

# Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

February 2010

Volume 34, Number 02

## Favorite Places - South Dakota's Black Hills

by Chris Frazier

One area of the country I've always wanted to visit – especially since moving to Colorado ten years ago – has been the Black Hills region of South Dakota. Within an easy day's drive from Denver, the Black Hills area offers photographers a wealth of subjects. The Great Plains comes up to the eastern edge of the Black Hills, offering panoramic vistas of grasslands and rolling hills. Unusual rock formations, winding country roads, rural ranchlands and farming, several parks and monuments, and abundant wildlife all provide plenty to see and photograph.

Custer State Park is the centerpiece of the region for nature and wildlife photographers. Created in 1919, the park is one of the premiere state parks in the United States. Its 71,000 acres, roughly covering the area between Wind Cave National Park and Mount Rushmore, are home to wildlife such as pronghorn antelope, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, deer, elk, wild turkeys, and a band of friendly burros. A variety of birds and smaller animals – including bald eagles – make their home in the park. Most notable is the herd of bison – numbering approximately 1,500 animals. Custer may be the best place in the nation to get bison photographs. Most of the park is accessible by car, but the park also offers many miles of trails to get away from the crowd and photograph nature up close. Several lakes in the park add to the scenery.

Three roads offer different experiences. The Wildlife Loop covers the rolling hill country in the park, and is the most likely drive to find the bison herds. Individual bison or small groups can be found anywhere, but there's nothing like coming



around a turn or over a rise on the wildlife loop and finding hundreds of bison. The Needles Highway offers views of the more mountainous part of the park, including the unusual rock spires that give the road its name. Iron Mountain Road, in my opinion, offers the best route to Mount Rushmore. The road is the least used of the three scenic routes, and we saw plenty of pronghorn, deer, and burros on our drive. As you descend towards Rushmore, the road goes through three short tunnels, including one that frames the monument in the distance. The road is also known for the 'pigtail bridges' that corkscrew around each other.

While obviously not a nature destination, Mount Rushmore is certainly worth some time on a visit to the Black Hills. One note for the photographer – Mount Rushmore is a morning place. Not taking note of the location and facing, I was there in late afternoon with the sun above and behind the

president's faces, and left with average photographs at best. On a future trip, I look forward to a morning visit here. Heading back towards the town of Custer, the Crazy Horse Memorial offers a chance to see a second rock carving under construction.

Wind Cave National Park is only a few miles south of Custer. The cave is the fourth-largest cave system in the United States, and offers photographers a different kind of environment and locale to record. The cave is well-known for the unusual, delicate 'box work' formations. There are several tours available, from easy to more strenuous. On my visit, however, I found the 28,000



acres of the park above ground most interesting. Two state highways traverse the park, as well as two improved dirt roads quite suitable for passenger cars. These roads offer an excellent opportunity to get away from almost all of the crowds – we saw only three other vehicles in over two hours. Wind Cave sits in rolling hill country and has some great views and panoramas. You can get a feel for how the area must have been like before development and civilization came. The park also has its own bison herd – we found several small herds of a couple dozen animals just waiting to be photographed. Pronghorn antelope seem much less disturbed by humans here. And there are plenty of prairie dogs living on the real prairie – instead of the suburban setting we so frequently see them in here in Colorado.

If the underground world of Wind Cave suites your interest, Jewel Cave National Monument is about 35



miles away, west of the town of Custer. This is a completely different cave 'feel' from Wind Cave.

The Black Hills offer plenty, but day trips outside the immediate area can expand the photographic possibilities. Badlands National Park is about a two hour drive east. The park has quite a different feel from the Black Hills – a desert-like environment of sculpted hills, rock formations, and outcroppings. Still lots to photograph - I would plan on at least 4-6 hours in the park, making it a full day excursion for most. Watch out for rattlesnakes!

Northwest of the Black Hills, Devils Tower National Monument offers a destination for another day trip.

