



# Nature Photo Times

Founded 1956

Member: Photographic Society of America & Twin Cities Area Council of Camera Clubs Vol. 49, No. 6 - February 2005

## Alaskan Adventures By Ron Winch

Sitting in a small lakeside café enjoying a meal of Copper River Salmon and twice baked potatoes, I surveyed my surroundings in the waning light of day. Mountain Hemlock trees and an icebound lake furnished the foreground for the snow-covered mountains several miles distance. My thoughts wandered back to early afternoon when I photographed yellow skunk cabbage pushing its flowers up through the snow along the banks of a spring fed stream. Willow Catkins were hanging quietly in the cold air and moose tracks imprinted the road where the sun had softened the surface. Another quarter mile and the road was cloaked with large mountain hemlock trees which offered shade from the occasional sun. Here the roadside snow banks were six to eight feet high. A few photos to record the scene and onward to a good hot meal.

Outside the window a hummingbird feeder hung from the edge of the roof. These folks must be really anxious for spring – eight feet of snow in the woods – and a hummingbird feeder. I don't believe it! It's almost dark and a hummer flits in for a cool drink of sugar water. A few minutes after another visit, the bird is gone. Sure hope it stays warm tonight and is back tomorrow.

Morning comes sunny and quiet. After a hearty breakfast in the old fish factory turned lodge, we spend an hour or so photographing eagles and sea otter. And then we're off to see the wonders of the Cooper River Delta.

The spring shorebird migration through the delta is a sight to behold. Using the coastal flyway more than 20 million migratory shorebirds use the delta (the largest contiguous wetland area on North America's west coast) as a rest and refueling stop.

Wearing hip boots and raingear – the weather is that predictable – we slog through the exposed gumbo at low tide cautiously approaching a flock of feeding Western Sandpipers. Big lenses reveal their movements and feeding behaviors – then as if the conductor raised his baton, they were all airborne in unison. Their flight can only be compared to waving a large silk scarf in the air for what one did, they all did. Must be several thousand birds in that flock I thought. Aaron, our birding guide and a thoroughly knowledgeable and dedicated chap from southern Minnesota, confirmed my estate many times over – probably 50,000 Western Sandpipers in that group.

Several days later we boarded the MV Discovery with Captain Dean Rand, whom some club members should remember from their Alaskan trip several years ago. We explored Prince Williams Sound and photographed sea otters, whales and sea lions. Towering water falls always brought out the cameras. Sea kayaking in quiet coves and ice-choked waters before calving

glaciers proved the value of mid-length zoom lenses. Friends from California were doing double duty. He was shooting for his own stock file and the California Academy of Science. She was doing video which was later edited and produced CDs for the trip organizers.

Alaska is a great place to be - try it.

## **The Natural World Through the Viewfinder Exhibit February 16, 2005 thru March 27, 2005**

The exhibit date is now less than two weeks away. If you haven't done so already, it's time to select your favorite image, get it printed and framed so we will be ready when Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. rolls around. Thanks to the great generosity of the refuge management, they are extending our opening date by two days to allow members to hang their photos on the February meeting night.

For a gallery look you might consider a Nielson metal frame #1514 (German Silver) or Nielson metal frame #1521 (matte black), and a white mat. In the lower left you could put the title of your photo. Your name goes in the lower right – soft pencil is fine. Or if your art may grace your walls after the exhibit – frame it as you please. In the back please put your name, address and phone number. Also provide a 3 ½ x 5 card containing print title and location on top and your name and phone number on the bottom. Even if you wish to sell your art, price cannot be displayed on the card – hence your phone number.

Ron Winch will be at the refuge by 6:30 pm so please bring your photos early and we will work through the meeting and have the exhibit up by 9:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to share with others who we are as individuals and a club. See you on February 16.

