



November/December 2011

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Calendar

Friday November 4th – Digital Prints
Submission Deadline

Tuesday November 8th – BHPC Meeting
6:30pm – Business Meeting
7:00pm – Contest Judging

Tuesday December 13th – BHPC Meeting
6:30pm – Business Meeting
7:00pm – Contest Judging/Potluck

November Contest Info

Nature — Images depicting natural subjects. Excludes all manmade or altered objects. Images of animals, birds etc. entered in this class must be photographed in a natural setting. (Reality based class)

Helpful and interesting topic
related articles...

<http://www.naturephotographers.net/dw0502-1.html>

<http://www.naturephotographers.net/articles0903/bs0903-1.html>

Birthdays

November

Barry Castetter (1st)
John Rayner (2nd)
Sue Gannaway (7th)
Mark Thomsen (8th)
Sharon Blanks (13th)
Bill Van Hoosan (16th)
Rita Shay (19th)
Lauren Haymond (19th)



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December

Linda Foster (16th)

Frankie Hofer (23rd)

Bill Moss (23rd)

Brian Haymond (24th)

Candy Erk Manthey (30th)

Note from the President

Our new Editor Kaycee Baye has prepared this issue of Black Hills Expressions. Thank you Kaycee for taking on this task. Included in this and future newsletters will be a Members Market section where you can advertise and hopefully sell that unused equipment you have relegated to a closet shelf.

Remember, this is your newsletter! Please give Kaycee your full support by submitting articles, photo tips, photos and suggestions that may be of interest to other members.

We also have a Field Trip Chairperson. Eva Bareis has agreed to take on the task of arranging Field Trips. Thank you Eva for stepping up to this job. Please give Eva your full support by volunteering to serve as trip leaders.

The Black Hills Photo Shootout was a huge success this year thanks to Chad Coppess, Scott Howard, Steve Babbitt, the session leaders, Black Hills State University and all the volunteers, including our club members, who made things go smoothly. This year's weather was a Photographers dream. We had it all: clear blue skies, clouds, spectacular displays of fall colors and very little wind. By all accounts participants had a great time and went home with plenty of great images and plans to return next year.



Our Friday night keynote speaker, David Stoecklein was outstanding and his presentation was timely and in tune with the Western flavor of the Cowboy Portraits and Working Ranch sessions.

BHPC provided a help desk at the Game Fish and Parks Campus West Facility. A number of folks stopped by to visit and ask questions about the area and also seeking



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help with their cameras and their approach to photography. Thanks to the club members who volunteered to help. It was a fun time and an opportunity for us to familiarize ourselves with our new meeting place!

The Black Hills Photography Club display was well received and we met and visited with many folks from across the state and the country. A number of people asked questions about our club and several expressed interest in joining. Two people actually signed up during the Shootout.



Summer has passed and fall is in the air. Days are shorter and temperatures are falling. Some areas have already experienced their first snowflakes! The changing seasons bring new opportunities for photography so keep your cameras at the ready. Falling leaves and fresh snow make great subjects. Remember to add 1 or 2 stops to properly expose the white snow.

We held our October meeting in the Game, Fish and Parks Campus West Facility.



We have been looking forward to the move since late spring and I believe it is safe to say: Wow, very impressive. We now have access to state of the art audio/visual equipment and a much larger meeting room to accommodate our growing membership. The facility has so much to offer. I encourage each of you to take time to visit the inside displays and to take advantage of the outdoor trails, ponds and wetlands. Be sure to take your cameras along; you never know what you might see along the way!

Don't forget, we will be electing officers for 2012 at the November 8 meeting. That is also competition night. The theme is Nature. You can review the competition rules by visiting our website at www.bhphotoclub.org and clicking on Competitions.



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Our December meeting will include a Potluck dinner, Installation of Officers for 2012 and members voting for Best Photos of the Year. We will also have a slide show of photos submitted by club members. Mark your calendars for December 6 and join in the fun and fellowship!!!

Ted

Additional Picture Submitted by Ted Ayers



Long Shot Wind Cave National Park (Taken October 26, 2011)

In Your Backyard

Where do you go in the Black Hills for photo opportunities?

Submitted by: Kaycee Baye

When I have time to take pictures in the Black Hills I always enjoy looking for old cemeteries. My favorite is Saint Ambrose Cemetery in Deadwood. The trees offer interesting shadow effects and there is this awesome angel statue overlooking the headstones.



Dream Photo Adventure

Submitted by: John Rayner

When I was first asked to write an article for the newsletter on a "Fantasy Photo Op" many ideas ran through my head. Kaycee offered the idea of a fantasy photo location. I had thought about a fantasy location, but the idea didn't truly appeal to me. Fantasy locations are still just landscape shots, in a different location. In my life time I have seen many different locations, and shots



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from many, many more. What is there about one location over another that makes it a better shot? As my bride puts it, once you see one tree, you have seen them all.

