



# VIEWFINDER THE NEWSLETTER

Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers

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www.asonp.org

## A Summer Day Road Trip



**Text and Photos  
By Alan Musy**

**It should be no surprise to any Alaskan** when I say our summers are short up here in the Far North. There are even fewer days when the sun is out and temperatures are above 70 degrees. The Saturday of July 7, 2018 was one of those days.

Being a photographer, I loaded up my camera gear and a sturdy tripod, and off Jodie and I went. We decided to drive to Hatcher Pass State Recreation Area, just outside of Palmer. Being that it was a hot, summer day (anything over 70 degrees is hot by Alaska standards), we decided to stop at Turner's Corner for what they advertise as the 'World's Best Ice Cream'. Jodie settled for the twist, a vanilla and chocolate mix on a regular cone. Turner's did not have my favorite flavor, Mint Chocolate Chip, so I settled for the Maple Nut. It was good, but I am not so sure of it being the world's best.

We continued our travels up the road, passing by our first glimpse of the Little Susitna River. The light was not the best, being late in the afternoon, so I said we would stop there on our way back down, not realizing we may not be traveling back this same route.

We then arrived at Summit Lake. We parked and we gathered our gear and we hiked up a short hill just above the lake, which still had last winters' remnants of snow surrounding it. Many other people were also up there enjoying the nice weather. I set up my camera and began taking a time-lapse movie sequence. A dark cloud hung over the mountains a short distance away, and threat-



*Screen grab from third time-lapse sequence - Hatcher Pass*

ened to curtail my photographic shoot. Luckily, it held off raining on us. On the other side of the lake, a skier had hiked up to the top of a small snowfield and proceeded to ski down the short slope.

After a while, I aimed the camera in a different direction and started a new time-lapse sequence. Later, I set up a third and final sequence, this time looking up the Upper Willow Creek valley. This would turn out to be my favorite time-lapse sequence of the day.

We packed up our chairs, camera and tripod, hiked back down to my truck, and drove further along the road until we came to an intersection down below where we had just been. We took the road heading up the valley, and stopped when we saw some ground squirrels playing in the road, their tails fluttering in a comical sort of way. I grabbed my phone and shot a quick video of one of them.

More, see Page 7

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AlaskaWild Photography Exhibit Schedule

Oct. 3 – Oct. 26, 2018:	Venue 514 2nd Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99701
Nov. 1, 2018 – Jan. 3, 2019:	Side Street Expresso 412 G St, Anchorage, AK 99501
Jan. 4 – Jan. 27, 2019:	Kaladi Brothers 6901 E Tudor Rd, Anchorage, AK 99507
Feb. 1 – Feb. 24, 2019:	Crush 328 G St, Anchorage, AK 99501
March 1 – Mar. 31, 2019:	Steam Dot at Williwaw 609 F St. Anchorage, AK

### ASONP general membership meetings:

Held the second Tuesday of each month from October through May at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium at the Anchorage Museum, Rasmuson Center. We will have an exciting and interesting series of speakers lined up for our monthly meetings this coming year beginning in the fall of 2018.

**June thru September:** Summer break—no general meetings

<b>October 9 :</b>	Member's Images
<b>November 13:</b>	Daryl Pederson—Prince William Sound
<b>December 11:</b>	Gayle Neufeld—Africa Trip
<b>January 8:</b>	Aurora Dora—Northern Lights in Talkeetna
<b>February 12:</b>	Jackie Sawyer—Bohemian Waxwing Bird Photography
<b>March 12:</b>	Roy Corral—A 50-year Odyssey of a Photojournalist
<b>April 9:</b>	AlaskaWild 2019 Exhibit photos showcased
<b>May 14:</b>	to be determined

## WORKSHOPS, OUTINGS, & OTHER INTERESTS



### Ray Bulson is offering MORE Photoshop for Nature Photographers Workshop

In this sequel to the original Photoshop for Nature Photographers Workshop, Ray demonstrates six more techniques that can be used to enhance your nature photos:

- removing color casts
- color enhancements via the B&W filter
- Solid Color to make colors pop
- Color Range for selections
  - Blend If
- luminosity masking

One hour will be spent on each technique and participants will have plenty of time to practice. Step-by-step instructions are provided.

