

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 3 March 2018



©Russ Dodson "In Pieces"

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March 13 Program: "Paradigm Shift in the World of Bird Photography"

by Sigma Pro Roman Kurywczak

There has been a program change due to Paul Bozzo being out of the area at the time of our March meeting. GCPC President David Ralph has arranged a You Tube video of Birds in Flight by "Roamin' Roman" Kurywczak. David spoke to Mr. Kurywczak recently and was granted permission to air the video.

"I saw the video about two years ago," David recounts, "and I liked it well enough to make an outline of the points in the video (Page 2.) I even bought his ebook on macros."

The video will be shown at the Gmeiner Art Center, beginning at 7 p.m. for March meeting of GCPC.

Coincidentally, Roman will present two days of instruction for the Two Rivers photo club in Binghamton, NY April 7,8.

Roman's web site: <http://roaminwithroman.com/about/>

Kurywczak started his "Roamin' with Roman" photo tours about 12 years ago and has led tours all over the country since. "As a nature photographer," he says, I got my start as a landscape photographer but over the last 30 years I have expanded my skills to include the world of macro, bird and wildlife photography."

He stresses that his workshops cater to photographers who don't want to get lost in the crowd and he strives to "provide a unique photographic experience with a high level of fun and energy for those who share my passion for photography.

Born and raised in NJ where he continues to live with his wife Pura and two sons, Roman travels across the country giving countless lectures and hands-on workshops as a member of the Sigma Pro Team. He has two ebooks, on *Night Photography* and more recently, a second book on *Macro Photography*.



Photos©David Ralph A Tioga osprey with plank fish lunch, left, and Great Blue Heron, right. For the heron, an equivalent focal length of 1275 out his car window, which should not have worked at F9.5 with the teleconverter but it did.

(See notes next page)



A Paradigm Shift in the World of Bird Photography **by Sigma Pro Roman Kurywczak**

1. Number one mistake: Time of Day. ½ hr before sunrise to 2 - 2.5 after sunrise, and 2.5 hours before sunset to one half hour after sunset.
2. Sun at your back. 20 degrees to either side of light at back, or move the photographer to the side.
3. Composition:
 - Avoid busy background. It competes with subject, distracts.
 - Do not shoot down - same rule as for portraits of people. Long lens and distance can help with this problem. SIT DOWN, GET LOWER. Drop your tripod. Shoot from a pier.
 - Head angle of the bird. Profile to looking at camera. Do not show going away shot.
4. Image is soft. Not the lens, usually. Camera shake, wind, motion blur, or rarely not enough depth of field (DOF). Usually not acquiring focus. Bird cruise at 20 - 40 mph. DOF is usually not a problem at a distance. Keep bird's body parallel to the camera sensor. f8 is usually sufficient.
5. Acquiring initial focus is a matter of practice.
6. Raise the ISO. Why? To increase the shutter speed. Over come wind and motion blur, to catch the unexpected, fast movements of the bird. Start with 1/1600 or faster. There is no apology needed for too much shutter speed. One needs speed. The right ISO for the right situation is NOT a good practice. One needs to be prepared at high speed all the time for the unexpected. As such, one needs to concentrate only acquiring focus and following the bird.
7. MANUAL MODE ONLY. As such, the exposure will always be correct for the bird, regardless of the changing background, water, foliage or sky. Meter on something white before starting, such as in the parking lot, a white car - in your zone. As such, no more blown out white heads of a bald eagle, David, which ruins the shot. Most birds have some white on them. Do test images using the histogram, before getting out in the field. The picture is about the bird. If exposure is correct at, say, 1.7 stops above neutral, then as the light changes, meter again and keep the meter up to 1.7 stops above neutral. Do this by adjusting shutter speed, keeping the ISO high. KEEP THE EXPOSURE CORRECT FOR WHITE.
8. Gear. "There is no substitute for focal length." 600mm. Crop body. And, 1.4 teleconverter will magnify a bird at 100 feet. Weight is a significant issue, and Roman is a fairly large guy. 4.3 lb. Contemporary far easier to hand hold than the 7 lb. Sport. High speed, continuous shutter, and continuous autofocus. Sport and Contemporary are travel friendly as they pass airline muster, unlike the bigger, monster lenses. Practice, practice, practice. Take pictures all of the time, all of which improve one skills and keep them sharp. When starting out, center focus point only.
9. Wind direction. Birds fly into the wind to land and to take off. Wind direction will tell you how bird will fly. So, wind out of one's back. The bird attitude is not an accident.
10. No fly away birds.
11. To acquire focus. Start tracking early to acquire focus. Zoom out some. No amount of shutter speed will make a shot sharp unless focus is acquired.
12. Use a fast memory card so that sequence of shots does not stall before the shot that counts is missed. Get a large card as memory is cheap.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just when you think you know what you are doing, things change. More proof that I am in learning mode for this President thing. For this month, I was going to make a little note for the newsletter on persistence of effort leading to some very good images. You know how not only does one have to do the 10,000 hours to become very proficient at something, but also one has to be regular in pursuing a goal. I was thinking of the great wildlife and landscape photographers, where it is not really luck that results in great images. But, rather making one's own luck. The great ones study the location, scout out locations, watch the light and weather each time they go out, and they plan to be there when there is a chance the light and weather will be as they hope. That is not really luck, although we know that the weather and the light surprise us, good and bad, even with all of that planning. The same goes for wildlife. The great ones learn the cycles of the seasons, the life cycle of the wildlife and their food sources, and they watch the weather, the moon phase, and the clock that wakes them before sunrise, day after day. And, we have several people right here in our club that show us the fruits of that discipline and dedication. Bernadette Chiaramonte-Brown and Linda Stager immediately come to mind for landscape and Tioga wildlife, which I see nearly daily on Facebook. Paul Bozzo too. Those who follow Paul know that aside from being an active and talented artist, that he is also out nearly daily exploring photographing the creeks and runs and waterfalls that are abundantly hidden in Tioga, winter or summer. These members are great resources and examples to the rest of us who aspire to do such things.

