

# Shutterbug Times

Official Newsletter of the Olympia Camera Club Olympia, WA Established in 1935



October 2020

www.olympiacameraclub.org

Volume 85, Issue 10

Find us on Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/OlympiaCameraClub">www.facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/OlympiaCameraClub</a>

# Fall in Washington



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#### President's Corner

And just like that, we move into October. The trees are changing colors and, as Justin Hayward of the Moody Blues sang "The summer sun is fading as the year grows old and darker days are drawing near". It always has amazed me as we go from daylight that has lasted till after 9:00 pm, to darkness that comes by 5:00 pm. I guess that on the positive side of things, for photographers, the golden hour will come sooner. The rainy season comes also for us in the great State of Washington, but it is a time to try out new images, new techniques. Use that rain to your creative advantage, reflections in puddles, raindrops begging for their photos to be taken. Now is not the time to be putting your photography equipment to rest for the autumn and winter months, now is the time to actively pursue images of Halloween pumpkins and twinkling Christmas tree lights.

The photographs I've seen during Member Sharing nights and those posted on our Facebook page are amazing. There is so much talent and skill in our membership. From beginners to the more advanced we all have the same goal in mind, to create images that mean something to you. Keep up the great work

and keep on clicking.
The club will be changing platforms to better provide members with an even greater experience as we all navigate



through the teleconferencing world. We will be leaving "GoToMeeting" and enter the "Zoom" universe. Make sure to come on over and join us, we have many programs coming your way. Rosalind Philips has written an article to explain all you will need to know to get up to speed on "Zoom". See the article on page five.

Here is a bit of information that I found super interesting: a raven has 17 rigid feathers called pinions, while a crow only has 16. The difference between a raven and a crow is just a matter of a pinion.

Have a happy Halloween and as always, Stay safe, Stay healthy.

T. Walton

# **Dates to Remember**

All club meetings will be virtual on "Zoom"

# October

- 13 October Practical Photography Meeting
- 20 October Member Sharing Night
- 27 October General Meeting with Special Speaker Darrell Gulin

# November

- **3 November Board Meeting**
- **5 November Articles and Images Due for Newsletter**
- 10 November Practical Photography Meeting
- 17 November Member Sharing Night
- 24 November General Meeting

# **Monthly Meetings**

# All club meetings are virtual taking place using Zoom

The Zoom link is available on the OCC Website in the Members Only Area - Zoom Link

#### Practical Photography October 13, 2020 7-9 pm

October's Practical Photography will be an Introduction/Roundtable discussion to the Zoom Pro platform that the OCC will be using for our meetings in the future. We will have both the GoToMeeting Platform open and will also provide a link to the Zoom platform for our members before the meeting. The preferred platform for the meeting will be Zoom, but if you have a problem with connecting to the Zoom meeting, we will also have the GoToMeeting link open and will provide technical assistance to help connect with Zoom.

Bruce Livingston, Coordinator

#### Member Sharing Night October 20, 2020 7-9pm

October's Member Sharing Night theme is "Reflections." Need some inspiration? Go to the Club's Facebook page where you will find some examples. We find that sharing 6 photos or less works the best. Please size your images to 2048 pixels on the long side. Put a watermark on the image and title each image. Put your images in a folder with your full name on the folder. Go to the OCC Drop Box Member Sharing Folder and then drop your file into the "Reflections" folder. Your images must be in Drop Box prior to midnight on October 19 to be included in the October 20 Zoom Meeting.



Clair Ferris, Coordinator

## General Meeting October 27, 2020 7-9pm

This month we continue our string of truly excellent speakers with a presentation by Darrell Gulin. Some of you may remember him from his role as a judge at last year's Thurston County Fair. The presentation will be called VISIONS. We will travel to all seven Continents and include images of Wildlife, Landscape and Travel. Darrell will talk about how many of these images were taken. Also, he will show examples of what could be a winning image in competition or not and have comparisons and why. Looking for impact, lighting, subject, composition and more. It should be a good one. See you there.

On page four is a full page spread with Darrell's bio and images.

Save the Date General Meeting October 27, 2020 7 – 9pm on Zoom

#### VISIONS

Darrell Gulin will be our special speaker at the General Meeting on October 27, 2020. Darrell was one of our judges at the Thurston County Fair in 2019. We had a lot of positive feedback regarding how helpful the judge's comments were about why they chose one image over another and other comments on composition and winning images.



Darrell will take us on a journey to all seven continents and include images of Wildlife, Landscape and Travel. He will discuss how many of these images were taken and also show examples of what could be a winning image in competition or not and have comparisons and why. In a winning image you are looking for impact, lighting, subject, composition and more.

Darrell has been photographing for over 35 years, marketing his work for the last 33 years and has been a full time Nature/Travel Photographer for the last 26 years. He markets his work through Stock Agencies, Editorial Markets, Photography Workshop/Tours, Seminars and Speaking Engagements.