The workshop is geared toward photographers who have taken the previous workshop. Participants need to bring their own laptop computer with an up-to-date working copy of Photoshop CC or CS6. Also, bring your power supply and an extension cord.

\$179 (seminar limited to 20)

October 6, 2018

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Carr-Gottstein Hall, Classroom 226  
Alaska Pacific University

For more info or to register, visit:

<https://www.raybulson.com/more-photoshop-for-nature-photographers-workshop.html>

## WORKSHOPS, OUTINGS, & OTHER INTERESTS, continued



**An ASONP Member Exclusive: Zion Adventure Photo Tour** (Right after the 2019 NANPA Summit in Las Vegas) with former ASONP President and workshop leader **Michael DeYoung**

**WHEN:** Feb 24 - Mar 1, 2019

**FEE:** \$1,300 (all inclusive except for meals)

**GROUP LIMIT:** 5 (minimum) 7 (maximum)

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Takes place just after NANPA summit ends in Las Vegas with chance for winter landscapes in the desert.
- 5 nights lodging in Nama-Stay, a beautiful vacation retreat with a secluded peaceful feel in Springdale within walking distance of restaurants and galleries.
- Transportation to and from St. George, Utah and all during workshop in Executive Mercedes 4WD Sprinter Van.
- 5 action-packed days of guided photo adventuring in Zion National Park and surrounding locations. (Weather and road conditions dependent.)
- Fully outfitted Virgin River Narrows hike
- Buckskin Canyon hike - the longest slot canyon in the Southwest with great reflected light even in winter (Weather and road conditions dependent.)
- Relaxed image critique and post processing sessions at our retreat, Nama Stay.

The majesty of Zion National Park is only 3 hours from Las Vegas and is still spectacular in late winter with smaller crowds. This is **an all-inclusive (except meals)** photo adventure tour timed to take place just after the NANPA 2019 forum in Las Vegas (Feb 21-23). You do not have to attend the NANPA event to participate but if you are this is a great opportunity to explore one of the most spectacular areas of Southern Utah with former ASONP president and workshop leader Michael DeYoung.

Late winter brings the **possibility of fresh snowfall which makes magical and memorable images against the warm colored sandstone walls** and bright blue sky. Rarely seen waterfalls can run strong after fresh snows. Magical mid-day reflected light still takes place in narrow canyons with added bonus of smaller crowds, low clear water in the Narrows, and ice formations. Late February can also produce bright afternoons with temperatures in the canyon near 70F.

Nama-Stay is a great accommodation but **participants need to be willing to share rooms and bathrooms**. It has 4 sleeping areas, and 2.5 baths with a full kitchen and great room where critiques and editing sessions take place. A very well stocked local grocery store is within short walking distance.

Former Alaskans Michael and Lauri DeYoung, also long time explorers of Zion collaborate with Zion Guru and Nama Guides to offer truly unique and memorable photo adventures, tours and workshops in Zion, and surrounding areas in the nearby Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument.

**Learn more at** <http://bit.ly/ASONPEExclusive>

## WORKSHOPS, OUTINGS, & OTHER INTERESTS, continued



### Macro Master Series

Andrea Gulickx, Don Komarechka, & Jackie Kramer

Anchorage, Alaska July 18 – 20, 2019

Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/PhlorographyMS>

Three vastly different styles, gear, vision, & techniques come together in this high energy & intensely focused workshop.

\$575.00 [\$525 before 9/1/18]

\$200 payment to hold spot

Workshop will include focused sessions with each instructor in small groups of 15 or less on photography & editing techniques that can be applied in the field or indoors when shooting flowers. After the initial plenary session, the group will be split into 3 breakout groups who will work directly with Andrea, Don, and Jackie. Everyone will go home with creative images that reflect each of their teachings.

