inFocus

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

January 2017

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Speakers
Feature

Creating "things that have never been"

"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been."
Rainer Maria Rilke

Rilke was certainly not thinking of photography when he penned these optimistic words. But, why can't we? In a myriad of ways we, at WPS, continue to create "things that have never been"...things that grow out of our need to build on what we've done, finished, mastered.

Done: studied and tried out new photographic techniques. We have expanded our horizons to photograph subjects we'd never shot before, used different lenses, filters and other accessories we'd been concerned about using just one year earlier. We've taken lessons from each other, in classes, online and in workshops to improve our images, techniques and/or to just grow photographically. And yet, we've barely scratched the surface of what we are each capable of producing.

Finished: became satisfied with some aspect of our art. That satisfaction allowed us to more comfortably seek out new challenges. These are what we'll explore in 2017. As artists, we are psychologically unable to become stagnant in our work. Not only do we want to see our own work develop, we are inspired by each other's growth and development.

Mastered: can't go further with. The good thing about "mastery" is that there is really no definitive end point. We might believe we can't go further with a technique, but we can always build on it, approach it from a different angle—make it the springboard of our next challenge.

As photographers, we welcome 2017 as time to astound ourselves with what we can to singly and together with our art. It's what we've done every year in the past, it's what we will do again.

Warmly,

Deborah Lea Cohen, President

COVER PHOTO

BARE BRANCHES, COOL BLUE WATER
By Ted Everett

Thin ice has come and gone. Hard to imagine that I used to cross-country ski on this lake, until one day I noticed a darker area ahead of me that had moving ripples. Now I stay on shore and marvel that I never ran afoul of all the hidden dangers.

inFocus

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Dick Budnik, Web edition

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newsletter: infocus@wpsphoto.org
www.wpsphoto.org

Westchester Photographic Society
meets 12 months a year, on Friday evenings at 8:00 pm (excepting school holidays) in the Technology Building of Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY (across from parking lot #11). Guests are welcome.

FRIDAY EVENING PROGRAMS

January

6 Showcase
13 Competition 3B
20 Show Us What You've Got, Birthday, Mentoring
27 **Kah-Wai Lin, PhD**, *"Using Filters in Landscape Photography"*

February

3 Theme Competition 1, *"My Funniest Pictures"*
10 WPS Memorial to Tony Gezirjian, Birthday, Mentoring
17 Competition 4A
24 Joe McNally, "The Light and the Life"

March

3 Anastasia Tompkins
10 Competition 4B
17 Jim Christensen, *"Compositing—Expand Your Creative Space!"*, Birthday, Mentoring
24 Competition 5A
31 Liza Margulies, *"Pet Photography"*

April

7 Competition 5B
14 No Meeting: Easter
21 Lisa & Tom Cuchara, *"Creativity is Contagious!"*, Birthday, Mentoring
28 Annual Members Meeting

May

5 Competition 6A
12 Out of the Box
21 Art Vaughn, *"Best of NECCC Prints,"* Birthday, Mentoring
28 No Meeting: Memorial Day

June

2 Competition 6B
9 Elinor Stecker-Orel, *"New Directions in Photography,"* Birthday, Mentoring
16 Clark Thompson, *"Social Media,"*
23 End of Year Competition
30 End of Year Party

Pleaste note:

Check the WPS website (wpsphoto.org) for recent changes.

Kah-Wai Lin on Jan 27

Dr. Kah-Wai Lin is a world-renowned photographer based in New Jersey, USA. Specializing in fine art landscape and travel photography, Dr. Lin's works have appeared in numerous publications and exhibitions worldwide. To date, Dr. Lin has received over 50 honors and titles of distinction conferred by photographic societies around the world, including the distinction of Excellence (EPSA) by the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and honorary titles by photographic societies in the USA, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Cyprus, India, Romania, etc. Furthermore, Dr. Lin won hundreds of awards at national and international photographic contests and exhibitions including multiple gold medals and best of show. Most notably, Dr. Lin was awarded the 1st place International Photography Award 2015 (Architecture – Historic) and 3rd place in the world at PSA Who's Who 2015 (Small Color Print). In 2016, Dr. Lin was honored by the appointment as Artist-in-Residence at Petrified Forest National Park, the most prestigious US National Park Service art program.

