



**InFocus**

Kankakee Area Camera Club

*Since 1938*



**Volume 2, Issue 1**  
**August 2015**

**Cover Photo: Avalanche Gorge © Brandon Stokes**



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## Message from the President

With August here it feels like summer has already come and gone. With all the rain and wild weather, it feels like summer didn't even exist.

I hope everyone enjoyed summer break and I know I am looking forward to a new year of Camera and I hope everyone

else is too.

With Steve and I at the helm, we hope to continue ushering in new changes and bringing the club out to more outings and getting our name out there. Just a couple of previews of changes to come are the implementation of a library full of

educational materials ranging from books to DVD's that memebtrs will be able to check out and take home for learning at their own pace.

So lets make this year a great year and help celebrate over 75 years of photography with the Kankakee Area Camera Club.

## August Meetings – Beginning of a New Year

August is here! That means a few things for the Kankakee Area Camera Club. First off the first meeting will be held at the regularly scheduled time at 7:30pm at the River Vallery Metro Center. That meeting we will be discussing the Car & Art show wich has been moved to Manteno to help facilitate a larger car show and to help with parking management issues which we faced at the gallery.

We will also be selecting theme competition subjects for this coming year. So put your thinking caps on and bring some good ideas on

what you would like to have as themes for this year's competition. Something educational about photography might help.

During the month of August we will be attending the Car & Art show hosted by the River Valley Metro Center. This event has been moved to facilitate some issues we faced last year. This show begins at 4:00pm and we should show up early to get accustomed to how the art show will be set up and to assist Rex with setting up equipment. I would also like to send a special thank you to Rex for helping

accommodate us with the last minute change in venue and letting us use his equipment. Please, if you see Rex please give him a HUGE thank you.

If you are hanging any work, please be there to help work the tables. Also don't forget to promote the club.

I would also like to see us have another outing this year before fall so that the members who attended the first one will have a chance to apply their newly learned techniques beore they forget them. So think on that.

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.



## Photography Outing at Perry Farm

*Submitted by – Brandon Stokes*



Photo © Sandy Workman



Photo © Sandy Workman



Photo © Sandy Workman

During the summer break members were able to get together at Perry Farm for an outing that was rescheduled a couple times due to inclement weather. We finally had a great afternoon for photography and a great turn out from members. All together we had about 15 members show up to learn and share tips and tricks of our hobby.

Brandon did a quick how to use your camera in the Aperture Priority mode to help members understand how to use different apertures to achieve different results in any particular photograph.

After that other members separated into smaller groups taking the Perry Farm by storm. It was really great to see members helping one another achieve better photography skills. There is not one of us who didn't leave that night with out learning a new tip.

I would like to especially thank Julia Anderson who brought in her Uncle as a bit of a guide for us. He was responsible for planting the entire area and helped members identify the subjects they were photographing. I would also like to thank William Porter

who also was a great mentor in helping others learning. He was a wonderful resource for identifying the plants as well. With the help of these two gentlemen there wasn't a plant that could not be identified. So thank you both for helping out.

The evening ended with setting up for sunset images and Brandon helping to instruct how to read light and balance exposures of skies and foregrounds with adding off camera flash. Overall this outing turned out great, lets do it again.



Last Light (C) Brandon Stokes

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.

## Kankakee Area Camera Club Information



The Kankakee Area Camera Club has been an organization for likeminded photographers since 1938. Breaking only a couple of years during World War II, the camera club serves to educate all members everything we know about photography.

The Kankakee Area Camera club meets on the second and fourth Wednesday September through May and the second Wednesday of each month during the Months of June, July and August. We meet at the River Valley Metro Center headquarters located at 1137 E 5000n Rd, Bourbonnais, and IL 60914.

### Membership Dues

We have different levels of membership to offer to serve both competing and noncompeting members.

## Photo Tip of the Month - *Filters*

*Submitted by - Brandon Stokes*

It seems like now that we have Photoshop or Lightroom, camera filters have gone by the wayside. At least that's the take I get when attending club meetings. I think as photographers we have lost the art of using filters.