But, then surprise struck two days ago. Paul, who was going to do March's program, had scheduling problems which arose. I had thought the problem was to make a program for April, the one month for the whole year for which we had not yet come up with a definite plan. Nope, the problem was in two weeks. So, there is this photographer who I had seen on Youtube in 2016, and who had presented a program on shooting birds which was so practical, detailed and concrete on what to do, that I watched it several times and actually made an outline of it. Roman Kurywczak. He is opinionated, and others may differ. He takes great bird photos among other things. He is on Sigma's payroll, so some may think there might be some bias. But, nonetheless, what he says about how to do it made great sense. So, we have his Youtube lecture from a presentation at B&H. He will also be at Two Rivers Photography Club in early April for those who want to see him in person. And, I guess I did get the little note in on persistence and discipline anyway.

David Ralph

©David Ralph "Hummer"
Labor Day, ISO 6400





The Grand Canyon Photography Club
www.gcphotoclub.org

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

2018 Officers:

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Vice President: Open

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Judith Giddings

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Bob Stoffregen, Sharon Connolly

2018-2019:

Nancy Bickham, Linda Stager

Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Bruce Dart

Membership: Gary Thompson

Exhibits: Bruce Dart

Website: Mia Lisa Anderson

Publicity: Open

For more information, please contact:
David Ralph -
E-mail: president@gcphotoclub.org

About The Banner Photo



©Russ Dodson "In Pieces"

In Pieces:

"For this submission," Russ points out, "I took composition to refer both to the placement of things in the image and to the 'story' the photo tells.

The photo was shot in color and changed to B & W in Photoshop with the blue color of the puzzle piece then added. The concept is that the person has lost someone dear to them and is still incredulous that this could happen—hence the "No". (I hear their "NO!" echoing in my mind as I look at the photo.) They are trying to put the pieces of their world back together but right now their life has lost its meaning--hence the black & white. The blue puzzle piece represents both the sadness they feel and the possibility of meaning (color) coming back into their life.

The card and several of the assembled zig saw pieces point to the map of the world. And the hand, the word 'No' and card are all positioned along the bottom third of the photo. There are numerous triangular shapes throughout."

Image made at 1/160 sec. F 7.1 at 400 ISO with his Canon EOS in manual exposure, 18-55 lens at 29 mm focal length.