Andrea Gulickx hails from the Netherlands and is widely acclaimed for her ethereal imagery which evokes the essence of everything she photographs. Light seems to transfer through her lens and into her images no matter what optics she uses. In her words, “My images are recognizable by the intimate atmosphere, light, and softness, but also by the power that radiates in the image. By playing with depth of field and natural light, I have created my personal style. Light and emotion are the key ingredients for my photos.” Andrea uses Macro lenses & Lensbaby optics to achieve her incredible effects. Website: <https://www.andreagulickx-photography.nl/>

Don Komarechka is a nature photographer based in Barrie, Ontario, Canada. Auroras, pollen, insects, infrared, & snowflakes can be found in his extraordinary body of work. Don’s first mass-produced book, *Sky Crystals: Unraveling the Mysteries of Snowflakes* shows his attention to detail and desire to understand the world around him. He has been featured in an episode of *The Nature of Things* with David Suzuki. A 2017 limited-edition pure silver \$20 coin produced by the Royal Canadian Mint features one of Don’s snowflake images. His work with snowflakes will also be featured in Canadian Science and Technology Museum in fall 2017. Don worked with BBC to create the title footage for the documentary series *Forces of Nature*. Credited as a macro photographer in the Discovery documentary *“Mosquito”*, his ultraviolet fluorescence imagery and complex focus stacking was used extensively in the film. Contributions have also been made to the upcoming National Geographic series *“One Strange Rock”*. Website: <http://www.donkom.ca/>

Jackie Kramer has been photographing the natural world, with an emphasis on flowers, since the age 16. She has won awards from The International Garden Photographer of the Year (IGPOTY) for several of her images and was named Competitor of the Year in 2017 by the Jacksonville Professional Photographers Guild and recognized for being in the Top Ten Photographers. Jackie also maintains an active Facebook group, *Phlorography - Artistic Floral Photography*, with over 4,500 passionate floral photographers from around the world. Jackie is committed to supporting other photographers and using photography as a medium to build relationships and enrich others’ lives. Website: <https://www.luvblooms.com/>

Call Jackie if you have any questions at 907-317-4667



### **Landscape/Wildflower Workshop**

Mark your calendars for July of 2019 to visit the quaint town of Hope for this three-day landscape and wildflower workshop.

Photographer Ray Bulson will lead you to a remote alpine valley near Hope filled with streams, ponds, waterfalls and tarns. In mid-summer this lush place explodes with dozens of wildflowers. This is a target-rich place for macro and landscape photographers. We'll also explore the tidal flats around Hope during low tide to photograph the unique glacial silt patterns.

Discussions indoors at a local lodge will include photographic techniques, equipment and Lightroom post-processing as well as image reviews.

You won't want to miss this chance to discover this charming location a short distance away from the hustle and bustle of the big city.

For more information visit the website:

<https://www.raybulson.com/hope-workshop.html>

# A Summer Day Road Trip, by Alan Musy

Continued from page 1

When the road started getting narrow and very rough, I decided to turn around and head back down. At the intersection, we made the choice to drive west towards Willow, eliminating my chance to return to the Little Su for the shots I had thought about earlier. It turned out, this was a good choice, as I was about to encounter wildlife I had not previously had the chance to photograph. At a relatively straight stretch of road, we came across another animal in the road much larger than the ground squirrels we had seen earlier. Upon approach, it ran to the side of the road and hid into a hole near some rocks. After a little while, it came back out and I knew right away what it was, a hoary marmot!

I drove just a bit further and pulled my truck over. I grabbed a camera with a telephoto lens and sat on my tailgate, hoping he would come back out. While waiting for him, I began to be eaten alive by a hungry hoard of mosquitos, but I did not want to move so I would not scare away the marmot. While he never returned to the road, he did stand up alongside a few times, and I managed to get several shots of him, along with by now several welts of mosquito bites!

In all my previous travels within the state of Alaska, this was the first time I photographed a marmot, and I deemed it worth a few insect bites. (Okay, quite a few!)

The rest of our trip that day would be mostly uneventful, passing by many areas where people were out camping and four-wheeling along the road. It had been several years since I drove the entire road from Palmer to Willow, and it was great traveling it again.

This was to be the last day of our short warm spell, and it was nice to have the day off and be able to enjoy it. In addition, I added some new photographs of an animal I had not previously photographed. Overall, a great summer day.

\* \* \*

Text & photos © Alan Musy



*Hoary marmot checking me out*



*Willow Creek*



*Valley view*

# DEAR JOHN COLUMN

By John R. DeLapp

## How was the Sam Abell workshop in Homer?



**Sam Abell put on a stellar photo workshop for ASONP** recently in Homer. Due to the popularity of his workshops, two sessions were held. The first, which I attended, was Aug. 29-31; and the second immediately followed on Sept. 1-3.

