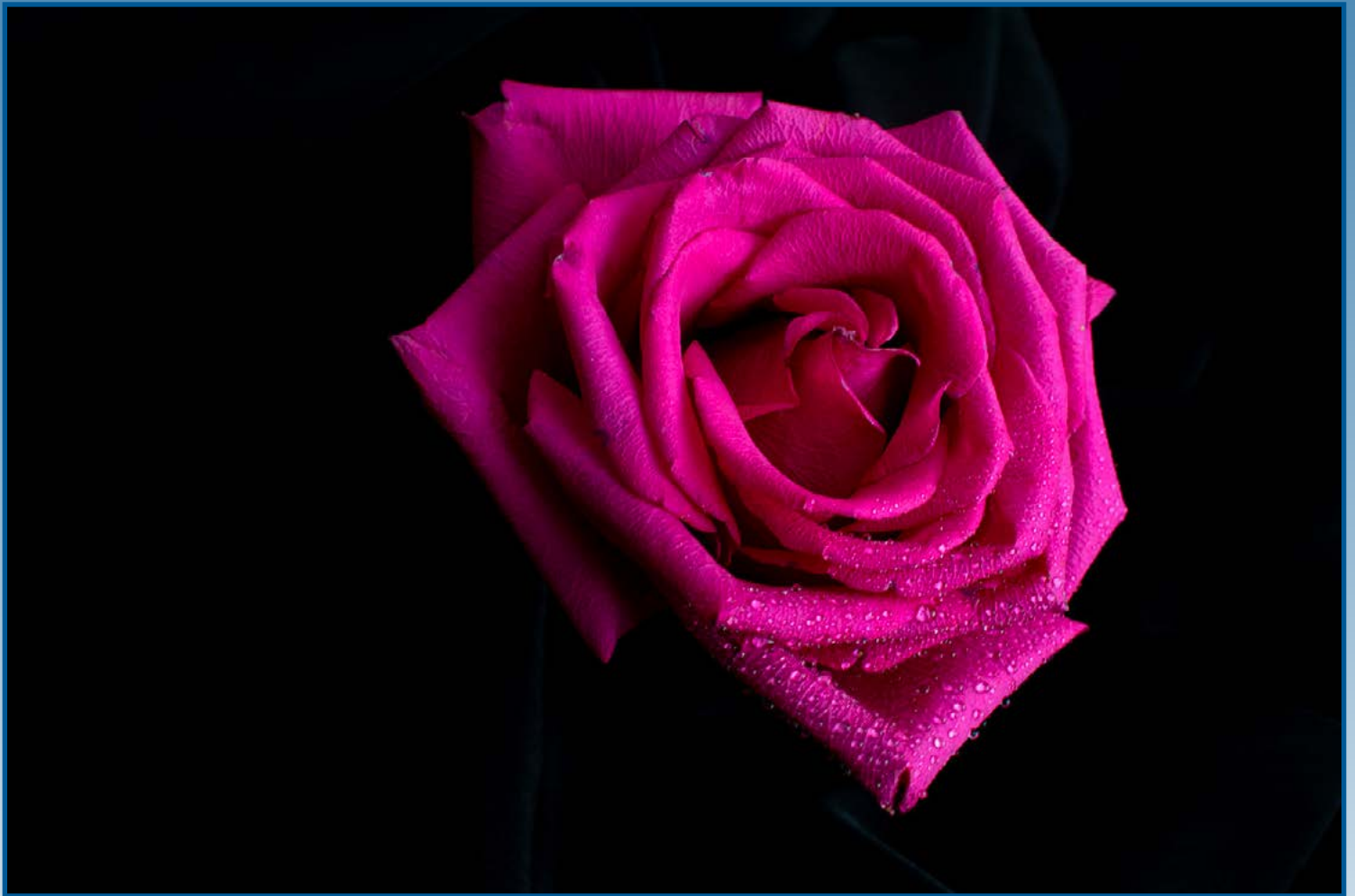


COASTAL PHOTO CLUB



December 2023 Newsletter



Spiral Petals
by **Monika Smith**



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Robbin Haigler, President - Coastal Photo Club



Season's Greetings. Hopefully, 2023 has been kind to you and your loved ones. Cheers to a prosperous and happy new year throughout 2024!

