



Nature Photo Times

Founded 1956

Member: Photographic Society of America & Twin Cities Area Council of Camera Clubs

Vol. 50, No. 8 - Apr 2006

Field Notes

“The Soul of Nature Photography”

By John Pennoyer

We just completed our camera club’s first “Judging Workshop” on March 22nd. Thanks to all 15 of the participants and also to Mariann Cyr and Mike Prokosch for helping me put this together. Hopefully it was beneficial to all those that attended and the club will now have some potential new judges.

One of the items we were always discussing was that the “nature story” should weigh heavily when judging a nature image. But isn’t there still more to an image when it is submitted for competition. Some of the images that were submitted had a great nature story, but there were still many things wrong for the image to be entered in a competition. The backgrounds were excessively busy and foregrounds were also affecting the image. But they did have a great story. For instance, even though that is the habitat that the critter lived in, it still does not necessarily make it an image for competition. That is one of the hardest things about taking images and “yes” even judging those images. There are some images that no matter how great they are sometimes the animal’s environment does not allow for great scoring in a nature competition. I have probably a 1000 images of Whitetail deer and of all those images there might be 2 or 3 that would receive an 8 in nature scoring. The same can be said for some of my Black Bear photos. I might have 5 or 6 that would receive an 8 or 9 in competition. So why is that? Is it because I am a lousy photographer or a very unlucky photographer?

Well no not really. It so happens where I photograph whitetails is in a swamp with swamp grass up to the kazoo!! So most of my whitetails

are in this habitat and in most cases it does not make for competition type photography. But I still spend considerable amount of time in the fall after these big boys. Black bears are always difficult to photograph and get that score of a “10”. As long as we are talking about this, the same can be said for my Bighorn photos, except some of them can score very well because their habitat is pleasing to the eye. But for commercial reasons Bighorn photos really suck. They are extremely low in demand.

So why would someone like myself still pursue this type of image when they may not compete well or sell well? The answer is very simple. I enjoy being in their habitat and in the case of the whitetails, I enjoy out-smarting them to get that image of a trophy class buck. Climbing a mountain in SW Montana in late November looking for a full curl Ram really gets my adrenaline pumping. For me it is all of the other ingredients that are required to get that photo that makes it so satisfying for me. It is really a very personal thing whether or not it is entered in competition or makes a sale is totally secondary to me. The satisfaction is the total environment related to taking a nature image. The aftermath should always be secondary.

Enjoy your photography and I hope that you do take many award winning images! But if not, enjoy the moment and everything associated with being a nature photographer.

Good Shooting
John Pennoyer



“Big Buck”
By John Pennoyer



“Rams”
By John Pennoyer

The View From Here

By Lawrence C. Duke, V.P. Programs

A good camera club can be a heck of an experience. It's a place to meet and exchange ideas and information and to learn about photography.

So what is NANPA? North American Nature Photography Association is about the same thing, but with added factors.

NANPA has 3000 members from all over the world; it is really an international group.

It was started in 1993, when a 100 people interested in nature photography were invited by Roger Tory Peterson, famed ornithologist, artist and photographer, to meet at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, in Jamestown, NY. By the end of the meeting, there was a consensus that the field needed some type of organization to represent its interests and promote communication and education.

In the spring of 1994, the MnDNR/Proex hosted George Lepp at the Bell Museum, for a workshop on his photography. I was delighted when Mr. Lepp ask me if I was going to lunch and could he come along. We naturally talked photography, what else? And he mentions this new organization that was forming and he thought I might be interested.

When I got the information for NANPA I signed up right away and became a Charter Member. I like to say, “If George had asked sooner, I'd have a lower number, I'm # 33.”

So this month, I'll be show-n-telling what NANPA meetings are like. You may already know that Minnesota has 45 NANPA members, not too bad.

BIG, P.S. for members of MNPC
This could affect your photography, because it already happens, you just may not know it!

