

February 2023 Newsletter

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Photo by Dick Schenck

APC ACTIVITIES

Next Meeting

Feb. 20, 2023 7:00pm First Baptist Church

Programs

Mar. 20, 2023 Daniel Walker
 May 15, 2023 David Hall
 July 17, 2023 TBD
 Sep. 18, 2023 Ciara Wilder Massingale
 (Wilder Uwharrie Photography)
 Nov. 20, 2023 Bob Finley

Exhibits

Apr. 7 - July 21 Center for Creative Leadership

2023 PhotoShows

Feb. 20, 2023 Monochrome
 April 17, 2023 Photographer's Choice
 June 19, 2023 Macro/'Up Close'
 Aug. 21, 2023 Action
 Oct. 16, 2023 People at Work

Field Trips

Q1 2023 Duke Chapel
 Q2 2023 Burl. Arboretum/City Park
 Q3 2023 Duke Homestead
 Q4 2023 TBD

President's Comments—February 2023

By Keith O'Leary

Happy February! Thanks to Sean Leahy for sharing photos with us last month from his recent South African adventure. Those in attendance really enjoyed the wildlife shots, interesting info and even the pop quiz at the end. 😊 I hope many of you submit pictures for this month's "Monochrome" PhotoShow. I heard a rumor that we may be lifting the max # of submissions from 2 to 3 photos. I am excited to announce that our club has been invited to exhibit at CCL in Greensboro again this year! Please read that

announcement elsewhere in this newsletter for important information about this fast-approaching event. We are also introducing a new 'Trading Post' section in the Newsletter this month to provide an opportunity for you to advertise photo equipment that you would like to sell and/or purchase. We hope you will take advantage of that. Welcome new members! Thanks for your participation in making this a great club. Stay warm, stay well and happy shooting.

APC BOARD

President	Keith O'Leary	Publicity	Carole Barnard
Vice President	John Reich	Outings/Field Trips	Hugh Comfort
Secretary	George Siple	Membership	Ken Sellers
Treasurer	Dianne Sellers	Web Master	Christie O'Leary
PhotoShow Chair	Dick Schenck	Editor	Ray Munns
Exhibit Chair	Angela Bostek		

February 20th PhotoShow – “Monochrome”

Dick Schenck, 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 three (3) photos. **(Note the change from 2 to 3!!!)** We may only use one or two of your photos based on the number of entries so PLEASE indicate your preferred photo in the file name of each photo (01, 02 or 03; 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 three (3) entries per member. Please indicate your preferred photo with number 01, 02, or 03.

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, _02 or _03 *(per use preference)*

Example: john.doe_01.jpg john.doe_02.jpg john.doe_03.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 February Photoshow – John Doe

Entry Deadline:

5:30 PM on Monday, February 13, 2023.

Please Note:

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

Don't forget: Photos may be submitted early for the following show!

APC Trading Post

Submit brief descriptions of photography items you would like to sell, swap or purchase to Ray Munns (raymunns@bellsouth.net) no later than the 20th of each month. Please include your name, contact info (phone and/or email) and if each item is for sale or something you are looking to purchase. Also notify Ray when items should be removed from the newsletter.

For Sale

Manfrotto tripod and ball head with quick release. This combination cost over \$200 new. A used one on eBay starts at \$135. I will consider any reasonable offer.

Contact Dick Schenck 919 968-8757

For Sale

8" LED Ring Light with 3 light modes and variable brightness control. Includes large velvet drawstring pouch, tripod stand, clamp-on base, mobile phone holder and remote control. Charges via USB.

Contact Keith O'Leary @ 336.693.8268 or videoman@triad.rr.com.

For Sale

Item 1 - Nikon AF-S DX NIKKOR 18-200mm f/3.5-5.6G ED VR II Lens - \$350.00 (cash)

Item 2 - Tamron 90mm f/2.8 SP AF Di Macro Lens for Nikon AF - \$350.00 (cash)

Special Deal - Buy both lens above together for \$600.00 (cash) and it will include:

- A) Nikon D300 SLR Camera with 2 batteries and charger
- B) Nikon SB 600 Speedlight
- C) 12 Eneloop AA rechargeable batteries w/charger
- D) 72 mm polarizing lens
- E) Camera bag for above items

Contact Leonard Barnard - 336-270-3194

Membership Corner

Ken Sellers

February will end our membership drive for this year. If you have not renewed, you can do so online or at the next meeting. Thanks to all those who have renewed already. To continue to get the newsletter, attend the monthly meetings, get news on upcoming activities, as well as other photography news and info, we hope you will renew by the end of February. You are a valued member and we want to keep you in the Alamance Photography Club.

