



Photo by Ed Quinn

APC ACTIVITIES

<u>Next Meeting</u>	TBA	<u>Exhibits</u>	TBA
<u>Board Meeting</u>	TBA	<u>Field Trips</u>	
<u>PhotoShows</u>		November 2020	Leaves (no flowers)
Nov. 16, 2020	Shadows	<u>Programs</u>	TBA

President's Comments—November 2020

Behind the Lens with Mike King

“The New Age of Photography”

This month I purchased a new smartphone. I must admit the new phone has quite an impressive camera. I would have never guessed years ago that I would carry a smartphone in my pocket and not carry a “camera” of some type as the main photographic source. I guess I have crossed the line into the new age of photography. I’m somewhat embarrassed and feel bad that all my years of photographic skills have narrowed to a thin tiny computer driven megapixel marvel. For years I have resorted to carrying a compact digital small zoom pocket camera to use on day trips and hikes when I wanted something better than a phone. I have proven to myself the reality that we are living in a time of advanced technology beyond our thoughts of a few years ago. Will I leave my DSLR at home and never use it again? I hope not. Absolutely not. However, recently on a much-needed trip out of town (first getaway of the year) I carried my DSLR and used it for the “quality shots” when I was near the car. However, when we decided to hike on a waterfall trail, I left the DSLR in the car and carried only the compact digital camera and my new smartphone. The results were amazing! True the images have only been seen on my phone and laptop and not enlarged to show quality of image. But, for what most people do with images today, it’s impressive. What will happen to DSLR’s, compact digital cameras, and any other real camera in the future? Will DSLR’s disappear? I keep referring to my phone as my camera.

How will the new high-tech cameras, I mean phones change our photography in the future. Have you seen a young person using anything other than a smartphone for taking photos?

I must admit that the camera, I mean phone can take photos, videos, email them, edit and many other things I haven’t even tried. You can even Bluetooth your DSLR images to your smartphone

for uploading to the internet with ease.

What are your thoughts about the new high-tech phone cameras? Do you use your smartphone as your back up camera or even as your primary camera? I have included a photo from my DSLR and a photo from my Phone.

Times are changing and technology keeps getting better.

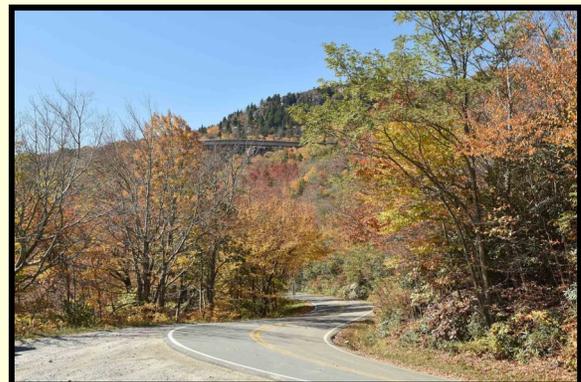
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DSLR



Smartphone



“Stay at Home” Member Photos



By Hugh Comfort

APC BOARD

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November PhotoShow

Critique by Chris Whitted

Chris is a Chatham County resident that returned to his home state of North Carolina in 2004 after earning a degree in Accounting at Virginia Tech. He is currently a Senior Financial Analyst during the week and a photographer on the weekend. Much of his time with a camera is spent on the Haw River or Jordan Lake taking landscape photographs while keeping an eye out for Bald Eagles. His photos have been used by Our State magazine, Wildlife in North Carolina Magazine, B&H Photo, Pittsboro Parks, Friends of the Lower Haw River State Natural Area, and the Triangle Land Conservancy. His eagerness to learn photography started in 2013, and the capability to learn something new every day from photography is what keeps him behind the lens.

2021 PhotoShow Topics

January—Strange Signs

March—Winter

May—Duplicates

July—Pets/Animals

September—Hills & Valleys

November—Time-lapse (using tripod)

Individual Field Trip for November

We had a variety of views in our **Street Scenes** Field Trip; and I hope everyone has had the opportunity to view those photographs.

The Field Trip subject for November is **Leaves (no flowers)**. Last year the warm weather extended late, with lots of fall colors in November. This year it appears that the challenge may be to find the leaves that are left and to see them with different eyes. So get out there early. Remember the ground rules. Although seldom a problem for this subject, good social distancing and masking should be practiced, as needed. The photos on this topic must be taken in **November** and **the entry deadline will be Friday, December 4th**. Up to 5 photos may be submitted. Photos may be taken anywhere you happen to be during November.

Please note: photos from this field trip will be included in the year-end slideshow which will be shared with all club members by Monday, Dec. 21st.

For any questions, call Hugh Comfort (336-350-9241).

Good shooting!

