



Iceland
Victory Show
New Programme

www.jaguarps.co.uk

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Jaguar Photographic Society

Website: www.jaguarps.co.uk
Email: jaguarphotosociety@yahoo.co.uk
Twitter: @jaguarphotosoc
Facebook: Jaguar Photographic Society

Meetings: Weds evenings from 20:00hrs
Jaguar Social Club, Chorley Way, Coventry

Cover Image: Steve Randle, Masquerades taken in Venice.

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COMMENT

Welcome back to a new season with the JPS, and issue 2 of In Focus. After a torrid summer (unless of course you like dull grey photographs) autumn is approaching, shadows are getting longer and maybe we will start having some crisp, dry days to inspire us all to get out with our cameras. We have a full programme for you, but as always if there is anything specific you need or ideas you have then please talk to anyone on the committee and we will try to accommodate it.

We often talk about photographic equipment, and we all tend to get excited about the latest cameras with massive numbers of megapixels, trillion point auto focus, hundreds of frames per second, and why Nikon are so good! (*Cough... Canon - Ed.*) But we must never lose sight of the basics of photography. I am reminded of a quotation by arguably the most famous photographer of all times, Ansel Adams:

"a good photograph is knowing where to stand".

A good image is created first and foremost by putting your camera in the right position - no amount of photoshop is going to fix it if that is wrong. It sets the scaling of foreground and background; it controls the relative positioning of the subject and its surroundings and the critical position of the horizon. So when taking a photograph, experiment with being higher or lower, move closer, move a bit to left or right - study the image in the viewfinder, use the depth of field preview button - you will be amazed how much better your photography can become with a little experimentation.

But above all - carry your camera with you at all times!

Best wishes,

Tony

Chairman

DIARY DATES

September

19th Visit to Grange PS for their lecturettes
26th 20 Minute Showcase & Digital Evening

October

3rd Round Table Night
10th Merit 1 & Competition Set Selection
17th Mercia Group – Bedworth & Exhall
24th Print League
(At Herberts Vs Jaguar; Courtaulds Judging)

November

7th 20 Minute Showcase & Digital Evening –
Photoshop 101
14th Print League
(At Jaguar Vs Sphinx; Herberts Judging)
21st Mercia Group – Coventry PS
28th Print League
(At Herberts Vs Courtaulds; Sphinx Judging)

TRIPS

October

Autumn Colours at Batsford Arboretum

November

Bradgate Park for the Deer Rut.

December

A low light trip over the Christmas Break.

January

A photowalk in Birmingham

June - 2013

7-9th Northumbrian Coastal Trip
A weekend trip at the peak of the Puffin season and some fantastic coastline in a breath-taking corner of the country.

Look out for more details on our meeting nights or via the weekly email.



"Captured" - Nick Archer in action at Mallory Park on our visit in June. I hope you got some good ones.

FRESH FRAME

Helen Jackson

“Making the most of downtime”

Earlier this year I travelled to the Costa Blanca with the Brakes Refinement team to test our brakes in the arid climate round the winding mountain roads and busy tourist areas. As an antidote to the concentration of long hours of driving I managed an hour at a nearby beach with my camera and just a single lens - Matt's 75-300mm that I borrowed for the trip. The scenery round our route is spectacular but with the Armco being purely decorative and the usual Spanish road hazards of goats, dogs, peacocks and old people on their daily constitutional give little margin for error so it's good to relax when you can.

A crowded beach really isn't my native environment so I was drawn to the quieter part near a reed bed surrounding one of the river outlets on the beach. Strolling along I started to notice these dragon flies, of course it being the afternoon the sun was high and they were full of energy making it hard to capture an image. After a while I realised that they actually travelled quite small distances, often returning to the same perch. So remembering previous outings I sat and waited to see if the insects could co-operate and land back on the twig in front of me. Thankfully this one obliged. I'm not an expert on dragonflies but I believe it to be a Black Percher. (Awaiting confirmation from the Natural History Museum's identification team)



