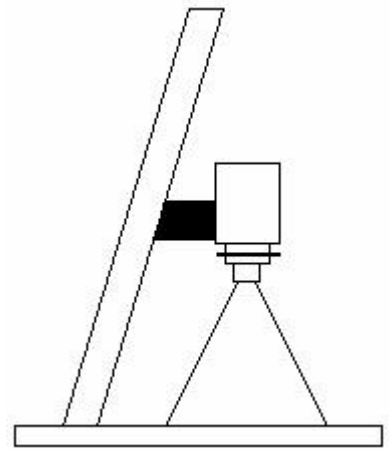


Contact Sheet

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Wildlife Photography

Want to get rich quickly in photography? Just go into wildlife photography since there are so many animal images available in this region! Wrong thought processes!!! **Terry Thomas**, writer of the Let's Go column in the *Post-Register*, let us know about the error in our thinking. We all like the scenics and wildlife images in this area, but so do the other thousand plus photographers submitting photos to any publication. Competition is fierce for the few images that are published.

When doing wildlife photography, Terry says that he treats each image with the same thought that is put into a portrait. When taking a portrait we are all told that the eyes **must be in focus**. This dictum is just as important in wildlife photography. Focus on the eyes. Try to get a catchlight in the eye - - just like in a portrait. Think about the foreground and background - - just like a portrait. Getting the idea?

And in a portrait the background is very important. We don't want the telephone pole sticking out of the head of Aunt Mabel. Terry uses a 300mm f/2.8 lens with a doubler to give a very shallow depth of field on many of his images. This means the deer will be in sharp focus but the sticks, twigs, brush in the foreground and background will be blurred. But even with this thinking, you still must try to find a good background to put behind your animal. If it is too bright in the background in

some areas, the viewer's eye will go to the bright spot in the background since that will compete for the viewer's interest. If it is too dark, the dark moose, or buffalo, will be lost in the image.

From the prior paragraphs you can see why Terry may spend several hours following just one animal to get the proper photograph. He states that in a deer photograph, the best image will be with the ears forward and the head up.

But all the emphasis on the animal, don't forget to get some images of the whole scene. Put the deer in the meadow with the stream lazily curving off into the distance. Show the bear climbing over the logs. As you watch their behavior, you add some of their expressions into your photographs. Just as in a person photograph - - taking pictures of your kids at play - - it can take a lot of time, and a lot of film, before the best image is found. In fact, Art Wolfe, the noted wildlife photographer, has stated that he throws away his first six rolls when he shoots an animal since the best images always seem to happen when he gets to **really** know his subject.

Sometimes there just isn't a bear - - what to do, what to do. Look around yourself. Get out your macro lens and you'll find insects, leaves, spider webs, patterns that weren't there just minutes before. This is why Terry's camera bag has reflectors, diffusers, duct tape, flash cord to take his flash off his camera, etc. Many times the little critters will be

more photogenic than the buffalo would have been. And again, treat the image as a people portrait. What is in the foreground, the background? What is my depth of field? Will a filter improve the color of this image? Terry likes to use the large Cokin filters without the Cokin holder. If it can't be hand held over the lens, the ever useful duct tape comes to the fore to hold the filter in place.

Thanks, Terry, for sharing your knowledge and insight into the mysteries of the wildlife that we all seem to enjoy - - but never seem to get just that RIGHT photo. Maybe I'll follow that animal another 20 - 30 minutes the next time. Maybe I'll try fill flash - - hmmm. Just maybe, this time I'll get the image of ---.

Club Notes

Roger issued a plea for us to get our images into him for inclusion in the publication of the Eastern Idaho Magazine. Remember that the magazine is running three months ahead of where your photography is. They need winter pictures in the fall, spring photos in the winter, etc. Also, they like a little humor in the image, pictures that tell a story of why you like to be in eastern Idaho. This has been a good source of getting our images into print. Also, they have included an ad about our club in their magazine - - and how can we turn down free advertising!

