

Southern Exposure

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<http://www.southlandphotographicsociety.com>

February 2017

Meetings held at Age Concern Rooms in Forth Street, Invercargill at 7.30pm on the first & third Thursday of each month.

Supper Duty for Meetings

26 January: Cheryl McMath, Peter Aalders

2 February: David Clearwater, Eb Wijkstra

16 February: Jean Wilkie, Chris Duggan

26 January

Social Night

With some displays of Club Members' Work & Information about Committee & Competitions

2 February

7pm Camera Basics

Panel Discussion - bring your questions

Member's Portfolio: Donna Corbin

Close-off: Open (1) A,B & C

16 February

Composition Tutorial: Eric Miller

Spotlight on a Photographer: Annie Carmichael

Processing Tips: Les & Dave

How to get Great Bokeh from your Lens

What's 'Bokeh'? It's a word of Japanese origin used to describe the aesthetic quality of the 'out-of-focus' area of a photograph. Typically referring to the more visible 'circles of confusion' that are visible in shallow depth of field photographs. To get the best bokeh possible, do this:

1. Use a fast lens, with the aperture wide open.
2. Shoot subjects that are close to the minimum focusing distance.
3. Focus correctly. Having sharp, un-blurred areas in a photograph helps to make the un-focussed areas all the more beautiful.
4. Use prime lenses. While zooms also can produce fine bokeh, prime lenses have the habit of producing bokeh with an ethereal quality. If you have a choice, definitely choose a prime lens.
5. Bokeh shows up best when there are some light areas (or points of light) on a relatively dark background. In the case of points of light, they appear as circles of confusion, in other cases, it appears as a pleasing variation of light and shade, the tonality of this area affects the quality of the bokeh.
6. Keep interesting shapes in your frame even though they're out of focus. Often, these are called 'out of focus elements'. They lend context and atmosphere to a photograph.

Don't Drink and Drive, you might hit a bump and spill something.

*At a Proctologist's door:
'To expedite your visit, please reverse in.'*

*In the front yard of a Funeral Home :
'Drive carefully. We'll wait.'*

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'Drive carefully. We'll wait.'*

*In a Nonsmoking Area:
'If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action.'*

*On a Plumber's truck:
'We repair what your husband fixed.'*

'Those who do not want to imitate anything, produce nothing. - Salvador Dali

An elderly, but hardy cattleman from Texas once told a young female neighbor that if she wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gunpowder on her oatmeal each morning. She did this religiously and lived to the age of 103. She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and a 40 foot hole where the crematorium used to be.

Learn from your parents' mistakes, use birth control.

'You don't make a photograph just with a camera. You bring to the act of photography all the pictures you have seen, the books you have read, the music you have heard, the people you have loved.' - Ansel Adams

Patron: Graham Dainty

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Treasurer: Debbie Main

Committee Members: Phil Melgren, Rosemary McGeachie, Barbara Lee, Les Ladbrook, Val Wardell

Editor: Rosemary McGeachie

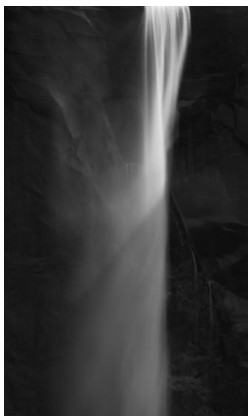
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6 Steps to making more creative Landscape Photographs

You've done the work, and you know your camera. You should be able to operate it with your eyes closed. If not, go practice in a darkened space until you are familiar with every single button on your camera. Your camera is supposed to be an extension of your hands. Your workflow should be solid by now, so let your creative voice take the lead. Feel and experience what nature is showing you before you even set up your camera. Be curious. Explore your surroundings. Have faith in what you know technically, but don't let the technical voice 'drive the bus'.

Love the process

Don't dwell too much on the outcome of your work. Yes, visualize what you are trying to achieve, but don't forget to stay in the moment and enjoy the process. Let the work itself be the reward. If you don't love what you are doing, it will reflect in your images. So, if you are not okay with getting up at ridiculous hours, enduring some physical discomfort or chasing storms, your unhappiness will reflect in the emotional quality of your images. So, have fun! Adjust your experience to your comfort level until you can focus completely on your work and not on your discomfort.



