



Vignettes 236

September 12th, 2024

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Club News

Hi everyone. I hope you are all well. A bit of member feedback this week which I'll share below. Firstly, there's a small but important change in the comps info below as the Dropbox link which has now been replaced **with the new Pixoroo link**. Jean and Fin have been doing a great double act in getting out the necessary registration info to members who have joined or rejoined so that they can register themselves for competitions. Don't leave it too late as the first Comp (A) deadline is fast approaching particularly as the process of setting up the registration does require Fin to accept your registration before you are fully enrolled in the new system.

Dave did a great job on Monday night in pulling together the WCPF Travelling Print Exhibition and compèring the evening. Despite couriers Evri having lost some of the winning images it was still interesting to see how much commonality there was amongst us on which images we preferred. Indeed, I noticed that many 'tables' produced a shortlist of 3 or 4 images to choose from and here too there was a lot of unanimity. Here's Dave with his weekly round up plus some info on member led events.

Programme Notes

Hi everyone. I thought our regular WCPF Travelling Print Exhibition evening went very well, with another good turnout of 33 members. The 71 prints produced a lot of lively discussion on the 6 tables. It was a shame that some of the best prints in the Nature and Monochrome section were not available (thanks Evri) but I don't think that mattered too much in the end as we were still able to see some great images and exchange views on them. With the 6 tables choosing just one favourite from each batch of prints there were therefore 6 votes available for each section. Adding up all the numbers there were some clear winners:

- *Nature – Northern Gannets (4 votes), Bee Eater Poised for Take Off (3 votes)*
- *Open Colour – Can You Hear Voices (4 votes)*
- *Open Monochrome – Wrecks At Pin Mill (4 votes), Captive Subject (3 Votes)*

A total of 17 of the rest got 1 or 2 of the remaining votes. Not many of our votes went to the judges' favourites! Judges eh! If you want to see the images again, here's a link:

<http://photoexhib.com/wcpfex/results-2024/results.htm>

***Next week** we have 'The Story Behind the Trophies' followed by a recap on how to resize images for competitions, and a hands-on demonstration of mount counting. Members are invited to bring along a non-standard sized print and we will endeavour to produce a mount for it. There should be several different mount cutters there on the night, and it will be interesting to compare makes and types and see what they all*

offer. If any members have spare uncut mounts 50cm x 40cm which they are happy to donate, please bring them along.

Mike Cheeseman has also offered to provide a printing service for non-printing members, or those (like me) who can only dream of an A3 sized print. You can email an image to Mike, though you may have to use WeTransfer for large images. Any format should work.

If you are thinking of bringing a print, or asking Mike to print an image for you, then please let us know as it will be good to get an idea of likely numbers. If you can bring your own uncut mount that would be great but we should have some spares donated.

Finally, I also now have an update on the two member nights, as follows:

Take 4 – 14 October

Andrew Roca - Underwater Photography

Deb Clarke & Puri Carmona - Cirencester College Art Of Photography

Andy Dipper - The Children Of Oskar Barnack

John Hankin – Timeline Events

Dave Cahill – A Year With My Camera (if time permits)

Travelogue Night – 3 February

Paul Norris - Mexico

Dave Cahill - Andalucía

Mandi Horwood - Borneo

Nigel Rogers - Namibia

Tricia Lindsay - Icelandic Horses

IPhone Chat

iPhone batteries - the geeky stuff

Following last weeks article in Vignettes by Colin on how to keep your iPhone battery healthy, Andrew Roca got in touch with some in depth info on the subject. Here's Andrew:

Hi Martyn. Your bit on phone charging in last week's Vignettes was really interesting so thanks to Colin for the heads up. Just a couple of comments about phone charging I thought you might be interested in.

Years ago I worked on charging management for a leading phone manufacturer. Like most things involving mobile phones what happens isn't documented and the screen display is close to useless. To understand what happens, it's important to realise within limits the charging circuit is able to modify the charging voltage that's applied to the battery. So, starting with an empty battery and a connected charger, if the battery

voltage is below a certain value the phone will refuse to turn on, doing nothing other than looking after the battery. In this state it will trickle charge the battery using a charging voltage that results in a very low charging current.