Filters are square or round pieces of plastic that you can either use a mounting accessory, or more commonly, screw onto the end of your lens. There are literally hundreds of filters to choose from.

Most common filters are UV/Haze, Circular Polarizers, and and Neutral Density filter.

Filters can be used to achieve an endless amount of results based on the type of filter you use. I typically always have on hand the following filters. I carry a 3 stop Graduated ND, Tiffen Circular Polarizer, 6x cross screen filter, and a few different colored graduated filters to achieve different results.

Some might argue that you can achieve the same results in Photoshop or Lightroom. I personally love to photoshop images, but if I can achieve a great image in camera, that means I can spend less time working on an image on the computer and more time out in the field making images.

Filters come in a variety effects, so experiment with them and learn what each filter can do.



**We're on the Web!**

[www.kankakeecameraclub.info](http://www.kankakeecameraclub.info)



## Traveling to Glacier National Park

*Submitted by – Brandon Stokes*

Glacier National Park has been on of those places that have been on my bucket list to travel to. Last year I checked it off my list and I am happy to say that there were no disappointments. In fact, I enjoyed it so much last year I will be returning again this year to visit the parts I didn't visit during last year's stay. Located in the Northwest Portion of Montana, Glacier National Park encompasses more than 1 million acres of hiking trails, mountain ranges and over 130 lakes in the Northwest Portion



Foy's Lake © Brandon Stokes



of Montana and portions of Canada. Glacier National Park is home to many different species of wildlife too, most notably on my trip I photographed a Big Horn Sheep right off of Going to the Sun Road. There are endless amounts of photographic opportunities within this park and hopefully this article will feed your thirst to visit.

So my wife and I stayed with a friend of hers that lives in Kalispell Montana, which is only about 25 mins south of Glacier National Park. There are a number of lodging options in the park; however our options seemed to be the best. Free room and board is always my best option. Regardless, lodging in the park is a wonderful way to stay right in the park and not have to worry about traveling to the park. With the park being open 24 hours, I would say lodging in the park is the best option so you don't have to worry about traveling to the park from another town and risking getting lost or not getting there in time for sunrise or sunset.

My first day in the park was overwhelming to say the least. It's huge!. There is an East side and West side of the park. We visited the West side of the park via Going to the Sun Road. This road is where most of your tourists travel and takes you to the top of the park to Logans Pass where there is a very nice visitors center and the beginning of the Highline Hiking Trail. You can continue to the East side of the park, but it was foggy that day and we decided to go back down the way we came because it was the end of the day and getting dark. One thing to be prepared for is the different temperatures. When we started in the park it was a nice balmy 80 degrees and as we traveled up the Going to the Sun Road, the temperatures slowly and steadily began to decline. By the time we reached Logans Pass, we were in a snow packed top of Glacier National Park. So bring winter coats and gloves with you. Having a snowball fight was new to us in the Middle of August, but it was so much fun.

