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The Lens and Eye

North Bethesda Camera Club

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Editor: Tom Sullivan: nbccleandeye@yahoo.com

March, 2007

Calendar

March, 2007

- 5 **Photo Proj Critique**; 7:30; Mason s
- 6 **PCR**: 7:00 pm.
- 7 **Print Night**: 7:30 pm.
Judge: Don Johnson.
Hospitality: Jean Yuan, Bill Ho and Jim Hammack.
- 14 **Projection Night**: 7:30 pm.
Judge: Scott Musson.
Hospitality: Ross Pierce, Caroline Helou and Sigrid Vollerthun.
Gallery: Chuck and Carol Lee.
- 18 **Photo Essay**: 2-5:00; Leisure World.
- 21 **Board Meeting**: 7:30 pm; Sullivan's.
- 28 **Program/Workshop**; 7:30 pm.
Guest: Paul Kline.
Hospitality: Dick Pelroy, Mike Cline and Jean Haddon.

April, 2007

- 3 PCR: 7:00 pm.
- 4 Print night: 7:30 pm.
- 11 Projection night: 7:30 pm.
- 16 Photo Proj Critique; 7:30, Kent Mason's.
- 18 Board Meeting: Hammack's: 7:30 pm.
- 25 Program/Workshop; 7:30 pm.
- tbd Field trip;.

Competition Assignment:

Animals – NOT Humans

The animal(s) must be alive. Domestic, farm or wild animals of any kind are eligible. You may take them at the zoo or aquarium, your backyard or deepest Africa. The animal(s) MUST be the subject of your photograph. (The photograph must have been taken on or after June 1, 2005.)



The Lens and Eye on the
web is in **COLOR**

Paul Kline to Give Program, March 28, 2007

Roy Sewall

What is it like to be in *Popular Photography's* Photographer of the Year 2006 competition? Well, its like a four day Survivor photography contest. First, ten semi-finalist were selected from hundreds of entries around the world. Then it was narrowed down to three finalist which the Magazine brought to New York City in July 2006, for a grueling four day shoot-out. Paul Kline will share his experiences and photography from this unique photo contest.

Paul Kline's fascination with creating images was a gift from his late father, who was a prominent photographer during the 60's. As a young child, he spent many hours with him in the dark room. He has rarely been without a camera since those early days and it has been a tool in portraying this wonderful world through his art.

His images help him reveal what he feels about the world; its colors shapes, textures, lines, and forms. His background in science supports his visual expressions, where his objective is to connect between himself and the viewer. He strives to portray familiar and simple subjects around us in an extraordinary way and to acquire the elegance that he sees through his lens. He aspires that his work inspires the viewer,

subconsciously or not, to develop the viewer's unique vision and see beauty where one might not stop to look.

Light and my camera are his brushes that create images to transcend the ordinary. To create his prints, he uses a combination of classical and digital techniques. Capturing images on film or CCD, he brings them into the digital domain for color and tonal control, and then he uses digital enlarger technology to create the final image using traditional photographic archival paper and chemistry. This technique, allows him great artistic control while enabling him to produce prints which have the detail he requires without losing the longevity of traditional archival photographic prints.

His schooling includes Cornell University, New York Institute of Photography and AMAL Technical College in Israel. He has exhibited at Glenview Mansion, Brookside Gardens, Black Rock Center for the Arts, and others. He has received awards from Montgomery County, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times* and magazines such as *Popular Photography*, *Smithsonian*, *Shutterbug* and others. He has a web site at <http://www.paulkline.com>

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Member Profile

Text by Jean Hanson

Photo by Nikhil Bahl

Nikhil Bahl



Nikhil Bahl feels very much at home in the USA, having lived here now since December 1998. He just recently sold his condo and is looking for a townhome into which to expand his lifestyle. Hopefully the buyers market in home sales will work in his favor.

Raised in Mumbai (Bombay), India, where his family still resides, Nikhil came upon his current job, that of Senior Web Designer for Access Intelligence through a circuitous route. In 1994, he graduated from college in Bombay with a BA degree in Economics and Commerce. He is fluent in both English and Hindi. The Leo Burnett Agency, a prestigious name in New York City, had just established a branch office, in partnership with a local agency in Bombay. Nikhil was hired by them as an account executive. "It was thankless work," he says, securing, maintaining and pleasing clients and the creative people, the designers of the actual ad campaigns, seemed to get all the praise and credit.

Nikhil began studying 3D animation and, after two years, left Burnett, and worked with a friend

for awhile. He then joined Graphic Vision, another animation studio in Bombay, doing 3D animation and design.