Joe McNally on Feb 24

Joe McNally is an internationally acclaimed photographer whose career has spanned more than 30 years and assignments in over 60 countries. His expansive career has included being an ongoing contributor to the National Geographic -shooting numerous cover stories and highly complex, technical features; he is a contract photographer for Sports Illustrated. As the last staff photographer in the history of LIFE he shares a legacy with Gordon Parks, Carl Mydans, Alfred Eisenstaedt & John Loengard. He has shot cover stories for TIME, Newsweek, Fortune, New York, and The New York Times Sunday Magazine as well.

MARKETPLACE

Tokina 16-28mm f/2.8 Lens
$500
Mint condition
ron@roncarranphotography.com

Tamron 90mm 2.8 AF Macro made in Japan. Very good condition.
Nikon 18-200 DX Zoom with AF-S with VR. Nikkor label. 3.5-5.6.
Very good condition.
RobertBlumenthal@msn.com

Weather Notice

If driving conditions are hazardous, meetings will be cancelled. Look for announcements of Westchester Community College (WCC) closings on the following media outlets:
WFAS 103.9 FM /1230 AM, WHUD 100.7 FM
WCBS 880 AM, TV News 12,
www.wfasfm.com
Members are advised to check their email for emergency weather notices from WPS.

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Contact Information

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome and should be addressed as follows: If concerning the WPS Newsletter, In Focus, address comments to the editor at infocus@wpsphoto.org. If concerning our website, address comments to our webmaster, Dick Budnik, at webmaster@wpsphoto.org. All other comments should be addressed to our President, Deborah Cohen.

NEW YORK CITY MUSEUMS

Metropolitan Museum
(www.metmuseum.org)

Faith and Ohotography: Auguste Salzmann in the Holy Land
Exhibit: Through Feb 5, 2017

Museum of Modern Art
(www.moma.org)

Nan Goldin: The Ballad of Sexual Dependency
Exhibit: Through Feb 12, 2017

International Center for Photography
(www.icp.org)
New Exhibition Space–250 Bowery, NYC

Winning the White House
Exhibit: Through Jan 27, 2017

Numerous other exhibits

Museum of the City of New York
(www.mcny.org)

Various Photo Exhibits
(See web site)

New York Historical Society
(www.nyhistory.org)

I Am King of the World: Photographs of Muhammed Ali by George Kalinsky
Exhibit: Through March 26

Whitney Museum
(www.whitney.org)

Torbjørn Rødland: Blue Portrait (Nokia N82)
Exhibit: Ongoing

WESTCHESTER MUSEUMS

Katonah Museum of Art
(www.katonahmuseum.org)

Various Exhibits
(See web site)

Neuberger Museum of Art
(www.neuberger.org)

Various Exhibits
(See web site)

WPS FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip details:
http://www.wpsphoto.org/#!members-field-trips/iubyr

Next Up:
Rubin Museum
Saturday, December 17

WPS GROUP EXHIBITS

NWH Chappaqua Crossing
"Sports Photography"
Exhibit: Sept 15 - Mar 15, 2017

Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center
Northern Westchester Hospital
"Celebrations"
Take-down: Jan. 9, 2017 from 9:30-10 AM
Exhibit: Jan. 4, 2016 - Jan. 2017

Cancer Treatment and Wellness Center
Northern Westchester Hospital
"American's Parklands"
Exhibit: Jan - Jun 2017
Drop off: Jan 9, 2017 from 9:30 - 10 AM
Reception: Jan 28 from 3 - 5 PM

Osborne Rehabilitation Room
Osborne Assisted Living
"Photo Inspirations"
Exhibit: Apr - May, 2017

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS

(Samplings only. Please log on to websites to see the entire schedules)

B&H Photo
http://www.bhphotovideo.com/find/EventSpace.jsp

Jan 23	Impactful Travel Photography; Beyond The Postcard *with Jack Reznicki*
Jan 25	Choosing and Using the Right Canon Lens for You *with Rudy Winston*

