

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

July 2008 Volume 32, Issue 7

Patterns in Nature by Russ Burden

*From wildlife to landscapes, mother nature bestows
the human eye with spectacular beauty.*

Mother nature bestows the human eye with spectacular beauty. The crashing surf along a coast at sunset, majestic mountain ranges of rugged splendor, rolling hills of prairie farmland, and sandstone arches that decorate the Southwest are but a few of the glorious features to which we travel to treat our eyes to Natural grandeur. Photographic icons such as Delicate Arch adorn the license plate of Utah while visions of The Grand Teton entice many to make the journey to Jackson Hole. While these incredible testaments to nature certainly amaze even the casual viewer, Mother Nature also works her magic on much smaller creations. To the discerning eye, natural beauty appears everywhere. It just needs to be noticed.

Become an Observer

While driving at 50 mph, even the Grand Teton is magnificent. Unfortunately, this is the way too many visitors to the park see the range. But as photographers, we know better. We get there for sunrise and sunset and photograph the range in magnificent light. But how many of us stop to look north and south at the other amazing

peaks? How many look down at our feet to see if something photogenic lurks near our toes? Many of us go there in the fall to catch the aspens at their peak, but how many walk up to the trees to get a close up view of the veining in the leaves and the subtle compositions of a leaf grouping on the end of a branch? Look past the obvious and you'll be surprised how many memory cards you can fill with patterns in nature.



© Russ Burden

In the image of the sand dune ripples and yucca that accompanies this article, what I set out to photograph was a grand scenic of the dune field in late light. The sky was beautiful and the field of dunes in White Sands National Monument was pristine. I

made the obvious shot but then I became an observer. I thought to myself, what else can I photograph that may make a nice image. The yucca fronds grabbed my attention so I got a bit closer and zoomed my lens. All of a sudden, the ripples became more pronounced and I noticed the shadow in addition to the small rise in the sand to the right of the yucca. I put myself into a position to create the image seen here. By simply studying the scene, I walked away with an additional pattern image.



© Russ Burden

Becoming an observer of patterns certainly played a huge role in acquiring the image of the cottonwood catkin. There's a city park about fifty minutes from my home where foxes frequent. I made a pre-sunrise trip to capture them in early light. The only problem was the foxes never

revealed themselves. Rather than throwing in the towel, while I continued to look for a sign of a fox, I also opened my eyes to other options. As it was springtime, the cottonwoods in the area were beginning to bud. Out of curiosity, I approached a low hanging limb and a world of patterns and color opened up. Again, the observer in me proved to be beneficial in finding a nice pattern in nature.



© Russ Burden

At The Last Meeting...



© Charles G. Summers, Jr.

Charlie Summers gave an extensive slide show presentation of images, taken by both he and Rita Summers, of wildlife and the thinning glaciers of Antarctica.



© Charles G. Summers, Jr.

Members previewed the club's TWE Exhibit, "*The Decisive Moment*", which opened to the public on June 12th.



Order Your Club Polo Shirt

Contact Rita Summers at 303-840-3355, or ritasummers@hotmail.com, to place an order for your club polo shirt. The shirts are available **FREE** for 2007 active members who have also paid their dues for 2008. If you joined the club in 2008 the polo shirts are available for \$10.00.

“the Medium is the Message”

by Tammy Hammond

July marks the end of an era for MHWPC as we close a chapter on the Print and Slides competition. Those of us who no longer shoot film have archived our slides and moved full time into digital technology, this has been the steady and inevitable direction of our club. Naturally, digital capture comes packaged with a whole new learning curve of the medium we use for presentation, a learning curve complicated by technology that frequently changes.

Marshall McLuhan demonstrated that the medium itself, even an object as simple as a light bulb, is the true conveyor of information, more so than the actual subject or content of the information. Thus emerged McLuhan's coined term, “*the medium is the message*”. Masters like Ansel Adams exemplified this concept when describing his study of the printing process as “*trying to breathe expressive life into the negative...*”

Expressive life is our common thread as photographers and the medium used for presentation unquestionably imprints upon our senses. Consider the descriptive comments of club members who traveled to Washington, DC, to view MHWPC's winning images in the Nature's Best exhibition at the Smithsonian: “Amazing,” “*Lingering Awe,*” “*No Words Describe,*” “*Pride,*” “*Thrilling.*” A narrative of the event which appears on the Nature's Best website reads, “*The evening of October 30, 2007, will remain in the hearts and minds of all who attended the Nature's Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards exhibition... it was a night of passion for nature....*”

Yes, as we archive our slides and move full time into digital presentation, look closely and explore medium as Ansel Adams explored the printing process. Bring to each meeting your thoughts, questions, ideas, and knowledge as we incorporate another component of our passion to make the experience indescribable.

