

The Nikonian



eZine

36

www.nikonians.org

Contents



Editorial	3
Membership	5
D300 Nikonians weigh in	6
Nikon Solutions trip report	10
Understanding UDMA	13
Contest Results	14
Polarizing Filter Tutorial	18
Holiday Gift Ideas	21
PhotoProShop Gift suggestions	23
New From Nikon	26
Team Profile - Albert Valentino	27
Team Profile - Amy Enyart	29
Calendar	30

Nikonians Co-founder J. Ramón Palacios (jrp) adds his Holiday Greetings with this close-up view of his family tree, which has more than 350 butterflies of all shapes and sizes as decorations. The butterfly collection is a tradition that comes from his wife. The image was shot with his Nikon D2X and a 105mm f/2.8G AF-S VR Micro Nikkor lens set to f/14 for an 8 second exposure.

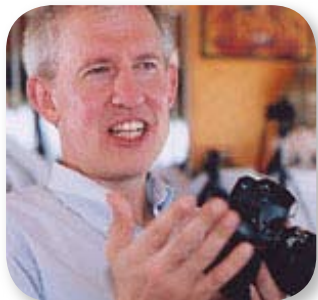
On our Cover:

Nikonian Steve Shepard captured a festive evening on Church Street in downtown Burlington, Vermont. He took the shot in mid-December around 10 p.m. in sub-freezing temperatures. He used a Nikon D2X and a Nikon AF Nikkor 35-70mm f/2.8D lens set at 70 mm. To maximize depth of field he shot at ISO 100 and f/11, which required an exposure time of about five seconds steadied by a Gitzo carbon fiber tripod with a Gitzo ball head. He hung his backpack on the tripod's center post hook to minimize vibration caused by the cold wind from the lake. Steve has contributed an article on gift giving ideas (see page 21)

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Greetings fellow Nikonians!

Back in eZine #34, at the end of August this year I mentioned the ongoing discussions on “full frame”. Now the first D3's have hit the shelves and our members are starting to use them. It seems to be an excellent camera. If you missed out on the D3 sports photography in low-light article by Nikonian Victor Newman that we ran in eZine #34, you should check it out. Talking about eZines: The last issue, Issue #35 of this publication reached record readership with over 128,300 individuals downloading (and hopefully reading) it in the first month of availability.



bgs
Administrator
Charter Member
Co-Founder
3910 posts

On the D3 -- Have to admit here I have one on pre order but so far not delivered. NOW, should I really buy it? I mean, my D200 is a great camera and I would rather want really high resolution. While I have these second thoughts I also know a pre order can be cancelled. You know what I mean, the 20+ megapixel stuff. That would probably make me really happy.

So, while I am waiting for my high tech new camera to arrive we have interesting postings and images from the D3 in the forums. And of course (not to be forgotten) the D300. This seems to be a killer camera indeed and many of us have already ordered, received, played and fumbled with it. The other day, while walking in downtown Bratislava, I had the chance to talk to a proud Nikonian wearing his brand new D300 which he had received two days earlier, so it's out there! We also have many discussions on this magnificent piece of engineering art.

Joe Feser and Katarina Mintalova, two of our team members, just came back from a week on the road, doing Public Relations work for the community at the Nikon Solutions Expo in London, UK and then at the Nikon Solutions Expo in Cologne, Germany. They said they had a thrill and looking at the pictures it surely looks like it. As one of the leading communities for DSLR users, we

just love to participate at major exhibitions. This provides direct response and feedback from members and Nikon users face-to-face. Sure, virtual life is good but life “in person” is not too bad either.

We are already looking for volunteers for **Photokina 2008**, taking place September 23 – 28, 2008 in Cologne, Germany. Photokina is the largest imaging and photography exhibition there is. If you have never been there, it is a “must not miss” kind of event. If you are interested in signing up as volunteer for a day or two, please check our News Blog and forums for an upcoming call for Nikonians volunteers.



Nikonians co-founder Bo Stahlbrandt (bgs) was the study of concentration in this image shot by his friend and partner J. Ramón Palacios (jrp), taken during the 7th Annual Photo Adventure Trip (ANPAT) in Yellowstone and Grand Tetons National Parks.

Editorial

Starting December 24th this year we will be providing all Silver, Gold and Platinum members with free prints – global shipping, courtesy of a large, US company producing high quality pro photo printers. Make sure you are subscribed to our [News Blog](#) for details so that you do not miss out on this opportunity.

Since we started with our first podcast in June 2005, we have come a long way. Today Nikonians provide four different [podcasts channels](#): *Behind the Lens* with famous Nikon Photographers, *Nikonians Newsflash*, *The Nikonians Image Doctors* and *Nikonians Turning Pro*. These mp3 podcast are reaching many thousands of listeners per month. Rumor has it that another channel is in the making, due out early next year. What I like personally with podcasts, is the offline character. I can be outdoors, driving, jogging or biking, somewhere where I have no Internet and I can still stay up-to-date on news and learn from other photographers.

It sure is great being a Nikonian!
Bo

Nikonians Holiday Shopping just got easier!!

A reminder to our Platinum members that you already have the benefit of free shipping from the PhotoProShop at all times

And, for our Silver and Gold Members we now add an automatic 5% discount until further notice

Check your user menu for discounts and special offers available to your account

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Membership levels

Nikonians offers several levels of membership. Of course there is a free, basic membership, but we invite you to enjoy the fun and benefits of Silver, Gold and Platinum membership levels providing you with sell & buy opportunities, image upload, free shipping and more.



Access our free forum areas.
Learn, share and participate in lively discussions
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D300 Nikonians weigh in

by Nikonians members

First impressions show happy photographers

Editor's Note: With the long-anticipated arrival of the new Nikon D300 for retail sales, our [D100/D200/D300 Users Group](#) forum quickly started buzzing. Nikonians co-founder J. Ramon Palacios (jrp) asked some of our members to send their thoughts to us here at the eZine staff. We thank everyone who submitted information and images. The following comments are edited to avoid duplication

Jeff Boone - (jboone)

"I have now logged about 170 shots, which I picked to test the camera. Dynamic Range appears to be better the D2xs and D200. There is more software control than I had expected. I'm still trying to determine how the dynamic Range compares to the Fuji S5 which I feel is much better than the D2xs and D200.

ISO is much better at 800 and above than I have seen in the D2xs, D200 and Fuji S5. It is very hard to find any noise in even the darkest of areas. Frames per second is excellent, at 12Bits and at 14Bits it is about 2.5fps. When shooting 14Bits it is faster than the Fuji S5. My feelings are that I'm encouraged so far.

Thanks for also have such a great website. This is one reason I've stayed as a Nikon user. I have been playing around on switching like a lot of fellow friends have done, but Nikonians has helped keep me as a committed Nikon User.



Thomas Roach - (nikond200user)

(Submitted three photos, including the one above of a White Crowned Sparrow.)

"I shot this with a Nikon 200-400mm VR lens on a Gitzo tripod, and reduced the noise 38 percent using Capture NX v1.3. I'm getting requests for the images from fellow Nikonians from all over the world."