... more online

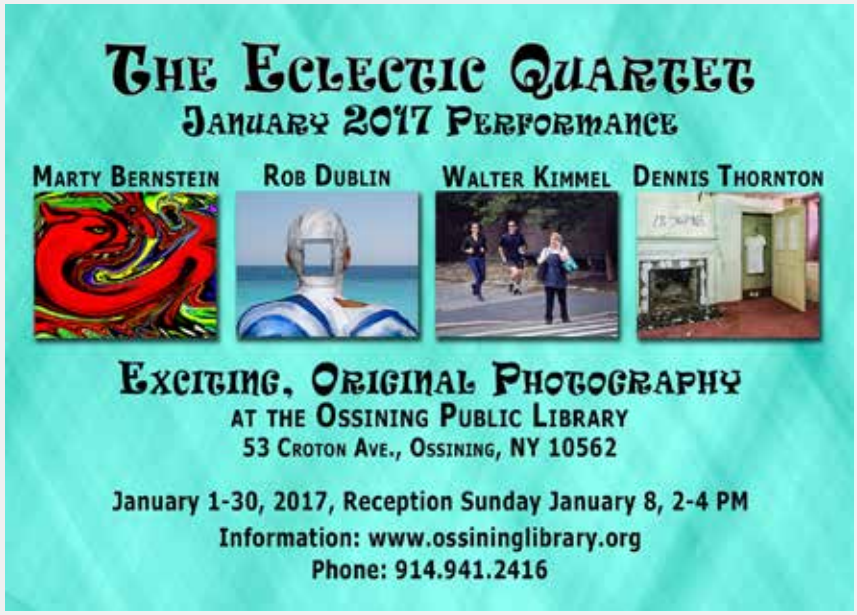
Adorama
http://www.adorama.com/alc/events

Jan 5	FREE DEMO! OnSet: Food Photography; Texture and Color *with Daniel Norton*
Jan 12	FREE DEMO! OnSet: How to Light Character Portraits *with Daniel Norton*
Jan 15	Fast Solutions With Speedlights

... more online

MEMBER EXHIBITS

Don't Miss It!



WPS

2016

ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS

PARTY

STUDENT CENTER

Photo by Andrea Duckworth

Other Photos by Arnold Breisblatt

DIGITAL COLOR B

Rafael Molina First

Betty Leung: Second

Rafael Molina: Second

Bob Cea: Third

DIGITAL COLOR B

Bob Cea: HM

DIGITAL COLOR A

Jennifer Dooley: First

Jennifer Dooley: Second

Marty Bernstein: Third

DIGITAL COLOR A

Bob Piro: Third

Adelaide Boemio: HM

Bob Piro: HM

DIGITAL COLOR SALON

Harvey Augenbraun: First

DIGITAL COLOR SALON

Carlotta Grenier: First

Janet King: First

Harvey Augenbraun: Second

Albert Tang: Second

DIGITAL COLOR SALON

Elinor Stecker-Orel: Third

Anastasia Tompkins: Third

Joyce Blumenthal: HM

DIGITAL OM

Joyce Blumenthal: First

DIGITAL COLOR OM

Adelaide Boemio: Second

Adelaide Boemio: Second

Jennifer Dooley: Second

Tom O'Connell: Second

DIGITAL OM

Lois Barker: Third

Joyce Blumenthal: Third

Arnold Breisblatt: Third

Deborah Cohen: Third

DIGITAL OM

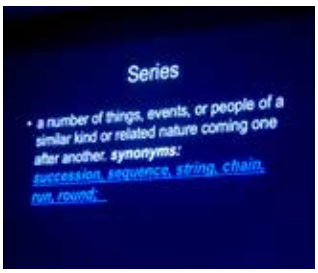
Fuat Baran: HM

Scott Benowitz: HM

Jackie Ross: HM

Albert Tang: HM

NEIL RANTOUL: DECEMBER 2



photos by Fuat Baran, Arnold Breisblatt and Melanie Rush

COMPETITION 3A: DECEMBER 9

photos by Fuat Baran, Arnold Breisblatt and Melanie Rush

An Eclectic Day Around the Museum of Natural History
by Deborah Lea Cohen

New York City MTA is on a roll...oy! Let's reword that, New York City MTA is upgrading and opening new subway stations throughout the subway system and WPS is getting to some of them. For a number of years the reputation for enchantment of the Museum of Natural History/81st Station, artistically redesigned by the museum, has been beckoning photographers to visit. So, we did! And yes, we were rewarded!

We followed our visit with all kinds of land and sea mosaics with a short walk to a delightful, delicious lunch at Fred's on Amsterdam Avenue.

Unfortunately, we later found the museum to be too crowded—the exhibits were almost as busy as the throngs of people. We longed to shoot the living so we spent the next few hours in Central Park. Great decision! The weather was gorgeous, the activity, including bikers, racers, boaters, strollers and the autumn colors were inspiring. The photographs by Zane, Erwin and Deborah will bring you through our day better than words can...we're photographers for good reason!

