



APC Newsletter

Photo, Friendly, Fun, Focus & Feedback

ajaxphotographyclub.com

September/October 2016



'Last Sunrise' near Killarney, ON • Photo by Auggie • iPhone 5S

Inside this Issue

- APC Member Meeting 2
- Upgrading Your Gear 3
- Photography Book of the Month 3
- Ron's Blog 4
- Member Showcase 5
- APC Contests & Clinics 8
- APC Exhibits 8
- APC Executive Team 8
- What's in My Bag 9
- Instagram: A Photographer's Paradise 9



Message from the President

Sam J. Heron

Welcome (back) to all of our new and returning members. 2016/17 is going to be a very exciting year for the Ajax Photography Club with more opportunities to take part in the great educational, shooting, and social events we have lined up. A new year means new goals, and ours is to give every single member more chances to make great images. This is reflected in the new structure for our educational calendar, the presenters for meetings and workshops, and hard work in the off-season to reduce costs for you, our member, to take more advantage of all the APC has to offer.

Starting this month, we will be periodically soliciting feedback to further shape our programming to compliment the wishes of our membership. To execute all of these initiatives we need you to play a part. If you are interested and able to support some of the great things happening at your club with some of your time and expertise, please contact any of the board members in person, through email, or the Meetup site. I hope everyone can enjoy our fantastic programming this year and I'm looking forward to shooting with all of you. Make great things.

Sam Heron

Calendar

Oct 14	Fun Social and Photo Feedback Evening at Debbie's Cafe
Oct 15	Car Junkyard Photography at McLean's Auto Wreckers
Oct 18	Workshop at Riddim Centre: Difficult photography situations
Oct 22	APC Workshop Creative Colour Landscapes & Painting with Fire with Bharat Mistry-Rotary Park- 5:30pm
Oct 25	APC Monthly Meeting with guest speaker Bharat Mistry: A Photographic journey to Creativity.
Oct 28-30	Sumac Photo Retreat Weekend

APC Member Meeting: Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Keynote Presenter: Bharat Mistry



A Photographic Journey to Creativity

Bharat Mistry was originally born in Bombay, India but grew up in Nairobi, Kenya. His family migrated to Canada in the late 60s and has been here ever since. Being exposed to various cultures early on, he is open to new philosophies, thoughts and ideas which is one of the reasons he enjoys traveling to global destinations when possible.

While his career started in the printing industry, he made the jump into freelance commercial graphic design to explore the creative side of the industry. Being of an inquisitive mind, he is self taught in the photographic arts. His style of photography reflects his background in the Graphic Arts. Never to turn down a challenge of curiosity, he has explored many facets of photography such as high speed captures, macro, sports/action, motorsports, dance, nudes, landscape, travel, product, portraiture, astrophotography, time-lapse photography and recently video. He doesn't prefer any one genre over another, but while he has had much success with it, he does admit he has no patience for nature photography - unless it's photographing the Big 5 on an African safari!

While well versed in the photography side, he also excels at the technical side thanks to his experience in shooting film which he still does from time to time with either his 2-1/4, 617 panoramic or a few of his 4x5 cameras. The jump into Photoshop and Lightroom came naturally when moving from analog to digital. He states that working with his large format cameras allows him to de-stress by slowing things down to the

basics of photography compared to the hyperactivity of shooting digital.

He originally joined the Oshawa Camera Club in 2007 to learn more about photography, but in doing so, he was pleasantly surprised at how much more a Camera Club can be. Taking on roles of Outings, then Competitions and eventually moving up to VP and President, he found

it very satisfying that he can help out others while still exploring the Club experience. This also led to getting involved as a Photo Judge and getting involved with other clubs. Recently he has also become involved with the GTCCC as Vice Chair and soon to be Judges Chair. Now he routinely gives presentations and workshops on a variety of topics.



When asked what is his favorite image? He responds by saying it's whichever one that he is working on at the moment. His philosophy is to always try anything once - you'll never know if you are good at it unless you try. Rather than dwell in any one genre or style, he expands his creativity by trying anything new that comes to mind and taking it one step further to push the envelope. He's also fascinated by the science behind some of his subject matter such as a simple water drop collision to the complex patterns in soap film and crystals to the fluidity of Light.

What does the future hold for Bharat - currently "it's in the air" with the excitement of aerial photo & videography using drones. He is exploring different perspectives with a few of his commercial and home made drones. Stay tuned for what this will bring.



Upgrading Your Gear

Angela McMullen

While it's true that the photographer and not the camera makes an image—gear does matter. And the gear that matters most is the gear which helps you make the images you want. With this statement in mind, when do you know it's time to update your gear?