As 2023 comes to a close, are you ready for a new year with a new plan in your photography journey in the Coastal Photo Club? Although I am not a big fan of new year resolutions, I do like to take a few minutes for reflections over the end-of-year-holidays and make a plan to improve what's important to me. Photography is on that list of topics, and I find myself wanting to improve in many ways. Googling 'new year resolutions for the amateur photographer' brought up a huge list with a wide variety of suggestions. I'm sharing a condensed version of an article from the online 2017 Amateur Photographer, not because it has earth shattering ideas that are next-to-impossible-to-carry-out beyond the first 31 days in January, but rather some simple things that we sometimes are lazy and don't do or good things to know if you are just starting out.

1. Format Your Cards

Before you start a new project, trip, portrait session, or whatever it is, get into the habit of heading into the menu and formatting your cards.

2. Shoot in Raw Format

It really does offer the best flexibility in case anything should go awry with exposure, white balance, etc. Shooting RAW+JPEG at the same time will allow you to have something quick to share.

3. Back up Properly

Get into the habit of backing up your files (more than once if you can), as soon as is logistically possible. Consider backing up to an online cloud service too, so that you can always access your photos no matter where you are and don't have to rely on functioning hardware.

4. Organize Your Files Sensibly

Make sure it's sensible and easy to navigate for you. You could arrange by date, event, person, or place, or use a combination of all of them by tagging your shots when you import them.

5. Clean Your Lenses Regularly (and Use Your Lens Caps)

If you're shooting something quick that requires quick changes, make sure you go through your bag after the shoot has finished, reattaching lens and rear caps. Always make sure your lenses are speck free before heading out

on a photography job. It's better to do that at home than waste time out in the field.

6. Clean Your Sensor

If your camera has sensor cleaning in the body itself, make sure to enable that. Basically, this will vibrate the sensor and cause any loose dirt to fall off. For more stubborn bits, use a blower to remove the particles. It's better to spend a few minutes checking your sensor is clean than hours in Photoshop spot healing photos.

7. Reset Your Camera at the End of Every Session

Make it a habit to reset your camera to basic settings at the end of every session to avoid silly mistakes that shouldn't happen on the next shoot.

8. Do Your Editing in a Reasonable Time Frame

Set an alert on your phone or calendar to gently remind you to take a look and edit them (if you haven't done already).

9. Try Something Outside of Your Comfort Zone

It can be extremely tempting to stick with the type of photography you know and love. However, pushing yourself to try something out of your comfort zone will expand your skills as a photographer, making you more well rounded ... and you might even have fun.

10. Seek Out Inspiration

Seeking out inspiration from others (i.e. CPC trips/meet-ups), advice articles (CPC newsletter), galleries (CPC public website), CPC monthly meetings, Google, and more can really give you the creative jolt you need.

I hope you include being an active member with CPC during 2024 is on your personal list and we'll see you out and about shooting with us!

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November Mini-Comp Winners

• Spirals



Our judges scored 17 images: 10 color and seven monochrome. For a look at all the submitted images with judges' comments, visit the [CPC website](#). Even if you did not enter the competition, you might learn something from your fellow members' comments.