Erwin: *Great trip, great location, great trip coordinator. Central Park is New York City.*

Zane: *Before we went to the Museum of Natural History, we entered the 81st Street-Museum of Natural History subway station. To my surprise, the subway platforms and stairways are filled with mosaic art of various animals, insects and sea creatures. I especially liked some creatures evoked in mosaic vignettes that punctuate the stretches of the white tiled walls. After we visited the museum briefly, we went to Central Park to walk and photo. It was a beautiful late autumn day.*

Photographers can never go wrong roaming NYC.

There will be a hiatus from field trips until March, 2017 as the winter weather has forced so many cancelations in the past. Keep an eye out for future field trips and don't hesitate to let Deborah know your suggestions.

Remember: Just because WPS Field Trips are taking a break, there is no reason to put your cameras to sleep for three months. Winter is a beautiful season to photograph and WPS has plenty of exhibits, showcases and competitions to share your images.

Numismatics, Philately and Exonumia: Upcycling, Repurposing and Artistic Collages

by Scott Benowitz

Exo what? "Exonumia" is the collecting, buying, selling, trading and studying of coin-like objects which are not actually coins, such as current as well as obsolete trolley, bus, subway and passenger ferry tokens or toll tokens.

As many of you have noticed by now, I enjoy assembling collages from coins, stamps and tokens. I find that these collages are an interesting of illustrating a theme if you are entering into a themed competition or a themed exhibit, and if you're not participating in a themed exhibit or a themed competition, these kinds of collages are also interesting graphically.

So, the first step is to decide what kind of collage you want to assemble. Similar to assembling a display of objects for any still-life, the first step is to decide what you are attempting to convey to your viewers. What kind of mood do you want so set, what feelings do you want to evoke from your viewers? "Joyous," "morbid," "cheery," "curious," "uplifting," "somber," "whimsical," "busy/ hectic," "confusion," "calm," etc.- can all be expressed in still-lifes, and collages are no exception.

Second—once you've decided what you want to attempt to express in your collage, the next step is to acquire the items that you'll be assembling your collage from. I usually look in numismatics and philately collectors' websites as well as Ebay, but you can also go to philately and numismatics stores if you'd prefer to see the items that you're purchasing in person before you purchase them. You can also look up the websites of the post offices and the mints from various countries around the world- the mints in many countries have websites which have a "shop" page which enables you to purchase coins directly from the mint's website, and the websites of the post offices in many countries are configured so that you can purchase stamps directly from them online. If you find that some of the coins, tokens or postage stamps that you want to purchase for use in your collage are expensive, remember, once you're finished with your collage, you can always sell the items that you've purchased. If you've separated a booklet or a strip of stamps, the stamps only loose a small percentage of their value.

Assembling Your Collages: Postage Stamps:

Don't hesitate to look for a combination of both American postage stamps as well as stamps that have been issued by post offices from around the world. For variety, look for a combination of new stamps as well as older stamps. Depending on what feeling you are attempting to convey to your viewers, you might want to consider whether or not you want to be purchasing stamps which have been cancelled or have postmarks visible on them to include in your collage.

You'll need to select the background surface while you'll be assembling your collage on to. I find it easy to use file folders, I simply unfold them and I tape my collections of stamps on to them. Remember that the edges of postage stamps are perforated, so the piece of paper that you are taping them on to will show through between the edges. Again, think back to your intention with your collage, think about what kind of mood you are trying to convey to your viewers. Do you want to select a neutral color for your collage such as white, black or grey, or do you want to select a bright color? The background color will only be showing through in small spaces in the holes in the perforations between the edges of the stamps, but it will show through enough so that the people who view your picture will see the background, so take your time, look through a few different pieces of colored paper (or cardboard, folders, etc.)

Be certain to tape the stamps from the back for two reasons: Firstly, if you place any tape at all on the front, the tape will usually be visible in the photo that you'll take of your collage. Second, if you are intending to resell the stamps after you disassemble your collage, you'll want the fronts of them to remain intact.

