



VIEWFINDER THE NEWSLETTER

Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers

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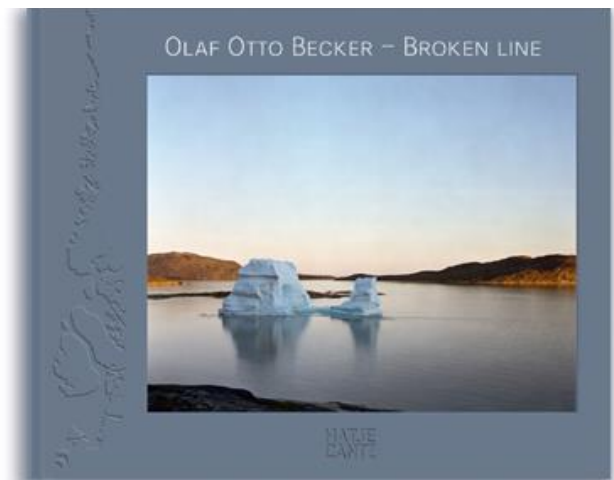
“Broken Line” by Olaf Otto Becker

A Book Review by Bruce M. Herman

Olaf Otto Becker is a German-born photographer who is captivated by the Arctic landscape and its people. One of his projects was to photograph the landscape of Greenland. *Broken Line* is a collection of the photographs made during the summers from 2003-2006 along the central portion of the western Greenland coast from about 69° 12' N to about 74° 58' N.

For Alaskans who are inclined to think that we live in the “far north” please allow me to give you some points of reference. The southernmost photographs in *Broken Line* were made at the same latitude as a point roughly 50 miles due north of Galbraith Lakes, which is on the northern edge of the Brooks Range just east of the Dalton Highway. It’s also the same latitude as a point only 38 miles south of Point Lay, which lies on the coast of the Chukchi Sea. The northernmost photographs were made at a latitude about 243 miles north of Point Barrow.

Most of the photographs in *Broken Line* are landscapes devoid of anthropogenic impact, more often than not looking out to sea from the shore. Icebergs are a common subject, both with and without a shoreline. In one area, Becker explores rock cliffs that form the shore. It’s one of the few sections with no glacier ice. Even when Becker puts the sea to his back, glacial ice is usually part of the composition. Greenland’s central western coast is rocky in the sense of the ground being exposed bedrock with



little evidence of soil. Traditional beaches are generally absent, too, although accumulations of glacial silt is found where streams enter the ocean.

Life’s tenuous grip on Greenland’s west coast is clear not only in the traditional landscapes but also in the photographs of the homes. These are small, simple wood frame and sided structures similar to those found on the north slope of Alaska. Unlike the north slope homes that sit on stilts to preserve the permafrost, these Greenland homes sit on stilts anchored to the ubiquitous bedrock. Becker’s photographs of the homes are straightforward, documenting the worn exteriors as well as the

Continued on Page 5

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>"Broken Line"</i> , a book review by Bruce M. Herman.....	1
In This Issue, Calendar of Events	2
Workshops, Outings, and other events	4
Dear John Column by John R. DeLapp.....	6
Members' Photos	7
ASONP Mission Statement, Board Members, Business Members.....	8
Membership Application	9

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AlaskaWild 2018 Photography Exhibit Schedule

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

October 9 :	Member's Images
November 13:	Daryl Pederson—Prince William Sound
December 11:	Gayle Neufeld—Africa Trip
January 8:	Charles Mason—Denali Wet Plate Photography
February 12:	Jackie Sawyer—Bohemian Waxwing Bird Photography
March 12:	Roy Corral—A 50-year Odyssey of a Photojournalist
April 9:	AlaskaWild 2019 Exhibit photos showcased
May 14:	Brendan Smith—Research Photography: Capturing the science, life, and times of an arctic voyage aboard R?V Sikuliaq

Please join us for our February 12th meeting. If you would like to share up to 20 images during the member slides portion of the meeting, please use the following link to submit them through dropbox.

[Member Slides Upload](#)

We are looking for up to 20 images per member. Files should be in the JPEG format and sized to 1200 pixels on the long side. Please name the file as: Photographer's name or initials-sequence number-name of photo. Sequence number should be 2-digit (01, 02, 03, etc.). This will make Alan Musy's job easier. If you want to e-mail the files send them to Alan at musya@admphoto.com by Monday evening prior to the meeting.

ASONP Business Reminders:

1- The end of the fiscal year is approaching and with it the end of your 2018 membership. Please renew your membership either through the link on our website asonp.org or at one of our monthly meetings.

2- We are looking for a new editor for The Viewfinder, if you are interested please talk to Margaret Gaines or John DeLapp.