His work is represented by GettyImages, Danita Delimont Agency, DRK Photo, and Super Stock Agency. He is one of Canon's Explorer of Light Photographers. He is the past President of the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA). He has been their keynote speaker and has led many workshops and programs at their Annual Summits.

His photographs have been published in: Outdoor Photographer, Newsweek, National Geographic, Audubon, National Wildlife, Birder's World, Sunset, Nature Conservancy, Popular Photography, Natures Best and many more.

He has been showcased in almost every major nature calendar including: Audubon, Inner Reflection, Sierra Club, Kodak, Browntrout, Cedo, Nature Conservancy, Greenpeace, World Wildlife Fund, and Day Dream.

He is an accomplished speaker/teacher whose credits are too numerous to mention. Also, Darrell was featured on

Five Canon Photo Safari television programs where he taught actors/actresses to photograph in the field.

Darrell Gulin

Canon Explorer of Light

www.gulinphoto.com















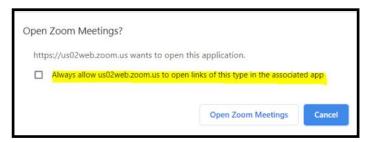
# The Olympia Camera Club is Switching to Zoom

by Rosalind Philips

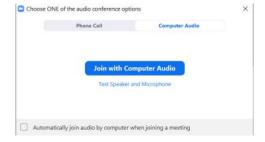
The Olympia Camera Club (OCC) is switching to Zoom for our meetings for several reasons. The main reason is so we can show video with audio during meetings. Unfortunately, at this time, GoToMeeting does not allow the sharing of video with sound. This problem was evident during the excellent presentation at the General meeting in September by Dr. Kah-wei Lin. Dr. Lin had several videos with sound that were part of his presentation. Fortunately, Dr. Lin had a Zoom account that we were able to switch to for the presentation. Zoom's security has been improved and so that is no longer a concern of the Board. The new link for meetings will be sent via email toward the end of the first full week in October. We will start using Zoom for our Practical Photography meeting on October 13. Bruce Livingston will be doing a working presentation at that meeting to acquaint members with Zoom and its many functions.

Getting Started with Zoom

- 1. Click on the link or paste the link in your browser. This is the best way to join the meeting.
- 2. The Zoom application will automatically download and install the first time you join the meeting.
- 3. You can download the Zoom application ahead of time if you like at <a href="https://zoom.us/download">https://zoom.us/download</a>.
- 4. If you already have the Zoom application, please make sure it is up to date by updating your application regularly. Zoom continues to improve security and introduce new features.
- 5. You will see after clicking on the link:



- a. Choose "Open Zoom Meetings"
- b. You will then join the meeting and will see



Click "Join with Computer Audio"

6. You will need to turn on your camera if you do not see yourself. Look in the lower left for this icon. You will just see the full bar if you are using a Mac:

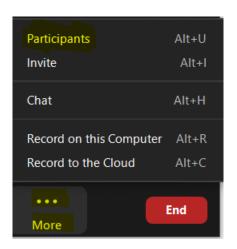


Click on the "Start Video" icon. You should now see yourself.

7. To Mute/Unmute click on the "Mute" icon.

Please keep yourself muted unless you are talking.

8. To see a list of participants or to enter the chat click on the "More" icon. You will not see a "More" button on the Mac or if you are full screen.



9. If you go to full screen you will see:



10. You can always find the link in the Member's Area under "Zoom Link."

# Virtual Field Trips - 2020 and Beyond by Cynthia Whelan

We have two virtual field trips remaining in 2020, which means that 2021 is just around the corner. The August OCC Member Survey results for field trips were discussed at the virtual planning meeting and six people were interested in planning next year's virtual field trips. We will not be planning in-person field trips until the COVID 19 situation in Thurston County has improved and the OCC Board decides to change.

On Thursday, November 5, 7:00 PM, we will have a Zoom planning meeting to discuss the OCC survey results and schedule virtual field trips for 2021. If you are interested in attending that Zoom meeting you can simply use the regular OCC Zoom meeting link and join in. It will also be listed in the OCC calendar with reminders. If you have any comments or questions about planning for next year's virtual field trips, you may email cawhelan@att.net.

Here are the remaining 2020 Virtual Field trips:

## Starry Starry Night... November 5, 2020

Join us in a walk through the night by sharing your astro and night photography in a virtual field trip of our night sky. Show us a variety of your photos taken of comet Neowise, the Milky Way, cityscapes, the moon, night time long exposures, and maybe a total eclipse or two. It is recommended that you work backwards through your photo library, and share photos from the 21st Century, unless you have an absolutely amazing shot from the last millennium.

Members may contribute up to <u>four images</u> per person per virtual field trip.

Please size your images to 2048 pixels on the long side. Put a watermark on the image and title each image. Example of a title: Milky Way over Mt Rainier\_Pam Hoaglund. Please send the images as an attachment to an email to <a href="mailto:newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org">newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org</a> by midnight Thursday, November 5, 2020 and post them to the Virtual Field Trip Gallery by logging into the Olympia Camera Club website and uploading them at <a href="https://www.olympiacameraclub.org/post-image-2/">https://www.olympiacameraclub.org/post-image-2/</a>.