Through the internet, he became aware of a computer hardware and e-media solutions company, SMAC Data Systems, based in Washington, D.C. that was seeking a designer. Working in the U.S. seemed liked the opportunity Nikhil was looking for. So, he secured the job, left his family and friends behind in India, and arrived in this country in December, 1998. The company is now defunct, but while he worked for them, Nikhil maintained their website, and did marketing and graphic design. The company had an interest in streaming videos and partnered with Real Networks. Nikhil taught classes on the Real Networks Product Suite.

He spent a little over two years with SMAC Data Systems, and then moved to Calnet, Inc. in Virginia. Here he redesigned and maintained their website, assisted with marketing, and produced graphics and brochures.

In September 2003, he moved to a Maryland company, PBI Media. An information and marketing company that changed its name to Access Intelligence and is now located on Shady Grove Road. It's products include magazines, newsletters, conferences, data products and e-media solutions.

Nikhil's family background may have fostered his interest in media. His father is the Director of a University in the city of Pune (near Bombay) and teaches courses in advertising and public relations. His mother is an artist and graphic designer and his younger brother is a web designer. His father was also a hobbyist photographer and took many family pictures.

Nikhil's interest in photography was not awakened in childhood, but came later through travel experiences, specifically his visit to the Grand Canyon (December 2003) and his growing love for the natural world. He makes about two trips a year, many of them to visit school friends who have either come to be educated or to work in the USA. He has seen New York City, Philadelphia, Denver, Phoenix and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He has been to many state and national parks around the cities he has visited. He hopes to head to the west coast and take in California sometime soon. His first digital camera was a 2 mega pixel point and shoot and his 300+ images of the Grand Canyon, taken with it are not memorable.

In 2004, Nikhil attended a Nikon seminar given by Rod Plank. He was inspired by it and purchased his Nikon D70 camera (6 mega pixel) soon after. After exploring his camera and photography on his own he signed up for Plank's weeklong photo workshop in Michigan last May. He shot waterfalls, spring flowers and the Lake Superior shoreline and felt that he learned a great deal about his subjects and creative photography. He enjoyed it so much that he went back in October for another Plank workshop and found the Michigan autumn to be more beautiful than even our local Shenandoah scenery.

He has now moved up to a Nikon D200 with a 10 mega pixel resolution. His current lenses are an 18-70mm digital and three other film camera lenses which he finds adapt well to the digital camera. He has a 24-120mm VR (purchased from Alan Sisen), a 70-300mm zoom and a 70-200mm 2.8 VR. His tripod is a 3021BN

Manfrotto with a Kirk BH-1 ball head. He processes images in Photoshop CS2 and sends them to mpix.com for printing. He also sends images to the NBCC Novice Electronic competition where he has won a few awards.

His maple leaf image was included in the recent Strathmore show. He has submitted another image to the Bethesda Library "four seasons" show and is hoping to be accepted.

Nikhil is also an active cricket player. He belongs to a local

league of 28 teams and is captain of Boyds Cricket Club. His league has games every weekend from the end of April to the end of September. His other interests include playing tennis, music and movies.

Nikhil located the NBCC by googling "camera clubs" on the internet. He joined in July and has been enjoying the meetings. He hopes to increase his knowledge and to eventually incorporate his photography into his job skills. At present, he consi-

ders himself to be at sort of an intermediate level.

In April, he will travel back to India to attend his cousin's wedding and visit various scenic areas during his 3 week stay. He will journey to Agra and, for the first time in his life, with camera in hand, view the Taj Mahal. He even plans to go before sunrise (although he hates to get up early) in order to catch the Taj in the best possible light.



Field Trip – March 3, 2007 – National Zoo

Linda Wang

Our March field trip will be to the National Zoo. The plan is to meet at 9:30am sharp at the entrance to the zoo on Connecticut Ave. (All the buildings open at 10am.) We'll make our way to the reptile house, where we have tentative permission to use our tripods for 45 minutes to an hour. Highlights at the reptile house include the veiled chameleon, the green iguana, the Gila monster, and the leopard gecko. If we have a large group, some of you may opt to photograph at the elephant house, which offers more room to move around and doesn't require permission for tripod use.



Although our plans are to meet at 9:30am, feel free to arrive earlier, as the grounds of the zoo open at 6am. You may find some wonderful opportunities outdoors if you don't mind the cooler temperatures. It's also very peaceful in the mornings.

After our session at the reptile house, we'll head over to the new Asia Trail, which houses seven Asian species: sloth bears, fishing cats, red pandas,

a Japanese giant salamander, clouded leopards, Asian small-clawed otters, and--of course--the giant pandas. (We're working on securing permission to use our tripods in the exhibit.)



