

THE DUBOIS PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP • JULY 2008

# FIRSTLIGHT



# FIRSTLIGHT DUBOIS

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP



COVER: Georgia residents Helen (age 8) and Sally Blumberg (age six) prepare to get in the swing of things on square dancing night at the Rustic Pine Tavern while in Dubois visiting aunt and uncle Kay and Jerry Titlow. Richard Sandor notes that the "young sisters were just absolutely adorable and photogenic."

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD SANDOR

Robert and Lindsay Betts offered an early-morning salute from the top of a ridge at Absaroka Ranch outside of Dubois. "My first thought was that it was a shame there were no clouds in the sky," Sherry Harder explains. "My next thought was, silhouette!"

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHERRY HARDER



LEFT: Vicki Kohler had a “nanosecond” to capture the fading light around this tree on a plateau out Whiskey Creek Basin Road, east of Dubois. “I knew I had the shot I wanted, a single weathered tree that reflected the story of its dramatic, yet harsh environment,” she says.

PHOTOGRAPH BY VICKI KOHLER

ABOVE: While photographing horses moving from a pasture into the corral at the Betts family’s Absaroka Ranch west of Dubois, Jerry Meiling snared the beauty of this galloping “ghost” horse frozen against the blurred scenery.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JERRY MEILING





Ranch manager Damon Gehlhausen relocated to Dubois from Indiana seven years ago. As he took a break from the dancing at the Rustic Pine Tavern, "I was drawn to the transparency of the glass showing those in the bar, the Draught beer neon, and rustic log front, which almost represented three eras in time," John Knauer says.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN KNAUR



A morning trip to Brooks Lake Creek with fly fishing guru Leon Sanderson was wrapped in a dense fog, which was fine for casting instruction but a little challenging for photography. "We waited and waited, and seemingly in an instant, the sun rose above the mountains and its rays pierced the fog," Debra Hale says. "The breath-taking beauty of that moment is etched in my memory forever."

PHOTOGRAPH BY DEBRA HALE

FirstLight founder Jay Dickman recognized the magic of Dubois when friends first invited him here years ago. The northwestern Wyoming town is full of strong faces and tested wills, colorful badlands, glacial moraine, lakes, two very different mountain ranges, old-time roots and fresh beginnings. Its residents open their doors and lives for a week to workshop participants; the result is vibrant images just begging for aspiring photographers to capture.

Dubois, the only town in the 170 miles between Riverton and Lander to the east and Jackson to the west, is a rough mix of longtime residents whose family trees are deeply rooted in local history, service providers and entrepreneurs involved in the tourist and outdoor recreational trade, and a smattering of both part- and full-time property owners up in the hills surrounding the town. Each group seems to move around and through each other fluidly, whether at morning java call in Kathy's Koffee, happy hour at the Rustic Pine Tavern, or in the checkout line at the Ace Hardware store.



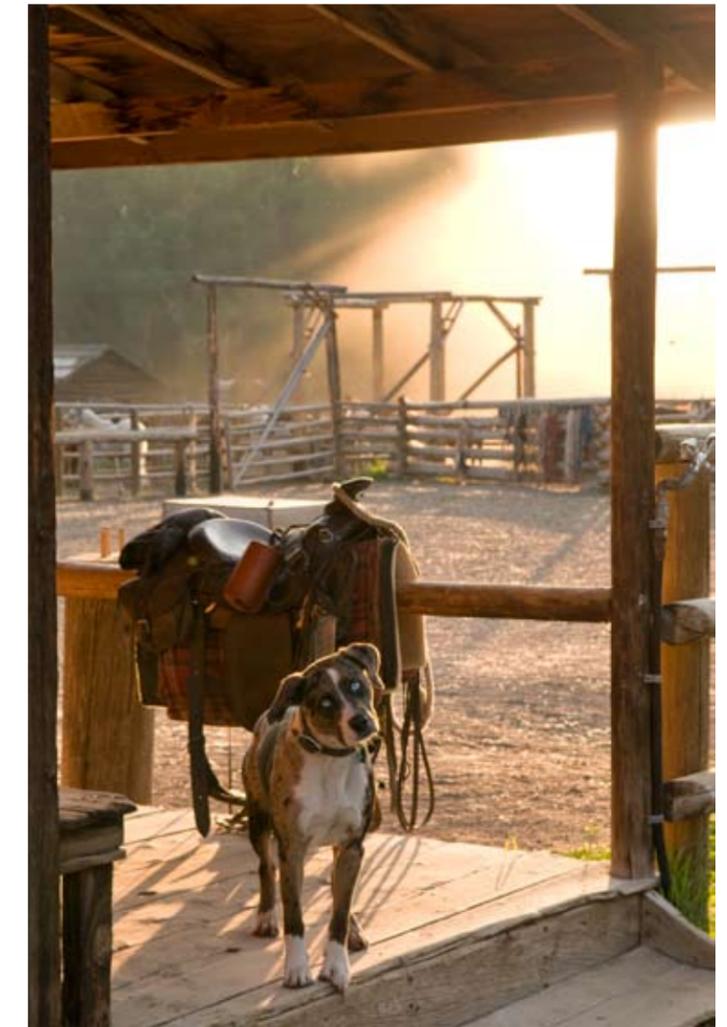
ABOVE: Chad Wilcox noticed early-morning shadows playing below hats hung at the CM ranch, six miles south of Dubois. "I liked this image of a cowboy looking off into the distance," he says.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHAD WILCOX