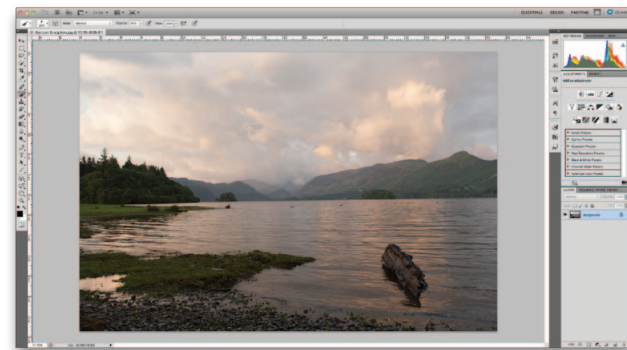
Canon 450D
70-300 at 300mm
Aperture Priority, ISO200
1/500th at f6.3

DIGITAL DARKROOM

Straightening Horizons in Photoshop.

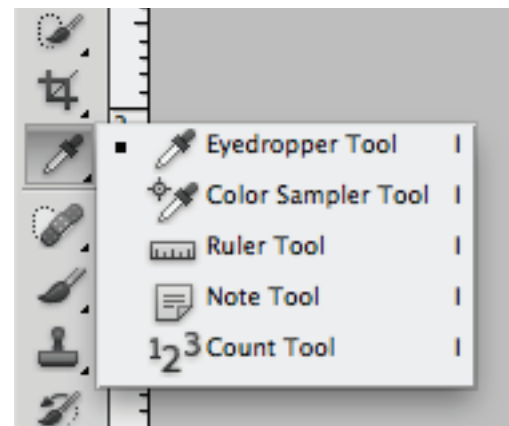
We often find that despite our best efforts in the field that we end up with an image that has a wonky horizon. There is nothing more obvious than photographing a lake or the sea to show this up.

Open your image in photoshop (1). The simplest method to correct this is using the ruler tool.



1: Open the image in Photoshop

The ruler tool is in the same toolset as the eye-dropper so pressing "I" will show you where it is on the tool palette. You can then click on the Ruler tool. (2)

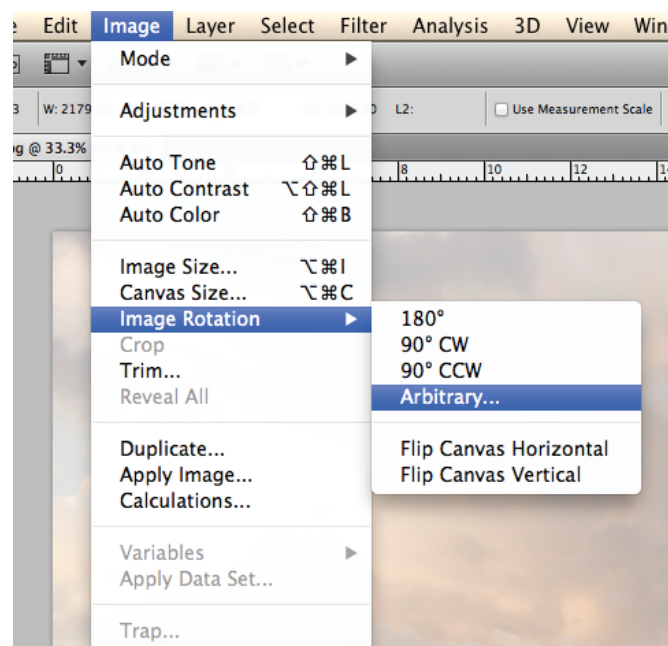
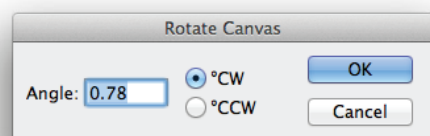


2: Press I on the keyboard to find the Eye-Dropper and therefore the ruler tool.

In the example shown, the horizon line of the lake is the obvious area to straighten. Click on the lefthand waterline of the lake and drag out a line from this point.

Place the other crosshair on the righthand side of the lake and then let go. This will give you a line with a crosshair at each end.

