



Nature Photo Times

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

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From the President

Well the inaugural meeting at REI went off without a hitch. We started on time and had a great program on Trumpeter Swans by Carrol Henderson, Non-Game supervisor for the Department of Natural Resources. This winter when I go to Monticello to photograph wintering Trumpeters, I now realize all of the work that was taken by many agencies and individuals to make this a reality. The room also worked out well for us, we had a microphone provided by REI, but as large as the room is it will be interesting to see how comfortable it is with 70-80 people. We only had 6 slides and 38 digital images to judge so we were done and out of there by 8:45PM.

There is one area that the club needs immediate help on, Wayne Sanderson has been doing the handling of the digital images, and he will be out of town every once in awhile and we need someone to help with the digital images. I need someone for November, just let me or Wayne know if you would like to help in this area and Wayne will be willing to help you get started.

By the time most of you read this, I would guess that most of the fall colors in Northern MN will be past peak, so I would look for colors around the Twin Cities and further south. Some of my favorite areas; Elm Creek Park Reserve, Lebanon Hills Regional Park, Big Woods State Park, Rice Lake State Park, Sakata State Park all can be excellent at the right spots. However sometimes I think that colors that are well past peak can also make for some very unique late fall imagery. I enjoy going out in late October or early November as much as during peak color time. If you want to know, for me those images can be quite good in

the market place, because many people put their equipment away when the colors are gone, and may not bring out their equipment again until spring!

Rikk Flohr, one our club members, will be putting a program on Photographing the Badlands. There is more information elsewhere in the newsletter.

See you on Wednesday evening Oct 17th.

John Pennoyer

Field Notes By John Pennoyer

“Digital Noise”

The two black bear cubs were busy playing in the tall grass, when all of a sudden something startled them; in a flash both cubs scrambled up a tree just as Mom had taught them. Unfortunately for this photographer their position was not conducive for a photo. But in a few minutes when their “danger” had passed they immediately made their way down the tree. It was a heavy overcast day so I quickly set my ISO to 800 to try and get enough shutter speed to take an image. Luckily for me both cubs stopped and played on a fallen tree and I was able to capture several images.

It wasn't too many years ago those images would never have been possible, but I think one of the biggest benefits of digital photography is the ability to change ISO at any time. Although I still try to leave my ISO between 100-200 for botany and landscapes images and 200-320 for wildlife images, there are situations that higher

ISO is required for photography especially for wildlife in low light situations.

But this also brings up a problem with digital photography when using higher ISO settings, digital noise. So what is digital “noise”? To make it simple, each pixel in a camera’s sensor contains light sensitive photodiodes which converts the light into the appropriate color. When the pixel is exposed to light several times, such as long exposures, the color of the light can have a variation of color. Also when using higher ISO speeds the power amplifier in the camera can also give the pixel a variation of the color of the light. There is also some other contributing factors of digital noise, size of the camera’s sensor, obviously the bigger the sensor the larger the pixel. As an example a 10MP camera with a full frame sensor would probably have less noise issue than a 10MP camera with a 1/2 frame sensor. I would also think that the type of sensor CCD vs CMOS could also be a contributing factor. Some people may compare digital noise to the old film grain when shooting higher ISO speed film. For me I do not because I have seen some film grain images that were very creative and acceptable. At least for my photography I have never seen any image that had “digital noise” and acceptable in any way except for a record shot of a subject. So how do we control digital noise in our digital photography? For me it is very easy always shoot at the lowest ISO possible that the situation calls for! But like already stated, what does a photographer do when confronted with a situation that a longer exposure or higher ISO is necessary to capture a particular image. Most of the newer camera bodies have a built in feature for high ISO noise reduction and long exposure noise reduction.

My Nikon D200 has a noise reduction in camera control for high ISO and long exposures. I generally leave my ISO noise reduction on all the time, it takes affect anytime

the ISO is 400 or above and has no effect on lower ISO settings. I will turn on my long exposure ISO which takes affect anytime that my exposure is longer than 8 seconds. The only time this is used is for possible twilight images or longer exposures for some botanical subjects such as mushrooms that are in dark habitats. With my D100 camera which has no noise control anytime I have an ISO above 500, I have to deal with various amounts of noise levels, depending on the subject. However with my D200 with some in camera noise control I am very comfortable shooting at ISO up to 800. Almost all newer digital SLR has at least high ISO noise reduction built in camera. If you are shooting in high ISO situations be sure to turn on the noise reduction. It does make a difference; however, may still have to do some post-processing noise reduction.

