



Founded 1956

# Nature Photo Times

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

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## From the President

As I am writing this, it is late November and still no snow on the ground. I am one of those photographers that really enjoy photographing in the winter, but I like my images to show a good old fashioned Minnesota winter. This of course means; snow, ice, frost or anything that conveys a winter message. But it is early yet and maybe we will get lucky this year and have a couple of feet of snow by Christmas.

Thanks to Dale Bohlke and Dave Vivich for doing a great job of judging in November. And speaking of judging our end of year judge will be Stan Tekiela. I have known Stan for several years; he is a naturalist, writer, author of several nature books, and a professional photographer. Also remember that in December right after the End of Year judging, we will be having our Holiday Party. So bring some goodies to share! As of now I have scheduled a Board Meeting for Monday night December 10<sup>th</sup>, one of the items on the agenda will be a microphone. As many of you know the REI microphone did not work in November. We will make a decision if the club should purchase a microphone.

Happy Holidays  
John Pennoyer

## **Field Notes** **“Shooting in the Field”** **By John Pennoyer**

The temperature was in the teens and for early November it certainly was much colder than normal. I had been in my blind for about 2 to 3 hours trying to capture an image of a huge whitetail buck that had been hanging out in this area. I had spotted him several times but so far

no images. The Whitetail rut was on and I was not going to give up on photographing this magnificent buck. In the still of the morning I heard noise in the marsh and I could make out two big bucks fighting. There was no chance for photos because of the cattails and the position of my blind. The battle did not last very long but to my surprise both bucks came in my direction and I was able to expose about 2 rolls of film.

I was so excited that instead of using my normal mail order, I went right to a local outlet and had my film processed. The next day I went to get my processed film and they could not find one of the rolls!! In over 25 years of shooting thousands of rolls of film I have only had two lost. This one and a mail order one. However I do think that lost roll would have been one of my best Trophy Whitetail Buck portraits!!

That certainly is one of the nice things about shooting digital - no developing, no lost rolls as our images are imbedded in the memory card which is then loaded on our computers and we are set to go. But wait a minute, what happens if I lost the memory card, my portable storage device crashes or is dropped. Like the old saying --- does happen! A couple of years ago when I was in Alaska photographing Bald Eagles a workshop leader had put his photo pack down on the beach and in his moving around getting photos, the tide came in and his photo pack was totally under water. His Portable Storage Device (PSD) was in that photo bag with many Bald Eagle images loaded. Every photographer should always have more than one copy of their images whether in the field or permanent files at the home office.

So when shooting in the field, this is my process of trying to reduce any chance of unfortunate incidents and losing my valuable images. (Note: I said reduce!) As soon as one of my compact

flash cards is filled, I install an empty card and my filled card is put in the card holder. (The filled card is put in backwards so as not to get mixed up with empty cards which are installed with the label up) In my photo pack I carry an 80GB Sanho Hyper-Drive PSD, the filled card is downloaded to the Hyper-Drive either in the field or motel room. If I am on an extended trip the same card is then downloaded to my laptop computer. (If I am at home the card is downloaded to my desk top) It is then that I will format my memory card, for it is now backed up with two electronic copies. I will also then write CD's/DVD's of those images. So I now have two electronic copies and a hard copy written on CD/DVD.

There are many different Portable Storage Devices on the market, some with LCD viewing screens, some without. My Hyper-drive is about 2 years old and does not have a viewing screen. These PSD's can cost anywhere from \$150.00 to \$700.00 or more.