Ken Sellers

Membership Chair



WEBMASTER NOTES

Website content includes:

- Announcement board of recent & current events
- Membership Info
- PhotoShow themes for the current year + winning photos from 2022-2023.
- Club Activities
- Calendar of Events
- Field trip info w/pictures of past exhibits
- Member Galleries
- Newsletters from 2022-2023
- Online contact form
- Online renewal and credit card payments!

Christie O'Leary—Webmaster

Duke Chapel Tour—2023 Q1 Field Trip

Update: There will be a docent-led tour of Duke Chapel, available only to APC members, on Saturday, February 4, from 9-10 AM. For details, see the email sent to all APC members on January 27 from APC Field Trips.

The field trip this quarter has a new wrinkle – read on. The destination for this personal field trip is Duke Chapel (401 Chapel Dr, Durham, NC 27708) on the Duke University campus. The Chapel is open to the public daily from 10 AM to 8 PM. Visitors are welcome to take photos of the Chapel **for personal use only**, as long as it doesn't disturb others or interrupt an event. For more information, go to:

<https://chapel.duke.edu/visit-events/visit#tours>

Here is the wrinkle. The field trip dates are being extended *backwards* to include December 2022. December is usually left out of field trip opportunities because of the yearend Christmas Party. By including December in this trip, interior and exterior photos of the Chapel decorated for Christmas will be accessible for those who went in December. So, the time frame for this field trip is December 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023.

Information on photo submission was sent by email to all club members on January 27 from APC Field Trips: please keep that email and refer to it for photo submission. If you did not receive it, contact Hugh Comfort (comforthh@gmail.com).

CCL Display Opportunity

APC has been invited to display our images at the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro once again. As you will recall, we displayed at CCL in 2020 at the onset of Covid restrictions. We were promised a return opportunity on their display schedule, and our time has come!

We will be displaying beginning on April 7th through July 21st. We will have a reception hosted and provided by CCL. The guidelines remain the same, with the exception of being able to display works that were previously shown. CCL is waiving this as we did not have a reception previously. We are able to display 80 - 90 works throughout their facility.

Exhibit information will be sent via email, along with the CCL Art Agreement. Participants must read this agreement and our President will sign on behalf of the Club as a whole.

Be sure to check your inbox for details!

Thanks! **Angela Bostek**

6 Tips for Breathtaking Church and Cathedral Photography

By Christina N Dickson

Looking to capture gorgeous photos of churches and cathedrals? You've come to the right place.

Last winter, I traveled across Europe so I could visit and photograph the old cathedrals and churches, and I had an amazing time. I also learned plenty about the art of church photography – and in this article, I share my top six tips.

Now, photographing churches and cathedrals is a uniquely challenging endeavor; you're often working in near darkness, surrounded by other folks who can easily become unwanted distractions, all while you attempt to create beautiful, well-exposed compositions. Fortunately, there are lots of easy tricks and techniques you can use to handle such scenarios, starting with:

1. Carefully choose the best church photography settings

Most old churches are incredibly dark, and it's tough to capture sharp shots that are also well-exposed. So what do you do?

First, make sure that you get your camera off its Auto mode. Set it to Aperture Priority mode (which lets you choose the aperture and the ISO while your camera selects the shutter speed) or Manual mode (which lets you choose the aperture, shutter speed, and ISO independently).

Remember: To counteract low light, you can make three adjustments:

1. You can widen the aperture.
2. You can lower the shutter speed.
3. You can increase the ISO.



6 Tips for Breathtaking Church and Cathedral Photography . . . Continued

When you're working in churches, you'll often want to keep a relatively narrow aperture; otherwise, you won't have enough depth of field and the scene won't be in focus throughout.

