

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS

LEARN ♦ EXPLORE ♦ ADVENTURE

PHOTOGRAPHING HISTORIC STRUCTURES: THE BEST OF RMNP

AUGUST 8 -10, 2008

COURSE LEVEL: II COURSE #: 08-043

FEE: \$200

INSTRUCTOR: DAVID HALPERN

LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Field Seminars Conference Center,
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado

TIME: Friday: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Saturday/Sunday 7:30AM – 4:30 PM



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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Whether or not you have enrolled in David's previous seminars, you will enjoy visiting what he considers the best of historic structures in and around Rocky Mountain National Park. A brief introductory session (approximately two hours) will be held at the Rocky Mountain Nature Association Field Seminars Center on Friday evening. The remaining instruction and demonstrations will be offered entirely on location at historic sites within Rocky Mountain National Park. Because additional time following the seminar will be required for image processing and proofing, students who wish to participate in a follow-up critique will be given an opportunity to take part in an on-line discussion with the instructor during the weeks following this seminar. This workshop is designed for intermediate, advanced amateur and professional photographers who have an interest in architectural photography. Participants should be thoroughly familiar with the operation of their cameras, exposure meters, portable lighting equipment, and accessories.

People photograph architecture for diverse reasons. Aside from the practice of architectural photography as an art form, it commonly is used as reference material/documentation for architects, historians, model builders, and artists. Often the techniques employed are specific to the intended use or governed by the sensibilities of the architects who created the architecture as well as the vision of the photographer. The styles of architectural photography are therefore diverse. Instruction and discussion will concentrate on various methods of interpreting architecture through photography. Respecting the fragile nature of the historic sites, we will try for low impact.

Recognizing that photography is currently undergoing a technological transition, the instructor says participation in this experience will be open to photographers who use *either* film or digital media (or both), and participants should expect that discussion will include points of interest to each group. The total number of participants is limited to permit instruction to be focused on the individual student as well as the group, and the number of locations is limited to assure adequate time for each student to concentrate on the subjects as he or she wishes

This workshop provides a unique opportunity to gain access to historical sites for the specific purpose of photography. You will be provided an historical overview of each location, and instruction will strike a balance between technical and artistic considerations. Participants are encouraged to keep a journal of their workshop experience. A small spiral-bound notebook that will fit in a pocket will serve the purpose. This is not a requirement, but it can be both useful and personally revealing. Handouts, including a bibliography, will be provided.

COURSE LEVEL: II—Short-distance walks throughout the day on primarily level terrain

BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at www.rmna.org): David began photographing RMNP more than 35 years ago and has taught photography in classrooms and workshops for almost as many years. Though solidly grounded in the techniques of traditional fine arts and commercial photography, he has become a strong advocate for the digital image. Although he prefers to be known as a landscape photographer, he also has been recognized for his architectural photography in several books and national magazines. He is an eleven-time national park artist-in-residence, a life member of the American Society of Media Photographers, and a member of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals. His current book, *Pilgrim Eye*, chronicles his more than fifty years of photographing the American landscape.

INSTRUCTOR'S WEBSITE: www.david.halpern.com

EXPECTATIONS: Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Individual ideas will be respected. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

CAR-POOLING: Rocky Mountain Field Seminars utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the Park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

Friday

7:00 PM

Opening introductions, discussion of participants' individual experiences and expectations; explanation of workshop procedures and recommendations regarding safety precautions and equipment care.

Saturday

7:30 AM

Assemble at the RMNA Seminar Center and drive in convoy (as few vehicles as possible to relieve parking congestion) to our first field location. Early arrival will assure adequate time for instruction and orientation to the site so that students will have sufficient to take advantage of the best lighting for photographing exteriors and taking advantage of relationships between the structures and their natural environment.

Afternoon

After a short lunch break (students will need to bring sack lunches), we will continue instruction and discussion of techniques. Topics will include: limitations when working under low-light levels; methods of enhancing available light conditions both inside and outside the structures; exploring appropriate perspectives to accurately represent, enhance, or dramatize the character of the subjects; and comparisons of conventional analog and digital photography. Students will receive one-on-one instruction and assistance, as required, and ample opportunity to make photographs throughout the afternoon.

Sunday

7:30 AM

Instruction and photography will continue on-site. Please note that sites are selected for the opportunities and challenges they present. Each day will definitely afford opportunities for expanding students' experiences, and the work need not seem repetitive.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars, **WATER**
- **Camera:** All cameras are welcome. (Large and medium format cameras, and smaller high-resolution digital cameras are commonly used for architectural photography.)
- **Film or digital media**
- Tripod—Sturdy tripod essential ▪ Cable release ▪ Camera bag or daypack
- **Filters:** If you are photographing on film or with a digital camera in color, a polarizing filter is generally most useful. Depending on film choice, some photographers choose to use a warming filter (81A) and/or a skylight filter. When photographing on black-and-white film, medium red, yellow, orange, green, and blue contrast filters can be useful when working under the conditions participants will experience during this course. However, filters are not required for this seminar. (Call or write the instructor if you need advice.)

- **Hand-held exposure meter:** Essential for large format film photography; desirable (but not essential) for medium format film and digital photography. In-camera exposure meters work well in many instances, but are not as useful for evaluating low-light conditions when photographing interiors.
- **Lighting equipment:** *Think low impact.* Any lighting equipment you choose to bring (not required) must be completely portable. A power supply will not be available. If you have reflectors and portable electronic flash units that you can handle without assistance, bring them. When necessary, we will work in teams to solve problems. Be prepared to make long exposures when working indoors.

REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

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| ▪ Raingear | ▪ Map & compass | ▪ Flashlight or headlamp |
| ▪ Sunglasses & sunscreen | ▪ Candles | ▪ Matches or other fire starter |
| ▪ Pocketknife | ▪ First-aid kit | ▪ Extra layers of clothing |
| ▪ Sack lunch, snacks, & water | | |

Note: Rocky Mountain Field Seminars recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.

TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT

All courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The new fee is \$25.00 per seminar (.5 units) or \$25.00 per series of threaded seminars (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded seminars can be found in the Field Seminar Catalog or online at www.rmna.org. Participants must enroll in all seminars of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25.00 multiunit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a seminar or on the final day of a threaded series of seminars.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS PURSUING CSU CREDIT

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This seminar has two principal objectives. The first is to provide an opportunity for each participant to expand his/her photographic knowledge and thereby become more proficient in another aspect of the craft. The second is to foster a greater appreciation of the historic resources of Rocky Mountain National Park and the efforts required to protect them.

CONTACT HOURS: 22.5

EVALUATION TECHNIQUES:

Students attending the workshop for credit will be evaluated using three criteria: 1) participation in the activities of the workshop (20%), 2) performance on a specific photographic assignment (50%), and 3) completion of a written summary of the experience expressing the individual's comprehension of essential photographic information (30%).

GRADING METHOD: Pass/Fail