

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

February 2012

Volume 36, Number 02

Leaping Leopard

by Richard Seeley

We were riding in our safari vehicles in the Masai Mara Game Preserve in Kenya, photographing the extensive wildlife there when we received the news over the radio - leopard alert! Our driver Ben did a u-turn and headed across the savannah at body-bouncing speed to converge on the leopard location (how they know where to drive is beyond me - there are no signs, no maps, no GPS and the few visible roads are dirt and rutted). And suddenly there it was before us.



"On the March"

This beautiful cat creature was marching across the flat and open terrain with its tail curled high in the air, head and eyes straight ahead, ignoring the 7 safari vehicles crowding around it. Ben leap-frogged the crowd and positioned the vehicle 100 yards ahead of the cat. It was heading straight for us! As it approached, it did not change direction. It just walked past like we did not exist. So close, so exciting, my heart was racing.

"So Close"



Ben did another leap-frog and repositioned our vehicle so that we had a good broadside view as our leopard marched by. But this time the seemingly steady cadence was interrupted. The leopard stopped, turned its head, and stared as two hyenas came out of nowhere on a diagonal converging collision course.

"Hyena Alert"



"Hyenas in Pursuit"



The leopard rocketed into full flight, gaining a slim lead away from the hyenas, and leaped up a nearby tree. In one jump it seemed to land halfway up the trunk of the tree. It then scrambled up the trunk like a launching missile, landing on the nearest branch.

"Gaining Distance"



"Ready To Leap"



“Scramble To Safety”



“On The Look Out”



It stood in the crotch of the branch, hackles up, teeth barred as it surveyed the threats from its high perch.

The hyenas eventually lost interest and moved on to track other prey. When the hyenas were no longer a threat, the leopard descended the tree and continued its solitary march to its destination.

Be sure to watch the video: [Leaping Leopard Video](#) .
Just another wildlife encounter in the Masai Mara, Kenya :)

Richard Seeley
richard@seeley.com



Photos by Bill Bevington, Donna Carr, Cathy Sheeter, Bob Stocker, and Nancy Stocker were among the Top 250 highly commended images in the 2011 Share the View photo contest run by the Audubon Society of Greater Denver. Prize winners and the Top 250 highly commended images are currently on display at <http://denveraudubon.contestvenue.com/winners-intro.php>. Although the contest is sponsored by a local organization, winners were from all over the world. Congratulations, all!



Hospitality for the February Meeting

Marge Mieger - Cookies/Snacks

Barbara Fleming - Beverages

Volunteers are needed for later this year!

MHWPC - The Wildlife Experience Exhibit 2012

“The Living Forest”

The Wildlife Experience (“TWE”) has invited our Club to exhibit our work this summer (tentatively June to August). The theme will be *The Living Forest*. At the regular Club meeting on March 14th, we will have a special digital competition where Club members will choose 22 images to be included in the exhibit. No member will have more than one image selected for the exhibit. Only Club members that have paid their Club dues may participate. Please read all of the FAQ’s below for further guidance on the exhibit process.

FAQ’s

1. What is “The Living Forest”? The exhibit theme is intentionally broad to allow for a wide variety of nature subject matter and for creative interpretation by the Club’s members. We assume that the final group of images in the exhibit will feature both wildlife photos and landscapes that capture all aspects of the theme “The Living Forest”. We hope to collect images that capture all the various life forms that call the forest home.

Any entry that meets the Club’s regular competition guidelines for the wildlife, wildlife - hand of man, and landscape categories may be entered. It must be a nature photo, under the Club’s regular rules. After that, it’s up to the judges.

2. How much creative adjustment can I make to my image? All normal “Photoshop” adjustments that are allowed under our regular Club competition rules for the wildlife and wildlife – captive and controlled, may be applied to your images. Highly adjusted or created images that would fit into the Club’s Open competition category are NOT allowed for TWE exhibit.

3. Are captive wildlife subjects allowed? Yes, they are allowed. Any entry that meets the Club’s guidelines for the wildlife – captive and controlled category may be entered.