Color - 1st Place

Fun With Kites

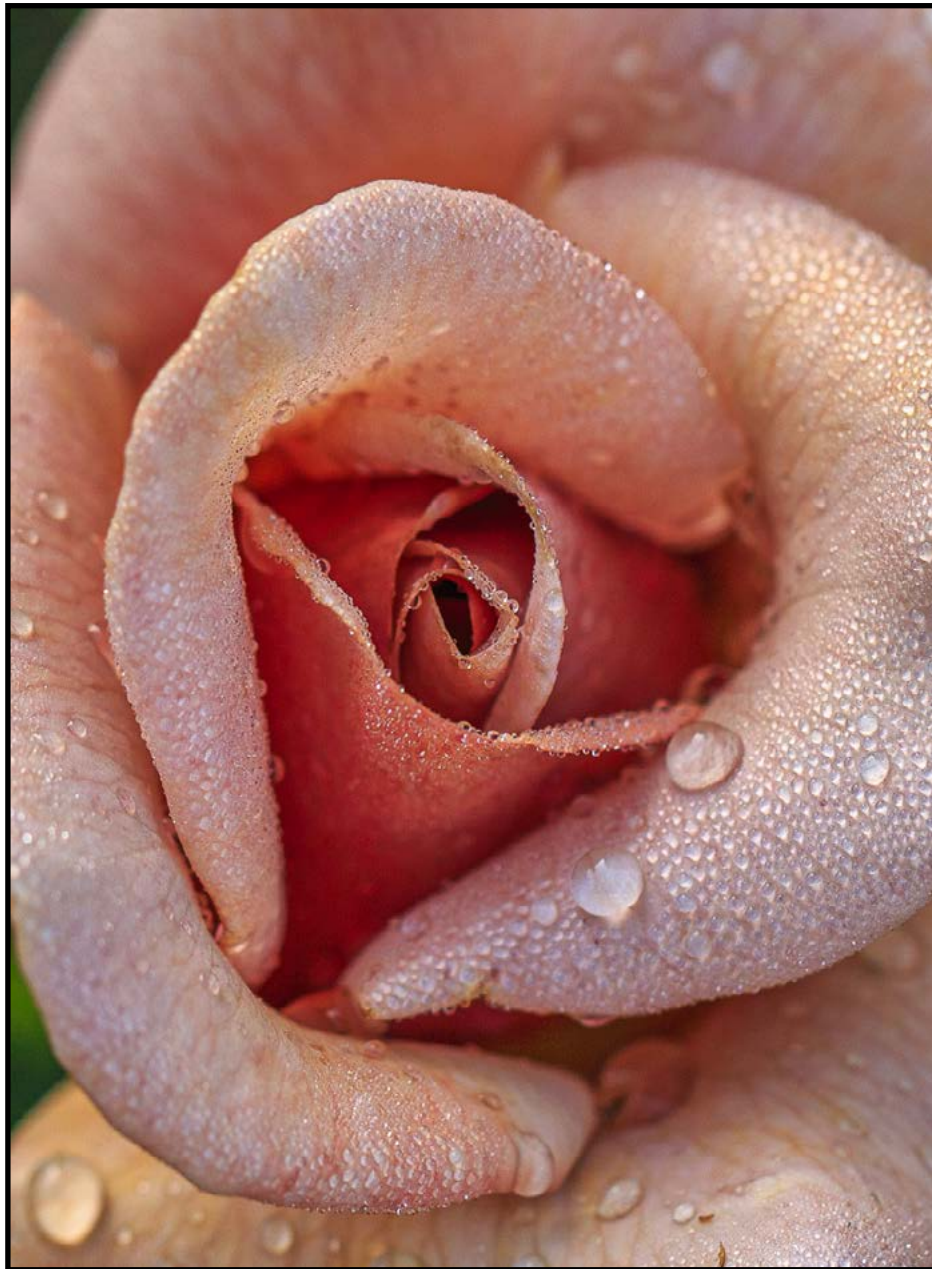
by Karl Mielenhausen

November Mini-Comp Winners

• Spirals



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Color - 2nd Place

Spiral Rose

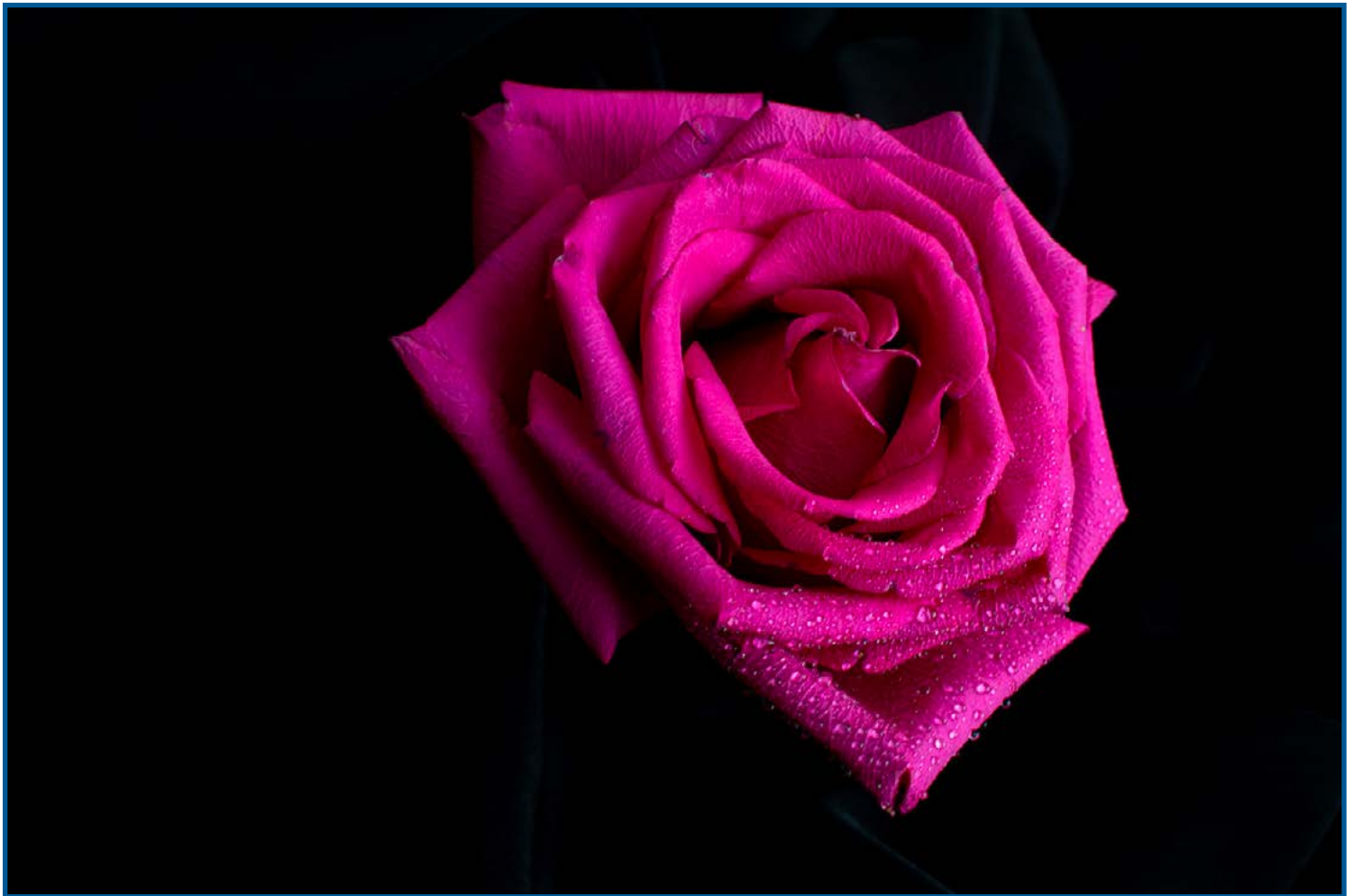
by Paul Gemperline

November Mini-Comp Winners

• Spirals



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Color - 3rd Place

Spiral Petals

by Monika Smith

November Mini-Comp Winners

• Spirals



Our judges scored 17 images: 10 color and seven monochrome. For a look at all the submitted images with judges' comments, visit the [CPC website](#). Even if you did not enter the competition, you might learn something from your fellow members' comments.



Monochrome - 1st Place

Spiral Stairway
by Paul Gemperline

November Mini-Comp Winners

• Spirals



Our judges scored 17 images: 10 color and seven monochrome. For a look at all the submitted images with judges' comments, visit the [CPC website](#). Even if you did not enter the competition, you might learn something from your fellow members' comments.



Monochrome - 2nd Place

Petal Reflections

by Monika Smith

November Mini-Comp Winners

• Spirals



Our judges scored 17 images: 10 color and seven monochrome. For a look at all the submitted images with judges' comments, visit the [CPC website](#). Even if you did not enter the competition, you might learn something from your fellow members' comments.



