

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 Governors

Past President: Rex Termain
Print Chairman: Reney Budz
DPI Chairman: Dan Abert

Award Ribbons

Submitted by – Brandon Stokes

The new award ribbons have been delivered and now ready for to be presented to our members who merit during photography competitions in camera club. These ribbons will offer a change from our past process of award cards which will now be issued to recognize the winners of our theme night competition winners.

The new ribbons offer a number of advantages. One of the biggest advantages is saving Sandy's hand from filling out so many award cards. The other advantage of these ribbons will allow photographers to be able to display them with their winning photograph.

You will notice the award ribbons have a color for each merit we award,



Print of the Month, Award, and Honorable Mention. Additionally the ribbons showcase our club mascot which is the Indian Chief Head. Though the scanning does not reflect the gold leaf imprinting that well, all of the ribbons feature a nice gold leaf die imprinted letting.

The camera club has ordered 200 of each color and should last us quite

some time into the future. As the club continues to flourish and photographers continue to improve the quality of prints, I can't wait to start handing these out.

Good luck to all of our photographers and we can't wait to see some of these ribbons displayed along with their winning photographers!

Why I Don't Chew Gum

Submitted by Steve Alvey

Why don't I chew gum when I go on an outing taking photos either alone or with a group of people? That's because I have a tendency to swallow it when I have

my cameras and camera gear with me and I set it down for a minute to take a photo shot of a subject and someone (generally one who is with me or the group) comes over and picks up

the camera and/or equipment to look at it or use it (such as a taking a test shot) without asking first. When that happens I usually panic and swallow my gum.

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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](#)

Message from the President.

A New Year is among us and while we all make resolutions to keep throughout the New Year, have you given thought on what kind of resolutions you'll make and follow through on?

Why not a photography related resolution? It may be as simple as taking a drive with your camera, inviting a photography friend out for a weekend

shoot, or just simply taking a photography class you have always wanted to take. Entering photography competitions is always a good resolution as well as contributing more for camera club.

Most of us will make resolutions for the New Year, and some of us will not follow through on those resolutions, but I

encourage everyone to make a photography resolution to stick with through the remainder of the year.

So with the New Year now in full swing, let's make some photography resolutions for ourselves and the camera club so that we can grow and share our wonderful art we all love so much.

January 14th Meeting– HDR Photography

Our January 14th meeting will encompass a program presented by our very own member Reney Budz. Reney will be presenting her techniques and processes on HDR photography.

So gear up and bring your laptop, pen, paper or other means of taking some notes. Reney has been very successful with her HDR photography in competition.

For those of you unfamiliar with what HDR photography is, HDR stands for **High Dynamic Range**. HDR photography includes taking multiple exposures of the same scene and then either manually blending those exposures or use software that will automatically blend those exposures for you.

I hope everyone looks forward to this program

and can take away something from the program that they can add to their arsenal of tools to apply to their photography out in the field.

Upcoming Events.

The December outing that was tentatively scheduled for the weekend of the 13th had to be 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.

The Gretchen Charlton Art Gallery will be hosting its 15th Annual Juried Photography Exhibit January 29th, we hope to see a lot of camera club members photographs there. The camera club also sponsors the Nature category so good luck for everyone that entered this year.

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 possibly look into January or later in the year to get a new trip organized.

If you would like to submit or contribute to the Kankakee Area Camera Club newsletter, please email Brandon Stokes at 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.

Why I Don't Chew Gum . . . Cont'd

Submitted by Steve Alvey

That doesn't happen when it's someone I trust without a doubt such as my best friend and fellow photographer, Brandon. We have an understanding about using each other's equipment and we don't have to ask each other anymore. I know he will take care of my camera and gear as if it were his own.

I had an experience once four or five years ago when I was out at the Perry Farm taking photos. I had two cameras with me, a brand new camera, a Canon Rebel T3, that I wanted to learn how to use and my second was the "older" Canon version, a Rebel Xsi, that I would use if I came upon a subject and didn't have enough confidence with the "new" camera just yet and I didn't want to miss the photo opportunity.

I set my 2nd camera and equipment on the ground and started to photograph a beautiful flower. This young fella (who I knew from work) came up and said "hi" and asked what I was photographing. I told him and I turned and started shooting the flower. He, without asking, picked up my second camera and began looking at it. Then he

started to take pictures with it. I wasn't at all happy about that. I didn't say anything; I just swallowed my gum and held my breath. Although I knew that he knew about cameras and how to take pictures, it was the principle of the matter. After all, if he (or anyone) dropped the camera and/or equipment would they offer to pay for it. Ha (I'm laughing of now)! Cameras, lenses and equipment are very expensive. I was relieved when he put the camera back in the bag. He should have asked first.