### **January Salon Results**

**10**

Harlow, Jerry	Red Rock State Park
	Fall Leaves on Moss Covered
	Rock
Miller, Joe	Inner Beauty
Polley, Lil	
Sanderson,	
Virginia	Egret with Eggs (W)

**9**

Baker, Eric	Owl
Blesener, Rod	Glacier Sunset

Cyr, Mariann	King Bird (W)
Farrell, Tom	Yellow Lady's-slipper
Galambos, Ted	Haleakala Crater
Hahn, Jeff	Anthomyiid Fly
Pennoyer, John	Bald Eagle on Perch (W)
Perez, Dave	Swan Landing, Monticello
Prokosch, Mike	Standing Still (W)
Ryan, George	Banning Color
Swanson, Robert	Death Valley, Zabriskie Point
Wilbrecht, Jon	Prairie Storm

8

Karai, Vijay	In The Dead of Winter
Karai, Vijay	Great Grey with Twig
Morgan, Jeff	Flying Snowy Egret (W)
Nelson, Vern	Male Northern Cardinal
Perez, Dave	Two Elk Battling
Polley, Lil	Dramatic Sunrise
Prokosch, Mike	Falkland Thrush (W)
Sanderson, Virginia	Heron Building Nest (W)
Sanderson, Wayne	Blast Off at Bosque (W)
Snowden, Curt	Pasque, Crested Butte, CO

### **Field Trips Update!**

Meet Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM, at Memorial Park in Shakopee for wintering ducks and geese. Memorial Park is located east of downtown Shakopee on Highway 101. Enter the park and turn left. The pond is at the end of the parking lot. Mallards and Canada geese are fed by the local residents and are virtually at your feet. Any focal length lens will get an image; your imagination may produce a salon quality image.

Future Trips:

Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM at River Terrace SNA for Pasque flowers

Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 8 AM at Schaefer Prairie for small white lady slippers

Saturday and Sunday, June 4th and 5th at Itasca State Park for lady slippers, etc (tentative)

Saturday, July 16th PM, at Roscoe Prairie for prairie flowers and sunset and possibly for sunrise the following morning

If you would like help finding the photo site, be at the meeting location a few minutes early and we will caravan to the photo site. Do not call or email for directions, I arrive at locations by dead reckoning, and usually do not pay much attention to road signs. If there is uncertainty about the details follow the plans in the most recent newsletter. As in the past I will be at the location regardless of the weather.

I sent a trip update via email before the Monticello trip. If you would like to receive updates and did not receive one, let me know.

Contact Dale Bohlke at (612) 384-8417 or [dbohlke@mn.rr.com](mailto:dbohlke@mn.rr.com) for further information about any of the field trips.

Dale Bohlke

## **Field Notes**

### **JPEG IMAGES VS RAW IMAGES**

**By John Pennoyer**

All digital shooters will eventually be confronted with this question - shall I shoot jpeg images or raw images. When I first bought my digital camera I shot all jpegs only because I read an article by Moose Peterson and he mentioned that all he shoots is jpegs (he now shoots raw). His comment was; why not let the camera do all the work for you? So for the first 4 months that was the only way that I took any images - with high resolution jpegs. Then I slowly began to play with raw and now 90% of my images are taken in raw format. I don't think that one is better than the other; they both have negatives and positives. So as more of our club members are getting into digital I thought this would be a good time to discuss these differences.

**JPEG:** (joint photographic experts group) this is a compression format that reduces the size of the data so it can fit into a smaller format. This is the most common format for web sites and to send images via e-mail. One of the greatest advantages of this format is speed and storage space. One of the greatest disadvantages of jpegs is that every time that a jpeg image is "saved" or "saved as" data is lost. In other words if you open a jpeg image and make changes then "save" you will lose quality in your image. If you are shooting jpegs they should be saved in another format such as "tiff". Then you can edit, change etc. and save without losing data. For most of us I would suggest that you should shoot a high resolution jpeg. On my Nikon camera it is referred to as large/fine file. Most high resolution jpegs are about 700-900KB in size, possibly up to 1MB depending on data in the images. On my 1 GIG compact flash cards I can store about 312 images in this format. Technically the difference between these two formats is that jpegs are processed in the camera so the photographer does not have much control over the image. White balance, exposure etc. must be right on. But this is no different than shooting slides. If we miss the exposure it is a throw away slide. Very similar to jpegs, except I would say that in the computer you probably have another 1/2 stop to try and save your image. This was the only format that I shot for the first few months of shooting digital. I shot probably 900 images of Bald Eagles last winter and I was 100% satisfied with the results. After all I have been shooting slides for 30 years.