## Cont'd - Traveling to Glacier National Park

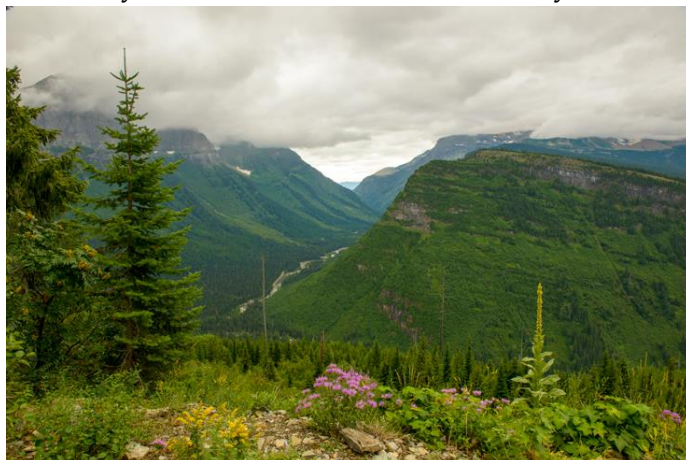
Glacier Falls © Brandon Stokes



So with coats , gloves and my camera gear, we set off into the park. Admission is fair and for veterans, admission to the park is free, which I believe is the same case for every National Park. Traveling along the Going to the Sun Road, there are a number of pull offs and attractions that would churn the creativity of any photographer. There are many waterfalls to photograph from any amount of angles you could choose from. The photograph to the left was taken right off the side of the

road. In addition to that the views are even better if you are adventurous enough to brave the sometimes steep climbing and head on down to enjoy a better vantage point. One thing to look out for on the road is for a group of cars stopped alongside the road. This generally means they are looking at something in terms of wildlife. On our way to the top, we noticed a large group of cars just stopped in the middle of the road. Come to find out, they were looking at a couple of Big Horn Sheep having a snack on the top of the cliff next to the road. So it pays to stop and look around at your surroundings and take your time. Pay attention to other tourists or just look for the guy with the largest lens and look in the direction his lens is pointing. (Worked out nicely for me!)

Going to the Sun Road has many things to offer. The incredible views from the road only make going here that much more worth the trip. Below is a photograph from one of many pull off points off of the road. Even with the low cloud deck, the views were spectacular. This just happens to be one of my most memorable locations. If you look close enough, you can see what appears to be a



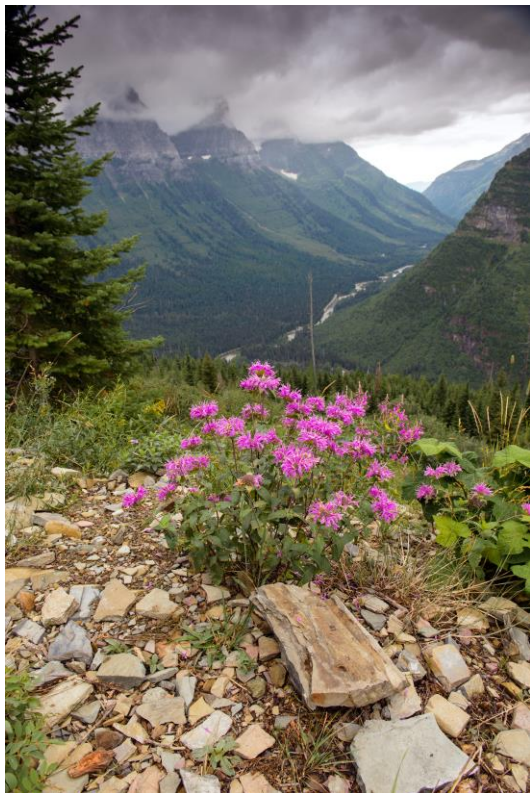
small creek in the valley, however that is the Going to the Sun Road.

In addition to great wildlife and 360 degree views, there are plenty of wild flowers to photograph as well. They grow all throughout the park and there are plenty along the sides of the road for those who don't want to hike trails.