November 16th PhotoShow: Shadows

Keith O'Leary, PhotoShow Chair

We encourage ALL members to submit photographs for our bi-monthly Photo Show and would like to see EVERYONE represented!

We try not to exceed 50 photos per show. Therefore, we ask that you submit a maximum of two (2) photos. We may only use one of your photos based on the number of entries so PLEASE indicate your preferred photo in the file name of each photo (01 or 02; See naming information below). If you have any issues with formatting or submitting, please let us know at apcphotoshow@gmail.com and we will be happy to assist. Also let us know if your submitted photo is not acknowledged within a few days and/or by the deadline.

Submission Details

Number of Entries:

Max of two (2) entries per member. Please indicate your preferred photo with the number 01.

Size:

No larger than 25 MB.

Preferred minimum size is 1024 x 768.

Format:

.jpg

File Naming:

Please rename your photo submissions using the following format:

Firstname.lastname_01 or _02 (*per use preference*)

Example: john.doe_01.jpg john.doe_02.jpg

Email:

Email Address: Send all images to apcphotoshow@gmail.com

Email Subject Line: Include the month of the PhotoShow and your name

Example: Photos for November Photoshow – John Doe

Entry Deadline:

5 PM on Monday, Nov. 9, 2020.

Please Note:

Submissions that do not adhere to the guidelines above may be returned.

Photos may be submitted early for the following show!

Travel Tips by Dick Schenck

(Continued from Last Month)

As long as you are in Beckley, WVA why not continue on to Weston, about 113 miles further north. Weston once was a center of decorative glass production. The Museum of American Glass is worth a visit. If you are a serious collector, there is a docent who can assist you. After that be sure to take a tour of the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum. There is lots of information about it on the internet.



“Stay at Home” Member Photos



By Greg Harkins



By Keith O'Leary

“Stay at Home” Member Photos



By Ed Quinn



By Bob Finley



By Ray Munns

12 Tips for Photographing Stunning Sunsets

By Darren Rowse

'No good travel photo album is complete without the token sunrise or sunset picture!'

Many travelers seem to live by this mantra – however most sunset and sunrise photographs that I see are quite disappointing. They need not be – sunsets and sunrises are not that difficult to photograph!



Tips for Photographing Stunning Sunrises and Sunsets

Think Ahead – While sometimes wonderful sunrise and sunset shots can be taken spontaneously without any forethought, it's often the case that the best ones come out of planning. Scope out places that might be good for sunsets in the day or two before your shoot. Look for interesting places where you might not only be able to see the sun track all the way down but where there will be opportunities for shots that include foreground elements and silhouettes. Sunsets only take half an hour or so, so you want to think about these elements before they start or you might miss the shots you're after.

Find out when the sun will set or rise and get there at least half an hour beforehand as it's often in the lead up to and the time after the sun appears or disappears that the real magic happens.

12 Tips for Photographing Stunning Sunsets . . . Continued



Keep an eye on the weather also. There are a variety of different types of sunsets that produce a range of different types of lights and patterns in the sky. Don't just go for clear days for these shots – while they can produce some wonderful colors, it's usually the times where there is cloud around that the real action happens! Also be aware of days when there is dust or smoke in the air as they can produce amazing results also.

Consider ahead of time what equipment you might need. Include a tripod, lenses that will give you a range of focal lengths, extra batteries, etc.

Composition Techniques

Shoot at a variety of focal lengths – wide angle can create sweeping landscape shots but if you want the sun itself to be a feature of the shot, you'll want to be able to zoom right in.

Keep in mind that the sun is just half a degree across so when you shoot with a wide lens, it will only be taking up a reasonably small part of the photo. If you want it to be a feature of your shot, you'll need to zoom in on it using anything from a 200mm lens upwards. This will increase your need for a tripod!

Also be aware that when you look at the sun at the best of times, it can be dangerous but when you look through a magnifying lens, it can be quite dangerous if the sun is still too high in the sky.

12 Tips for Photographing Stunning Sunsets . . . Continued



Silhouettes as focal points – As with all photos, sunsets need a point of interest and one of the best ways to add one to a picture is to try to incorporate some sort of silhouette into the shot. This could be something large like a mountain range, something that is part of the environment like a palm tree or a pier, or could even be a person.

The great things about silhouettes is that they add mood and context to a sunset or sunrise shot. I'll write more on silhouettes in a future article.

Rule of thirds – Remember the rule of thirds in your photographing of sunrises and sunsets. While you can always break the rule, it's often a good idea to place elements like the horizon, sun, silhouettes, etc. off center.

Exposure Techniques

Shoot at a variety of exposures – If you let your camera decide what shutter length to shoot at, you're likely to get a shot that doesn't really capture the beauty of the light. Quite often the shot will be under exposed because the sky is still reasonably light.