JULY WILL BE THE LAST SLIDE/PRINT COMPETITION

New Competition Schedule

Wildlife and Open

January
March
May
July
September
November

Scenic and Hand-of-Man Wildlife

February
April
June
August
October

December – holiday party - no competition

CHANGES TO COMPETITION CATEGORIES AND COMPETITION RULES WILL BE POSTED ON THE MHWPC WEBSITE FOLLOWING THE JULY 9TH MEETING

www.mhwpc.org



Georgia Hart, Sherry Timm, Shannon Holmes *photo courtesy of Chuck Winter*

Mount Evans

On June 7th club members braved high winds on Mount Evans in search of mountain goats. Goats were scarce but the marmots plentiful.

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.

American Basin, Lake City

Wildflowers

Jul 18-20

Yankee Boy Basin, Ouray

Wildflowers

Jul 25-26

(Group leader needed, or, self-guided)

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

August 9

Maroon Bells

Sep 19-21

Rocky Mountain National Park

Sep 26-28

Scavenger Hunt (Roger Kinney)

Oct TBA - tentative

Bosque del Apache NWR

Nov 27-30

Rocky Mountain National Park

Big Horn Sheep Rut

Dec 20

Braggin Rights...

Hannah Rhodes' image, Mule Deer Doe and Fawn, was a winner in the Nature's Best Backyard Photography Contest.

Cathy and Gordon Illig will have a cover, Opossum Baby, for the October issue of National Geographic Young Explorers Magazine.

Upcoming Programs

July:

"One-on-One Round Robin" digital training class
Presenters: Bruce Norman and Fred Krampetz.

Additional presentation on preparing images for competitions, etc., contingent on projector availability. Presenter: Russ Burden

August:

"What I got with my Point and Shoot!" Collect your point-and-shoot images that show the high quality of work that can come from a simple digital point and shoot camera. Submission process TBA in the August newsletter. Images will need to be sent to Chuck Winter (regular club submission guidelines) or brought to the meeting on a CD (NOT DVD) or a flash drive. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!!!

Of Interest...

Morning Photography at the Denver Zoo, 7a.m. shoot, is being offered on July 12th and August 17th.
<http://www.denverzoo.org/photography/default.asp>

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal has reopened.

The 17th Annual National Juried Photography Show, presented by the Louisville Art Association, in Louisville, is open June 29th through July 6th.
<http://www.louisvilleart.org>

June Competition Results

Judge: Cathy Sheeter

Wildlife



1st Place
Bighorn Ram
James Hagar

- 2nd *Lion Licking Chops* James Hagar
- 3rd *African Elephant Herd* Charlie Summers
- HM *Mother and Baby Elephants* Chuck Summers
- HM *Immature Gyrfalcon* Fi Rust
- HM *Baby Elephant* Jan Forseth
- HM *Lion with Shaggy Ruff* Rita Summers

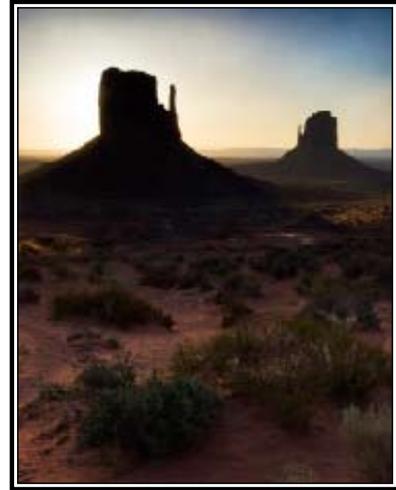
Open



1st Place
Frigicle
Bruce Norman

- 2nd *Gerbrera Daisy* Eric Moore

Scenic



1st Place
Navajo Country
Dick York

- 2nd *Mt Kilimanjaro* Chuck Summers
- 3rd *Mono Lake* Eric Moore
- HM *Tear Drop Arch* Eric Moore
- HM *Dunefire* Reb Babcock

Wildlife – HoM

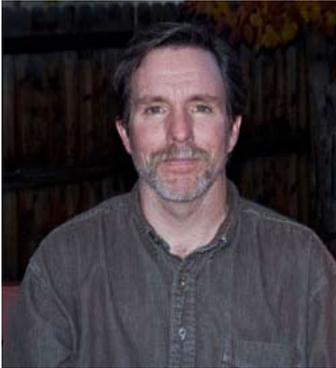


1st Place
Hungry Predator
Jan Forseth

- 2nd *Butterfly Sampling* Brenda Fletcher
- 3rd *Official Use* Bruce Norman
- HM *Gentoo Penguin with Frame* Rita Summers

Getting to Know You...