D300 Nikonians weigh in

Jim and Sandy Troxell – (FFN and FFN2)

"Our thoughts on the D300 compared to our D2X and D2Hs are listed below:

Focus is faster and more accurate. Auto color balance is better. Three stops less high ISO noise than D2X and 1.5-2 stops less than D2Hs - ISO 3200 makes great prints with the D300. Post processing is substantially less than required with either the D2X or D2Hs - images are usable out of the camera. Incredible color and DR control with Active or post D Lighting. Battery life seems endless. It has great flexibility with removable vertical grip. Our D2X is sold and we are now thinking of replacing the D2Hs with a D300 as well."

Fred A. Lewis – (Higuma)

"It's late here in Japan and I am on a shoot at 7:30 here in Sapporo so I have to do some checks, pack and toddle off to bed soon...

I am attaching a shot taken with the D300 in the first 5 days of having it (I uploaded smaller versions to the thread in the D300 forum) and here are a few comments:

For me the D300 answers a lot of prayers that I had for the D200 - - mainly it produces optimal quality jpgs straight out of the camera that I can simply pass on to my clients without the need for anything more than "minimal" Post Processing. This is very important to me as an Event Photographer - total confidence thus far in the metering



David Voss – (SoCal Dave)

"How much more fun can a photographer have than taking a new D300 to Yosemite!"

D300 Nikonians weigh in



means no chimping to check & correct exposure on the fly - AWB is improved over the D200 (which although sometimes no so accurate was fairly consistent) – The focus system is as good or better than any Nikon I have shot. Handling and ergonomics have stayed true to the Nikon feel. The Grip construction is a nice improvement as it feels like it's integrated and not attached. I will be receiving my D3 later this week and am amazed to think that if it is another notch higher in performance than the d300 I will be truly flabbergasted - - what a team these two bodies are going to make for this Event shooter."

<<<

Kit Sims Taylor - (Kit Sims Taylor)

"Nikon announced the D300 just as I was planning to buy a second D200 -- primarily for a backup when I travel to remote regions. My initial thought was that I should get a D200 while there were still new ones available. But as I examined the specifications for the D300 and saw how compatible it was with the D200 -- the same battery, CF cards, cable release, and adapter for my angle finder -- I began to lean toward the newer camera. The major incompatibility would be the vertical grip -- also something I need for some planned travel into regions of iffy electricity where I may need to depend on AAs.

By the time I had decided on the D300 it was more than a month since the announcement so I held little hope of getting one very quickly. The first major difference I noticed between the D200 and D300 was how Nikon managed its supply chain. I had the camera in my hands on November 21 -- and without needing to buy a lens I didn't want! With two charged batteries, plenty of CF cards and several lenses in my bag I walked to an espresso place two blocks from the camera store to unpack the camera, fire a few test shots, check the commuter train schedule, and email my wife to set the time we would meet later in Edmonds. By the time I got to Edmonds I had dozens of shots of my hat, my shoe, my camera bag sitting on a train seat, etc. The monitor is certainly impressive -- enough detail to really check the focus. This will make it much easier to do some initial pruning even before copying the files into my computer.

My first chance to put this machine through its paces came two days after I picked it up. With the big crowds hopefully all at the suburban megamalls I planned to get to the Pike Place Market early then wander around downtown Seattle and meet my wife later in time for the tree lighting ceremony at Westlake.

D300 Nikonians weigh in



Aside from the different placement of the button that activates the monitor, the transition from the D200 to the D300 was a snap. So far anyway, as I haven't yet tried some of the features -- particularly Live View and the dust shaker -- that are not on the D200. Most of the menus are the same or similar and it took little time to set it up to my liking -- main command dial to dial in exposure compensation -- a preference that goes back to my F100, exposure compensation reset to zero when the meter goes off and the Fn button to activate the spot meter.

My impression so far? Wow! Many photographers have been less than pleased with the higher ISO performance of the D200, even though at 800 or 1600 the images were at least equal to anything we got with high ISO color film. From my admittedly small sample ISO 400 appears to equal the quality of ISO 100 shots from the D200. ISO 800 still looks good enough for gallery quality 12x18" prints. ISO 1100-1600 is still very good -- something I could certainly make my smaller gallery-size prints (8x12") from with a little post processing. 3200 and even 6400 gets good snapshot-sized prints, web use shots, and/or classroom or lecture illustration shots shown with a digital projector.

Sorry, D200. We've had a great almost two-year relationship. I'll still call on you when I need to use two lenses more or less simultaneously. And you will be there in case something goes wrong with the new camera. You still get to go to the Orinoco and Amazon next June, but you will be in the bottom of the bag."

<<<

Steve Knight—(KnightPhoto)

"MyMenu is great! The Coolest part of MyMenu is that if you switch Shooting Menu bank or Custom Setting bank, the other MyMenu items also visibly switch values!

So if you're like me, have four banks programmed, but may be a little uncertain of some of the values you have set for each of the banks, place them in MyMenu. In my case I am experimenting with Active D-lighting, High ISO NR, Dynamic AF Area and Set Picture Control.

When I change banks I can instantly see (via the changed icons) what I have set ADL, NR, etc. for the bank I am now on!"

Expo Road Show first-hand report

Brian Tilley (briantilley)

Moderator
Member since
26-Jan-03
12433 posts

Brian helps out by moderating:

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[3rd Party Lenses](#)

[Other Camera Systems & Formats](#)

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[Nikon Products / D1/D2 Users Group](#)

[Nikon Products / D200 Users Group](#)

[Nikon Products / D80 Users Group](#)

and he is the Nikonians News Blog

Podcasts Chief Editor

Having moved home to rural Devon in the south-west of England I was afraid that being further from the large metropolises would cut me off from some of the big photo events.

So, I was very pleased when Nikon decided to take their [Solutions Expo](#) event on the road this year, choosing Bristol as one of the venues. I rushed to register, ordered my train tickets, and sat back to wait. A week before the event, my anticipation was increased by reports from Nikonians who attended the other road show location in Manchester. It seemed it would be possible to get my hands on a Nikon D300, and if I arrived early enough, to shoot with a D3 for up to an hour. I set my alarm clock for an ungodly hour, packed my bag with some Nikonians freebies (thanks to Bo and JRP), and was ready...

The day dawned bright and cold, and the train was on time. Arriving in Bristol I had time for a quick walk around the city before joining the queue in second



place. The time passed chatting amicably with other Nikon users, and plugging the Nikonians community. When the doors opened I rushed to the booking desk and got my name down for one of the "Action MasterClass" shoots with Nikon UK Pro Gareth Jones. That would be at mid-day, so I had time to get a good seat for the presentation on the new cameras and lenses by Nikon UK Pro Business Development Manager John McDonald.

John gave a good talk, accompanied by some useful "slides". He covered many of the new technology items that are incorporated in the D3 and D300, including the CAM3500 AF system, the EXPEED processing engine, Active D-Lighting, Live View, and the reasoning behind making the D3 an FX camera. On that topic, Nikon's position is that they are responding to the call from working sports, nature and journalism pros for a camera with better dynamic range and high-ISO performance. I got the impression that FX is seen simply as a means to an end, and not as the "holy grail" that some pundits seem to view it. DX is certainly not dead, as evidenced by the statement that the D300 is now seen as the flagship DX pro camera, supplanting the D2X(s) and exceeding its performance in just about all areas.

The most interesting part of the presentation for me was something I'd not previously picked up on: the way the Scene Recognition System in both D3 and D300 links the Metering with the AF logic and WB processing. When you focus on a part of a subject with your chosen AF sensor, the camera detects the colour of the target, and uses this information to help follow the subject as it moves around the frame (even if it temporarily moves outside the area covered by the AF sensor array). Once you realize how this works, it should be possible to improve greatly the effectiveness of your AF tracking with rapidly-moving subjects!