4. How do I enter? Each Club member may submit a maximum of 2 images. Entries MUST be in one of the following aspect ratios: 1x1, 2x3, or 1x3 aspect ratio because the final exhibit wraps will be square (20x20 finished – 23x23 overall print size), rectangular (16x24 finished – 19x27 overall print size), or panoramic (11x33 finished – 14x37 overall print size). Entries that do not conform cannot be accepted into the competition or the exhibit. Entries should be submitted during the digital image submission window for the March 2012 meeting. **Please refer to the Digital Image Submission Guidelines published on the Club’s website HYPERLINK “<http://www.MHWPC.org>” www.MHWPC.org.**

5. How are images selected to the show? The Club members in attendance at the March meeting will vote to select 22 images for the exhibit, including two “Best of Show” images that will be prominently featured and displayed at a larger size in the show. Each Club member may enter a maximum of two digital images into the March TWE competition. The first round of voting will be to select the single best image from each member, which will move into the final round. In the final round, the top 22 exhibit images will be selected.

Finally, 2 of these images will be selected as Best of Show from the top 5 images in the final round. Each member gets 22 votes during the final round, so it really helps to have a piece of paper and a pen to take some notes on your favorite images as they are shown and to track your votes.

6. What must I bring to the March meeting? Bring a CD with high-resolution TIFF files to the March meeting. Even though you already submitted low-resolution files, we need a high-resolution file for printing from all the winners. **YOU MUST DO THE CROPPING** and submit a file in the appropriate aspect ratio – **THE PRINTER CANNOT DO THE CROPPING FOR YOU!**

Here are some helpful Photoshop tips from Russ Burden:

The bottom line is the aspect ratio with no resolution:

1x1

2x3

1x3

Here is an example for the 2x3 aspect ratio.



Horizontal

3 inches wide

2 inches tall

Resolution = blank

Once it's cropped to the 2x3 ratio, the file needs to be made into a 16x24 in the Image Size dialog box.

Once the image is cropped to the desired aspect ratio, the file needs to be made into one of the following sizes in the Image Size dialog box.

2x3 = 19x27 overall, 16x24 on the front face

1x1 = 23x23 overall, 20x20 on the front face

1x3 = 14x37 overall, 11x33 on the front face

When cropping, remember that this exhibit will feature Gallery Wraps. Be sure to allow for the excess on the outside edge for the wraps.

Here are some other helpful guidelines:

All files need to be **uncompressed 8 bit tif or jpgs** flattened without any channels, paths or layers.

They need to be in either **sRGB or Adobe 98** color space.

Scanned images from a slide need to be scanned at 200-300dpi at 16x24 when the scan is created. This scan will render somewhere between a 60 to 85 meg file.

Original camera files need be cropped to the desired aspect ratio. Once cropped, they need to be sized at 300 dpi file size. Use Bicubic Smoother. If the resulting image is significantly cropped, be sure to view it at 100%. If it doesn't look good, please refrain from submitting it.

"Photographers who sharpen images **should be very careful not to over sharpen**. Be sure to check sharpened images by viewing them at 100% image size."

If your image was originally a slide you will need to bring a CD with the high-resolution files to the March meeting, even though it has already been submitted as a low-resolution scan for the competition. If your image was originally a slide you will need to follow the guidelines above.

7. Can I enter a mix of digital and slides? Absolutely. But since the competition is in a digital format, your competition entry submission (maximum of 2 images) must all be in the prescribed low-resolution digital format even if the original image was captured on film. In addition you will need to bring to the March meeting your high-resolution digital files on a CD for all of your image entries regardless if the original image was captured digitally or as a slide. If your original image was shot as a slide, you will need to follow the guidelines above.

