



VIEWFINDER THE NEWSLETTER

Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers

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Video Courses in Photography

Written by Bruce M. Herman

Photography, like most visual arts, has two components: the craft, which includes the technical aspects of camera usage and knowledge of digital photograph manipulation; and the artistic, which in this case is how to use your technical skills to create the photograph you desire. How do you best learn the craft and the art? We have three basic options today: books, either physical or online, video courses and live instruction. Many courses combine several of these alternatives, but with the advent of high bandwidth Internet, video courses have proliferated.

Video courses are mostly prerecorded, although some are available as live presentations. The most common source of free, prerecorded courses is YouTube. Virtually anyone can post a video about any aspect of photography they wish. YouTube also hosts fee-based recordings, and now can host live sessions. Instructors can also use Internet based video conferencing programs to produce live courses. And of course, people with a web site can host prerecorded courses.

One obvious question is what role video courses should play in your education as a photographer, especially when compared to books and live, in person instruction. Before I answer this, I have to address the issue of quality. There are good and bad books about photography, and good and bad live, on-site classes for which you can pay an astounding fee. But my experience is that badly written books and badly taught classes tend to have a reputation that precedes them. Free YouTube videos may cost you more than just your time in that they may misinform you, and this is where it can be difficult to know in advance if only because there are so many.

Here's a real-life example. I purchased a camera for my wife. It didn't cost as much as the one she purchased for me, but... Well, anyway, the user manual was simply awful. So we spent a romantic evening watching instructional videos located by searching YouTube. Had I not had some background in photography, I would never have realized how much misinformation was out there. One person spent a long time describing how to choose the appropriate color space (he recommended Adobe RGB (1998) over sRGB, which by itself makes sense), but then declared that jpeg files were better than RAW files. We certainly watched some informative videos, but glaring errors such as I cited were too common for my taste, and seldom were mentioned by people who commented on the videos.

Are the videos that you pay for, either on YouTube or some other site, useful and if so, when? This is going to sound like a cop-out, but I would say that it depends on how you best learn. For instance, I find books about the craft to be somewhat dry, especially when they are describing the multitudinous options in a program like Photoshop. On the other extreme, in-person software training sometimes moves too quickly for me when the goals of the course are overly broad. An overview course on Photoshop, or even a very detailed course on one aspect thereof can be like drinking from a firehose. In such cases, I have found that a video course in combination with a book has the advantage of allowing a tricky series of steps to be viewed multiple (heck, unlimited!) times. The book is then available as a reference for those times when the memory needs to be jogged.

Continued on Page 6

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Video Courses in Photography</i> 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.....	7
Members' Photos	8
Tech Corner by Chuck Maas.....	11
ASONP Mission Statement, Board Members, Business Members.....	12
Membership Application	13

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AlaskaWild 2019 Photography Exhibit Schedule

May 2019: Flying Squirrel, Talkeetna, AK

June 2019:	Island and Oceans Visitor Center, Homer, AK
July 2019:	Island and Oceans Visitor Center, Homer, AK
August 2019:	Jitter's, Eagle River, AK
September 2019:	Jitter's, Eagle River, AK
October 2019:	Side Street Espresso, Anchorage, AK
November 2019:	Side Street Espresso, Anchorage, AK
December 2019:	Great Harvest Bread Co., 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 interesting series of speakers lined up for our monthly meetings this coming year beginning .

June thru September:	Summer break—no general meetings
October 9, 2018:	Member's Images
November 13, 2018:	Daryl Pederson—Prince William Sound
December 11, 2018:	Gayle Neufeld—Africa Trip
January 8, 2019:	Charles Mason—Denali Wet Plate Photography
February 12, 2019:	Jackie Sawyer—Bohemian Waxwing Bird Photography
March 12, 2019:	Roy Corral—A 50-year Odyssey of a Photojournalist
April 9, 2019:	AlaskaWild 2019 Exhibit photos showcased
May 14, 2019:	<u>Brendan Smith—Research Photography: Capturing the science, life, and times of an arctic voyage aboard R/V Sikuliaq</u>

We want to hear from you!

