

inFocus

Newsletter of the Westchester Photographic Society

December 2016



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Failures are the Roots to Successes

Recently I came across an article by Jacob James, a UK-based internationally published travel and cultural documentary photographer and felt he speaks to all photographers. James urges us to pursue the less comfortable when we're photographing—whether it be knowledge of our cameras or how to shoot a subject.

There is no reason we can't pursue both the mechanical and creative simultaneously. In fact, I believe, it is often the creative that pushes the need for mechanical knowledge. As we are shooting, we want to capture a scene, a person, a pattern but when we look at our images, they are not what we had envisioned. It is appropriate to turn to the mechanics of the camera first to find which settings would have helped to capture the "moment." Then, we need to practice and master the various functions of the knobs, buttons and menu settings...if we ever truly do master them. However, we do slowly get a handle on them so we can relax into the creative joy of photography.

As we relax about the basics, we grow into experimenting with what our cameras can do; we can allow our artistic juices to flow. Instead of feeling frustrated, find the progress made both during and after a shoot and realize you are getting closer to achieving the images you're imaging.

In his article, James includes an important quote by Edwin Catmull, "If you aren't experiencing failure, then you are making a far worse mistake: you are being driven by the desire to avoid it...But the way most people interpret this assertion is that mistakes are a necessary evil. Mistakes aren't a necessary evil. They aren't evil at all. They are an inevitable consequence of doing something new (and, as such, should be seen as valuable; without them, we'd have no originality)."

Therefore, go out and create failures so we can then marvel at your successes!

Warmly,

Deborah Lea Cohen, President

COVER PHOTO

YUCCA FLOWER By Jane Castorina Gordon

Who would believe that such a magnificent flower could grow naturally in some of the most rugged desert areas. For the past 22 years I have spent many weeks in the wilderness of southwestern USA. This, as I have discovered, is the perfect place to find some of the 49 species of the beautiful yucca plant. Conditions are perfect, hot, dry, sandy, sunny ... and voila! Beautiful flowers. I found these lovely flowers in the desert of Arizona in 2008. For centuries, yucca have served Native Americans for a variety of uses including food, medicine, fiber for rope, sandals, cloth, and the roots have been used in soap. It is helpful to know this when you spend as much time in the desert as I do.



inFocus

Ron Carran, Editor
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

December

- 2 Neal Rantoul, "Executing Photo Projects", Birthday, Mentoring
- 9 Competition 3A
- 16 Holiday Party
- 23 No Meeting: Christmas
- 30 No Meeting: New Years

January

- 6 Showcase
- 13 Competition 3B
- 20 Enid Alvarez, Birthday, Mentoring
- 27 Kah-Wai Lin, PhD, "Filters"

February

- 3 Theme Competition 1, "My Funniest Pictures"
- 10 WPS Memorial to Tony Gezirjian, Birthday, Mentoring
- 17 Competition 4A
- 24 Show Us What You've Got

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

Please note:

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

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.



Neal Rantoul Speaks on Dec 2

Neal Rantoul is a career artist and educator. He retired from 30 years as head of the Photo Program at Northeastern University in Boston in 2012. He taught at Harvard University for thirteen years as well. He now devotes his efforts full time to making new work and bringing earlier work to a national and international audience. With over 60 one-person exhibitions over the length of his career, Rantoul continued in spring 2013

with two different bodies of work shown simultaneously: Wheat, aerial and ground-based photographs of the area in Southeastern Washington called "The Palouse" at the Danforth Museum in Framingham, MA and the Island Aerials, aerial photographs of the islands of Massachusetts at Panopticon Gallery in Boston, MA. In the winter of 2014 he showed new work from a residency in Iceland at 555 Gallery in Boston and in the fall showed work from the Mutter Museum in Philadelphia and the Spallanzani Collection in Reggio Emilia, Italy, also at 555 Gallery. New work called Monsters was shown at 555 Gallery in an exhibiton called Wild Thing in September and October 2015. Rantoul showed new aerial photographs from Salt Lake, Utah on display at Studio 416 at 450 Harrison Avenue in Boston in January, 2016. Upcoming, the Monster photographs will be in a solo show at the Fitchburg Art Museum in central Massachusetts from September 25, 2016-January 17, 2017.