Now choose IMAGE, IMAGE ROTATION, ARBITRARY. This will then bring up a Rotate Canvas box with the angle Photoshop has measured and just click OK to see the image rotate to a straighter perspective. (3)



3: Menu screen to straighten the image.



You can see the white space around the image now. (Image above)

To remove this press CTRL-A to select the image. You will see the marching ants around the edge of the frame now.

Press SELECT, then TRANSFORM SELECTION. You will see little boxes around the image now. Drag these down to frame the image to your desired composition and then press IMAGE, CROP. This will crop the image ready for the rest of your workflow.

Works in: Photoshop & Elements
Difficulty: *
Time to complete: *

Shortcuts

The fastest way to speed up using Photoshop is to use shortcuts off the keyboard. Here's a few common ones.

B	Brush
D	Set colour swatches to default colours
X	Exchange (Swap) the colour swatches around
[]	Square brackets to change brush size
E	Eraser tool
L	Lasso tool for selections
S	Clone Stamp

If you practice these regularly it will speed your workflow up. Even if you learn one at a time it will make a difference.

ON LOCATION

Words & Images: Scott Wiggins



Even at 09:00 there were lots of tourists beginning to show up.

As part of my summer trip to Iceland with KE Adventure Travel and John Gravett we spent a morning at the Jokusarlon beach.

This was probably the most magical location I've ever been to. The group disembarked off the bus and all we could say was, "Wow... magical... awesome."

The beach as you might imagine on a volcanic country was black and washed up on the shore are icebergs that may have been floating around for five years or more in the Atlantic.

The images are quite easy to make and most things work as long as you don't blow the high-lights. Grads were your best friend to keep the sky in check. In fact the hardest thing is trying to photograph your chosen iceberg before the tourists try and clamber over them or amongst them.

I used my 5D Mk II and 24-105 and 70-200 predominantly, occasionally needing the 1.4x teleconverter for a little extra reach.

The big issue is ensuring that your shutter speed isn't too long or the icebergs will be soft owing to the gentle motion of the water. I kept my ISO up around 400 to get around this, dropping it down for creative effects.

I'd love to go back here, it was a magical place.

THE CAMERA BAG

Lastolite Mini Reflectors

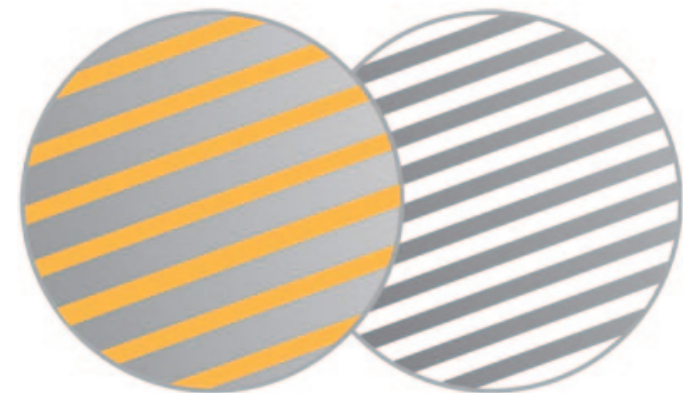
The Lastolite 30cm (12") Reflector is ideal for close up or small product shots and as a handy sized reflector for any gadget bag.

Available in a choice of six reversible colours (Sunfire/White, Silver/White, Silver/Gold, Sunfire/Silver, Gold/White and Sunlite/Soft Silver) this reflector collapses down to just one third of its original size.

Soft Silver will retain natural colours whilst removing unwanted shadows and giving an subtle increase in contrast and the Sunlite will add a subtle warm tone to the image (5000k).

Soft Silver and Sunlight is an excellent combo for use in the field lighting macro compositions such as fungi or lichens.

Cost:
£12.99 plus postage
www.wexphotographic.com



Spudz Cleaning Cloths

These little cloths have been around for a long time and work very very well. The cloth packs away into it's own little neoprene pouch which helps to keep it clean.

Available in 6x6 inch and bigger 10x10 versions.

They are equally gentle on your spectacles as they are the front element of your lens where they remove lint, dust and fingerprints with equal aplomb.

