



The Grand Canyon Photography Club

NEWSLETTER

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Basic Exposure

How to Take Charge of Exposure in Your Camera

The February 13 meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club will feature a program on basic exposure presented by David Ralph. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Gmeiner Art and Cultural Center in Wellsboro, PA.



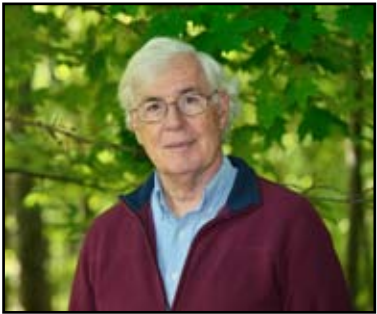
©David Ralph

He recently retired after 43 years as a legal services attorney for the poor. He looks forward to some travel photography in retirement, advancing his Photoshop skills, and increasing his time with the Grand Canyon Photography Club.

Some club members have been asking for a simple approach to exposure. The program will try to answer this question for any camera, from point and shoot to advanced DSLR. We will survey the basics of exposure and the various systems found in many cameras, and how to influence exposure when we want to be in charge instead of the camera's computer.

David is the incoming president of the club for 2018. He has been a member of the club for about 10 years. David has been an amateur photographer for over 50 years. He is primarily an available-light shooter, who likes landscapes, and occasionally trying to capture wildlife.

His other interests include volunteering and serving on the boards of directors of the Arc of Chemung and Catholic Charities of Chemung and Schuylar Counties. He lives with his wife Linda, also a club member, and his stepdaughter and six-year-old grandson, who are both attending school.



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President's Message

There were requests from some club members for a program session on basic exposure, which we will cover at the February meeting. Exposure in cameras has been an evolution; we all learn that it does not always work out how we plan. In the 1960's, we had film SLRs, with only manual shutter speed, manual aperture, and maybe a clip on, match needle light meter. ISO was manual too - by loading the film of choice. (Ordinary film ISO/ASA only ranged from 25 to 400, or ISO 800 - 1,000+ specialty films with grainy images.) One got very comfortable setting shutter and aperture for every individual shot, got used to common settings, or and got used to giving up because there was not enough light. And, we got some bad exposures.

By the 1980s, we had film SLRs and film compact cameras with automatic exposure modes. I had an Olympus OM-2n film SLR, which still had manual match needle, but it had automated aperture priority. Whoohoo! This OM could automatically make two minute long exposures, reading the light reflected from the film. Like a lot of other people, I became addicted to aperture priority because the aperture controls depth of field. I still am. And, like everyone else I soon relied on automatic exposure most of the time. But, one could still get poor exposures.

Now we all have computerized, digital cameras. Often with seldom used manual, or automated shutter or aperture priority, or variable ISO control, or automated bracketing of shutter or aperture or ISO or white balance or flash, or program control of aperture and shutter together, or fully automatic everything (thus lack of control), or "scenes" for snow, portraits, landscape, kids, sunsets or you name it. The camera's metering can be a spot meter, center-weighted averaging, an averaging meter, matrix meter analysis of the framed image by the camera computer, and even a few cameras which can find a face to meter from. We can choose from one or all modes depending on our particular gear. We can usually "influence" exposure even on the automatic-only cameras. It works amazingly well, until it doesn't. But, we all can learn a lot trying out the various modes for different images, and learning what works for us and what does not.

As some of you know, Linda and I just took a whirlwind bus tour of the British Isles now that I am retired. I took one Nikon DSLR, one jack of all trades 24-120mm f/4 lens, with vibration reduction, no flash, and a tripod. The tripod stayed in my bag because the vibration reduction worked so wonderfully - at times.

And, predictably, I got my share of bad photos, blurry grab shots out of the bus window at highway speed - in dim light, or with crowds who would not get out of the way, but also often due to my not realizing just how dim the light can be in winter, in England. American experience told me in aperture priority mode, at f/7.1, that 800 ISO should yield fast enough shutter speed to freeze ordinary action. Fast enough to freeze a few Windsor Castle guardsmen marching by, right? Nope. Not in outdoors, in January, at 3:00 p.m., in England. OK, blur does suggest motion, right?



