



The Photo Club Newsletter

The Grand Canyon Photography Club • Volume 5, Issue 11 • November 2005

Wildlife Biologist to Address Photo Club

Grand Canyon Photography Club member Merlin Benner will speak on “Wildlife in their Natural Habitats” at the November 8, 2005, club meeting at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center on Main Street in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.



©Merlin Benner

Benner, a native of Tioga County, is a Wildlife Biologist with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry—a dream job, he says, for someone who has loved the outdoors all his life. “The state forests are my workplace, and the job has led me to work with bats, songbirds, game species, deer, elk, rattlesnakes, and many other species,” Benner says. The job has also provided him with plenty of field time to pursue his lifelong interest in wildlife photography.



©Merlin Benner

Benner’s educational and field experience with wildlife and their habitats is extensive. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Science from Unity College in Maine and a Master’s of Science from Tennessee Technological University, where he studied wild turkey nesting success and survival.

Prior to joining the Bureau of Forestry, Benner was a wildlife technician at the Savannah River Ecology Labo-

ratory in South Carolina, studying “everything from doves to alligators.”

Benner lives in the Hills Creek valley with his wife Melissa and their six children: Ben Marcus, 13, Benjamin, 12 (also a member of the photo club), Angelica, 10, Jonas, 8, Melody, 6, and Harmony, 4. “We enjoy living on the edge of the woods where we constantly see wildlife,” Benner says. “Benjamin and I continue to develop our wildlife photography skills, now using a Nikon D70 digital SLR camera.”

Benner’s presentation on photographing wildlife in their natural habitats will feature many shots taken near his home and elsewhere in Tioga County, along with a few landscape and nature shots from his travels.

The monthly theme for matted, unframed photographs is “My Favorite Place.” Nancy McCaughey, club member and artist, will lead the critique. For more information about the club, contact club Art Heiny at 570-724-4504 or by e-mail at troutbug@ptd.net.



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Minutes of October 11, 2005, Meeting of The Grand Canyon Photography Club

President Art Heiny called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. He welcomed members and guests.

Art called for a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Christine Heiny made the motion and Tina Tolins seconded it. The motion carried. Art asked for a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Christine made the motion and it was seconded by Fred Mader. The motion carried.

Art told members how much he and Christine have enjoyed being officers of the club, but they both felt it was time for other individuals to make decisions about the direction of the club. He announced that he, Tina Tolins, Ann Kamzelski, and Diane Hedrick will serve on the Nominating Commit-

tee this year. The following offices are open for 2006: President, Vice President (Art will talk to Ken Meyer to see if he is interested in serving in this position for another term), Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and two Director positions. Diane is willing to continue to serve as Recording Secretary. Anyone interested in running for any of these offices should let the Nominating Committee know so the committee can present the slate of 2006 officers at the November meeting. Mia Anderson will continue as Newsletter Editor, which is an appointed position.

Art introduced Ann Kamzelski who gave a slide presentation entitled "Snakes, Lizards, and other Creepy, Crawly Things." Ann's presentation contained a mixture of slides she had taken during a reptile photography-workshop and those she had taken in natural habitats locally.

Christine asked members if they were interested in having a club Christmas party again this year. Most members seemed to be in favor of doing it as we have the past few years.

After the break, Nancy McCaughey critiqued photos on the theme "Pets."

The next GCPC meeting will be November 8, 2005. The theme for cri-

tique will be "My Favorite Place."

A Board of Directors meeting was held following the regular GCPC meeting. Art Heiny, Christine Heiny, Ken Meyer, Diane Hedrick, Mia Anderson, Bob Bair, and Steve Strickland discussed the club finances. Art mentioned the possibility of the club purchasing a digital projector. Many of our speakers now use these in their presentations. Ken suggested that since Christine is a member of the Friends of the Library that she might present the idea of splitting the cost of such a purchase with GCPC. Chris agreed to talk to them. She also suggested the possibility that the Friends might purchase the projector outright and then let the club "rent" it every month. If the club did have use of such a projector, Sam McCaughey had told Art the club could purchase some instructional DVDs. Mia and Ken price projectors.

Bob Bair suggested trying to find a "big name" speaker would be another way to use the club funds.