## "Gratitude" A Holiday Reflection in the Times of the Corona Virus December 3, 2020

This is a more personal thematic virtual field trip. What are you thankful for this holiday month? Take a moment to reflect on the last year, and share with us a photograph, or up to four photographs of what you are grateful for this year. You may already have photos from this year, but if you haven't taken many photos, this is an opportunity for you to look back and pause, and photograph what you are thankful for this holiday.

The pandemic has changed all of our lives. Yet, we are still here, we are still a club, and I bet there are many things that you can photograph to express your gratitude; maybe a snapshot of a family Zoom meeting. Maybe you were able to visit something or someone this year. Maybe you are just thankful that the holiday did arrive, despite the pandemic. Some things never change. Photograph it and share with fellow OCC members.

Members may contribute up to <u>four images</u> per person per virtual field trip.

Please size your images to 2048 pixels on the long side. Put a watermark on the image and title each image. Example of a title: Milky Way over Mt Rainier\_Pam Hoaglund. Please send the images as an attachment to an email to <a href="mailto:newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org">newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org</a> by midnight Thursday, December 3, 2020 and post them to the Virtual Field Trip Gallery by logging into the Olympia Camera Club website and uploading them at <a href="https://www.olympiacameraclub.org/post-image-2/">https://www.olympiacameraclub.org/post-image-2/</a>.





# NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS NPPNW OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

## NPPNW Virtual Meeting November 7, 2020

NPPNW is planning to hold a virtual meeting on Saturday, November 7. We currently anticipate that it will run from 9:00 a.m. until noon or perhaps a little longer. At this point, we are planning for a guest presenter and digital image competitions in the categories of Plant Life, Scenic, and Wildlife. There will be no print competition, no registration fee, and no doughnuts or coffee for reasons you may well imagine. We will have more details about how to register for and access the meeting as well as how to submit images for the competitions as we get closer to the date.

If you have not attended a NPPNW Conference in the past and would like to attend this conference, OR if you need to update your email contact information, you can provide that information to NPPNW at the following link:

https://www.nppnw.org/membership-update/

#### Check out the PSA Photo Traveler Newsletter

by Cynthia Whelan

I joined PSA as a way to expand my photographic learning and experience. I'm an OCC member and amateur travel blogger. PSA has some excellent training videos and I wanted to attend their annual photography conference. PSA is an international photographic organization and it sponsors several different types of photo competitions, and it has opportunities for photo critiques and sharing. You can never look at too many photographs and I thought this would be a good way to see what other people consider 'good' photography.

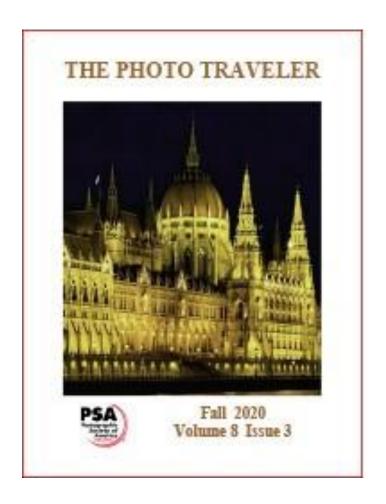
One of my main interests is travel photography, and I want to work on improving my photographs for my travel blog Whelan on Walkabout <a href="https://www.whelanonwalkabout.com">www.whelanonwalkabout.com</a>, and PSA has a travel division that is only about travel photography! "That's for me!"

I am also looking for opportunities to practice writing and sharing my travel stories. So, I got up the nerve to contact

the PSA Photo Traveler Newsletter editor and submitted an idea I had for the newsletter. He liked my writing and my story and it is in this quarter's newsletter.

Don't be afraid to get your photographs out to new opportunities and join new groups. At first, it may be uncomfortable, but when something "clicks" it sure is fun!

Check out the fall edition of Photo Traveler. It's free. Here is a link. <a href="https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-photo-travel-division-newsletter">https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-photo-travel-division-newsletter</a>



# **Membership Report**

by Colleen Easley

Our membership now stands at 152 members. We had two people join in September. Please welcome Bob Diercks and Marcia McLaughlin.





Due to COVID-19, this year's conference will be held online

# Saturday, November 14 \$60

Go to nwcameraclubs.org for more information and to register.

# Keynote Speaker: Brooks Jensen from LensWork Magazine

Join LensWork Magazine Editor and Publisher Brooks Jensen for two live presentations:

Those Who Inspire Me and Why Beyond the Print: Photography Off the Wall (Small projects with multiple photos)

www.lenswork.com www.brooksjensenarts.com



# Also: Thibault Roland, Sony Artisan of Imagery

Thibault will be giving three presentations, including one on Long Exposure Photography.

www.thibaultroland.com



Two live presentations with Q & A by Brooks Jensen using Zoom Webinar

One live presentation with Q&A by Roland Thibault using Zoom Webinar

Award ceremony for the Open Digital Salon and the Digital Slideshow competitions

There will be additional live presentations during the week following the conference including:

Three presentations by **Darrel Gulin** (topics to be announced)

Three presentations by Brian Leary:

Night Photography in Urban Environments

**Graduated Filters** 

Photo Trip: Planning and Packing

Two additional presentations by **Thibault Roland** (topics to be announced).