Russ Shugart



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

Let's see, I've been into hiking, biking, and backcountry skiing forever, so photography was a way to bring it home, to experience it at home and at the office. I've been trying to get better than just snap shots in the last six to seven years. I started with a Canon AE1, but I bought a Nikon D100 thinking that with digital I wouldn't have to pay for the crappy pictures while I learned, and then I would buy a film camera, but... I ended up with the D200.

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

A 24-70 2.8 - one of Nikon's new lenses. I bought the 12-24 although I'm not used to something that wide.

3. What's your favorite photo shoot story?

I'm not sure about my favorite story but I can tell you the most fun I've ever had on a trip was last Fall when my wife and I went to Dallas Divide, Molas Pass, and McClure Pass. We left the kids at home and went wandering around Colorado for five days. She brought her book and enjoyed not having the kids (ages 19 and 16) around and I enjoyed photographing the scenery.

4. How did you create your most memorable photograph?

One of the ones I liked a lot, a version of which is in the TWE Exhibit, is of Piney Lake ten miles north of Vail. I was up there with my dad, and had my tripod and my remote release and got, I think, a pretty nice reflection shot. Working

for the State Patrol has sent me all around Colorado and I've seen more than ever before even though I'm a Colorado native. Once I got a beautiful sunset down around Durango, but I can't tell you how I did it because that was before I really knew what I was doing.

5. Whose photography has influenced you the most?

Three people: David Muench, Galen Rowell, and Charlie Brown. I get more out of those three than anybody I can think of. I'm especially drawn to Rowell, because of his climbing - until a year ago I was a real avid rock climber.

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

I work in the IT Department for the Colorado State Patrol. For fun, I like mountain biking, backcountry skiing, back packing and rock climbing.

Carolyn Derrington-Tate

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



I usually tell people, the first time I did anything with photography was when I was working on my Girl Scout badge in photography. In high school I was a cheerleader for the basket ball team, and I often took pictures at the games. At the end of year the yearbook kids came to me and said "...you were they only one who took pictures and can we have them?" Many, many years later, I worked up nerve to take a look and see how horrible they were, but

I was pleasantly surprised by how good they were. I've always been fascinated by nature. I grew up in the country around small towns in the Midwest and South. At that time I had an instamatic camera and I shot mostly with slide film. Bought my first real SLR in 1976, a Minolta SRT101, and a fairly unsuccessful effort to get good close-ups of flowers near Centennial airport convinced me to start taking some classes, and experiment. I moved on to the Nikon N70, and have evolved into the Nikon D100 and D200.

Wish list?

Probably the D300. I've got the Nikon N80 for shooting film when I'm doing portraits in my outdoor studio.

3. What's your favorite photo shoot story?

One comes to mind: on a grizzly bear photo shoot in Alaska with Michael Francis we were assembled in a sand bar area along a river shooting a grizzly mom and her cub digging for clams. Now I usually never stood on the end of this line of photographers, I usually stood next to Michael who had the pepper spray. But this one time I was out at the end of the line, my LowePro pack was on the sand at my feet. On my tripod was the camera with the 500mm lens, around my neck hung the N80 with the 80-200 lens. Well, this mom finally takes notice of us and begins to walk toward us. Michael said, "Everyone move now." So we pick up our tripods and move left about 10 feet. I realized I left my bag on the ground, and I looked at the mom and cub, and looked at my bag, and I decided to stay where I was. She headed straight for the bag, Michael asked, "Do you have food in the bag?" I told him no. The mom went to the bag, took one claw, hooked it and began to drag it toward the water. Michael came up behind me and said to the bear, "That's not yours. Leave it alone. Get out of here." She let go of the bag, turned and walked away and her cub followed her. There was no evidence on the bag that she had touched it. Of course, no one got a picture

of any of this episode.