This state will (slowly) charge the battery causing its output voltage to increase. However, once the battery output voltage reaches a preset level, the system will start to boot the phone's main processor. In fact the trickle charging state is normally entered quite rarely as it's only after a battery has been run flat.

Once the processor is then running, it can start software to control charging. This normally can detect the type and maximum current the charger can deliver and possibly get battery information. Under this software control, the system increases the charging voltage applied to the battery while keeping the charging current below a certain limit. A perfect system would increase the charging voltage to keep the charging current constant hence the modes name "constant current charging". In practice the applied charging voltage can only be increased in finite steps. After each step the charging voltage is increased and the charging current at first increases to reflect this increased charging voltage before slowly decreasing as the increasingly charged batteries voltage increases.

Once the charging voltage reaches its maximum value no further voltage increases can be applied but the charging current continues to flow, slowly reducing as the last of the battery fills up. This stage of the charging cycle is called the 'constant voltage mode'. When the charging current has fallen to a preset value, all the charging is stopped and the phone is now purely running on battery which is now slowly discharging.

If the charger is still connected and the battery voltage falls below a certain threshold voltage that is lower than the charging finish threshold, charging is resumed again until the charging finish threshold is reached and, as above, charging is stopped. In practice a phone left connected to a charger will keep switching between charging and running purely on battery following a curve commonly described as having 'hysteresis'.

Of course, all of this is hidden from the user by lying about the charge state on screen. It's just designed to make our lives easier! Despite there being a significant difference between the charging stop point and the charging start point both are reported on the screen as 100% charge.

There are other things that influence the battery management. Many members will know from their cameras that temperature is one - if the battery temperature exceeds 60C or 65C stuff switches off. And if there is a risk of the battery freezing charging slows/stops. In normal operation if the battery voltage falls below a certain value the

phone closes down to prevent possible battery damage. However, interestingly this doesn't happen if the phone is in '911, mode connected to the emergency services in which case the phone is allowed keep running even if doing so will destroy the battery.

I hope that all helps

Andrew Roca

Wow Andrew. Who knew! Andrew's comments got me thinking so I asked him if the same technology is imbedded in our camera batteries as my Canon gives me a readout relating to the maximum capacity of the battery irrespective of whether it has been charged to 100% on the charger. i.e it's condition. Andrew commented:

Hi Martyn. I expect camera battery case is basically the same, but possibly a little simpler, a phone can be operating talking to a base station nearly all the time irrespective of whether it's plugged in or charging. With most cameras the battery is charged in a charger then moved to the camera to be used. It is possible that some tethered cameras can charge and operate at the same time. I haven't seen but it would be possible.

As to the battery condition indication, I'm not sure, but I suspect that 100% is indicated for voltages a little below the maximum charged voltage and voltages above to avoid customers seeing the battery going very quickly from 100% to 99%.

The Nikon D3 charger/battery used to allow a battery to be recalibrated, also Nikon batteries have some logic in them and remember the number of charge/discharge cycles they have undergone. It's an interesting question.

Best

Andrew Roca

Well, this may run and run so if you haven't any battery charging questions, speak to Andrew or Colin.

.....and whilst we are on the subject of iPhones

I have noticed, from the WhatsApp group a continuing member interest in iPhone photography, enthusiastically supported of course by Colin. I see some more iPhone 'nights out' are on the cards. So in view of the launch today of the iPhone 16 Pro, I emailed Colin for his thoughts supported by a link (below). Here's Colin:

Hi Martyn, I didn't watch the launch event and only have limited knowledge about what was announced and when it will be available. Pre announcement reports were hinting at a bigger chip (so better low light opportunities) and a 250mm lens! What I do know for certain is that I won't be in the market for an iPhone 16 of any variety! I think Apple are investing in the photography side of smartphone

development because it's a big market and they have good and reliable technology to woo both existing and new customers.

I guess the reports and reviews that will come out over the coming weeks from tech writers and testers will be worth looking out for and including in Vignettes.