RIGHT: CM Ranch wrangler John Lucas was getting horses ready for the daily rides when Ellen Jungck noticed the light catching his face.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ELLEN JUNGCK





ABOVE: When Richard Sandor rounded a corner at the CM Ranch and noticed the soft backlight on “Notch,” the unofficial ranch foreman, he dropped to a knee and squeezed off a few frames before the dog turned around and trotted off.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD SANDOR

LEFT: Owner Jacki Blakeman laid out baking trays at her Home Slice Artisan Bakery in a meadow west of town while her longtime pal Bullseye pulled porch duty at daybreak. An artisan bakery may seem improbable in this town of less than 1,000, located where the southern end of the vast Absaroka Range meets the north end of the Wind River Range, but Dubois is full of surprises. Blakeman notes that the “heart of Dubois is my mission in life.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN H. OSTDICK



“**F**irstLight has changed the way I press that shutter button,” says local innkeeper Mike Slider, a Dubois 2008 participant. “I find myself walking around looking for *the photo*.”

Such a revelation heartens FirstLight founder Jay Dickman, who merges a fascinating location, groundbreaking Olympus equipment, lessons from a storied career, and an accomplished staff — such as Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Skeeter Hagler and renowned Wyoming shooter Jeff Vanuga — to provide a compelling experience. Adobe expert Jay Kinghorn provides revelatory Light-Room instruction into image editing, sorting, and storing.

“What we are doing is cracking people open to what is inside of them,” Dickman explains.

**ABOVE:** As it got brighter outside at the CM Ranch, Vicki Kohler turned her attention to the sun penetrating through a tack room door. Several boots lurked in the shadows.

**PHOTOGRAPH BY VICKI KOHLER**

**RIGHT:** One evening, Ray Johnson followed a dirt road to Trail Lake and stopped to shoot a white horse, whose mane and tail had a beautiful backlit glow about them. He also aroused another horse’s curiosity, and performed a slow, 180-degree dance with them, his 12-60 lens opened up.

**PHOTOGRAPH BY RAY JOHNSON**





TOP: Earl Sampson, manager of the local newspaper, the Dubois Frontier, worked his irrigation system at his ranch about twenty minutes outside of town. He performs four hours of chores each evening after work.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PATTY BODWELL

ABOVE: Two ranchers worked on some cutting chutes up Horse Creek Canyon Road. To avoid the exterior fence and intruding on the men, Ray Johnson shot into the corral with a long lens from partway up a nearby mountain.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RAY JOHNSON

LEFT: A young boy received the worst end of a bucking sheep ride. He popped up quickly.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY EHEMANN

As several hundred Dubois-area residents move through the Headwaters Arts and Conference Center auditorium studying the oversized pristine prints created by Hewlett Packard Z3100 printers, seventeen aspiring photographers who have spent the week documenting various aspects of life in this small Wyoming town hug new local friends and admire each other's handiwork.

The week was inspiring as it flowed quickly past like the nearby Wind River. Although the participants began the week with varying photography skills, the images that grace the Headwater's display space on closing night are universally compelling, which well serves the mission of Dickman and founding sponsor Olympus.

"Photography challenges you to improve, and it rewards you when you do," says 61-year-old David Bird, a retired management information systems professor from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. "This photo exhibition is amazing — the reaction of the local people to our efforts is immensely rewarding."



ABOVE: Cowboy artist Tom Lucas and his dog Tinker reacted to a customer walking into the Silver Sage Gallery in downtown Dubois. Lucas uses his large collection of Native American and cowboy artifacts as well as a working knowledge of ancestral tool making to share storytelling visions of the West.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SHERRY HARDER

RIGHT: Artist Tom Lucas used the light box (at right) near a window of the Silver Sage Gallery to control shadows and lighting on his materials for his partially finished still life (at left).