8. If my image is selected to the show, what happens next? The night of the competition, we will need your high-resolution image on CD. You'll get the CD back at a future Club meeting. Shortly after the March meeting you will need to email or snail-mail a 50-word maximum written description of your selected image to Chuck Winter. This will be displayed alongside the image so TWE visitors can learn something about it - what kind of animal it is, where did you take the picture, were there any interesting things going on, etc. This should be general information about the image subject and should NOT include any photographic information like, camera, lens, etc. Please ask Chuck Winter for suggestions, if you need help with this.

9. Who pays for the prints and frames? MHWPC agreed last October that each member who gets an image accepted into the exhibit will contribute \$35.00 toward the DuraPlaq display. TWE will pay the balance for the canvas print and wrap. If your image is in the show, you will get to keep the DuraPlaq after the show is over!

10. What if I want to enter the competition, but can't come to the March meeting? You don't have to be present to win, but your image does. You need to send the applicable items listed in item 6, above to the meeting with someone else.



News from the Library

Hello from the Library!

Joe and I are sorry that we didn't show up at the last meeting - work, the snow, and cold deterred our efforts. We will plan on having the library materials on display at the February meeting. Come and check out what we have to offer - whether it is a book, video, DVD, etc. We all can benefit from learning something new, viewing new vistas, reading of suggestions made by others on places to visit, etc. Joe and I will have just returned from Lake Tahoe and hopefully get some gorgeous scenics of Emerald Bay, the ski slopes, and maybe some animal candids. So, don't forget that we have some interesting materials available. **COME AND CHECK US OUT IN FEBRUARY!**

Informational Links—

Thank you to Charlie Summers for these web links:

To find out about the extras features in Lightroom 4. check out this article at Digital Photography Review:

<http://www.dpreview.com/news/2012/01/16/lr4interview>

And, a possibly interesting way to find lost/stolen cameras, or pictures?

<http://www.dpreview.com/news/2011/12/29/cameratrace>

2012 Dues Reminder!

If you have already paid your dues, THANK YOU

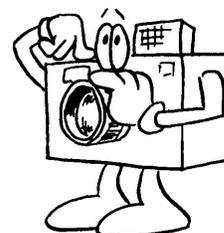
If you have not paid your dues Rita Summers and I will be out of town for the February meeting. To pay your dues, Lois Lake will be handling Rita's duties and you can pay Lois when you pick up your nametag. If you can't make the meeting, or you prefer to mail your dues in, you can mail your payment to:

SAM FLETCHER
ATTN: MHWPC
11831 E. KOKOMO
FRANKTOWN, CO 80116

Dues are \$25 per individual, and \$5 for each additional family member, per calendar year.

THANKS!

SAM FLETCHER
TREASURER
MILE HIGH WILDLIFE PHOTO CLUB



Things I Have Learned At MHWPC

by Lois Lake

Wildlife

I joined MHWPC just before the March meeting in 2009. It was my first meeting and it just happened to be the month for competition for images to be hung at The Wildlife Experience. I was so excited that I had captured a butterfly sipping nectar from a butterfly bush. You could actually see its tongue! What could be better than that, right? Well, the night of competition arrived and the voting began. My image received one vote and I think that person felt sorry for me and wanted to encourage me in photography. I have to say that the members of the club are very encouraging and willing to share information to those who want to learn and that became my mission... *to learn why my image only received one vote.*



Foliage must be in its prime. Looking back on that first image, I now realize the butterfly was desperately trying to find nectar from a flower that was about to fall off the bush. Thus it really didn't matter that I had captured its tongue.

Clean backgrounds with a pleasant color work best. You must have enough depth of field to blur the background, i.e. the rest of the bush. There were leaves that created bright spots which distracted the eye from the butterfly. Generally a white or bright gray background do not enhance the image.

Isolate your subject and keep it simple. The butterfly is the subject and it is necessary to show the flower, but the background was so cluttered it was very difficult to find the butterfly.

Crop the image to best display your subject. The majority of the bush should have been cropped out of the image. Before you even shoot the image you need to define the subject matter and how you want to compose the shot.

Never shoot past the perpendicular. What this means is that nobody wants to see the south bound end of a north bound anything. If the subject is walking away from you, it is not a good shot.