Windsor Guardsmen
©David Ralph

It is an amazing journey, folks, this photography. We keep exposing, and we keep learning from both our mistakes and our successes.

David Ralph



Minutes for January 11, 2018

On a warm winter evening (27 F), our new president David Ralph called our monthly meeting to order at 7:03. The first order of business was the announcement that Diane Cobourn had volunteered to be our new vice-president. All present quickly voted her into office! Also, dues of \$20 per member are due for the New Year, 2018. The minutes of the December meeting were approved as submitted.

Our program was an in-depth look at composition. Bruce Dart provided a handout which contained a useful synopsis of the video he presented to us. Photographer Tim Cooper produced and narrated the video. We viewers enjoyed seeing his approach to many compositional elements. We were enriched by his examples and descriptions. I personally liked the idea of contrasting areas side-by-side; and a topic Cooper mentioned in passing: "secondary subjects." All his ideas were worthy of

consideration, but remember it is our individuality that might make our photographs unique.

The critique on our "Frozen" topic/assignment was presented and led by Gary Thompson. Thirteen members contributed images for us to study and react to. We enjoyed images ranging from ice skaters at Rockefeller Center with a huge Christmas tree and its lights dominating the background by Bob Bair, to a single oak leaf half-frozen in the snow with warm tones by Ken Meyer, to a frozen Margarita compliments of Mia Lisa Anderson's ongoing still-life experiments.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Bozzo

2018 Officers:

President: David Ralph
Vice President: Diane Cobourn
Treasurer: Gary Thompson
Recording Secretary: Paul Bozzo
Corresponding Secretary:
Judith Giddings

Directors:

2017-2018: Bob Stoffregen, Sharon Connolly
2018-2019: Nancy Bickham, Linda Stager

Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Bruce Dart
Membership: Gary Thompson
Exhibits: Bruce Dart
Website: Mia Lisa Anderson
Publicity: Lonny Frost

For more information, please contact:
David Ralph
E-mail: president@gcphotoclub.org

Treasurer's Report for January 2018

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$616.34 |
| | |
| Cash IN (2018 dues) | \$305.00 |
| | |
| Ending Balance | \$918.34 |

*Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Thompson, Treasurer*

2018 Club Dues Are Now Being Accepted

Please bring your cash or check (payable to GCPC) to the March meeting or send your dues to the GCPC treasurer:

Gary Thompson
285 Owen Hollow Road
Big Flats, NY 14814

Individual: \$20.00
Family: \$35.00



Notes About the Cover Photo
"Tioga State Forest" by Paul Bozzo

I have taken to capturing the areas around my searches for waterfalls. One of the most accessible waterfalls in our area is just off the Landrus Road a few miles from Arnot. I go there often if I have limited time. It is on Lick Creek in the Tioga State Forest. The entire area is beautiful in all our seasons. I used the setting "P" (on a Canon DSLR) which means I pick the ISO (film sensitivity). I was blessed with hazy sunlight for my forest image so, at 100 ISO, I captured the image with a shutter speed of 125th of a second. That was quick enough to prevent blurring.

I began my editing with Photo Shop Elements to straighten the Hemlock tree trunks and do some cropping. I then used the Nik Suite to improve the details and the color. In the "Color Efex" tab, I used "Detail Extractor" and my new discovery "Contrast Color Range." In the Nik Suite tab "Viveza 2," I made a "control point" to lighten the rocks in the lower right-hand corner. I'm sorry to be so technical but you will see in the before and after images that I did much work to bring out the natural beauty:



Before editing



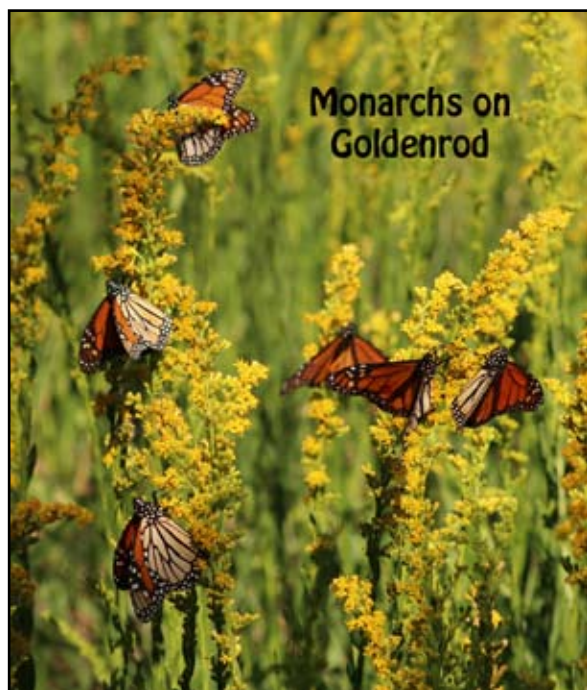
For me, it is great fun to "develop" images! Still learning.... Paul



Winter Surprise



A year ago this month I wrote an article about butterflies here in Cedar Key. It is such a pleasure to see these colorful creatures this time of year when I was used to ice, snow and cold temperatures. Well, they were here again this winter. At one point there were probably a couple hundred of them feeding on a small patch of goldenrod right out on the dock area where most of the restaurants and stores are here in town. Furthermore, this year, Ron and I saw lots of them flying over the Gulf of Mexico when we were out on our boat. It is sort of disconcerting to see these fragile beings flitting along six miles out over open water.



Ann-ecdotes

Ann Kamzelski presents tips, techniques, and creative ideas for getting great photos.

Then a friend kept telling me that I had to go to Cemetery Point Park to see all the Monarch caterpillars. He showed me a picture on his phone with several large caterpillars on a single milkweed plant. When I finally got around to stopping at this tiny park, most of the caterpillars had moved to someplace to transform into their chrysalis stage. They did a great job of hiding since neither of us could find them. There were still two smaller caterpillars on the plants and several adult Monarchs along with lots of Queen Butterflies.



Now, I knew that the Monarchs migrated, and I also knew that they came to Florida, but I didn't know that they reproduced here in the winter. Anyway, I had my camera along so I decided to take some images of the butterflies. And what to my wondering eyes should appear (OK, I am still in the holiday spirit), but a butterfly with a sticker on its wing. I followed it around until I could get a shot good enough to be able to read the writing on the tag.





I had never come across a tagged butterfly before and was quite excited with this find. I went home and called the number on the tag to report my find. As it turns out, the tag came from an organization called Monarch Watch (www.monarchwatch.org) located at the University of Kansas. This organization disperses tags to different locations and then collects data from the tags to do research on Monarch migration. The tag that I found had been sent to the US Fish & Wildlife Service – Coastal Program in Charleston, SC. Since it was a public entity that had gotten the tag, the Monarch Watch people gave me the contact information. I sent my photos to South Carolina. They were forwarded to a fellow in South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources who had actually tagged the butterfly on October 28th in Folly Beach, SC. That butterfly had made a trip of approximately 370 miles in 51 days (or less depending on when it actually arrived in Cedar Key). Pretty remarkable!

Apparently, besides the well-known location in Mexico, Monarchs also winter in California, Arizona, coastal South Carolina and southern Florida. I have seen Monarchs in



Cedar Key all winter long, but not in any significant amounts, just a few stragglers who decided that they like our island. The masses pass through here from late October to early December on their way to a warmer location.

Monarch Watch has a nice map showing the migration routes and wintering locations. They also provided lots of other information about this amazing insect. Below is a quote from their website that says it all:

"In all the world, no butterflies migrate like the Monarchs of North America. They travel much farther than all other tropical butterflies, up to three thousand miles. They are the only butterflies to make such a long, two way migration every year. Amazingly, they fly in masses to the same winter roosts, often to the exact same trees. Their migration is more the type we expect from birds or whales. However, unlike birds and whales, individuals only make the round-trip once. It is their children's grandchildren that return south the following fall."