Monochrome - 3rd Place, tie

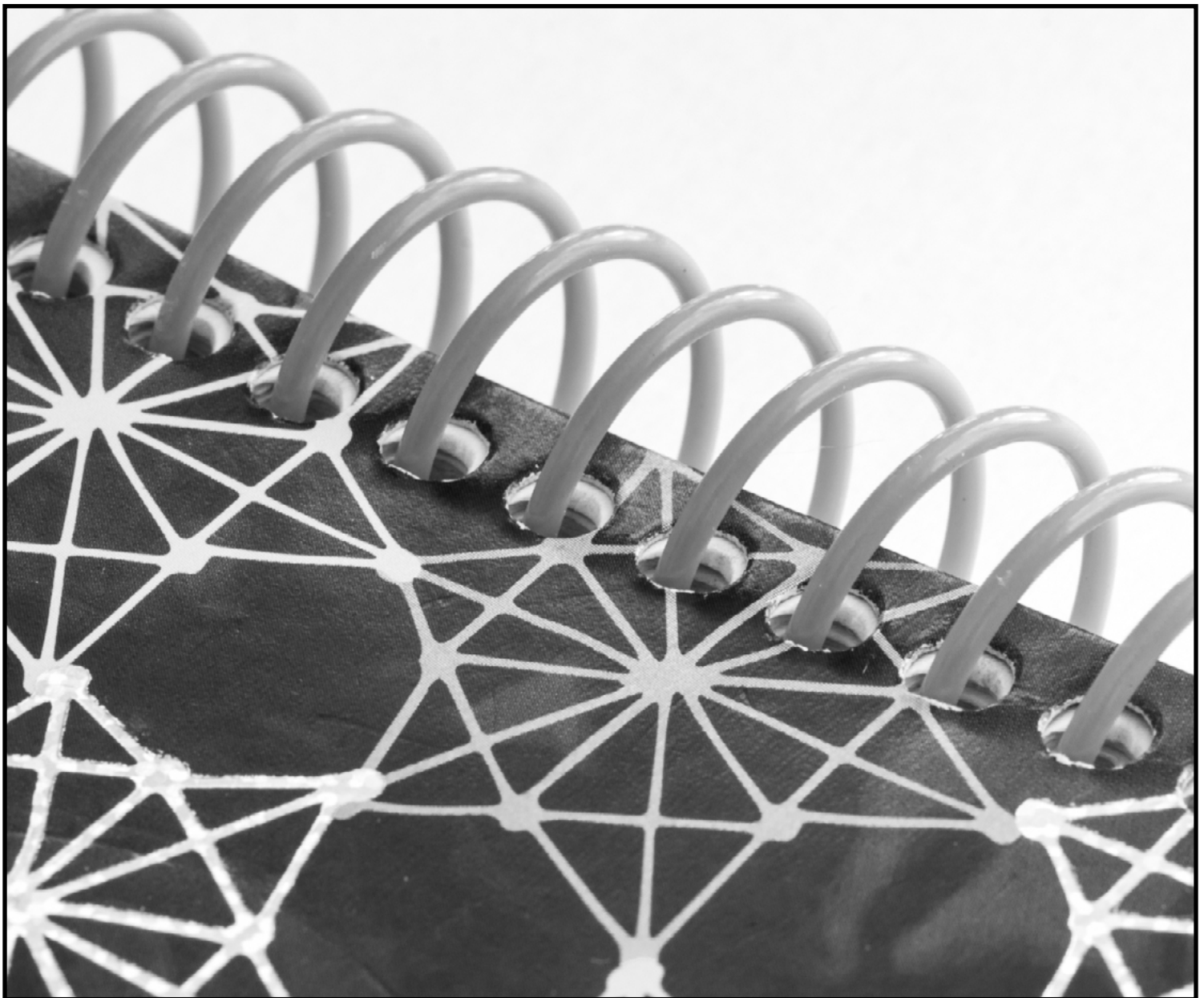
Seashell Symmetry
by Karl Mielenhausen

November Mini-Comp Winners

• Spirals



Our judges scored 17 images: 10 color and seven monochrome. For a look at all the submitted images with judges' comments, visit the [CPC website](#). Even if you did not enter the competition, you might learn something from your fellow members' comments.



Monochrome - 3rd Place, tie

The Binder

by Marty Pitcairn



What is ISO Invariance?

by Karl Mielenhausen

At the August club meeting, John Steady helped us understand and master the exposure triangle. We were reminded to keep camera ISO as low as possible to minimize noise in our image and to maximize dynamic range. We learned that increasing the ISO settings does not change the actual sensitivity of the camera, but instead changes gain or amplification of the signal. Unfortunately, noise is also being amplified when you do this.

But what if, instead of increasing ISO to get a "proper" exposure, we intentionally underexposed and made the exposure adjustment in our processing software? Would the resultant noise look the same as if we used a higher ISO in camera? Surprisingly, it might! This is the phenomena of ISO invariance. This is a popular topic (and debate) especially in the astrophotography community.

