Inviting other members along makes for more fun for everyone

Time To Make Field Trips Happen

Fields in the valley are greening up, trees are beginning to bloom, birds are arriving . . . Hey! It’s time to think about making plans and setting dates for spring and summer field trips.

By this time of year most photographers in Oregon have acquired a good case of cabin fever, after gray skies, chilly temperatures and too much of our infamous “liquid” sunshine. Whatever that is.

Photo field trips can be as simple as going to the Delta Ponds for a couple of hours or as extended as going out of the country for a once-in-a-lifetime photo adventure.

Two EPSers Receive Lifetime Awards

At the awards banquet last month, two EPSers received rare recognition awards for long-time club support.

Donna Gilhousen and Bruce Bittle received Lifetime Awards for their many years of contributions to EPS or for dedication and long-term commitment to club activities.

Previously this award has been given only twice before and is reserved for members making outstanding contributions to EPS or for dedication and long-term commitment to club activities.

In addition to recognition, the only monetary compensation accompanying this award is that continued annual membership dues will be waived. (Thank you notes from both recipients are on the next page.)

Re-up your membership dues for 2014. Still only $35 for 38 nights of fun & learning!

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THE FIRST RULE OF PHOTOGRAPHY...“BE THERE!”
Thank You, EPS

Thank You EPS Board and Members

I am stunned into speechlessness having received such an unexpected and rare Honorary Lifetime Membership. I’m told you can’t take anything with you when you leave this life, but if this happens to be wrong and it is actually possible to keep the deep appreciation in my mind for this treasured honor into my next life, I’ll certainly try.

My life in EPS has been a series of steps over thirty years (with more to look forward to) in not only learning how to make better photographic images and prints, but sharing volunteer projects with the best creative individuals I’ve ever known in a fun team effort to benefit other members. The doing was rewarding enough. To have a part of my picture wall dedicated to proof of these relationships is really special.

Sincerely,

Donna G.

To all EPSers,

“You never expect to be rewarded for having fun.” I tried to say this, but choked up the night of the banquet when suddenly realizing what an amazing and important award I was receiving. It is without doubt very much appreciated and will be prominently displayed on my office wall.

Joining EPS about fifteen years ago it was indeed “fun” to be a part of many ensuing changes. Fun seeing the club grow from twenty members to what it is today. Fun seeing folks quickly go from beginners to top competitors. Fun coordinating events that let beginners experience professional photographic responsibilities. Fun keeping up with rapidly changing technology. But most of all it was fun meeting and enjoying a wide variety of photo trips with some great folks.

I learned on one of those photo trips an interesting little connection* with the guy who had this award approved and personally presented it at the banquet. A huge, “Thank you” to him and to the entire club.

Bruce B.

* On an EPS field trip to Mt. Rainier with Jeff Green I learned that he attended a grade school in Los Angeles located right across the street from the private design college that I graduated from many years earlier. Small world.
Keeping secrets in a world of spies and mistrust

Secure Photo Copyright Encryption May Soon Be Possible?

March 26, 2014 - Centre for Quantum Technologies at the National University of Singapore

Summary:
Researchers Artur Ekert and Renato Renner review what physics tells us about keeping our secrets secret. Developments in quantum cryptography describe how we can keep our secrets secret even when faced with the double challenge of mistrust and manipulation [by others].

In the history of secret communication, the most brilliant efforts of code makers have been matched time and again. Sometimes we can even see it coming. But that story need not go on forever. “Recent developments in quantum cryptography show that privacy is possible under stunningly weak assumptions about the freedom of action we have and the trustworthiness of the devices we use,” says Ekert, Professor of Quantum Physics at the University of Oxford.

Revelations of the extent of government surveillance have thrown a spotlight on the security -- or lack thereof -- of our digital communications. Even today’s encrypted data is vulnerable to technological progress. What privacy is ultimately possible?

