

The Nikonian

ANPAT 9 Hits Alaska



eZine

43

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ON OUR COVER:

Nikonians Team Moderator Steve Johnson (reuben) shot the image showing two of our Nikonians at the Alaskan 9th Annual Nikonians Photo Adventure Trip (ANPAT) in early September. The railroad scene is in Infrared, taken by Rick Hulbert (rhulbert), Gold Member from West Vancouver, Canada. Rick is the smiling Nikonian standing on the left of the cover page. Next to him is Rimón Rafiah (Rimon), Platinum Member from Israel.

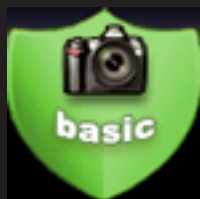
This Page: This Braided river abstract is actually a photo envisioned by Steve Johnson to have a Black and White look. Steve and some of his fellow **ANPAT 9** participants share more images, starting on page 4.

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Membership levels

Nikonians offers several levels of membership. Of course there is a free, basic membership good for a 25 day trial period, but we invite you to enjoy the fun and benefits of Silver, Gold and Platinum membership levels providing you with sell & buy opportunities, image upload, free shipping and more. Nikonians is a not-for-profit community. All capital generated through our operations (The Nikonians Community, The PhotoProShop and The Nikonians Academy) are reinvested to sustain our growth. Each membership counts and we take this opportunity to thank you for your support!

Bo Stahlbrandt and J. Ramón Palacios, Founders of Nikonians



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9th ANPAT

The 9th Annual Nikonians Photo Adventure Trip (ANPAT) in September took a hearty team of Nikonians to Anchorage, Alaska for a busy week of photo trips and camaraderie. Led by Nikonians Academy instructor Michael Mariant, they lugged their Nikons to scenic locations featuring Denali and Spencer Lake, icebergs, glaciers and wildlife.

Responding to a call from Nikonians co-founder J. Ramón Palacios to share images and thoughts in this special edition, we have a collection of photos and portions of a survey designed to help plan future ANPATs.

More photos and reminiscences can be found in the Nikonians [ANPAT forum](#) and in the special Nikonians [ANPAT 9 Photo Gallery](#).



Figure 1 – Rick Hulbert - Between the train cars to Denali. D3x with 14-24mm lens at 14mm. ISO 1600, f3.5, 1/640 shutter.



Figure 2- Rick Hulbert - On the way to Spencer Lake. Nikon D 700 converted to IR with Coastal Optics 60mm lens. ISO 3200, f5.6, 1/1000 shutter (this was also one of our cover photos).

We begin with Rick Hulbert (rhulbert) Gold Member from West Vancouver, Canada.

When asked for his location suggestion for next year:

"Any place where we can stay in one or two hotels at the most and be able to go around in vans."



Figure 3 - Rick Hulbert - On the train to Denali. D3X with 14-24mm lens at 14mm. ISO 1600, f8, 4 images combined as "fuzzy HDR."

Figure 4 - Rick Hulbert - Mt McKinley. Nikon D3X with 85mm PC lens. ISO 200, f4, 1/1250 shutter.



9th ANPAT

Gold Member Jimmy Kang (JiangMX) from Singapore sent this note and some wildlife photos (including Nikonians wildlife):

"After the recent global warming warning I heard about the melting of the glaciers and when Nikonians decided Alaska as their 9th annual trip, I just jump into it. It was a great experience for me coming from the tropical country. The environment and terrain are very different. Love the weather and the autumn scene. It was also nice to get to know fellow Nikonians from different countries."

Jimmy's recommendation for future ANPATs:
"Hawaii, you'll have many choices to photograph, from volcano, jungle to sea."

Figure 5 – Jimmy Kang - Nikonians in action at Wonder Lake. D700, VR 80-400mm, 280mm, AF-S, f/13, 1/400s, ISO400, WB 5000K.





Figure 6 - Jimmy Kang - Turnagain Arm, back from Spencer Glacier- D700, VR 80-400mm, 95mm, AF-S, f/25, 1/400s, ISO400, WB 5000K.

Figure 7 - Jimmy Kang - Dall sheep at Denali National Park. D700, VR 80-400mm f/4.5-5.6D, 400mm, AF-S, F/13, 1/400s, ISO 400, WB 5000K, Matrix, Manual Exposure.