WORKSHOPS, OUTINGS, & OTHER INTERESTS

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>

Post-processing with Lightroom Classic CC - More Photoshop for Nature Photographers by Ray Bulson

Building on the previous workshop, Photoshop for Nature Photographers, photographer Ray Bulson presents six new techniques to easily enhance your nature photos:

1. Removing color casts;
2. Color enhancements with B&W filter layer;
3. Selective color;
4. Color range for selections;
5. The power of blend if;
6. Luminosity masking.

Participants will be guided through each technique and leave with clear written instructions so that you can follow up at home on other images. Completion of the first workshop is recommended since the techniques discussed assume knowledge of layers and some masking.

Saturday March 9, 2019

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Carr-Gottstein Hall, Room 226, Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage

Cost - \$179 (limited to 20)

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

Macro Master Series Workshop

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.

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

“Broken Line”

Book Review By Bruce M. Herman

Continued from page 1

detritus of life scattered carelessly about. Snow machines, tables, chairs, boom boxes, and even a rifle are found on the ground around the homes. Some of these items appear to be discarded, but because the photographs were made in the summer, it's not clear how much would come inside when the snow flies. Only two photographs were made inside of a home. The photographs show a small, but comfortable space, with western and indigenous art work on the walls, a computer, an organ and clutter typical of most homes that I've been in.

Most of the photographs were made in soft, neutral light. Warm light may have illuminated the sky at the horizon, but the foreground subject of the photograph was subtly lit. The naturally low contrast light reveals the details and the texture of the bedrock. Fog adds mystery to the icebergs. Cloudy skies appear to be typical, and so it's not clear whether Becker sought out

the flat light, or whether that was all that was available. I personally think that the light enhances the feeling of isolation. These are wonderful images, but they are not inviting.

Broken Line isn't the typical American collection of landscapes, nor is it typical of images most people publish from Antarctica. I do think that it will expand your appreciation of landscape photography. I highly recommend the book to anyone who is serious about landscape photography. I purchased my copy through Barnes and Noble online (search on Olaf Otto Becker) from one of their MarketPlace book sellers.

It's also available through www.alibris.com and directly from the author (www.olafottobecker.de).

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All text © Bruce M. Herman

Your Story Could Be Here!
Consider Contributing Text or Photos to Your Viewfinder Newsletter

DEAR JOHN COLUMN

By John R. DeLapp

Have You Had Any Encounters With Rattlesnakes?



The accompanying pictures should answer that question!

Over the course of many years, I have made numerous trips to the deserts of the U.S. Southwest and have always looked for and wondered about rattlesnakes. And to be truthful, I always wanted to see and photograph this often hated and maligned animal. But, because all my trips have been in the winter or shoulder months, I never encountered any snakes, that is, until my trip in early April of 2017. That spring was unusually warm in the low deserts and the snakes were out and active in the 90-degree days.

The three photos are of the same western diamondback rattler that my companions and I discovered on the edge of a frog pond in Anza-Borrego State Park, California. Although coiled, it was not showing any aggressive or defensive movements, and its tail was hidden. I was able to approach close enough to make images with a telephoto lens and observed the snake for several minutes without visibly disturbing it. Eventually, it gradually moved away from the pond area and to a hiding place in some nearby rocks and brush.

The western diamondback is the second largest rattlesnake snake in the U.S. (the eastern diamondback is the biggest) and accounts for the most bites to humans. It can grow to as much as 6 feet in length and weigh up to 15 pounds. Although its venom is not as toxic as some other rattlers (like the Mojave rattler which has the most toxic venom), it can deliver more venom and more deeply in a bite than others. In addition, this snake is known for its aggressive nature by not backing down when confronted. I recall reading a park record of several hikers in Anza-Borrego following a rocky trail and stepping onto and then off a large rock. The last person in line looked back after stepping off the rock and saw a rattlesnake coiled at its base.

In summary, during that April trip, I was thrilled to see three different rattlers, two of which were western diamondbacks. My advice for foot travel in snake country: don't step on one, or mess with one you find!



© John R. DeLapp



© John R. DeLapp



All text and photos © John R. DeLapp

MEMBERS' PHOTOS

All photographs © John R DeLapp



Morning fog on "Flight Deck" pond, Bosque del Apache NWR, New Mexico



Crane magic at Bosque del Apache NWR



Snow gees blast-off, Bosque de Apache NWR



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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**ALASKA SOCIETY OF OUTDOOR
& NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS**

**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR
MEMBERSHIP YET?**

2019 ASONP Membership Application

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____ Work Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____

Web Site _____

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

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**