenya in Oct 2008: Classic safari to Samburu and Masai Mara National Reserves, 16 days, Oct 16-31

- Winter Wildlife in Jan 2009: wildlife models in winter (wolf, Siberian tiger, snow leopard, mountain lion, lynx ...), Montana, Jan 25-29

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

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Special Programs/Field Trips:

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Competition Scoring: *Chris Loffredo*

Competition Entries/Judging Coordinator:

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BOARD of DIRECTORS

Rita Summers * Russ Burden

Chuck Winter * Fi Rust * Frank Weston

May Meeting

Wednesday May 14

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: Digital

April Attendance: 55