Well, one clue is when you're spending more time fiddling with your gear than you are making photographs. Much of my time is invested in making sports images, and my trusty monopod with its gimbal head accompanies me to all my baseball and hockey games. I even take along my big Manfrotto tripod on occasion. But that same gear doesn't help me when I'm hiking through Algonquin Park or the Wild Pacific Trail on Vancouver Island to make landscape images (my new passion). It just doesn't give me the stability I need for sharp photos and long exposures.

Now I know a few readers are saying to themselves: 'What do you mean your Manfrotto tripod doesn't give you stability when shooting landscapes?' Well, you're partly right: the tripod works great, but the tripod head—that's another story.

For a few years now I've had a Manfrotto ball head. Strong (designed to hold 20 lbs. or 9.07 KG) and stable when used upright for exposures of a minute or less. However, when I angle the ball head up or down and go for a longer exposure, my camera and lens creep slowly down to earth or the body of water I'm currently standing in. Not cool.

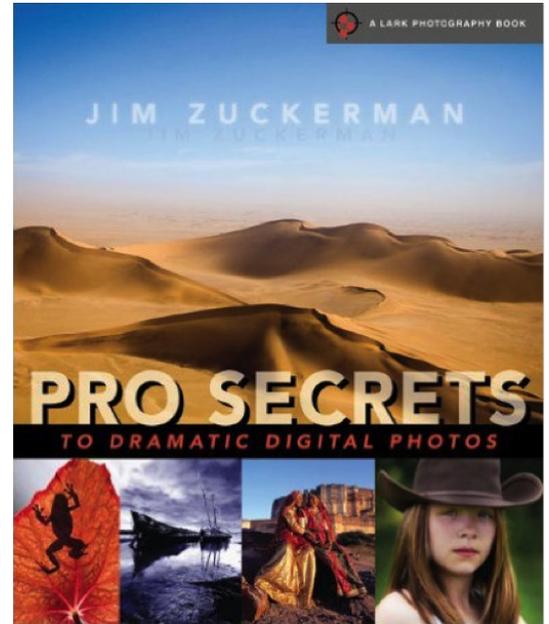
The solution? Gear upgrade, of course. And not necessarily a more expensive tripod or tripod head, but rather one designed with landscape photography and long exposures in mind.

My Manfrotto tripod is carbon fibre, strong, and stable. So I don't need to change it. What I do need is a more stable tripod head. And after some research, I settled on an Arca-Swiss compatible ball head made by Oben.

The Oben is a heavy beast, but my camera and lens stay put until the shutter closes. And for those of you unfamiliar with the Swiss-Arca system, it uses a longer rectangular bracket thus distributing the weight of the camera and lens more evenly than the smaller square-ish bracket on my old tripod head. I also opted for an L-bracket (a knock-off by Neewer) which allows me to quickly change the orientation of my camera from landscape to portrait. No more dangling the camera at a 90-degree angle to the tripod. Sure the head will support the camera at that angle, but I always like to err on the side of caution—at least where my gear is concerned.

Am I happy with this upgrade? You betcha. Not only am I getting those long exposures I wanted, but the L-bracket works great with my monopod and gimbal head when shooting sports. Twice the bang for my buck.

So if you find you're spending a lot of time mucking about with your gear rather than making images (having a couple of duct tape rolls in your gear bag is a sure sign), take a careful look at your gear and see what isn't working for you. Then do some research and make some upgrades so your gear is helping you get the images you want. Cheers.



Book of the Month

PRO SECRETS To Dramatic Digital Photos

by Jim Zuckerman

Jim Zuckerman, a photographer known for his vivid, surreal images, reveals a lifetime's worth of tricks and techniques for taking photos with that huge WOW factor.

His pro secrets range from the technical to the abstract, from making an impact with complementary colors to getting picture-postcard photos of scenic sites. He'll reveal which editing tools bring out a photograph's hidden assets, how to pan the camera to control the appearance of movement, and much more. Filled with compelling, colorful photographs, this eye-catching volume will inform and inspire both beginners and more experienced photographers.....amazon.ca



Ron's Blog

Sign up and join our fun and informative classes & workshops!

Welcome back APC members and new APC members.

The new photo year is here with new events, topics, classes, outings and presenters. Creativity is the theme for the photo year.

How was your summer? Share with us your favourite summer photo. We meet for social chat at Debbie's Café, 94 Harwood Avenue in Ajax, every second Friday of the month at 6:30. It is a great way to meet your fellow photographers and share ideas and photos.

