

Contact Sheet

Journal of the Eastern Idaho Photographic Society
Vol. 19, No. 7 July 2007

All Things Digital

We are living in an exciting time in photography. Many hobbies and professions stay the same for most of their existence. The equipment for fly fishing has been improved, but the actual sport remains very basic and similar to many years ago. My profession of ophthalmology went from a very large incision to remove a cataract to a very tiny incision during my years in surgery. These changes evolved in numerous small advances. But with photography, we get to fall back on a Bob Dylan phrase: "the times, they are a' changing".

And to help us with this transition, **Rodney Jack** gave the Eastern Idaho Photographic Society an excellent presentation on how we can use our new tools, the digital camera and its software, to fully capture the images we want to preserve. As a photographer we have learned how to get the best light from the image onto our film. Sometimes, we have to use special filters to match the type of film we have in our camera to the type of light we are observing. The digital camera can help us immensely with this task since we can alter the settings with a selection of different light temperatures so that we no longer have to use many of our filters. This will give us a better image since we no longer do have to pass the light through another piece of glass that may give unwanted reflections internally, have fingerprints or dust spots on that filter to decrease the quality of the image

on our film. Rodney explained why we needed to match the light source with the camera settings. He explained that if we shot in RAW format that we could make many of these changes later when working with the image on our computers. But just as Ansel Adams used to alter his technique to get the best negative so his printing of the photograph would be easier with more details on that print, we must do the same thing with the digital image. The better the RAW file to begin with, the better the digital print with less manipulation. If we have blown out the details in bright areas when we tripped the shutter, there will be **no details available** to work with in even the most expensive software manipulation package. We must watch our histograms carefully if we expect to get a good image that can be faithfully rendered onto print paper.

Rodney also explained why some camera's 6 million pixels are not the same as another camera's 6 million pixels. He showed how the different chips collected the light and transferred this information back to the storage card. Some of the chips that had these pixels were extremely small and had small zones of light collection to limit their effectiveness in many lighting situations. Some of the chips actually have small little lenses in front of each of these 6 million pixels to further enhance the amount of the light that each pixel can collect. And all of these small lenses are packed in front of a chip that is smaller than your 35mm negative! Amazing!

Besides the talk Rodney gave us each a handout of a lot of the other things that we need to start watching so that we make the transition to digital imagery smoother. The basic tenets of photography remain the same – get the best negative possible, good composition, proper use of light, a good eye of what makes an interesting image, etc. Only our tools to get these images have changed. And we must learn about our new tools to get the best photographs. We can still build a house with nails and a hammer; but boy, a nail gun sure makes the arms feel better at the end of the very long day. Thanks, Rodney, for helping us with our new tools so that we can fully utilize their potential and get even better images than we have been able to get in the past.

Club Notes

Special thanks to Farr's Jewelry for the use of the digital projector at the last Advancement Program. We will get even better now that Rodney has helped us with the input from our cameras!

Roger has several images that he needs for the Idaho Falls Magazine. Please check with the web site for that list. We hope to make the web site a clearing house for these images so that all of the club members can get some exposure, both in the printed media and also on the web.

Don't forget to get in the fall and winter images for the Idaho Falls Magazine to Roger. Look in your archives for your past images since the magazine deadline is three months ahead of the season. They give us free advertising in their magazine and you get your images into a publication. It is

definitely a win-win situation for our group and each person who participates. So get the images into Roger NOW!

Field Trips

Our field trip to Bannack State Park in southern Montana was very successful. However, we will be able to get a little more sleep on our next trip. They have put a gate in front of the parking lot so that there is no place to park until they open the gates at 8:00 a.m. But time was not wasted in that we drove a couple miles back along the road to a sod roof cabin we had seen on our drive up to the park. Also, different about this trip was that the park ranger was very worried about how our images were going to be used. Since he saw that we had good camera equipment, he wanted to charge us each \$50 a piece so that we would be able to sell these prints commercially. This license was good for any images in the state parks in Montana for this entire year. But since we assured him that this was a club venture, he allowed us into the park for only the standard charge per vehicle. But if you do have images you want to use commercially, you would be advised to purchase their state park license.