After the Asia Trail, we'll grab some lunch at a local restaurant in Woodley Park.

The National Zoo is located at 3001 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008. If you plan on Metroing, take the red line to Cleveland Park and walk south (about 3/4 mile) to the zoo entrance. You'll know you're going in the right direction if you pass a strip of restaurants and shops, and cross a bridge.

If you drive, parking is available at the zoo and costs \$4 for the first hour, \$12 for two to three hours, and \$16 for more than three hours. Remember that we will be meeting at the Connecticut Ave. entrance.

If you plan on attending this field trip, send an e-mail to Linda Wang at lwang10@hotmail.com and be as specific as possible about where and what time you plan to join the group, so she'll know whether to expect you at the zoo entrance.

For more information about the National Zoo, visit <http://nationalzoo.si.edu>.

January was a good month. The box said "2-4 years", but I finished the puzzle in a month!

Print Night Judge to be Don Johnson

Jim Hawkins

Don Johnson writes the following bio:

I have been a serious amateur photographer since the mid-1980s. I first learned the basic elements of photographic design, composition, and equipment taking a photography course while in college, back in the “dark ages” when everything was done manually. After graduation in 1971, I pursued other important activities such as career building and raising a family, but I always maintained an avid interest in photography.

In the mid-1980’s, I returned to the hobby of photography on a more serious basis. My wife reignited my interest in the activity after giving me a new camera one year for the holidays. Much to her chagrin, this stimulated further photography equipment purchases, but also helped me produce better images.

Over the years, I have had a number of my photographs published. In February 1997, *Popular Photography*, billed as “the world’s largest imaging magazine,” selected one of my photographs for their “Your Best Shot” column. I have also produced cover photographs for *The AOPA Pilot* magazine and *Ballooning: The Journal of the Ballooning Federation of America*. I also had three of my images published in the fall 2006 issue of *Nature’s Best* magazine, one of which appeared on the cover of the issue. Another photograph in the issue was selected as the top “Zoo and Aquarium” photograph of the year. The winning “Zoo and Aquarium” image, along with another image from the publication, are currently on display at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History. The display will run until sometime in March 2007.

Over the years, I have won a number of awards in various local photography competitions. I am also very proud of the fact that I have sold a number of my photographs to people I do not even know.

I am the immediate past President of the Gaithersburg Camera Club and a former President of the Frederick Camera Clique, a photography club located in Frederick Maryland. In addition to maintaining my membership in these two clubs, I am also a current member of the Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ) Photography Club.

I use Nikon equipment and I am currently exploring the world of digital photography, having recently purchased a Nikon D200 digital camera to go along

with my D100 that I purchased a few years ago. I love to travel and always take my camera when I go someplace new for either business or pleasure. I especially enjoy taking photographs of zoo animals, flowers, sunsets/sunrises, famous places, and producing photo abstracts using a computer. For me, photography is a life long hobby—one that I plan on enjoying until I can no longer push the shutter release button.

In the real world, I work for the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, an organization located in Arlington, Virginia. My family seems to think that most of the salary I earn as the Association’s Director of Market Research goes to fund my photography “addiction,” but that is not really true — or at least I think it’s not really true. Lately, I am afraid to check.

I live in Gaithersburg Maryland with my wife. I have three grown children.

You can check out Don’s web site at:

www.SunSpotImages.com

Reminder

The NBCC awards banquet will be here before you know it.

Save the date!!!

Wednesday, June 13th, 2007.



Adjustments to the 2006-7 Blue Booklet



Change to the Blue Book:

Address Change:

Nikhil Bahl
14011 Fernie Field Court
Laurel, MD 20707

E-Mail Changes

Laura Winslow (New!): winslow7@yahoo.com

Scott Musson to be Projection Night Judge

Roy Sewall

Photography is a natural extension of my love for travel. While I've taken pictures all my life, it wasn't until I was older and could afford to travel that my passion for photography truly developed. I love the whole process of photography - planning a shoot, getting up early to catch the light, processing the images (nowadays digitally), printing and matting. In the last several years I've discovered underwater photography which unfortunately I only get a couple of chances a year to work on, and my wife and I are now experimenting with photography from a kayak.

I am a member of Northern Virginia Photographic Society (NVPS), and am a past and current board member. I received NVPS's "Versatile Photographer of the Year" award for 2004-2005. My wife Emi and I have published a calendar for the last 6 years and I have had images appear in local Northern Virginia newspapers. Scott also has a web site at: <http://www.scottmusson.com/>.