**RAW:** Raw is not an acronym (Nikon calls their raw file NEF/Nikon Electronic Format) it is just saying that when you shoot in this format it is basically an unprocessed file. The process must be completed in your computer. This is without a doubt the best advantage to shooting raw. The photographer can change white balance, exposure etc. in the computer. Raw files are larger probably 3-6MB. If you decide to shoot raw, expect to spend considerable time on your computer to finish the processing. Also, you will need software to be able to work on raw files. All camera manufacturers have this software and many 3<sup>rd</sup> parties will also sell software for working on most camera manufacturers raw files. This is now the format that I use for the majority of my shooting. It has

more than once saved an image from the delete file. I can change to various white balances to see what fits the image the best from what I selected in the camera. We all occasionally miss exposure once in a while. I can change the exposure to save an image. Do to the larger file your compact flash card will not hold as many images. My 1 GIG card will hold 103 raw files.

There are times that I have heard some say that unless you shoot raw images, a photographer is not taking full advantage of shooting digital. Some folks also believe that raw is for the “Pros or very serious amateurs and jpegs is for those that are less than that. Don’t believe either one of those statements as each format is there for us to take advantage of its strong points.

If you are shooting digital and are shooting mostly jpegs, I would certainly encourage you to shoot a few images in raw and using the correct software experiment with the image on your computer. Mainly just to see how you can change white balance, exposure etc. I do not think one format is necessarily better than the other. The main difference is that raw gives the photographer 100% control over the image. So even though it is a lot of computer time I find that for my photography it is very beneficial. In Outdoor Photographer magazine a month or so ago they were talking about this same subject and showed two like images one in jpeg and the other in “unprocessed” raw. The jpeg image certainly did beat the raw image, However they really should have also showed the processed raw, it would have equaled or possibly beat the jpeg image.

One of my biggest concerns on shooting digital is that if a photographer is not careful it possibly could make for a “sloppy” photographer with a mind set that I can fix it in the computer. So always remember that it makes no difference if a photographer is shooting slides, jpegs, or raw, to minimize frustration and for the best images **“always try to get it right in the camera first”**.



Good Shooting!

---

"Ansel Adams has said that any photographer worth his salt has made 10,000 negatives before his real career begins. Even then, an extraordinary year results in just 10 good images. When you are young, you will think he was a pessimist. When you are older, you will think he was an optimist."

Page 17, *Letting Go of the Camera*, Brooks Jensen, Editor, Lenswork Publishing, 2004

Dale Bohlke

# Nature Photo Times

Published Sept.-May by the  
Minnesota Nature Photography Club  
[www.minnesotanature.org](http://www.minnesotanature.org)

Editor: Don Nadreau, 763-377-4589,  
[dnadreau@usfamily.net](mailto:dnadreau@usfamily.net)  
124 Ardmore Dr.  
Golden Valley, MN 55422

President: Tom Samuelson 952-472-2235  
[thsamuel@citolink.com](mailto:thsamuel@citolink.com)

Vice Pres.:

Treasurer: Jim Duncan 651-459-3558  
[jduncan001@comcast.net](mailto:jduncan001@comcast.net)

**Meetings** are held on the third Wednesday of the month, September through May. Set-up and social time with light refreshments begins at 6:30 pm. The nature slide salon starts at 7:00 pm and a program follows the salon. Meetings are held at:

**Visitor Center, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge,**  
3815 East 80<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bloomington, MN

## **February Meeting:**

The February meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 2/16/2005. This month's program: Jeff Hahn "Images from your Backyard: Insects of Minnesota".

### **New ColdSnap Offerings:**

Waterfalls and Wildflowers of the UP, May 26-29, 2005  
\$795 includes meals and lodging  
Bear Track Cabins in the Black River Recreational Area near Ironwood, Michigan  
Limit of 12 people.

Minnesota Road Trip, July 20-24, 2005  
\$1250 includes transportation from and to Minneapolis, food and lodging. This offering will include Red River Valley towns, prairies, people and wildlife. Limit of 8 people.

<http://www.coldsnap.com/workshops.html>

## FIRST CLASS MAIL



### **For your consideration:**

Hello MN Nature Photography Club,

For the past six years our photo lab has served professional photographers and we are now expanding to the growing market of serious amateurs and students. We think we can help your members tremendously and we would like to offer our services to MN Nature Photography Club members at a discounted rate.

If you would be willing to include our monthly special in your next newsletter we feel it could greatly benefit your members and we would be more than happy to offer 20% off of all of our normal services for MN Nature Photography Club members. We offer great prices on processing and enlargements.

For our digital Clients we can help with monitor calibration, we have helped many clients over the past several years. Our web site now offers an ICC profile specifically designed for our lab. If there is any way that we can help your members with this issue or any other that you may have a concern about, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Thank you for your time,  
Lisa C.  
Manager - Profoto

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