I recall that every iPhone released was hailed as the most advanced and best smartphone for photography. Looking back, they were probably right - what was either impossible or very difficult before then became possible - like low light and night photography, as well as multiple focal length lenses. The list of impossibilities is increasing!

What'll be interesting to see will be what Apple/Artificial Intelligence allows the photographer/user to create or achieve. Apparently we have to wait until at least December in the UK for that opportunity. So, I think the next few weeks/months will be interesting once hands on experiences are reported.

Watch this space?!

*Regards,
Colin*

P.S Here's an interesting article from the independent:

https://www.independent.co.uk/tech/iphone-16-pro-review-hands-on-first-look-b2609902.html?lid=xr94jyspt3kr&utm_medium=email&utm_source=braze&utm_campaign=ndyTech%20Newsletter%2010-09-24&utm_term=IND_Tech_Newsletter

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/iphone-16-pro-is-all-about-photography-and-i-thought-apple-was-planning-an-ai-day>

.....Oh! and by the way

In Colin's highlighting of the 2024 iPhone awards which we posted in last week's Vignettes, in his modesty, he failed to mention that he won an award. And here is the winning image - well done Colin:



© IPPAWARDS - Colin Hoskins - England

Colin Hoskins

England

1st Place – Animals

Huntsman, Horse & Hounds

Shot on iPhone 7 Plus

📍 Cirencester, England

External Exhibitions and Competitions

British Wildlife Photography Awards 2024

Hot on the heels of the release of finalists in the, soon to be announced, winner of the wildlife photographer of the year competition comes the British Wildlife Photography Awards 2024. Here's a taster of some shortlisted finalists:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c785xg37jl1o>

See Andy Warhol as never before in a new WarholMania photography exhibition

An extraordinary new photography exhibition will go on display this month providing a unique glimpse into the life of an artistic icon – Andy Warhol. WarholMania is an exhibition featuring vivid black and white photographs that provide access into the world of Andy Warhol, documenting the creation of his groundbreaking artworks, The Silver Factory, and his eclectic entourage.

WarholMania: William J. Kennedy & Billy Name is curated by Virginia Damtsa and goes on display from September 13 to November 12 at the Warhol Kennedy Residence, London. Here's a link:

<https://www.warholkenedyresidence.com/>

Photographer and boat-dweller Tracey Welch showcases Echoes of the Water series
Photographer Tracey Welch joins photomontage artist Brett Evans Biedscheid in sharing their unique vision of Britain's historic waterways. Echoes of the Water is at The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, UK, and runs from September 3 to October 26, 2024. Here's a link to some great images:

<http://echoesofthewater.co.uk/>

Think Pink: The photography competition helping to fight breast cancer is now open for entries

The fifth rendition of the Think Pink Photo Competition is open for entries. Hosted by DivePhotoGuide (DPG), the underwater photography and videography publication, 100% of the proceeds from the competition are used to support the fight against breast cancer. All entries are asked to donate a minimum of \$15 for one submission, \$35 for three or \$50 for five, and all entries must be submitted by Friday 27 September 2024 by 11:59pm EST. Here's a link:

<https://www.diveintothepink.org/think-pink>

The nominations for the Abbey Road Music Photography Awards are a must see
Celebrating the art of music photography, the Abbey Road Studios Music Photography Awards nominations have been announced. Incredible photography has defined some of the most iconic moments in the history of music, from Hendrix lighting his guitar on fire at Monterey Pop Festival in California in 1967, to Johnny Cash "giving one to the warden" at San Quentin State Prison in 1969.

The Music Photography Awards (MPA) celebrates and supports the global community of music photographers, who capture the images that shape the culture of music and define iconic moments for generations to come. Catch the link here:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/flaming-drums-flying-guitars-the-nominations-for-the-abbey-road-music-photography-awards-are-must-see>

Photography cheat sheets: camera reference guides for visual learners!