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID BIRD





ABOVE: Early morning finds a cowboy saddling up at the CM Ranch. PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE CHANDLER



BELOW: A bronc rider got tossed during the Dubois Fourth of July Rodeo. He wasn't alone. PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID BIRD



LEFT: A CM ranch wrangler waited on the porch of the saddle and tack room for a rainstorm to ebb. PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID BIRD

RIGHT: A bronc rider exuded tension, apprehension, and anticipation as he prepared in the chute for an all-too-brief ride. PHOTOGRAPH BY DEBRA HALE





Roping horses are sheer restless energy, anxious to burst out of the starting box while their riders strive to be calm and intensely focused — usually methodically backing the horse deep into a corner. “A slight nod of the rider’s head initiates the calf’s release, beginning a symmetry of horse, rider, and lasso,” Debra Hales says. “It all comes together in harmony.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY DEBRA HALE



ABOVE: In the center of Dubois, early evening drew a flurry of activity to the Rustic Pine Tavern Bar, a dimly lit establishment where a crowd of guests and locals packed the back dance floor, as a caller began, "Allemande left" during the tavern's weekly square dancing.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE CHANDLER

RIGHT: The weekly square dances attract an eclectic mix of locals and visitors; many of the locals are high-styling in their best western gear. The concentration of these two dancers was evident in their faces.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE SLIDER





LEFT: Richard Sandor rode a fire truck during the Fourth of July Parade. "It offered a different perspective of the water battles that take place between the kids and the fire truck," Sandor says. "The kids had just fired their squirt guns. I waited for the fire truck's response. The kids were outgunned just a bit."

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
RICHARD SANDOR

RIGHT: During a session at the Absaroka Ranch, Marcine Meiling caught Lindsay Betts' horse giving her a nudge on the top of her hat, at which point Betts reached up to engage her. "It was a tender, private moment that I appreciated," Meiling says.

PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MARCINE MEILING





TOP: Wyatt Lavy, son of CM Ranch wrangler Nick Lavy, shared a tender moment with his dad as he waited to ride.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ELLEN JUNGCK

ABOVE: Steve Banks, a retired schoolteacher who lectures and demonstrates the dress and lifestyle elements of some of the first settlers in Wyoming, demonstrated how to start a fire with flint stone.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY EHEMANN

RIGHT: Chad Wilcox was wandering through a large parking lot on E Street as crowds waited for the evening's Fourth of July fireworks display when he spied this family lighting some sparklers.

PHOTOGRAPH BY CHAD WILCOX





TOP: This horse was curiously exploring Debra Hale's camera through the corral when he suddenly turned to shun her, presenting her with a golden opportunity.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DEBRA HALE



LEFT: A couple cooled down outside the Rustic Pine Tavern Bar after an evening of square dancing.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN KNAUR

BELOW: Local Steve Banks pitched a tent at 4 a.m. about 45 minutes outside of town to provide a Mountain Man reenactment. Patty Bodwell captured the flash of his firing a Black Powder Rifle.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PATTY BODWELL

RIGHT: Monte Baker worked on a moose antler carving at his Horse Creek Gallery. The Dubois native started carving antlers using dental drills in junior high.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JERRY MEILING



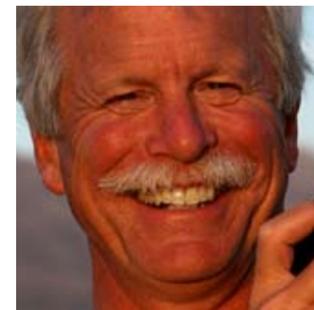


Dubois local Ellen Jungck piqued the interest of many fellow workshop participants when she recommended a trip to the badlands area northeast of town. When the group ran out of road, they started climbing. Ray Johnson was barely at the base by the time Ellen crested a hill. "Seeing the vast Wyoming cloud and the wonderful light, I hollered for her to turn around," he says. "That's when she launched into a great Sound of Music routine while her dog Ranger looked on."

PHOTOGRAPH BY RAY JOHNSON



## 2008 Dubois FirstLight Workshop Faculty



### Jay Dickman - Olympus Visionary

Jay Dickman, Olympus Visionary and Lexar Elite Photographer, is founder of Firstlight Workshops. A Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer and regular contributor to National Geographic, Jay's work has won numerous awards in the World Press International Competition. Jay recently co-authored Perfect Digital Photography with Jay Kinghorn, published by McGraw Hill.