What criteria will I use for judging?

I will evaluate images for technical merit including color accuracy, depth of field used, exposure, and the overall quality of the presentation (i.e. print quality and matting for prints, etc.). I will evaluate the use of the picture space, including compositional elements such as spacing, separation, placement, balance, sharpness and the appropriateness of the background. The image contrast, lighting and balance will also be reviewed. Particular attention will be paid to strength of visual design reviewing the use and placement of image elements and their geometry, strength of lines, use and placement of shapes, texture, and rhythm and harmony of the image elements. The applicability and the use of creative techniques will be reviewed and commented on as appropriate. I find one of the most compelling presentations of images is a common or mature subject that we've seen before, presented in new and imaginative way. Of course I will read and apply the rules of the camera club to the best of my ability to judge the competition.



Congratulations to NBCC Contest Winnahs

Melissa Clark captured a second place and Evelyn Jacobs captured an Honorable Mention in the First Annual *Washington Gardener* Magazine Photo Contest which was judged by Josh Taylor.



Reminder!

The 2007 Photo Essay Program will be held on

Sunday, March: 18th,
from 2:00 – 5:00, at
Leisure World, Clubhouse 2,
in Silver Spring.

Bring a Friend!

Directions will be available on the web site:

www.nbccmd.org



Training Opportunity

Kent Mason will be offering a half-day workshop titled *Photography, Writing with Light*, on Saturday, April, 14, 2007; from 9:30 to 12:00, at his house at 14202 Briarwood Terrace, Rockville. The workshop will cover topics including contrasts of light, colors of light by time of day, effects of time of year, how color effects emotion, direction of light, changing visual impact by changing contrast, and changing exposure, filtration and camera position. The cost of the workshop will be \$16. If you would like to sign up, please contact Kent at 301-871-9066, or e-mail him at kent.mason@att.net or see him at a club meeting (probably the best way).



Barbara D at Bradley Hills Presbyterian

NBCC member Barbara DeLouise has an exhibit of her works, *Flower Close Ups*, at the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, through March 24, 2007. For info call 301-530-3479.

Early Notice for the April, 2007, Field Trip

David Davidson



Colonial Williamsburg®



Friday-Sunday April 20-22

The April field trip is a weekend photographic outing to Colonial Williamsburg. Please plan to join us for this visit to the preeminent 18th-century revolutionary town. Enter the Capitol, the Governor's Palace, the Courthouse, the Magazine, trade shops and many more establishments to learn about the birthplace of the American Revolution.



The host hotel for this field trip is The Governor's Inn. The Inn is located just three blocks from the historic area. The Governor's Inn offers 200 guest rooms, an outdoor swimming pool, and the benefit of continental breakfast included in your room rate. Guests also enjoy free use of the superb recreational facilities of the nearby Woodlands Hotel & Suites. We have a block of rooms on hold at a group rate of \$89 per night. To reserve a room, call 1-800-HISTORY and ask for Brandi. Let Brandi know you are with the North Bethesda Camera Club.

To wet your appetite further, we have dinner reservations for Friday night at the Christiana Campbell Tavern.



This is a very popular restaurant right in the historic district. Take your pick from tasty Sherried Crab Stew, Pan Fried Stuffed Rainbow Trout, Grilled Sirloin of Beef or one of the other satisfying dishes offered. And, the restaurant still serves oysters in this friendly establishment, just as General Washington liked them - juicy and tasty oyster fritters, with a sour cream and bacon relish.



Additional information about this field trip will appear in the April *Lens and Eye*, but save the date and make your hotel reservations now! Please let me know if you will be participating in the field trip. If you intend to participate, send an email to david@davids-photos.com.



Program at Phillips

The Phillips Collection Center for the Study of Modern Art is an ambitious new museum-based educational model that brings together scholars from across academic fields in an ongoing forum for discussion, research, and publishing on modern art. *Conversations with Artists. 2006-07 Series: Contemporary Photographers* includes:

March 14, 2007 – Angela Strassheim

Angela Strassheim began her career as a forensic photographer, but moved on to making vivid color photographs that depict less dramatic, even banal, objects and figures. Her subject matter is "the Midwest and the middle-class American family"

Location: Center for the Study of Modern Art, Carriage House; 5:30 p.m. No fee, register for these talks by contacting Alexandra Remorenko at aremorenko@phillipscollection.org or 202-387-2151, ext. 286

Splinters from the Board

February 2007 Board Meeting Highlights

Chuck Lee, President

Competition Assignment Chair Barbara DeLouise submitted a listing of proposed assignment topics for Program Year 2008-2009. A finalized selection will be made at the March Board meeting.

