Neil Solomon ... Birds and Nature Photography

During the winter of 2005, Great Gray Owls descended upon Northern Minnesota from the boreal forests of Canada in unprecedented numbers. This phenomenon, which occurs periodically, but unpredictably, provided a unique opportunity for observing and photographing North America’s largest owl. Images of the Great Gray Owl in this winter habitat will be presented and the challenges faced by the photographer in capturing these images will be discussed.

Neil Solomon was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. At the age of ten he developed an interest in birding after watching Black-capped Chickadees feed on the seeds of giant sunflowers in a neighbor’s yard. Some years later, after obtaining a graduate degree in Mechanical Engineering, he found myself in San Diego.

Through the years he dabbled with photography, mostly landscapes. In 2001 he purchased his first digital SLR, the Canon D30, and my interest in photography became more serious. After taking a local bird photography workshop, he became passionate about photographing birds.

Although he doesn’t consider himself a birder, he’s become intensely interested in observing the behaviors of the birds he photographs. Neil is a believer that the really good images can only come from knowing your subject.

Today, Neil travels whenever he can in search of birds to photograph. His equipment consists of the Canon 1DMKII body and the Canon 500mm f4, Canon 300mm f2.8, and Canon 100-400mm IS lenses.
January 2006

PHOTO OUTING: Friday - Sunday January 7 - 9: 100,000’s of Migrating Birds at Bosque del Apache, New Mexico.


PHOTO OUTING: Friday - Sunday, January 20th - 22nd: Death Valley National Park. Leader and information: Peter Nagainis (see website for link to Peter’s phone number).

February 2006

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, February 9th, 6:30 p.m. (doors open). Mtg Starts at 7PM. Speaker: TBA.

March 2006

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, March 9th, 6:30 p.m. (doors open). Mtg Starts at 7PM. Speaker: TBA.

PHOTO OUTING: Friday - Sunday March 17 - 20: Springtime Mustard in Napa Valley. Every year the yellow mustard blooms all over wine country. See an example here.

Officers & Volunteers

Chair: Jonathan Fennell - (619) 861-7873 jfennell@jdfusions.com

Membership/Equipment Manager:
Everett Mehner - (619) 232-9271 or ecmehner@cox.net

Treasury & Sponsors: Carol Brody - (619) 466-3371 or cbrody8000@cox.net

Programs:
Karl Grobl (858) 689-1963 or karl@karlgrobl.com
Jim Cline (858) 350-1314 or jim@jimcline.com

Newsletter Distribution:
Jim Cline (858) 350-1314 or jim@jimcline.com

SCPS Webmaster & Activities:
Ken Rockwell - (858) 453-2099 or ken@kenrockwell.com

Hospitality:
Karen LeCates - (619) 322-6818 or karenlecates@hotmail.com

Refreshments:
Theresa Vernetti - (619) 298-9838 or tvernett@yahoo.com.

Newsletter:
Rita Spiegel - (858) 361-6373 or rita520@sbcglobal.net
Member Share Digital Guidelines

With more members sharing their digital images (thank you), we have developed a few guidelines to help get the “party started” smoothly. Thank you for your assistance.

1. Please arrive at 6:30 p.m so we can load the images on the computer. The meeting starts at 7:00 and we need all the images ready to go.

2. Members may bring up to 12 images maximum. Please don’t bring additional slides. We have limited time available at the Otto Center. Please be mindful of the amount of time used to talk about your images.

3. Burn a CD with JPGs only. Please label them with your last name (first) and number. Example: Jones1, Jones2, Jones3. This will allow them to be shown in order by artist. Limit file size to 1024w x 768h.

Volunteer Needed for Sponsor Coordinator Position.

The Sponsor Coordinator is the link between the photo club and our sponsors. These sponsors provide certificates for products or services that are raffled off at our monthly meetings. The raffle is the primary revenue source for our photo club and pays for speakers’ fees and the use of the Otto Center. If you are interested in this position, please contact Carol Brody at 619-466-3371, cbrody8000@cox.net or Jonathan Fennel @619-861-7873, jfennell@jdfusions.com.

New Meeting Location May Be Needed

The rent for the Otto Center has been increased from $100.00 for our three hour meeting to $225.00 for the same three hour period. We are looking for suggestions for alternative, reasonably priced locations. Please send your ideas to any of the officers & volunteers listed in this newsletter. This matter will be discussed at the January 12th meeting at the Otto Center.

Congratulations to Rita Spiegel

for being chosen as the official photographer for the City of La Mesa’s 2006 calendar. The calendar was mailed to all City residents. Additional calendars can be picked up at City Hall, located at 8130 Allison Ave. La Mesa, CA

and

Congratulations to Jim Cline

for being selected as one of the 14 photographers and one sculptor who are part of the Ordover Project. His work will be showcased for the next year and beyond at the Ordover Gallery in Solana Beach. The Inaugural Exhibition of the Ordover Project, features work from each member. The exhibition will be on view until Jan 8, 2006. The Gallery is located at 444 Cedros Avenue, Studio 172, Solana Beach.
About Us:
The Photography Section of the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club is a group of hobbyist-photographers of all levels who meet monthly to learn more about photography.

Meetings feature a speaker from the local photographic community and are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Otto Center at the San Diego Zoo, located at the Southeast corner of the Zoo, to the left of the main entrance. There is no charge to attend. We welcome new members! To join, pick up a membership application at any of the meetings, or call Everett Mehner at 619-232-9271 to request an application, or send your name, address, telephone number, and check to the address below. Annual membership is $20 and includes a subscription to this publication, The VIEW Finder.

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First Class Mail

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Photography Section
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