Listen to your inner voice

Your life experiences, the sum of your existence so far as you've walked this planet, will come through in the expression of your photography. You can't help it. It just will, so tap into that and pay attention to how you are reacting to a scene, then try to communicate it visually. What is

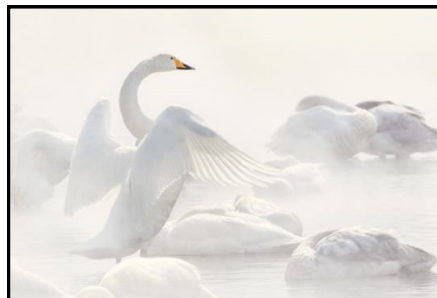
moving you emotionally about the scene? Answer that question and focus. You see your surroundings uniquely from everyone around you because you are you.

Live creatively

Write poetry. Play an instrument. Work in a garden. Make stuff with your hands. Engage with the creative world outside of your photography. You probably already do creative things in your life that don't even think about! Feed those activities and let them feed your creative soul. Visit art museums. Study the masters and spend time with those works of the great painters, photographers, architects, and sculptures/ sculptresses that move you emotionally.

Cross train

Try making photographs in a different genre, like portraits, street photography, or wildlife. Your brain must work differently in each of these disciplines and you will become a better photographer.



Take bad pictures and embrace failure

Ok, I realize this sounds like bad advice, but trust me! It is not! Don't get addicted to your successes. Success only happen through failure. Every artist creates bad work. It is an intrinsic part of the process to make creative landscape photographs, so if you place unreasonable expectations on yourself, you are very likely to be unhappy and give up. Don't give up just because you aren't the genius you expect yourself to be!

Charlotte Gibb
<https://visualwilderness.com>

I speak my mind, because it hurts to bite my tongue all the time.

'When you photograph people in colour, you photograph their clothes. But when you photograph people in Black and white, you photograph their souls!' – Ted Grant

One morning, a husband returns the boat to their lakeside cottage after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with the lake, his wife decides to take the boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors, puts her feet up, and begins to read her book. The peace and solitude are magnificent. Along comes a Fish and Game Warden in his boat. He pulls up alongside the woman and says, 'Good morning, Ma'am. What are you doing?' 'Reading a book,' she replies, (thinking, 'Isn't that obvious?') 'You're in a Restricted Fishing Area,' he informs her. 'I'm sorry, officer, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading.' 'Yes, but I see you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up.' 'If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault,' says the woman. 'But I haven't even touched you,' says the Game Warden. 'That's true, but you have all the equipment.. For all I know you could start at any moment.' 'Have a nice day ma'am,' and he left.

One day, God was looking down at earth, and saw all the misbehaving (too much sex, illicit drugs, prescription drugs, alcohol and risqué emails) that was going on, so he called one of his angels to go to Earth. When he returned, the angel told God: 'Yes, it is bad on Earth; 95% are misbehaving, and only 5% are not'. God thought for a moment and said, 'Maybe I should send down another angel, to get a second opinion!' So God called another angel, and sent him to Earth too. When the angel returned, he went to God & said: 'Yes, it's true. The Earth is in decline; 95% are misbehaving, but 5% are being good.' God was not pleased. So he decided to e-mail the 5% who were good, because, he wanted to encourage them, give them a little something, to help them keep going! Do you know what the e-mail said? No? Okay, just checking with you.

Three boys are in the playground bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him \$50.' The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him \$100.' The third boy says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'

'Brexit is a terrible name, sounds like cereal you eat when you are constipated' - Tiff Stevenson

'Photography is like sex. You know the ending. So how can you make it interesting?' – Fer Juaristi

10 Things Nobody Tells Photography Newbies

So many things to learn, yet it is one of the joys of photography as well. Your boundaries are in many ways limitless, it is an art form you can take and develop and make it your own.

Photography is hard to learn

Your camera is a marvel of modern technology and science, with lots of buttons and dials, and all sorts of fancy features. To have control over how it creates your images, you need to learn how to use it with some level of skill. Then there is the art side of the equation; composition, framing, mood, telling a story. So, many new concepts and ideas to learn, both technical and creative.

Photography is an expensive exercise

It starts with the really expensive bits, the camera body and the lens. Before long you will want more lenses. A camera bag is necessary to carry it all. A tripod to hold it still. Filters for long exposure shots. Wireless remotes, flash or other lighting gear, the list goes on. There is always something new and shiny to spend money on.



Camera gear is heavy

Good quality lenses are full of optical quality glass, and as a result they can be quite heavy. By the time you have two or three of them, and a DSLR body and other accessories, your kit can easily weigh 5kg or more. The more gear you have, the more you have to carry with you. This is one of the reasons the four thirds (mirrorless) technology is becoming so popular, the cameras (and lenses) are much smaller, and therefore lighter.