Capture the catch light in eye. When you are shooting wildlife it adds so much to the image when you get that little glint of light in the eye. It shows life and vibrancy.

Wildlife shots with action or interaction rate higher. Watch your subject and learn their behavior. It is fascinating to see non-verbal communication and body language among the wildlife. Take the challenge of trying to capture that in your image.

The subject must be in prime condition. One year I found a white trumpeter swan in the Madison River in Yellowstone. I could see pink on one of the wings. When I got home and enlarged the image on my computer I realized it had a broken wing tip which was bleeding. Even though nature is cruel at times and reality is not always pretty, people do not want to see it and an image will not rate well if the subject is not in prime condition. People do not want to see animals when they are shedding their winter coat. Wait until their coat is shiny and sleek.

Scenic

Composition. Everyone talks about the rule of thirds in landscape photography. You never want the skyline to be placed in the middle of your image. However I have learned more about foreground, middle and background with the rule of thirds. An image with a very simple, clean object in the foreground at the point where the “thirds” intersect makes a stronger image. To make cropping easy, in Photoshop open your Preferences. Click on Guides, Grid & Slices from the list on the left and change the settings for the Grid section as follows: Gridline every 100 percent, Subdivisions 3, and click OK. This creates a grid that divides the image into thirds both horizontally and vertically. When you turn on the grid, a rule-of-thirds grid will be superimposed over the image thus giving guidelines where to crop your image.

Light. The strongest and most dynamic images are generally taken two hours before and after sunrise or sunset. However there are times when you are traveling and you see something that is just compelling and you must capture the moment even if it is the middle of the day. Quite often that image can be turned into a black and white and be a very powerful image.

Reflections. Landscape shots with reflections in the water are very appealing to the eye. If you get up early in the morning to take the shot you will not only have the advantage of the early morning light, but generally the wind does not start blowing until after sunrise so you will have that glassy smooth water for the reflection.

Of course the other thing I have learned over the past two or three years is that rules are made to be broken. Sometimes breaking the rules creates a very stunning image. It is only by listening to others critique images at MHWPC and studying what works and what doesn't that I will become a better photographer.



Competition Rules Update / Reminder

Each month, the newsletter will have a reminder or synopsis of one or more rules category. This month, a reminder of the OPEN category rules is below.

NOTE: *If there's any doubt as to the eligibility of one of your images, please submit it to someone on the competition committee for approval.*

Open

- ⇒ Any nature image that does not fit into the other categories can be entered in this category.
- ⇒ There are no post processing restrictions for the Open category. Creativity and artistic manipulation are encouraged.
- ⇒ **A description of what was done to the image must accompany the entry.**
- ⇒ All components of composite images must be the original artwork of the photographer.
- ⇒ Images must meet the subject matter of the other competition categories.

NOTE: This category has been discussed at length during recent club meetings. Remember, in general—**corrective** processing does not belong in the Open category, while **creative** processing does.

January Club Competition Results

Category: *Wildlife*

Judge: *Rita Summers*

First Place



Afternoon Snack by Chuck Andrews

Location: Brooks Falls,
Katmai National Park, Alaska

"Competition for fishing spots is severe, so it is usually prudent to give up your spot, and move to a more secluded area to munch on the fish. Pentax K20D, DA 55-300mm Pentax lens at 210mm, 1/500th second at 'F8, hand-held. 1/500 sec, f/9, ISO 400" - Chuck Andrews

