



Urban Wildlife Photo Club

October 2020 Newsletter

Next Membership Meeting: **October 12th 7:00 PM**

Online meeting.

**SEE BELOW FOR MEETING LINK
INFORMATION**

Club Contact Information

Address: COUWPC
PO Box 270501
Louisville, CO 80027-0501

Email: uwpc@comcast.net Website <http://www.couwpc.com>

A link for the online meeting will be sent out a few days before the meeting and again as a reminder about an hour before the meeting.

Our speaker for October will be Gordon Illg. His program will be on Bosque del Apache, the iconic wildlife refuge in Central New Mexico. Gordon and Cathy have recently relocated from Colorado to New Mexico, so they are now a lot closer to Bosque.

Gordon is a former president of NANPA. He and Cathy are two of the original members of the UWPC and great friends.

The Illgs lead workshops through their business Adventure Photography. Information on these workshops as well as more about them can be found at:

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

Please review the image submission stuff on pages 2 and 3



MEMBER MONTHLY IMAGE SUBMISSION

Members and first-time guests are encouraged to submit images for a gentle critique. We are not a competitive club, but we do strive to help our members learn and improve their photographic skills. Guidelines are below.

We have both open and theme image categories:
October images due by October 5th

Send to: uwpcimages@comcast.net

- October Theme- Fall Colors
- November Theme- Humor

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS FOR IMAGE LABELING, ESPECIALLY THE USE OF SPECIAL CHARACTERS (NO @) AND NAMING NEEDS. If I get really busy, I may not be able to accept images that don't follow these "rules."

PLEASE ADHERE TO THE DATE & SIZE REQUESTED -1MB or less

Two categories at each meeting - THEMED AND OPEN

- Maximum of 4 images total and no more than one themed image
- Email files one week before the scheduled meeting to uwpcimages@comcast.net Please use this one!
- Send themed category images in an email titled 'themed images'
- Send open category images in an email titled 'critique images'
- If your image is selected to appear on the club website, the website caption will be derived from the file name. **Be sure that your name and the image title as you would like them to appear on the website are included in the file name.** Use only letters (a-z and A-Z), numerals (0-9), dashes (-), underscores (_), and the single dot before ".jpg" in file names. Avoid using blanks. Use dashes (-) underscores (_) and capitalization to indicate word boundaries (e.g. Bob_Dean-Trees_In_Snow.jpg or BobDean-TreesInSnow.jpg). It is acceptable to include other information that identifies the image in file names, but you risk the possibility that this information will be misinterpreted by the webmaster. Although it's unlikely, the image BobDean_TreesInSnow_27583.jpg might end up on the website with the title "Trees in Snow 27853."



MEMBER MONTHLY IMAGE SUBMISSION CONT'D

OPTIONAL Descriptive information for each *critique image* should be as follows:

Exposure data should, for example, include f/stop, shutter speed, ISO, any exposure compensation, and any filter information. Post processing enhancements should include only those things beyond simply cropping, sharpening, noise reduction, etc. such as HDR, panorama work, color enhancements, exposure changes, etc. If you can put the image data (if you choose to include it) **as text** in the body of the email as opposed to an attached word or excel file, it would be appreciated! Makes life easier if everyone does the same thing.

IMAGE	IMAGE TITLE	SPECIES	LOCATION	CAMERA	LENS	EXPOSURE DATA	POST PROCESSING ENHANCEMENTS
Critique 1							
Critique 2							
Critique 3							

Please don't use an @ in the exposure information as when I copy it into the slide presentation, the computer sees it as an email address, and I need to retype rather than copy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTES

Writer's Wanted

We are ALWAYS looking for material to put in the newsletter. If you want to be "published," feel free to write (and add images if you want) on any subject about which you think the members would like to read. Don't worry about grammar or style, we'll do a bit of editing if you'd like. Send them to uwpc@comcast.net.



The other website!

Contributions to oururbanwildlife.org have been stagnant for a few months. At this point, we don't need any administrative help with the site, but we do need contributions. Here are some of the ways that folks could help:

- Contributing photos
- Contributing blog posts (Curtis *might* edit posts, but only lightly for clarity)
- Soliciting others to write blog posts – any friend, acquaintance, or family member with special interest or knowledge of wildlife would be welcome
- Contributing articles
- Finding articles that we can reprint and getting permission to do so.
- Promoting the site to other clubs. I've found that promoting the site in person has been more effective than other methods.
- Promoting the site on social media. We already have a Facebook page set up for it and could add folks as admins to that page. We can work together to set up Twitter or other social media accounts.
- Contacting "celebrity" photographers for contributions – written or photographic. These folks could be known as photographers – such as John Fielder – or known for other work (journalism, politics, business, etc.) with an interest in photography – such as Tom Green on 9 News.

Please consider doing something to help this project along! If you have questions, contributions or ideas and are not sure what to do, contact me at uwpc@comcast.net or Curtis Johnson at curtis.e.johnson@comcast.net



Autofocus Modes and Points

by Bob Dean

Remember when Autofocus first came out? It was back in 1985 when Minolta™ and then Nikon™ introduced cameras with autofocus capability. Back then all we had to do was let the camera focus on our subject and presto, we usually had a pretty sharp image. Well things have come a long way since then. Today our DSLR camera bodies have very sophisticated autofocus systems with lots of options. As with most camera capabilities, autofocus can be very confusing. Back in June, I published an article in the newsletter on back button autofocus. I hope some of you tried it and I hope you like it. I'm a big fan and use it as a matter of course.