We've posted these 'cheat sheets' before but just in case you've forgotten, here's a link to access simple but handy instructions and techniques which might just help you improve your photography:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tutorials/photography-cheat-sheets>

Minimal images produce maximum impact as winners of the Minimalist Photography Awards 2024 announced

Maybe we should have 'minimalist' as a set subject. The Minimalist Photography Awards 2024 has announced the winners of its sixth edition of the annual awards. The overall prize went to a stunning set of portraits inspired by the Renaissance era harkening back to the paintings by the Italian master painters. Clean lines and minimal detail were the orders of the day as the winners of the Minimalist Photography Awards were decided upon, with over 3,400 submissions entered by photographers worldwide. From these submissions 12 category winners and one overall winner were

announced showcasing a great collection of creativity and skill in minimalist photography. Here's a link to all the winners:

<https://minimalistphotographyawards.com/>

From Vogue fashion model to war photographer – the remarkable story of Lee Miller
It's not very often we get a major motion picture centred around the life of a photographer, not to mention one of the greatest photographers of all time, but the story of Lee Miller is an incredible one. In timing with the new movie's release, Thames and Hudson has released a new edition of the biography that inspired it – The Lives of Lee Miller by Anthony Penrose. Here's some more info:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/news/from-vogue-fashion-model-to-war-photographer-the-remarkable-story-of-lee-miller>

We've got a still life set subject competition coming up later in the season (Comp D)so here's a few tips:

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/my-still-life-photos-are-inspired-by-old-masters-and-modern-still-life-paintings>

Famous food photography competition opens entries for its 2025 edition
This is a comp we post every year. Previously called the Pink Lady Food Photographer of the Year, the World Food Photography Awards is now open for entries. Here's all you need to know:

<https://www.worldfoodphotographyawards.com/>

BBC pictures

As usual some great images from across the globe from the BBC's website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clyw9v2xypeo>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn0l7edwg18o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy4rknvrg7o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3034ndv616o>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn9lqv1ww5yo>

Next year's Competitions and info

Definitions of Set Subjects

JOURNEY: A journey photograph is an image captured during the course of a journey or expedition, typically depicting scenes, landscapes, people, or moments encountered along the way. These photographs often aim to convey the essence of the journey, capturing the spirit of exploration, discovery, and adventure.

UK Flora, Fauna, Fungi: A flora, fauna, fungi photograph is an image that showcases plant life (flora), animal life (fauna), or fungi found in a particular ecosystem or habitat. These photographs aim to highlight the diversity, beauty, and intricacies of the natural world. They can range from close-up shots of individual species to wide-angle landscapes that capture entire ecosystems.

Golden/Blue Hour. During the golden hour, the sun is low in the sky, casting long shadows and creating a warm, diffused light that can enhance the colours and textures in a scene, often producing a soft, flattering glow. In contrast, the blue hour occurs just before sunrise or after sunset when the sky takes on a deep blue hue, creating a serene and tranquil atmosphere.

Still Life : A still life photograph is an image that portrays inanimate objects, typically arranged by the photographer to create a visually compelling composition. It can range from simple, minimalist compositions to more elaborate and stylized scenes, depending on the creative vision of the photographer.

Closed: A photograph with the title "closed" could depict a variety of subjects or scenes, but the title suggests a theme of closure, restriction, or inaccessibility.

Summer Cup (judged by members)

This is an informal competition which takes place during the 'off season' between June and September. Members can submit an image on one or all of the following subjects, which must be taken between May 20th 2024 and Sept 2nd 2024. These will then be judged by the other members at the start of the season. Images must be sent via the Club Dropbox before midnight Monday 09th September 2024.

1. Small
2. Medium
3. Large

Ted Parrott Memorial Trophy (judged by members)

This Trophy is in memory of a long standing and valued member of the Club, Ted Parrott who passed away in 2019. Images must be of 'Sporting Action', and be submitted by midnight Monday 09th September 2024. This image must have been taken between September 04th 2023 and September 2nd 2024.

For all Competitions please upload images via Pixeroo link below: -
pixeroo.com/public/account/login

Quote of the week

I hate cameras. They are so much more sure than I am about everything - John Steinbeck

That's it for this week.

Cheers

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Dave (dave.cahill975@btinternet.com)