



Do You Need to Slim Down?

By Mike Garber

Many times, I have seen photographers with large backpacks, like they were going camping. On top of their pack might be a tripod. I was out this weekend looking to photograph fall colors and saw a photographer with so much gear, he used a wagon. I have been one of those people. I have a Canon DSLR, 300mm prime, wide angle lens, 70-200mm lens, very heavy. Each of these weighs several pounds. I also carried a tripod, not a light- weight one.

About a year ago, I decided I cannot longer deal with all this gear. Much of my photography is during vacation trips. We travel with other people or on a tour. I have to keep moving and do not have time set up, change lens. I needed to find another solution. My son in law was planning a long trip and spent some time researching mirrorless cameras. He selected a Sony camera. He bought the Sony A7iii as he liked the features and selected the Sony 24-110 G lens. I borrowed his camera for a weekend to try it out. I liked the feel. It is light weight, however the lens he selected put some weight back on. It is full frame which I wanted in my next camera.

My biggest issue with switching was the price and what to do with the equipment I already have. Later in the year, we sold our lake house property, which we used for many years. So, I came into some money and determined to spend some money on something for me. I did not want to

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spend time doing my own research, so I went with what my son in law picked and bought the Sony with the same lens configuration. At the time, Sony and Fuji were the only ones with practical mirrorless cameras. Now Nikon and Canon have good models. The Canon one is well rated. My purpose is not to sell or recommend any brand. You can determine that for yourself.

What did I gain? I lost a number of pounds to carry. I have gone to taking only one lens. The one I have has gone from wide angle to telephoto. The camera technology is far superior to my Canon DLSR. I have the Canon 7D Mark I, which I bought used over ten years ago.

There are several of the key features of the camera I selected. It has a full frame sensor with many more pixels than my Canon. I can either use the eye piece or live action viewer all the time. I can see a histogram of what I am taking in either view. I can adjust the exposure and see the result before I take the image. Now it is rare to have an exposure mistake.

In the past year I read about a feature I did not know I have. It is ISO invariant. That is, noise level of images does not increase at a consistent level as the ISO value is increased. Most, if not all, DLSR cameras are ISO variant and noise increases as ISO level increases. For my Sony camera, the ISO setting of 640 is the same as ISO 200 for creation of noise. This feature gives me a good range of exposure settings at lower light.

Now the majority of the time, I only carry my camera and one lens. I have a shoulder bag, where the camera and lens fit like a holster. I use a wrist strap but also carry a Black Rapid strap if I am shooting a lot in one place. I only take a tripod if I know I will be taking a long exposure image. As a compensation, I use a faster shutter speed and a higher ISO and I have a low risk of noise in the image.

I have carried this combination on several long trips, and it has worked out well for me. In general, changing to a Sony, Canon or other mirrorless solutions can be an expensive solution. Depending the company, you choose, you may be able to use your current lens. For my change from Cannon to Sony, I bought an adaptor. It works, but not great.

It is your choice, if you want to slim down. You need to measure the cost benefit and determine what is best for your photography.

A Message to our Members

Our world since March has presented many challenges and forced unwelcome changes to our daily lives. It is the mission of the Arlington Camera Club to nurture our shared interests and to provide social settings for the benefit of those wishing to participate. Members participate by attending bi-monthly meetings, entering competitions, and attending photo-shoot group outings, among other things. We have been prevented from offering any of these activities except virtually, through our computers. Thanks go out to all of you who have participated in the club's virtual offerings.

Main concerns of the club are those of maintaining membership levels and keeping members interested in club activities. The Board seeks to find activities that attract participants. For this we need for members to contribute thoughts on new ways to keep people engaged. Examples might include safe-distance photo-shoots where we can still socialize, or maybe challenges to shoot and submit our individual takes on specific subjects to share with the membership.

Certain activities have become impossible for the time being. Examples include our in-person general meetings, of course, but also our framed print displays at local public buildings. Another unfortunate victim of the pandemic is our annual post-holiday party.

A way for you to participate in safe activities is for members so inclined to offer suggestions of additional photo-related activities that you believe would appeal to others. We don't want to get stuck doing just what we've been doing; we need to add some variety, fresh ideas. Please consider making suggestions of things that you would enjoy and that you think others would too. An email to Rich Milburn, richardkmilburn@gmail.com, or Mike Garber, garber.mike@gmail.com could get things going.

We wish you a healthy late-fall and hope that you can continue taking pictures.

A Plea for Cell Phone Photography

By Cameraslinger*

“It was just taken with a cell phone.”