Second Place



Bullfrog by Brenda Fletch

Third Place



Great White Pelican by Brenda Fletcher

January Club Competition Results

Category: *Wildlife (continued)*

Judge: *Rita Summers*

Honorable Mention



A New Year Morning by Barbara Fleming

Honorable Mention



Small But Mighty by Barbara Fleming

Honorable Mention



Stillness Of The Night
by Tammy Hammond

Honorable Mention



Meditating Monkey
by Rop Monthathong

January Club Competition Results

Category: *Scenic*

Judge: *Rita Summers*

First Place



Early Morning Fog by Elmer Paetow

Location: Madison River,
Yellowstone National Park

Second Place



Stormy Sunset at Yamcola
by Lois Lake

Third Place



Eclipsed Moon Over Colorado Rockies
by Roger Clark

Honorable Mention



Africa Sunset
by Barbara Fleming

Honorable Mention



Swamp Lily by Thomas Redd

January Club Competition Results

Category: **Open**

Judge: **Rita Summers**

First Place



Water Lily by Rop Monthathong

Location: Hudson Gardens

Littleton, Colorado

*"Macro class with Russ Burden.
Floating water lily. Filter
placed around lily using
Photoshop."*

- Rop Monthathong

Second Place



Twilight Serenade by Tammy Hammond

Third Place



**Hooded Merganser Couple
by Nancy Stocker**

January Masters Competition Results

Category: *Wildlife*

Judge: *Rita Summers*

First Place



Autumn Stroll by Russ Burden

Location: Grand Teton National Park

"Still morning at Oxbow Bend and the big bull moose came through the water after he read my email to be there at a certain time and he cooperated!"

- Russ Burden

Second Place



Cape Gannet Landing by James Hager

Third Place



Snowy Owl by Fi Rust

Honorable Mention



Sandhill Crane Takeoff by Reb Babcock

January Masters Competition Results

Category: **Scenic**

Judge: **Rita Summers**

First Place



**Death Valley Mesquite Dunes
by Reb Babcock**

Location: Mesquite Dunes

Death Valley National Park, California

"Late afternoon landscape. Black and white conversion in Photoshop."

- Reb Babcock

Second Place



St. Mary Mist by Jan Forseth

Third Place



Clearing Teton Storm by Russ Burden

January Masters Competition Results

Category: **Open**

Judge: **Rita Summers**

Location: Littleton, Colorado

First Place



All My Ducks In A Row
by Russ Burden

The original image started with the 3 ducklings in the middle. I added two new ones to the log to the left of the original three. I then copied and pasted the same two to create the reflection in the water. I did the same for the additional rear facing duck on the right. To create the focal point, I added the lone front facing duck on the far right. I then brought the composite into Nik Viveza to punch up the color, contrast, and vibrancy of the water."

- Russ Burden

Second Place



Red-Tailed Hawk Landing by Fi Rust

Digital Meeting Contributor Needed!

Recently, this important part of the club's activities has not received the newsletter coverage it deserves. If you are a regular attendee at the digital training meetings, would you consider writing a short article summarizing the meeting content for our newsletter readers? I will be happy to assist with editing, so interest and commitment is more important than writing experience. If you are not up to a long-term commitment, but would be able to cover the next meeting, that's OK too! Please contact Chris Frazier if you're able to help. Thank You!

Competition Opportunity!

Handbook of the Birds of the World (HBW) has announced a bird photography contest "World Bird Photo Contest" with a top prize of \$10,000 - up to 8 entries are free. Entries are accepted until March 26, 2012. Complete information and rules can be found at: <http://www.hbwcontest.com/>

What Mile High Wildlife Photo Club Means To Me

By Bob Stocker

Editors Note: Throughout 2012, we hope this will be a recurring column, with various members chiming in with thoughts about why they joined and enjoy our club. Not only does this celebrate the club's thirty-five years and counting, it's also a great way to tell website visitors and those considering membership about the club. Please consider sharing your thoughts during one of the upcoming newsletter submission windows.

I rarely miss the monthly general meeting of MHWPC. We often have great programs, but (unless you count the refreshments) I enjoy the competitions most. Club members submit some truly remarkable images. Regardless of the judge, judging is always provocative. Listening to critiques – even the ones I disagree with – has help me define what I like in a picture and made me a better photographer.

Competitions have other benefits for me. The monthly schedule provides a bit of structure to my otherwise pleasantly unstructured retired life. The exceptional quality of other members' images challenges me to make better images myself and motivates me to search for new photographs in nature. That continuing search is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding things I do.

