



The Grand Canyon Photography Club

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 7|JULY 2018

Nightscape Photography

The July 10th meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography club will feature a program by Bob Stoffregen on photographing night skies. The program will begin at 7 pm at the Gmeiner Art and Cultural Center.



Yavapai Star Fall ©Bob Stoffregen

on either July 13th or July 14th, depending on the weather. Cherry Springs State Park is consistently rated one of the best places on the planet for star gazing and it presents excellent opportunities for star photography when skies are clear. Bob has

Nightscape photography is not difficult and can be very rewarding. Surprisingly good results can be obtained with a standard DSLR, a kit lens and tripod. The program will present tips and tricks on nightscape photography including camera settings, recommended equipment, accessories, when and where to get good results, new technology, and it will touch briefly on post-processing. In addition, there will be a handout for everyone to use as a reference on their own night outing. Give it a try. He believes you will come away with a new sense of wonderment and a different perspective on the universe we are a part of.

As a follow-up to his presentation, Bob will host a star photography outing at Cherry Springs State Park, located near Coudersport on PA 44 in Potter County,

taken several groups in the past and spends his time helping others obtain the best images.

For those who are planning to attend the Cherry Springs trip, Bob will watch the weather closely and decide on either the 13th or 14th. There is no moon either night and aside from weather, the moon is the biggest factor to consider when trying to capture the most stars.

Bob will pass around a sheet at the meeting for interested members and their contact info. Please note that the trip is totally weather dependant and can be cancelled at the last minute due to cloudy skies. Unfortunately this is always a last minute decision, usually the day before, as central PA weather can be finicky.

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Bob Stoffregen has been a serious hobbyist photographer for many years, having studied photography at the Art Institute of Ft Lauderdale in the late seventies. Back then it was all film, learning the basics of exposure, theory, composition, black and white as well as color dark room procedures and studio work. He combined his love of the water and photography while diving off Florida's coast and the Florida Keys shooting many rolls of Kodachrome slide film.

After a long hiatus from the hobby, he recently found new interest, but now it's mostly a digital world. Even

so, the basics learned in those early days still apply as he now learns new lessons of pixels and noise, file sizes and computer programs.

In his pursuit to sweat the details and a love of wonderful things, his new personal challenge is to point his lenses skyward hoping to capture and share the splendor of the night sky with others.

Bob is a Project Manager/Sales Consultant for Supply Source Inc in Williamsport, PA. His interests include fly fishing, square-foot gardening, tinkering around the house and..well...photography.

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



Starry Overlook ©Bob Stoffregen



President's Message

Big Black Lens Syndrome

My comment this month is provoked, at first, by an article in the July 2018 issue of Outdoor Photographer. It discusses the fact that since January 2018, tripods are effectively banned for commercial workshops in any area of Zion National Park which is accessed

by a trail in Zion Canyon. Going to a venue with a seasoned expert photographer, one would think, is the best way to learn landscape photography in a spectacular venue. Not in Zion anymore! For now, solo photographers can still take in that tripod, and use it sensibly. That is, if not crowded out. It seems part of the impetus for the tripod ban is the result of a very successful international advertising campaign by the State of Utah to promote its national parks and which resulted in a massive increase in visitation starting in 2014, from around three million per year to 4.5 million per year in 2017. Crowds may have made Zion a very difficult photography site even without the tripod ban. What would Ansel Adams have done?

But, such bans are much closer to home, and in surprising ways to me, at least. E.g., my wife Linda lived on the shore of Lake Champlain up until about seven years ago. We contemplated visits to Montreal's highly regarded Montreal Botanical Garden. The rules have to be scrutinized to appreciate the suffocation of photography. Both tripods and monopods are prohibited in either the greenhouses or the outdoor flower beds. Further, commercial and professional (artistic or other) photography is generally prohibited without a permit. This classification includes "the



©David Ralph

presence of a model, production of a portfolio and student projects." We concluded that a visit would not be worthwhile.

But, I was dumbfounded on 5/29/2018, the day after Memorial Day, when I visited Woodlawn National Cemetery. I intended to try a panoramic shot of the gravestones with the

little flags in front of each. I wanted no people just flags and stones. First, I was disappointed that by mid-morning a trove of volunteers was dispersed throughout the cemetery, picking up the flags. Worse, moments after opening the trunk of my car to get my camera and tripod, I was aggressively accosted by a private security guard. He told me that I could not take photos, and was in my face, demanding to know what I was up to, was this a commercial project, for whom and etc. I am VietNam war vet, and I have been there in previous years with no issue at all. But, my being a vet should not matter: no citizen should be treated such. I engaged him with friendly gab. It turns out that I had known his uncle, a deceased attorney in Elmira. He himself had once bought a Nikon F3, a professional film body, probably not sure of what he had. Would he have stopped me if I had been going to shoot with a cell phone? Nope. It was because I had a big, black camera and tripod. We became friends of sorts, and he said I could shoot after all if I protect the privacy of the departed; i.e., names on tombstones. And, would I like to meet the Supervisor? Yep!

