



February 2012 SNAP SHOTS NEWSLETTER

HIGH DESERT PHOTOGRAPHERS

PRESIDENTS CORNER:

Oh how nice to see the days getting longer again! Did you know this time of year is the best time to take landscape photos? With fresh snow, cold and crisp days, the atmosphere is cleared of particles and you can get some amazing and striking images – Especially sunrises and sunsets.

Even though it is February we are seeing some of our coldest temperatures yet. Cold weather photography presents numerous challenges to both the photographer and our equipment. From drained batteries to frostbit fingers, shooting in cold weather is a completely different prospect than hot weather shooting. Don't be discouraged however! Winter can provide some incredible photography opportunities!

Debby

UPCOMING EVENTS:

9th Feb – Photo Fusion Art by Daren Jensen
23rd Feb – Photo Critique – Print Show and Tell

Camera Trivia: Who is the most recognizable photographer?

- a) Ansel Adams
- b) Margaret Bourke-White
- c) Annie Leibovitz
- d) Henri Cartier Bresson

The answer is on the last page!

Photography Skills for Winter!

Winter is a fascinating time for photography. There are physical and mental challenges that can make things either frustrating or quite remarkable. For starters, exposure compensation is often required when photographing winter landscapes. Bright snowy or frosty scenes can fool your camera's metering system, resulting in dull, grey, underexposed images. To overcome this, when shooting in AV or TV mode, start by dialing in a +1 stop of exposure compensation to increase exposure and brighten the image. Then check the histogram and add or subtract a third or half a stop of exposure compensation until the whites are really nice and bright.

Some photographers like to keep a warm bias filter, like the Nikon A2, on their lens at all times when shooting winter scenes. You can also use a Cloudy setting for the white balance as a warming filter. If you want the image to look cold and have a blue cast, then use a white balance of Daylight and remove the warming filter. Always check your LCD and histogram regularly for any overexposure indicators (the blinking blown out portions of your photo) and to see what you're getting. It is especially important when you are shooting in the cold to see how temperature and light might be affecting the images.



Golden Morning

By James Neeley

Do not be afraid to use a Speedlight for fill-flash. Watch for problems however that can occur when it is snowing because any snowflakes close to the camera will be illuminated and possibly blown out. When the shooting is done, or you are going to take a break indoors, don't bring your camera into a warm place too quickly. It will fog up, and it will take a while to dry out so you can shoot again. Some people recommend putting the camera in your backpack or camera bag while you're still outside. Zip up the bag or pack, then bring it in. Keep the camera in there for 45 minutes or an hour before taking it out. That way the

Meetings: 7:00 pm
2nd and 4th Thursdays
at: [Perfect Light Camera & Supply](#)
Located: next to Verizon in the Teton Village Mall
2169 E 17th St. in Idaho Falls



Alpine Mountain Goat
Photograph by John D. Yeates

Check out this great winter shot taken last weekend by member John Yeates. If you haven't seen these magnificent animals, take a trip to Alpine, WY. Just north of the town, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, these mountain goats can be seen in the cliffs on the west side of the highway. Be sure to use one of the highway pull-outs as there is a lot of traffic through this location.

Are you looking for photo opportunities? Check out the Photo Ops link on our web page

camera warms up gradually inside the cold bag or pack.

As far as your comfort is concerned, it is important to keep your hands and feet warm. Wearing a pair of fingerless gloves allows you to make adjustments and push buttons. Use cotton liners for added warmth. For feet, nothing beats a pair of insulated snow boots that are good for -20 deg. Remember to buy them large enough to wear a heavy pair of socks. You don't want the boot too tight. Photographers often stand around a bit as they wait for awesome shots like sunsets, for example, so warm boots are really a must. Keep a few of those *hunters chemical heat packs* handy for times like this. Dress in layers and protect that camera! Changing a lens in a snow storm could be catastrophic if you drop it in the snow or do not account for the humidity – you can get moisture inside your camera body. If you get serious about winter photography, think about investing in a pair of snowshoes. Snowshoes will get you just about anywhere you need to be for a photograph.

Keep your batteries warm by carrying them in an inside pocket until you need them, or carry a spare that you can swap in and out. Watch out for condensation, exposed skin, wet feet and slipping or falling on ice.

Finally, realize that one of the best things about photographing in winter is that pristine snow on the ground covers up a lot of clutter. Get outside right after it snows. Some of the best snow conditions for photography happen then. It is also good to photograph snow and ice at sunrise and sunset. Winter sunsets are early and often have great color. Both sunrise and sunset color reflects in the snow and ice. A great example of this is seen in the photo "Golden Morning" by James Neeley on the previous page. This photo was taken of the South Fork of the Snake River where it flows through Swan Valley, Idaho at sunrise. Beautiful isn't it?

CLUB NEWS:

February Theme is: "Crazy Weather"

Education Night – Photo Fusion Art

Presented by Photographer Daren Jensen

On Thursday, February 9th, local Artist, Daren Jensen, will provide a tutorial and examples of his unique style. Daren became aware of his ability to take photographs that closely resembled images in his mind and later discovered through a combination of digital technology and hands-on artistry, he could transform his mind's eye creations into actual works of art. He calls this process *Photo Fusion Art*, because it allows him to blend the worlds of photography and art together to create a final piece of art. Below are several examples of his unique style.



