

NorthStarNerd.Org

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January 27, 2014

365 Days of Birds: Photographic Learning

Everyone needs to constantly improve their skills. If you never challenge yourself to push beyond your personal comfort zone, it is guaranteed you will perform at best average in life.

With respect to photography, I have started a year long project named 365 Days of Birds. Via this effort I often give myself photo assignments which force me to experiment and improve. Two recent assignments have been: Frozen Harbor and First Bird of the Day. Here is a photo I took on Day #3 of the project, a Snowy Owl at sunset (low light conditions are difficult). Learn more via my project site at [365DaysOfBirds.Com](#).



Posted at 10:28 AM in Northern Life | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

January 17, 2014

Amity! A Northland Winter Tour (free photo eBook)

The publishing of my first book has been timed to correspond with my selection as a finalist in the annual [Lake Superior Photo Contest](#)! Only 37 photos out of 1,450 entered were selected to receive this honor. My award winning photo is displayed below.

Lake Superior Magazine is the leading publication which focuses upon the natural surroundings and the people who live near the largest freshwater lake in the world. The magazine has thousands of subscribers from all over the world. Essentially, think [Arizona Highways](#) except for Lake Superior! Better yet, the magazine has now asked me to start submitting photographs to them on a freelance basis ... for moola!

However, the focus of this post is my new eBook. The format of my eBook is Adobe PDF which will allow viewing on any device (tablet, pc, etc). While there is no charge for

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which will allow viewing on any device (tablet, pc, etc). While there is no charge for this eBook, if you discover uses for my book beyond your personal enjoyment, please inform me of that use, grant me full attribution and link back to this site. Thank you.

- Download eBook: [Amity! A Northland Winter Tour.](#) (free / pdf file)

For the techies / photographers who are curious on how this book was created, I chose to utilize the online service, [Blurb](#). One first locally installs their free book creation software on your personal computer. When you have finished creating a book, you upload the data to [Blurb](#). For a nominal fee, you may obtain a professional quality pdf copy of your book. While I could have used [Adobe InDesign](#), their product is much more complex and costly.

Finally, here is my [Lake Superior Photo Magazine Contest](#) Finalist: "I see you!"



Posted at 10:25 AM in Northern Life | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

January 08, 2014

Sea Smoke Arrival!

The news media has been all excited about our current cold snap. Duluth as one of the coldest, most northern cities, has received lots of attention. The last few mornings the temperature at 7 am has been around -25F (not including windchill). Guess what, life goes on! I was even out cross-country skiing yesterday afternoon when the temperature rose to -7F.

During this cold snap, I am often out just before dawn, and then early morning with my camera. This photograph which I took three mornings epitomizes the cold ... it is the Canadian Laker, [Baie Comeau](#), arriving in the sea smoke at the entrance to the Duluth harbor. Click upon the image to view at full size and resolution.



Posted at 06:41 AM in Northern Life | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

[Bookending the North Woods Night](#)
[Bookending the North Woods Night](#)

[The Benefits of a 365 Day Photography Project](#)

[From Glaciers to the Sea Bike Tour](#)

[Giving Away your Skills!](#)

[NorthStar Nerd Photography](#)

[Northern Lights shine for the NorthStar Nerd!](#)

Saving a Web Page as a PDF file

For years I have used Snagit for screen capture, and occasionally capture web pages and then saved that content as a pdf file. While I will still continue to use Snagit for many screen captures, this dog has finally learned a new trick. For saving web pages to pdf, using the Google Chrome web browser yields a much better result. There are two options:

1. Directly save a web page using Chrome's native pdf support
(or)
2. Install the free <Print Friendly & PDF> Chrome extension and save to pdf

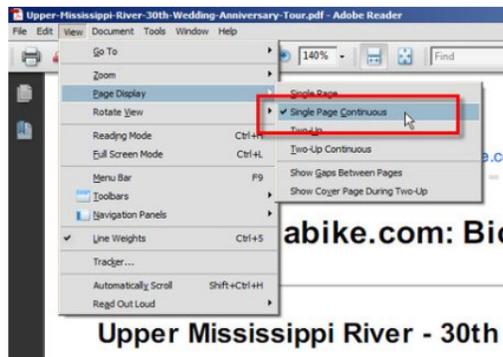
Try the basic Chrome functionality, but if ... like me ... you want to expand text of a web page without expanding the corresponding graphics, use [Print Friendly & PDF](#). Here are some screenshots, and a [resulting PDF file](#) from last Summer's Upper Mississippi River - 30th Wedding Anniversary Tour Bike Tour. The pdf file was generated using Print Friendly & PDF, not Google Chrome's native print capabilities.

Other comments:

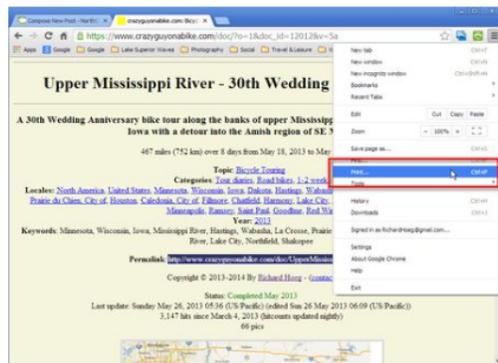
- Google Chrome allows one to expand/decrease text and graphics, but only in tandem ... not seperately
- If one only wants to save text, Print Friendly & PDF enables one to strip out graphics

Click upon any screenshot to view at full size and resolution.

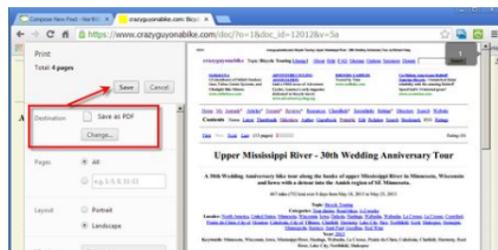
Adobe Reader Settings: Set <View><Page Display> to <Single Page Contiuous>



Google PDF Print Screenshot #1

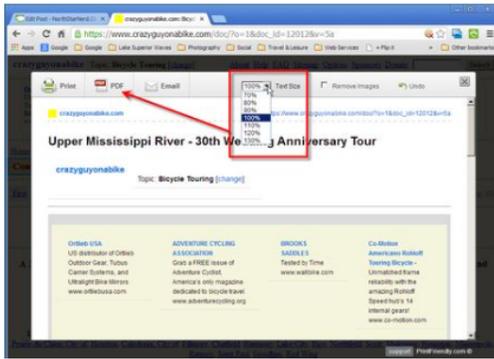


Google PDF Print Screenshot #2





Print Friendly & PDF



Posted at 09:24 PM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

December 23, 2013

White Water Skiing!

It's a tradition here in the Northland that when the snows fly and the ice thickens, it is time to Nordic ski up some of the rivers that empty into Lake Superior. This afternoon, I had a great time cross-country skiing up the Knife River and one of its tributaries. It is truly a unique experience to hear the sounds of rapids bubbling underneath your ski boot, or to ski down a small waterfall.

One word of warning. It is important to know your streams and rivers. Current can be dangerous, but with proper knowledge of a river system, white water skiing allows the individual to reach back-country not very accessible during the rest of the year.

Here are two photos from today's ski. Click upon any image to view at full size and resolution.

A Knife River Tributary ... getting narrower



The Knife River ... looking upstream





Posted at 04:15 PM in Northern Life | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

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