It's also easily possible to plan a route to and from the Black Hills with photographic stops on the way. We chose to take highway 52 north from Fort Morgan, which passes within a few miles of the Pawnee Buttes. Continuing north in Nebraska allows a stop at Scotts Bluff National Monument, a



great place for some photographs and learning about the wagon trails used in the 1800's. Our return trip was via Wyoming state highway 85, with a stop at Fort Laramie National Historic Site. With so much to see, I look forward to additional trips to South Dakota's Black Hills!

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.sdgfp.info/parks/Regions/Custer/Index.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/wica/index.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/badl/index.htm>

<http://www.travelsd.com/>



## Hospitality for the February Meeting

**Rita Summers** - Cookies/Snacks

**Ken Marler** - Beverages

## Mile High Travels and Tag Along Trips

### Club Field Trip!

Saturday March 6th

9:00 AM – noon or thereabouts.

Ron Eberhart will conduct a hands on demonstration of Panoramic techniques at the lake near his home which will include.

- 1.What equipment is necessary and various variations.
2. What is the nodal point, how do I see it, how do I measure it.
3. How do I visualize the panoramic.
4. How to setup your camera for the shoot.
5. How to determine how many frames to shoot and how to actually shoot them.
6. Various field problems to deal with.
7. We won't actually stitch photos on the outing, but will discuss some.

Hunters Glenn Lake in Hunters Glenn Park

East of Washington Street on 128th Street

We will distribute maps at the meeting.

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Chris Frazier is planning on a sunrise excursion to the Pawnee Buttes sometime in late May or early June. If interested in coming along, please call 303-356-2399.

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Invite your fellow club members on your next photo excursion! All you need is to provide is WHO – WHAT – WHERE – WHEN!

Anyone interested in Mile High Travels or Tag-Along Trips can contact Chuck Winter.(303)972-2538, [cwinter80127@gmail.com](mailto:cwinter80127@gmail.com), or, [cwinter@mii-rmcc.com](mailto:cwinter@mii-rmcc.com). Future trips can also be submitted to the newsletter for inclusion in the next edition. For short -notice trips, consider posting a blog on the club website!

**SHARE THE FUN—JOIN THE FUN—ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE**

## Nature's Best 2010 Photography Competition Is Here!

### A Correction and an Addition:

*Nature's Best wants the high-res images in a different format this year, and incorrect information was given in the January Newsletter. The high-res files should be 300 ppi and be the largest file available without up-sizing from the original capture.*

*Nature's Best has added a new category for the competition: African Wildlife. See the Nature's Best Guidelines at:*

*[www.naturesbestphotography.com/upload/contest\\_pdf/Guidelines\\_NBPAwards2010.pdf](http://www.naturesbestphotography.com/upload/contest_pdf/Guidelines_NBPAwards2010.pdf), a PDF file.*

It's that time of the year again for the club to prepare an entry for the Nature's Best Photography competition in the photography club category. When we win, selected images will appear in Nature's Best Photography Magazine and be displayed in the Smithsonian. It's an exciting way for your images to get worldwide recognition.

To create our submission of twenty (20) images, each club member may submit up to eight (8) images to be considered. Each image must fit into one of the following categories: Animal Antics, Art In Nature, Birds, Creative Digital, Endangered Species, Environmental Issues, Landscape, Oceans, People In Nature, Plant Life, Small World Spectaculars, Weather, Wildlife, Zoos & Aquariums. (More information about the categories is available at [www.naturesbestphotography.com/upload/contest\\_pdf/Guidelines\\_NBPAwards2010.pdf](http://www.naturesbestphotography.com/upload/contest_pdf/Guidelines_NBPAwards2010.pdf), a PDF file.)

All photographs must accurately reflect the subject matter as it appeared in the viewfinder. Nothing should be added to an image, and aside from dust spots, nothing should be taken away. Normal processing of RAW image files and minor adjustments to color and contrast are acceptable, as is minimal cropping. EXCEPTIONS: Anything goes in the Creative Digital category! Stitched panoramas may be entered in any category, but they must be identified.

Submit your images on CD or DVD at the February meeting or mail them so they arrive on or before February 10, 2010 to:

Russ Burden  
2323 E. Chesapeake Lane  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

No images will be accepted after February 10, 2010. Put your first and last name and phone number on each CD or DVD (no stick-on labels), and make sure that the files are readable before you send them.