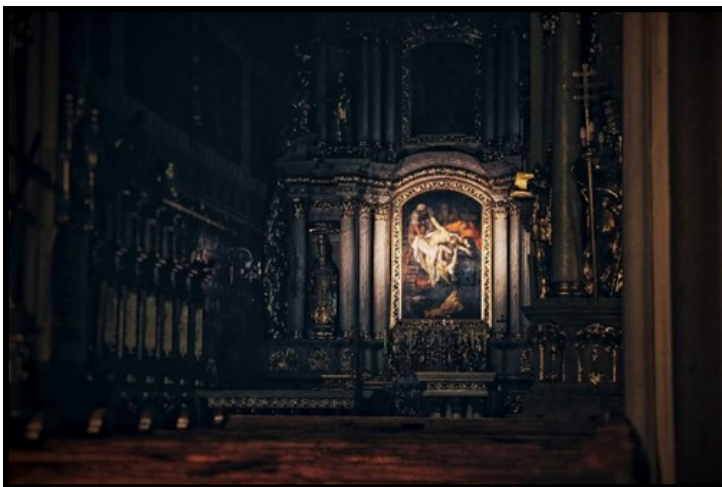
And unless you're using a tripod (which often isn't allowed), you'll want to keep the shutter speed fast enough to capture sharp handheld shots. (Around 1/80s is a rough cut-off point, but it really depends on your handholding technique, your camera, and your lens.)

So the biggest adjustment you can make when photographing churches and cathedrals in low light? Boost that ISO. Unfortunately, a high ISO does produce noise, but most modern cameras can go up to ISO 800 and beyond without issue. And if your images do end up a little too noisy, you can successfully correct a lot of the problem areas in post-processing.

But don't only rely on a high ISO. Widen your aperture as far as it can go while still capturing the depth of field you want, and lower your shutter speed as far as it can go while keeping the scene sharp. You can also stabilize your body by leaning against a wall, or you can keep your camera completely still by setting it on the floor or a bench.

That way, you'll get a photo that's sharp and well-exposed, even in the darkest conditions.

2. Be quiet and respectful



No matter where you go to photograph, this is probably the absolute most important guideline I can offer:

Have an attitude of quiet respect.

If you're capturing a famous church or cathedral, people have likely come from all over the world to get a glimpse of the building, and for many, these visits are part of personal journeys of deep meaning.

So do whatever is necessary to remain respectful.

First, make sure you're always aware of your surroundings. If you're adjusting your angle in order to find a composition, keep an eye out for other visitors because it's easy to accidentally bump into a passersby when you're staring through a camera viewfinder.

6 Tips for Breathtaking Church and Cathedral Photography . . . Continued

In a similar vein, take steps to avoid disturbing or distracting other viewers. If someone is praying and you wish to take a photo of a nearby window, I'd really encourage you to stay back, shoot from a distance, and plan on cropping if you want to highlight specific details. (A longer lens can be helpful in these scenarios!)

Finally, set your camera to its quietest mode. Some cameras offer a "Silent" or "Quiet" mode, so before heading out to the church, check your camera's menu (or the manual) so you can figure out how to activate it. If you're using a mirrorless camera, you may have access to an electronic shutter; if so, then make sure it's active. (Often, mirrorless electronic shutters are totally silent, which is perfect!)

3. Work quickly and efficiently

Churches have curators and security guards. And unless you contact the church in advance and gain special clearance, there is little chance the church staff will appreciate you taking several minutes to compose a shot. Remember, you don't want to be a distraction!

So instead of walking around with a camera to your eye, keep your camera around your neck or in your bag. Think about the shots you want. Ask yourself:

- How do I want to compose this image?
- What settings should I choose?
- How can I achieve this image in as little time as possible?



Once you've planned out a specific image, then grab your camera. Feel free to make adjustments to the composition and settings as you take your shot, but work as efficiently as you can, and if you run into a major issue (such as a person walking into the scene), consider putting your camera away until you've solved the problem.

I wouldn't encourage you to rush each photo – it's important that you treat each shot with care – but you shouldn't work slowly, either. Work as fast as you can while still giving yourself the time you need for a great result. Make sense?

6 Tips for Breathtaking Church and Cathedral Photography . . . Continued

4. Use the window light



As I emphasized above, the lighting in churches and cathedrals is often very limited, but that doesn't mean it doesn't exist! Instead, you'll often encounter a few large, open windows, and these can make for amazing photos – if you know how to use them.

For instance, you can create beautiful images of subjects just inside the windows (such as pews or other architecture). Seek out subjects that are bathed in a stream of light; here, sidelight – where the light comes in at a 90-degree angle from your lens – often looks great and will add a strong sense of three-dimensionality.