There are some unique challenges to photographing a collage which you've assembled from postage stamps. If you've purchased stamps which were issued by post offices from a number of

different countries, then your collage has stamps that were printed on different kinds of paper and with different kinds of inks. Some of those postage stamps are going to be more reflective than others. If you are using older postage stamps which were issued in the era prior to computerized printing methods, then many post offices in various countries around the world used to include watermarks in their stamps as a means of preventing counterfeiting. In recent years, some post offices are now starting to include 3 dimensional holograms in their postage stamps, also to deter counterfeiters. A hologram is actually an optical illusion, so if any of your stamps do include holograms, you need to bear in mind that your camera will almost never capture precisely what your eyes are seeing. Watermarks will look different in photos than they appear to your eyes too. You will probably find that you'll need to adjust your lighting set-up a few times as well as your tripod before you're able to take a clear sharp picture of your collage, with all of the stamps being clearly visible and sharply focused, without any reflection from your flash, and trial and error is really the best way to begin. You'll be placing your lamps at the sides of your table, or behind the table where you'll photographing your collage—you'll find that you'll probably need to adjust the brightness of your lamps, the height, the angles that you've placed them, etc. If you are using diffusers, you may need to adjust those a few times too.

Coins And Tokens:

Again, as with assembling collages from postage stamps, if you want to assemble a collage from coins or tokens (or a combination of both), then you will first need to select the background color. Think about what you are intending to convey to your viewers, and then select your background color. I like to take a photo of a file folder, but you can use any colored paper or cardboard as your initial background.

Secondly, decide on your aspect ratio. Do you want your collage to be a square or a rectangle, and if you opt for a rectangular shaped image, decide if you'll want it to be portrait or landscape (horizontal or vertical.) Do you want to assemble your coins or tokens into a 7 x 7 square grid, an 8 x 8 square grid (9 x 9, 10 x 10, etc.) or do you prefer a rectangular grid (i.e., 8 x 10, or a 9 x 11 grid, etc.)?

Take close-up photos of each coin or token individually. Again, different mints from various countries around the world use different composite alloys in their coins, and departments of transportation in different cities used different alloys when they minted their transit tokens. And again, you will find that you may need to adjust your lighting set up, your diffusers and your tripod for each coin or token that you are photographing. In recent years, I've noticed that the mints in some countries are now including colors in the designs of their coins. I've also noticed that in recent years,

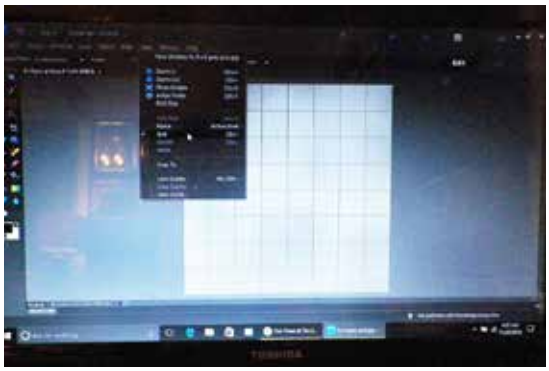
Collage I'd assembled from a combination of American and foreign stamps for our "Old and New" themed competition (July 2015)

Collage I'd assembled from a combination of American and foreign stamps for our "Hot and Cold" themed competition (the Greenburgh Public Library in Elmsford, NY, Oct. & Nov. 2015)

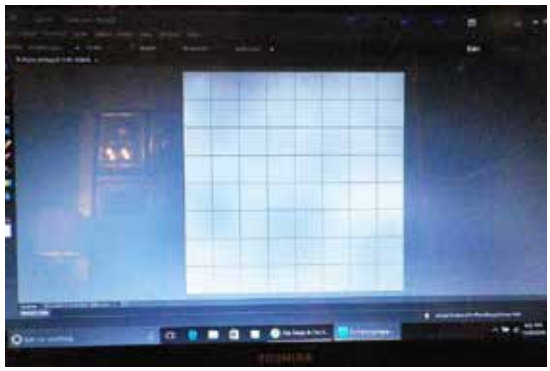
the mints in some countries have been including 3 dimensional holograms in the engravings in the front and the reverse sides of some of their coins, as a means of deterring counterfeiters. Again, if you are including a coin that has a hologram in it in your collage, remember that a hologram is an optical illusion; your camera will not be capturing the same image that your eyes are seeing. (The reason that holograms work is because you possess two (2) eyes- unless you are using a very specialized camera, chances are that your camera will only have one (1) lens, which is why holograms almost always look different when you photograph them.)