If your interested, find out what is happening with the “ORPHAN WORKS”; Proposed Section 514 of the Copyright Act.

www.nanpa.org
www.asmp.org

“White Stallions” **By Ron Winch**

It was a rock and roll kind of night, even in the sheltered waters off Salisbury Plains. Near gale force winds had been battering the north coast of South Georgia for 2 weeks, but at 7 AM we were anxious to move out. As always, four Zodiac drivers made up the initial landing party. It was up to them to find a suitable landing site for going ashore, as well as 2 spots where the Zodiacs can be quickly turned around to the face the incoming seas, thus avoiding surf crashing over the transom and swamping the craft.

A somewhat sheltered cove promised the least risky landing in the area. Back on ship, eager photographers decked out in long johns, fleece, hip boots, full rain gear and life jackets anxiously awaited the choppy ride to shore. Even with help from the Russian seamen who carried our humungous backpack-dry bags down to sea level, four foot swells at the gangplank loading station made for an exciting entry into the Zodiacs.

Toni made the cutoff and was on the first wind and wave pummeled Zodiac destined for a tumultuous landing a half mile away. Even before she landed the wind had freshened and there was constant radio chatter between ship and landing party wondering about sending more Zodiacs ashore. Thankful for full raingear and hip boots, Toni’s landing was a bit rough and wet, but within the limits of safety. On the cobble above the beach a very pushy wind almost knocked her over. Wind driven sand stung the face and standing was easy once she leaned 20 degrees into the wind. No way could anyone do decent photography under those conditions.

Back aboard ship, in less sheltered waters, the sea was really kicking up. The clouds parted momentarily and a pencil thin slit of sunlight

kissed the green water and white wave froth. And then I saw it – for only the second time in my life. Five white stallions, manes flying, head and shoulders just above the wave-crests, black hooves and white forelegs at a full gallop pounding the water just ahead of the wind blown froth. A magnificent sight if I ever saw one. And then the slit closed. The sunlight and horses were gone as quickly as they had appeared.

I felt sorry for those less observant folks for they shall never know the thrill of seeing those majestic white stallions racing on the waves of a wind-blown sea. Of course, all this happened much too quickly to record on film, but the image will always be indelibly engraved in my mind, and will grow richer with time whereas a mere piece of film will always remain the same.

Officer Candidates and Volunteer Opportunities for 2006-2007.

President: Mariann Cyr
Programs: Larry Duke
Treasurer: Jim Duncan
Secretary: Rob Blesener

In addition Ron Cleveland will continue to maintain the club website and Don Nadreau will continue to produce the newsletter.

Currently we need volunteers to handle the following for next year (Sept 2006 - May 2007):

1) Coordinate meeting refreshments - This entails recruiting people to bring treats for eight meetings (December is pot-luck), reminding them to bring the treats and seeing that coffee gets made. The Club will reimburse for treats. This year Rose Duncan has done this and she can provide more details to anyone who is considering taking this on.

2) Handle digital salon entries - Assemble monthly digital salon entries and show at meetings. Jeff Morgan will work with the new person to get them off on the correct foot.

3) Recruit judges for salon - Line up judges for Sept.-Nov. and Jan.-May salons. John Pennoyer has done this for several years and can provide more details.

-- Mariann

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Minnesota Valley Photography Club (MVPC) would like to invite other Twin City Area camera club members and the public to a fantastic program on "Photography from the Seven Summits" by Chaska mountaineer Neal Mueller. In the past five years Mueller has turned a hobby into a full-time pursuit, climbing the tallest mountains on all seven continents, becoming only the second Minnesotan to do so. In his dramatic motivational presentations, illustrated with spectacular photography and video, Mueller explores the ways that mountains around the world inspire us to reach the heights of leadership.

The presentation will be given as part of the club's May meeting, which has been changed to Wednesday, May 3, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., at the normal meeting location at the Lakeville Area Arts Center, 20965 Holyoke Avenue, Lakeville. There is no charge to attend the presentation, but seating is limited so RSVP to Sue Olson at 651-454-2969 or swanolson@comcast.net to be added to the guest list.

www.minnesotavalleyphotoclub.org

From The Editor By Don Nadreau

I attended my first "Spring Break Photo Event" on Friday and Saturday, March 31 and April 1. It was an enjoyable weekend with good company, great food and some very interesting speakers, as well as some terrific photographs. All the award winners and accepted photos were of a high class and awesome to see. I enjoyed

seeing some photos other than just nature shots. I know we belong to this club because we love nature photography; however, it is good occasionally to see other subjects and even some artistic interpretations of subjects. There was a great deal of digital capture and Photoshop work displayed. Slides were still present but they are definitely decreasing in number.