Joe McNally
is coming to WPS

Watch for Details

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

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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 Ophotography: 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
Public, Private, Secret
Exhibit: Through Jan 8, 2017
Numerous other exhibits

Museum of the City of New York
(www.mcnyc.org)
Various Photo Exhibits
(See web site)

New York Historical Society
(www.nyhistory.org)
Photographs by Larry Silver, 1949-55
Exhibit: Through Dec 4

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>

Dec 6 Cuba: A Paradise for Underwater Photographers with *Larry Cohen & Olga Torrey*

Dec 13 Nikon Learn & Explore: Creative Lighting System with *Alex Podstawski*
with *Bob Jones & Jeff Hamel*
... more online

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

Dec 1 FREE DEMO! OnSet: Using Color to Control Mood in Photo and Video

Dec 6 So You Want to Become a Wedding Photographer

Dec 15 FREE DEMO! On Set: Beauty Photography
... more online

MEMBER EXHIBITS



The Watchman, Zion
Photo by Ron Carran

AWAY FROM HOME
TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHS
BY
LINDA AUSTRIAN, RON CARRAN, MICHAEL FRIEDMAN, PHIL HABER, H. DAVID STEIN, and SUSAN WAGNER

NOVEMBER 15, 2016 to MARCH 15, 2017

OPENING RECEPTION:
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 FROM 3:30 TO 5:00 PM

SAM'S OF GEDNEY WAY
50 GEDNEY WAY, WHITE PLAINS, NY
914-949-0978 www.samsogedneyway.com

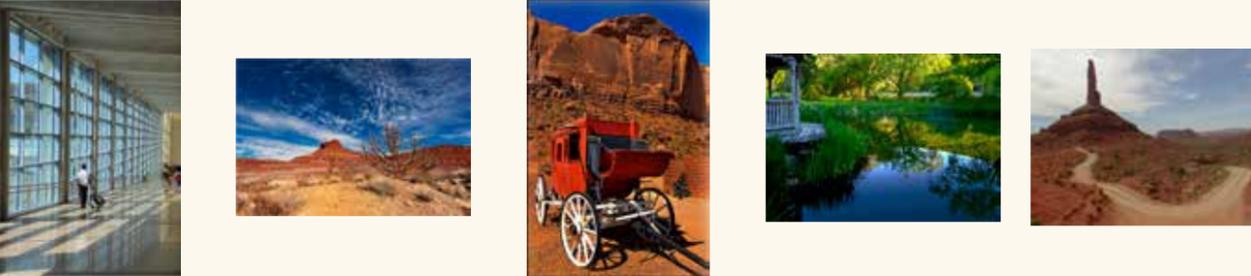
For Information: Contact Michael Friedman
mbfriedman@aol.com
<http://photography.michaelfriedman.com>

B&W PRINTS



Mani Orel: First Zane Kuo: Second Mano Orel: Third Dennis Thornton: Third Arnold Breisblatt: HM

COLOR PRINTS



Zane Kuo: First Dennis Thornton: Second Jane Gordon: Third Arnold Breisblatt: HM Serge Migdal: HM

B&W DIGITAL



Harvey Augenbraun: First Joyce Blumenthal: Second Deborah Cohen: Second Anastasia Tompkins: Third Barbara Kapetanakes: HM