You can also capture stunning silhouette photos. Find a large window and adjust your camera settings until the interior of the church is nearly – but not completely! – dark. Then, when a person walks by, press the shutter button. You'll end up with a beautiful silhouette that helps communicate the grandness of the church interior.

Note: If you're looking to use window light in your church and cathedral photography, I encourage you to research the position of the sun in advance and time your visit accordingly. When the sun is positioned just right, it'll blaze through the windows and produce a gorgeous high-contrast effect (though you can also create great shots when the sky is overcast or the sun shines more indirectly; it all depends on the look you're trying to capture!).

5. Work from different angles

The best church photos tend to communicate a sense of awe, and they also tend to show the space from a completely new perspective.

That's why I encourage you to shoot from all sorts of different angles. Different angles will give the viewer a new way of looking at the church (plus, interesting angles look, well, *interesting*).



For instance, crouch low to communicate the size and scale of the church. (Of course, in the interest of remaining respectful, don't spend too much time crouched down.)

6 Tips for Breathtaking Church and Cathedral Photography . . . Continued

If the church includes a balcony, you can try shooting from high up. Even if there are lots of visitors, a high-angle shot can really encapsulate the mood and feel of the area.

And no matter what angles you use, make sure to keep your compositions simple and compelling. Exclude distractions, consider adding foreground subjects to give the scene a sense of depth, try to include a clear main subject, and follow the basic composition guidelines (such as the rule of thirds, the rule of odds, and the rule of space).

6. Go when the crowds are gone



If you're photographing lesser-known churches, this won't be a huge issue – but if you plan to capture some of the most famous buildings on the planet, you risk scheduling your photoshoot on a crowded date and time.

Now, including people in your church photos isn't necessarily a bad thing. In fact, adding people to your architectural photography can be a good idea; they'll add context and can act as key compositional elements. But too many people are (photographically) distracting, and you'll be forced to abandon certain compositions simply because the scenes are full of people.

I encourage you to research each church in advance. Determine when they're quietest, and plan to head over during those times. In general, you should avoid school vacation periods, weekends, and mid-morning and mid-afternoon time slots. Instead, go early or late on weekdays, and try to schedule your trip dates when travelers aren't trotting the globe (e.g., in the winter).

That way, you can capture all the images you've envisioned, and you can avoid plenty of frustration, too!

Church and cathedral photography: final words

Now that you've finished this article, you're ready to head out with your camera and capture the beauty of churches and cathedrals.

Just remember to stay respectful, use the light, adjust your settings, and plan your trip carefully. That way, you can create consistently amazing photos!



**Digital
Photography
School**

9 Amazing Benefits of Photography

by Mary Segers

With the proper camera and vision, photography can make your life much better. Below are just a few of the many benefits of developing a love of photography.



"Young Photographer" captured by Muha

1. Photography affords immortality

Don't believe it? Look at all the old photographs your mom or grandmother had around. I personally have a picture in my china cabinet of a newly married couple in 1911, and I have no idea who it is. (No, Cousin Ann, I don't care to know.) I mean, it has their names on the back, but I'm not quite sure just where in the family tree they belong. I just think it's cool. They looked so stiff and formal back then! It sure is different than how we take such natural pictures today. I personally will be immortalized laughing or smiling in many pictures.

*1911 Wedding Portrait, Carl & Nellie
(via flickr/josh phillipson)*



9 Amazing Benefits of Photography . . . Continued

2. Photography documents your journey through life

From your childhood pictures to your child's pictures to your grandchild's pictures. From first smiles to first steps to first dates, life can be documented and preserved. Photography captures personal communication that would otherwise be lost forever.

Many times I've noticed something in a photograph that wasn't apparent when I was snapping the picture. Sometimes it's a look on a child's face or an arm around a lover or something that would have been lost forever if not captured in that very moment in time.

So, whether it's that child saying "Puhleeeese, I'm soooo sick of you taking these stupid pictures" or the lover feeling that "connectedness" right at that very moment they both are conveyed for eternity. Captured. Never to be lost.