It’s an expression I hear often when encountering other photographers, whether they consider themselves one or not. It’s said with an undertone of self doubt, as if learning how it was captured would take away from the impact of the image.

Ten years ago smartphones were still limited and it really took some creativity to get good photos out of them. Now phones come packed with multiple lenses and all sorts of features. The quality is high enough for prints and some can even shoot in RAW now. For the most part many people wouldn’t even know it was taken with a cell phone unless you told them.

There should be no reason why we look down on a photo simply for the way it was taken. We should be embracing new tech that allows anyone to be a hobby photographer and lets them show off the world as they see it. The most important thing is what’s between your ears - not the gear in your hands.

That being said, I don’t expect anyone will want to hire you for a gig if all you have is a cell phone to shoot with - but that shouldn’t stop you from getting nice prints and doing everything you can to get the shot.

*Nom de plum of an ACC member

The Current Tentative Program Schedule

Nov 18, 2020 – Virtual – Joshua Smith – Night Photography and Light Trails

Dec 2, 2020 – Virtual – Competition

Dec 16, 2020 – Fall Colors Challenge through SmugMug

Jan 6, 2021 - Before and After. Members to provide their raw images before post processing and after. Members can describe what they did to improve.

Jan 20, 2021 - OPEN

February 3, 2021 - Competition

February 17, 2021 - Image Review Night

March 3, 2021 - OPEN

March 17, 2021 - OPEN

April 7, 2021 - Competition

April 21 - OPEN

May 5, 2021 - Lance Presentation (only if club can meet in-house).

May 19, 2021 - Awards?

October, 2020 Competition Results

Color, Class A

Ken Olsen, Screech Owl, AW, 24
Kathy Grady, Schwabaker Landing, HM, 23
Larry Brady, Brookfield Lion, HM, 23
Jan van Leijenhorst, Kamala, HM, 22
Larry Brady, Gorilla, HM, 23

Color, Class B

Joanne Barsanti, Jeremiah, BOS, 24
Jan Williams, Gliding Along, HM, 24
Reinhard Schwind, Buck, HM, 22
Judy King, Emerging Egg, HM, 22
Reinhard Schwind, Hummingbird, HM, 23
Steve Seburn, Halloween Flowers, HM, 23
Barrie Burr, Rome, HM, 22

Monochrome, Class A

Ken Olsen, Brianna, BOS, 23
Ken Olsen, Evanston Express, HM, 24
Larry Brady, To the Rescue, HM, 22

Monochrome, Class B

Jan Williams, Tree Branches, AW, 21
Barrie Burr, Beautiful Smile, HM, 22
Jan Williams, Morning Dew, HM, 21
Reinhard Schwind, Reflections, HM, 22

Color Class-A



Ken Olsen, Screech Owl, AW, 24



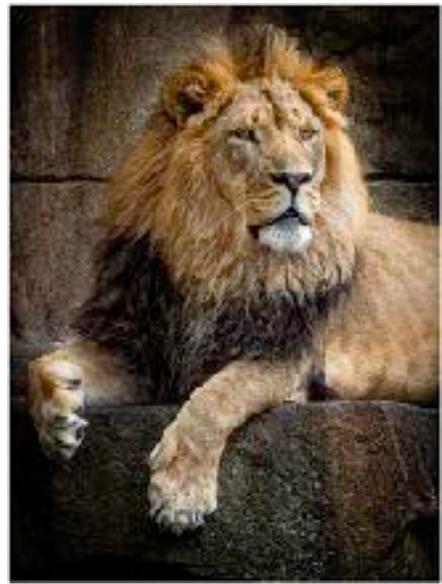
Kathy Grady, Schwabaker Landing, HM, 23



Jan van Leijenhorst, Kamala, HM, 22



Larry Brady, Gorilla, HM, 23



Larry Brady, Brookfield Lion, HM, 23

Color Class-B



Joanne Barsanti, Jeremiah, BOS, 24



Jan Williams, Gliding Along, HM, 24



Judy King, Emerging Egg, HM, 22



Reinhard Schwind, Buck, HM, 22



Reinhard Schwind, Hummingbird, HM, 23



Steve Seburn, Halloween Flowers, HM, 23



Barrie Burr, Rome, HM, 22

Monochrome Class-A



Ken Olsen, Brianna, BOS, 23



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Larry Brady, To the Rescue, HM, 22

Monochrome Class-B



Jan Williams, Tree Branches, AW, 21



Barrie Burr, Beautiful Smile, HM, 22



Jan Williams, Morning Dew, HM, 21



Reinhard Schwind, Reflections, HM, 22

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2019-2020

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