Create low-resolution (72 ppi) JPEG files with each image sized to be 1000 pixels on the longest side and in sRGB IEC61966-2.1 color space. Name the files with your first and last name, image title, and the category like JohnDoe\_fox\_wildlife.jpg, and put all of your low-res files in a single directory/folder called JPEG.

Create high-resolution (400 ppi) uncompressed and unsharpened TIFF files with each image sized to be 8000 pixels on the longest side. The image may be in any color space. Name the file the same as the low-res file (JohnDoe\_fox\_wildlife), and place the files on the top level of as many CDs or DVDs are required.

If the image was captured digitally in RAW format, include the RAW file named the same as the low-res file (JohnDoe\_fox\_wildlife). Place all of your RAW files in a single directory/folder called RAW.

If the image was captured on film, supply low-res and high-res digital files as described above. If your image is selected to be part of the club's submission, you will be notified by the end of March and you will be required to provide the original transparency (not a dupe) by the end of April 2009.

All entries will be scored online by the Masters. Then the 50 highest-scoring images, with no more than four (4) images per photographer, will be presented to a group of six (6) final judges. The final judges will first independently score the 50 final images, then they will meet face to face to create the club's submission of 20 images with no more than three (3) images per photographer.

All CDs and DVDs will be destroyed when they are no longer required. Original transparencies will be returned when they are no longer required.

Contact James Hager at 720-219-4248 or [james@jameshagerphoto.com](mailto:james@jameshagerphoto.com) with any questions.

## From The Webmaster

### Monthly Competition Image Submissions Moving Online!

Beginning with the February 2010 monthly competition, all images submitted to the MHWPC monthly competitions must be submitted online. Prepare your images using the same guidelines as before, but now the file name can be anything you want. Login to your account, then go to Members > Submit Monthly Competition Images to submit your images.

You may learn more at:

[http://www.mhwpc.org/info/new\\_online\\_image\\_sub.php](http://www.mhwpc.org/info/new_online_image_sub.php)

If you have any questions contact the webmaster ([webmaster@mhwpc.org](mailto:webmaster@mhwpc.org)).

## Library News from the Lamb's

Come and check us out. The club has purchased new books. One is by Glenn Randall called Colorado – Wild and Beautiful. He did a great presentation and is committed to getting just the right pictures. The other book includes pictures (including the cover) by our February presenter – Richard Seeley. Be sure to be at the February meeting. Capture My Colorado will also be available for checkout. Don't forget to return your books and check out new ones to be in the nightly drawing! See you in the library!



Joe and Betsy Lamb

Ron Eberhart has two photos in the Final round of the latest Nature Conservancy Photo Contest.

Congratulations Ron!

## Upcoming Programs

### February

The February meeting will feature a presentation by photographer Richard Seeley titled "Wild Moments". Richard will be giving us a presentation on the stories behind his most memorable wildlife images. These include photos of lynx, foxes, elk, dall sheep, grizzly bears, polar bears, moose, eagles in such locations as Millinocket, Maine; Denali National Park; Kaktovic, Alaska; Nobleboro, Maine; Errol, New Hampshire; Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming; LeClair, Iowa and of course, Colorado. Check out his website at [richardseeleyphotography.com](http://richardseeleyphotography.com)

**March** Our presenter will be Russ Burden, Presentation TBD

**April** This month's meeting will be used for the selection of images for our next exhibit at The Wildlife Experience. Theme TBD

**May** A presentation of Wildlife Photography by Weldon Lee.

**June** Charlie and Rita Summers will present a program on Antarctica.



Rob Palmer won three major awards in 2009. He won the Bird Behavior division of the Veolia/BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year with a Bald Eagle pursuing a Blackbird. He also won the Grand Prize from National Wildlife Magazine for his photo "Eagle and Starling" and the Audubon Grand Prize, and cover of the current issue, for his photo "Battling Eagles".

Congratulations Rob!

