

## InFocus



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**Officers and Board of Directors.****Officers****President:** Brandon Stokes**Vice President:** Steve Alvey**Secretary:** Sandy Molck**Treasurer:** Goerganne Higgins**Board of Govenors****Past President:** Rex Termain**Print Chairman:** Reney Budz**DPI Chairman:** Dan Abert**Bald Eagles***Submitted by – Brandon Stokes*

With the trees bare and temperatures falling, the Bald Eagles should start making their return. These magnificent birds have been a symbol of our nation's freedom as well as my favorite subject to photograph for many years. I can still remember when I was only able to see them in captivity and to see them in the wild was a rare occurrence.

I remember my first trip many years ago with Dan to Alton Illinois to photograph what was back then a great gathering of Bald Eagles during their migration. I have not heard much on the number of birds they see down there in recent years, but it was worth the trip. Our first year was a great success with many Bald Eagles and Pelicans as well. If you haven't been there, you may want to consider



Canon EOS1D MkII; ISO 1250 Shutter Speed 1/800 @ f5.6; 70-300 Lens

making the short trip on a nice weekend. The town as a lot of history to it and was once known as one of the most haunted towns in Illinois. Which shouldn't keep you from going by the way, I never seen any ghosts down there!

For me though, I think I am going to keep hanging around our area to monitor the population of the Bald Eagles in our own back yard. Last year

seemed like the numbers where in the high teens. I had a successful year last year just sitting at the damn on Washington Street in Kankakee!

A couple of tips when shooting Bald Eagles, is have your servo focus on, use a higher ISO (I tend to use 800+) and have a nice telephoto lens, nothing fancy just enough for a little reach. With those tips you will have a successful shoot.

**Where Did You Take That Picture???***Submitted by Steve Alvey*

Have you ever taken a picture of someone or something on your own property? Of course you have. We all have. No problem there. Now have you ever taken a picture

of someone or something on someone else's property or public property? Of course you have. We all have.

When you take pictures on your own property, be

it at your home, farm land, business, etc, you can do pretty much what you want. But when you are on private or public property, that's whole different story.

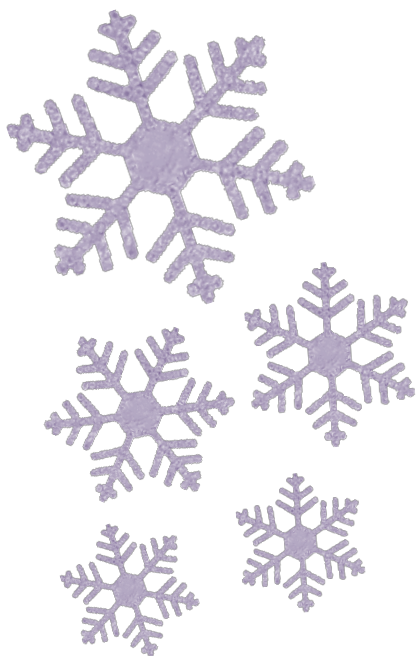
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The Kankakee Area Camera Club is a proud member of the  
Community Arts council of Kankakee County  
Photographic Society of America  
Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association.



*"A camera is a save button  
for the mind's eye."*

~ [Roger Kingston](#)



If you would like to submit or contribute to the Kankakee Area Camera Club newsletter, please email Brandon Stokes at [bstokes0618@gmail.com](mailto:bstokes0618@gmail.com). Also if you have any suggestions or would like to provide any feedback, please fill us in on what we are doing right and what we can improve on.

## Message from the President.

Well, the Holiday season is in full swing and with only one meeting in December, there will be a nice break in club meetings. In fact, it will be next year before we come back. Can you believe that it's going to be 2015 already?

2015, an entire new year begins for the camera club. With the camera club originating back in 1938 according to the

records we have, and breaking for what looks like 3 years for the war, the Kankakee Area Camera Club will be celebrating 75 years of photography. This is a HUGE milestone for the club which I think deserves a similar sized celebration. I will be looking for some ideas from our membership on how to celebrate this milestone. One of the

ideas I think would be interesting to toy around with is hosting an "Open House" photography contest sponsored by the club open to the public.

So over the Holiday break, start brainstorming some ideas to bring to the meeting so we can celebrate a big milestone for our club.

~Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

## December 10<sup>th</sup> – Members Night & Pizza Party

The December meeting will be our members night and pizza party. The members night will feature slideshows that our members have created that will last no more than 10 minutes per slideshow.

This is a night for members to showcase their favorite work such as (vacations, outings, or other photographs). The slideshows will be displayed on the 3 monitors.

Refreshments will be provided that night in the form of pizza, however members are welcome to bring additional refreshments like dessert a tray.

If there are members who are unfamiliar with creating a slideshow, please bring in the images you would like to present on a thumbdrive or camera card, and we will ensure that your work will be showcased during the

slideshow program.