The Picture Control System (which replaces the Tone Compensation System) is another powerful piece of technology. It allows accurate and flexible control of image parameters (sharpening, contrast, brightness, saturation and hue) in a way that is consistent across different camera models, and within Nikon Capture NX and View NX. It seems to be a lot more intuitive than the earlier arrangement. And perhaps best of all, you can create (either in-camera or on the computer) your own preferred combinations of settings, assign a name to each, remember it in-camera AND use a CF card to save it and transfer it to

Nikon Solutions Expo

other compatible cameras. There was much more, but I need to move on to what I expect everyone wants to read, which is how the cameras feel and work in the field (or in this case, in the arena...!).

I turned up at the laid-out arena in the centre of the hall just before 12 noon, and was soon joined by Gareth, who was carrying four D3 cameras, each fitted with a WT-4 wireless transmitter, SB-800 and the new 24-70mm Nikkor. We three lucky punters eagerly picked up our allocated cameras, and inserted our own CF cards. Which immediately reminded us of yet another new feature – dual CF slots...! The cameras were set to JPEG large fine, Auto WB and Standard Picture Control. Gareth quickly talked us through the other major controls, but as one who uses a D2Xs myself, it was apparent how similar everything is. The controls fell to hand nicely, and the feel was very familiar, which inspired confidence given that we were going to be shooting in front of an audience of a few hundred (less fortunate) people.



The display was to be by a lady gymnast, who performed a variety of static poses and movements. Gareth directed her and between them a great set of photo opportunities was created. We were able to join them within the marked arena while everyone else lined the borders, clicking away. This display exercised the AF tracking system very well, and it performed just as well as I'd hoped. Once the optimum setting was selected for each type of movement, it was almost uncanny how the AF sensor displayed in the viewfinder moved in concert with the gymnast, ignoring the rather busy background and keeping the images sharp. We shot at ISO 6400 in the (rather dim) natural light, and at lower settings with flash. White Balance (on Auto, remember) was pretty consistent for both.

As we were shooting, our images were transferred wirelessly to a computer on the sidelines running Camera Control Pro 2, Nikon Transfer NX and Capture NX 1.3. Although we couldn't see it at the time, the operator there was bringing up selected images from Gareth and from the three of us in real-time, displaying them on a large monitor and printing a selected few at A3; all before we had finished the shoot.

So what did I think? In a word-- Fantastic! I've always been entirely happy with the performance of my D2Xs (apart from trying not to exceed ISO 800 where possible), but the D3 simply blew it away in many areas. And that's no exaggeration.

Enough about the D3... what of the D300? Well, it wasn't possible to shoot with one in the same way, but several examples were available to handle, both with and without the MB-D10 grip, and in the studio setting at the end of the hall another Nikon Pro was doing regular demonstrations of bridal, portrait and fashion shoots using the camera. His results looked very nice indeed. From handling the camera I would say that it is rather more solid in build than the D200 (which as owners will know is no slouch itself), and in particular the grip feels much more as though it's part of the camera. The grip's additional multi-selector is very useful in portrait orientation – my thumb could never stretch to the main camera control on the D200 when using its MB-D200 grip. The viewfinder looks slightly brighter (and gives a virtually 100% view), and the rear monitor is just wonderful in size, clarity and brightness. I could not really check out the AF system, but since it is identical to that in the D3 I am very

Nikon Solutions Expo



confident of its capabilities. Perhaps it will perform even better, since the AF sensor array covers a greater proportion of the frame compared with the FX camera.

Once I'd spent some more time handling the new lenses (14-24mm, 24-70mm, 500mm VR and 600mm VR were there for people to see and touch), I took the opportunity to hand out a few more Nikonians flyers, which allowed me to meet and chat to a couple of existing Nikonians, and several potential members. The three lucky people who participated in Gareth's next MasterClass also received a Nikonians cap (thanks to our founders).

At the end of the day, I just had time to pick up a few brochures, and chat to the guys on the "partner" stands from Epson, HP, Mitsubishi and the SWPP before retreating, tired but happy, to a nearby hostelry for a pint or two of that great British invention – Real Ale – and then the train home.

It had been an interesting and enjoyable day – anyone attending the main

events in London and Cologne (where the Nikonians Team was on hand in their booths) were certain not to be disappointed.

Oh, and what am I planning to do...? Well, nice though it is I reckon I can manage without the extended ISO capability of the D3, so I'm thinking of replacing my D200 and D2Xs with a pair of D300's and one MB-D10, once the initial rush is over and the prices fall a little.

From the Editor:

Brian's report helps us view the Nikon Solutions experience first-hand. We thank Brian for his article.

Our Publishing & Communications Manager Joe Feser and Advertising Sales Associate Katarina Mintalova ran the Nikonians Booths in London and Cologne, and they have a special thanks for their volunteers in both locations:

London

Richard Harris (drydruid)
Guy Swarbrick (gswarbrick)
Stephen Dann (mort)
Rodney Braithwaite (Rodders)
Simon Bunegar (sbunegar)
Tony Barr (Tony Barr)

Guy, Richard and Tony not only helped at the booth, but also provided images from the event, which were posted in our News Blogs on [November 27](#) and [November 29](#).

Cologne

Albert Esschendal (alberte)
Hans W. Lindgens (Shutterhand)
Volker Kreuter (Volker)
Anthony Swiatocho (Propellorhead)

Albert provided images from Cologne published in our [December 1](#) and [December 3](#) News Blogs. He also helped at the booth, submitted a [forum report](#) and posted a [gallery of images](#) from the event.

Understanding UDMA

By Lou Schmidt, Hoodman Corporation

Speedy downloads get boost from new technology



The arrival of Nikon's newest Digital Single Lens Reflex cameras includes many new features, and one of the least understood by many new digital photographers is the one labeled "UDMA support." Hoodman Corporation's Lou Schmidt gives us the technical background in a quick Question and Answer format.

UDMA = ULTRA DIRECT MEMORY ACCESS what's in it for photographers?

UDMA is a protocol developed by Quantum Corporation in conjunction with Intel that supports burst mode data transfer rates. You might

be wondering what is a protocol? A protocol is an agreed-upon format for transmitting data between two devices. There are a variety of standard protocols from which programmers can choose. Each protocol has advantages and disadvantages; for example, some are more simple than others, some are more reliable, and some are faster. From a user's point of view, the only interesting aspect about protocols is that your computer or device must support the right ones if you want to communicate with other computers. The protocol can be implemented either in hardware or in software.

What does a UDMA CompactFlash card do for you?

A UDMA memory card dramatically increases card-to-computer transfer rates when paired with a UDMA-enabled reader... (Hoodman's RAW) UDMA memory cards will download 2GB of data to your computer in just 60 seconds via a RAW FireWire UDMA enabled reader from Hoodman. If you are a USB 2.0 person, the same 2GB of UDMA data will download to your computer in 2 minutes via a RAW UDMA USB 2.0 reader. Hoodman's RAW UDMA readers are backwards compatible with non-UDMA CompactFlash cards.

How do UDMA cards work in non-UDMA cameras?

UDMA CompactFlash cards are backwards compatible with all Digital SLR

cameras designed for CompactFlash cards. The UDMA cards will max out the performance of your non-UDMA camera and give you the dramatic increase in card-to-computer transfer rates described above... a huge time saver.