Year-end judge candidate was approved.

Awards Event Coordinator Catherine Honigsberg led a discussion on organizational details for the Awards Event on June 13.

Exhibit Chair Alan Sislen reported on juried selection of images for the Bethesda Library exhibit from March 12- April 30. He noted that over the three Club exhibits this year a total of 46 members have had an opportunity to have their work shown. The committee has decided not to pursue the possibility of a fourth exhibit this Program Year but has lined up a big show at the Sandy Spring Museum to begin in December.

Plans are moving well for Photo Essay 2007 being held this year on Sunday afternoon, March 18 at the newly renovated Leisure World auditorium in Clubhouse #2. Invitations will be extended to other camera clubs.

The Club's birthday will be celebrated during intermission on Program Night, March 28.

Membership cards will be developed to provide members with a tangible means of showing the public their connection to a photography organization. In the past, such cards have proven useful as advertisement for the Club and to gain acceptance to photograph events and locations when questioned.

Field trip coordinators were given authority to allow non-member guests on an individual event basis – some field trips being restricted to members only.

Club members were to be **encouraged** to complete the questionnaire from the Special Study Committee being circulated to determine opinions on the possibility of combining print and projection competition onto a single night and to solicit ideas for meeting membership needs. Results of the questionnaire will be used to develop a spring membership survey.



PSA News

Even the “Old Standbys” Are Changing

It seems that the PSA is making a major adjustment to accommodate the growing digital image popularity. One might have thought they would have added a category for digital images, but instead they added digital images to the slide category as indicated in the following article.

The name of the Color Slide Division (CSD) of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) was approved by the PSA Board of Directors to change to Color Projected Image Division (*CPID*). Projected images are defined as slides and digital images. Now, photographers can use either slides film or digital cameras to take images for use in the services and activities of *CPID*. Also, a motion to allow digital images and slides as “dual projection” in the color slide section of all PSA recognized International Salons was passed.



Did You Know?

Anita van Rooy

1 When using just about any Photoshop tools, you can switch to the Move tool at any time by simply holding the Control key (Mac Command). It is temporary and, as soon as you release it, you are back to the tool you started with.

2 You can jump to any layer in your document without going to the Layers palette. Press V to switch to the Move tool. Now press-and-hold the Control key (Mac Command) and click on an object in your image that you want, and you instantly jump to that object's layer.



Exhibit In Reston

NVPS member, Valentin V. Tepordei, will have an exhibit of his works, *50 Years Behind the Camera!, A Photographic Retrospective*, at the U.S. Geological Survey, National Center, First Floor Exhibition Hall, 12201 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston, VA 20192. The exhibit will run from March 5 to March 31, 2007, with an opening reception on March 14, 4:00 - 6:00 PM. The Center is open on Monday – Friday, 8:00AM - 6:00 PM, and Saturday - Sunday by appointment only. For more information, please call 703-685-0425 or Email: vtepordei@inbox.com.



exhibitions



Muybridge at the American Art Museum

Eadweard Muybridge (1830–1904), a preeminent landscape photographer who is best known for his stop-action photographs of humans and animals in motion, traveled to South America in 1875 for the Pacific Mail Steamship Company. While in Panama and Guatemala, he photographed contemporary life as well as scenic ruins and the extensive plantations for the emerging coffee industry. The exhibition features more than 60 photographs from Muybridge's Central American trips. Many of these photographs from the museum's permanent collection will be presented for this first time. The exhibit runs through April 29, 2007 at the Smithsonian's American Art Museum, 8th and F Streets, NW, Washington, D.C.



Photoworks Exhibit at Glen Echo

Michael Borek is a Washington DC-based photographer of Czech descent whose surrealist photographs "Urbania" document the disappearing traces of old neighborhoods. Although he defines his work as a "visual archeology of urban decay," his style is poetic and juxtaposes seemingly unrelated things to invoke a new, dreamlike reality. Michael Lang uses a social documentary approach to express urban decay, focusing his lens on the neighborhood of Farish Street in Jackson, Mississippi. Once a center for Black business and culture, Farish Street was transformed by racial integration and two hurricanes, and ultimately by the abandonment and decay of this once vibrant neighborhood. A few residents remain as they await a rebirth of Farish Street. Both artists use digital media to express their visions, with Borek printing in color and Lang printing in black and white. The exhibit runs from March 9 to April 16, 2007. An opening reception will be held on March 10 from 5:00 to 7:00. Additional info: www.glenechophotoworks.org .