9th ANPAT

Gold Member James Judd (jamesjudd) , from Georgia USA, tells us: *"Pete Wilson saw on the Nikonians site I was arriving a day early and emailed me to see if I wanted to meet at the airport. We agreed south of Anchorage with the Seward Highway, an All-American Road, would be a good way to spend our day. Upon arrival I found he had scouted out a beautiful location for shooting the Chugach Mountains. We stopped, used the rental pick-up truck for a platform to see over the roadside brush and took my favorite photo. You can see the Ghost Forest resulting from the 1964 earthquake where salt water was absorbed by the trees on the left. Termites won't eat the 45-year-old wood due to the salt content still present today."*

Figure 8 - James Judd – The day before ANPAT - 1/200, f11, ISO 200, 82mm 18-200, D300 Gitzo 1325 tripod, Markins M20 ballhead.





Figure 10 - James Judd
1/500, f/8 ISO 800, 50mm
18-200, D300 handheld
from moving train; polar-
izer by Alaska Railroad.

Figure 9 - James Judd -
1/1250, f/8 ISO 640, 40mm
18-200, D300 handheld
from raft.



9th ANPAT

Gold Member Jay Miller (jaym) from Virginia, USA tells us:

"This was my second ANPAT, and like the first one (ANPAT 7), it was a truly awesome experience. The weather, scenery, wildlife, and Michael's planning were all outstanding, and the opportunity to spend time in Alaska with fellow Nikonians, old friends and new acquaintances alike, was a once-in-a-lifetime event."

Jay recommends more National Parks for future ANPATs, such as: Banff, Death Valley and even "something completely different – Vancouver BC, Nova Scotia."

Figure 11 - Jay Miller - Taken from the train on the way to Denali. D300 & 24-70mm f/2.8, f/8 at 1/200, ISO 200.





Figure 12 - Jay Miller - Eielson Visitor Center in Denali. D300 & 24-70mm f/2.8, f/9 at 1/1000, ISO 400.



Figure 13 - Jay Miller - Spencer Lake.
D300 & 70-200mm f/2.8, f/5 at
1/500, ISO 200.

9th ANPAT

Silver Member Pierre Bourassa (pierrebo) from Quebec, Canada, says *"Camaraderie and adventure were the highlights of the trip. With Eric as our team leader, we stayed out late 2 nights, waiting for the very last bus and feeling the real Denali. If it were not for Michael, we wouldn't have known about the last sweeper bus and we would have missed this great opportunity."*

His recommendation for future ANPATs is to consider looking for jungle, urban, coastal area or ocean front locations.

Figure 14 - Pierre Bourassa – Nikonians Rick Hulbert, Eric Bowles, and Jonathan Bloom walking around a bit further than Eilson visitor center.





Figure 15 - Pierre Bourassa - Sunset at Mt. Susitna (the sleeping lady) in Anchorage. D700 with 70-200 f2.8 at 100mm, 3 sec at f/16.

Figure 16 - Pierre Bourassa - Mt. McKinley from Stony Hill, as a three shot HDR done in Photomatix. D700 with 70-200 f2.8 at 95mm, 1/2000 sec at f4.8.



9th ANPAT

Platinum Member David J. Mathre (david_mathre), from New Jersey, USA is a veteran of previous ANPATs and he gave the latest trip a glowing review:

"This was my 3rd ANPAT trip and all have been memorable. This time the adventure included 9000 miles of driving and a three day ferry ride on the Alaska Marine Highway from Bellingham Washington to Haines Alaska. On the way to Alaska I visited Theodore Roosevelt NP, Glacier NP, Grand Coulee Dam, Lake Chelan and North Cascade NP.

In Haines Alaska I stayed at the Halsingland hotel. From the hotel window I took a series of night sky images across the Chilkoot Inlet to make into a star trails composition. When I reviewed the images the next morning, I realized that a number included the northern lights (aurora). From these images I made a time [lapse video](#).

The weather during ANPAT 9 could not have been much better. We actually saw Denali five days in a row, on the train from Anchorage to Denali, the three days we were in the park, and on the train back to Anchorage (This after months of checking the web-cam and never seeing the mountain). In addition to some great landscape photographic opportunities, we also saw a lot of wildlife. On the 2nd day in the park we had Dall sheep and a red fox so close to the bus it was difficult to keep the whole animal in the frame and in some cases even too close to focus. Hats off to Michael for all of the arrangements and getting the timing for this trip to be so perfect.