At Our January Meeting

by Chris Frazier

The business portion of our January meeting included important items. Sam Fletcher was elected as club treasurer. Those in attendance also choose the name of the upcoming TWE exhibit: "The Living Forest". Roger Clark spoke for a few minutes regarding his upcoming February program, giving us a glimpse into what will be discussed. There was also a lengthy discussion regarding the Open competition category, hopefully helping members regarding what belongs and what does not belong in this category.

With Glen Randall not able to give his planned program due to a personal emergency, Chuck Winter gave a truly instructional, first-hand view of Colorado photography opportunities and locales. Covering both wildlife and scenic, there was plenty to take away as far as ideas and places to go. After the break, Rita Summers judged the competition portion of the meeting, offering a lot of specific observations and critique points for many of the photos submitted last month.

A Benefit of Membership—Our Digital Training Meetings!

While our regular club meetings are open to guests and visitors, paid membership has a great additional opportunity – the club's digital training meetings. Every meeting is an opportunity to increase your photographic knowledge. On February 22nd, Terry Mieger will do a presentation on HDR photography. Terry is an expert on the topic - be sure to make it to the meeting. And next month, on March 28th, Ken Winner will do a presentation on Layers - he's shown Russ the outline of his show. If you want to get up to speed on how to use layers, this is a MUST attend! The meetings start at 7:00 PM, normally on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Bring a notebook and writing implement to take your notes! AND—Do you have a skill or information you think others could benefit from? Please consider being a presenter for all or part of a future digital training meeting. Contact Russ Burden for details.

Upcoming Programs !

February Roger Clark will present “The Angle of Light and Image Impact”. The talk will explore the concept of phase angle and the direction and type of light and how it impacts light on a subject, including the foreground and background in an image. This is especially important for wildlife photography where the angle of light changes subtle texture on a subject.

Roger Clark is a different kind of photographer: he is a planetary scientist with a PhD from MIT. Roger's specialty is imaging spectroscopy, where he studies light as a function of wavelength from ultraviolet to far infrared, producing images to map ecosystems on the Earth and minerals on other planets.

Roger has been doing digital imaging for over 35 years and has had over 1,000 images published, mostly in scientific journals, as well as in books, magazines, calendars and BBC video documentaries. His images are used by many institutions for educational and research purposes as well as in advertising. Roger is presently a scientist on the Cassini mission orbiting Saturn and the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter.

On the Cassini VIMS team, he sets the framing and exposure times for most of the icy satellite images, thus, he needs to know the best angle of light and its intensity for the best science, months to years in advance.

He applies his understanding of light, its color and direction to wildlife and landscape photography.

March March will be time for the 2012 The Wildlife Experience club exhibit selection of entries. See page four of this newsletter for complete details on how to participate in this selection process.

April Steve Goodman will be visiting with a presentation on the Brazil Pantanal area.

May Club member Bruce Norman will give a presentation on Alaska by train, plane, automobile, and boat. (Editors Note: Steve Martin is a banjo player, not a photographer, nowadays)

Recent Speaker Information

For more information regarding recent programs and speakers, the following contact information is available:

January Club member Chuck Winter shared a presentation chock full of Colorado wildlife and scenic ideas and locales. Chuck can be contacted at cwinter@mii-rmcc.com

December The annual holiday party took the place of our regular program time in August.

November Club members Charlie and Rita Summers offered a slideshow presentation featuring the wide diversity of African wildlife. Please take a look at the Summers' website at [Wild Images](#) for more on African wildlife and their other specialty, wild horses

October Club members and professional photographers Cathy & Gordon Illg shared a presentation full of information regarding their “Canyon Magic—A Visual Journey with Cathy & Gordon Illg” Exhibit at The Wildlife Experience. Please visit Gordon and Cathy's website at advenphoto.com for more about the Illg's work.

The Wildlife Experience Events

The following event may be of interest to MHWPC members— please contact The Wildlife Experience at 720-488-3344 for more information. Cost is \$15 for non TWE members, \$12 for members.