Two presentations by Bill Royce:

Silver Efex Pro II

Lightroom

Three presentations by Bill Ray:

Topaz Al Plugins

**Getting Past Auto Focus** 

Two Tools for Slideshows

Note: The final schedule is still being being finalized and is subject to change without notice. Check nwcameraclubs.org for the most up to date information.

Don't miss a thing!

All presentations will be recorded and be available for viewing through December 31, 2020.





# Noise Reduction in Astrophotography by Stacking and Averaging

by Ed Tromble

In August I hosted a Practical Photography video meeting about using the stacking and averaging software called Sequator to reduce noise in Milky Way photos. I realized afterward that I should have put out a quick guide of some sort beforehand so everyone could follow along. So, here is what I should have put out, better late than never.

So what is stacking and averaging and how do we do it? Stacking and averaging is the method of noise reduction done by taking multiple identical photos (light frames) of the same scene, turning each photo into a layer in a stack using a photo editor and then averaging the data so anything that is not constant in each image (random noise) is eliminated. Random noise is generally luminance and chrominance noise from high ISO but can also include passing aircraft or satellites. The other type of noise we need to remove is unwanted constant noise. Constant noise that is not part of the data we want to keep comes in several forms; the most common are hot pixel noise and transformer noise from long exposure and Bayer pattern noise from under exposure. These can be removed by adding what are called dark frames to the stack. A dark frame is just a photo taken with exactly the same settings and at the same time as the others but with the lens cap on. These dark frames will reveal any constant noise present and will also be subtracted.

The net result of all this work will be a cleaner image with more dynamic range.

Bayer pattern noise due to underexposure



Hot pixel noise due to long exposure or heat



#### Random noise from high ISO



The first step is getting the light and dark frames in camera. Anytime I go out to shoot the Milky Way there are a few things I take along. Here is my list:

Camera

Lens of choice. This should be a fairly wide lens capable of f/2.8 or better Intervalometer (many cameras have this built in) Good solid tripod and head

Warm clothes

Food and water

A chair and a flashlight

The location you choose to go to should be as far from any light pollution as possible and have room to set up. Once there locate where the Milky Way will rise (PhotoPils or The Photographer's Ephemeris (TPE) can help with this) and look for a good foreground and set up while there is still light. Sit in your chair and enjoy the sunset. If you are going to combine a foreground shot later take it in late blue hour. For this exercise I will be using a series of shots of the Milky Way and stacking in Sequator.

Once it is fully dark the fun begins. Turn off all in camera noise reduction. Make sure the camera is focused on infinity and will stay there, the intervalometer is set for number of shots and duration and start. The more shots you take the better your noise reduction will be. For this demo I took 30 light frames at f/2.8, 20 seconds at ISO 3200 with five seconds between frames followed by five dark frames at the same settings. Once you have hit go, sit down and stay away from your rig until the light frames are done and you need to put the lens cap on for the dark frames. I have bumped my tripod before and had to start over.

Now comes the part some of us love and some of us hate, sitting at your computer and finishing the image. I fall in the middle between love and hate and so I am always looking for the easiest way to edit. I am a Lightroom/Photoshop user and have found that stacking, aligning and averaging in Photoshop can be tedious at best so I

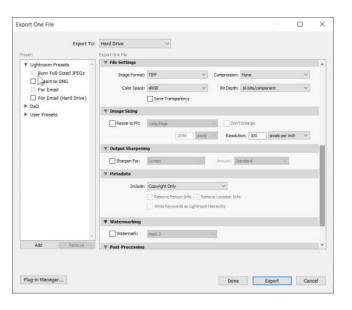
(Continued from page 9)

looked around and found a free program called Sequator (pc only) that could automate the process. If you are a Mac user there is software called Starry Landscape Stacker that does the same thing but is not free. Here is my editing process. I will go thru this using Lightroom but you could use any editor.

Import your photos with no changes such as profiles/ presets applied. Open the light images and make sure they are all the same as far as exposure. Sometimes one of them will show something odd such as light from someone nearby turning on a flashlight. Discard these. Next there are a few things to do before we take them over to Sequator. Open one of the images that will go into the stack and adjust the color balance if necessary. I have found the process in Sequator will darken the final image so increase the exposure to where it looks a little overexposed. Next sync the rest of the light frames to this image. Here is how it should look.



Sequator seems to like 16 bit uncompressed Tiff files so the next step is to export your light and dark frames into folders on your hard drive. Create the folders you need, name them something that makes sense and export. The export settings should be 16 bit uncompressed with no file size limit and no sharpening.