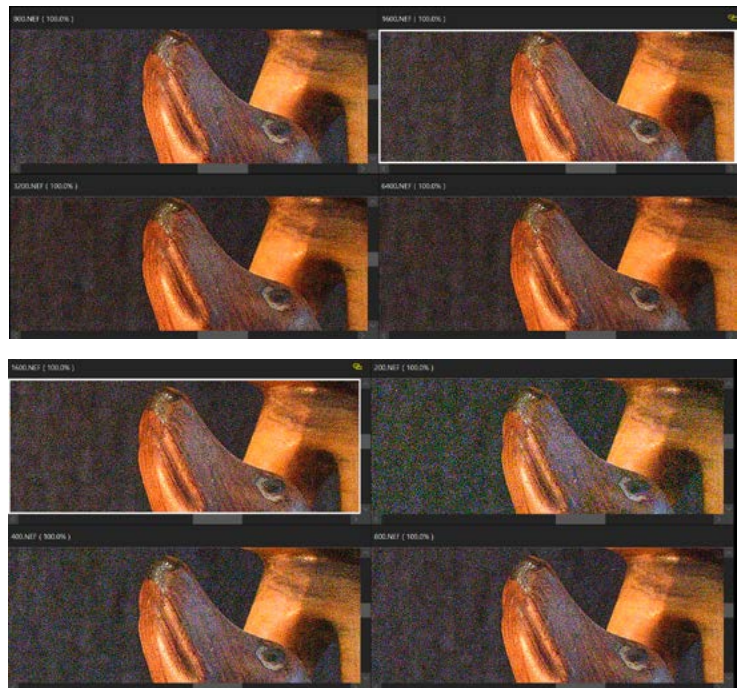
How do you find out if your camera is ISO invariant and over what ISO range? Photons to Photos is an excellent reference website full of camera sensor test results. I suggest an easy, hands-on experiment so that you can make your own observations and decisions.

You'll need to put your camera into manual mode and turn off any in-camera noise reduction and sharpening. Shoot raw images. Use some sort of test target with a fair amount of neutral-colored space. Set up the camera on a tripod and make

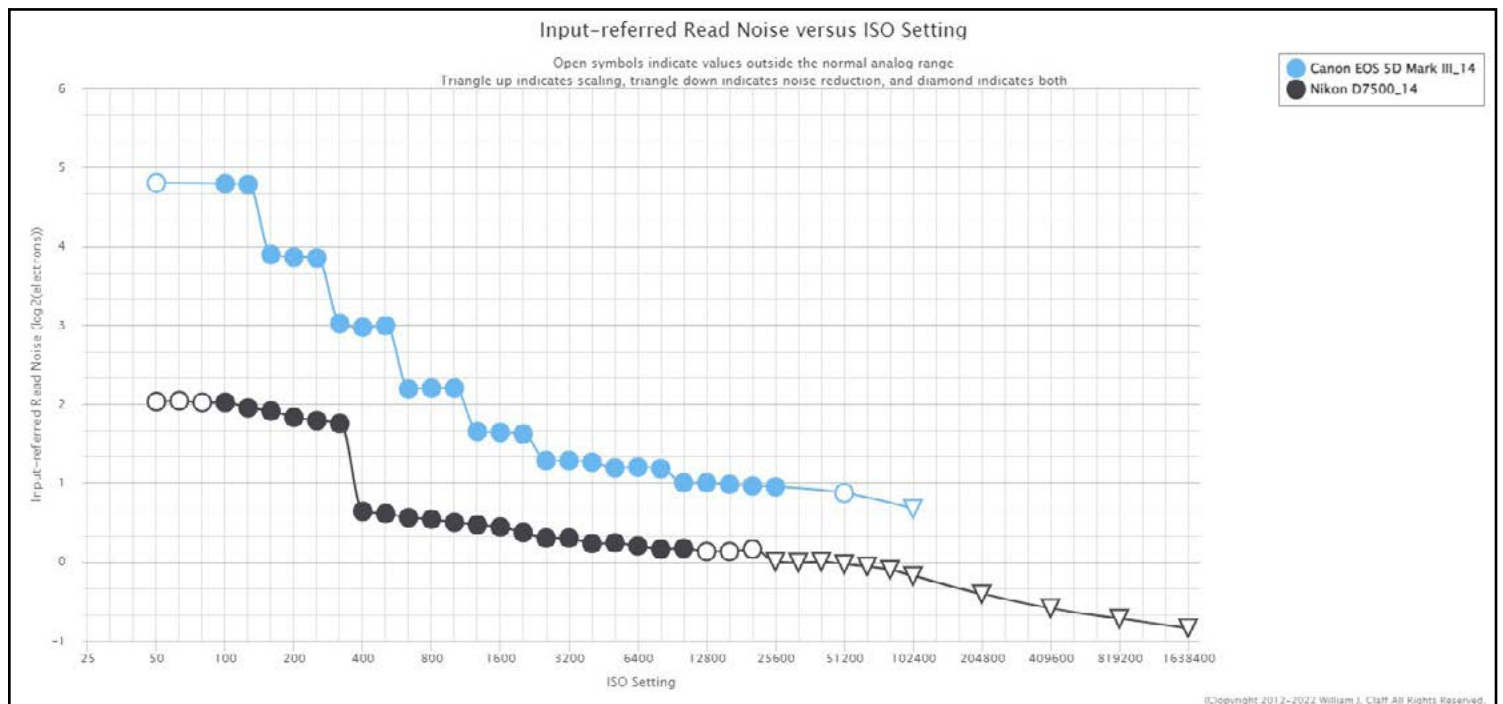
sure your subject receives low but consistent illumination. Chose ISO=6400 and whatever shutter speed and aperture that yields the correct exposure. Then, keeping the shutter speed and aperture unchanged, make exposures at ISOs 6400, 3200, 1600, 800, 400, and 200.