What are you interested in seeing in this newsletter?
More photos? More articles? Photography technical
skills? Camera equipment knowledge?

Submit your ideas to Roxannepeter@gmail.com

Please join us for our May 14th 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:

If you haven't done so already, please renew your membership either through the link on our website asonp.org or at one of our monthly meetings.

Membership benefits ended on March 31 for all memberships that expired on December 31, 2018.

WORKSHOPS, OUTINGS, & OTHER INTERESTS

Bear Camp

Great Alaska is giving us another great deal to Bear Camp this year. This year we have been offered a \$600 discount for only \$2396.00. That includes airfares from Kenai, Meals, lodging and guides. A second option is June 3-5th for \$1996.00, a \$500 discount.

When: June 3-6, 2019

Where: Kenai, AK

Contact: Cathy Hart at 907-244-1223 or email cathylynnhart@gmail.com for more information.

Photography Cruise

Interested in a photography cruise from Sitka to Gustavus this summer? Roy Toft and Jaime Heimbuch are leading a tour on the Snow Goose.

When: June 19-28, 2019

Where: Sitka to Gustavus, AK

Website: <http://www.snowgoosetalaska.com/adventure/sitka-to-glacier-bay-2019.html>

Macro Master Series Workshop with Andrea Gulickx, Don Komarechka, & Jackie Kramer

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. The group will then be split into 3 breakout groups who will work directly with Andrea, Don, and Jackie. Cost is \$575.

When: July 18-20, 2019

Where: Anchorage, AK

Contact: Jackie Kramer at 907-317-4667 for more information.

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

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

Landscape/Wildflower Workshop

Ray Bulson will lead you to a remote alpine valley near Hope filled with wildflowers, streams, ponds, waterfalls and tarns, 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. Also included: photographic techniques, equipment and Lightroom post-processing.

When: July 26-28, 2019

Where: Hope, AK

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

Active Photo Tours presents KENAI FOTO FLOAT and GOING PRO WORKSHOPS

KENAI FOTO FLOAT:

Michael DeYoung will be hosting an all day workshop floating the Upper Kenai River in Cooper Landing. Workshop to include a sunrise shoot, 2 hour keynote, and 6 hour float and shoot. ASONP member price \$99.

When: September 7, 2019

Where: Cooper Landing, AK

GOING PRO:

Michael DeYoung will be offering a comprehensive seminar on the business of going pro with outdoor photography. Business development to include understanding the overall industry, developing a strategy for getting published, creating images that appeal to editorial and commercial markets, finding the right clients, and more! ASONP member price is \$179.

When: September 28-29, 2019

Where: Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage, AK

Information and Registration at: www.activephototours.com/asomp

Video Courses in Photography

Written by Bruce M. Herman

Continued from page 1

This is not to denigrate live, in person training. I think that such training is best when concepts are being taught, like something about the art of photography, and when the class includes a review of photographs that you have completed. Live, in person classes also excel when they are taught in the field. A good instructor teaching in a photogenic setting can be inspirational. I would note that the success of an in-person class depends in no small part on the people in the class. I used to teach at a university and saw how some students felt a need to demonstrate their knowledge at every opportunity. If uncontrolled by the instructor, this behavior is detrimental to shy people who may be too intimidated to ask questions on a timely basis and then quickly fall behind.

So where can you go for good video courses? Two sources that I have had success with are KelbyOne.com and CreativeLive.com.

[KelbyOne](http://KelbyOne.com) is a member only web site run by Scott Kelby. It offers training videos on nearly all aspects of photography, including the equipment and business of photography. There are currently 782 courses taught by 128 instructors. All the videos that I've watched were prerecorded. Most of the videos that I've watched are well produced, and reasonably well taught. Because the site has been around for a while, you must be careful to avoid videos that cover out-of-date techniques, but this is straightforward because the publication date of each video is given under its title. A video blog, which includes Photoshop tips, reviews, breaking news and more is broadcast live, and is recorded for viewing later. The site is the home of Photoshop Magazine and Lightroom Magazine, which consist mostly of how-to articles about the programs but include other software and equipment reviews and photographic techniques. You'll also find tutorials, webcasts and a user forum on KelbyOne. A side benefit to membership is the discounts offered to members at many popular photography web sites, as well as Office Depot/Office Max. The site offers a free trial. Annual membership is available at two levels: Plus for \$96 and Pro for \$199. The Pro level is currently on sale for \$159. It has far more courses, access to the discounts and a variety of other features. You can even get help with Photoshop and Light-