How do UDMA cards work in UDMA cameras?

To date: the Nikon D3, Nikon D300, the Canon 1DS Mark III and the Olympus E3 are the new cameras which utilize the new UDMA protocol. UDMA cards are designed to maximize the performance of these new cameras.

Can I use my old CF cards (non-UDMA) in a UDMA camera?

Yes, you can use your non-UDMA cards in the new UDMA cameras. You will not maximize the performance of your new camera by using a non-UDMA card and you will have to spend a lot of time waiting for your slow cards to transfer data to your computer.

Are UDMA cards more reliable?

Hoodman RAW UDMA cards have had ZERO in field failures since their launch in January 2007.

Questions or comments on this article should be sent to sales@hoodmanusa.com Press questions should be directed to: Lou Schmidt, Hoodman Corporation (310) 222- 8608.

LISTEN!



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Contest Results



Contests Director Chris Gray

(wpgf100) has contacted the winners of Segment Four in our **Nikonians Photographers of the Year 2007 Contest**, letting them know they have earned prizes in their categories. The First Place winners have also been selected to move on to the finals of this year's contest.

Segment Four

judging concentrated on the **Landscape**, **Architecture** and **Sports** categories, with the following Nikonians taking top honors:

Landscape

First Place

Frederic (fmottier) Mottier of Switzerland
"Lake Geneva"
(at left)

The winning entry earns Frederic a Spyder 2 Pro from datacolor and a seat in the finals.

<<<

Contest Results

Landscape

Second Place

Lyle (Lag) Gellner from Canada, for
"Riomaggiore"
(not shown)

The winning entry earns Lyle a ScanJet G4010
photo scanner from HP.

*Lyle scored a rare "double" by adding a First Place
win in the next category...*

Architecture

First Place

Lyle (Lag) Gellner from Canada, for
"Shadows and Light"
(not shown)

The winning entry earns Lyle a SilverFast DCPPro Studio
from LaserSoft Imaging and a seat in the finals.

Second Place

Howard (Ho72) Owen from USA , for
"Light Well"
(not shown)

The winning entry earns Howard a Glass Taxi convertible
backpack/shoulder bag from Think Tank Photo.

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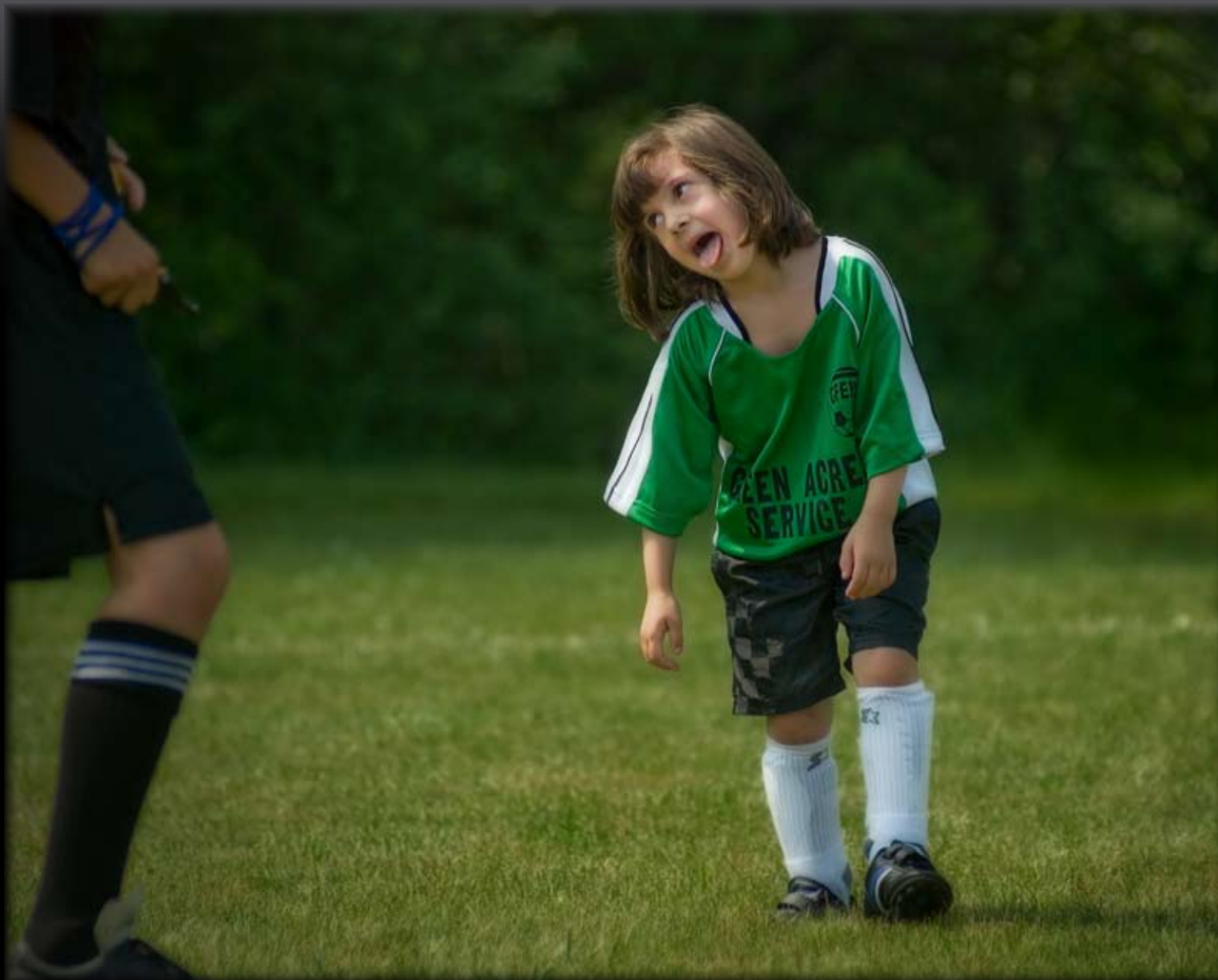
New in version 5:

- New generation RAW converter
- New noise removal for RAW images
- Dust/blemish removal tool
- New interface

And much, much more...

DXO
Image Science

Contest Results



Sports

First Place

Joe (skorj) Iannandrea
from Canada, for
"Is it Half Time Yet?"
(at left)

The winning entry earns Joe
a Photosmart A618
Compact Photo Printer from HP
and a seat in the finals.

<<<

Second Place

Geoffrey (djbahdow2101) Bolte,
from USA, for
"Beating the Defender"
(not shown)

The winning entry earns Geoffrey
Capture One LE software from
Phase One.

Contest Results

Nikonians Photographers of the Year 2007 **Contest**

Contest is open to all Silver, Gold and Platinum Members.

All entries are judged by a panel of expert Nikonians photographers who cast their vote on the photographs received within a given period.

Segment 5

is currently being judged.

This segment concentrates on **Wedding**, **Wildlife** and **Open** categories.