For the last few years all digital camera manufacturers have been competing against each other for mega pixel count, fast shutter speeds etc. Most newer SLR’s have pixels counts anywhere from 8MB to 12MB, with a select few even higher. For the wildlife and sports photographer shutter speeds are now approaching 6-12 FPS. I think the next big competition between manufacturers will be for noise control. A friend of mine and I were shooting together and he was using the new Canon Mark III, we were in a situation that high ISO was required and his camera was set at ISO 1200. After loading his images onto his lap top, both of us were amazed at the small amount of noise that was present at that high ISO setting. I know the newer Nikons that are coming also will be much better at noise control. So for all SLR camera manufacturers, all I can say is let the “noise wars” begin! It makes no difference on the manufacture we choose to shoot, all of us will benefit from the noise war!



Nikon D200

Nikon 70-200 S VR Lens

1/80 second @ F5.6

Matrix Metering

Aperture Priority

EV -1/3

ISO 800

Fill flash @ -1 1/



Bear cub enlargement
with in-camera noise reduction

Good Shooting

September Salon Results:

Judges: Mariann Cyr & Joe Kandido

Score of 8

Ellenbecker, Dave	Oak Leaves & Frost Hz
Schollegordes, Flo	Autumn Splendor
Cassuto, Nadav	Osprey #3 (W)
Goossens-Bryan, Betty	American Finch on Knappweed (W)
Lahr, Ron	Ptarmigan
Pennoyer, John	Marigold Habitat
Sanderson, Virginia	Tiger Longwing Butterfly
Cleveland, Ron	Five Puffins (W)
Grave, Rick	Ice Cap
Lahr, Ron	Cardinal
Morgan, Jeff	Swan & Cygnets
Nadreau, Don	Touch the Sky
Pennoyer, John	Showy habitat
Perez, Dave	Woodpecker (W)
Wilson, Tom	Drake Mallard (W)
Zosel, David	Tree Frog (W)

Score of 9

Grave, Rick	Aquietly Flowing
Morgan, Jeff	Cascade
Vichich, Dave	Rack (W)
Aronson, Jim	Cedar Waxwing
Wilbrecht, Jon	Red Fox Kits

Score of 10

Aronson, Jim	Superior Ice
Wilson, Tom	Spider on Web (W)
Goossens-Bryan, Betty	Common Loon (W)
Sanderson, Virginia	Laughing Gull (W)

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

6:00 PM - Set-up and Social Time
6:30 PM - Announcements and Business
6:45 PM - Program
7:45 PM - Nature Salon (Competition and
Judge's Comments).

Meetings are held at:

REI
750 West American Blvd
Bloomington, MN 55420

October 17, 2007 Meeting

October Program: "Badlands" by Rikk Flohr

Take only 10,000 Pictures – Leave only 100,000
footprints is the story of Rikk's 35 day odyssey at
Badlands National Park serving as Artist in
Residence. In addition to showing many images
captured during his stay, he discusses the logistics
and challenges of shooting this rugged landscape
across the boundary of winter and spring.

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Refreshment coordinator: Would someone be willing
to help coordinate refreshments for our monthly
meetings? If you are interested let John Pennoyer know.

Field Trips: If you would be interested in leading one or
two field trips sometime in the future, I will have a sign
up sheet and just pick a month and type of trip or
location. We have not had field trips for the last couple
of years and I would like to get this started again.

The field trip leader would not be expected to
do any type of instruction, but like all photographers try
to pick the optimum time of year, day etc **to**
photograph the location or subject.

For Sale: Florence Scholljegerdes has the
following for sale (call her at 952-835-7718)

- 1 .Cullman 2030 with a Slik ball head.
- 2 . A Slik 444 Sport II with head.
- 3 . Stitz Monopod.
4. Sequaia Compact tripod (mini for table top
or close-up work).
5. Two Tomar photo vests (never used).