The most surprising recent finding is that we can communicate secretly even if we have very little trust in our cryptographic devices. What’s more, we can even protect ourselves against adversaries with superior technology that is unknown to us.

Over 20 years ago, Ekert and others independently proposed a way to use the quantum properties of particles of light to share a secret key for secure communication. The key is a random sequence of 1s and 0s, derived by making random choices about how to measure the particles (and some other steps), that are used to encrypt a message.

Renner, Professor of Theoretical Physics at ETH Zurich, Switzerland, described how quantum cryptography has since progressed to commercial prospect and into new theoretical territory.

“As well as there being exciting scientific developments in the past few years, the topic of cryptography has very much come out of the shadows. It’s not just spooks talking about this stuff now,” says Ekert, who has worked with and advised several companies and government agencies.

Recent findings arise from a mathematical discovery by Renner and his collaborator about ‘randomness amplification’: they found that a quantum trick can turn some types of slightly random numbers into completely random numbers. Applied in cryptography, such methods can reinstate our abilities to make perfectly random choices and guarantee security.

The authors conclude that, “The days we stop worrying about untrustworthy or incompetent providers of cryptographic services may not be that far away.”

Published in the 27 March issue of Nature.

EPS Field Trips continued

During the next few months let’s keep other members of the club aware of trips that we are planning. Any member can be an instigator/coordinator for a couple of hours, half a day, or an overnight field trip. Even if your trip is happening the next day, post an email and indicate relevant details: location, time, room for passengers, your phone number, etc.

If you’ve been in the area for awhile, be sure to invite some of our beginners to join you and help them learn your hot photo spots. This is an excellent way to learn about your fellow photographers and have good fun together.

Remember, the first rule of photography, and the only rule that can’t be broken, “Be There!”

And let others know what you found when you return.
Digital Driven Photo Changes Continue

IN MEMORIAM

Evergreen Film Service
1975 - 2014

IN MEMORIAM

CALUMET
PHOTOGRAPHIC
1939 - 2014
Tracking down inks for the new printers that were sold on our not so recent “printer night” is proving to be just a little more difficult than I expected. This would be inks for the Canon Pro-10 and the Pro-100 printers sold the night that Canon and Shutterbug did a duo-demo at a club meeting. We later learned this local sales blitz was the best in the west beating places like Denver and Los Angeles. We sold 38 units in one night while the guys in the big cities sold more units, but took a week or more to do it.

Since then I’ve been lurking in and out of the local big box stores to see if I could find the inks on their shelves that we all will need. I also contacted two smaller local ink outlets thinking if they had, or plan to have, these inks in stock perhaps at a better price, they might want to become a new EPS preferred vendor. More on that in a moment.

As of last week Staples and EPS preferred vendor, Shutterbug, were the first to have some inks in stock on the shelves. Staples has since decided not to stock ink for either the Pro-10 or Pro-100 in their stores, but the $2 rebate per empty cart (max. 10 per month) is still available if an order is placed from inside the store. This may still be the best deal for owners of either printer, but prices still hadn’t been set. By ordering in-store they expect two-day delivery.

Shutterbug has Multi-packs (one each of 10 carts) for the Pro-10, but has to order all inks for the Pro-100 (two week delivery). Shutterbug charges $134.99 for Pro-10 Multi-packs and with the EPS 10% discount the price per individual cart is $12.15. A Pro-100 Multi-pack (8 inks) is $129.99 making carts with EPS 10% off $14.62 each.

Be wary of ordering Multi-packs for any printer, because there are extreme variations for the rate at which individual colors are used. The variable use rates are directly related to the type of images being printed. By buying only Multi-packs you’ll soon have too many of the least used colors.

The two smaller local outlets I investigated were Rapid Refills at their new location on west 7th Avenue and the second was Pacific Office Automation at a new location on the NW corner of Charneton and 8th Avenue.