Having the right gear matters

Long lenses are necessary for wildlife and bird photography. Special gear is needed for astrophotography. For that super close-up shot, a macro lens (or

filters) are a must. Studio portrait work means soft-boxes and professional lighting gear. Tripods, filters, wireless remotes etc., it all makes a difference, and having the right gear for the job is important.



Gear doesn't matter at all

Composition, framing, creative or artistic imagery, all elements that you, the photographer, bring to the image. It could be shot with your phone or the latest DSLR on the market, but without the creative input, your image may be missing that critical ingredient. Being in the right place at the right time (e.g. sunrise or sunset) or travelling to exotic locations, climbing a mountain, driving for hours to be in just the right spot, these are all things you have to do to capture the image.

It takes a long time to get competent

When you first get your camera gear it's exciting and fun, so you take lots of pictures. Eventually you may get frustrated at how your images look, compared to those seen online, and one of two things will happen. The most likely outcome is that you give up because it's too hard. The alternative option is you work even harder at learning your craft, you read more books, maybe join a club, or attend some workshops.

Someone clever (quote attributed to Malcolm Gladwell) worked out that it takes 10,000 hours of effort to master a new skill!

Social Media is not your friend

The problem with social media is that most of the people viewing your images are not photographers. They cannot give you useful technical advice or critique on your images, the kind to help you improve. If all you want is to get the most likes, then that will have an impact on how you learn and grow as a photographer.

If you want a sunrise, you have to get up before the sun does

Yeah it's easy to read it and nod your head, and go, 'Sure, I can do that'. It's a different story at 4am when your bed is nice and warm, but outside it's cold and dark. Plus you might have already gotten up 10 times in the last couple of months to go shoot, and none of those mornings paid off.

Post-processing is just another tool

Little is more divisive in the photography world than the question of post-processing. If you shoot in RAW then it's necessary to edit the files with some form of software. There are many options available - Photoshop, Lightroom, OnOne, DXO, and the list goes on. Some people prefer the 'get it right in camera' and shoot JPG approach instead.

If you do choose to shoot RAW and want to edit your images, that means learning to use the software. Like everything in photography, it isn't quick or easy to figure out, but once you do learn it, the value it brings to working on your images is valuable. It's not necessary to spend hours on every image either, with some handy pre-sets or actions, it might only take a couple of minutes for most of them.



Are you a follower of fashion?

There are noticeable trends and styles in photography, which are in fashion at any given point in time. It can be easy to do the same as everyone else, which limits your ability to learn and express yourself. Don't be afraid to try something different, and whatever you do, make sure it gives you images that you are happy to have in your portfolio.

One last final tip - Everybody starts at exactly the same place - at the beginning.

<http://digital-photography-school.com>

'Photography is an art of observation. It has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.' –Elliot Erwitt

On Composition

You are a photographer, so remember that you have a powerful tool of creativity in your hands... the camera! Try to create a masterpiece every time you click. Take the composition and balance in your photographs seriously. Follow the Great Masters of painting Rembrandt... Renoir... Rubens... Da Vinci (every painting was carefully composed in sketches, and thought out a great deal.) and I'm sure you will turn out masterpieces as well.

One day a 12-year old boy was walking down the street when a car pulled up beside him, and the window was wound down.

'I'll give you a bag of lollies if you get in the car,' said the male driver.

'No way, get stuffed,' replied the boy.

'How about a bag of lollies and \$10?' asked the driver.

'I said no way,' replied the irritated youngster. 'What about a new cellphone and FIFTY DOLLARS, eh?' quizzed the driver, still rolling slowly to keep up with the walking boy.

'No, I'm not getting in the bloody car!' answered the boy.

'OK, I know, I'll give you \$100 and a new Playstation,' the driver offered.

'NO,' screamed the boy.

'So what will it take to get you into the car?' asked the driver with a long sigh. The boy replied, 'Listen Dad, you bought the f@#\$%^# Ford, you have to live with it, not me.'

'My aesthetic gets simpler every year as I rely less on gimmicks and more on powerful content.' — Anna Kuperberg

He said . . . I don't know why you wear a bra; you've got nothing to put in it. She said . . . You wear pants don't you?

A male patient is lying in bed in the hospital, wearing an oxygen mask over his mouth and nose, still heavily sedated from a difficult four hour, surgical procedure. A young, student nurse appears to give him a partial sponge bath.

'Nurse', he mumbles, from behind the mask. 'Are my testicles black?' Embarrassed, the young nurse replies, 'I don't know, Sir. I'm only here to wash your upper body and feet.' He struggles to ask again, 'Nurse, are my testicles black?'