Here's my favourite photo of the summer, Maid of the Mist, Niagara Falls



Classes are underway with a new format. They are scheduled on the first, second and third Tuesday of each month (except Dec 2016 and June 2017). The first week will be on Fundamentals with a different topic each month. The second week will be on Creative Capture on the same topic. This will be a "hands-on" class, it is often the best way to learn. The third Tuesday is followed with a 360 degree class on various topics. A 360 degree class is Concept, Capture, Create and Chat. Members are given an idea to photograph, do a quick post-process and get feedback from the other members. This has been a success with learning to improve your photography. We have found a new local studio to rent for the classes that is affordable and in south Ajax.

The emphasis this year is to have more fun with photographic shooting. To motivate and inspire all skill levels is always a continuous challenge with such a diverse skill level of members. Our APC Mission statement is to share and foster knowledge to create beautiful images.



Our first presenter of this season, Don Komarechka is a great example of passion and inspiration. He has now achieved recognition from National Geographic to having a Canadian Coin designed of one of his Snowflakes.

He can now create the

"Wow" factor in his images, I am sure through much time, trial and error. He now reaches for levels most of us will not achieve, but he inspires and motivates us to try. Don will be giving a Refraction Workshop on Nov 19th Saturday 1:30 - 3:30 pm at the Rotary Park Pavilion.

We will try to follow up the large Member meetings with a workshop by the presenter. We had to switch Don Komarechka and Bharat Mistry due availability. Colour is the topic of the month, which goes well with autumn foliage. Bharat Mistry, accredited judge and skilled photographer will host a workshop on Oct 22nd, Saturday evening at 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the Rotary Park Pavilion in south Ajax. This workshop will be on Creative Colour with Landscapes and Painting with Light and Fire.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with any of the events. I can always use assistance with equipment set-up, formatting PowerPoint presentations, and assistance teaching. Please let any of the executives know.

Our graphics designer, website master and talented photographer Chris Noronha will be setting up a Q&A table next member meeting Oct 25th. For members that have questions about the meet-up site. A meet-up orientation handout is being created. A link will be set up on how to use PayPal to assure your spot for paid events. Please refer to the APC Meetup site for "What's going on?" It is our main communication hub. www.meetup.com/ajax-photography-club

Keep focused, keep shooting, have fun.

Member Showcase • From the 2015-2016 APC Season

Greater Toronto Council of Camera Clubs



GTCCC
1st Place
Black and White Print
'I Remember'
by Michael Nelson.



GTCCC
Honorable Mention
Nature Landscape
'Mind the Rocks'
by Chris Noronha

Member Showcase • From the 2015-2016 APC Season

Ajax Photography Club - INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY



APC Year End Print Competition - 1st Place
INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY
Photographer: Cathy Booth-Smith



APC Year End Print Competition - 2nd Place
INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY
Photographer: Todd Murrison



APC Year End Print Competition - 3rd Place
INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY
Photographer: Alex Vanderzand

Member Showcase • From the 2015-2016 APC Season

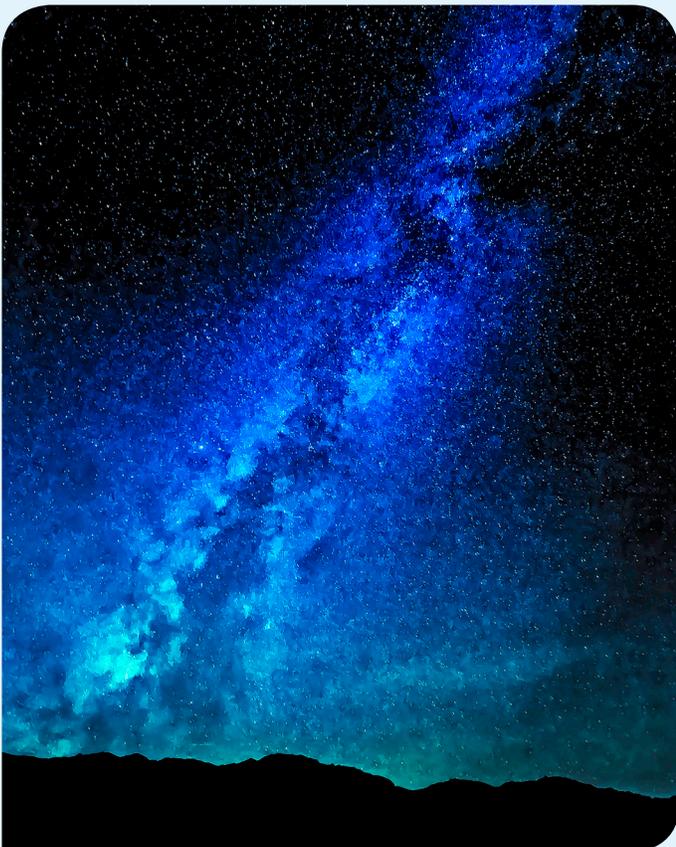
Ajax Photography Club - ADVANCED CATEGORY



APC Year End Print Competition - 1st Place
ADVANCED CATEGORY
Photographer: Sharon Janushewski



APC Year End Print Competition - 2nd Place
ADVANCED CATEGORY
Photographer: G Baylon



APC Year End Print Competition - 3rd Place
ADVANCED CATEGORY
Photographer: Nick Janushewski

APC Contests & Clinics



Richard Cousineau, C.E.T.
APC VP & Program Director -
Contests and Clinics

As a new season starts for the APC, we will have several contests and clinics again this year open to everyone. Please stay tuned to our Meetup site for developments and announcements.