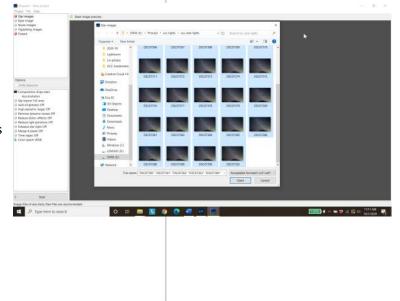


Next do the same with your dark frames but with no editing beforehand.



Open Sequator. I will focus on the selection menu on the left.

The top item on the list is Star Images. Double click on this to load your light frames from the folder you created. As shown below I have selected all my light frames.



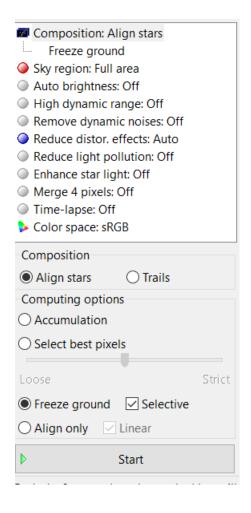
Click open. Sequator will load them and select a base image. This image is the one all the rest in the stack will be aligned to. The dot next to star images should turn green. You should be able to see how many images were loaded and which one was selected to be the base image. The next item is noise images. These will be your dark frames. Load these as you did the light frames. Below that item is vignetting images. I do not take vignetting images because it is so easy to fix later in Lightroom. Output is the final thing in this group. It is asking you to tell it what folder your completed image should be sent to. When you have finished this step it should show you how many light frames are loaded, your dark frames and where the finished Tiff will go.

(Continued from page 10)

The entire screen should look like this, showing the base image.



The next step is the Composition Align Stars tab. Click on this if you have a foreground, go to the bottom of the section area and select freeze ground.



Below this selection is the Sky Region tab. Click on it then go to the bottom and choose irregular mask. With this selected you will be able to mask the sky. You should try to be close but there is no need to be perfect with the mask tool.



Once this is done I leave the rest in the default positions with the exception of the HDR selection. This is how it looks when I am ready to press start.



Hit start, watch it do its thing and in about five minutes you get this. While it is running it will show progress in the window in the center of the screen. If you see any of the steps failing there was probably a mistake made in your selections. If this happens go back and double check. There is no need to reload any images. This is the final image before further processing. At this point open this image in your favorite editing software and have fun.



(Continued from page 11)

You will find there is a lot more leeway to use things such as dehaze, clarity, etc. as there is more signal and less noise to amplify. Here is my finished photo after final edits.



How to Choose and Buy Equipment by Susan Bradley with Ed Tronble and Bruce Livingston

First, ask yourself why you are thinking of buying a new camera, lens, tripod, etc. Years ago, Ed was convinced buying a new set of golf clubs would help his game. When he asked his golf instructor about this, he watched his swing and said, "I think the problem is with the archer and not the arrow." So be sure to think about what you need to make yourself a better photographer. I agree with Ed and I would add are you buying it because you think that is the type of photography you want to special-

ize in? Because, as the voice of experience, I would say you should make sure you enjoy that type of photography before investing in the specialized gear. I was sure I wanted to be a bird photographer. I watched videos and bought the gear they suggested. Now I have a huge, heavy tripod I rarely use and a Gimbal head that I only used once.



For example, if you are primarily a landscape photographer do you need a new camera with faster autofocus or would a good set of filters or a better lens make more sense. Ed also likes to make lists and the first one should be - things that will improve my photography. He finds new equipment is never number one. I wanted to purchase a more portable tripod so I made a list of most to least import features and then considered how I wanted to use this tripod. What do I want to do and where do I want to go with this tripod (night sky, macro, hike, put it

in a suitcase,...)? Then ask yourself how soon do I need it? If you don't need it very soon you can slow down, find someone in the club who has what you are thinking of buying and look at it, go into a store and get some hands-on with the item, and maybe borrow or rent the item.

But on to gear!

Once you have determined what you want to purchase the first thing to do is narrow down the field. Figure out exactly what your need is and how much your budget will handle, but buying it because it is the cheapest can be a bad move. Next, do your homework. Online is a big help but keep in mind many review sites have a horse in the race and can't be 100% trusted. Find a few reviewers that you have agreed with on products you know and go with them. Never trust Amazon reviews.

The next step (at least for major purchases) is to see and touch the product. If you don't have a friend with what you are looking to buy take the time to drive a couple of hours to a camera store that carries it. While you are in the store get hands-on with the item. You might feel silly testing out every aspect of a camera, lens, or tripod but it will not be time wasted if it can't do what you want. There is still no substitute for a good camera store where you can talk to someone who can help you make a decision plus who can demo the product. Tell the camera person why you are interested in that item and they might suggest another option. It might be a more expensive item, but it might just be a gently used model on another shelf. Used lenses can be a good deal and the major retailers like B&H will give you shutter counts on cameras. Most manufacturers set prices for all outlets and so you will not pay more at a camera store than online.