For the trip back, I traveled the Alaska-Canada highway. This is something I definitely want to do again. The wildlife along the road in Yukon and northern British Columbia was almost as good as in Denali."

His suggestion for future ANPATs is based on his past experiences: *"Because of ANPAT 9, I have now visited all 50 states. The next ANPAT should be completely different -- in one of the US Territories (Puerto Rico or US Virgin Islands)."*



Figure 17 - David Mathre - D3, 80-400 mm at 122 mm, f/4.8, 1/1000 sec, ISO 900; Capture NX2, Photoshop CS4, Nik Define 2, Nik Color Efex, Focus Magic.



Figure 18 - David Mathre - D3, 80-400 mm @ 400mm, f/5.6, 1/1000 sec, ISO 1600; Capture NX2, Photoshop CS4, Nik Define 2, Nik Color Efex, Focus Magic.

Figure 19 - Jay Newmark - Nikonians on the McKinley Express. Nikon D700 24-70mm f/2.8.



9th ANPAT

Platinum Charter Member Jay Newmark (drbrog) from Illinois, USA tells us: *"This was my second ANPAT. I again was impressed how in some cases complete strangers –novice both professional photographers- can assemble and create a welcoming learning environment for all. I don't think anyone felt out of place in this group."*

He suggests the Canadian Rockies as a future ANPAT site.



Figure 21 - Jay Newmark – Denali National Park .Polychrome Pass HDR from Nikon D700 24-70mm f/2.8.

Figure 20 - Jay Newmark - Nikon D300 200-400mm f/4 with TC-14ell.

9th ANPAT

Gold Member Jim Knighten (emi_fiend), from San Diego, California, USA, says; *"I thought the camaraderie was great on this trip. Unlike being sequestered with your van-mates for days, there was a lot of socialization with the entire group and I got to know more people. As always, the spirit of cooperation and helpfulness abounded."*



Figure 22 - Jim Knighten - Trumpeter Swans on Wonder Lake. D300, f/11, 1/800 sec, ISO 200, 400mm lens.



Figure 23 - Jim Knighten - Denali (Mt. McKinley) from the road to Wonder Lake. D300, f/11, 1/2000 sec, ISO 250.



Figure 24 – Jim Knighten
-Spencer Glacier. D300,
F/11, 1/320 sec at ISO
200.

9th ANPAT

Silver Member Luis Ribeirinho (luisrib) of Portugal is a first time ANPAT participant. He made it a point to personally thank Michael Mariant and David Mathre and wished he could name everyone he was pleased to meet at the ANPAT. *"The organization and the care for all the details, just perfect. Thanks Michael."*



Figure 25 - Luis Ribeirinho - D300, f/5.6, 1/100 sec at ISO 200.

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9th ANPAT

Gold Member Paul Ekman (pdekman) of Iowa, USA tells us: *"This was only my second Nikonians experience and my first ANPAT trip. As expected, it was a tremendous outing and I hope to be able to participate again. The trip was well organized and the plans were well communicated both before and during the event. Michael Mariant did a masterful job of keeping the entire group organized while still allowing each individual or team to establish their own shooting agenda. The attention to small details and attempts to maximize our shooting opportunities were noticed and appreciated. Accommodations were appropriate for the event being both convenient and comfortable. Many participants knew each other and had attended several ANPATs together. This did not keep them from welcoming new participants into the groups which I appreciated. We learned from each other and readily shared equipment to get the most from each day. It was also nice to meet some forum members and leaders in person."*

Paul's suggestion for future ANPAT locations: *"National Parks are typically great venues within the U.S. These are not researched picks, but I would think Glacier NP and Crater Lake NP would be interesting. Also, if we could brave the water, how about a trip to the Florida Everglades for wildlife?"*



Figure 26 - Paul Ekman - We were shooting the Hines Creek overlook as the sun was setting and the Aspen trees were glorious in the early evening light. I attempted to setup for a group shot, but no one would stop shooting long enough to pose! This shot captures Jay Newmark in front of a stand of Aspens while distant rainclouds provide for a dramatic view. I brought the photo 'over-the-top' by applying a painting effect to the image using the Topaz/Simplify filter in Photoshop.