Bring all six files into your image processing software. Using the exposure compensation tool/slider increase the exposure of the series by 0, +1, +2, +3, +4, and +5 as appropriate. You should now have six images with about the same brightness. View the raw files (ie. turn off any "picture controls"), zoom in each to 200% and visually compare the noise. Do you see much difference? I've enclosed an example of this experiment, conducted with my Nikon D7500.

All exposures were done with dim room light, f/8 and 1/20 sec. with the ISO varied to achieve the desired underexposures. To my eye, the noise looks fairly consistent over the range 6400-400 but much worse at 200 (5 stops under-exposed). This could be a result of the dual-gain processing used in my camera. Most opinions on this specific camera are to shoot astro at ISO=400 so dynamic range does not suffer and the highlights don't get blown out. In fact, one benefit of intentionally underexposing is to preserve detail in the highlights.



Most Sony cameras as well as Nikon cameras using Sony sensors, exhibit ISO invariance, although they may have two ranges (dual gain). Older Canon cameras on the other hand have tended to be ISO variant. This is not a bad thing, it means to get the best noise performance, you will want to use the lower ISOs and be careful not to underexpose.



Want to explore invariance further? Visit youtu.be/d8QV00mkJW4



From the Members

Me and My iPhone

(Keep your cameras close but your iPhone closer)

by Alan Welch

As probably everyone knows by now, Kathy and I recently spent 9 days in Italy. Those of you who know me also know I shoot Canon, but surprisingly the cameras were left home this trip.

I shot over 800 images plus additional videos with my iPhone 12.

I know that sounds hard to understand, but it seemed like a rational decision at the time considering we were traveling on two different airlines, four distinct airplanes and two separate trains and each of us carrying two (+) bags! I just



could not justify toting everything camera along in a pull-behind-me camera case! And as for taking the body and a couple of lenses, well as we all know the lens you will need is the lens you left home, so . . .

We ended up packing more clothes than we'd need and our iPads and iPhones, (yes, we **ARE** an Apple family, I guess we'll have to add another club faction; *Nikonians*, *Canonistas*, and *Applelonians*), and flew to Italy. The theory was I could download the day's images onto my iPad and have an instant backup. All in all, it sounds like a good plan.

Now, you are all probably thinking, "Great, now he'll tell us all to trade in our real cameras"

Well, not exactly.

True. The photo files captured are quite good, and I have to say the image stabilization Apple has built in is nothing short of amazing. Most of my videos look like they were shot on a tripod. The 14 megabyte files are nice and sharp and for the most part the exposure control and color saturation were fine. And the fact that my recording device fit into my shirt pocket was outrageous, complete, convenience.



From the Members



Of course, like everything in life there are downsides. Image quality is good, but the phone does not shoot in RAW, (That will probably come in iPhone 17 or so), so there was only so much I could do when pictures weren't quite what I wanted. Then there was the fact that my idea of downloading images to my iPad worked at home but, apparently, none of the hotels' wifi was strong enough to handle that task. That meant my picture back-ups had to wait until we got home which was rather nerve wracking.

But the biggest drawback was the lack of additional lenses. I knew this would affect the images I would capture but I was shooting for tourist pictures and not for artistic efforts so what I got was not disappointing.

Yes, I would have gotten better photos had I taken my Canon and if I ever take an African

photo safari that is the camera I will take. (Clean underwear be damned!). But by and large we got our photos of our trip and neither of us lost so much as a lens cap so all in all I am counting this experiment as a success. But you guys make your own decisions.