Copyright Daren K. Jensen



Copyright Daren K. Jensen

Daren has been practicing photography for over 25 years and lives in southeastern Idaho. He grew up on a farm taking care of the family horses and cattle, and since his youth has always had a fascination of the world's beauty, history, and especially with the American Cowboy and Native American way of life. His contact information is provided below.

Photo Fusion Art

Shelley, ID

Phone: (208) 681-7201

Email: photofusionart@cableone.net

WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

Gallery of Inspiring Winter Photographs
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/steveberardi/galleries/72157622840164061>

Winter Photography Tips and Tricks
<http://photo.tutsplus.com/articles/inspiration/winter-snow-photography-tips/>

Tips for Keeping Your Gear Safe in the Cold
<http://www.my-photo-blog.com/winter-photography-8-great-tips>

High Desert Photographers

<http://www.highdesertphotographers.com>
<http://www.flickr.com/groups/highdesertphotographers>

We are on facebook!

Local Camera Stores

<http://www.perfectlightstore.com>
<http://www.farrsjewelry.com>

Camera Repair

<http://www.idahocamera.com>



Macro Shot

Photograph by Carl Ball

HDP CLUB OFFICERS 2011-2012:

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DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES

This is a friendly reminder to all club members that dues for 2012 are now due. You must be paid in full before you can participate. Please bring your checks, made out to High Desert Photographers to the January meeting, or mail them to :

Debbie Crawford:
 1185 N Boulevard
 Idaho Falls, ID 83402
 \$30 - Person
 \$40 - Family

JANUARY MEETING NOTES – Lighting by Christopher Balmer

We had an excellent meeting on January 12 with Photographer and Perfect Light Store owner Christopher Balmers education night on lighting. At least 30 people were in attendance and got to receive instruction and practice through five lighting stations. Equipment ranged from small LED light panels, reflective panels, light boxes, studio flashes and speedlight/on-camera flashes. The evening was very productive and informative. Again a special thanks to Chris for the use of equipment and his expertise!

Armed with new information, members were able to put lighting skills to practice during the remainder of the month to use January's theme of "Forgotten Things" and produce photos for critique during the January 26 critique night. An example macro shot is shown on the previous page of this newsletter. Wonderful photos were shown ranging from old lobster traps (shown on our website) to an old lantern with quill pen and a book of genealogy. Great job to everyone!

SNAP SHOTS FROM THE WEST SIDE OF THE DESERT!

Hello All!

What do you think of this weather? It's been great for me personally. I am starting to feel like a photographer again, and the weather along with the healing process has played an important role in my successes lately. Enough about the weather let's get on to cool stuff about taking photos.

We have had to do some driving lately to get snow back grounds. I am having better success this year at not getting the back grounds blown due to metering issues. I shoot a Canon T3I and my go-to setting for the most part is the "Center Weighted metering setting". I have had some shots where I used "Spot" metering to get a little better detail on a darker animal, but usually ended up destroying the overall image due to a blown out back ground. As an **inexperienced** photographer which I do consider myself, it has been a real challenge to guess the proper metering setting. This is an issue that needs to be dealt with constantly in winter time photography. I have developed with the help of Chris's teaching some basic personal rules which allow for some fairly consistent success. I always start with a center weighted meter setting. My camera is set on "RAW" photo quality to allow somewhat of a safety cushion if needed. After the first shot I do check my histogram for indications of blown highlights. I do usually set my camera

on AP (aperture priority) and closely watch the shutter speed indicator inside the view finder to see if the shutter speed appears to be reasonable for my choice of lens. The time to make adjustments is sooner than later. Sometimes, especially with wild life shots, which are my primary passion in photography, there is no second opportunity to make these needed adjustments. You need to make your first shot count.

To gain the experience needed to make your initial set up work for you I suggest you practice with some worst case scenarios. I suggest you take your Black Lab ice fishing on a frozen reservoir on a bright sun shiny day. I learned this lesson the hard way above Mackay one day. If you don't fish and do not have a Black Lab go out to a farm and practice shooting Black Angus cattle in a snow covered field in different lighting conditions. Playing with different metering settings in these practice sessions will provide an invaluable memory resource in the future. There is no better teacher than experience. A little time spent practicing may make the difference when that shot of a life time comes along. Good luck and may your shutter continue to click!

Ernie Tate

YOUR INPUT.....

If you have something you would like to see included in the newsletter, please send it to: **Ernie Tate**, tcs@atcnet.net. We are looking for articles, trip reports, adventures, websites, products, tutorials, etc.

Trivia Answer: Who is the most famous/recognizable photographer?

The Virtual Photography Studio website reports that this is obviously a subjective question, depending on one's interests. They listed the following based on their research. Perhaps you have one of your own? Check out the source website below for links to each of these. I personally had no idea of the talent each of these photographers possessed (except for Ansel Adams of course).

Ansel Adams – (1902-1984) Greatest landscape artist of all time

Margaret Bourke-White – (1904 - 1971) Produced the first cover for Life magazine

Annie Leibovitz – (1949-) Influential modern day photographer, photographs the famous

Henri Cartier Bresson – (1908-2004) First to capture life as it happened

Source: <http://virtualphotographystudio.com/photographyblog/2009/09/photography-trivia-do-you-know-the-answer/>