Figure 27 - Paul Ekman - While awaiting a return bus at the Polychrome overlook, we explored several vantage points of the surrounding area. A cloud bank had moved in and interesting shafts of light began sweeping across the basin floor. Nikon D200, Nikon 27-70mm f/2.8 @ 70mm. Shot at ISO100, f/11, 1/10sec, with tripod.

Figure 28 - Paul Ekman - This fox came trotting along the park road near Stony Hill overlook and provided us a good view from the bus. Just prior to departing down the embankment, it gave a brief look back and I was fortunate to catch it framed by the red underbrush. Nikon D200, Nikon 300mm f/2.8 VR with TC-14E. Shot at ISO200, f/4, 1/1250sec, handheld.



9th ANPAT

Forum Moderator Steve Johnson (reuben) of Maryland USA, rounds out or collection of thoughts and images from the 9th ANPAT. His future location suggestions include: The Four Corners area, Vermillion Cliffs or "Maybe a desert for a change?"

Figure 29 - Steve Johnson - Arctic ground squirrel. Nikon D3, Nikkor 200-400 f/4, f/6.3 at 1/320 sec, ISO 200



Figure 30 - Steve Johnson - An abstract of the glacier at Spencer Lake. I planned it this way to leave out any sense of scale, leaving it up to the viewer to decide how big it is. Nikon D3, Nikkor 24-70 f/2.8, f/7.1, 1/640 sec at ISO 200, +0.3 EV.



Figure 31 - Steve Johnson - Nikonians on the move. Mike Hagen's group, with Denali in the background. Nikon D3, Nikkor 24-70 f/2.8, f/11, 1/160 at ISO 200, -0.3 EV.

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Figure 32 - Steve Johnson – Denali National Park from Polychrome Overlook. D3 with 17-35 f/2.8, f/11 at 1/200 Sec, ISO 200.

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9th ANPAT - Comments

Comments from the missing ANPAT 9 member. The guy who couldn't go.



The Annual Nikonians Photo Adventure Trips (ANPATs) are by now a Nikonians tradition. An occasion to meet with fellow Nikonians in person, make photographs together for a week, talk shop and gear, cement friendships, get feedback and discuss the future of our community; in short, camaraderie and learning. The level of satisfaction has been so high that we are thinking of having a Spring ANPAT and a Fall ANPAT in 2010.

To us, these trips are also an important opportunity to reaffirm our vo-

cation for nature photography, not only because of the challenge it represents as a subject and its intrinsic beauty, but as means to stimulate wider interest in wildlife, the landscape environment and their preservation for future generations, celebrating the wonderful North American invention: the National Parks. Last minute important and urgent community tasks prevented me from going with fellow Nikonians to ANPAT 9. It was hard on me not to be able to go; more so when I had not missed a single one since 2001 and I wanted to have the opportunity to meet again with my partner Bo, with ANPAT repeaters –now family– and with new ANPAT goers experiencing for the first time what we mean by the Nikonians friendship and helpfulness. I was though very glad to see you all came back safe and grinning, even if tired. Our gratitude to all of you who trust us with their scarce free time for these Annual Photo Adventure Trips.

It proved most difficult to make a selection of the splendid images made in Denali and Spencer Lake and Glacier for this special edition of The Nikonian eZine. Thank you all for sending your pictures. Congratulations; it became obvious

the progress of members from one ANPAT to the next, proving the fact that shooting with fellow Nikonians is a fruitful source of inspiration. A vast collection can be enjoyed at the [ANPAT 9 Images Galleries](#)

The survey shows the following facts that may be of interest to [NAS](#) sufferers: ANPAT goers believe in high quality and most efficient gear carrying bags, camera support systems, high end cameras and lenses.

The overwhelming majority of ANPAT goers had [ThinkTank Photo](#) bags, harnesses and belts with holsters; [Series 3 Gitzo carbon fiber tripods](#) in their various incarnations (Systematic, Mountaineer, Super Gitzo and now [MAGICA](#)); [Markins M20 and M10 ball heads](#); Nikon D3/D3x, D700, and D300 cameras. Favorite lenses include the 24-70mm f/2.8, 70-200mm f/2.8 and 200-400mm f/4.

I well knew that the work by Nikonians Academy workshop leader Michael Mariant would bear wonderful fruits; once more. Michael has become famous for his close attention to all preparations, including minute details. We were most happy to hear he received and liked [the hat](#) that grateful ANPAT members gave him. Michael has now presented us with [The Ultimate Travel Workshop](#) for May, 2010. Thank you Michael for all you do for us and for doing it so well.