room! The discounts will pay for the course if you're in the market for new office furniture, office equipment, and/or supplies from Office Depot/Office Max. [CreativeLive](http://CreativeLive.com)'s website focuses its offering on live classes. These can be watched for free by anyone who registers. Selected courses are rebroadcast along with the live courses and can be watched for free, too. Both live and rebroadcast courses are shown during standard business hours. Because some of the class durations could last a whole week, watching may not be truly free - you may have to use your vacation time! The live courses provide the opportunity to submit questions via email, and some even accept uploaded photographs for critiquing. CreativeLive courses cover a much broader range of subjects than photography. For instance, they have courses on painting, web design, music and audio, craft making, money and life. I wouldn't be surprised to find a course on the meaning of life. The production value of the live classes is very good, although the recorded classes sometimes show a bit of a lag between the video and audio. Similar to KelbyOne, the recorded classes range from very recent to somewhat dated, but the production date is not readily available. CreativeLive provides the ability to purchase individual prerecorded classes that you then can watch whenever you like as often as you like. Sales of up to 60% off are not uncommon, which is a good thing because some of the longer classes are several hundred dollars. It is also possible to purchase a class and gift it to someone. You can pay an annual fee of \$299 and watch unlimited videos, which would then be similar to KelbyOne. Some of the classes include extensive download material, but it's only available if you've paid for the course or have the annual pass.

I've watched excellent video classes from both KelbyOne and CreativeLive. I would highly encourage you to peruse the course listings for both sites when you're looking to learn something new about either the craft or the art of photography. I think you'll find that these are an excellent complement to live courses and texts.

Bruce M. Herman

DEAR JOHN COLUMN

By John R. DeLapp

Have you read the book "Three Among the Wolves"?



Yes, and if you are interested in wolves and want to know more about their behavior and social structure in the wild, you must read this book, copyright 2004, by Helen Thayer. It is a fascinating story of adventure in northern Canada where the author, her husband, and their part-wolf dog spent virtually a whole year living with and studying three separate wolf packs.

After spending many months scouting northern Alaska and Canada for their planned expedition, they located a remote wolf pack above the Arctic Circle in western Canada. The site required backpacking all their supplies many miles off the Dempster Highway to a camp where they spent the spring, summer, and fall totally isolated, living in a tent. After a time, the wolves accepted their presence, and a camp was established quite near the den, allowing for twenty-four-hour observation.

The wolves never showed any aggression toward the dog (always tethered) or to Helen or her husband. As you might imagine, during their stay, they witnessed and documented all forms of wolf behavior associated with pack life in the wild including hunting, playing, caring for new pups, and responding to a challenge from an adjacent wolf pack. In the book, Helen Thayer cites many instances of wolves returning from a hunt and regurgitating food at the den or bringing animal parts back that could be shared with the non-hunters.



Female member of the Grant Creek pack wolf carries a leg (caribou?), Denali Park Road, June 28, 2010.

Later in the year, after a short break in the Cascade Range (Washington) to train pulling sleds, Helen, her husband, and dog traveled to Inuvik, Northwest Territories. At that point, instead of using snow machines, they skied pulling sleds the rest of the way north to the McKenzie River Delta and onto the frozen Beaufort Sea hoping to find wolves reportedly in both locations. Not only did they find wolves in both locations but also had a few notable encounters with polar bears. It turns out that there was (is?) a pack of wolves that winters on the ice following polar bears around and feeding off leftover seal kills. Apparently, the bears eat mostly just the seal fat, leaving enough on the ice to sustain the wolves.

Prior to spending a year with the wolves, Helen Thayer celebrated her fiftieth birthday by becoming the first woman to make a solo trek to the magnetic North Pole. She also has distinguished herself kayaking in the Amazon, trekking in the Gobi Desert, climbing mountains in New Zealand (her home country), and she won the U.S. national luge championship in 1975.