Mia mentioned the web site hosting will be up for renewal in December at a cost of around \$110.00. The Board approved the renewal.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Hedrick, Recording Secretary

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

2005 Officers:

President: Art Heiny
 Vice President: Ken Meyer
 Treasurer: Chasity Kaltenbach
 Secretaries:
 Recording: Diane Hedrick
 Corresponding: Tina Tolins

Directors:

2004-05: Tim Madigan and Wolfram Jobst
 2005-06: Bob Bair and Steve Strickland

Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Mia Lisa Anderson
 Program: Christine Heiny and Ken Meyer
 Finance: Chasity Kaltenbach
 Exhibits, *ongoing*: Christine Heiny
 Shows: Open
 Special Events: Wolfram Jobst
 Themes (Critiques): Nancy McCaughey

For more information or to make a comment or suggestion, please contact the president, Art Heiny:

Phone: 570-724-4504
 E-mail: troutbug@ptd.net
 Mail: 104 Woodhouse Court
 Wellsboro, PA 16901

www.gcphotoclub.org

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

Treasurer's Report for October 2005

Beginning Balance in Checking	\$1,549.93
Cash In	

Cash Out

Ending Balance

Complete Report Currently Unavailable

Respectfully submitted,
Chasity Kaltenbach, Treasurer

Thoughts on Capturing Great Photos by Diane Hedrick

There are a wide range of unique photo opportunities right in our own backyard. Outdoor adventures are everywhere in Tioga Country and the entire northern tier. Local and state parks, the back woods, and country roads are full of great shots.



©Diane Hedrick

When on an adventure, it is worth taking extra steps to make a good photograph rather than just a simple snapshot. It can be as easy as just slowing down to see what's around you. You can experience people, action, scenery, flowers, and animals on your adventure.

The first step is to take your camera gear and keep it at your fingertips.

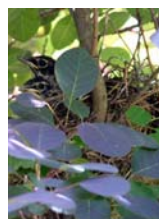


©Diane Hedrick

You cannot take a picture with your camera stuck in the back of the car. Find a worthy subject and set up an eye-grabbing composition that best shows that subject. Learn to

work with light, dramatic clouds, and shadows. Use your camera as a creative tool...not just to record the scene.

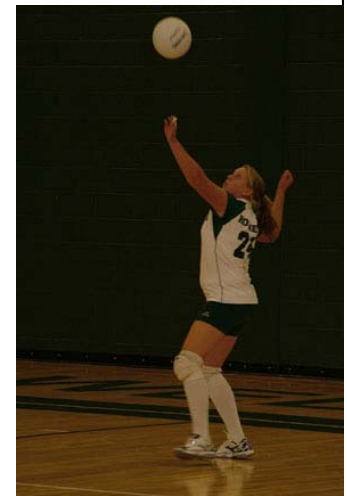
A picture will quite often tell a story. It may be difficult to capture your whole experience in one or two



Robin Series ©Mia Lisa Anderson

shots. Take a collection of photographs, composing each shot, and think of how the photograph communicates its part of the story.

Adding people and their activities and culture are important. People as part of the scene, as the subject, or people in action make a powerful impact on the viewers. Close-up shots of the people in your photo help the viewer to relate to the photo. People's emotions are often a big part of any adventure, and their expressions will communicate the emotion that they are experiencing.



©Mia Lisa Anderson

Lloyd Forcey has photographic equipment and books for sale. A complete list is available on the club web site—
www.gcphotoclub.org
Check it out!

It's time to start thinking about ideas for photo critique themes for 2006. Please give your suggestions to any of the Board members at the November meeting. Thanks.



10 Things You Should Know About Memory

Cards (article taken from www.takegreatpictures.com)

by Jon Sienkiewicz

Memory cards — those stamp-size slivers of silicon — make digital photography possible. Often referred to as the functional equivalent of film, they are actually much more than that. Here are ten things you should know that will make your use of memory cards more successful and enjoyable.

1. Keep them in a case

The quest to produce smaller and smaller digital cameras has stimulated the development of physically smaller and smaller memory cards. That means that it may be challenging to keep track of them at times, especially if you own a large number of them. Keep the cards in a card case when they're not in the camera. Card cases come in several flavors, the most common being the tiny plastic ones that are scarcely bigger than the cards themselves. They do a good job of protecting the electrical contacts. The most versatile, however, are made of ballistic nylon and manufactured by Tamrac, Lowepro and other gadget bag makers. SanDisk occasionally provides one free with their Extreme line of cards. Some cases have loops that allow you to slip them onto your belt or dangle them from the strap of your gadget bag. I keep them in a case, in my pocket. If you're into form-fitted hard-shell cases, check out the offerings from Hakuba. When not in the field, an airtight Tupperware sandwich container is a great place to store all of your cards.