High Above © Brandon Stokes



## Cont'd - Traveling to Glacier National Park

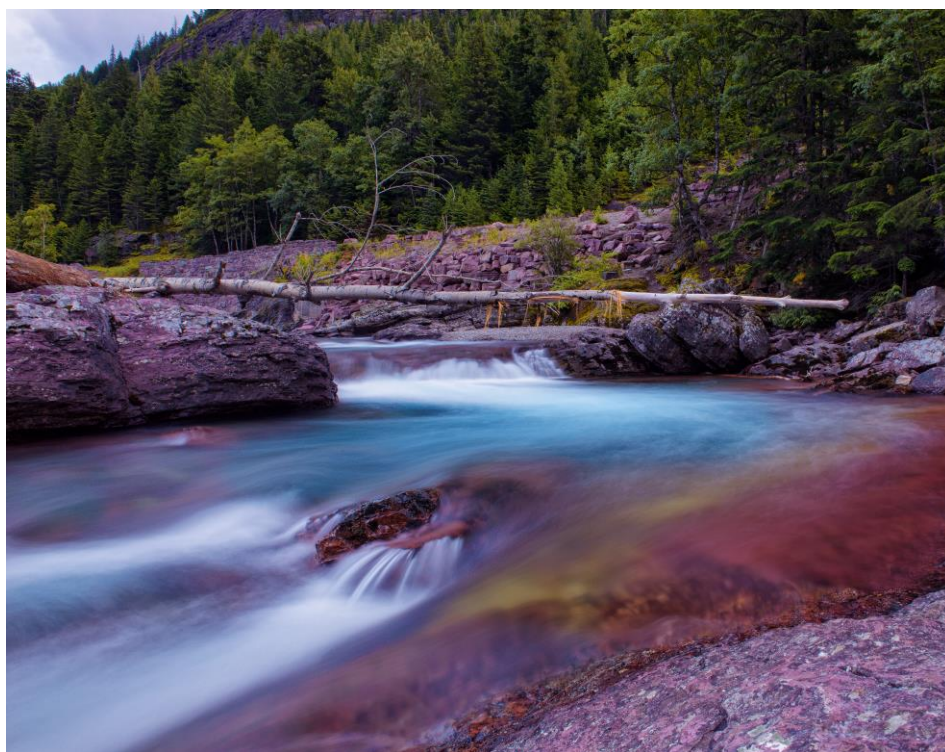


Glacier Wildflowers © Brandon Stokes

The photograph to the left shows only a small portion of wildflowers that seem to grow just about everywhere. So while only getting to spend one day in the park, there is plenty to be had. Plan ahead and map out what you would like to see the most and follow the map and timing. This year I will be spending much more time in the park and hope to be getting some of the “Golden Hour” photographs.

One of the most notable attributes this park has the I can remember is the clear water. The crystal clear water is such a relief from looking at the muddy waters around here. I didn't know that bodies of water could be that clear. One of the rivers we floated down you could see all the way to the bottom. The below photograph shows part of the river we floated down, and although its tough to see here because of the long exposure, the water is clear all the way to the bottom. In fact, I could not tell if we were in 6 inches of water or 6 feet. So if you are going there to enjoy the water, be careful.

It pays to also visit the neighboring towns. Whitefish, also not far from Kalispell has a variety of activities to offer. Big Mountain Resort has a great gondola to ride to the top of the



Clear Water © Brandon Stokes

mountain to enjoy a view of the entire Flathead Valley. From there it seems as if you can see infinitely. The Alpine Slide is sure to exhilarate you as you get on this little go-cart like sled and slide all the way down the mountain. I wouldn't suggest bringing your camera for that by the way. Everything surrounding this park seems to be taylor made for travelers. The photography oppertunites are fantastic, the night sky offers little to no light polution for us night sky photographers. So be on the look out for some of my Milky Way Galaxy pictures over Glacier National Park.



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## Cont'd - Traveling to Glacier National Park



So what do you bring gear wise? Well I had two camera bodies, Canon EOS 1D Mark II and a Nikon D800 both supported by a Monfratto tripod with a ball head mount. Plenty of filters, most common one I used was by graduated ND filter. I also carried a variety of lenses including a 24-70mm 2.8, 70 - 200mm 2.8 VR, 80-400mm VR, and 18 - 200mm. My Canon lens included a 70 - 200mm 2.8 L IS II. Extra batteries are a must and rain coverings for all of your equipment should be considered. I shot mostly low ISO's around 100-400 because I photographed a lot of water features and I love the long exposures.

So with that in mind, Glacier National Park should be on everyone's list of places to visit with their cameras. The offerings are generous and the photographic opportunities are endless. For anyone visiting, they should come away with some great photography. I can only hope my trip this year will be as great as it was last year, and maybe even a bit better.