4. How did you create a memorable photograph?

This is a slide film story, not a digital story. It was the first pro shoot I had ever gone on. The official shoot had ended in the morning, and now it was a beautiful Sunday afternoon in North Dakota. Three of us had found a band of horses that moved from directly in front of us to an area behind an outcropping. We were standing around waiting for them to return when I saw something in the grass. I walked closer and a little head came up. It was this little foal. He had raised his head and sat in the most serene beautiful pose with legs stretched out in front of him, looking at us with those beautiful blue eyes, and, luckily, the light was just perfect. The three of us were able to watch this foal as it woke up completely, stood, looked around, posed, and moved again before he finally realized he's alone, then he started running back and forth whinnying. It was actually an hour and a half before the mother did get back to him.

5. Whose photography has influenced you the most?

When I was teaching full time, I would say I would like to be like Ansel Adams, but books by David Muench and Tom Mangelsen have influenced me. Mangelsen had a kiosk at Stapleton Airport, and when I traveled to visit relatives I loved going through Stapleton because his photography inspired me.

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

I've retired from teaching high school English and now get to enjoy my pets (two cats and a dog). I enjoy traveling – visiting family in Washington state and Wisconsin. I do enjoy going to the mountains and just walking and I enjoy reading fiction for the book club I belong

to, although I read a lot of non-fiction. I also love putzing around my garden – keeping up flora around my house for the studio. I'm active in my church, as well.

Dale Honerman



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

I was a junior in high school in 1970 when I spent the summer on a Coast Guard icebreaker (the Southwind) going up the coast of Greenland. It was incredible up there braking ice and seeing all the millions and millions

of birds, the glaciers, the icebergs! I had an Ansco 126, a tiny plastic camera held together with Elmer's glue and shooting with those 126 film cartridges. It was my first real exposure to nature even though I was from California. In fact, I grew up 100 miles from Yosemite and had to go to Greenland to discover nature. I never knew the mountains were there. I finally discovered Yosemite when I was 19.

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

I shoot with an Olympus E1 digital SLR 5 megapixels and I love it. I had Canon for 28 years, until we stopped in Great Basin National Park. I saw a shot that I got excited about and my wife was driving too fast (or so I say). Anyway, it was the first time I didn't have my camera strapped around my neck. My wife calls it "the great Freudian drop." Well, I was wanting a digital camera, anyway. Guess I would like to get a good strobe or a fancier body maybe the E3 to get a 10 megapixel.

3. What's your favorite photo shoot story?

Initially I started out as a hiker, backpacker and I just brought the camera along, now it's the photography that's number one and I hike and backpack to get to the locations I want to shoot. I was use to going up to Yosemite Valley all the time, with my old camera, going at odd times and packing a lot of miles in during snowstorms, but by the time I got my digital we were living in Kansas City. There really aren't many animals around Kansas City so I ended up roaming the prairies and have one of the best grasshopper photo collections ever.

4. How did you create your most memorable photograph?

A lot of it was pure luck. Once, in 1975, I was at Mt. Rainier on a day before the first winter snowfall. The resulting shot looks like a painting: there's this thin, opaque cloud layer of an incoming front, with autumn light and autumn color. I used a 28mm lens shooting at 1/100th. Mystical.

5. Whose photography has influenced you the most?

Ansel Adams.

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

I'm a cartographer. I still do a lot of hiking and gardening, although with our move to Colorado we only have a postage-sized lot so I can do more hiking.

Hospitality for July Meeting

A big thank you from all of us!

Snacks: Doug Landin

Drinks: Nancy Stocker

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

Hi Everyone,

We hope that your picture taking is going well. Come and check out something new from the library and learn something new. If you have anything out return it to us at the next meeting. We were glad to see some new members checking out materials. See you in July!!!



The Lamb's

Contact Joe and Betsy at 303-841-2565 or jnblamb@comcast.net.

Digital Corner: Photoshop Tips

Speedy Zoom Navigation

Hit **Z** to select zoom tool. Drag cursor to zoom-in close on work area. Hold spacebar to access Hand tool and drag to navigate around your zoomed-in image. Hold **Ctrl** [⌘ MAC] key with spacebar to bring up zoom-in cursor and **Alt** [⌥ MAC] with spacebar for zoom-out cursor.

Workshops and Seminars

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

Destinations include:

- 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

- 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

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Library: Betsy Lamb 303-841-2565

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Rita Summers * Russ Burden
Chuck Winter * Fi Rust * Frank Weston

July Meeting

Wednesday July 9

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: Prints and Slides

July will be the LAST slide/print competition

June Attendance: 52

Please send your articles and input to
newsletter@mhwpc.org.