2. Size Matters

If you find yourself running out of storage space before the end of a day's shooting, don't despair. There are several tactics you can use to remedy this situation. First and most obvious, buy a bigger card. If you are still using the smallish card that came with your camera it's definitely time to upgrade. Prices are low and all major card makers offer a selection of products at various price points, so you can certainly find an affordable solution. A temporary option — one that will get you through the day if you come up a bit short in the memory card department — is to shoot your high resolution camera at a lower resolution. You'll get surprisingly good results from your 6-megapixel DSLR if you dial down to 3-megapixels. But don't be tempted to simply increase image compression (i.e., lower the "quality" setting) instead, because the images won't measure up. There is a third option that may appeal to folks who use Compact Flash and create humongous image files — consider an Hitachi Microdrive. Microdrives fit Type II slots (the larger CF) and offer capacities up to 8Gb. They are spinning media, not solid state Flash memory, but that's the subject of another article.

3. Know Your Type

Like camera batteries, memory cards are not interchangeable — you are more-or-less limited to using the type specified for your camera. Or are you? There is a little wiggle room here. If you own a device that requires Secure Digital (SD) cards and another device that uses CF you can buy an adapter that allows the smaller SD to be used in the CF slot. Unfortunately, you cannot convert in the other direction for obvious reasons. It's also possible to use a Multi Media Card (MMC) in most SD appliances, but there's very little cost savings here, so it's hardly worth the effort. And of course, some cameras have omnivorous appetites and can digest more than one type of card. Some Sony models accept CF in addition to Memory Stick; some Olympus cameras use CF plus xD; a couple Konica Minolta products use SD and/or Memory Stick separately or simultaneously.

4. They're Not That Expensive Anymore

Memory cards were once thought to be expensive, but recently all that has changed. Prices have dropped significantly in the past twelve months while storage capacities have grown. Check the Sunday circulars for sales, rebates and other promotions. In many instances, the best time to buy a large memory card is at the same time you buy a camera. Some retailers shrewdly use memory cards to sneak past camera manufacturers' Minimum Advertised Price suggestions. Don't be surprised if you see a hot camera for sale at \$599 by itself or, optionally, at \$629 with a 512Mb memory card. Do the math and you'll realize that the card is a bargain.

5. Get a Versatile Card Reader

Camera manufacturers still provide download cables with digital cameras, but users must wonder why. The better alternative is to use a multi-format card reader. In fact, many people keep one attached to their PC at all times. Plug a Lexar or SanDisk 12-in-1 card reader into your computer and you can transfer image files from virtually any type of memory card via High Speed USB (USB 2.0). The card is recognized as a storage device on your PC, so you can read, write and, in general, treat the card the same way you'd treat an external hard drive.

6. Double-Edged Sword

Because they can be erased and reused, memory cards are an excellent example of the successful implementation of a technological solution, namely, perpetually renewable data storage. And therein lies the rub. That which can be erased intentionally can also be erased accidentally. The good news is that if you use an SD card or certain Memory Stick products you'll find a switch that can be set to help prevent accidental erasure. The better news is that if you do accidentally delete, format or otherwise trash one or more image files you stand a pretty good chance of recovery. First and foremost, you must immediately

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Grand Canyon Photo Club Calendar-Mia Anderson, 724-7726; e-mail: MiaLisa57@epix.net

Now thru November 15th: Mia Anderson, Mini-Solo Show, Native Bagel, Central Avenue, Wellsboro. *Even if you have shown before, we are interested in placing your work. Please contact Christine Heiny if you would like your photographs shown.*

Now thru November 15th: Steve Strickland, Mini-Solo Show, TenWest Espresso Company, 23 N. Main Street, Mansfield. *To have your work considered please prepare a portfolio of 6 or 8 small prints for Christine Heiny, (570)724-4504.*

November 4-12, 2005: Bradford County Library Photo Exhibit at the library located on Route 6 west of Burlington. Theme is "Architecture of Bradford County."

November 8, 2005: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center, "Wildlife in Their Natural Habitats" presented by Merlin Benner. Theme: "My Favorite Place."

December 13, 2005: (7 p.m., 2nd Tuesday) Monthly meeting of Grand Canyon Photo Club, Gmeiner Center, Annual Club Christmas Party, *Program yet to be determined.* Theme: "Portraits."