Most photographers that I know would be happy to show you their cameras, lenses, tripods and other pieces of camera equipment if you ask them. They may even let you hold it for a closer look or let you try it out if you ask. Photographers are like gun enthusiasts, they like to talk "shop" (or brag) about what they have. Sometimes when you get a photographer start talking about their cameras & equipment and what they like to photograph, you have a hard time getting them up to stop talking. It's fun and interesting to trade experiences of the photos you take and how you got that particular picture.

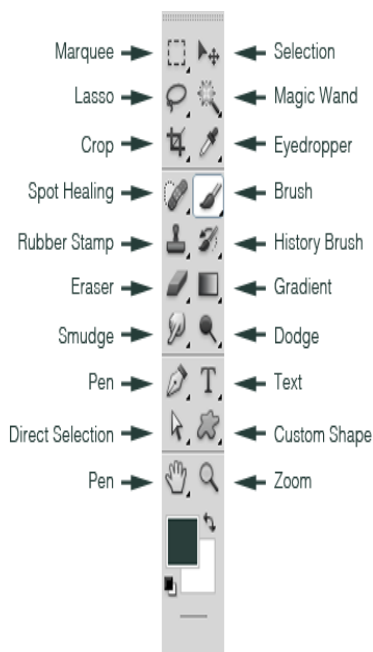
Most photographers I know are respectful and considerate. People really mean well and don't start out to be rude or inconsiderate or to break any of your camera gear and it rarely ever happens, but it could happen. I've dropped my own camera and/or accessories before. It's just being polite and considerate in asking first. If a photographer does say "no", be understanding and don't let your feelings get hurt. Remember cameras, lenses, tripods and other accessories are quite expensive.

I'd bet you would feel the same way If the shoe was on the other foot.



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

~Karl Lagerfeld



Photoshop University — Submitted by Brandon Stokes

With the birth of digital photography came the birth of digital editing software. Probably one of the most powerful software programs is Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Photoshop Elements. While both programs are similar in nature, they do have their differences. This article will focus primarily on Adobe Photoshop with most if not all the topics that will be covered can be applied to Adobe Photoshop Elements. With that, lets dive in.

First, lets take a look at the available tools you can use to edit your photographs. If you take a look at the graphic just to the left, you will see what most of us photoshoppers have at our hand to use in editing our photographs. This toolbar has what each tool does labeled for your reference. Some of the most popular tools I use are Crop,

Healing Tool, Clone Stamp, and Dodge/Burn tools. Though it might be difficult to see in this graphic, some of the tools on the toolbar have an arrow in the lower right corner, which means there is more than one tool that can be selected from that one. To see the other tools, I usually right click on the tool which will then bring up the additional tools. For example, if I were using the dodge tool and I needed to burn a portion of my image, I would right click on the dodge tool which would bring up additional options which includes the burn tool.

I usually begin with cropping my image first because I want to get rid of any part of the image that is not useful or helpful to my end result. My next tool that I use is going to most likely be the healing tool which is similar to the clone stamp tool, but recognizes any

patterns and tries to match them by using content aware to match its surroundings. An example of where I might use the healing tool would be removing sensor dust from a sky. I would right click on a section of the image that closely matches the area I need to heal, and then just click on the dust spot and then it will be as if it were not there at all.

So by cropping, dodging/burning, and healing out any unwanted dust or other areas of the image, you can greatly improve the score of an image just by completing those three steps. While only a short article, I hope to bring as much as my knowledge to the table so that other members can learn and improve their images. I will keep focusing on the tool bar until it's complete. Then we will get a bit more advanced.

Photo Tip of the Month — White Balance!

White balance is what your camera uses to determine color accuracy within a given scene that you are photographing. I often leave mine on cloudy or flash on both my Nikon D800 and Canon EOS 1D MkII. I always get acceptable results from those two settings. However, have you ever thought of shooting scenes on the wrong white balance?

Shooting on the wrong white balance takes some experimenting and a lot of practice to understand what situations are okay and not okay to use the

wrong white balances in. I encourage all of you to try this technique. You just might surprise yourself with the results. I often due this at my weddings if I want to convey a certain mood. For example, a tungsten white balance is set to offset tungsten lighting. If you take a picture inside your home with your lights one, and your camera set to tungsten white balance, you'll see that the colors are pretty close. Now if you go outside and not change the white balance, you'll notice a noticeable blue

cast to your image. Well that might be useful when photographing a night scene lit only by moonlight. That will give it quite a twilight type of feel.

There are different white balance settings to choose from, it will take some practice to get the results you are looking for. I just stand by my mantra and get out there and practice. It's the only way you will know for sure what will work. Happy experimenting!