Contrary to the name, Rapid Refills said they probably wouldn’t have any of their third-party refilled carts for either printer for at least six months or maybe longer. Prices at this time are unknown.

Pacific Office Automation on the other hand delivered the first full set of carts for my Pro-100 a couple of days ago. They also said they plan to carry individual carts for both the Pro-10 and Pro-100. However, they offer no rebate for empty carts. Their price of $13.42 per cart may be just good enough to become our preferred vendor.

Red River Paper (our preferred paper vendor) has ink for the Pro-10 at $14.99 ea., Pro-100 for $16.99 each. On-line from Amazon both inks are $14.99 (buy 4), from Canon prices are higher and from a place calling itself ClickInk prices are even higher yet.

Pacific Office Automation leads me to think they might be our go-to source for immediate off the shelf purchases. The contact there is named, Kyle, a very friendly guy eager to have our business.

If anyone in the club comes across better prices for inks for either printer, please let me know and I’ll make sure the word gets out.

Bruce Bittle
Q&A With Tim Grey

Q: I saved a Camera Raw image - 4500 pixels (long side) and 32 MB in size - as a maximum quality JPEG. Re-opening the 7 MB JPEG file, the Image Size window showed exactly the same [pixel] information as in the original [RAW] file. How can this be?

A: Short answer - the number of pixels in the image never changed.

A JPEG file always applies lossy compression, but pixels are not discarded. Rather, they are described more efficiently [creating] a smaller file size.

For example, a single row of ten RAW sky blue pixels might appear to be the same color, but all are slightly different. Thus, each [RAW] pixel value will be described exactly.

A JPEG image will describe that same row as "ten sky-blue pixels" that doesn't require as much information. The same number of pixels, but not the same pixel values. [With] relatively modest JPEG value assumptions, [i.e. Fine], the ten pixels will appear the same after compression as before to the unaided eye.

The actual JPEG process divides an image into blocks of 256 pixels each of which are simplified depending on the [selected] JPEG Quality setting.

Q: Considering all the modifications we can perform using Lightroom, is a polarizing filter really necessary?

A: In some respects a polarizer, (or polarizing) filter is not “necessary,” but I would quickly add that there are benefits Lightroom (or other software) can’t really help with. [Yet.]

There are two key features. The first is, [with proper orientation] to darken a sky and add contrast and color intensity [especially with white clouds]. We can accomplish this with post-processing tools, so the primary benefit of using one is to avoid [time consuming] processing after capture.

The second key feature is to cut back on reflections. Oriented properly, [you can] capture images [completely] eliminating glare allowing you to see through reflections on windows, the surface of water, [etc.]. This is a powerful benefit that cannot be accomplished with [any] post-processing software.

A polarizer is one of the few filters [along with some] neutral density filters that I highly recommend keeping in your camera bag to [save post processing time].

I don’t consider polarizing filters to be obsolete at all.

Q: Does a faster media card really allow you to capture [images] at a faster frame rate?

A: No, the fastest card in the world won’t increase the frame rate for your camera.

However, the speed of the card [determines] how many images can be [processed] without delay.

You need to [know] that [a burst of] images are written first to the camera’s internal [buffer] memory. Then, the images are written to the digital media card. This [is where] the speed of the card plays a role in the performance of your camera.

When that internal buffer is full, you want a digital card that is as fast as possible to ensure the buffer is cleared quickly.

It is worth noting that even if you don’t need [a fast card] for purposes of capture, there is a benefit of faster download speed from your card reader to your computer [before final processing].

Tim has written a dozen books, published hundreds of magazine articles and is a member of the Photoshop World Dream Team.

[Ed Note: Articles are reprinted with permission and abridged to fit available space.]

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The Bellows
April 2014
Stolen From The Internet

*World record Chinese wood carving*

One tree, four years of work.

A Chinese wood carver, Zheng Chunhui, worked tirelessly for over four years to create this incredible masterpiece from a single tree.