My only disappointment with the book, is that I wanted to know more about their planning, gear, and food which allowed them to make such long isolated trips with almost no external support. Amazing!

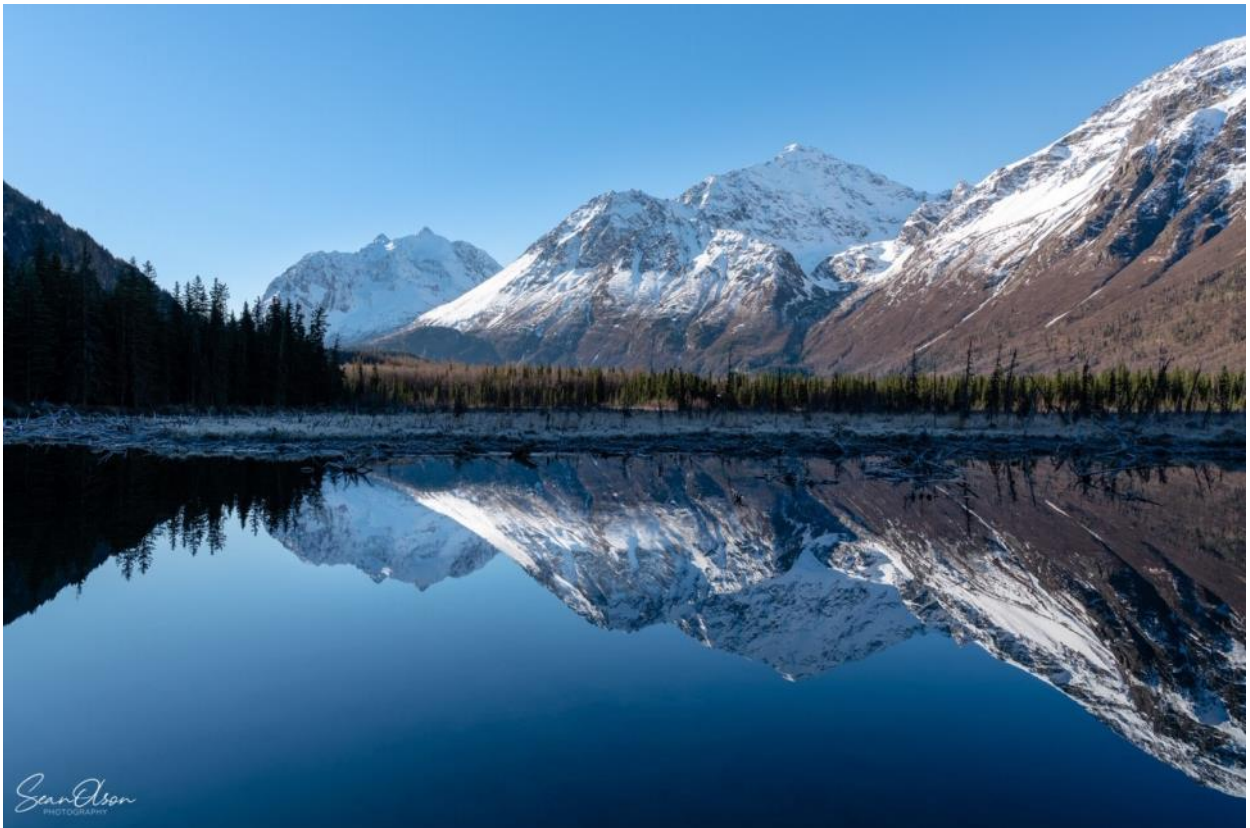
*All text and photos
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MEMBERS' PHOTOS

All photographs © Sean Olson



Caption: Eagle River Valley, Eagle River, AK



Caption: Eagle River Valley, Eagle River, AK

Continued on page 9

MEMBERS' PHOTOS

All photographs © Sean Olson

Continued from page 8



Caption: Potter's Marsh, Anchorage, AK



Caption: Grand Canyon National Park, AR

Continued on page 10

MEMBERS' PHOTOS

Continued from page 9

All photographs © Sean Olson



Caption: Mount Shasta, CA

TECH CORNER

By Chuck Maas

Memory Cards



One category of hardware all of us rely on is removable storage in the form of memory cards. These come in a wide variety of types, capacities, and speeds, all dependent on what a particular camera body will accept. Capture data is temporarily stored on the card and is subsequently transferred to a computer for post-processing. Yes, files can in some cases be transferred directly from a camera via Wi-Fi or by a cable tethered to a computer, but most of the time memory cards are the critical link in the chain.