There are many options for selling and purchasing new/ used camera equipment. That includes our club's classified ads page at <a href="https://www.olympiacameraclub.org/occ-classified-ads/">https://www.olympiacameraclub.org/occ-classified-ads/</a>. Bruce has put together the following list of options that he has used:

#### Local

Craig's List - <a href="https://seattle.craigslist.org/oly/">https://seattle.craigslist.org/oly/</a>
PNW Camera & Equipment Buy Sell Trade - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/594688027283682/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/594688027283682/</a>
KEH Camera - <a href="https://www.keh.com">https://www.keh.com</a>
Glazers Camera Seattle - <a href="https://www.glazerscamera.com">https://www.keh.com</a>
Kenmore Camera - <a href="https://www.kenmorecamera.com">https://www.kenmorecamera.com</a>

#### Nationwide

MPB - <a href="https://www.mpb.com/en-us/about/">https://www.mpb.com/en-us/about/</a> Adorama - <a href="https://www.adorama.com">https://www.adorama.com</a> B&H - <a href="https://www.bhphotovideo.com">https://www.bhphotovideo.com</a>

# Virtual Field Trip A Day in the Life of OCC

This is our sixth virtual field trip and this one has a totally different slant. We aren't going to a specific place. You get to chose where you take us on one day in our life.











Nancy Nelson

8 Oct 2020: Mt. Rainier NP learning with OCC friends



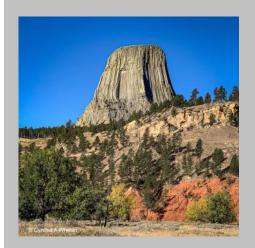




**Bruce Livingston** 

I chose to submit images from October 3, 2020 from my participation (5th consecutive year) in the Scott Kelby Worldwide Photowalk. This years' walk was a "self-guided" photowalk due to Covid-19. I have been a walk leader for the past four years and I participated in the Gig Harbor WW Photowalk my first year.

# Virtual Field Trip A Day in the Life of OCC Continued









Cynthia Whelan

A day at Devils Tower in South Dakota









**Colleen Easley** 

In June I had a chance to go camping with all my siblings at Conconully State Park in Washington's Okanogan. On one of the days, we took a couple cars and drove the gravel road between Conconully and Night Hawk. The car in front of us didn't see much more than a few deer, but we were taking it slow and found these animals along the way.

# Virtual Field Trip A Day in the Life of OCC Continued





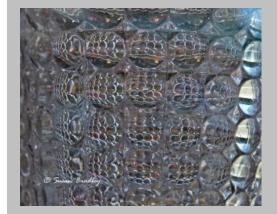






9/29/2020. All were taken from the Pinnacle Peak trail in Mt. Rainier National Park. It was a long day, but a good day. :)













**Susan Bradley** 

I drove a friend out to Port Orchard to look at cars for sale and we walked around the town a bit. We also stopped in Poulsbo for lunch in the park.

# Virtual Field Trip A Day in the Life of OCC Continued









Images were taken at Port Townsend and Fort Worden on 9/17/2020.

**Ed Tromble** 













Pam Hoaglund

A day at Mt Rainier National Park

29 September 2020

## Photo Mechanic: A Photo Management System

(Warning: reading this article could end up costing you money! \$139 + tax to be exact)

by Nancy C. Nelson

I know the last thing any of us need is an idea for yet another photography-related goodie to spend money on. But for certain types of photography, like wildlife action shots, I have found Photo Mechanic (PM) to be a godsend.

The PM website <a href="https://home.camerabits.com/">https://home.camerabits.com/</a> describes the product as "a fast media browser that lets you view, organize, manage and export digital photos". I am definitely not their target market, which is wedding photographers, photojournalists in the field and other types of professional photographers. But the combination of high speed burst mode (15 fps for my new FujiX-T4) plus rapid-write SD cards means I can accumulate literally hundreds of photos in just one brief interaction with an animal.

For example, last week at Ridgefield NWR, in about four minutes I got 750 shots of a Great Egret getting a mole ready to swallow. Easily 90% of these are junk - out of focus, the bird's eye in shadow, a piece of grass across the face, etc. Importing all of these to Lightroom, waiting for the previews, and going through them one by one is so painful to contemplate that the end result is I just don't want to take any photos at all.

The PM process starts with a metadata template that has several dozen variables you can specify before "ingesting" (aka importing) from your SD card. I usually just use location, my name and keywords. I then ingest the day's photos, and they are instantly available for viewing. Using a tip I got from this excellent how-to video, I assign the letter "T" to any photo I want to Trash. By the way this is not the intended use of the letter, but it works. It is very quick and simple to zoom in and out, and compare one photo with another to decide which is better. Once I have gone through all the photos, I hit Ctrl-T and it selects all those I've marked for deletion, then Ctrl-Delete and they are all deleted. I'll often just go through 100 or so at a time. Once I've done this for everything on the card, I then import the remaining photos into Lightroom for my usual processing. Note that all the photos in fact still exist on your SD card, as well as in your Recycle bin, so if you decide you've discarded something in error it is easy to retrieve. I don't reformat my SD card until my RAW file is backed up in the Cloud.