It won the Guinness World Record for the longest wooden carving and measures over 40ft (12.286 meters long, 3.075 meters tall and 2.401 meters wide).

Thanks to Don Lown for finding this on the net.
April 2014
1 Challenge Night - Theme, COLD
8 Ed. Night, TBA
15 Print & Digital Competition night
22 Beginners Q & A – Demo night

May 2014
6 Challenge Night - Theme TBA Apr. 1
13 Ed. Night, Slide Show Editing
20 Print & Digital Competition night
27 Beginners Q & A – Demo night

June 2014
3 Challenge Night - Theme TBA May 6.
10 Ed. Night, TBA
17 Print & Digital Competition night
24 Beginners Q & A – Demo night

NO MEETINGS JULY & AUGUST

September 2014
2 Challenge Night - Theme TBA Aug. 5
9 Ed. Night, TBA
16 Print & Digital Competition night
23 Beginners Q & A – Demo night

October 2014
7 Challenge Night - Theme TBA Sept. 2
14 Ed. Night, TBA
21 Print & Digital Competition night
28 Beginners Q & A – Demo night

November 2014
4 Challenge Night - Theme TBA Oct. 7
11 Ed. Night, TBA
18 Print & Digital Competition night
25 Beginners Q & A – Demo night

Legal Stuff

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Inquiries about, or submissions for The Bellows (deadline is the last week of the month for following month publication) direct to the Editor, c/o Emerald Photographic Society, 1236 Debrick Rd., Eugene, OR 97401, or by email <bittled70@gmail.com>

Mary Harrsch
Received image use requests from: Classical historian Lauren Hammersen for use in a presentation “Roman Honor vs. Modern Morality”; From Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida to be published in course materials and from PenUltimate Press of St. Louis, MO for a soon to be published book.

Keith Munson Show
An exhibit of his recent photos will be on display at the Full City Coffee on Pearl St. between 8th Ave. and Broadway.

Fall Trip to Yellowstone & The Tetons
National Park images by Bruce Bittle can be seen through April, at 212 Main St., Springfield in the Neighborhood Economic Development Commission (NEDCO) offices.

Do you have a show? Send complete details (location, time, theme, etc.)

Have photos published? Send complete details (Publication, date, etc.)

Before the last week of the month to:
<bittled70@gmail.com>

EPS sells mats & frames wholesale

$6 MATS (16”x 20” OD). Double whites, acid-free surfaces with backers. Center cut with 10”x 15” or 12”x 16” openings. Either size $6 ea. (White mats/black core available only with 10”x 15” image opening, $14 ea.)

$15 FRAMES (16”x 20” OD). Aluminum, Black or Silver with hardware & glass, $15 each.

$2 from each mat or frame purchase goes to EPS.

Contact: Bruce Bittle 541.343.2386
EPS Preferred Vendors

Show your membership card to these vendors for nice discounts. Be a good ambassador for EPS each time you receive these discounts by letting these folks know how much you appreciate their support.

Dotson’s Camera Store
1668 South Willamette Street
15% Discounts on in-house processing (including slide processing)

Derek Dickerson, Computer Technician
PCs & Macs, Hardware, Upgrades, Networks
888-458-5650 Cell: 541-335-9912 or www.teQmo.com

Focal Point Photography
161 West Ellendale, Dallas, OR
Equipment Rentals, Trade Ins, discounts on most items Call Mike Lowery, 503.623.6300

Oregon Gallery
199 East Fifth Avenue, Eugene
15% discount on all matting and framing

The Shutterbug Camera Stores
Two Stores 207 Coburg Rd. & Valley River Center
10% discount on photo accessories and photo finishing

U of O Bookstore Art Department
Corner of 13th Ave. & Alder St.
20% discount on all art supplies

Vistra Gallery
160 East Broadway, Eugene
20% discount on printing, matting & framing, Up to 30% on orders over $500