Panel Discussion at Glen Echo

On March 10, 2007, Photoworks will present a panel discussion of well known Washington photographers: Maria Stenzel, National Geographic photographer; Andrew Glickman, local award winning documentary photographer; Gabriela Bulisova, international socially concerned documentary photographer; and Matthew Worden, chief photographer Washingtonian Magazine. Participants will have the opportunity to have their portfolios reviewed by these experienced documentary and editorial photographers. \$50 per participant, no formal registration, rsvp: 301-229-4313.



NBCC Exhibit at Bethesda Library

Alan Sislen and Melissa Clark

The Exhibits Committee is pleased to announce that the final exhibit of the 2006-2007 NBCC year will take place at the Bethesda Library (located at 7400 Arlington Road, in Bethesda) beginning March 12th. The exhibit will have the theme of "Seasons." Well-known local photographer Craig Sterling (www.craigsterling.com) juried the exhibit selections, choosing from 60 images submitted by 35 photographers. A total of 25 images, representing the work of 20 Club members, was selected. The exhibit will run until April 30th; photographs will be located in the areas leading into and surrounding the checkout area at the front of the library. Photographs on display will be available for sale and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Friends of the Bethesda Library.

This year the Committee has arranged for three exhibits in varying venues – a private law firm gallery space, Strathmore Mansion, and a major public library in Montgomery County. Forty-six members of the Club will have had one or more works displayed during these exhibits. Many thanks to everyone who participated by submitting images for consideration! We look forward to continuing our work on identifying other exhibit opportunities for the next Club year. One exhibit has already been arranged, at the Sandy Spring Museum, for late 2007, and we will keep you updated on any other opportunities that come our way to showcase members' work.



Silk Road Adventure

Chuck Lee

Photographing in remote areas of western China twelve time zones away, with a small, independent group of friends can be an adventure with unanticipated rewards. As we did two years ago, Carol and I teamed up with Club members Miranda Chin and John Telford, and friend Jimmy Wang to plan a China trip itinerary. This time we added Club member Cezary Raczko, raised the bar a few notches, and targeted China's western most province, Xinjiang, for a month-long trek of the Silk Road that once linked the Roman and Chinese empires. Anticipating colorful autumn foliage in snow capped mountains, nomads migrating to winter valley pastures, and desert heat subsiding, we chose the fall as our time to travel.

Miranda negotiated our developed itinerary over the Internet with the Chinese tour guide we had used in 2004. Although he spoke no English, Mr. Gao had proven his ability to expose us to the local people, places, and experiences that few foreigners have the opportunity to see and photograph.

From the outset, the trip proved a physical challenge. Our first day began at 6 a.m. Before flying to Xinjiang, we drove to a wilderness area outside of Beijing and for two hours we struggled up a rough-trailed 1,200 foot high mountain to photograph an old section of the Great Wall said to be favored by photographers and frequented by only the heartiest tourists. The tone was set. This was not going to be a walk-in-the-park vacation. We knew, however, that if we survived, we would have an adventure of a lifetime and may just come away with a few unique pictures.



Northwest China landscape

That evening we flew four hours across China to Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, a city of 2.8 million, 2,953 feet above sea level located in the prairie valley of the Tian-

shan Mountains. Urumqi would serve as our operational base for photographing Xinjiang, the vast hinterland of Eurasia covering one sixth of China's total territory and sharing borders with eight countries.

The next night we flew two hours to Kashgar, the western-most town in China, with the nearby borders of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Kashgar is the most important city on the Silk Road and the epicenter of the Uyghur culture. Its persona is predominantly Islamic, as 90 percent of its quarter-million population is Sunni Muslim. The seven million Uyghurs living in Xinjiang represent the largest among a number of minority tribes in the autonomous region. They have distinctive facial features -- big or deep eyes and a high nose -- speak a Turkic language, and use an Arabian-based phonetic alphabet written right to left.

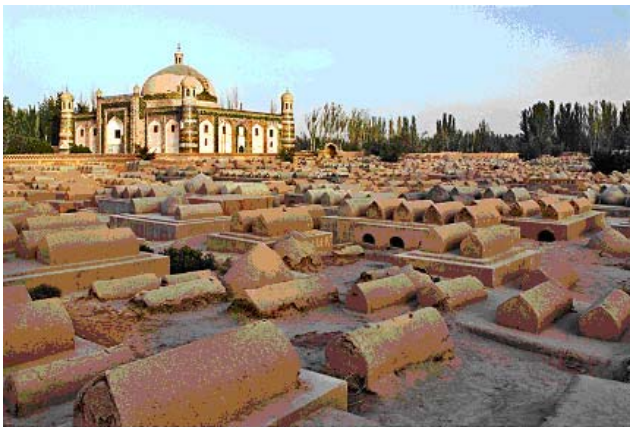


Kashgar Bazaar donkey test driver

The famous Kashgar Sunday livestock bazaar was an anticipated highlight of our China trip. The enormous bazaar has been a major regional attraction for the past 1,500 years, with farmers and merchants bargaining over camels, sheep, goats, cattle, and donkeys, together with all manner of crafts and goods.