Instead of relying upon the camera's auto mode, a sunset is an ideal time to switch your camera into aperture or shutter priority mode and to take a variety of shots at different exposures.

12 Tips for Photographing Stunning Sunsets . . . Continued

The great thing about sunsets and sunrises is that there is no one 'right' exposure and that you can get stunning results using a variety of them. Also keep in mind that different exposures (aperture and shutter speeds) will produce a variety of different results, so it's worth taking more than just a few shots – the key is to experiment.

I tend to switch into shutter priority mode and start with a relatively quick shutter speed and then slowly work down to slower ones.



Bracketing – Another technique to try to get the right exposure is 'bracketing' where you look at what the camera suggests you take the picture at and then take a few shots at both under and over that mark, i.e. if your camera says to shoot at 1/60th of a second at f/8 you would shoot off a shot at 1/60 at f/5.6 and then at f/11. In doing so you end up with a series of shots at different exposures which will all give you slightly different results and colors. Most DSLR's and some point and shoot digital cameras have a built in bracketing feature so you don't need to do this manually – learn how to use it!

Auto Exposure Lock – Another exposure trick is, if you don't have a bracketing mode or don't feel confident in using it, if your camera has 'auto exposure lock' which allows you to point your camera at a darker place and lock in exposure for that spot (i.e. you could point it at the ground in front of you and lock in that exposure) and then reframe the picture looking at the sunset. This will mean you get a more over exposed shot.

Take camera out of Auto White Balance mode – When you set your camera to 'Auto' in its white balance mode, you run the risk of losing some of the warm golden tones of a sunrise or sunset. Instead, try shooting in 'cloudy' or 'shade' which are usually used in cooler lights and tell your camera to warm things up a little. Alternatively – if you're shooting a sunrise and DO want a cooler moody shot, you can experiment with other white balance settings.

12 Tips for Photographing Stunning Sunsets . . . Continued

Other Sunset and Sunrise Tips



Tripod – If you’re shooting at longer shutter speeds and with longer focal lengths, then a tripod or some other way of ensuring your camera is completely still is essential.

Manual Focus – Sometimes when shooting in extreme lighting conditions, some cameras can have trouble focusing. If this is the case for your camera, consider switching to manual focus to ensure you get nice crisp shots.

Look around you – The wonderful thing about sunsets is that they not only create wonderful colors in the sky in front of you but they also can cast a beautiful golden light that is wonderful for other types of photography. As the sunset progresses keep an eye on other opportunities for shots around you (not just in front of you). You might find a great opportunity for a portrait, landscape shot, macro shot, etc. behind you in the golden light.



Keep Shooting – A sunset or sunrise constantly changes over time and can produce great colors well after the sun goes down or appears, so keep shooting at different exposures and focal lengths as I’ve mentioned above until you’re sure it’s all over.



Digital
Photography
School

Smartphone Photography Tips

By Sunny Shrestha

Smartphones have become an essential part of our daily lives. And with camera quality in smartphones getting better with every iteration, most of us have very capable cameras in our pockets. While taking photos with a smartphone is a simple point-and-shoot job, a little attention to detail can help you take amazing photos. Members of team moment share simple photography hacks to help you take better images with your smartphone:

1. CLEAN YOUR LENS

Sounds pretty basic right? But when it comes to smartphone cameras, we tend to ignore cleanliness a lot. The smartphone regularly comes in contact with dust and lint. When we handle it, the lens can come in contact with our sweat and grease. To cut it short, the lens can get very dirty causing the image to look faded and hazy. Use a good quality brush or a micro-fiber cloth to clean the lens when taking a photo.

2. LOCK YOUR EXPOSURE

When using your smartphone camera in auto-mode, the camera makes all the exposure decisions. As you move the camera around, it continually changes the exposure to try and get an evenly lit image. If you feel the need to lock your exposure when moving the camera around, simply press and hold-down on the screen in your iPhone. This will let you



set your exposure by moving the slider up or down and keep it locked. In case of an Android phone, have a look at your camera settings for a similar option as the option can vary with manufacturers.

3. UNDEREXPOSE IMAGES

Smartphones in general have a tendency to over-expose images. To prevent any potential loss of data due to clipping, it is a good idea to slightly underexpose your images. You can later recover the shadow details while editing.

4. SHOOT RAW

Modern smartphones have the ability to shoot in RAW format. RAW images store more data and give you greater flexibility when editing. See if your smartphone supports this feature. You may need to use a third party app to enable this feature. However, keep in mind that RAW files need to be processed a bit. Otherwise, they appear very flat which is unflattering.

Smartphone Photography Tips . . . Continued

5. CHANGE YOUR ANGLE

Shooting from eye-level is too mainstream. With the flexibility and convenience that smartphones have to offer, try out different angles to get images from a unique perspective.