Visit Ann's website at <http://photoartbyann.com>
Text and images by Ann Kamzelski



Image above and description are an excerpt from Ann's article in the July 2014 GCPC newsletter:

One of my favorite projects was to photograph the lifecycle of the monarch butterfly....I researched it on the internet and learned how to raise the caterpillars to take shots of them changing through their many stages. It took me two years to get all the images that I wanted. I then took the individual photos and made a composite of the entire cycle on one image and also did a short video. processing was just conversion to B&W, remove some other lights in the background and a bump of the contrast.



January Critique: Frozen



Frozen
©Linda Ralph



Winter in Tioga
©Diane Cobourn



Best Seat in the House
©David Ralph



Remembrance
©Ken Meyer



©Suzan Richar



Icy Morning
©Ann Kamzelski



Skating at Rockefeller Center
©Bob Bair



Margaritaville
©Mia Lisa Anderson



Winter Sunset 2017
©Dwaine Gipe



GCPC 2018 Calendar of Events

Meetings are at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month
at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center unless otherwise noted.

Mini-solo Shows at the Native Bagel, Central Avenue, Wellsboro: February, Suzan Richar, Max Johnson, Kelle Johnson; March, Bruce Dart.

The Warehouse Theatre: Various members.

February 13 - David Ralph, *Basic Exposure*; Critique Leader, Gary Thompson, Theme, *Composition Elements*

March 13 - Paul Bozzo, *Using Layers in Photoshop Elements*; Critique Leader, Gary Thompson, Theme, *Same image with two different exposure settings*.

April 10 - To Be Announced; Critique Leader, Gary Thompson, Theme, *Use of Layers*

May 8 - Stitching a Panorama

June 12 - Workshop at Ann Kamzelski's, no critique.

Please contact Bruce Dart at bdphoto@ptd.net if you are interested in displaying your photos at the Native Bagel or if you have images suitable for display at the Warehouse Gallery.

Mystery Macro

How observant are you?

What is this?
Send your guess to
bdphoto@ptd.net



©Jan Keck

No one guessed this
mystery. It is part of
a sculpture made of
discarded objects.



©Jan Keck

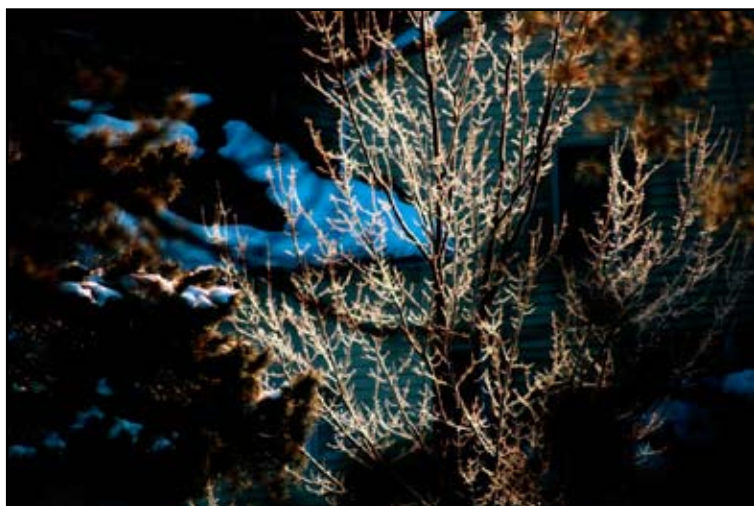




Frozen in Christmas ©Bruce Dart



Tree Copse in Hayden Valley ©Karin Meyer



Icy ©Nancy Bickham

February 13 **Meeting At a Glance**

Program:

David Ralph, *Basic Exposure*

Critique Leader, Gary Thompson,
Theme, *Composition*

Snacks and Beverages:

David & Linda Ralph (again!)



©Gary Thompson