Kashgar was indeed a special place not to be missed. It is a popular saying that "You haven't been to Xinjiang, unless you've been to Kashgar". Being flexible and in control of our itinerary, we wanted to savor the area. To that end, Cezary noted that his pre-trip study of tour book photos had spotted a "must-see" site in suburban Kashgar -- the Shrine of Ho Appak and tomb of the Fragrant Concubine erected in 1640 -- taken from a most interesting graveyard. We asked our tour guide to drive us there in the last afternoon so we could scout it out. Our decision was unanimous -- the site was a winner. We would return before dawn the next

morning. Positioning our tripods atop an elevated Muslim sarcophagus at the far end of the adjacent cemetery, and using other tombs as fore-ground, we were able to capture the decorative-tiled mausoleum in the magic, golden light of sunrise.



Shrine of Hoq Appak

Over the next 19 days we took four more domestic flights. On several occasions, upon arriving at a remote community airport, we still had a five or more hour drive to reach our destination. We spent a total of six nights in two rural Tuwa villages in the northwest corner of China -- one on the border of Kazakhstan, 25 miles from Mongolia and 40 miles from Russia. For three of those days we photographed the nomadic Kazakh people in their fall migration from the high mountains to the lower valleys wandering together with their grazing stock. The women rode horses, usually carrying a baby, while the men drove the herds with the help of their herding, hunting dogs -- their homes packed on the backs of their camels.

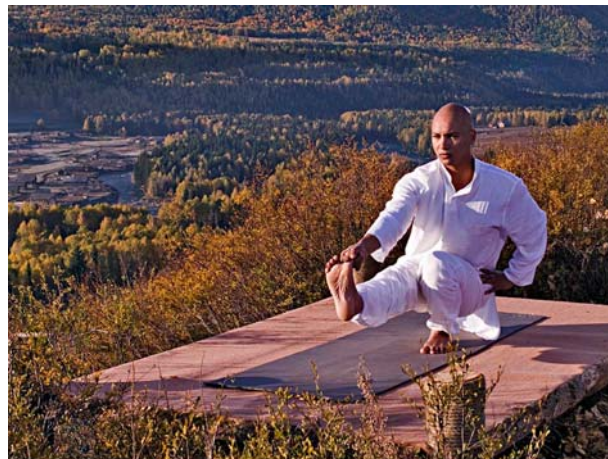


Kazakh Nomads on the move

Four days were spent in desert oasis locations in the hot Turpan basin nearly 500 feet below sea level. For over 2,000 years, residents there have grown grapes for raisins, watermelons, and cotton, and irrigated their land through a series of connected wells and underground canals several thousand miles long that channel the melted snow from distant surrounding mountains.

Our stay in what other travelers have called the "land of magic and wonder" was indeed an adventure. The following are a few of our observa-

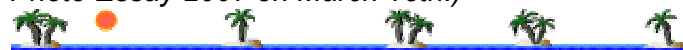
tions: People generally were receptive to our taking their picture. Food, on the whole, was very good, although the group did experience several episodes of intestinal disruption that required our prescription medicine to abate. Lodging also was very good, especially in the larger towns. In the remote villages, however, accommodations were primitive but acceptable for a short period and far better than were generally available for the local population. In the remote villages there was always electricity and indoor plumbing, but not always heat or hot water. It was cold in the mountains in late October and early November, but we were given extra blankets. We rose before dawn almost every morning for sunrise opportunities that turned out to be rarely favorable but frequently very cold. And surprisingly, for more than two weeks we did not see any others of European origin. We clearly had ventured down the Silk Road less traveled.



Morning Yoga on Hemu Village overlook

What began as a test of our stamina continued to be physically challenging at times, causing us to endure stresses we did not envision when we created our adventure itinerary. However, by sucking it up and pressing on we realized a personally rewarding experience far greater than we had ever imagined and an opportunity to witness and capture scenes of vanishing lifestyles we shall never forget. And, oh yes, we came away with more than a few unique pictures -- making it all worth while.