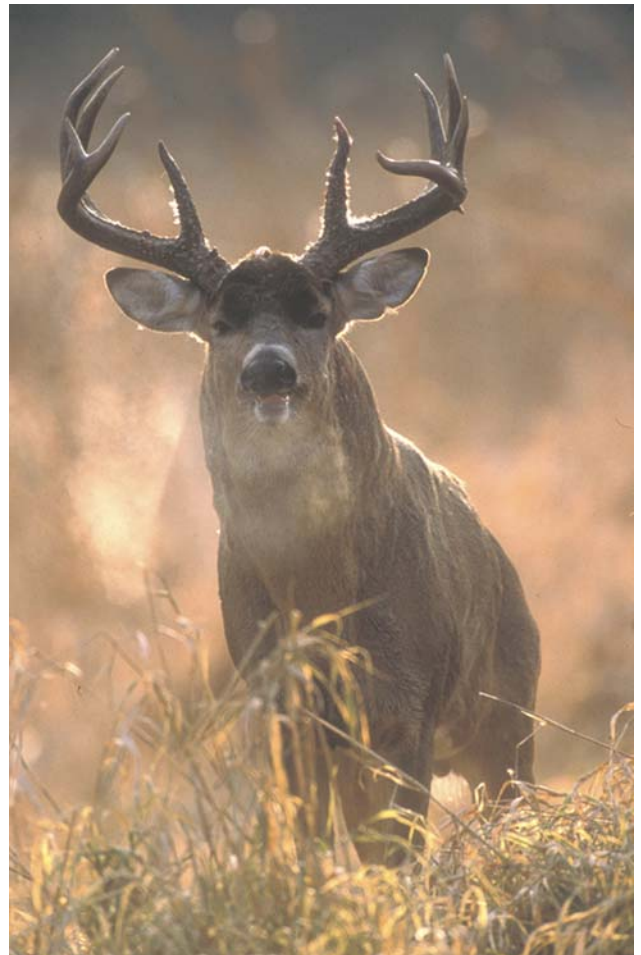
Some examples of PSD's are Epson, Wolverine, Hyper-drive, JoBo and many others. They come in various hard drives, 40GB, 60GB, 80GB, and 120GB, depending on your shooting. My caution is don't short change yourself on memory. Personally I would not consider one under 80GB. Some are truly portable with battery operation (my choice) some will need USB connection from a laptop. I think all of them will also connect to 110VAC. Due to the fact that I now have a new desk top which is so much faster, I will probably quit bringing my laptop with me and will purchase another PSD, this time with a viewing screen. I will still bring my laptop on extended trips so I can write images to CD/DVD.

If you are shooting digital, my advice is to always have at least two copies of your images on separate hard drives of some type. And also write them on CD's/DVD's. That will give you three copies of your images which will greatly reduce the chance of losing all your images when unfortunate things happen.

That workshop leader that had his bag under "salt water" had his images backed up on his

laptop. Also he told me a couple of days later that his PSD still worked, along with his other equipment. (That must say something about Lowe-pro bags).

The whitetail attached with this article is one of the truly magnificent bucks that I have ever photographed. This image was on the roll that I got back. So what makes my other image better? The buck left and came back from the other side so instead of being backlight I had great front lighting with steam from his body and great eye contact! My consolation from the developer (won't mention name, but I never went back ever again) a free roll of Provia 100!



Whitetail Buck

John Pennoyer

Note: My trophy whitetail photography is really taking a hit. The regional park I used to go to in the above mentioned episode is now a "GOLF COURSE"! Good Shooting

**“On Safari”**  
**(Continued from last month)**  
**By Ron Winch**

Our guide coaxes the Land Rover ever so close to the bank and positions it broadside to the river allowing each shooter the best possible view – than we wait. Thousands of wildebeest crowd the edge of the 20 foot bank. Below, zebras test the water of the Mara River, but are hesitant to take the final plunge.

Up top wildebeests are crowding back – making way for a 6,000 pound hippo returning from grazing and seeking the cool water where it will spend the daylight hours. His balloon-like body ambles along on short thin legs as he looks for a pathway to the river. It is some sight to see this primitive looking hippo plodding along, backed by thousands of wildebeest and fore grounded by zebras testing the water below the 20 foot bank. Great photos of rarely seen animal behavior.

A note to future safari-goers; if you go to the Mara with aspirations of photographing a river crossing be sure to stay somewhere in the central Mara so when you approach the river you will be on the river’s left bank (as the current flows downstream). This assures you that you will see the animals coming toward you – rather than hundreds of rear-ends. The best light is from first light till noon – especially if it is sunny. One of the best crossings is river left across the river from the Mara Sepena Lodge.