Sam had an illustrious thirty-year career with National Geographic and generously shared his photographic philosophy, his aesthetic, and how he made many of his classic images for the Geographic. His critiques of our work was spiced with many informative stories related to his past and present photography, including a recent fashion shoot of Cindy Crawford.

Sam uses one camera with one 24-70mm lens. That's it. He shoots full-frame, never crops, does only minimal post processing. He shoots using the "P" setting on his camera, and changes ISO settings and exposure compensation when needed.

Here are some of my take-aways from the workshop:

- Compose and wait. Choose the setting (background) first, then the subject. Even if the subject is compelling, a poor background and setting will likely kill the picture.
- Compose the frame starting first with the farthest elements in the picture, i.e., sky, clouds, horizon, then middle elements, and finally foreground elements.
- Micro-compose, making sure all small details are not conflicting. All subjects should be separated with no collisions with other elements, or edges of the frame.
- Be aware of horizons and avoid "placing" subjects so they are cut off by the horizon. Move the camera position higher or lower to adjust where the horizon falls in the frame.
- Use structure and/or strong graphics to frame elements and add interest.
- Don't chase the "rabbit". Focusing your attention only on the main subject will likely produce a picture with a poor background.
- Bad weather provides opportunities to make good pictures. Go ahead and photograph in the rain.

- Documentary photography should record the scene the way it is. It is not necessary (and sometimes not acceptable) to move elements to make a "prettier" picture.
- Don't forget shadows. "Shadows have life".

One of our assignments was to find something to photograph and make an initial photo. Then, after more study and/or trial photos, provide a final best picture. Our paired images were then critiqued by Sam. Here is one of my examples of "first and best".



"First"



"Best"

*More, see Page 9*



# DEAR JOHN COLUMN

By John R. DeLapp

*Continued from Page 8*

More photos from the Sam Abell workshops held at Lands End in Homer August 29—September 3, 2018.



*Sam Abell  
© Glenn Aronwits*



*Sam Abell and workshop participants at Halibut Cove*



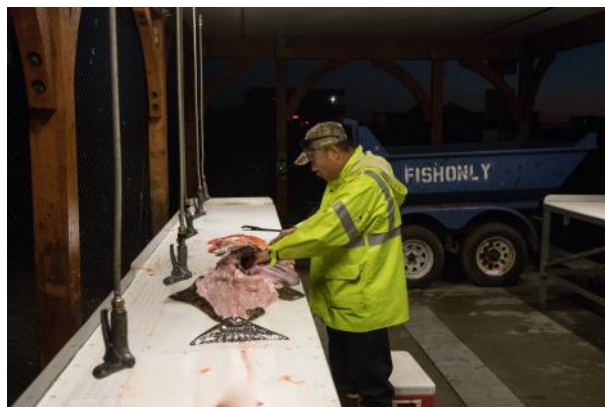
*Julie Jessen and Sam Abell © Glenn Aronwits*



*Photo critique session at Land's End classroom*



*Fish cleaning station © Glenn Aronwits*



*Fish cleaning station © Glenn Aronwits*



## Memory Cards

Digital cameras transmit image data to some form of memory—built into the camera, direct to a computer via tether, by Wi-Fi, or to a removable memory card. Most of us use cards of one sort or another, and it used to be pretty simple—CompactFlash (CF) or Secure Digital (SD). Sure, there were lots of capacity and speed iterations, but the basic types of cards stayed the same for quite a while. Not anymore. Technology marches on, and as camera electronics improve, so does the need for faster, higher-capacity memory (particularly for video). Standards for CF and SD cards were established in the 1990s. Basic CF topped out speed/capacity-wise some time ago, though an update called CFast moved the standard forward. SD also continues to evolve, but there is stiff new competition.