Bannack was the first territorial capital of Montana, back at the height of the gold and silver rush in this region. The people in charge of this area have done an excellent job of keeping what structures are left, and still allowing people access to the buildings. Most of the roofs have been well maintained in such a fashion that the interiors of the buildings remain intact; and we were allowed access to most buildings. There has been some vandalism to some of the interiors since I last visited a year ago, but for the most part the park has

remained true to the past. There are probably 30-50 buildings in the town (a large several story brick hotel, a school house, church, bar, merchant buildings, jail, houses, outhouses, a couple of barns) with a board walkway down both sides of the dirt street and the crowds were not excessive so that I was able to leave my camera bag on the ground while I moved about the side of a building. Also, we kind of watched out for each other so that we wouldn't interfere with their picture efforts. Amazingly, even some of the people who were not in our group were careful not to walk into some of our images! I had a couple that watched me work and walked around with their camera to some of the areas I took images to shoot similar pictures. Hopefully, I was showing them good technique.

The weather was spectacular and there were a few puffy clouds. So you guys that try to sneak in old archived images for extra credit at the Advancement Program will be foiled this time. (Usually, we have dull gray skies on our trips to Bannack, but this was a very good year.) Thanks for making this trip such a special event!

Advancement Program

The theme for July is:

Photographer's Choice. Please bring three of your favorite slides, prints, or digital files on that subject and join us on 20 July 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at 1900 Grandview. Everybody learns when we share images and discuss them!

For our new members the remaining themes for the remainder of the year are listed below. We want to see your interpretation of these subjects.

If you don't have anything for that subject, just bring your recent images since we know that we didn't give you enough lead time. You will notice that the topic for August is: The Past. Images that you took at Bannack should be perfect for this topic!

July – Photographer's Choice

August – The Past

September – Photographer's Choice

October – Critters

November – Photographer's Choice

December – Color Explosion

The summer time is spectacular in Idaho. Use it well. Don't forget to take your camera with you. Share with me how you take fireworks with your digital cameras since I have only done this with slide film. Share with us the way you got the best images at the Shoshone Festival. How did you get that balloon ascension photo with the Tetons in the background? Did you know that the zebras are not at the zoo this year? (They are building them a new barn.) There were no alligators this year either.

Let us in on your secret summer spots. We will share our information with you, also. We can use the club as a conduit and information booth for those going into Yellowstone to know when the best time for some of the wildlife would be. Don't forget that taking photos of your family having fun is just as rewarding as a good elk picture - - sorry, Tim, but it really is fun to take a picture of some other types of "wild life".

Monthly Meeting

Date: July 6, 2007

Time: 7:30 p.m.

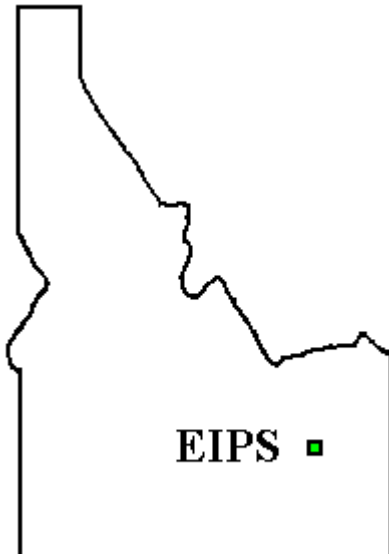
**Location: Conference room
at 1900 Grandview Avenue**

Program: Astral Photography is a special part of our photographic domain. And we will have an even better appreciation of its beauty with the presentation of this month's lecture by Tom Davis, M.D., an internist in Pocatello who loves astronomy.

The August Show and Sale is the second weekend in August, August 10 – 12. See, we warned you that it would come more quickly than you thought! We need exact numbers of who is going to participate at this month's meeting. It is a good way to get your work in front of our community to show them the quality of your efforts. Also, the fair is over Labor Day. The October Show is just another month after that. See how quickly that summer went by.

Keep looking at the stars. We will show you how to photograph them in your July EIPS meeting.

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Graffiti