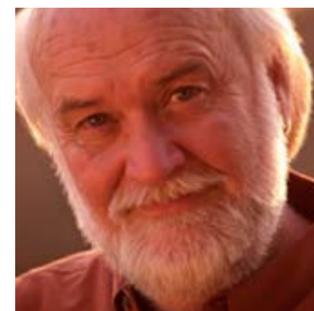
### Jeff Vanuga - Photographer

Jeff Vanuga lives in Dubois and has photographed professionally for over 25 years. His work has been published worldwide in magazine and major advertising campaigns including Outside, National Geographic, National Wildlife, Audubon, Sierra Club, Natural History. His work has won major international awards including first place in the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year and the National Wildlife Competition. He has hosted TV shows on nature photography for the Outdoor Life channel and Nature's Best Magazine.



### Jay Kinghorn - RGB Imaging

An Adobe Photoshop Certified Expert, Jay Kinghorn draws upon his background as an assignment and fine-art photographer to develop training programs that fulfill the essential needs of photographers. His approachable, comfortable and efficient training style makes Jay one of the most sought-after digital imaging specialists. In 2003, Jay created a landmark digital imaging survey with ASMP Colorado to assess the adoption of digital photography.



### Skeeter Hagler - Photographer

Skeeter Hagler won the Pulitzer Prize for photographs he made chronicling the lives of modern-day Texas Cowboys. The winning pictures appeared in books and magazines around the world. Skeeter's Pulitzer images will soon be part of HBO's eight-part miniseries on the stories behind Pulitzer winning photographs. Skeeter is a freelance photographer in the editorial, advertising and corporate world, covering assignments for clients ranging from EDS Corporation to Budweiser.

The Dubois workshop, left to right at the Dennison Lodge, Dubois, Wyoming. ON RAILINGS: Dave Bird, Ellen Jungck, Skeeter Hagler, Debra Hale, Ray Johnson, John H. Ostdick, Michelle Medley, Jerry Meiling, Marcine Meiling. THIRD ROW: Jay Dickman, Becky Dickman, Suzanne Chandler, Chad Wilcox. MIDDLE: Larry Ehemann, Mike Slider, Vicki Kohler, Richard Sandor. BOTTOM ROW: Jeff Vanuga, Sherry Harder, Patty Bodwell, John Knaur.

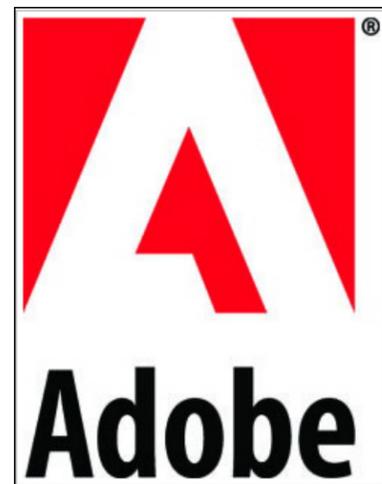
This magazine is dedicated to the memory of Nancy Kinghorn, whose wonderful son just happens to be our dear friend and FirstLight instructor, Jay Kinghorn.

Special thanks to the entire community for its dynamic support of FirstLight Dubois. Separate and major thanks to Margo Clark, owner of Wind River Gear, and Carol Petera, of the Headwaters Conference Center, without whose time, connections, and invaluable knowledge of the area we couldn't pull off this workshop. Warm thanks to Tracy and Van Hayes, long-time friends of Jay and Becky, for introducing us to the magic of Dubois. FirstLight would not exist if not for the support and involvement of our good friend, John Knaur of Olympus. Last, but never least, FirstLight as well as my own dreams would have never have come true without the support of my wife, Becky.

TEXT BY JOHN H. OSTDICK



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LIGHTWARE

**Singh-Ray  
Filters**

BACK COVER: Local Cowboy artist John Finley allowed John Knaur to visit his homestead and ranch, which has been in his family for more than 100 years. "After shooting him on horseback and in the coral, we toured his home and saw some of his jewelry, water colors, and bone art," Knaur says. "As we left, he and his dog bid us a friendly farewell.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN KNAUR

"I DIDN'T TAKE THE  
DETAILS FOR GRANTED.  
NEITHER DID MY CAMERA."

— JEFFREY AARONSON  
OLYMPUS VISIONARY

If a sharper image is your goal, you need a camera that can see as well as you do. The new Olympus E-3 features TruePic III and a 10-megapixel MOS image sensor, so you'll get less noise, more accurate color, and finer details in even the lowest light. And only the E-3 has Advanced Image Stabilization with Supersonic Wave Drive built directly into the body, so all 20 Zuiko digital lenses will be stabilized. The Olympus E-3 has the world's fastest auto focus\*, combined with the best-in-industry Dust Reduction System and real-time Live View on a 270° swivel LCD. It's the performance camera that focuses on the details, so you can focus on the shot.

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