If time allows, we can have a small round table on photoshop/lightroom, or otherwise we can have a mini critique of prints and images that members would like to submit for critique. I think the last critique night we went well and if we can squeez in any time, we can have a bit of image discussion!

## Upcoming Events.

The December outing that was tentatively scheduled for the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled due to the lack of availability of the bus that day. The trip will now be rescheduled for later during the year when the bus can become available for the camera club to use.

Now would be a good time to suggest a trip the camera club can take. We had originally planned on going to Chicago to photograph some cityscapes and other landmarks in addition to the Christmas lights. If we are still interested in going to Chicago please let us know.

If you have another place you think the camera club would enjoy, please let us know so we can start looking into the trip. Our hope is to possible look into January or later in the year to get a new trip organized.

## Learning About Light – Shutter Speed & Aperture

*Submitted by Janet Schleeter*

Last month we covered the role ISO plays in the final outcome of your photo. ISO measures **sensitivity** to light. Aperture (lens opening) and shutter speed work together controlling the **amount** of light that hits the sensor in your camera. Shutter speed = how long the shutter is open. Aperture = how wide the shutter is open. (This is often referred to as the f-stop.) The combination of these 2 determines the amount of your image that is in sharp focus. This is called depth of field.

While beginning to intermediate photographers often use some form of program mode on their camera, letting the camera decide the combination of shutter speed and aperture, more advanced photographers usually choose to shoot with the camera set at either shutter speed priority or aperture priority. This gives the photographer more control of the final image. So, how do you decide which to use when?

If you are shooting a fast moving subject such as a sports event or a bird in flight, and you want the main subject to be sharp, you would use a fast shutter speed such as 1/500<sup>th</sup> or higher. You do

this by using the shutter speed icon on your camera's dial and setting the shutter speed at 1/500. This will give you a shallow depth of field because the shutter is open such a short time. In order to get enough light, the lens will automatically open wider, meaning a larger aperture. Shallow depth of field is often desirable. If you have a crowd at a sporting event, you do not want the viewer's eye to be drawn to the crowd instead of the participant, so by using a fast shutter speed, the crowd will be blurred. The faster the speed used, the more blurred the background.

Conversely, if you want as much as possible to be sharp in your image, choose aperture priority and select a small lens opening. For example, if you are shooting landscapes and have foreground, middle ground, and background subjects you want to be all in focus, you are going to want to leave the lens open as long as practical. Choose an aperture like f-16 or f-32. If set aperture priority, your camera will automatically select a slower shutter speed. It is best to use a tripod in a situation like this. One caution in landscape photography—while the main subject such as a

mountain or barn may not move, grasses and tree branches do, so if it is windy do like your GPS and "recalculate".

Just to confuse you, if you prefer to leave your camera set to one dial position, say shutter speed, you can still handle the example situations as long as you understand the relationship between shutter speed and aperture. For the landscape situation knowing you want large depth of field, you can set your shutter speed at a slow speed such as 1/30<sup>th</sup>. The camera will then set a small aperture automatically.

Professional photographers often shoot totally on manual mode, setting both the shutter speed and aperture manually. I have tried this and can say that it takes a lot of practice. I would like to get to the point that I am comfortable doing this. Right now my preferred setting is usually shutter speed because I shoot a lot of birds. I use the exposure compensation dial on my camera to correct for different lighting situations.

I would like to encourage all of you to stop using those sports, portrait, landscape, program settings on your camera so YOU, not the camera determine the final image.



*"What I like about photographs is that they capture a moment that's gone forever, impossible to reproduce."*

*~Karl Lagerfeld*

## Where Did You Take That Picture??? *Cont'd from page 1*

When shooting on **private property**, please have the courtesy to ask permission **FIRST**. Private property owners don't appreciate people trespassing on their property, especially when they don't know what you're up to. It reassures them that you are there for a specific purpose (i.e. photography) and not something mischievous or with some criminal intent in mind, and you're more likely to get permission and cooperation from them.

You should carry your camera club membership card along with other photo ID (such as driver's license) with you. I had an occasion once while looking for Halloween decorations to photograph for theme competition, to ask a lady whose yard & front porch

were adorned with Halloween decorations, if I could take photos for camera club. She was cautious and asked if I had a membership card, which I had with me, and I showed it to her and she gladly gave me permission.

**Public property** is another matter. While you may not need permission for a park, river/waterway, along a road or highway, but, if you are going into a restricted area, especially property belonging to the military, airports(s), court houses, law enforcement agencies/government buildings, etc., permission is a must. Without permission **FIRST** you may find yourself getting a ticket and having to pay a fine or worse yet, you may get arrested, and you have enough worries trying to get a

good photograph without the need to raise bail money for a mistake you made.