*"Quanto ci costa sorridere?"
captured by Andrea Floris*

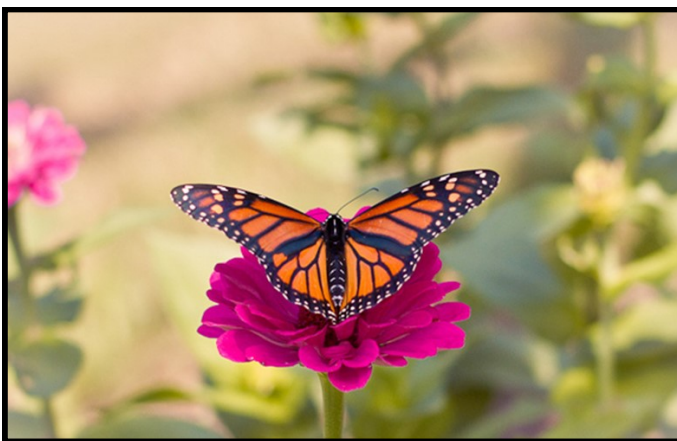


3. Photography is a wonderful stress reliever

I mean, really, how much can you concentrate on that all-consuming problem when you turn your focus instead to the petals of a flower, the wings of a butterfly, the graceful curves of a majestic mountain, or the dimples of a smiling baby?

Go ahead. Take your blood pressure before and after spending just 30 minutes focusing on getting that perfect picture. You'll be amazed at the difference.

Then, for better overall health, just rinse and repeat often. It's okay. I promise the problem won't go away. It'll still be there when you're ready to start worrying again.



*"Monarch Butterfly"
captured by Shandi-lee Cox*

9 Amazing Benefits of Photography . . . Continued

4. Photography inspires your imagination

My sister is a professional photographer and her creativity while taking photographs of the kids is what moved her (slowly) toward a career as a photographer. She loves finding and replicating such creative poses as a newborn in a net seemingly hanging from the sky. She also loves taking a couple and creating romantic ways for the shared love to be shown.



It has inspired my own creativity, as I help her come up with new ideas. For instance, one day I was walking on a road with plenty of random cracks in it. The sun was behind me casting my shadow forward. We were talking on the phone about how to capture this one particular couple and the strength of their union and I mentioned the cracks all around them (symbolizing life in general). However, when it came to their shadows, they were solid. In this way it showed the strength of the union as well as how life couldn't "crack" them.

"Engaged" captured by Bùi Linh Ngân

5. Photography as a career is possible for anyone with a true passion for it

There are people who make a living being a photographer. Imagine, if you will, that every picture you've ever seen, whether it's on a billboard, in a magazine, or on TV, was snapped by someone. There are schools, classes, books, and websites where you could learn much more than I could ever tell you. Remember, you have your whole life in front of you. Why not aim for a part-time career on the side?

6. Photography is a wonderful, safe, and natural self-esteem booster

My 14 year-old loves the feeling of pride she gets when she takes pictures of her friends and they turn out good. When she downloads and sees them on the computer, she's in seventh heaven. And, of course, she loves sharing them with her friends.

9 Amazing Benefits of Photography . . . Continued

7. Photography brings you closer to your natural spirituality

Look around at the wonders of nature. Whether you believe in God or not, you can't help but feel a stirring at the beauty surrounding you. You simply can't help but understand how very small you are while you are realizing how very vast everything else is.

"Rainbow Valley" captured by Roy Wangsa



8. Photography lets you see things that you may never notice otherwise

When I look at something I can't possibly take in every aspect that is within my vision. For instance, a beautiful sunset only lasts so long and I may not notice all aspects of how the colors play on the water (I live in a beach town). The look of the sand (such a simple thing) changes as the sun lowers. All of these aspects are much more evident in a picture, and I can concentrate on the overall view while knowing that the individual components will not be lost forever.



"Gong Beach Sunset" captured by Tony Heyward

9. Photography preserves new and old memories

Think of the wife or husband who has lost a spouse. Or the child who lost a parent. With pictures not only can they have no fear of forgetting their loved one's face but can remember exactly what was going on when that picture was snapped, cementing the memory forever.

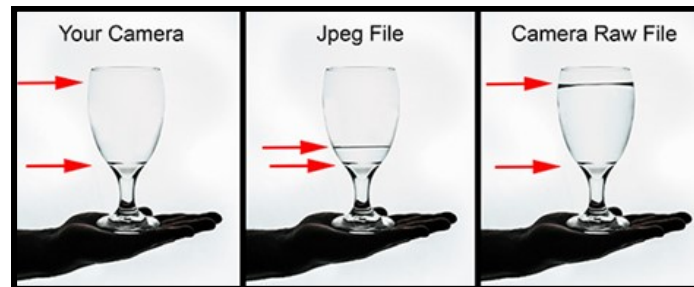
These are only a few of the many, many benefits of photography. They are so many, it would be impossible to fit them into one article. What's your favorite benefit of photography?