Concerned that he may elevate his vitals from worry about his testicles, she overcomes her embarrassment and sheepishly pulls back the covers. She raises his gown, holds his penis in one hand and his testicles in the other, lifting and moving them around. Then, she takes a close look and says, 'There's nothing wrong with them, Sir!'

The man pulls off his oxygen mask, smiles at her and says very slowly, 'Thank you very much. That was wonderful, but, listen very, very closely...'

Are - my - test - results - back?'

Best Apertures for Sharpness

If you want the sharpest pictures that your lens can give you, remember not to use its largest and smallest apertures. Most lenses are optimised to be used in the f/5.6 - f/11 aperture range and give their best performance when stopped down a couple of f-stops from the widest aperture or opened up from the smallest aperture.

The problem with using small aperture sizes is that light waves are affected due to diffraction and though you have great depth of field, you lose out on sharpness.

Large apertures are great for low-light, but unless you have an exceptional, lens its just too difficult to produce lenses that are razor sharp at it's widest aperture.

There are always exceptions and some lenses made by Carl-Zeiss and Leica are just as sharp at f/2.8 (or f/1.8 as the case may be), as they are at f/5.6.

Marvels of science, that's what they are.

Wife - 'Where the hell have you been? You said you'd be done with golf by noon!'

Husband - 'I'm so sorry Honey...but you probably don't want to hear the reason.'

Wife - 'I want the truth, and I want it NOW!'

Husband - 'Fine. We finished in under 4 hours, quick beer in the clubhouse, I hopped in the car, and would have been here at 12 on the button.

On the way home, I spotted a girl half our age struggling with a flat tire.

I changed it in a jiffy, and next she's offering me money.

Of course I refuse it - but then she tells me she was headed to the bar at the Sheraton - and begs me to stop so she can buy me a beer.

She's such a sweetie, I said yes. and before you know it - one beer turned to three or four, and I guess we were looking pretty good to each other.

Then she tells me she has a room at the Sheraton less than 50 steps from our table. She suggested we get some privacy while pulling me by the hand.

Now I'm in her room....clothes are flyingthe talking stopped.....and we proceeded to have sex in every way imaginable.

It must have gone on for hours, because before I know it the clock says 5:30.

I jumped up, threw my clothes on, ran to the car, and here I am.

There. You wanted the truth....you got it.'

Wife - 'Bullshit. You played 36 holes, didn't you!'

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is definitely not for you.

Reality is only an illusion that occurs due to a lack of alcohol.

*Stock market Quote of the Day
This is worse than a divorce. I've lost half of my net worth and I still have my wife.*

A doctor that had been seeing an 80-year-old woman for most of her life finally retired. At her next checkup, the new doctor told her to bring a list of all the medicines that had been prescribed for her. As the doctor was looking through these his eyes grew wide as he realized Grandma had a prescription for birth control pills. 'Mrs. Smith, do you realize these are birth control pills?' 'Yes, they help me sleep at night.' 'Mrs. Smith, I assure you there is absolutely nothing in these that could possibly help you sleep!' She reached out and patted the young doctor's knee and said, 'Yes, dear, I know that. But every morning, I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16-year-old Granddaughter drinks. And believe me it definitely helps me sleep at night.'

'Being in instagram is making me be a better photographer and a better person and I had been told that if you wanna be a better photographer you has to be a better person' — Susana Barbera

Irish Fire Insurance.

A man and his wife moved back home to Cork, from London.

The wife had a wooden leg and to insure it in Britain was £2000.00 a year!

When they arrived in Cork, they went to an Insurance agency to see how much it would cost to insure the wooden leg.

The agent looked it up on the computer and said to the couple, '£39.00.'

The husband was amazed and asked why it was so cheap here in Ireland to insure, because it cost him £2000.00 in England! The agent turned his computer screen to the couple and said, 'Well, here it is on the screen, it says:

'Any wooden structure, with an automatic sprinkler system over it, Annual Premium £39.00.'

Q: My wife is five months pregnant and so moody that sometimes she's borderline irrational.

A: So what's your question?

Q: Our baby was born last week. When will my wife begin to feel and act normal again?

A: When the kids are at Uni.

YAWN:

An honest opinion openly expressed.

A classics professor goes to a tailor to get his trousers mended. The tailor asks: 'Euripides?' The professor replies: 'Yes. Eumenides?'

'Is it possible to mistake schizophrenia for telepathy, I hear you ask' - Jordan Brookes

'A photograph never grows old. You and I change, people change all through the months and years, but a photograph always remains the same. How nice to look at a photograph of mother or father taken many years ago. You see them as you remember them. But as people live on, they change completely. That is why I think a photograph can be kind.' — Albert Einstein