February 13 Meeting of the Grand Canyon Photo Club

’Twas the night before Valentines; and after the laptop and the projector were connected, our president David Ralph called the meeting to order. In all, 18 members were in attendance. Gary Thompson reported that our treasury had grown this past month by \$305 in collected dues. We also learned that our club presently is made up of 49 members. David announced that a Dog Sledding Challenge is looking for volunteer photographers to make captures on February 24. Location Darling Run. Time not yet known. The minutes were approved. David also presented the program for the evening “Basic Exposure.” He passed around a few “hands-on” objects which included a lens so we could see how a diaphragm works, a camera without a lens so we could observe the shutter opening and closing, and a piece of cardboard which was 18% gray (the value an automatic camera attempts to capture). David explained the Exposure Triangle which is made up of 1. Shutter speed; 2. Aperture; and 3. ISO (sensitivity to light).

Gary presented the 12 images which were sent in for the critique “Composition.” He also invited all members to participate each month by submitting an image. Gary exclaimed that all the images were excellent – and they made quite a treat for the eye and the mind. Mike Gerth’s image “Sunrise on Troups Creek” of bright sun shining through the trees onto frozen ground at 5 degrees Fahrenheit warmed our eyes. Russ Dodson’s story of a life “In Pieces,” presented a partially completed puzzle and a sympathy card with some hope of regaining a life. Jan Keck’s “Stignace Sunset” took us to Florida with a dreamy image of a lighthouse on a sea of blue with a sky to match – and a blaze of red-orange at the horizon.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Bozzo, Recording Secretary



©Jan Keck “Stignace Sunset”

2018 Club Dues Are Now Being Accepted

Please bring your cash or check (payable to GCPC) to the next meeting or send your dues to the GCPC treasurer:

Gary Thompson
 285 Owen Hollow Road
 Big Flats, NY 14814

Treasurer’s Report For February 2018

Beginning Balance	\$918.34
Cash IN (2016 dues)	100.00
Cash OUT (Bank Fee)	\$3.00
Ending Balance	\$1015.34

Respectfully Submitted,
 Gary Thompson, Treasurer



Ann Kamzelski
presents tips, techniques,
and creative ideas for
getting great photos.

It Is What It Is

I am sure that you have always heard that we should take our photos in the best light; such as dawn and dusk. Well you can't always do that. You don't always have the opportunity to come back at a different time. The animal or bird won't be there when the light is better. The flower closes when the light gets dim. Things just can't always be ideal. So what do you do? You say "it is what it is" and make the best of the conditions that you have. Understanding light and shadow, changing positions, trying different exposures and just plain being creative can help you get some decent images even in the worst conditions.



Last month I told you about my winter butterfly experience. Even though we have butterflies here all winter, you rarely see them except on bright sunny days when the lighting is the poorest. In Pennsylvania, I know where they spend the night and can often get great photographs in the early morning light. Here, in Florida, I have no idea where they go after dark so all of my shots are taken in the bright daytime. This causes a problem because you get shadows on the wings of the butterfly as well as the leaves of the plant that they are on. It also causes a lot of contrast in the background even if it is out of focus. Shooting down on the insect is probably the worst angle. I like to get down at insect level (this helps with some of the shadows on the plant). I also move around to try and find the best background. The examples that I show here give you an idea of



Photos ©Ann Kamzelski

the various options that you might have in this situation. The first one is of a butterfly in bright light with a distracting background and shadows. The second has the wings open so the shadows don't show as much and the background, while busy, is not as distracting. For the third shot, I moved so that there was only sand in the background, AND I was lucky enough to have a cloud pass over the sun for a few minutes. Finally, the fourth shot was taken in the sunlight, but I had a dark bush in the background and the wings open.



What It Is (continued)



Photos ©Ann Kamzelski

Sometimes that images that I get in poor lighting conditions surprise me. I went out on a birding boat tour last week. I usually do this at least once a year. We have a tremendous variety of shore birds that live or migrate here, but many of them spend their time out on islands and sand bars. The only way you get to see them is from a boat. Anyway, I always get great photos on these trips. Not this time. The tide didn't rise as high as predicted (you need a high tide for the birds to congregate on the sand bars). The wind was blowing and the water was rough. We saw very few of the smaller birds and the ones that we did see were all huddled down because of the wind in huddled masses. I did manage to get one nice shot of an oystercatcher with his feathers blowing in the wind.