COLORADO'S PEREGRINE FALCONS: A FASCINATING SUCCESS STORY

February 21, 2012

5:30 p.m.: Doors open/registration

6:00 p.m.: Program



In the 1970's Colorado's Peregrine Falcons were nearly driven to extinction. This is the amazing story of the extraordinary effort to save them. Join retired wildlife biologist, Jeff Rucks as he shares his personal experiences as a member of the Colorado recovery team for these amazing birds. This is perhaps the greatest effort and success story regarding an endangered species in North America. It is a story filled with danger, excitement, suspense and humor. And it all takes place on some of the highest cliff faces in Colorado. We will also meet a **LIVE FALCON** during this presentation.

Wild Horse Photography Opportunity!

As discussed at the November meeting, Charlie Summers has officially announced the Wild Horse Sanctuary Tour 2012 which will take place on Saturday May 5, 2012. Included in the tour are a morning session at sunrise and an evening session that will go until sunset. The length of each session will be 2-3 hours depending on what is available. The cost of the tour on the Sanctuary is \$100.00 which includes both sessions, morning and evening, as well as a brunch after the morning session.

Charlie has arranged for our group to stay at the Super 8 Motel in Hot Springs, the closest motel to the highway that leads us to the Sanctuary. A part of this arrangement is to have an early continental breakfast before we take off to the Sanctuary on Saturday May 5 early enough to get there just before sunrise. The motel's information is 800 Mammoth St Hot Springs, SD 57747 (605) 745-3888. Each person should indicate they are with the Mile High Wildlife Photo Club on the Wild Horse Sanctuary Tour which will peg our group. The web site for the motel is: <http://www.super8.com/hotels/south-dakota/hot-springs/super-8-hot-springs/hotel-overview>.

Transportation and motel arrangements are the responsibility of the individual. To secure a place, please send \$50.00 deposit to:

Charlie Summers
23463 East Moraine Place
Aurora, CO 80016

The balance will be due 45 days in advance of the trip.

The Wild Horse Sanctuary is becoming a major wildlife sanctuary. On a recent visit, Charlie and Rita saw Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Merriam's Turkey, Bighorn Sheep, and Coyotes. And maybe there were other species that saw them but were not seen? Charlie states he was stunned at seeing Bighorn sheep but for those that have been to the Sanctuary before, they were in the cliffs around the corner from the petroglyphs. Yes, there are carvings by ancient man on the Sanctuary as well...

And A Possible Star Trail and Light Painting Seminar....

If there is interest, Charlie Summers is also offering to be available for a Star Trail and Light Paint Seminar in the field in the panhandle of Nebraska several days before the Wild Horse Sanctuary trip. This would be on May 2 and 3, 2012 since that is the dark of the moon. There is a place where there is practically no light pollution that is an old homestead with lots of old buildings, bunkhouses etc. There are five rooms that need two people each to come along. The seminar is \$100.00 each for ten people. In addition to star trails there are old buildings and farm machinery that can be light painted at night. Each individual would bear the cost of the room which this year is roughly \$80.00. Included in the cost of the rooms is breakfast but lunch and dinners are not. Meals are available in the cook shack. If two people share the room, that would be \$40.00 each.

The only piece of equipment required is a remote computer, available on eBay for \$22.00 plus minus. Naturally some kind of flashlight is also necessary for light painting. There are plenty of areas near the homestead to obtain natural foregrounds if that is necessary.

Since the Wild Horse tour starts on May 5, there would be a free day between tours to give folks the opportunity to get some rest, go into Wind Cave or Custer or just hang out. Please contact Charlie Summers ASAP, at the address above or via the club's website member contact information, if interested in this additional seminar.



Want another reason to visit Nebraska? The phone lines are now open for reservations for Sandhill Crane viewing at the Rowe Sanctuary, east of the town of Kearney. Reservations are being taken for visits from March 7 to April 8, 2012. Check out the viewing schedule and get additional information by visiting [the Rowe Sanctuary website](#).