So I thought some more. What makes a true Fantasy Photo Op? Is it the background, the scenery, the subject, the lighting, the composition, the shot angle? By themselves, or even combined, they only make just a pretty photo, but not a true fantasy photo op. For myself, a fantasy photo op is the vision in ones minds eye. How one envisions the shot from the start and how the photographer goes about making that vision into an actual shot.

Every photographer sees a subject, a scene, and particular subject and envisions a shot from there. Some fantasy shots can be easy to create, being only a question of composing an existing scene. Every one of us has done this; we all have a least one shot of Mt Rushmore in our stack of shots. Some folks vary the shot angle by shooting from below the mountain; others have flown over it and snapped a shot or two to see a different angle. Some folks go up and shoot a lighting ceremony; others shoot the fireworks over the mountain to see it under different lighting. Each is a fantasy photo op to someone. Some shots require only a point and shoot, other require equipment that is a little more specialized, others require equipment that is a little more versatile.

These shots are fantasy shots to the individual photographer.

Most photographers feel the need to expand their skills. To shoot something, somewhere or someway we have not shot before. We all want to get shots that others will say, “wow” when they see them. For myself I have taken many thousands of shots of all the typical things that folks shoot. I have a hard drive full of flowers, landscapes, family and friends. Some shots are better than others are. Some shots are best just sitting on my hard drives. Once I learn how to get a shot just right, I typically move on to things a little more challenging. I continually strive to take shots that folks will say “wow” when they view them. Sometimes I achieve my goal, most times I need to just try again. Striving for achievable goals is what makes photography fun.

The perfect fantasy opportunity is not any perfect location, a particular subject, under any special lighting conditions or with any special gear. The perfect fantasy op lies within you. You can make any shot look the way you want it to look. Some equipment makes it easier to create those “wow” shots, others you have to shoot and change things and shoot again. Eventually, you will get your “wow” shot and others will say that was a fantasy photo op.



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Member Profile

Submitted by: Krista Hofer

Photography has always been a part of my life, ever since I was born. I grew up with cameras all around me, but not like the paparazzi kind! My grandma, my aunts and my mom always had cameras with them. It was more to record family history in the making or the beautiful Black Hills we grew up in or the places travelled to. As I got older, I mainly had point and shoots until I got to high school where I enrolled in a photography class. I finally got to play with a SLR, and more than just sneaking a shot here and there with my mom's! I loved it! I learned so much and was able to experience that part of photography that I had never been exposed to (rolling film, developing photos, and the "rules"). The following year the higher level class was full and that ended my photography education. After I graduated high school, I fell back into my Automatic, Point and Shoot habit which continued for several years.

After college, I went to Alaska for 4 months and the photography bug bit me hard again (so did the mosquitoes!). I bought my first "real" film SLR which I used for several years before I took the jump to digital. I

started out with a digital Point and Shoot which I still have with me at all times. It's my baby! It was used to take the majority of my favorite photos. For years, I "stressed" over buying my first DSLR, as many of the tenured club members can attest to! I saved and saved and did research trying to find the best camera for me. I finally hit the "purchase" button in May 2010, when I bought my Canon 50D. I'm still learning all the bells and whistles and trying to "play" more with the manual modes. I've avoided "Manual" for the last 12 years, so it has definitely been a challenge getting back in that frame of mind but it's coming. I prefer nature and landscape photography, but did my first senior portrait session this last year. I was very happy with the photos I took, but think I will stick with Mother Nature!

I became a member of the BHPC in 2005, after being awarded a membership at the Central States Fair where I won Judges Choice for one of my photos. I have also been the club Treasurer for the last 3 years, and Competition Chairperson for this year. I really enjoy the BHPC, all its members, and the new things I have learned since I joined.



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This is a great group of people and I look forward to many years of being a member of the BHPC.



September Contest – Travel

Congratulations to the following members!

Digital

Novice Slides:

- 1- Kaycee Baye
- 2- Kaycee Baye
- 3- Kaycee Baye

Amateur Slides:

- 1- Pam Cranfill
- 2- Barry Castetter

- 3- Eva Bareis
- HM- Barry Castetter

Advanced Amateur Slides:

- 1- Sue Gannaway
- 2- Sue Gannaway
- 3- Ted Ayers
- HM- Dave Vaughn

Amateur Prints:

- 1- Joyce Sauer
- 2- Joyce Sauer
- 3- Joyce Sauer

Advanced Amateur Prints:

- 1- Betty Bonawitz
- 2- Betty Bonawitz
- 3- Betty Bonawitz

Congratulations to all our winners, and thank you to those who participated. Good luck to all in the November contest and the End of year contest in December.

Also, the club is looking for a volunteer interested in being Competition Chair Person for next year. If you are interest please contact Krista Hofer.