So, I met the deputy and then the Supervisor. Since we were both vets, he began to trust me, and I could have free run of the place. It turns out their sensitivity is a result of the racial troubles flowing

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(President's Message, Continued)

from the incidents at Charlottesville, Va., last August. The not so well known aftermath was that some hotheads went to other VA cemeteries and damaged Confederate monuments, including one where a vehicle was used to pull down a monument from its pedestal. The VA is afraid of repeat incidents. He also mentioned the privacy of families with names of the departed on the stones. This latter makes not sense to me since it is public information, but that is what they use for justification. There is a VA web page which speaks to photography rules, which I find as clear as mud, and which does not mention cell phones versus very capable cameras like my Nikon. It is my personal opinion that cell phones are far more dangerous since

they can send images instantly to social media. We all have seen the power of such images after rocketing around the world in minutes.

The bottom-line lesson for all of us is that prior planning is necessary more than ever when visiting any public monument like a National Park, State Park, museum, garden, etc. Talk to those in charge, and dispel their fears. And know again that big, black cameras will draw fearful attention far more than those dangerous smart phones.

David Ralph



Flag in the Window ©Bruce Dart



**A Note About the Cover Photo
“Rainy Days and Steam” by Linda Stager**



Being a tourist always provides opportunities for great photos. We had gone to Tionesta PA for the firefly festival and realized that while we were there, the Oil Creek and Titusville Railroad was doing its steam weekend excursions.

When the weather turned to pouring rain, I figured I'd get some out of the ordinary photos. So I donned my raincoat and went to see.

The rain and the steam combined to create a “phantom train” look. I didn't do much post processing at all. All of that fog and steam came naturally. I did put a white vignette on the photo. I hope you like it. I do!

Dues Reminder

Your dues enable us bring in outside speakers, to pay honoraria for judges and prizes for shows, or purchase useful or helpful equipment or resources.

If you haven't yet paid your dues, please bring your cash or check (payable to GCPC) to the July 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

Treasurer's Report for June 2018

Beginning Balance	\$1216.34
Cash In	
Cash Out	
Bank fee	\$3.00
Ending Balance	\$1213.34

*Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Thompson, Treasurer*



Russ Burden's Photo Tip of the Week

*Photo Tips from June 25 and July 2, 2018:
Reproduced here with the kind permission of Russ Burden*

Russ Burden Nature Photography Tours



Alphabetical Photography Parts 1 and 2: A - B - C - D, and E - F - G - H

If you've received my Tips of the Week for awhile, you know that each week I share lots of information on a specific photographic topic. To mix things up, I decided to present the photographic alphabet and share given photo techniques from A - Z. Over the course of this series, I'll guide you down the path of photographic knowledge with a concept for each letter of the alphabet. Consider it a test to see just how much you know about each topic or technique. If the information is new to you, as always, use it to your advantage.

A is for Aperture: The aperture controls the amount of light that strikes the sensor. As the opening of the aperture gets smaller, less light hits the sensor. This in turn calls for a slower shutter speed to attain a proper exposure. If the ambient light is low, a tripod is necessary to stabilize the camera and lens to get a sharp photo. Examples of wide open apertures are f2.8 / f4 / f5.6. Examples of stopped down apertures are f16 / f22 / f32. The aperture also controls depth of field. The more the aperture is stopped down, the greater the depth of field. While other factors come into play, if you want foreground to background sharpness, use a small aperture.

B is for Bracket: In tough lighting situations, the meter can be fooled. This results in highlights that show no detail or blocked up shadows. Often a compromise must be made to sacrifice shadow detail for the sake of not blowing out the highlights. If you bracket, you'll wind up with a series of exposures where one reveals shadow detail and the other reveals highlight detail. Optimize the one that's the best compromise. The alternative is to run the entire bracketed series through HDR software and let the computer find the best parts of each exposure. I recommend the following bracketed series for all situations where the exposure is difficult: minus 2 stops / minus 1 stop / on the meter reading / plus one stop / plus two stops.

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C is for Composition: Good composition is important to the success of an image. The good news is composition can be taught. While it's often said that successful photographers have a great eye for composition, what's to say that when they started, their eye was not trained. Use the rule of thirds to place important elements. Imagine a tic tac toe overlay inside your viewfinder. The lines intersect at the points of the rule of thirds. Leave room for subjects to move or look. Don't place them close to the edge of the frame relative to the direction in which they move or glance. Try to build triangles with multiple subjects so the eye flows around the photo. Use leading lines to direct the viewer's eye to the primary element. Take a class, read a book and continue to read my Tips of the Week to learn more rules of good composition.