Member Workshops and Tours:



James Hager Photography Small Group Photo Safaris

For more information visit

www.jameshagerphoto.com

or contact James

via email at james@jameshagerphoto.com

2012 Destinations include:

Kenya in Oct 2012: A 20-day classic African photo safari, including visits to Samburu National Reserve, Lake Nakuru National Park, and Masai Mara National Reserve. The safari is intended for photographers, or serious naturalists, who want to spend time with the animals of East Africa.

Gorillas in Oct 2012: 5 days of visiting mountain gorillas in the best environment for photography— Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda. Gorilla trekking in Volcanoes National Park is an amazing experience!

Member Workshops and Tours:



Cathy & Gordon Illg's Adventure Photography Tours

For more information visit

www.advenphoto.com

or contact the Illg's at phone 303 237-7086, or via email at gordon@advenphoto.com

2012 Destinations include:

- ◇ California—Death Valley, March 3-8th
- ◇ Alaska—Northern Lights, March 12-18th
- ◇ Ecuador—Galapagos National Park, March 26-April 5th
- ◇ Arizona—Southern Arizona, April 15-20th
- ◇ North Carolina—Birds & More!, April 25-29th
- ◇ Louisiana/Texas—Bayou Adventure, May 8-13th
- ◇ Minnesota—Wildlife Babies, June 24-27th
- ◇ Alaska—Alaska Boat Tour, August 25—September 2nd

Local Photography Idea for February



This month's idea repeats from our June newsletter. With a completely

different season comes new opportunities at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Ice-covered lakes and ponds, bald eagles, several hawk species, owls, white-tailed deer, and coyotes are just a few of the photographic possibilities. Consider a trip to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal or Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuges. A new Rocky Mountain Arsenal Visitor Center opened to the public on May 21, 2011. There is also a new entrance to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal Refuge off of Quebec Street just north of Dick's Sporting Goods Stadium. The Friends Group is now doing the coordinating for special photo tours. Friends Group members are given first priority for photo tours which is a good incentive for joining. Photography is also allowed on an individual basis from the refuge trails. Visit the Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWF website for more information on the refuge, photo tours, and the "Friends of the Front Range Wildlife Refuges".

Member Workshops and Tours:



Russ Burden's Photography Tours

For more information visit

www.russburdenphotography.com

or contact Russ at phone 303-791-9997, or
via email at rburden@ecentral.com

2012 Destinations include:

- ◇ Feb. 18 - 24, 2012 Birds of Florida: Everglades National Park and Fort Myers / West Palm area
- ◇ Apr 14 - 20, 2012 Monument Valley and the Slot Canyons
- ◇ May 5 - 11, 2012 Arches and Canyonlands National Parks - includes 5 days of Photoshop instruction!
- ◇ May 26 - June 4, 2012 The Northern California and Oregon Coasts - a 10 day trip
- ◇ June 16 - 22, 2012 Grand Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park in Spring
- ◇ July 14—20 ,2012 Colorado Wildflowers and Alpine Scenery
- ◇ Sept 23 - Oct 2, 2012 Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks in Fall - 10 days
- ◇ Oct. 16 - 21, 2012 Hunts Mesa - An Aerial Perspective of Monument Valley and Capital Reef National Park
- ◇ Nov. 3 - 9, 2012 Fall Colors at Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks
- ◇ Dec. 1 - 7, 2012 Bosque Del Apache and White Sands National Monument

Mile High Wildlife Photography Club

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BOARD of DIRECTORS

Rita Summers • Russ Burden

Chuck Winter • Chris Loffredo • Ron Eberhart

February Meeting

Wednesday, February 8th

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

10035 South Peoria

Competition: Wildlife, Scenic, and Wildlife C&C

January Attendance: Approximately 46

February Digital Training Meeting

Wednesday, February 22nd

7:00 p.m. – 9:15 p.m. at

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

Please send your articles and input to

newsletter@mhwpc.org

March submission deadline is Saturday 03/04/12