This is why RAW is the Best Choice for Your Photography

I want to give you the rock-solid reasons why RAW is your best choice for a camera file format.

Don't get me wrong: there is a time and place for the trusted and long-used JPEG format as well. I'll touch on that too.

The "glass of water" metaphor



Original image by Nolan Simmons

On the left, we have a water glass that represents your camera's digital sensor. The red arrows illustrate the fantastic capabilities of your camera's imaging sensor. It is capable of recording a lot of information.

In the center, the glass has water in it. But it's only about a quarter full. This picture represents what a JPEG file records and transmits to your memory card. It's quite limited in its abilities, which we will discuss further in a minute.

On the right, we see a full glass that represents what a RAW camera file is capable of recording—virtually everything your camera sensor has to offer.

Think of it this way

RAW is a digital negative. In the old days of film, you would take your negative into the darkroom and carefully craft your finished picture. Today, your digital negative is brought into your post-processing software—but you still carefully craft your final image.

A JPEG file is summarily processed. It would be the same as if you dropped your film off at the drugstore, and you receive whatever they deliver to you.

This is why RAW is the Best Choice for Your Photography . . . Continued

The strange world of bits

A JPEG is an 8-bit picture file. It displays a maximum of 256 colors.

A RAW file is anywhere from 12 bits to 16 bits, depending upon the age and complexity of the camera. It displays anywhere from 68 billion to a whopping 281 trillion colors.

All those extra bits mean more information captured and transferred to the memory card via the RAW digital negative file.

Why do we call a RAW file a digital negative?

First, let's examine the JPEG file. When you apply settings within your camera menus, those settings are recorded to the JPEG file. After the picture is taken, they cannot be removed.

Those same settings won't affect the RAW file, which ignores those settings, because it knows you are going to process the negative yourself!

What about TIFF, you ask?

A JPEG is not only just an 8-bit file, it also is compressed in what is known as a "lossy" compression algorithm. This means that over time, a JPEG file slowly deteriorates every time it is opened, altered, and saved.

A TIFF file can be anywhere from 8 to 16 bits, depending on the camera. However, the biggest difference is that a TIFF file is uncompressed. So, there is no loss of quality over time. However, a TIFF file created in-camera also is biased by the presets and these presets cannot be removed after exposure. Plus, TIFF files take up a lot of storage space—more than RAW files.

What you need to know

Only the RAW format will give all the information that you need to capture every level of tone that your camera is capable of producing in a file size that is manageable.

In a RAW processor (such as Adobe ACR, Lightroom, Luminar or Aurora), you can methodically and precisely set:

- Exposure
- Noise levels
- Shadow details
- Highlight details
- Midtone details
- Sharpness
- White balance
- Many other options

This is why RAW is the Best Choice for Your Photography . . . Continued

Let's talk about white balance for a second



Original image by Claudio Schwarz

Some scenes are guaranteed to skew the white balance of a JPEG or a TIFF camera file. Only RAW gives you firsthand non-destructive control over the white balance of your pictures using post-production software—after the picture is taken.

Should you ever shoot in JPEG?

The JPEG format has three things going for it that can be helpful to a photographer—if you can overlook the detriments.

- It's the smallest file size. You can fit many more JPEG pictures on a memory card than either RAW or TIFF files.
- It has the fastest transfer speed from the camera to the memory card. This can be helpful if you're photographing sports or wildlife. If your camera stops to catch up to the transfer rate—well, consider just shooting JPEG images.
- A JPEG camera picture file emerges from the camera as a finished product. So, you don't have to wait on post-processing before uploading it online or passing it along to a client. The JPEG file is a great way to give your client a sneak peek while they wait on your post-processing of the RAW files.

Important: The RAW file provides maximum benefit for photo image quality. However, all RAW files need some post-processing to look their best, because the file was designed to work that way.

Final thought

If your camera allows it, set it to shoot both RAW and JPEG files at the same time. This provides you with the best of both worlds.