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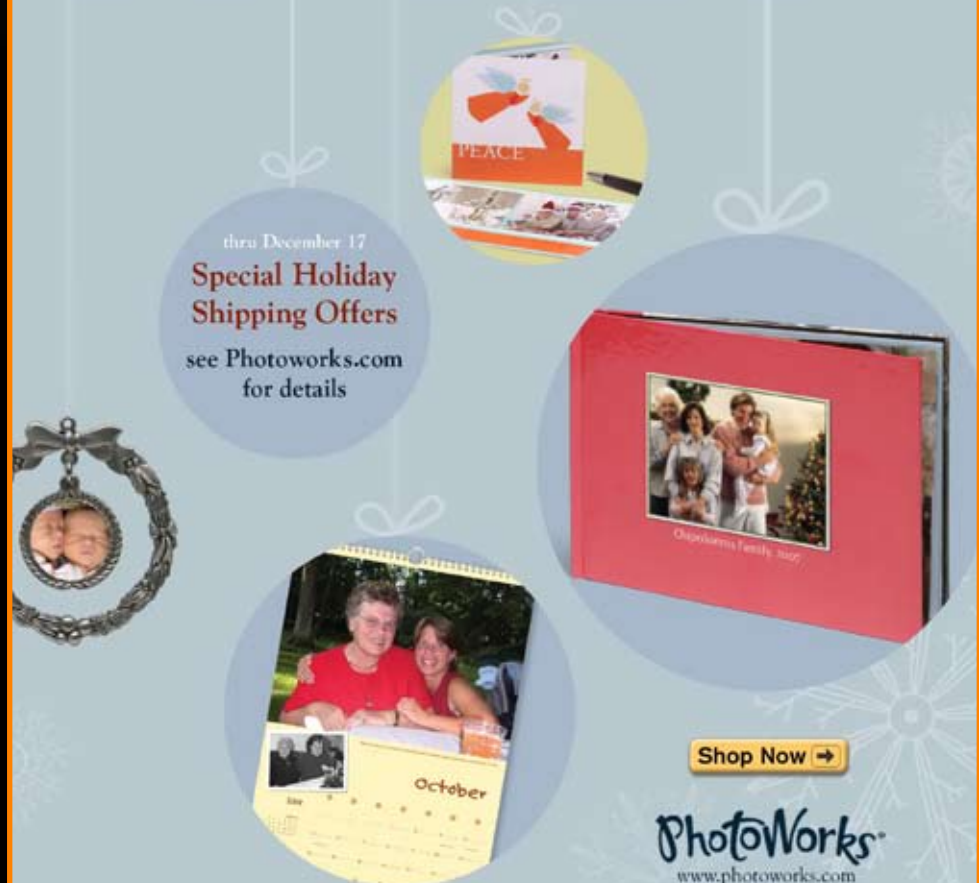


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thru December 17
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for details



Tips on Using the Gold-N-Blue Polarizer with Digital Cameras



esantos
Member since
10-Nov-02
4682 posts

Ernesto helps as Moderator of:

- [Image Making & Shooting Issues / Panoramas](#)
- [Nikon Products / D100 Users Group](#)
- [Nikon Products / D200 Users Group](#)
- [Digital Imaging Software & Hardware / Digital Post-Processing & Workflow](#)
- [Digital Imaging Software & Hardware / Printers, Scanners & Color Management](#)

When I first started using the [Singh-Ray Gold-N-Blue Polarizer](#) with my Nikon digital cameras I was perplexed. I could not understand why I could not replicate on the camera's LCD preview screen (and later on my PC monitor) what I was seeing in the viewfinder. I'm always very pleased with the effect this filter provides in less than ideal lighting conditions when I look into the viewfinder. But, with digital cameras the sensor records the polarized light this filter produces in strange ways. Typically the result straight out of the camera is an image with a heavy magenta cast.

Recently, I discovered a technique used by Darwin Wiggett to address this problem using digital RAW files and Adobe Camera RAW (ACR). Essentially, you use the eye dropper tool in ACR to sample a neutral tone in the image and thereby adjusting the white balance (WB) to remove the strong color cast. By clicking on different neutral tones in the shot you instantly see the image shift colors through the adjustment of the WB color temperature and tint settings. When you get close to what you remember seeing in the viewfinder you can



Snake River Overlook with the Gold-N-Blue Polarizer (above)

then make final corrections using the white balance sliders in ACR. It's a fun technique. You can either stick with the original look you remember from the viewfinder or you can experiment. The choice is yours - call it artistic license.

In this image of the hallowed ground once tread upon by Ansel Adams, The Snake River Overlook in Grand Teton National Park takes on a wonderful golden hue. This was taken in the afternoon when the sun sets behind the peaks. On most sunny days the light on the Tetons at this time of day is not very flattering; characterized by excessive contrast, haze, and uncontrollable specular highlights caused by the intense mountain sunlight and thinner air. The Gold-N-Blue did an admirable job of controlling the reflected light off of the conifers and gave the sky a nice warm tone instead of the usual hazy grayness.

Filter Tutorial

Here are two shots of the same location taken only a minute or so apart at Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico. The photo on the right was taken with the Gold-N-Blue Polarizer and the one on the left with a standard circular polarizer. It is obviously apparent that the Gold-N-Blue enhances the yellow leaves of the dogwoods and changes the hue of the sandstone cliff dwellings to a more pleasant tone. This digital capture also had the WB corrected using the technique described above. What made this a fun image to work with are the many middle tones present in the rock. Sampling different areas gave me very different results. I finally settled on the gray area of the pathway in the bottom left corner. This sampling gave me the best balance of yellow in the leaves, blue in the sky, and a neutral tan for the sandstone.

Bandelier National Monument (below)

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Filter Tutorial

Here are two more images with the WB adjusted using the same process. These were taken at the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge in South Padre Island, Texas. It's interesting to note that in both of these the Gold-N-Blue adds a very pleasing warm tone to the grasses and yuccas. The swaying grasses in the first image are typically a drab gray in the fall season when this was taken. Here they take on a golden color which makes for a stronger image.

The Gold-N-Blue Polarizer makes life interesting no matter what time of day or time of year you are out shooting.

Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (below and right)



Holiday Gift Giving ideas

By Steven Shepard (sshepard)

While Visions of Photographs Dance in Their Heads

Steven Shepard is a Gold Member From Vermont, USA. He's an accomplished author with 39 published books and hundreds of articles to his credit.

His Web site is www.ShepardCom.com (Editor's Note/disclaimer - Lexar images courtesy of their Press Office)

Well, it's that time again – time to start thinking about the photographers on your holiday list (including yourself!) and what you're going to surprise them with. This year I went out and polled a group of friends who are accomplished portrait, nature, landscape, travel, still life, sports, kids, and wedding photographers, asking them for the list of things they'd like to become proud owners of this holiday season. Read on.

A number of things were repeated over and over again by all photographers.



First among them was (no surprise here) memory cards. You just can't have enough of them hanging around, and as image file sizes continue to grow, so too does the need for additional "digital film." When asked what their preferred card size was, most of the photographers said that the two and four GB cards were ideal because they have enough capacity to capture a healthy dose of images, but aren't so large that a card failure will necessarily be catastrophic – as could happen with a larger capacity card.

Second on the list are portable hard drives. Once the cards in the cameras have done their magic, the images have to be loaded for editing and archived for backup purposes. External hard drives have become so inexpensive that a large capacity device can be had for as little as \$100.

While we're on the subject of file management, a third item mentioned by several photographers is a FireWire card reader. Far faster than USB, it makes a big difference when transferring large numbers of multi-megabit files.

Digital brings its own challenges, and with them come unique solutions specifically targeted at today's digital cameras.