In 2012 the Nikon D4 was introduced along with an XQD memory card format, providing faster/higher-capacity cards than previously available. In 2016 Canon's 1D X Mark II included one card slot for CF and one for CFast 2.0. Now CFexpress (CFx) has emerged as the potential king of the heap, at least for a while, depending on which companies/camera bodies adopt its use. Remember that hardware (camera bodies) have to be able to use the format/speed/capacity of the memory card, and some combinations are backward compatible while others are not. CFx, having the same physical format as XQD, is at least theoretically backward compatible with XQD with appropriate firmware updates (as recently mentioned in the release data for Nikon's new Z7/Z6 mirrorless bodies).

Admittedly, this can be a technically intense subject, and most of us just want to pop a card in that will provide maximum performance for the camera we're using and more capacity than any one shooting event requires without changing cards. But knowledge can inform choices as the technology continues to evolve. For those interested in more of the details, see the resource list below.

[Secure Digital-Wikipedia](#).

[CompactFlash-Wikipedia](#).

[CFast/XQD description](#) (2016).

[CFexpress White Paper](#) (2018).

[XQD vs. CFexpress](#) (2018).

[Camera Memory Speed](#) tests (relatively current though not exhaustive).

# Make Your Note Taking and File Management Life Easier



by Alan D. Musy

While attending the Sam Abell photography workshop in Homer, some of the other participants asked about apps and devices I was using to take notes during the lecture, and for transferring files to and from my computer and iPad Pro. Since this information may be useful to others as well, I am sharing it here.

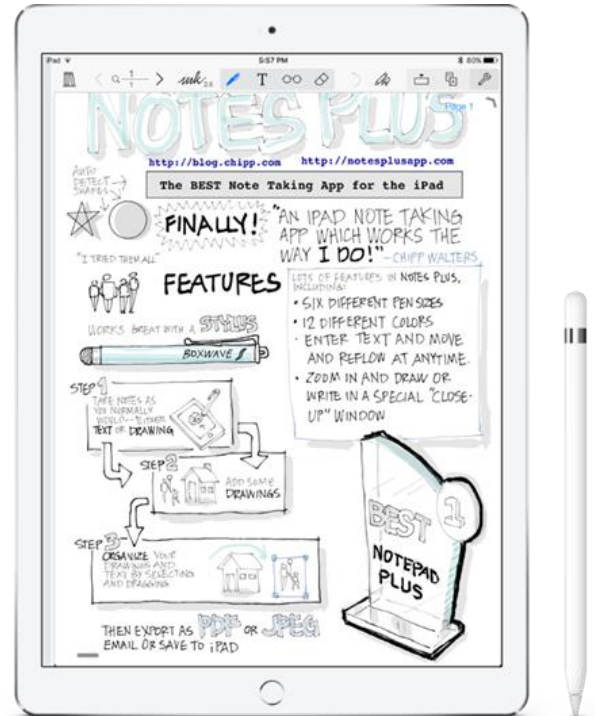
## Apps for Note Taking

**Notes Plus**, made by WriteOn, will change the way you take notes. While there are many note taking apps out there, including Apple's built in Notes app, WriteOn's Notes Plus app for the iPad Pro with Apple Pencil support offers features missing on Apple's app. You can add shapes and graphics, snippets from the web, record audio and easily convert your handwriting into text for export into Microsoft Word, Pages or other apps. You can also import and scan documents into Adobe Acrobat PDF files and write notes directly on those documents. You can create folders to better organize your notes, collaborate and share your notes, and your notes can be saved automatically to the cloud. It is available for \$9.99 in the App Store or from the manufacturer:

<http://www.writeon.cool/notes-plus/>

**Paperlike**, is another item I find indispensable. Paperlike is a screen protector for the iPad Pro that makes the Apple Pencil feel like it's writing on paper, rather than glass. If you take a lot of notes, you should buy Paperlike. They come as a two-pack, in case you mess up installing it. Price? About \$34.