See you at ANPAT 10!

J. Ramon Palacios (jrp)
Nikonians founder and administrator



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Your Nikonians cap is already worn out and looks like you've attended to the last 500 [ANPATS](#)? This is your chance to get [new and discounted products](#) to show that you're a Nikonian.



Back View

We have gathered up nearly 300 of our original ["You might be a Nikonian if..."](#) T-shirts and discounted them to just one Dollar each. Once these are gone, they will not be re-printed (they have the original "old-style" logo).

The Thanksgiving Day Special includes 40% discounts on some of our absolute favorite Nikonians clothing such as the Nikonians Camouflage Cap, our new Nikonians Black/Gray Cap and the Nikonians Rain Jacket and Waterproof Photo Jacket.



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Wildlife Photography at Triple D Game Farm

by Karen Gottschall

Animal care and safety is key at farm that caters to photographers



Karen Gottschall
(scenicshutterbug)

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experience with those of you who may be planning to attend (or thinking about attending) the sessions in California.

Triple D Game Farm was established in 1972 with the goal of propagating wild animal species of the northwestern US. Started by Jay Deist, his father and brother, the business began with the objective of being the first organization to successfully breed wolverines in captivity. Contacted by Wild Wild World of Animals in 1975, Triple D was the one of the first game farms to provide trained animals for motion pictures. Since then they have provided animals for BBC, Discovery, Wild America and Wild Kingdom as well as several Jack Hanna movies. Triple D also caters to the requirements of professional and amateur wildlife photographers and videographers.

As the business grew, Triple D moved to its current location about 23 years ago. Now owned and operated by Jay, Triple D is open 364 days a year and continues its mission to provide the best game farm for photographers. Completely self-supporting, the business receives no support from federal or charitable foundations and relies solely on income generated from workshops and movie revenue.

Animal care, training, and safety are paramount to Triple D. The farm maintains between 100-130 animals, including retirees. About 50% of the animals

are working. The rest are either breeding stock or retirees. When an animal finishes its work life, it retires to the farm for the rest of its days.

The farm is licensed and inspected by at least three different state and federal agencies that regulate both the care of the animals and safety standards for exhibition. In addition, Jay and his staff adhere to strict procedures for the safety and well being of the animals, staff, and photographers alike. Each photo session begins with instructions on safety for that particular session. For example, when photographing the mountain lion or wolves, it is best to remain standing up and not get into a low position to take a picture. It is possible to be within an enclosure with some species, but for others such as the Siberian tiger, grizzly bear and black bear, photographers must remain outside of a three-wire electrified security fence. For the safety and well-being of both the photographer and the animal, photographers should not attempt to touch the animals. It is only by adhering to the safety guidelines that the continued operation of a safe photography experience can be achieved.



Wildlife Photography at Triple D Game Farm

Triple D is located in Kalispell, MT but workshops have been held in other parts of the country for the last 18 years as well. In the spring of 2010, Triple D will be taking a selection of their animals to Mariposa, California. The Nikonians' trip to Yosemite in April will provide the opportunity to photograph Triple D animals against the beautiful settings in this area. Planning for these trips begins months ahead of time to secure the proper permits, gather materials to construct enclosures and fencing, identify the best locations to display different species, and transport the animals, food, and staff. Animals are housed in a large, air-conditioned trailer for travel.

The operation is run by Jay and a staff of four dedicated employees, all of whom work extraordinarily hard to make each and every person feel welcome and help make the entire experience a positive one for all participants. Kathleen O'Neil works on the farm and runs the office along with other duties associated with the care and well being of the animals. She is the one you are most likely to reach if you call Triple D and is a wealth of information on the area, lodging options, and site-seeing opportunities in the area. Logan Saich is the animal trainer. Trained as both a veterinary technician and an animal trainer, Logan has a close bond with the animals that enables him to monitor their behavior closely.