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August/October Program Highlights

In August the club started watching a video of a speech given by Sam Abell at Black Hills State University. Abell is known for his numerous photographs published in National Geographic. He spoke about the Photographic Life. The video had a lot of fascinating ideas about pictures, particularly how to compose a great shot. Below are some quotes from the video that reflect some of Abell's key points.

"Compose and wait. Build it and they will come."

"Liberate the picture, look at the angles and the background."

"Great photographs are at the end of a process."

"Tell more by showing less."

"Use the gift of light."

"Don't chase content."

"Know your subject."

"Take photographs from life."

"Great photos are still life's that have a life."

"The best picture you will ever take is the one no one else can take."

Elk Bonanza!

Submitted by: Harlan Humphrey

For those of you looking to experience the ultimate in elk photography, Slippery Ann Elk Viewing area in Montana is the place to go. Ted Ayers, Don Bennett and I had that experience the week of September 19-23 in the beautiful Missouri Breaks in Montana. This is a wildlife photographer's dream if you're looking to get great photos of bull elk in rut doing their thing.

Slippery Ann Elk Viewing area is within the Charles Russell Wildlife Refuge on the Missouri River about 150 miles north of Billings, MT or about 60 miles south of Malta, MT. It is in a remote area of Montana and the nearest motel would be either in Malta or Livingston Montana. We chose to camp at the James Kipp Campground right on the Missouri River. It is a great place to tent or use an RV with lots of beautiful cottonwood trees. The

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campground is about a 15 minute drive from the elk viewing area. We chose to make this trip during the week to avoid the large numbers of viewers that show up on the weekends.



This is an evening event which makes it nice. The elk move out of the river bottom trees and into the open beginning around 4PM in the afternoon with the cows first and then the bulls. The bugles from the bulls can be heard constantly as they gather their cows into their harem. The action is fast and furious until sunset. Sometimes it is hard to pick out what part of the action you want to focus on with your camera. All observers are required to stay on the gravel road that borders the viewing area and the elk know that. Some approach within 30-40 yards of the road. It is really exciting to see these

magnificent animals that up close and personal.



You do not have to have a real long telephoto lens to get great shots of the action. We were using 70-300mm, 100-400mm, 500mm and 800mm lens. The 800 in a lot of cases was overkill for the close in elk. Make sure you take plenty of digital cards for your camera as it is amazing how quickly you can fill up storage space.





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Other opportunities exist for great photos with the surrounding landscape. The Missouri River Breaks are absolutely breathtaking. It is a remote wilderness area that not only has elk but mule deer, mountain lion, bobcat, and even bighorn sheep. During our stay at the campground on two nights we heard a mountain lion sound off in the early morning. And of course the occasional elk bugle could be heard throughout the night.



This was a trip that will be remembered by all three of us. For those that want to venture out and invest the time I highly recommend it. Plan to go the 3d or 4th week of September. I think we were about a week early as the rut started late because of the balmy weather. We had temperatures a couple of days approaching the 80's.

Overall, it was one the most fun trips that any of us had been on. So make plans for

next year to be there and listen to the fall bugle of the rocky mountain elk. Something about that sound brings chills down my back.

Additional Pictures submitted by Ted Ayers



Breakfast at Camp Kip



6 Thumbs Up for Slippery Ann



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Field Trip Highlights

Submitted by: Kaycee Baye

On Saturday October 29th 16 members of the club enjoyed a fantastic fall day at 4 Mile Ghost Town outside Custer taking some fabulous still life photos. The old buildings, antiques, and chickens made for interesting subject matter.

All club members seemed to have a good time ducking in and out of the buildings. The owners of the Ghost Town were generous and basically gave club members permission to photograph anything. They even gave permission to mover effects in order to get the perfect shot. The weather was great, and the field trip was a lot of fun.



Members Market

Canon EOS 1.4X and 2.0X Extenders Series 1 \$300.00 for both Contact Ted Ayers

Kenko EOS 1.4X TELEPLUS PRO 300 MINT CONDITION \$175 Contact Ted Ayers

Manfrotto (Bogen) 276B Monopod Like New in box \$40.00 Contact Ted Ayers

Lowe Pro Sling Shot 202 all weather camera bag Like New \$50.00 Contact Ted Ayers

EPSON Model 7880 24" printer, one year old. This is an excellent printer and has been used to produce prints for my Gallery and Clients www.focuswestgallery.com. It is an excellent printer but it is being replaced by larger 44 inch model. I paid \$3200 for it and that is still going price for a new one. I am asking \$1,700 (OBO). The printer can be seen at my Gallery Les Voorhis.

les@focuswestgallery.com

Top 100 Tips and Tricks for PS Elements 8 by Rob Sheppard- Like New- 24.99 retail- for sale or trade- \$12