# January Club Competition Results

**Judge: Glenn Randall**

**Club Members: Wildlife**



**First Place**

***Gentoo Penguin Feeding Chick***  
Chuck Summers

**Other Wildlife Winners:**

2nd	<i>Sheep Rut</i>	Lara Hardesty
3rd	<i>King Penguin</i>	Hannah Rhodes
HM	<i>Gentoo Penguin Cannibalism</i>	Chuck Summers
HM	<i>Muddy Prairie Dog</i>	Lara Hardesty
HM	<i>Homecoming</i>	Stephanie Lindemann

**Other Scenic Winners:**

2nd	<i>Mono Lake Sunrise</i>	Hannah Rhodes
3rd	<i>Butterfield Boulders Sunrise</i>	Hannah Rhodes
HM	<i>Unknown River</i>	Brenda Fletcher
HM	<i>The Castle Capital Reef</i>	Jack Davis

**Club Members: Scenic**



**First Place**

***Alum Creek Dawn***  
Fred Stearns

**Club Members: Open**



**First Place**

***Purple Coneflower Explosion***  
Matt Schaefer

**Other Open Winners:**

2nd	<i>Bighorn Mountain</i>	Roger Kinney
3rd	<i>Cedar Waxwing</i>	Tammy Hammond
HM	<i>Backlit Egret</i>	Lynn Bishop

# January Masters Competition Results

**Judge: Glenn Randall**

**Masters: Wildlife**



**First Place**

***Courting Kings***

Rita Summers

**Other Wildlife Winners:**

2nd	<i>Sparing Polar Bears</i>	Chris Loffredo
3rd	<i>Buffalo Shaking</i>	Charlie Summers
HM	<i>Pelting Penguins</i>	Charlie Summers
HM	<i>Vervet Monkey Nursing</i>	James Hager

**Other Scenic Winners:**

2nd	<i>Primrose Cascade</i>	Reb Babcock
3rd	<i>Sword Fern</i>	Jan Forseth

**Masters: Scenic**



**First Place**

***Maroon Lake Reflection***

Chris Loffredo

**Other Open Winners:**

2nd	<i>Reflected Bull</i>	Russ Burden
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**Masters: Open**



**First Place**

***Albatross With Rainbow***

Charlie Summers

## At the Last Meeting

Our January meeting featured an outstanding slide presentation by Colorado landscape photographer Glenn Randall titled "Red Rocks Country". Many of the photographs from Glenn's books were included in the presentation. Locales pictured included Arches National Park and Canyonlands National Park, as well as other sites. Mr. Randall provided a variety of background notes about many of his photographs, including scouting specific locales, planning for sun locations and subjects, and his use of sun and moon locating software. Mr. Randall uses "Heavenly Opportunity" software and recommended it to club members as a tool for determining sun and moon angles and locations in specific settings and photographic shots.

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## Digital Study Meeting

Our January meeting program was among the best attended yet—with approximately 32 in attendance. The program for the evening featured three difference presentations on web services available to photographers—PhotoReflect.com, ZenFolio.com, and Shutterfly.com. Each presentation was given by a current user of the site. The presentations included a wide range of information, including fees and percentages charged for use, how customers order and receive prints and products, various templates and services offered by each service, and a wealth of information to help club members decide on a possible web presence.

Similar to the November meeting, the upcoming February meeting will be an "Expert Challenge Break Out Session". Experienced Photoshop and Elements user will meet with club members in small groups for tips and guidance in getting the best results with photographs brought in by members for review.

All paid members are encouraged to attend the digital study meetings. The meetings start at 7:15 PM, normally on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Enter through the main entrance, not the doors used for accessing the theater. Bring a notebook and writing implement to take your notes.

## Member Workshops and Tours:

### Cathy & Gordon Illg – Workshops:

The Illg's can be contacted at:

Adventure Photography 303 237-7086 or

[gordon@advenphoto.com](mailto:gordon@advenphoto.com)

[www.advenphoto.com](http://www.advenphoto.com)

### 2010 Schedule includes:

- ◇ Alaska: Northern Lights, February 28 - March 6
- ◇ South Texas: Private Ranches, May 3 - 8
- ◇ Ecuador: Galapagos National Park, May 17 - 27
- ◇ Colorado: Alpine Adventure, Mt. Evans, June 12 - 15
- ◇ Minnesota: Wildlife Babies, June 17 - 20
- ◇ Colorado: Rocky Mountain High, July 18 - 23
- ◇ South Dakota: Badlands National Park, September 19 - 24
- ◇ Colorado: Colorado Color, September 26 - October 1
- ◇ Minnesota: Fall Wildlife, October 2010
- ◇ Costa Rica: The Cloud Forest, November 8 - 17
- ◇ Utah: Arches & Canyonlands National Parks, December 12 - 17

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.