This is the end of another year of the Eastern Idaho Photographic Society. We need to thank Krista, Doug, Mary, Bob, Joe, Jan, Roger, Sue for their service on our behalf. Your officers have given their time for all of our enjoyment and betterment of our photography. We want to have

as good of a year in 2006. Please volunteer with your time since the more people that are involved, the less time that any one person has to spend on the effort. Everyone wins when all members contribute.

We will select new officers at the December meeting. We need your input!

Advancement Program

The theme for December will be: *In Your Yard*. Please bring your three best slides / prints and join us on December 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Conference Room at 1900 Grandview. Even if you do not have pictures to show, remember that your photography will improve the more photographs you see. Join us, please.

We try to give you some lead time to get the images for our Advancement Program themes. Below are the themes for 2006. Please note that these categories were taken from the categories that you can enter in the Eastern Idaho State Fair. In this way, images shown in the Advancement Program can be used for your fair entry in September.

**January – Banquet
February – Photographer's Choice
March – Travel
April – Photographer's Choice
May – Wood
June - Photographer's Choice
July – Lights or Fire
August - Photographer's Choice
September – Nature
October - Photographer's Choice
November – Cityscape
December - Photographer's Choice**

Lots of choices! Have Fun!

What's in the Bag?

Terry Thomas brought along his camera bag to show us what he takes along when he goes out to photograph wildlife. He has the following items:

300 mm f/2.8 lens with doubler matched to this lens (same manufacturer) – he also has a 1.4 doubler also so that he has an effective 840 mm lens on his camera.

Macro lens

(He had a general zoom lens for getting an overview of the area and scenic images but I didn't write it down in my notes.)

Flash unit + cord to take flash off the camera body – with macro photography, flash on camera will make a lens shadow on part of your image.

Cokin filters.

Duct tape

Large garbage bag.

Reflector, silver on one side, gold on opposite side (uses silver side almost exclusively).

Diffuser.

Batteries.

Plenty of film – usually Velvia 100 - - doesn't like to experiment with different films since he has found this film to be very consistent - - and he likes this color palette.

Thin gloves.

Velcro strips – to hold weeds, limbs out of your way for some images.

Bean bag - - he likes these as a window mount tripod substitute on his car window - - or on rocks in the wild.

Wembley plamp - - a twisty clamp that mounts onto his tripod leg to hold his diffuser, etc. – his third hand in macro photography

Level for tripod - - to make sure horizon is straight.

Portable radio - - to communicate with other members of your group - - his wife will accompany him on many trips and may be behind – or front – of him out of sight.

Pocket blind – to throw over his tripod, camera, himself.

Remember, that each of us shoots in a somewhat different mode when we are out in the field. You can help other club members by telling us what you really like to have in your camera bag. What have you found to be indispensable? What do you use over and over again? Why do you like your camera bag? What do you wish it had - - maybe someone else has found a bag that will solve the thing that has frustrated you most about your current set-up?

For instance, I carry an extra quick release plate in my bag for my tripod since my wife doesn't like to put hers on her camera body. But since there are times when she wants to take a tripod required image, she knows that I will have that plate in my bag! I also have an extra back lens cap since these always seem to find a way to hide in my bag when I need one in a hurry. I carry lens cleaner and lens wipes even though I try to clean the lenses when I get home from a trip.

My wife carries a wrench in her bag since one of the nuts on her tripod leg always seems to get loose after a long day in the field. She also has a tool to remove filters from her lenses since these seem to get stuck on your camera lens at just the wrong time.

Let me know what special item you have found necessary in your camera bag.

Monthly Meeting

Date: Dec. 1, 2005

Time: 7:30 p.m.

**Location: 1900 Grandview
– Conference Room**

Program:

Roger Boe is a long time member of our sister club in Pocatello - - and has taken some of our money in our juried show. He will talk about some of his experiences at Craters of the Moon

Graffiti

EIPS is a group of amateur and professional photographers who have joined together to further the art and craft of photography. Please join us and expand your horizons. Sharing knowledge makes all participants better at their craft. We meet on the first Thursday of each month for our educational lecture. Then the third Thursday is our Advancement Program where we share some of the images we have done. We meet at 7:30 p.m. at 1900 Grandview Ave in the conference room. You will be a better photographer as you learn from us and we learn from you!

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