He is most visible to photographers during the photo sessions with the animals, but that is only a small part of Logan's day. Every day he checks on all of the Triple D animals, set ups a schedule for training for the day, trains and feeds the animals, and generally helps out around the farm. He trains about 10-20 animals each day, working with each animal individually to train the animal to display natural behaviors on command using positive reinforcement to elicit the appropriate behaviors. It is important that the photo sessions be fun for the animals as well as the participants so session length is dictated by the animal, not the photographer. Sessions generally last 45-90 minutes, depending on the animal. (If an animal is overworked, it will eventually view the photo sessions as unpleasant and cease to work at all.) Logan ends each photo session on a positive note before the animal becomes bored, tired or unpredictable, using rewards to reinforce the positive aspects of the session and keep the animals looking forward to their next session. (See "A Day in the Life of an Animal Trainer" below for more about Logan's day.)

Clothing Requirements

Proper equipment and clothing are essential for a successful photographic experience. Because some of the settings for the individual species shoots involve walking some distance from either the main compound or the car, be prepared to carry everything you might need with you. You will not have the opportunity to run back to the vehicle to retrieve forgotten gear, so a jacket or vest with lots of pockets for batteries, memory cards and gear is ideal. Also, dress for the elements. The weather can be quite changeable, so dress in layers and be prepared for heat, cold, and wet weather conditions. Wear comfortable boots. The ground will be uneven and walking in sneakers, sandals, or street shoes is not advisable. It is a good idea to carry insect repellent and sunscreen. If you are shooting in the winter weather, take hand and foot warmers.

The list of species available for a workshop is not finalized until close to the date of the session. This is to allow Triple D to select the best animals for that particular session. (Depending on the time of year of the shoot, small babies may or may not be available.) A list of all of the species at Triple D can be found at their website: <http://www.triplegamefarm.com>

Although you are asked to indicate species preferences in advance of your visit, you will have the opportunity to finalize your species selections when you arrive for a workshop. Once you have finalized your species, you cannot change them, since a great deal of work goes into setting up the shooting schedule and preparing the animals. However, you will have the opportunity to observe other sessions and add more. So if you are unsure about a particular species, just plan to attend the session as an observer and jump in if it looks appealing. You can settle up on the additional charges at the end of your stay. This is also a great way to plan for future trips!

Photography Gear

Resist the temptation to bring the biggest, longest lens in your arsenal. Chances are you will not need it. The settings are optimized to provide close access to the animals, so anything longer than about 300mm will be a waste of space in your gear bag and on your camera. Zoom lenses are a good idea because the animals are constantly moving and focal length distances are constantly changing.

Wildlife Photography at Triple D Game Farm



Siberian Tiger

Do take the fastest lenses you have. While every attempt is made to photograph under the best light conditions available, it can still be a challenge to catch a rapidly moving black bear in a meadow with dappled light, or a tiger running full tilt across an enclosure. The faster your lens, the more options you will have to capture the scene.

Be prepared to use higher ISO settings than you might otherwise use to freeze the action of many animals. Often the smaller animals such as the bobcat kittens or foxes will force you to bump up both the ISO and shutter speed up on your shots. These little speed demons zip around amazingly fast!



Bobcat

Our group was about evenly split between photographers shooting shutter priority and those shooting aperture priority. No one was shooting manual because of the complexity of shooting fast moving animals in sunlight and shade. Of the shots I took, I found that the slowest shutter speed I could use and be sure of a sharp image was about 1/320th, and 1/400th was better. This had some implications for depth of field (DOF), even with higher ISO settings. Because I was using a D200, I kept the ISO setting to no faster than 400 to minimize noise. With other cameras, you may be able to use a higher ISO setting and slower shutters to increase DOF.

If you can, bring about twice as many storage cards as you think you will use. I have traveled and photographed all over the world, shooting RAW images and

Wildlife Photography at Triple D Game Farm

in the past had been comfortable with about 8 GB of CF cards per day. Not on these sessions! I easily used that much on each session! Since you will typically have two to three sessions per day and may not have time to download images in between (particularly if you are shooting during the short winter days), take more cards! Lots more cards! Also, larger cards are better so that you don't lose time switching cards in the middle of a session.

If you have it, take a back-up camera body. Malfunctions occur and accidents happen. You don't want to be stuck without a camera when the shot of the day is about to happen! Also, you may find it useful to mount one body on your tripod and hand-hold a second one. You can move around during the sessions, so it is sometimes convenient to leave one camera mounted on your tripod in one location and roam around with the other in your hand.

A remote shutter release will probably not be useful. You have to constantly adjust your camera to keep the animal in frame, so a stable, hands-off setup shot is rare.