B&W DIGITAL



Albert Tang: HM Anastasia Tompkins: HM

DIGITAL COLOR B



Bob Cea: First



Bob Cea: Second



Yoredvi Batista: Third



Rafael Molina: HM

DIGITAL COLOR A



Jennifer Dooley: First



Jun Shihoten: First



Deborah Lea Cohen: Second



Jennifer Dooley: Second

DIGITAL COLOR A



Jennifer Dooley: Second



Ron Carran: Third



Bob Piro: Third



Jun Shihoten: HM

DIGITAL COLOR SALON



Chris Moore: First



Albert Tang: First



Janet King: Second



Albert Tang: Second

DIGITAL COLOR SALON



Anastasia Tompkins: Second



Joyce Blumenthal: Third



Joyce Blumenthal: Third



Janet King: Third

DIGITAL COLOR SALON



Chris Moore: Third



Harvey Augenbraun: HM

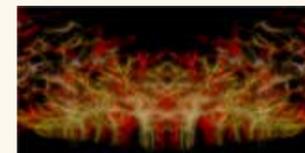


Robert Blumenthal: HM



Elinor Stecker-Orel: HM

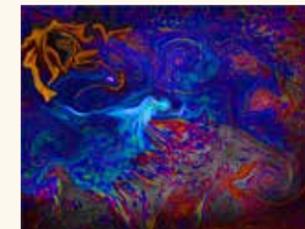
DIGITAL OM



Jennifer Dooley: First



Jennifer Dooley: First



Martiy Bernstein: Second



Adelaide Boemio: Second

DIGITAL OM



Tom O'Connell: Second



Albert Tang: Third



Carolyn Coella: HM

COMPETITION 2A: OCTOBER 28



photos by Fuat Baran and Mano Orel

SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT: NOVEMBER 4



photos by Fuat Baran and Arnold Breisblatt

MEMBER PHOTO REVIEW: NOVEMBER 11



photos by Fuat Baran and Arnold Breisblatt

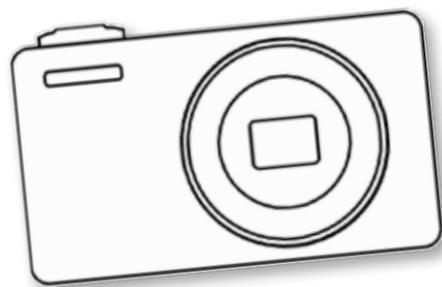
COMPETITION 2B: NOVEMBER 18



photos by Fuat Baran and Arnold Breisblatt

A Case for Point and Shoot Cameras

by Arnold Breisblatt



The main case for point and shoots is obvious—the size, weight and convenience. However, someone said a long time ago “What’s the best camera you can buy?” The answer is: the one you have on you when there’s a fabulous image or moment to capture. Ok, I may have stated the obvious, yet how many of you realize that there are sophisticated point and shoot cameras out there that can, not only capture an image reliably, but that are also good enough for publication, exhibitions and competitions.

I know this article might be heresy or blasphemous to some because I only use point and shoots in my photography while being a member of a reputable photo club. The thing is, I like to shoot spontaneously without having to fuss with changing lenses and carrying a tripod, much less bother with strobe lights and big carrying bags. In addition, I have a degenerated disk and can’t carry heavy objects around my neck.

Using a point and shoot camera, I have won competitions and exhibited my work in many venues. When it comes to sharpshooting at our photo club to document the meetings, I usually get asked many questions about my camera, it’s features, lens, etc. I would guess that I have influenced the buying of at least a dozen point and shoot cameras at the club.

Tips on using a point and shoot

First, my recommendation is put the camera on automatic or enhanced/intelligent auto. This sets the exposure, ISO and shutter speed automatically. I may also use the Ev scale +/- feature to adjust the exposure. The focus is set in the middle of the LCD frame and now you’re ready to shoot just about anything.

Second, I use a built-in filter when appropriate. I use a B+W filter or low key setting in a bright sunlight day so I won’t blow out the color.

Third, I don’t use flash except to fill in a back-lit subject. Even in low light, I’ll try to shoot the picture without flash. However, if you’re in a dark room or it’s evening then you’ll need a flash. Again, I’ll adjust the Ev scale if the flash is too hot on the subject.

Fourth, I always check my photos to see if they came out sharp and the light is right. I can always bracket my photos since many cameras will do that automatically.

Finally, I always carry extra batteries and photo chips (Class, 10 8mb) in a small pouch attached to my camera strap. I’ll also carry a small pocket tripod if I’m out on a photo shoot.