The featured speakers were very interesting. Craig Blacklock presented a session on "Nudes in the Landscape" and gave the Friday night talk on wildflower photography. He has also gone digital. John Gregor, from Coldsnap gave a session on Landscape Photography and discussed his current project to photograph the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Bernie Saunders gave a session about creating a photo story. From our club, John Pennoyer dazzled us with a demonstration of different types of blinds used in wildlife photography, Dale Bohlke did a session on using Split Density Filters, Larry Duke discussed his work for the DNR, Mariann Cyr did a slide show on the Falklands, and Ron Winch did a presentation on Patagonia. Mike Prokosch lead a session on spot metering and, along with Alan Schultz, lead a discussion of evaluating nature images for competition.

There were also sponsors with displays you could browse and Minnesota Wildlife Connection brought in several animals to photograph (the bear cub was cute and stole the show).

All in all it was a good time and packed with valuable information. I will definitely attend these sessions in the future and encourage you to do the same. If you would like more information, go to the Twin City Council of Camera Clubs at their website at www.cameracouncil.org.

I also have a correction to last month's newsletter. The club Yahoo group was mislabeled as the Minneapolis Nature Photography Club; it should be the Minnesota Nature Photography Club Yahoo group.

March Salon Results:

Score of 8

Photographer	Title
Aronson, Jim	Sleeping Swan
Bader, Bill	Orchids
Bergman, Lyle	Cactus Moon
Baker, Eric	Magnet Lake
Baker, Eric	Artist Point
Cleveland, Ron	White Sands
Cleveland, Ron	Garden O T Gods
Eckman, Karen	Cactus Wren
Fleury, Cynthia	Reflections
Galambos, Ted	Late Fall at Crex
Kandiko, Joe	Lake Sunrise
Morgan, Jeff	Tricolored
Nelson, Vern	Male Finch on Spruce Branch
Pennoyer, John	Hide and Seek
Perez, Dave	Mallard flight
Wilbrecht, Jon	Lunch Break

Score of 9

Photographer	Title
Cassuto, Nadav	Trumpeter Swan
Cyr, Mariann	Ranier
Eckman, Karen	Woodpecker
Fleury, Cynthia	Ice & Rocks
Flohr, Rikk	Swan Display
Hahn, Jeff	Tachinid fly
Morgan, Jeff	GBH
Nelson, Vern	Male Red-breasted Nuthatch

Score of 10

Photographer	Title
Cyr, Mariann	Silver Grebes
Dykstra, John	Quizical Owl
Pennoyer, John	Kingfisher
Schultz, Alan	Wet Eagle
Schultz, Alan	Eagle Lands
Vichich, Dave	Eagle 1
Vichich, Dave	B and W Deer

Nature Photo Times

Published Sept.-May by the
Minnesota Nature Photography Club
www.minnesotanature.org

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Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month, September through May

6:15 PM - Set-up and Social Time
6:45 PM - Announcements and Business
7:00 PM - Program
8:00 PM - Nature Salon (Competition and Judge's Comments).

Meetings are held at:
Visitor Center, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge,
3815 East 80th Street
Bloomington, MN

April 19, 2006 Meeting

Larry Duke will discuss the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA). See his article in this newsletter for some details.

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Nature Photography "Enhancing your skills"

Interested in learning more about digital white balance, histograms plus other digital topics? Also exposure, compositions etc. will be covered in this class being taught by John Pennoyer. Check for information on the table or talk to John at the next club meeting, or e-mail him at johnpennoyer@comcast.net.

National Geographic Speaker Series

The National Geographic speaker series will feature underwater photographer David Doubilet who will be presenting on Thursday, April 27th at 7:30pm at the State Theatre in Downtown Minneapolis.

The link to this series can be found at:
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/nglive/minneapolis/doubilet.html>