When I'm assembling collages, I usually find that I enjoy using a combination of both American as well as foreign coins. Keep looking through the web- in addition to coins that are in circulation, look for obsolete coins and tokens, antique coins and tokens, and in some countries, mints issue separate series specifically intended for numismatics collectors.

If you are using adobe software such as Adobe Elements, Creative Suite or Lightroom, then open the picture that you've taken of your background. Use the "grid tool" to impose a square grid over the background.



how to open the grid tool



screenshot of the grid tool

Then open each of the photos of the coins or tokens that you'll be including in your collage. Use the "move tool" to move each of the coins or tokens into your grid. Keep "show the bounding box" checked, you can adjust the size of each individual object so that they'll fit.

Closeup of a Jamaican quarter from the mid 1970s.

Closeup of a Cook Islands $50 coin from 1991 (reverse side).

The same coin. Note that I've used the *Magic Wand* and the *Flip Horizontal* tool so that the hummingbird is now facing the opposite direction. This is useful if you want to juxtapose items to appear facing each other.

Beginning to assemble the collage in a 7 x 7 grid. Note that I'm moving these coins into the background, one at a time, using the *Move* tool. I keep them aligneed using the *Grid* tool, and I keep the size consistent by adjusting the size within the bounding box.

The collage completed grid pattern. Save this version. You'll be using this version to experiment with various filters and effects.

I opted to use the *spherize* effect with the final version of this collage.

In addition to coins or tokens, this technique will actually work with anything that is circular. Experiment. Try taking photos of buttons, manhole covers, cuff links, door knobs, faucet knobs, pieces of fruit, fruit slices, sea shells, candies, bottle caps, the tops or the bottoms of glass bottles, or anything that is circular in shape and then use the move tool to move them into a grid. For those of you who collect militaria, challenge coins or law enforcement memorabilia, you already have a number of circular shaped objects in your collections.

And Lastly:

The last step is in fact the easiest, because you already know how to accomplish this one. Just start experimenting with various filters and effects, just as you would with any other still-life image, until you end up with a final result that you are pleased with. Have fun.

inFocus
The Newsletter of the
Westchester Photographic Society
Ron Carran, editor
P.O. Box 14, Brewster, NY 10509

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www.huntsphotoandvideo.com

Thompson's Art Supply*
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465 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville, NY 10570
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Mano Orel (members only)
Printing, Matting and Framing

Charlie Koenig (members only)
Matting and Framing

PHOTO & VIDEO Hunt's

Thursday 5:00 pm Dinner Orientation (Sponsored: Hunt's)

Friday Event Sessions

6:30 am -- Morning Blast-off (field)
9:30 am -- Breakfast (Sponsored: Friends)
10:00 am –Image Review / Q&A / Discussion on Birds in Flight
11:30 am – Free Time to visit/shop vendor area
12:00 pm -- Free Time (Hot lunch or box lunch)
1:00 pm – Back out on the refuge for photo opportunities
3:00 pm -- Golden Hour Fly In (field)
5:30 pm -- Dinner at the Refuge (Sponsored: Hunt's)
6:00 pm – If the weather allows a night shot this evening, presentation on night photography (Mark)
6:30 pm -- (optional) Nighttime Photography (field) – weather permitting

Saturday Event Sessions

6:30 am -- Morning Blast-off (field)
9:30 am -- Breakfast (Sponsored: Friends)
10:00 am – Composition / Creative use of camera settings / B&W (Don)
11:30 am -- Free Time to visit/shop vendor area (optional box lunch)
1:00 pm – Taking Your Bird Photography to the Next Level (Mark)
2 pm -- Golden Hour Fly In (field)
5:30 pm -- Dinner at the Refuge (Sponsored: Tamron)
6:30 pm -- (back-up) Nighttime Photography (field) (based on weather)

Sunday Event Sessions

6:30 am -- Morning Blast-off (field)
9:30 am -- Breakfast (Sponsored: Friends)
10:00 am – Image review / Portfolio discussion / Free Time / vendor area
11:00 am – PhotoShop/LightRoom Post Processing (Keith)
2:00 pm -- Photography Intensive Concluded

Holiday Inn 575-838-4600 rate ~$106/night
Comfort Inn 575-838-4400 rate ~$89/night
Econo Lodge 835-1500 rate ~$65/night
just state "Bosque Photography Intensive"

Camera and accessories sales by Hunt's TAMRON

Registration -- contact: Michael.Hanauer@gmail.com
Special Projects Director: Friends of the Bosque 575-835-2448