Long lenses (300mm to 500mm) nestled into bean bags provides a stable platform to photograph the plunging, wild-eyed animals who are feverishly swimming, hoping not to become a meal for a hungry croc. Shorter lenses yield a panorama of the entire scene from the plunge to the dripping exhausted animals scurrying past your Land Rover. What a thrill! Hope it can be yours someday.

Cruising the savanna on an afternoon game drive we observed tui, thomson’s gazelle, wildebeest, warthogs and zebras. All presented wonderful photo ops, but it was the zebras that really made

the Nikon’s motor drive sing. One aggressive young stallion thought he was hot stuff and wanted some of the actions. No young upstart was going to intimidate the herd stallion. He stood erect with head high, ears pointed and tail arched in a display of dominance. “Hot Stuff” was not intimidated – with teeth bared and ears laid back, he charged into the leader. Up on hind feet, bodies almost erect and front feet slashing – each had their moment of glory as a cloud of dust chased by a slight breeze drifted toward the seemingly uncaring herd. Meanwhile, as they moved, we moved with them, always staying in good range for the Nikon 200-400 zoom lens. Ouch, a sharp blow to the shoulder caught “Hot Stuff” off balance and down he went, only to quickly recover and continue the battle. Finally after 7 or 8 minutes the youngster was tiring. Laying his ears back and open-mouthed chewing displayed submission and he beat a hasty retreat. For us it was a time to really be thankful for shooting digital as changing film four or five times would have interrupted the flow of the action.

The sun was racing for the western horizon as Toni, with pocket binoculars, spotted two bateleur eagles in a dead tree some 200 yards out. We have photographed bateleur eagles on every trip to Kenya, but never two perched side by side in such sweet light with only a blue sky behind. Needless to say, the Land Rover made its way toward the eagles – stopping several times to get insurance shots in case the birds took flight. They didn’t and our final shots were full frame bateleur eagles. The eye rings, lores and lower legs showed a brilliant red complimented by the low sun. How many photos can you take of two bateleur eagles? Let’s put you in the same situation and you tell me.

At lunch one day Joe suggested we all display our favorite images. There were some fantastic shots of birds, animals and landscapes. Joe’s comment was “I’ve been here 32 times and after only 8 days you folks have gotten shots that I’m still dreaming of”.

Masai Mara - sounds pretty hard to beat, especially if you hook up with the right outfitter.

May your dreams get bigger and your trips more exotic.

Ron & Toni

**November Salon Results**  
**Judges: Dale Bohlke and Dave Vichich**

**Score of 8**

Alan Schulz	Albatross Colony (W)
David Zosel	Fishing Heron (W)
Dotti Lillestrand	Cardinal Flower
Jim Terpstra	Star Trails Circular
John Ringquist	Mystic
Jon Wilbrecht	Poppy
Kristin Holt	Hooded Merganser Hen (W)
Lil Polley	Foxtail
Lyle Bergman	Hyena Meal (W)
Mariann Cyr	Elephant Seal (W)
Mary Kay Bertas	Loveable
Mary Olson	Reflections
Nadav Cassuto	GGO 1 (W)
Tom Samuelson	Water Lily
Tom Wilson	Pretty Suzie (W)
Vern Nelson	Tieger Swallowtail Caterpillar

**Score of 9**

Claire Dolan	Romping Calves (W)
Dave Ellenbecker	Turkey Tail
Jean McDonough	Male & Female Lion (W)
Mariann Cyr	Scurvy Grass
Mary Kay Bertas	Kanab, Utah
Matthew Schillerberg	Autumn Hawk (W)

**Score of 10**

David Hoyt	White-phase Redish Egret (W)
Jean McDonough	Two Zebrase Nose to Nose (W)
Jeff Morgan	Thrush (W)
John Dykstra	Sun Rays
Tom Samuelson	BWCA
Tom Wilson	Screaming Eagle

**Location, Location, Location**  
**By Don Nadreau**

Locating the sun or moon is usually not very difficult. However; there are times when it is helpful to be able to predict with a great deal of certainty the exact location. This is most helpful to me when shooting on the north shore of Lake Superior. The challenge with the north shore is it runs from southwest to northeast. For some reason I always think of it running south to north and as a result the sunrise or moonrise is in a different place than I think it should be.