Why worry about the technical details of memory card specification? Because unless you use a card that matches or exceeds the capability of your camera, you won't get the performance you expect while shooting, especially when using high burst rates or long video captures. On the other hand, if you're a methodical shooter who uses single-shot mode most of the time, older/slower cards may suit your needs just fine.

Like everything else in the photo world, memory card technology continues to evolve and there are lots of factors to consider. **Price** is one: the cost per megabyte has plummeted over the years, but large-capacity/fast cards still have a price premium. **Form-factor** (determined by the manufacturer as to what your camera takes): XQD and SD are very popular right now, and CFexpress is the likely next evolution with higher throughput, larger capacity potential, same physical form-factor as XQD, and upgradable via firmware update in many camera bodies with XQD slots. **Robustness**: Memory cards (and card readers) can be damaged and need care in handling. SD cards in particular are thin and most have a sliding write protection tab that can break. Sony now has a line of "TOUGH" SD cards that are made of more rigid material they say is 18 times stronger than a standard SD card, and does away with the write protection tab. **Card readers**: put a fast card in a slow reader and your download time will be much longer than if using a reader matched to the card capability as well as your computer. Connections

using Thunderbolt 3 or USB 3.1 Gen 2 Type-C offer higher transfer rates than older USB 3/2.

How do you figure out which is the highest-performing memory card for your camera? See your camera owner's manual to determine what memory specification your body is capable of using, and consult one of the websites that list card performance.

While most memory cards are really pretty durable, they are an electronic device and can be corrupted. Best practice is to format the card in the camera body it will record in, don't remove it while it's still writing data, and keep it clean and dry. If you do have some sort of problem with the card (like inadvertently "erasing" an image), put the card aside and use one of a number of file recovery software programs before reformatting it. Chances are you won't have "lost" the files after all.

Resources:

[Camera Memory Speed](#) – comparison and performance tests for digital cameras.

[Sony TOUGH SD card description.](#)

[Sony SF-G Tough SD card review.](#)





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.

BOARD MEMBERS

Margaret Gaines

President

(907) 770-0840

margr8gaines@gmail.com

Sanjana Greenhill

Vice President

(907) 787-9475

sanjana.greenhill@gmail.com

Glenn Aronwits

Treasurer

(907) 230-6788

info@ga-digitalphotos.com

Amber Johnson

Secretary

(907) 244-2688

amberejohnson@hotmail.com

Roxanne Peter

Viewfinder Editor

(907) 388-5725

Roxannepeter@gmail.com

Cathy Hart

Workshops & Trips

(907) 337-1669

cathylynnhart@gmail.com

Alan Musy

Webmaster

(907) 244-4079

musya@admphoto.com

Tara Horton

AlaskaWild Coordinator

(325) 660-8691

tchww9@gmail.com

Rick Jobe

(907) 903-4380

jobe@gci.net

John DeLapp

(907) 345-0802

jrdeLapp@gci.net

Julie Jessen

(907) 306-2331

juliekjessen@excite.com

Carl Johnson

(907) 748-7040

www.arcticlight-ak.com/contact

Joan Nunn

(907) 830-6475

alaska_woman@hotmail.com

2019 BUSINESS MEMBERS

Alaska Photo Treks

www.alaskaphototreks.com

Alaska Photographics

Www.alaskaphotographics.com

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Aurora Dora

www.auroradora.com

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www.brendonsmith.photography

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www.denailguidebook.com

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www.raybulson.com

Stewart's Photo

www.stewartphoto.com

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www.waydecarroll.com



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/DEBIT 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**