D is for Delete: Use "The Place Holder" concept. If an image you capture is not better than one you already have, delete it unless you plan to show your second or third best. The loser of the Super Bowl doesn't get a trophy! If it's your first capture of a given subject, keep the best. When you revisit the area or make more images of the same subject, get rid of the ones that now play second fiddle. Also, think about what you already have. For instance, if you go to your favorite national park and the light is horrible, in that you previously visited it under better conditions, you're not going to come back with better images compared to the place holders you currently have in your files. Refrain from pressing the shutter if all you're going to do is hit the delete button.

E is for Edit: When I get back from a shoot, I do what I call a Blast Through. I immediately discard the softly focused, poorly cropped, poorly exposed, eyes closed, unmistakable throw aways. If I notice any killer pics, I assign them four stars. For this Blast Through I do the obvious for only the best and worst. The reason is I'm still too emotionally attached to the photos. If I try to rank them into a more fine tuned hierarchy, my sentiments, challenges to get the image, etc. get in my way because I'm still too subjective. With this in mind, I separate myself for a period of time and revisit each folder a month or so later at which point I can be objective.

F is for Focus: Today's DSLR's are complex and have many options with regards to focusing. It behooves you to read your manual to learn the differences. Single shot focus works fine for static subjects. Continuous works great for moving subjects. The problem is, if you use single shot mode for a moving subject, the shutter won't release unless the camera detects sharp focus. If you're photographing action, this is the kiss of death. Add into the mix Dynamic focus, 3D focus, or close focus priority, and it gets even more confusing. The point I make is each option works better for a given situation. Learn them all and set the camera to the best one for a given situation.

G is for Graduated ND Filter: A 2 stop soft edge graduated neutral density filter should be in every nature photographer's arsenal. They help tame the contrast of a bright sky in conjunction with a dark foreground. They also help tame a bright foreground, such as a flowing river or white rocks, in conjunction with a dark background. The dark part of the filter gets placed over the bright upper or lower portion of the composition. The clear part has no exposure impact on the opposite side. If you're not familiar with its use, it's time to Google graduated ND filters.

H is for Histogram: DON'T judge exposure by what it LOOKS like on the LCD. I guarantee you'll underexpose just about every photo you make. Most images "LOOK" better on the LCD when they're a bit darker but digital images are about numbers and math - ones and zeros. The histogram from the image that looks better will be pushed more to the dark side and result in shadow areas that lose detail. If you try to bring up that shadow detail, those areas become noisy. With the above in mind, base your exposure off the histogram, not by what the photo looks like on the LCD.

To learn more about this subject, join me on one of my photo tours or safaris. Please visit www.russburdenphotography.com to get more information.

FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Russ-Burden-Photography/138323855629?ref_type=bookmark

Check out more of my photo tips in my weekly column on the *Outdoor Photographer* website. On the home page, click on the TIPS AND TECHNIQUES banner and then go to Photo Tip Of The Week. Feel free to leave some positive comments.