In this newsletter I am moving on to two other AF subjects, Mode and AF Points. These two tools can be a great help in getting sharp images. First things first, RTM; read the manual to find out how to work with modes and AF points on your camera(s). Even between models of the same manufacturer these can vary.

Let's start with AF Modes. Typical camera bodies have three modes. Canon™ calls them One shot, AI Focus and AI Servo. The equivalent Nikon™ modes are AF-S, AF-A (automatic) and AF-C (Continuous). Sorry Sony™ users but trying to equate Sony™ modes with Canon™/Nikon™ is a topic for another article in itself.

Autofocus is activated when the photographer activates the back button or pushes the shutter button halfway down.

In One Shot mode, the camera focuses on the subject and allows the image to be made. If the subject moves, focus may be lost. This is the original way AF worked. It's fine for stationary subjects and a camera that is held very steady. It's also good for low light situations.

AI Servo is probably the most useful mode. It's great for moving subjects. Once you focus on a subject, the camera will attempt to keep it in focused as long as the subject is in one of the AF Points (more later) and you keep the shutter button pressed halfway down or have used back button AF. This mode works very well with moving subjects.

AI Focus is a mode in which you allow the camera to figure out what the subject is doing, and it tries to maintain focus. That sounds appealing but in practice it has limitations.



Next, let's look at Autofocus Points. DSLR cameras have a number of autofocus points. These points are the little empty squares you see when looking through the viewfinder. They can range from a few in entry level bodies to a large number in professional models. The number and shape of the autofocus point clusters is configurable. Configurations run from a single AF point to the whole array (e.g. Canon™ 7D Mk II has 65 points). In single point AF, only the one empty square is used to set the focus point. Canon™ allows you to set this to spot or point mode. Spot (not to be confused with spot meter which is an exposure tool) allows for super precise focus on a very small area. That sounds good but it's really easy to move the spot around and lose focus. Single point enlarges the area by a factor of two, making it a bit easier to maintain focus. Moving up in point quantity from single point, you can use 5 and 9 points in the patterns shown below.



Consider the points around the center point as helpers. The center point can be used as the primary focus point but as the subject moves a little in any direction, these helper points will maintain proper focus.

Beyond these small number AF point clusters are a number of larger clusters depending on your camera make and model. My personal opinion is that to maximize the flexibility of autofocus, the single point and the 5 spot or 9 spot clusters are sufficient. After you select the point cluster, you can move it around the frame using the dials or the joystick. This is very handy for picking where in the frame you want to focus.

Once you have determined which clusters you want to use, you can configure the camera to only display those options when you sequence through the AF point menu. On Canon™ cameras, in the AF menu, select the "AF area select mode" option. From the display you can check only the area modes you wish.

There are more autofocus tools available. In future articles we'll look at Tracking and Micro adjustment. Stay tuned.

If there are other topics you like me to discuss, please let me know at:

views of nature@comcast.net

Kudos



If anyone has an image published, places in a contest or gets any kind of recognition for their work, please let us know and we'll get it into the newsletter. Please use email to uwpc@comcast.net to alert us. (If you tell me verbally at the meeting or on the phone, I can almost assure you that I'll forget!)

PHOTO CONTESTS



Some thoughts on Photo Contests:

Whenever you think about entering a photo contest you should very carefully read the Ts and Cs. I know that the legalese can be daunting but there are a lot of contests out there that are a “rights grab.” Make sure that the ones you enter specifically lay out the image ownership agreement. Whenever you send in images to a contest you are entering into a contract. You really should consider only those contests that have very limited usage of your photos and state in their rules that YOU retain full ownership of the image. When you read the fine print on image usage, watch out for those contests that demand the right to use all your entries for their own purposes, not just the winners.

BBC Wildlife Magazine Monthly Photo on going Contest

Information at:

<http://www.discoverwildlife.com/your-photos/photo-contest>

The 10th Anniversary “Share the View” Audubon photo contest is about to open. October 15th is the start date for submissions.

Wendy and her team have gone all out this year to make it a spectacular event.

Information at: <https://sharetheview.contestvenue.com/>

Contest Information Website;

If you’d like a resource that has just about all of the contests out there, take a look at Photo Contest Insider at <https://www.photocontestinsider.com/contest/all-themes/>

When considering a contest, heed the warnings in the “Some thoughts..” box above.





PHOTO CONTESTS cont'd

Calling all nature lovers and amateur shutterbugs! Recreation.gov in partnership with the National Parks Foundation and six participating federal agencies are excited to introduce the

2020 Share the Experience "Best of the Decade" Photo Contest. We understand that your travel plans, and explorations may have changed due to COVID-19. For this reason, the 2020 special edition contest commemorates the "Best of the Decade," celebrating photos taken over the last ten years through December 31, 2020.

This year, take a trip down memory lane. Scan through some of your favorite outdoor adventures over the past ten years and submit your pictures into the 2020 Share the Experience Photo Contest.

Categories: Our federal public lands have such spectacular settings. Look at the complete list of photo categories and guidelines to understand where your favorite photos may fit.

Prizes: The contest will award over \$28,000 in cash and prizes including Hydro Flasks, room nights at Historic Hotels and more. Look at the complete list of contest prizes.

Official Rules: You can submit your favorite photos now through December 31, 2020. Visit 2020 Share the Experience Photo Contest for the official contest rules.

Whether you love capturing the serene lake waters at sunrise, vivid colors of wonderful wildflowers or your favorite family adventure, submit your photos!

<https://www.sharetheexperience.org/>