(Ed. Note: NBCC member Alex Guo also traveled last fall to Xinjiang but on a different tour. Alex will be combining his images with the Lees in a presentation of their Silk Road experiences at the Photo Essay 2007 on March 18th.)



Remember, Turn your clocks ahead one hour, Sunday, March 11th

Results of Competition for February 2007 – Glassware

Both February's Competitions were CANCELLED



February Glassware Competition Rescheduled

"Snow may cancel Club meetings, but it only delays Judgment Day. The Glassware assignment competition for both prints and projected images has been rescheduled as a combined Competition Night to be held on Wednesday, April 25, 2007.

Prints and projected image entries will be limited to only those that were prepared for the February competition -- not those taken or processed subsequently. The electronic images that were entered before the deadline of February 12 will be retained for the April competition and need not be resubmitted.

The judge for the combined Competition Night will be Joe Miller who had been scheduled to judge the cancelled Print Night. Henrik de Gyor who had been scheduled to judge the cancelled Projection Night will judge our May Projection Night.

Cumulative Scores for 2006-2007; Thru February, 2007

Black and White Prints

Advanced

- 56 Bev Gordon
- 35 Chuck Bress
- 18 Chris Hanessian
- 17 Pat Bress
- 16 Bob Peavy
- 15 Don Burgess
- 8 Bill Richards

Altered Prints

- 36 Tatiana Watson
- 32 Anita van Rooy
- 25 Bev Gordon
- 18 Dan McDermott
- 16 Ross Pierce
- 10 Marcia Loeb
- 10 David Davidson
- 8 Jim Hawkins
- 8 Alan Sislen
- 8 Bill Ho
- 6 Barbara Mazurkiewicz
- 6 Ed Kawczynski

Slides

- 63 Chuck Bress
- 44 Pat Bress
- 39 Luis Bustillos
- 27 Kent Mason
- 23 Caroline Helou
- 18 Barbara DeLouise
- 18 Judy Switt
- 14 Ted Oberman
- 9 Ross Emerson
- 6 Judy Burr

Color Prints

Novice

- 62 Luis Bustillos
- 37 Ed Kawczynski
- 24 John Grupenhoff
- 21 Marcia Loeb
- 19 Jerry Gordon
- 8 Melissa Clark
- 6 Louise Roy

Advanced

- 50 Bill Richards
- 44 Alan Sislen
- 36 Les Trachtman
- 31 Bob Peavy
- 24 Cynthia Keith
- 18 Judy Burr
- 17 Laura Winslow
- 16 Sue Milestone
- 12 Bob Dargel
- 10 Ross Pierce
- 9 Dan McDermott
- 6 Ken Briefel
- 6 Chris Henessian
- 6 David Davidson
- 6 Jim Hawkins
- 6 Chuck Bress
- 6 Barbara DeLouise



Electronic

Advanced

- 31 Alan Sislen
- 30 Ross Pierce
- 30 Carl Root
- 22 José Cartas
- 22 Rebecca Tidman
- 21 Anita van Rooy
- 16 Judy Burr
- 16 Janet M Hammack
- 16 Bill Richards
- 15 Alex Guo
- 14 Dan McDermott
- 14 Bob Peavy
- 12 Gordie Corbin
- 12 Jim Hammack
- 12 Jim Hawkins
- 9 Sigrid Vollerthun
- 6 Ken Briefel
- 6 Bob Dargel
- 6 David Davidson
- 6 Lucia Goldman
- 6 Jin Gong
- 6 Evelyn Jacob
- 6 Jack Mazurkiewicz
- 6 Sue Milestone
- 6 Judy Switt

Altered

- 50 Gordie Corbin
- 29 Lucia Goldman
- 28 Jim Hawkins
- 22 Evelyn Jacob
- 22 Anita van Rooy
- 20 Bev Gordon
- 19 Ross Pierce
- 18 Carl Root
- 15 Jim Hammack
- 14 Dan McDermott
- 6 Bill Ho
- 6 Ken Briefel
- 6 Sue Snay
- 6 Marcia Loeb
- 6 Alan Sislen

Novice

- 46 Melissa Clark
- 36 Jean Yuan
- 35 Gerry Weiss
- 30 Don Burgess
- 26 Nancy Garwood
- 20 Mike Cline
- 18 Sarah Tidman
- 17 Nikhil Bahl
- 14 Stu Mathison
- 12 Martha Cain-Grady
- 12 Marcia Loeb
- 10 Marty Zober
- 9 Donald Martell
- 6 Ira Adler
- 6 Rakesh Malik
- 6 Bill Wyckoff



March 21

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