Russ



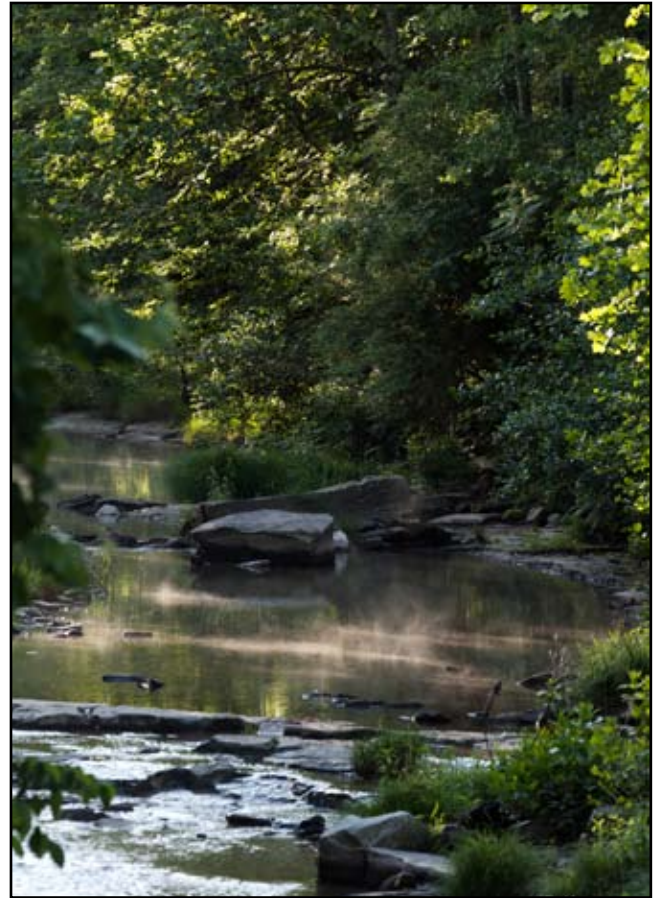
Ice Cold ©Bob Stoffregen



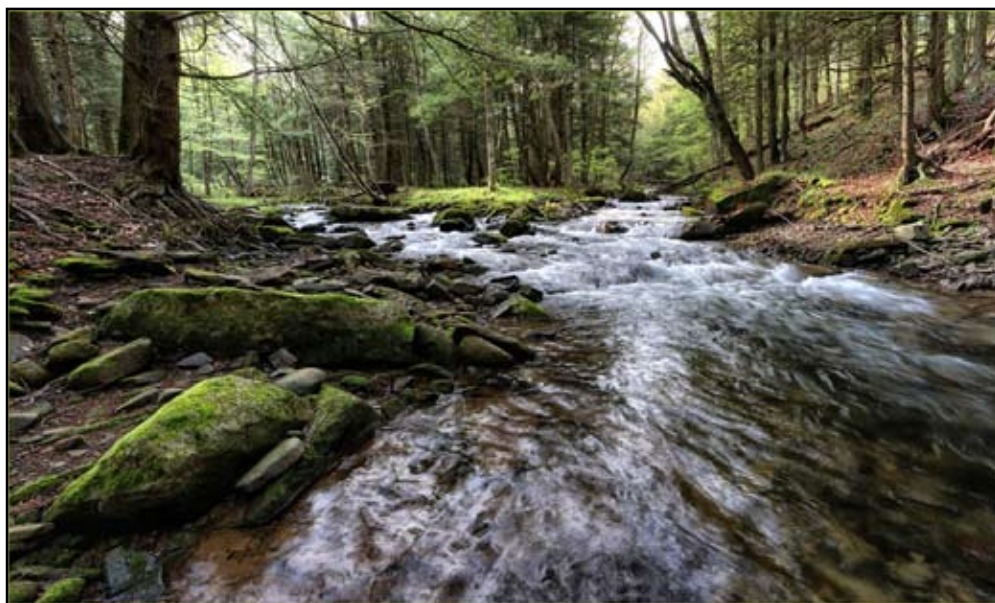
Starry Sunset ©Bob Stoffregen



*Coon Creek ©Paul Bozzo
(A non-typical panorama made with three
horizontal images stacked vertically.)*



Mill Creek ©Diane Cobourn



*Coon Creek, near County Bridge ©Paul Bozzo
(A traditional panorama made with five vertical images)*



Harris Hill Trio ©David Ralph

Here's a tow plane towing a sail plane not far from the Harris Hill Glider Field, on 6/19/2018. I was on the valley floor, really hoping to get a moon near the mountain top, which was not going to be. Instead, I got lucky when the tow plane turned left after takeoff and nearly crossed the moon. It's part of my wearing glasses - I could not see the entire ground glass, and so my zoom probably could have been tighter for more detail. Nonetheless, if you are wondering, here are the tech details: This shot was taken hand held, in the mid afternoon, 1:56 pm, in Big Flats, New York, USA. The "G" version of the Nikon 80-400mm, at 200mm, f7.1, 1/1000 sec, with a D810.



Outrunning the Train ©Linda Stager



Rainbow Connection ©Ann Kamzelski

*Note from Ann: This is two shots combined.
I had to change the polarizer to make the rainbow stand out in both.*



Summer Fun ©Diane Cobourn



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: July, Linda Stager; August, Bruce Dart.

The Warehouse Theatre: Various members.

July 10 - Bob Stoffregen, *Photographing Night Skies*; Critique Theme, *Images from the June outing or a photo on the theme of "Summer."*

July 13 or 14 (depending on weather): *Night Sky Outing at Cherry Springs.*

August 14 - David Ralph, *Using Lightroom (NIK) Control Points*; Critique Theme, *Night Sky.*

September 11 - To Be Announced, paid speaker/program. Theme: *Image using NIK control points.*

October 9 - Bruce Dart, *Basic Lighting and Posing for Portraiture.*

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?
Hint: Something
you can see in
your travels
around the area.
Send your guess
to bdphoto@ptd.net.



©Jan Keck

No one guessed this
mystery. It is the
debris field from a
skeet shooting range.



©Jan Keck



Memorial to Veterans of All Wars ©Bruce Dart



Watching Over the Courthouse ©Bruce Dart



Williamsport Older Home ©Dwayne Gipe



Williamsport Alley Apartments ©Dwaine Gipe

July 10
Meeting At a Glance

Program: Bob Stoffregen:
Nightscape Photography

Critique: Photos from Outing
or recent Summer photos

Snacks: Linda Stager

Beverages: Sharon Connolly



Spring Blooms ©Bruce Dart