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On The Web

Provided by Sam McCaughey

BBC News 2005 Photographer of the Year competition is nearing a close.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/4652389.stm

BBC News "In Pictures" site is always interesting and changes on a daily basis.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_pictures/default.stm

Jim Zuckerman is another fantastic "followed his dream" Photographer who dropped out of medical school to pursue Photography. Judge for yourself it was worth it. Jim has over 1000 photos online in his Galleries. Jim Zuckerman also has online photo courses through BetterPhoto.

<http://www.jimzuckerman.com>

Better Photo has lots and lots of online photo courses.

<http://www.betterphoto.com/online-photography-courses.asp>

Take the Better Photo Photography Quiz. Amaze and astound your friends. Watch out for trick questions.

<http://www.betterphoto.com/quiz.asp?id=1>

2005 MONTHLY PHOTO CRITIQUE THEMES, minimum size 5"x7", matted, not framed; color or B&W.



Bring a slide, too. *Only one print per theme to be critiqued.*

January 11, 2005 --Holidays

February 8 --My Favorite Thing

March 8 --Blue, Red, or Green

April 12 --Doors

May 10 --Special Effects

June 21 --Birds, Nests, or Eggs

July 12 --The Moon or other Celestial Bodies

August 9 --Wind—Motion or Effect

September 13 --Fairground Images

October 11--Pets

November 8 --My Favorite Place

December 13 --Portraits



The Grand Canyon Photography Club

60 West Ave., Wellsboro, PA 16901

"Helping our members develop
their photography skills."



Contact: Art Heiny, Club President
Phone: 570-724-4504 E-mail: troutbug@ptd.net
Web site: www.gcphotoclub.org

November 8th Meeting Topic: "Wildlife in their Natural Habitats"

The Monthly Photo Theme will be:
"My Favorite Place"



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stop shooting when this happens (another good reason to carry more than one spare memory card with you). Data recovery software from SanDisk, Lexar and other companies is inexpensive, easy to use and generally effective. There is no guarantee, of course.

7. Two Types of Speed

Even for the most computer-adept, the memory card speed rating system can be a little confusing. Speed is a measurement of how fast memory cards handle data. The specification is comprised of two separate measurements: the sequential write speed and the sequential read speed. Cards that write and read data fast allow you to capture images and play them back fast. In this context, speed is good. Some manufacturers, including Panasonic and SanDisk, categorize their cards into different speed groups and create sub-brands to identify them. SanDisk's Extreme III line writes and reads at 20Mb/second, for example, as does Panasonic's Pro High Speed SD cards. Lexar Media rates their cards using the nomenclature that's commonly used to rate the throughput of CD and DVD writers: 150Kb per second is "1X" and all speeds are expressed as multiples of that standard.

8. Dress It Up

The card that came with your camera is probably a monotonous blue, black or some other fashion-blind color. That's not a problem, since memory cards spend most of their time hidden deep within the innards of digital cameras, anyway. But the latest round of products from SanDisk, Sony, Lexar, Kingston and PNY are all dressed up and downright presentable. If you're into

cool colors, check out SanDisk's pink, orange, green, yellow and blue Gaming Card line. For that muted tuxedo look, pick out something from Lexar's Platinum series.

9. Shoot and Store

Wouldn't it be nice if memory cards were inexpensive enough and big enough to simply shoot them like film and use for permanent storage? Admittedly, that may not be everyone's cup of chai latte but if the idea appeals to you, take a hard look at SanDisk's Shoot-and-Store media line. Lexar Media addresses this market with their Digital Film which is sold under the Kodak label. Both brands are inexpensive, widely available and come in capacities up to 64Mb. While the capacity may not sound like much when your pals are flaunting 2Gb cards, I recently realized that one 64Mb card would hold 24 full resolution .jpg images from my digital SLR and promptly purchased a handful of these budget-price beauties to keep in my gadget bag until I need them.

The only sure thing is that cards will continue to increase in capacity while they decrease in size. If you have more than one camera, you may be troubled because there are so many memory card formats (better known as "form factors"). As a matter of fact, this is a blessing disguised as a curse. Remember, it wasn't long ago that the most modern crop of VGA-class digital cameras used removable media that had a maximum capacity of 128Mb — one-eighth the capacity of a 1Gb card. As card manufacturers continue their innovation and push technology forward we all benefit and can enjoy larger capacities, smaller cameras and greater reliability.

Editor's Note: *Yes, despite the title of the article, there are only nine tips.*