Do take a backup device (or two). I use two external hard drives. While I have not always traveled with my laptop, I did bring it on this trip to check a few images each evening and found it quite useful.

Do bring your tripod. I would recommend a ball head over a pan head. You need to be able to adjust quickly to the moving animals and will not want to take time adjusted numerous knobs and levers.

Do take your speedlight and extra batteries. There are times when you will need fill flash. I used my SB-800 with the 5th battery attachment and generally found that it recycled sufficiently quickly. If you have an external battery pack, you may want to take it, although it may not be strictly necessary. Generally we were close enough to the animals that a flash extender was not necessary. However, depending on the lighting conditions you encounter, you may want to have one for photographing the bears or tiger, since they will sometimes be farther away. Be sure to pack all of your chargers and cables, a blower (for dust), and your manuals.

Take extra batteries for your camera as well. Keep all your gear readily accessible. That way you can quickly change batteries, memory cards, or lenses without losing too much time. You don't want to be digging through your gear bag while a lynx is leaping across a rocky ridge overhead!



Siberian Lynx

Be prepared to trades tips and tricks with the other photographers. One of the most rewarding things I found in the experience was the opportunity to learn from others at the session. Most photographers love talking about their work and will share information to help others become better photographers.

Wildlife Photography at Triple D Game Farm

If you can, plan a few extra days in your schedule for other activities in the area. There is much to see and do, either in the Flathead Valley of Montana or around Mariposa, California.

Be prepared to return home with a wish list for more equipment, more shoots, and perhaps more hard drive space on your computer at home!

Above all, HAVE FUN!

More information about the Nikonians Academy adventure workshop to Mariposa, CA, from April 4-10, 2010, can be found at the following link: [Triple D Game Farm - California Special workshop](#)

Also, the Nikonians Academy is planning a session in June 2010 at the Montana facility. It will be the Baby Wildlife shoot and is scheduled for June 15 – 18, 2010. It should be posted by now at www.nikoniansacademy.com

A Day in the Life of an Animal Trainer

Logan Saich's day starts early. On those days when there are no photographers at the farm, he starts about 8 am. When photographers are on site, his day starts anywhere

rockynook – From Photographers for Photographers



DARRELL YOUNG Mastering the Nikon D300

1st edition · October 2008 · 232 pages
ISBN: 978-1-933952-34-5 · Price: \$39.95

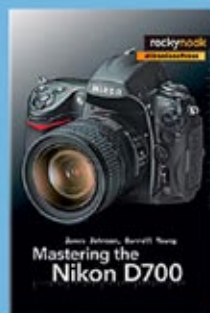
Mastering the Nikon D300 by Nikonian Darrell Young provides a wealth of information and professional insights for owners of this powerful new camera. Each chapter explores the features and capabilities of the D300 in detail, surpassing basic user manuals by providing step-by-step menu setting adjustments coupled with illustrations and logical explanations for each option.



MIKE HAGEN The Nikon Creative Lighting System Using the SB-600, SB-800, SB-900, and R1C1 Flashes

1st edition · February 2009 · 272 pages
ISBN: 978-1-933952-41-3 · Price: \$34.95

Mike Hagen opens up a whole new world to those photographers who are already well versed in photography, but may not have a clue about flash photography. Flash photography has become an art in itself and should be mastered by all aspiring photographers—amateurs as well as professionals.



DARRELL YOUNG / JAMES JOHNSON Mastering the Nikon D700

1st edition · May 2009 · 256 pages
ISBN: 978-1-933952-23-9 · Price: \$39.95

This is the book that should have come with the camera explaining the "how" and the "why" for all the features of the Nikon D700. Moreover, the learning experience for D700 beginners (and refresher information for professionals) goes beyond the camera itself.



HARALD MANTE Photography Unplugged

1st edition · September 2009 · 208 pages
ISBN: 978-1-933952-47-5 · Price: \$49.95

Harald Mante is regarded as one of the outstanding contemporary photographers in Germany. This book meant to present the wealth of Mante's photographic work and at the same time to advocate a pure, straight approach to photography, untouched by digital image editing tools—uncropped and unmodified captures of scenes as seen through the viewfinder.

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Wildlife Photography at Triple D Game Farm

between 4:30 am and 6:30 am. Follow Logan on a typical day at Triple D.