Many of the photographers I spoke with for this



article came close to drooling when asked about stocking stuffers specifically for digital cameras. Among the gadgets that they expressed lustful interest in are the Arctic Butterfly sensor cleaning kit and the SensorScope, which allows the photographer to look at the camera sensor through a well-lit magnifier to identify dust and dirt that needs to be removed. The SensorScope is sold by itself or in a complete kit with a small battery-powered dust vacuum, cleaning solution and sensor swabs. Equally high on the list was the Giottos Rocket, a small but powerful dust blower that has a thousand uses. They have recently added the Q.ball, which adds an adjustable angle air nozzle.



Of course, every photographer has his or her special requests based on the type of photography they like to do. The wildlife and

Holiday Gift Giving ideas

nature photographers in the group planned to ask for portable shooting blinds (\$60), beanbags (\$10), remote triggers (\$80 and up) and folding reflectors (\$30). Travel photographers chanted a mantra that included lightweight travel tripods (\$50 and up), wallets for memory cards (\$20), monopods (\$40 and up), and photographer's vests (\$40 and up). Meanwhile, the nature and still life photographers asked about digital display frames (\$100 and up, depending on size) and books about lighting and location shooting.

Let me add a few other suggestions (I hope my wife is reading this). I'm hoping she asks me what my choice would be for a good monitor calibration device which does a terrific job for a very reasonable price. You can find them for less than \$100 USD on the Web (and even in the Nikonians PhotoProShop).

Small zippered cases that can be attached to a camera bag or belt are immensely useful to photographers – you just can't have enough storage space. Finally, how about a hand-assembled "Everything you might need in a photographic emergency" kit? I'd throw in a roll of gaffer's tape, a handful of cable ties of different sizes, alcohol swabs, a small first aid kit, a collection of Ziploc bags of different sizes, a dust blower, and whatever else your favorite photographer might be able to use.

From all of us at Nikonians – happy holidays, and happy shooting!

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Gitzo goes titanium

titanium traveler limited edition

To celebrate the 90th Anniversary and its tradition of innovation and technology, Gitzo introduces the world's first titanium tripod.

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The Titanium Traveler comes in a luxury leather case specially designed for this limited edition tripod. The genuine leather case is made in Italy according to Italy's master craftsmanship traditions. Like the jewel inside, the leather case has a unique design, cleverly made and sewn with only two pieces of premium leather.

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Nikonians PhotoProShop Gift Ideas

Holiday gift suggestions in this edition of The Nikonian would not be complete without a quick look at the many unique items available through our own PhotoProShop.



The PhotoProShop offers Nikonians-branded T-Shirts, caps and Tripod leg warmers for those of you who want to pass on your enthusiasm for the community to a friend or relative. If you are not sure what item would be most appreciated, consider the Gift Vouchers, available in both US Dollars and Euros. A voucher is honored in the currency in which it was bought -- If you buy it in US Dollars, it can only be used to pay orders made in US Dollars and not in Euros (and vice versa). The vouchers are excellent for those of you who want to guarantee you have something ready to present in time for gift giving. They ship as fast as 12 hours after online purchases.

One of the most highly appreciated and used items on our gift list from the PhotoProShop is the famous Nikonians Pro Strap.

Our Pro Straps are made by OP/TECH USA, famous for their high-quality manufacturing. You may have seen it labeled for other famous brands, but ours is the only one with true Nikonians.org logo. The strap comes with a male-female 3/8 inch webbing connector and is adjustable from 28-1/2 inch to 56-1/2 inch. The color of the neoprene is black and the strap itself is black, printed with our Nikonians.org logo (text) in orange (on black neoprene). It is also available in a camouflage version.



Interesting stocking stuffers for the photographer who thinks he or she has everything include the hotshot bubble levels that help keep horizons truly horizontal. They mount to your camera flash hotshot, and feature two levels side by side.

In the flash accessories department, one of our top items has been the wide range of Gary Fong Flash diffusers, including the original Lightspheres and the new Whaletails.

These diffusers have been extremely popular at the many Photo Exhibitions and Trade shows we participate in. Both offer a wide range of accessory attachments suited for every tricky photography lighting challenge that can be encountered.

And what if you want to extend the reach of your Speedlight (Nikon's term for their external flash unit)? Imagine splashing enough light down range at a wild animal in the woods to catch the glint of its eyes, or any situation where you want to throw your artificial light a bit further out to keep up with your new telephoto lens.

That's where our Kirk Flash X-Tenders will come to the rescue. The Flash X-Tender increases your flash output by



Gift Ideas



a minimum of 2 full stops (3 f-stops from the 50mm setting for the flash).

And—as long as we're looking into managing light sources, don't forget the handy 12" LiteDisc Soft-Gold/White Reflector and 12" LiteDisc Translucent Diffuser combination. Both fold small enough to fit in your pocket or a flap on your gear bag. For a quick

look at how effective they are, check the article by Albert Valentino on page 15 of [The Nikonian edition #34](#).

If steadiness is a passion for your favorite photographer, the PhotoProShop carries a wide assortment of [Gitzo](#) tripods and monopods, and we also have the perfect accessories for those who already have their chosen brands on their gear list.

High on the list are the truly professional ball heads made by Markins. A favorite item from the extensive Markins line available through our PhotoProShop is the [Q3 Emille](#).



The entire line of Markins ball heads has been well documented in articles posted in our [Resources at Nikonians®](#). A good start for those of you wondering what "the sweet spot" means is an [article](#) by Nikonians co-founder J. Ramón Palacios (jrp).

The Q3 comes with the new Markins QR-48 Quick Release shoe (clamp) attached. This high quality quick release shoe is compatible with Kirk, Arca, Swiss, RRS, Wimberley and all industry standard dove tail plates.



If you know your intended gift receiving photographer already has a ball head, here's a nice stocking stuffer for you. A very affordable [Nikonian ball head cover](#). It is made of stylish neoprene with leather trim, and the Nikonians.org label is embossed in the leather. It is also large enough to protect some lenses.

In the digital post-processing department, don't forget monitor calibration. [Spyder2express](#) - Monitor Calibration is available through the PhotoProShop. The Spyder2 works behind the scenes to give you the best color experience possible. This is a "must have" for photographers, designers, gamers, and anyone who wants accurate color on screen. It comes in Mac and Windows versions and calibrates all of your CRT, LCD, or laptop monitors for dynamic and consistent color.



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New From Nikon

Nikon unveils new 18-55 DX lens with VR

Nikon's DX lens inventory now offers an upgraded option for the standard "kit lens" previously available for their DSLR's. It only weighs an extra two ounces and is just a bit longer, and the key difference is Vibration Reduction.

Extensive testing and customer opinions will be the deciding factor on whether the new [AF-S DX NIKKOR 18-55mm f3.5-5.6G VR](#) will outsell the [AF-S DX NIKKOR 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6G ED II](#) kit lens version (announced almost exactly a year ago this week).

Depending on where you shop, last year's non-VR 18-55 can be found for as low as \$120 USD.

Nikon's [Press Release](#), puts the suggested retail price of the new lens at \$199 USD and forecasts a December 2007 availability date.

AF-S DX NIKKOR 18-55mm f3.5-5.6G VR
weight approx.
264 grams/9.3 oz.



AF-S DX NIKKOR 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6G ED II
weight approx.
204 grams/7.2 ounces

Looking for Nikonians Information?