The video referenced above is in fact probably a better description of why this intermediate step between SD card and your post-processing system can be so helpful. Animal action shots are often just microscopically different from one another, and it can be daunting to face going through several hundred of them. But it really pays to do the rapid capture technique because if you wait until the critter does something "interesting", you've missed it. There are also the almost instantaneous variables of light, shadow, plant and animal movement that mean you never know when you're going to get the perfect catch light on your target's eye. I've captured actions, like coughs or head scratches, that I literally didn't see with my naked eye in real time. I have not yet mastered birds in flight, but Rosalind tells me she thinks this program would be very helpful there as well.

So, if you'd like to give it a try, they offer a 30 day free trial. I'd love to hear what your experience is.





#### Olympia Camera Club Business Meeting Draft October 6, 2020, 6:30pm to 8:30pm Zoom

#### Officers and Members present

Townsend Walton, Ed Tromble, Tammy Mandeville, Bruce Livingston, Pam Hoaglund, Rosalind Philips, Colleen Easley, Clair Ferris, Cynthia Whelan, Linda Pardee, Rene Conger and Chris Shealy.

The meeting was called to order by President Townsend Walton at 6:30 pm. with a quorum present.

#### **Approval of September's Minutes**

Rosalind Philips made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2020 Board Meeting. Clair Ferris seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

## Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report is on file at the OCC Dropbox.



# **Old Business-**

# Filing 990N

Townsend Walton and Bruce Livingston led a discussion on the current difficulties with filing the 990N form with the Federal Government.

# **Committee Reports**

# **President's Report**

Townsend Walton reported that we had a great General Meeting with an excellent speaker.

# **Equipment / Teleconferencing**

Rosalind Philips reported that we will now be using the new Zoom platform. Training will be scheduled for members who will be hosting future virtual meetings.

#### **Membership Report**

Colleen Easley reported that we have two new members. Our total membership is now at 152 members.

#### **Community Liaison**

No report.

## **General Meeting**

Ed Tromble reported that Darrell Gulin will be our speaker in October. For November's speaker we will have Jaymi Heimbuch who is a wildlife conservation photographer, naturalist and instructor.

## **Practical Photography**

Bruce Livingston reported that October's Practical Photography meeting will be an Introduction/Roundtable discussion to the Zoom Pro platform.

#### Member Sharing

Clair Ferris reported that the theme for October will be "Reflections".

#### **Social Chair**

No report.

#### Newsletter

Pam Hoaglund called for more articles and photos for the Newsletter.

#### Webmaster

Colleen Easley reported we will be using the new Zoom link instead of the GoToMeeting platform.

# **Thurston County Fair**

No report.

# Field Trips

Cynthia Whelan reported that the field trip committee will be having a scheduling conference later this month.

#### NPPNW / NWCCC

Bruce Livingston reported that NPPNW will have a virtual conference on November 7, 2020 with a digital image competition. The NWCCC will have its' virtual conference on November 14, 2020.

#### **PSA**

Pam Hoaglund reported that we have more members joining PSA. The Interclub Competition has six members and one alternate for this round. Images need to be turned in as soon as possible. Cynthia Whelan reported that she has written an article for the PSA Fall 2020 Photo Traveler Newsletter. The article is titled "The Way of Saint Francis, Italy".

(Continued from page 18)

#### **New Business:**

#### **Zoom Training**

Zoom training was discussed and several Board and Committee members will be trained on using the Zoom platform on Sunday October 11, 2020.

Immediate past president, should they remain on the board? In the past they did, if we go back to that status, we will need to change the bi-laws.

Townsend Walton led a discussion on the Immediate Past President. It was decided not to change the bi-laws and to have the immediate past president be an advisor.

#### Koffee Klatch

Townsend Walton led a discussion on the Koffee Klatch which will be starting later this month. Rene Conger will be hosting the Koffee Klatch every other Wednesday on the Zoom platform.

#### Covid-19

Townsend Walton reported that we are having record high cases of Covid-19 and asked everyone to stay safe out there and stay healthy.