**Respect the property.** Don't throw or leave trash after yourself. Be careful not to break anything such as yard ornaments, yard lights, etc. or cause damage such as stepping on plants/flowers. Don't break off tree branches or plant stems that could damage or possibly kill the tree/plant. Be careful not to cause harm to the little critters crawling around or fowls of the air. And if you move something to take a photo, put that something back where you got it leaving the area like you found it.

Treat & respect others' property like you would want them to treat yours.

## Photo Tip of the Month – Use Live Mode!

Live view mode is included in many of the newer DSLR's in today's market. Live view mode lets you see what you are photographing in "real time" per say meaning you will see what the photograph looks like before you press the shutter button.

One of the advantages I enjoy of live view is that it is similar to locking up your mirror so when you take the image, the mirror is already up and you will avoid "mirror slap"; which in some cases can be

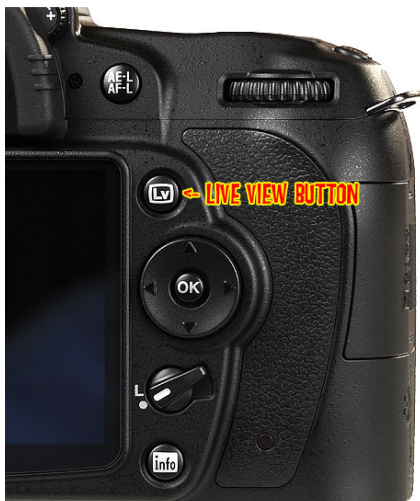
noticeable in your images. Especially when photographing macro subjects. "Mirror Slap" occurs when the mirror goes up to reveal the sensor of your camera to record the scene. In some cases, mirror slap will have negative effects on the sharpness of your image.

The other advantage I like is that while you are in live view mode many cameras allow you to zoom in on the camera LCD for a closer look of your subject. While doing

so, I often times manually focus the image with the live view zoomed in 10x allowing for maximum sharpness of your subject.

Taking advantage of this feature is a wonderful way to improve your images. Photographing using Live View is not always possible, but when you can, use it and you will begin to see sharper images.

-Brandon Stokes



We're on the Web!  
[www.kankakeecameraclub.info](http://www.kankakeecameraclub.info)



## 2014 November Regular Competition

### Color Projected Image – Class B

Image of the Month



*Badlands 2 – Terry Schnell*

**Awards:** “Mt. Rushmore” by Terry Schnell

**Honorable Mentions:** “Narrows Bridge” by Sandy Workman; “Train Car” by Sandy Workman

### Color Projected Image – Class A

Image of the Month



*Castle Hill Light – Reney Budz*

### Digital Project Image – Nature Class B

Image of the Month



*Glacier Waterfall – Kyrak Stokes*

**Awards:** “Badlands Park” by Marita Stokes

**Honorable Mentions:** “Prairie Dog” by Marita Stokes; “Fall has Arrived” by Sandy Workman

### Digital Project Image – Nature Class A

Image of the Month



*I'm so Tired – Reney Budz*

**Awards:** “Bee on Flower” by Steve Alvey

**Honorable Mentions:** “Coming in for Dinner” by Brandon Stokes; “Leaf Image on Ice” by Reney Budz

**Digital Projected Image - Monochrome**  
Image of the Month



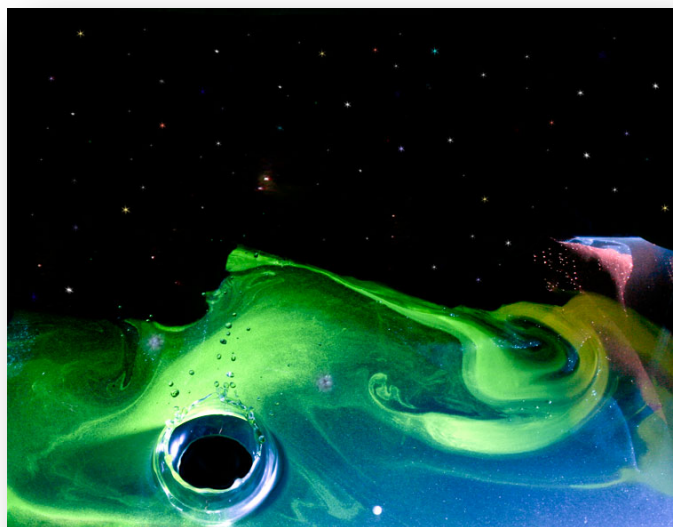
*Winters Day – Reney Budz*

**Awards:** “Marblehead Light” by Reney Budz

**Honorable Mentions:** “She’s an Animal” by Sandy Workman; “Daddy’s Little Girl” by Brandon Stokes

## Alteration of Reality

Print of the Month



*Deep Black Hole – Steve Alvey*

**Awards:** “The Battle Between Good & Evil” by Brandon Stokes