What It Is (continued)

The best photographs of the trip, by far, were the white pelicans. They always put on a great show for photographers. I can't tell you how many photos of have of these birds on this very same sand bar, so even though the shots were nice, they were not any different from others that I have. However, on the way back to the dock, we stopped by the pelicans again. The birds were backlit instead of the usual front lighting. I was disappointed because I thought that any images that I took would be horrible. In the viewfinder, the birds almost looked like silhouettes. I bumped up my exposure to make the birds whiter, totally expecting the background to go overexposed. To my surprise, when I got home and looked at these shots I was pleasantly surprised at how much I liked them. It was a white on white photo of the pelicans. Something I had never captured before. It was my favorite of the day.

So the shooting conditions are often "what it is" but with a little effort you can still get great photos.



Photos ©Ann Kamzelski





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Composition Images



©Diane Cobourn "Winter Contrast"



©Ann Kamzelski "Sydney"



©Ken Meyer "Village Green"



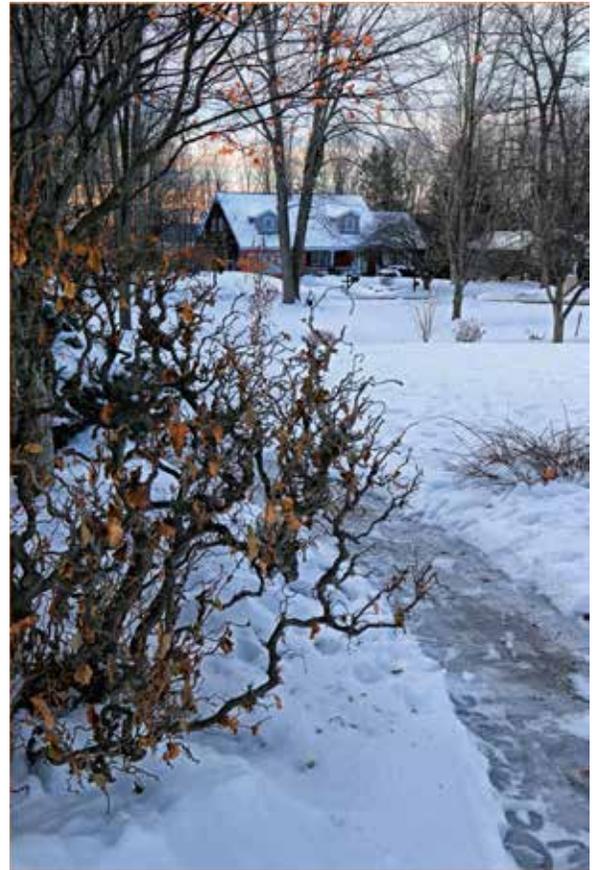
©Bruce Dart "Rain and Fog"



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©Gary Thompson "Lake Sinissippi"



©Paul Bozzo "It's a Wonderful Day in the Neighborhood"



©Bob Bair "The Stare"



©Nancy Bickham "The Long Red Line"



GCPC 2018 Calendar of Events

Meetings are at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center unless otherwise noted.

Mini-solo Shows at the Native Bagel, Central Avenue, Wellsboro:

March - Bruce Dart

April - Diane Cobourn

The Warehouse Theatre: Various Members

Paul Bozzo, Linda Stager, Medford Barton, Bernadette Chiarmente Brown

March-Birds in Flight - Roman Kurywczak

April-Layers in Photoshop Elements - Paul Bozzo

May - Stitching Panoramas - Bob Stoffregen

June-Outing at Ann's

July - 13 or 14 Group Outing for Night Sky

Please contact Bruce Dart at bdphoto@ptd.net if you are interested in displaying your photos at the Native Bagel or if you have images suitable for display at the Warehouse Gallery.

What is this? Send your guess to bdphoto@ptd.net

Mystery Macro

How observant are you?

Several correct guesses. Silo





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©Mike Gerth “”

March Meeting At A Glance

“Birds in Flight” - video Sigma Pro

Roman Kurywczak

Theme: Same Image Two Exposure Settings

Snacks -Russ Dodson

Beverages- Bob Stoffregen

April Theme: capture a bird. For those that do not have a long lenses, photos out the kitchen window, stealth by hiding in some kind of blind, and attracting birds with bird seed so as to get close; or perhaps an environmental shot. Robins and other migrating birds are likely to start showing up. I have heard that bluebirds have been observed in Tioga County.



©Linda Stager “Channeling Wyeth”