Here's a handy Links Guide:

<http://www.nikonians.org/nikon>

All of the Nikonians Nikon reviews

<http://www.nikonians.org/resources>

Complete listing of all resources at Nikonians: Articles, FAQ's, Guides, eBooks ...

<http://www.nikonians.org/forums>

Our 70 very active discussion forums

<http://podcasts.nikonians.org>

Nikonians Podcast – MP3 radio

<http://blog.nikonians.org>

Our blog with current photography news and more

<http://www.nikonians-images.org>

Our member and contest galleries

<http://www.nikonians.org/advertise>

Advertise your products and services with Nikonians -Reach out to 40,000 photographers daily

<https://www.photoproshop.com>

The Nikonians Pro gear online shop

<http://www.nikoniansacademy.com>

Learn with Nikonians - Workshops at many locations

<http://www.nikonians.org/about>

<http://www.nikonians.org/team>

More about Nikonians and the team behind it

Team Profile

Albert Valentino (Valentino)

Albert is a member of the Nikonians Masters Society, a select group of outstanding professional and distinguished advanced amateur photographers around the world. The Society members are recognized for both their photographic talent and skills, and their willingness to share their passion and knowledge.



Valentino

Moderator, living
in New Jersey, USA
4-Dec-04
4869 posts

I consider myself a bit of a Renaissance man with varied interests including art, science, history, old movies and even personal body-building. My love for science steered me towards a Master's in Geology at Lehigh University where I also dabbled in moon rocks making the first extraterrestrial discovery of the mineral Coesite in moon rock 14306.

I began my career as an Applications Scientist in X-ray Diffraction which let me travel to over 40 states with occasional side trips to places like the Grand Canyon where I did my first shooting with a Chinon 35mm SLR.

However, that interest in photography was short lived. I moved into sales in various scientific fields while also studying several psychological models in-depth and became a certified Master Practitioner of NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming), and certified Trainer of the Enneagram Personality Typing System.

I then became the first to formerly integrate these models with sales by writing the book, Personality Selling, Using NLP and the Enneagram to Understand People and How They are Influenced. I then left my job to do seminars but a series of very bad breaks left me broke so I went back into sales. To celebrate starting my last job I bought a Nikon D70 and my interest in photography exploded!!!

I later joined Nikonians and soon after took my first photo tour to Yellowstone.

I feared looking foolish on this trip since I was relatively new to photography. However, I rapidly realized that compared to others I was a walking encyclopedia of all things from PP to lenses to shooting technique—to the point of annoying a few people on that trip. The reason for my detailed knowledge was clear, I was a Nikonian!!! After reading hundreds of threads on multiple topics I possessed the collective wisdom of thousands of Nikon shooters AND was able to apply it to my work. Thank You Nikonians!!!!

My mantra is “practice makes perfect.” As I learned more and more what can be done, I became better and better at pre-visualizing shots and finding vantage points to record my vision. Photography has let my artistic Genie out of the bottle and my left and right hemispheres seem to work well together in figuring out ways to make my subject beautiful and capturing “WOW” shots. Since I believe that one of the things that can make a picture interesting is when it captures something the unaided eye cannot see, long, ultra-wide, and close-up lenses as well as long and multiple exposures are essential to my work.

I shoot mostly nature, wildlife and cityscapes and I am continuously experimenting and learning. I enjoy helping others at Nikonians and hope to be in a position to offer my own workshops and photo trips in 2008 as well as doing some writing, possibly a book. In the past year my work has received recognition with two pictures selected as NANPA's top 100, Honorable Mention in both Outdoor Photography and Photographers Forum magazine, and a Finalist in Natures Best magazine contests. Although I am self-taught, much of my progress is clearly a result of the Nikonian experience and I look forward to what 2008 brings.

ON THE NEXT PAGE:

One of Albert's favorite photos is this image from a trip to Alaska where he spent a week shooting Bald Eagles in the winter. He says the trick is to compose for the background and wait for an eagle to fly and shoot. He took thousands of shots that week and his “Eagles of Alaska” gallery is one of his most popular. He used his Nikon D200 with a 1/750th second exposure at f/9 on his AF VR Zoom-Nikkor 80-400mm f/4.5-5.6D ED lens.

Team Profile



Team Profile

Amy Enyart (Amy E.)

Operations Manager
North American
PhotoProShop

Greetings from the PhotoProShop!

My interest in photography began as a teenager with a 110 pocket camera shooting candids of my friends. Later, I even covered my grandparents' Golden Anniversary with the same pocket camera. As it was only a hobby, I never considered upgrading to more capable gear for quite some time. The change came about in my late 20's when I decided to return to college and study photography seriously.

My first 35mm camera was a Ricoh with a normal lens from the JC Penney, bought when they were closing out their Photography department. I still have it and shoot with it from time to time. It's reliable and doesn't need batteries to work!

When the time came to choose a more advanced camera that would allow me to build a system, my choice was Nikon. It came down to which brand would allow me to purchase more used glass at a reasonable price, and as Canon was just changing over



to the EOS system for their new bodies, it seemed that Nikon was the way for the budget conscious person to go!

I worked with an F3 and an FE2 for quite awhile. I got the chance to purchase a used 8008 at a very reasonable price and never looked back. Eventually, I got two 8008s bodies and assorted lenses. The autofocus bodies helped me out with the small weddings and the local football games I would cover. At this time I was also working in labs, learning how the processing worked and serving other photographers of all skill levels.

I was still working in a photo lab when I won a D70s outfit with the 18-70 kit lens. Being very new to digital and not really knowing anyone yet who could show me very much, I went to the internet to learn more about the camera from real world users. That's when I found Nikonians. The message boards and articles were a great help! Later, I used the information found on the website to make decisions on purchasing a D200 and other new accessories.

One day I noticed that the website was seeking help with their retail operations in the U.S. I didn't really think I'd have a chance to be considered, but I sent in a letter and a resume anyway. To my surprise, I did hear from Bo Stahlbrandt! We spoke on the phone, and then later he and JRP came to New Orleans to meet with me in person. I gladly took on the chance to interact with more experienced photographers in different fields. With my former retail experience and interest in learning more about the new products, it seemed a good match for all concerned.

I'm glad to be a part of this unique community and I look forward to future growth of the site and the shop!



One of Amy's favorite photos includes this one, taken of a Mardi Gras Indian in New Orleans. She captured this colorful image with her Nikon D200 and an AF-S DX VR Zoom-Nikkor 18-200mm f/3.5-5.6G IF-ED lens with a 1/60th second exposure, filling in with an external flash with the lens at f/11. Her White Balance setting was on Auto, and she used an ISO of 220.

Calendar

Nikonians Academy North America workshops

Depending on location, the workshops offer instruction on the Nikon D200, D80/D70/ D70s cameras, Capture NX, and the i-TTL/ Nikon Creative Lighting System.

The New Year will include workshops in

[Houston](#), January 24 -27

[Los Angeles](#), January 24-27

[San Francisco](#), January 17-20

[Vancouver BC](#), January 10-13

Complete listings by city, date and topics can be found at the [Nikonians Academy](#).

International Garden Photographer of the Year 2008

Contest prize pot exceeds £25,000 in cash and vouchers. Entries close on January 31, 2008 and participants can enter single images or themed portfolios in each of the following categories:

- Plant Portraits
- Garden Views
- My Garden
- Life in the Garden
- Trees

The contest is organized in the UK, however you can enter your images from anywhere in the world. This is an international competition. The top 100 winning and commended images will be shown at a purpose-built outdoor exhibition in Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, London from May to September 2008 to an audience of hundreds of thousands of viewers.