Point and Shoot cameras that I use and why

I am currently using three point and shoot cameras and my iPhone 5S. I use a Fuji that is waterproof and shockproof for nasty weather. I use the Panasonic LF1 for most of my art photos. It has a larger sensor than most of the point and shoots out there and its zoom is 25-125. It has 12,000 ISO capabilities and it’s tiny so that it can fit in my pocket if need be. Best of all, it has a built-in EVF that I use when the light is very bright. Finally, I use the Panasonic ZS-40 for most of my photos. It has a lens that goes from 24mm-730mm so I can capture most subjects near and far. It also has a built-in EVF for convenience in bright light. The iPhone 5S is the camera I always have on me and it takes decent pictures when needed.

The above cameras are all discontinued, but can be had refurbished on EBay if anyone is interested. I am currently looking at some newer Panasonic models that have more advanced features. I like Panasonic cameras as they are very robust and have great lenses.

Useful features of point and shoot cameras

Not all point and shoots are created equal. There are top of the line ones that almost match the more sophisticated larger format cameras. To make it easier and not get too detailed, let’s look at some of the great features that can enhance your shooting.

Macro setting. No need to use a macro lens as you can usually shoot about 6” from the subject on most point and shoot cameras.

Powerful zooms. Imagine having a 30x lens that you can carry easily without a bag or mounting adapters.

Sweep Panorama. You can get about a 180-degree photo without distortion on many cameras. The photos are stitched together in camera.

In camera retouching. Many cameras let you retouch and enhance your photos by duplicating your original and then retouching it in camera.

In camera filters. No need to carry any extra filters because you can enhance the subject by utilizing several in camera settings like B+W, spot color, sepia, etc.

In-camera shooting modes. There is usually a plethora of different settings like portrait, landscape, sport, low key and toy effects that you can use when photographic specific subjects.

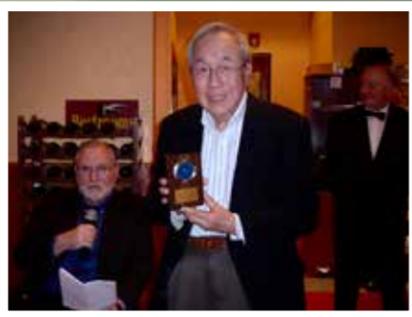
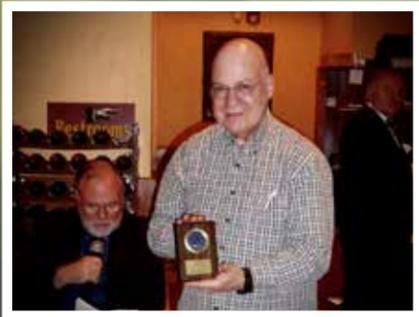
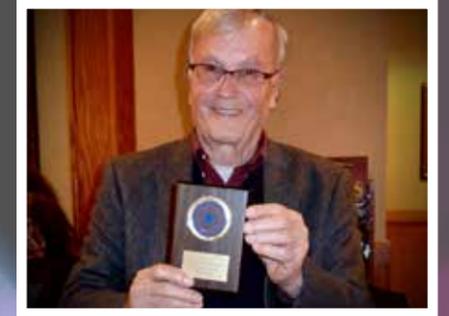
EVF mode. When the screen is too bright to see the subject this feature comes in very handy. It also has a diopter wheel so you can shoot without your prescription glasses.

Summary

Are you ready to add a point and shoot camera to your shooting repertoire? If you’re a purist or enjoy the technical aspects of photography, then stay with what you have. My explanation on the features and benefits of these cameras are many, but there are very important reasons why these cameras are not the be all or end all for taking excellent pictures. Just remember, when you see me taking pictures with my point and shoot cameras, know well that they are not toys, but sophisticated little cameras that you can always use in a pinch. Happy shooting!



— Annual Awards Dinner —



It's a Party!

“Out of New York” was “IN” in New York

by Deborah Lea Cohen, Patricia Davis and Jon Kaplan
Photos by Patricia Davis



FOR A FEW MONTHS, “OUT OF NEW YORK” extended a sizable discount to their first New York photo conference to WPS members. A few of us are very happy we took advantage of their generous offer.

This was an experiment by the very successful Out of Chicago organizers. They brought in excellent speakers including Mike Moats, Tony Sweet, Frank T. Smith, Lindsay Adler, Rick Sammon, Chris Nicholson, Gabe Biderman, RC Concepcion, Tim Grey, Bryan Peterson....so many more! It was truly well done. Unfortunately, the organizers are not familiar enough with NYC and the plethora of available talent and workshops nor that NYC can be an expensive venue for visitors. Probably their greatest problem was planning it a week before PhotoPlus.