Cost: from £4.50 plus postage
<http://spudzonline.com>
Various retail outlets in the UK



Think Tank Ultralight v2.5

If you're in need of a lightweight pack to maximise an airline weight restriction then look no further. Clever design maximises the protection but minimises the fuss. It's a tardis of a bag for it's size easily carrying all my kit to Iceland for a week (2 camera bodies and 5 lenses.)

It coped with wet, cold, abrasive volcanic sand and came back looking as good as new. Think tank even include a wet weather cover too.

Cost: £124.99 inc VAT
<http://www.premier-ink.co.uk>



TOP SHOPS

Jaguar Social Club

Room hire at our regular meeting place
www.jaguarclub.co.uk

ProAm Imaging

www.proamimaging.com
Probably the most cost effective photo printer on the web who deliver a quality product too. You need to be able to run your own colour managed setup though.

Cotswold Mounts

www.cotswoldmounts.co.uk
A brilliant shop and very friendly. Cream core makes excellent mounts for competition work and if you ask for a blank board they cut the outer size for you to avoid keeping A1 sheets flat.

Glyn Dewis Training

Glyn who visited us last year is now running some very successful training courses in photography & photoshop.



GLYN DEWIS

Photography & Photoshop Training

For more information please visit

WWW.GLYNDEWIS.COM

THE VICTORY SHOW

The first trip of the new season was a weekend visit to the Victory Show at Cosby. With WW2 era re-enactors plus a mock battle and vintage flying display all for £15 there was a great days photography to be had. We'll calendar a return visit next year hopefully with a bigger turn out.



"Stay Low"
Scott Wiggins



"Spitfire in flight"
Helen Jackson



"Medic"
Matt Garside

THE NORTHUMBRIAN COAST



Image: Steve Randle

The big trip for this season...

Our last visit to the Northumbrian coast was a huge success and well supported by the members. Unfortunately the weather was not kind on one of the days and we were a little washed out. This trip is therefore somewhat unfinished business.

We plan to travel to the North East on the Friday morning stopping at Alnwick Gardens en-route to visit their superb grounds.

Continuing on to Seahouses we will lodge at the Bamburgh Castle Inn adjacent to the harbour which gives us an excellent base to explore from. The inn has excellent comfortable rooms and serves food to a good standard and perhaps more importantly to some, has a good pint on tap too.

You will be able to explore Seahouses on foot or maybe photograph the sunset towards Bamburgh Castle.

Saturday we will plan to visit the Farne Islands on the all day birdwatch trip to photograph Puffins, Guillemots and maybe a Grey Seal or two. You don't need massive lenses to great great results, a 200mm lens is more than adequate to get great images of the birds as they really are close to you. If you're an early riser then we might also be able to visit the coast and photograph Bamburgh Castle before breakfast.

Sunday may involve a quick departure after breakfast to take advantage of the tide and to visit Lindisfarne castle and Holy Island before we depart back to the Midlands late afternoon.

We will be visiting on the 7th - 9th June which is the peak season for birdwatching on the islands so we must book early to avoid missing out on an excellent venue.

The inn has rooms from £60 per person/night with B&B or £80 for a twin/double.

The bird watching trip is £30 approx with £12 landing fees for non National Trust members (Bring your membership card.)

We will plan to car share and split the fuel costs equally amongst everyone. You will also need to allow for your evening meal, lunches and drinks.

If you are interested in what promises to be a great weekend please speak to Scott either on a meeting night or via the club email address so he can collate names and make bookings.



Image: Scott Wiggins

LAST GLANCE



"Scramble"

I was photographing the development team from Coventry in a pre-season challenge at Milton Keynes. Chris Gill came forward to shoot the puck out of the way but somehow ended up on the floor desperately trying to bat the puck away with his stick. The lighting at the MK rink wasn't nice as not only is it somewhat dimmer than I am used to but it also reflects a yellow cast from all the walls surrounding the rink meaning a little bit of corrective work is required afterwards.

Scott Wiggins

1D Mk IV, 70-200 f2.8 II, ISO3200 Manual 1/640th at f2.8

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