



From the Editor Again, Arthurine

Each month ELCC members are asked to contribute articles. If I have no submissions, I start to fill the space and no one seems to be complaining (hopefully even when I throw in some marketing this time). So here goes some quick thoughts on April's assigned topic Motion. To me, photography of wild horses or wildlife in general goes hand-in-hand with this assigned topic, MOTION. On our March speaker's web page, Lynne has workshops on photographing wild horses on the Jicarilla Wild Horse Territory. Her images are gorgeous and skillfully taken. I am sure the club will enjoy learning from her expertise. Also, worth mentioning is the work by Judy Barnes, Spirit of the Wild Horse, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Photography is part art and science. However, wildlife photography is mostly patience. I know there is a lot to learn. I thought I would write a few steps in photos on where I am in this learning time line. I usually start with a good book. I have read "*Photographing and Videoing Horses Explained*" by Charles Mann and Stormy May. I expected it to be a repeat of basic techniques like exposure, etc. but the book was not. It was as detailed on taking a picture of a horse as you would find on portraiture techniques for humans.

However, my business partner in Chama, New Mexico, states while most are reading books, he is out in the field taking images with a totally hands-on experience. All of the images in this article are copyright of Roger Hogan, a Camera Hunt guide and Digiscoping Digest photographer. Once you see your first wild and free-ranging horse, elk, eagle, ... you will get hooked on nature photography. I will quickly go through a few steps in photos that we recommend during a trip to Northern New Mexico's nature paradise. Roger posted another Camera Hunts 101 on-line example which has larger images and more detail. Each experience is designed specifically around your animal (elk, mule deer, wild horse, bear, eagle, osprey, bighorn sheep, etc.) and mode of transportation of choice (horse, jeep, hiking, etc.). Also, our business started in the Fall of 2006 and produces a monthly digest. The Free First 2006 issue is on the Rocky Mountain Elk is at <http://www.digiscopingdigest.com/digests/0612Elk.pdf>. Although it needs updated with newer images, it has several pages on motion photography. (Also, fun motion roll-over PDFs) For more details, go to www.camerahunts.com or just ask me in person.



Bald Eagle at El Vado Lake



Elk at Chama Pass



Wild Horse at Jicarilla Apache



Step 1: Know your subject and its habitat. They generally do not hang out by the road. Learning to spot animals is an art.



Wild Horse



Step 2: Know your equipment. Different equipment for different situations and individuals. Shown clockwise is a) Pentax consumer grade dSLR camera with Bigma Sigma lens and a Canon Mark III professional grade dSLR with 500mm Prime and 1.4 extender, both on BushHawk, b) spotting scope with tripod and point and shoot camera, and c) not in image a Nikon D40X dSLR with 55mm lens. It really depends on what you want to carry, can afford, and purpose of the images.



Step 3: Know your photography techniques. Practice, practice and practice. Try practicing on a domestic horse before tackling the wild and free ranging animals. One image has merger of the black head with the black body. Second image has unflattering stance. You are not going to get a wild animal to pose so we recommend burst mode. Practice taking shots quickly without much setup. We always take separate animal and habitat images.



Step 4: Know your Digital Darkroom. Get the best shot you can in the field but the digital darkroom becomes very important in wildlife photos. Here the deer is not going to leave the shade for “ideal lighting” so we relied on Raw format to make extreme adjustment in the exposure. This mule deer has already spotted the camera and is seeking more cover. We recommend “freeze motion” camera settings.



Step 5 -- Step ????.
Photography is more than just point and click. It is patience and