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### Rob Palmer Photography Workshops

Rob Palmer is a full time professional wildlife photographer and leads workshops a few times each year. Rob will be leading a workshop to the Pawnee National Grasslands in May. For more information. Please visit [www.falconphotos.com](http://www.falconphotos.com) or email Mr. Palmer at [rob@falconphotos.com](mailto:rob@falconphotos.com).

## Member Workshops and Tours (continued):

### Russ Burden's Photography Tours:

Visit [www.russburdenphotography.com](http://www.russburdenphotography.com). Or Contact Russ at 303-791-9997, [rburden@ecentral.com](mailto:rburden@ecentral.com)

#### 2010 Destinations include:

- ◇ Apr 17 - 23, 2010 Monument Valley / Slot Canyons
- ◇ May 8 - 14, 2010 Arches & Canyonlands National Parks - includes 5 sessions of Photoshop instruction
- ◇ May 22 - May 31, 2010 Oregon Coast - 10 day trip
- ◇ June 12 - 18, 2010 Tetons and Yellowstone National Parks in Spring
- ◇ Sept 23 - Oct 3, 2010 Tetons and Yellowstone National Parks in Fall - 10 days
- ◇ Oct. 19 - 24, 2010 Hunts Mesa - Aerial perspective of Monument Valley includes TWO days in Capital Reef National Park.
- ◇ Nov. 2 - 8, 2010 Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks
- ◇ Dec. 4 -10, 2010 Bosque Del Apache & White Sands National Monument.

### James Hager Photography - Small Group Photo Safaris

Visit [www.JamesHagerPhoto.com](http://www.JamesHagerPhoto.com), or email [James@JamesHagerPhoto.com](mailto:James@JamesHagerPhoto.com)

Bats in Aug 2010: photograph bats in flight in a controlled setting, Arizona, Aug 25-29, 2010

Tanzania in Feb 2011: 15 days of African wildlife during the wildebeest birthing season; Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park, Feb 5-19, 2011

Gorillas in Feb 2011: 5 days of photographing mountain gorillas in Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda, Feb 19-26, 2011

### Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

**President:** Matt Schaefer

[mattscha@aol.com](mailto:mattscha@aol.com) 303-972-9882

**Vice-President:** Sam Fletcher

[shjff@aol.com](mailto:shjff@aol.com) 303-688-5107

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Patrick Devereaux

[Patrick@devereauxphoto.com](mailto:Patrick@devereauxphoto.com) 303-717-2436

#### Newsletter Editors:

Nancy Rynes Chris Frazier

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**Webmaster:** James Hager

<http://www.mhwpc.org> [webmaster@mhwpc.org](mailto:webmaster@mhwpc.org)

#### TEAM LEADERS

**Monthly Programs:** Chuck Winter

[cwinter@mii-rmcc.com](mailto:cwinter@mii-rmcc.com) 303-972-2538

**Membership:** Rita Summers

[ritasummers@gmail.com](mailto:ritasummers@gmail.com) 303-840-3355

**Special Programs/Field Trips:** Chuck Winter

[cwinter@mii-rmcc.com](mailto: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:** Nancy Stocker 303-759-4056

**Publicity:** Buzz Soard 303-779-9933

**Library:** Betsy Lamb 303-841-2565

#### BOARD of DIRECTORS

Rita Summers • Russ Burden

Chuck Winter • Chris Loffredo • Ron Eberhart

#### February Meeting

Wednesday, February 10th

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

at

#### THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: Wildlife, Scenic, & Wildlife CC

January Attendance: Approximately 74

#### February Digital Training Meeting

Wednesday, February 24th

7:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Please send your articles and input to

[newsletter@mhwpc.org](mailto:newsletter@mhwpc.org).