Online entry and details at: <http://www.gpoty.org>

Impressed by Light: British Photographs from Paper Negatives, 1840–1860

September 25, 2007–December 31, 2007
Metropolitan Museum, New York City

This exhibition of British calotypes - photographs from paper negatives - will focus on the period after the 1851 introduction of glass negatives, when artists who used paper negatives did so by choice rather than by default. Contrary to the usual account of early British photography, this exhibition will vividly demonstrate that the calotype flourished, rather than faded, after 1851, encouraged by the displays at the Crystal Palace, the formation of photographic societies, and the loosening of Talbot's patent restrictions. The exhibition will be divided into four sections: The Rise of the Calotype, 1839–1851; The Calotype in Great Britain; British Calotypists Abroad; and The Calotype in British India. The vast majority of the works included have never before been exhibited in the United States. The exhibition catalogue is made possible by Howard Stein.

More Info: <http://www.metmuseum.org>

PHOTOFORUM-2008: 8th International Exhibition of Consumer and Professional Imaging

April 10-13, 2008

April 10, 11 – admittance for specialists only

April 12, 13 – for all visitors

Moscow International Exhibition Center, CROCUS EXPO

Over 350 companies will exhibit at PHOTOFORUM-2008, among them: Canon, Sony, Panasonic, Kodak, Nikon, Fujifilm, Olympus, Pentax, Samsung, Noritsu, Epson, Casio, Hewlett-Packard, Rekam, Mitsubishi Electric as well as leading manufacturers of studio equipment.

An estimated 85,000 visitors are expected to attend the event, which will include round-table discussions with participation of Russian and foreign specialists and experts as well as master-classes by famous photographers and designers.

More Info: http://www.photoforum-expo.ru/about_eng.php

Calendar

Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990—2005

October 13, 2007–January 13, 2008

Corcoran Gallery, Washington, DC

Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life, 1990-2005 includes more than 200 photographs by the celebrated portrait photographer, encompassing well-known work made on editorial assignment as well as personal photographs of her family and close friends. "I don't have two lives," Leibovitz says. "This is one life, and the personal pictures and the assignment work are all part of it."

More Info: <http://www.corcoran.org>

PMA 08 convention and trade show

January 31 – February 2, 2008

Las Vegas, Nevada

PMA 08 International Convention and Trade Show, the world's largest annual photo imaging trade show for the estimated \$83 billion worldwide industry, is set to begin Jan. 31 at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nev., USA. PMA 08 will mark the 84th annual convention for the association. PMA conventions are open to business owners and executives in the photo imaging industry, as well as press and media representatives.

More Info: <http://www.pmai.org>

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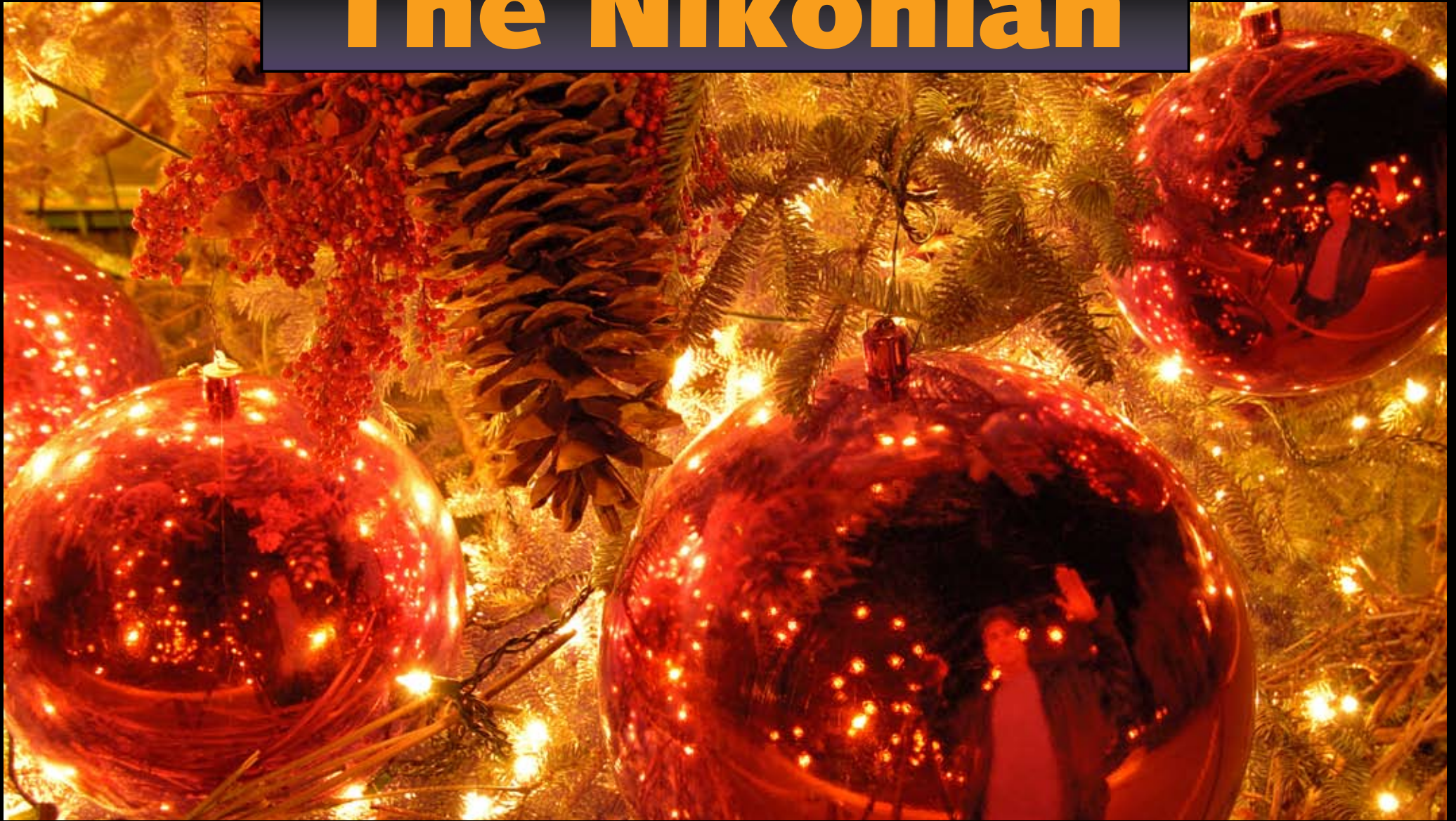
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The Nikonian



Nikonian Moderator Albert Valentino contributes this closing shot for our Holiday edition of The Nikonian. Albert, who is featured in our Team Profile on page 27, helps us wish Season's Greetings from the Nikonians Moderator Team to our members in all parts of the globe. His image was taken with a Nikon D70 and an AF-S DX Zoom-Nikkor 12-24mm f/4G IF-ED on a tripod with an f/7.1 exposure lasting three seconds. He says the trick was to stand perfectly still. The ornaments were on a holiday tree at the New York Botanical Garden. If you look closely you will see the roped barrier where he put one tripod leg on the inside - before security people asked him to pull back.

eZine

www.nikonians.org