6. TELE-PANO

Using an add-on tele lens for your smartphone camera, shoot a micro-panorama. This helps you to get a wider shot with a nice compression and depth which the wide native lens lacks. You can later crop the image in any aspect ratio you like.

7. USE GRIDS

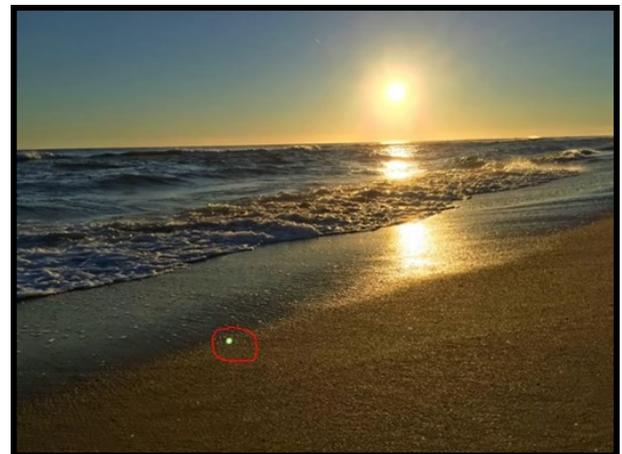
Be sure to enable the grids in your smartphone camera. They work as guides to help you get properly aligned images.

8. WATER BOTTLE TRIPOD

You can't carry a tripod for your smartphone everywhere you go, right? In case you need support for your smartphone while photographing or taking videos, use a coffee cup or a water bottle instead. You can simply lean the smartphone against the cup or bottle while the camera takes photos or records a video.

9. DON'T SHOOT AT THE SUN

Ever noticed some weird bright dots or streaks in your images when shooting directly into the sun? Well, they are called flares and they can be distracting at times. If you notice flares in your images, slightly changing the angle you are shooting at can help you get rid of it. Not so difficult, right?



Low Angle Photography Tips

By Pashmine Mansukhanip

One of the most popular angles to shoot is from the photographer's standing point of view. While this is fine with landscape and other general purpose photography, it does not create high impact visually arresting images.



Photo by kennysarmy; ISO 100, f/9.0, 1/320-second exposure

Most of the professional photographers, who have mastered the art of photography by experimenting and self-learning, produce stunning and engaging photographs that have been taken from low angle. In landscape photography, the foreground can be captured in detail when the photographer is really low and almost lying on the ground. You can always experiment with this style of photography by going low on the floor and take more engaging photographs.

The bottom angle allows the viewer a fresh and different perspective of the same scene or situation. In many cases, this provides a vantage view of the location and allows the viewers to explore new perspective of the monument, landscape and events.

Low angle photography can also be used in events and parties that are organized at various occasions. One more advantage of low angle photography is to capture motion blur of the dancers and performers on the stage. The low angle perspective gives a fresh viewpoint to the audience and adds to the overall excitement of the event.

Low Angle Photography Tips . . . Continued

Capturing children at play from their eye level or lower is yet another advantage of the low angle photography. Photographing children from standing position results in awkward angles and gives a 'head-on' perspective. The facial expressions and the innocence can be captured very well when the photographer explores, experiments and implements low angle photography. When you are clicking photographs of children during any event or function, be sure to go down to their eye level and capture the moments. This will create high impact images that will have a lasting impression.

In most of the digital point and shoot as well as DSLR cameras it is difficult to get a different perspective as the photographer cannot view the scene through viewfinder or LCD screen. However in the recent past, some mid-range and DSLR cameras are equipped with tilt or swirl LCD screens. These LCD screens allow the photographer to view the scene by twisting/turning the LCD screen and keeping the camera almost or touching the ground/floor. In case the floor or ground is not clean or dirt free, the photographer can keep a protective cloth or plastic sheet below the camera and shoot.

A useful accessory in low angle photography is a small sturdy table top tripod of about 6" (15 cm) in height. This provides more versatility and allows the photographer to capture steady shots in low light conditions like sunsets, twilight, etc.



Photo by JC Essentials; ISO 100, f/22.0, 15-second exposure

Low Angle Photography Tips . . . Continued

Another important accessory that can be used is a remote control or time release controller to take photographs. Once the camera is mounted on the small table top tripod, the composition is finalized and actual shooting can be done from a comfortable distance by using a remote control device. Most of the modern Digital SLRs are compatible with either third-party remote controllers or from their respective manufacturers.

In some cases it may not be possible to shoot at low angles, like crowded markets, street photography or travel photography. It is always worth the time and efforts in exploring this type of photography to gain new perspective and take the photography to the next level of expertise.

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