#### Adjournment

Colleen Easley moved that we adjourn the meeting. Rosalind Philips seconded the motion. Adjournment was approved by unanimous consent at 7:50 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Tammy Mandeville

#### Wiki Loves Monuments – 2020

Submitted by Nancy Nelson

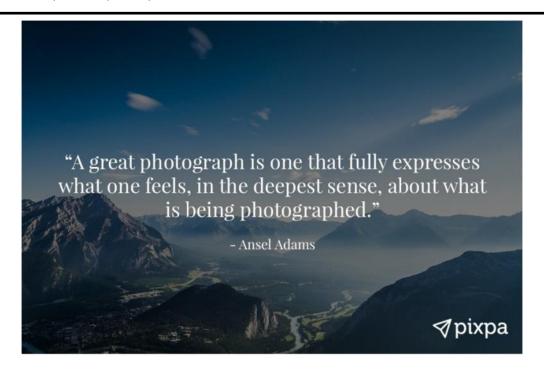
This sounds like fun: during the month of October Wikipedia is collecting photos of historic sites in the US. Here is a quote from their website:

A 'monument' refers to a protected historic site that is recognized by a governmental body or other organization, such as a historical society. In the United States, this primarily consists of places listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is the United States federal government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects deemed worthy of preservation for their historical significance. We also accept photos of historic sites that are recognized by state and local governments, as well as historical societies and related organizations.

This year the United States is participating through the month of October. By sharing your photos under a free license, you help document our history and share it with the rest of the world to enjoy through the internet, and get a shot at winning a prize!"

The website explains Rules and Judging criteria. Here is a link to a list of the 65 sites in Thurston County: (click on the blue highlighted word "Here" above to open link)

I also encourage you to look at the <u>2019 winners</u> for some awesome examples of architectural photography. (Click on "2019 winners highlighted above to open the link).



# **Member Gallery**

















# **Member Gallery**













# **Member Gallery**













# **Photographic Society of America (PSA)**

PSA is a worldwide organization for anyone with an interest in photography. Founded in 1934, the Society is for casual shutterbugs, serious amateurs, and professional photographers.

Individual digital membership is \$45 a year.

Membership offers a wide variety of services and activities:

- 1. Monthly Journal
- 2. Online photo galleries
- 3. Image evaluation
- 4. Study groups and courses
- 5. Competitions
- 6. Annual Conference
- 7. Discounts on photography-related products/services
- 8. PSA travel aide
- 9. Webinars

For a complete overview of membership benefits go to <a href="https://www.psa-photo.org">www.psa-photo.org</a>

#### **PSA Photo Festivals**

2021 Rapid City, South Dakota October 6-9, 2021

2022 Colorado Springs, Colorado September 21-24, 2022



# **Sizing Images for Newsletter**

Format: jpeg, max quality

Dimension: 1024 - 2048 pix long side Please keep images 3MB or less

Please title your image and include your name in title

**Title Your Name** 

#### Please Watermark your image!

All photographs in this newsletter are under copyright protection. They may not be used without permission from the individual photographers. Please submit articles and photographs to: <a href="mailto:newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org">newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org</a>

Deadline for articles and images for the November newsletter is 5 November at midnight.

#### **Editor's Note:**

I would like to thank the OCC members who took on the challenge of the October VFT "A Day in the Life of OCC". It was fun to see what members captured in one day of photography. Even though



many of us are feeling the constraints of what we can do and where we can go during these troubling days you can always find joy in photography. For me photography outings (while following the rules to stay safe) and my best companion, Goldie, are life lines in trying to maintain my sanity.

I encourage you to take on some of the new challenges the club is presenting.

Please continue to submit images and articles to the newsletter as it is your participation that helps me provide you a newsletter each month.

Pam Hoaglund, Editor newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org

#### October 2020

# **Olympia Camera Club Monthly Meetings**

**Business Meeting** 

Monthly on the First Tuesday of the Month

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Contact: Townsend Walton, President



**Practical Photography** 

Monthly on the Second Tuesday of the Month

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Program: How to use Zoom for our virtual meetings

Contact: Bruce Livingston, Chair



**Member Sharing Night** 

Monthly on the Third Tuesday of the Month

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 Program: Reflections

Contact: Clair Ferris, Chair



#### **General Meeting**

Monthly on the Fourth Tuesday of the Month

Tuesday, October 27, 2020 Speaker Special speaker Darrell Gulin

Contact: Ed Tromble, Chair



Koffee Klatch Meet up, Every Other Wednesday Morning from 9am to 11am Panera's Bakery, 2525 Capitol Mall Drive SW, Westside of Olympia

Open discussion about photography and other topics of interest

Canceled until further notice



#### **Executive Committee**

# **Associate Memberships**

President
Townsend Walton

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Vice President
Ed Tromble

Secretary
Tammy Mandeville

Treasurer
John Damitio





#### **Committee Chairs**

Community Liaison
Bruce Livingston

**Equipment Custodian** Rosalind Philips

NWCCC Traveling Print & Open Salon Competitions

Field Trip Coordinator
Cynthia Whelan

Membership
Colleen Easley

Practical Photography
Bruce Livingston

Member Sharing Night Clair Ferris

Newsletter Editor
Pam Hoaglund

PSA Representative & Interclub Competition Coordinator
Pam Hoaglund

Thurston County Fair Colleen and Dale Easley **NPPNW Liaison** 

NWCCC Liaison

**Scavenger Hunt** Rosalind Philips

Webmaster
Colleen Easley

Social Committee
Linda Pardee

Olympia Camera Club P.O. Box 13333 Olympia, WA 98508-3333