<https://paperlike.com/?ls=en>



Note Plus



Paperlike

More, see Page 12

# Make Your Note Taking and File Management Life Easier

by Alan Musy

Continued from page 11

## Apps For File Management

### **iXpand Flash Drive**

Newer versions of Apple iTunes have dropped features such as iBooks, making it harder to add electronic books to your iPad. In the past, flash drives designed to work with the iPad only let you transfer image files. Not so with a couple of products I own. The first item is the iXpand Flash Drive made by Sandisk. It sports a USB 3.0 connector on one end, and a Lightning connector on the other end. It also comes with the iXpand Drive app you can install. You can transfer images, eBooks and other files to and from your iPad/iPhone. Capacities range from 32 GB to 256 GB. Prices start at \$35.99:



**iXpand Flash Drive**

<https://www.sandisk.com/home/mobile-device-storage/ixpand>

### **FileBrowser for Business/FileBrowser**

While the Sandisk app above will work with the above flash drive, I prefer an app called FileBrowser/FileBrowser for Business made by Stratospherix. FileBrowser is a file manager that supports a variety of external connections and integrates well with iOS 11. Use it in conjunction with the iXpand flash drive and manage all your files with one app. FileBrowser for Business has professional photographers in mind, as it has support for RAW camera formats, XMP sidecar file tagging, and more. You can buy FileBrowser/FileBrowser for Business separately or together as a suite. Pricing starts at \$8.99. Available at the App Store or directly from Stratospherix:



**FileBrowser/FileBrowser for Business**

<https://www.stratospherix.com/products/filebrowserforbusiness/>

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# MEMBERS' PHOTOS

The photographs on this page are from Ken Baehr who has been experimenting with combining a natural photo with a texturized copy. Ken used a plug-in called Topaz and Photoshop to process and produce the final images. All images © Ken Baehr



# MEMBERS' PHOTOS

All images © Ray Bulson



*Aurora—Paxson Lake, Alaska*



*Fireweed—Palmer Creek Valley, Hope, Alaska*



*Evening Light—Robe Lake, Valdez, Alaska*



*Alaska Cotton—Thompson Pass, Valdez, Alaska*



*Journey's End—Stranded salmon in Valdez, Alaska*



# ALASKA SOCIETY OF OUTDOOR & NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

## ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers (ASONP) is a non-profit organization with the purpose of promoting individual self improvement in, and exchanging information about outdoor and nature photography, promoting ethics among outdoor and nature photographers, assisting members with marketing and selling their photographs, and informing and educating the public on outdoor and nature photography. Yearly membership is \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families, \$10 for students, and \$100 for business members. ASONP holds meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month from October through May at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center, 121 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska. The public is welcome to attend all meetings.

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## 2018 BUSINESS MEMBERS

**Alaska Photo Treks**

www.alaskaphototreks.com

**Arctic Light Gallery & Excursions**

www.arcticlight-ak.com

**Auklet Charters**

www.auklet.com

**Aurora Dora**

www.auroradora.com

**Bennett Images**

www.bennettimages.com

**Brendan Smith Photography**

www.brendansmith.photography

**Ed Boudreau - EAB Photography**

www.edboudreau.artistwebsites.com

**Hal Gage**

www.halgage.com

**Ike Waits**

www.denailguidebook.com

**Jackie Kramer Photography**

www.jackiekramerphotography.com

**James Norman Photography**

www.jamesnorman.com

**Jeff Schultz Photography**

www.schultzphoto.com

**Juniper Workshops**

shannon@juniperworkshops.com

**Kristin Leavitt Photography**

www.kristinleavittphotography.com

**Marion Owen Photography**

www.marionowenphotography.com

**Michael DeYoung Photography**

www.deyoungphotoworkshops.com

**NitaRae Photography**

www.nitaboise.com

**Ray Bulson/Wilderness Visions**

www.raybulson.com

**Richard Geiger**

www.geigabyte.com

**Stewart's Photo**

www.stewartphoto.com

**Wayde Carroll Photography**

www.waydecarroll.com

**William McKinley/McKnight Family  
Photography Adventures**

www.mcknightfamilyphotographyadventure  
s.com



**ALASKA SOCIETY OF OUTDOOR  
& NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS**

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**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP YET?**

**2018 ASONP Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Web Site \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ New Member? \_\_\_\_ Renewal (same email & address?) \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

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The Viewfinder newsletters are sent by email 10 times a year in PDF format

**WE TAKE CREDIT CARDS AT THE MEETINGS!**

**DUES:** Individual (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$35) \_\_\_\_\_

Student (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ Business (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to ASONP and mail to:

**Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers  
3705 Arctic Blvd. #991  
Anchorage, AK 99503**