Logan first priority is to check all the baby animals and makes sure that they are okay. Then he checks on all of the adults, followed by medicating those that need special attention and morning feeding. Logan checks his training schedule to determine what animals to be exercised or trained that day. Logan generally alternates between training felines one day and canines the next day and generally trains about 10 animals every day. After a day of training, it is time to assist the Triple "D" staff with the evening feeding and attend to animals with special needs.

When photographers are on-site, all of these activities must still be completed, worked around the photo sessions. During these times, Logan and the other Triple "D" staff start their day 1-2 hours before the first photo session of the morning. We began about 6:45 am, so Logan's day started around 4:45 am! It typically takes about three hours to complete all of the morning photography sessions.

Careful training and safety are paramount for the trainer and the animals. Logan works one-on-one with each animal and says that he has not encountered any situations he could not handle during the training exercises. Even retirees keep up their training and exercises. While not put through the more rigorous paces of the working animals, retirees are leash walked and receive limited training to keep them active and interested.

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*"...Equipment such as the P-7000
may not be on the wish-list
of most photographers, myself included.
However it is my impression
that most amateurs
and indeed many professionals
know too little about it..."*



To read the full review
just click **here**

Calendar

Nikonians Academy North America workshops

Depending on location, the workshops offer instruction on such topics as the Nikon D300, D700, D3 cameras, Creating HDR, and the i-TTL/ Nikon Creative Lighting System. Here are the Academy workshops for November and December.

NOVEMBER

Indianapolis	Master your Nikon D300 - In Depth	19-NOV-2009
Indianapolis	Master your Nikon D300 – Advanced	20-NOV-2009
Indianapolis	Master Nikon Capture NX2	22-NOV-2009

DECEMBER

San Diego	Pro Lighting on Location with Nikon CLS	01-DEC-2009
Denver	Master your Nikon D300 - In Depth	03-DEC-2009
Denver	Master Nikon D700 & D3 In Depth	04-DEC-2009
Denver	Master Nikon i-TTL Flash, CLS	05-DEC-2009
Denver	Master Nikon Capture NX2	06-DEC-2009
Dallas	Master your Nikon D300 - In Depth	10-DEC-2009
Dallas	Master Nikon D700 & D3 In Depth	11-DEC-2009
Dallas	Master Nikon D700 & D3 - Advanced	12-DEC-2009
Dallas	Master Nikon i-TTL Flash, CLS	13-DEC-2009
Las Vegas	Master your Nikon D300 - In Depth	17-DEC-2009
Las Vegas	Master Nikon D700 & D3 In Depth	18-DEC-2009
Las Vegas	Master Nikon D700 & D3 - Advanced	19-DEC-2009
Las Vegas	Master Nikon i-TTL Flash, CLS	20-DEC-2009

Complete listings by city, date and topics can be found at the [Nikonians Academy](#) .

Share your Small World

The deadline for entries in the [2010 Nikon's Small World Competition](#) is April 30, 2010.

The 2010 Contest is designed to showcase excellence in photography through microscopes and this year's prize list includes a \$3,000 USD shopping spree towards the purchase of Nikon equipment.

Photomicrographs must be taken using a light microscope, such as one of the Nikon series of compound or stereoscopic microscopes. The use of Nikon equipment is not required. Complete contest entry [rules](#) and the [online entry form](#) are available at the Nikon Small World [Homepage](#) (along with great examples of the winning entries from previous competition).

According to the site: Winners will receive one of 20 prizes, sorted according to rank in the competition. In addition to the \$3,000 Nikon shopping spree, the winner is invited to attend an awards presentation ceremony in New York City as Nikon's special guest.

Your Nikonians Links

<http://www.nikonians.org/nikon>

All of the Nikonians Nikon reviews

<http://www.nikonians.org/resources>

Complete listing of all resources at Nikonians:
Articles, FAQ's, Guides, eBooks ...

<http://www.nikonians.org/forums>

Our 70 very active discussion forums

<http://podcasts.nikonians.org>

Nikonians Podcast – MP3 radio

<http://blog.nikonians.org>

Our blog with current photography news and more

<http://orange.nikonians.org>

The Nikonians Business Directory, our Orange Pages

<http://images.nikonians.org>

Our member and contest galleries

<https://www.photoproshop.com>

The Nikonians Pro gear online shop

<http://www.nikoniansacademy.com>

Learn with Nikonians - Workshops at many locations