The easiest tool I have found to aid in determining the exact location for these events is the US Naval Observatory website at [http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS\\_OneDay.php](http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneDay.php). At this site click on the "Data Services" line at the left area on the webpage, then click on "Altitude & Azimuth of Sun or Moon". You will be brought to a screen to fill out with you location and date. As an example, I selected Beaver Bay (near Split Rock Lighthouse) for the date of 12/07/2007 for the sun and got these results:

	Altitude	Azimuth (E of N)
h m	°	°
06:30	-11.0	111.5
06:40	-9.4	113.2
06:50	-7.9	114.9
07:00	-6.4	116.7
07:10	-4.9	118.4
07:20	-3.4	120.2
07:30	-1.9	122.0
07:40	0.1	123.8

From this I know sunrise will be at 7:40 and located at 123.8 degrees east of north.

I find this handy for pre-scouting a location and set-up when I'm ready to shot.

There are more complicated sites and software to accomplish this, but I like the Navy site best. Good luck!!

**The View from Here**  
**by Lawrence C. Duke**  
**Photography Spoken Here**

The Dust Bowl Days of long ago are back and finding it's way to your Sensor.

For years dust found it's way on to sheet film, I'll even bet it ended up on glass plates, if your that old? It made its way on to slides with no trouble, along with the occasional fingerprint.

First it was the card board mount; it was card board dust from the paper in the mount. Then, somewhere in the 60's the plastic mount was going to solve the dust problem, but not the fingerprint part. With plastic came a more exciting problem, if you were that unlucky. They were the scratches like railroad tracks, the whole length of the frame. They came from the auto mounting machines and the way the film was handled, to get it into the mount, the fingerprints came later with the sorting. The Dust would never dare be in the camera, oh, an occasional hair might get into the shutter track when changing film and you would see funny spots in the view finder, now and then. But for the most part you could change lenses as many times as you needed to. I can't deny that it was a problem during the time of film, but it sure was a heck of a lot easier to keep clean. You just got out your can of air and a brush or lens cloth, and spent 5 minutes.

Now we are in a new era of the Dust Bowl Days. It's those fun off color spots in your skies, or the black blob on the flower petal or someone's face, the curly gray thing, looking like a vapor trail from a jet.

And now being a member of the Digital world, I have a new dislike for Dust. I've been super careful of my digital cameras,

and my lenses, making very few lens changes in the field. I've had to send the bodies back to the manufactures, because I didn't know how to clean, I mean really clean, that sensor thing. The body was no problem; wipe it down," no fingers on the monitor ", get a Hoodman cover for the LCD, so you can catch the Dust on the monitor, and in general be careful of your camera.

Age and wisdom, don't come easy. I've been plagued with Dust, some times I feel like I'm back in Arizona, just before a rain storm. That's the age part, now for the wisdom part. This last week, I let a friendly Sales Associates, convince me that I could learn to clean my own Sensors.

You don't get smarter as you get older. You learn that some things are better left to someone else. I now have about three hours on the web learning how to use all the new stuff. I also have some great images of a bald sky, a blank wall and a bracket of exposures. All have different arrangements of Dust from; the sensor swabs, the electric brush, the super air blower, and I think I saw something jump on to the sensor from the loupe.

Really, I just want to make beautiful photos, that are free of all the above.

## Nature Photo Times

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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

### **December 19, 2007 Meeting**

#### **December Program:**

End of Year competition results. Judging by  
Stan Tekiela. He is a naturalist, writer,  
author of several nature books, and a  
professional photographer. We will also  
have our annual Holiday Party, so remember  
to bring an item to pass around.

## 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.