The attendees at the conference were impressed with the high level of the speakers as well as the photo walks. Our own Jon Kaplan and Patricia Davis’ remarks say it all:

Jon

The Out of New York photo conference was organized by Out of Chicago, a group which was started a few years ago to address the lack of camera clubs in the Chicago area. Since starting, they have spread out and held conferences in other cities, and this year decided to try a conference in New York.

The conference was very similar to NECCC in Amherst every summer. It was held on one floor of the CUNY Graduate Center, the former B. Altman department store, at 34th St. and Fifth Ave. Presentations were made by a variety of speakers, many of whom we already know from Amherst and elsewhere, and some of whom have spoken at WPS. The talks I went to were all good—informative and, in some cases, entertaining. It was nice to have all the programs off the same main lobby, so that there was no trek from one to the next, as at Amherst.



In addition to the talks at the center, there were several photo tours around different parts of Manhattan, and at least one to DUMBO in downtown Brooklyn. I opted not to go on any of the tours, as I had enough meetings to satisfy me at the campus.

Before leaving, I had an opportunity to talk with two of the conference organizers. While they had done a fantastic job of organizing this event, they had not realized how many other photography events there are in New York, including PhotoPlus the following week at the Javits Center. There were well over a hundred attendees here, but not as many as easily could have been accommodated. Each of the organizers I spoke to seemed dubious that they would hold another New York conference.

All in all, I would say that the experience I had was great. They do have conferences in other areas, including one in Acadia, Maine, last month, and one of these might definitely attract me.

Patricia

I had a wonderful time at the Out Of New York Conference. I am very thankful to have been able to go on a photowalk with Bryan Paterson and Lindsay Adler who took me to her studio. Rick Sammon was informative in his lecture. I learned so much and I am thankful for the opportunity to improve my skills.

Please enjoy Patricia’s interesting photos from her photo walks.

It pays to take advantage of offers that come our way not only for the discounts but more importantly for the opportunities of learning from photographers you might not be familiar with...so...keep a look out for more. We never know when we’ll be receiving specials!

inFocus

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

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*Ask for your discount from sponsors marked with asterisks

** Discounts with WPS identification

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www.myphotocenter.com

Color Group 769-8484*

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<http://colorgroup.com>

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465 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville, NY 10570
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Printing, Matting and Framing

Charlie Koenig (members only)

Matting and Framing



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
Camera and accessories sales by

Comfort Inn 575-838-4400 rate ~\$89/night

Econo Lodge 835-1500 rate ~\$65/night

just state "Bosque Photography Intensive"

Registration -- contact: Michael.Hanauer@gmail.com

Special Projects Director: Friends of the Bosque 575-835-2448



Bosque del Apache
Photography
Intensive
January 5 - 8th, 2017

In-the-Field Intensives
3 - Morning Blast Offs
2 - Golden Hour Fly Ins
1 - Nighttime Photography
1 - Mid Day Photography
Classroom Seminars
Composition / B&W

Taking your bird Photography to Next Level
PhotoShop LightRoom Post Processing

meals included

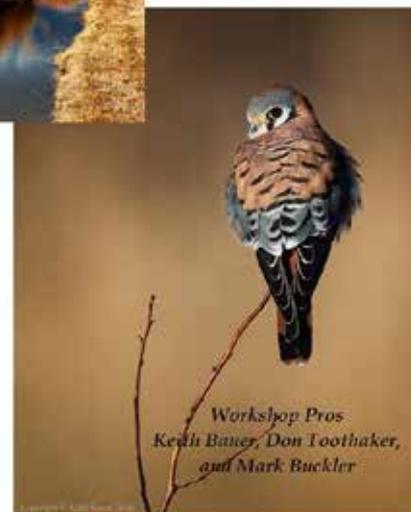
\$650

hotel group rates available

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Workshop Pros
Keith Bauer, Don Toothaker,
and Mark Buckler