Our Photo Clinics will be held in November, February and April. These clinics continue to be a great way to prepare yourself for internal and out-of-club competitions that APC can participate as part of being a member of the GTCCC.

I posted the rules for the GTCCC on the Meetup site in the Files section and these rules will be refreshed as GTCCC makes amendments.

APC participated last year and took home many great awards at the GTCCC Interclub challenge.

The GTCCC requires all submissions by February 1, 2017 so we will require APC members to have their digital submissions a few weeks prior. Once we have more specifics on how we will accept your submissions, we will ensure all APC members are informed of the submission deadline and process.

The GTCCC has 11 Digital Categories and 1 print category. New for the year in the digital category is "MACRO" that allows Focus stacking as well as HDR manipulations. Make sure to follow the 2017 Rules and Guidelines published.

APC Exhibits



Frans Grootveld

Look for our exhibits featuring APC photographers at Debbie's Boutique Café and The Ajax Pickering Hospital. We will also have an exhibit at the McLeans Centre running from Nov. 27 to January 3. This will feature photographs from our last print completion.

Christmas Dinner and Fun Competition:

Christmas Dinner and Fun Competition: Just a reminder that our annual Christmas Dinner and Fun Competition is on Friday, December 2nd at the Deer Creek Golf and Banquet Facility. Cost is \$55 per person for a delicious 3 course sit-down meal. Tickets can be paid for on the Meetup site using PayPal. Details for the Fun competition will be posted on the Meetup sight soon. Remember, this is a fun competition with winners selected by vote by the people attending the Christmas Dinner. Be sure to enter, even if you are not attending the dinner, give yourself a chance to show your work (anonymously, unless you win) and add to the enjoyment of the evening.

Details will follow on the Meetup site.

APC Executive Team

Members of the new executive team from L to R:

- Sam Heron, President
- Richard Cousineau, VP & PD of Contests & Clinics
- Angela McMullen, PD of Membership
- Roy Robinson, Secretary
- Frans Grootveld, Exhibitions
- Ron Pereux, PD of Education & Public Relations
- Chris Noronha, PD of Online
- John Stafford, former PD of Member Meetings
- Eileen Nixon, Secretary



What's in My Bag



Kelly Cullen

South Africa, are you kidding....I'm going to South Africa! I still can't believe it. A once in a lifetime vacation, but I have to say, the photographer in me is a little nervous. What if I miss that iconic shot, or find myself face to face with one of the "big five" and end up with soft focus.

I shoot with a Canon 70D Mark II and plan on bringing my 70-200 2.8L with me along with other lenses. In preparation, I purchased the Canon extender EF 2x III to give me some added reach with the 70-200mm. Being that the telephoto lens is an f2.8 I am not too concerned about the loss of f-stops with the extenders, as I'll most likely be shooting in bright sunlight. Not to mention the extender is more affordable and a lighter option. Here is a break down of some comparisons.

- Extender EF 2x III, \$550, wt. 325g
- 70-200mm 2.8, \$2,6000, wt. 1490g
- 400mm 5.6 L USM, \$1,550, wt. 1250g
- 400mm 2.8 L IS II, \$13, 500, wt. 3850g



So needless-to-say given my budget and the weight restrictions on what I can pack or carry on my back, I chose the extender. Hopefully my investment will be worth it and I return home with some print-worthy shots. Actually, there is a space on my wall just above the sofa that's sitting there empty waiting to be filled!



Instagram: A Photographer's Paradise! Laurie J. Taylor

Did you know that Instagram was one of the first social media apps built strictly around sharing photos? It's not only a great place to share your own work but also a great place for inspiration and plain-old-fun! And Instagram is not only for kids...you can follow some of your favorite photographers, charities, news organizations and more.

Among my favorite (and quirky) accounts to follow is @SaintBollard - a guy who posts photos strictly of bollards! I didn't even know what a bollard was before I started following him, now I notice them everywhere!

So if you are not an Instagrammer, give it a try. It might turn out to be a great source of inspiration and give you a platform to share your photos.

Follow me  @LaurieJTaylor or @Soccer2001Boys