New Member Corner



Please welcome Madeline Catania as a new member of the Coastal Photo Club. Madeline recently moved to New Bern (Fairfield Harbour) from Massachusetts (not counting a brief stay in California).

Madeline is retired, having provided administrative support to a certified public accounting firm

Madeline has been serious about photography for 15 years or so and shoots with a Nikon 750 as well as her cellphone. She uses Lightroom as well as Topaz software. While she enjoys landscape photography, she got excited about opportunities she had in Massachusetts to photograph nonprofits, especially a local theatre group.

She has been a member of numerous camera clubs in the past and enjoys the opportunities they present to find interesting places to photograph.

Madeline is looking forward to finding local attractions to photograph. She has entered competitions in the past and looks forward to participating in our minicomps.

Welcome to the club, Madeline.

Member Gallery – Doug Carawan



Martin County Historical Churches Field Trip



Member Gallery – Rick Gourley



Martin County Historical Churches Field Trip



Member Gallery – Claire Hageman



Martin County Historical Churches Field Trip



Member Gallery – Dave Hilbert



Downtown New Bern Airshow (11/25/23)



Member Gallery – Dave Hilbert



NCAA Division 3 Football Championship Game (12/15/23)

One of the most exciting events I've had the opportunity to cover this year. Cortland State (N.Y.) defeated North Central (Ill.) 38-37 to win the 2023 NCAA Division III football championship in Salem, Virginia. The game was televised live on ESPN U.



Member Gallery – Dave Hilbert



Atlantic Beach (12/12/23)



Member Gallery – Donna Hodgins



Martin County Historical Churches Field Trip



Member Gallery – Mary O'Neill



Martin County Historical Churches Field Trip



Member Gallery – Jeff Sherman



Martin County Historical Churches Field Trip





Did You Know?

- We have a **members only web page** accessible on coastalphotoclub.com?
- Details for CPC Club Members can be found in our **Weekly Email Updates**?
- **Coastal Photo Club meets** on the second Saturday of every month (except October when it is changed to the third Saturday)?
- Club **members gather monthly** for informal sessions on topics of their choice?
 - Coffee & Cameras on the FIRST Wednesday of every month
 - Camera Cafe on the LAST Wednesday of every month
- **Mini Comp submissions** are now due on the 15th of each month?
- Club members are invited to attend the newly formed Photo Op Meet-ups? These are local and informal gatherings to practice your photography skills or perhaps learn new photography techniques. All skill levels are welcome and details are in our weekly Tuesday email updates.
- You are responsible for recording your own **Participation Points**? The top three participants will be recognized at our August 2024 monthly meeting.
- You can earn Participation Points when you submit content for the **CPC Newsletter**? Email your content to Dave Hilbert by the Monday after the monthly meeting? For example, if a club meeting occurs on Saturday, January 10, the deadline for the February newsletter would be Monday, January 12.
- Members are welcome to **submit up to three photo galleries** for each newsletter issue. Please limit each gallery to a maximum of five images.
- Our **members only Facebook Page** allows you to post photos that you would like to have others comment on, critique, or make other suggestions for improvements?



Club News & Notes

PARTICIPATION POINT LEADER BOARD

SEPTEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 31

POSSIBLE EARNINGS: 300+ POINTS

1ST: RICHARD MACQUADE: 31

2ND: DENNIS SZEBA: 28

3RD: MARY O'NEILL: 25

CHUCK COLUCCI: 20

TONY CRUZ: 12

CLAIRE HAGEMAN: 12

MONIKA SMITH: 2

POINT ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE THROUGH JULY 31, 2024

400+ POINTS AVAILABLE

Community Service Event

7 Civitan Christmas Shoot

Presentations

7 Meeting Short Topic

10 Meeting Main Presentation

Field Trips and Outings

12 Leading a field trip

12 Mentor for field trip

12 Leading or Assisting a Workshop

10 Driving club rented van on field trip

Print Competition Crew

7 Set Up

7 Staff Sign in Table

7 Shuffle Images

7 Staff Lightbox (pass through)

7 Record Scores

Mini Comp Judging COLOR Category

2 Provided Critique COMMENTS

Mini Comp Judging Monochrome Category

2 Provided Critique COMMENTS

News Letter

10 Contributed article to the newsletter

5 Submitted minimum of 3 Photos to Newsletter

5 Published the Club Newsletter

Other Activities

10 Representing the club at a public event

10 Participating in club displays i.e.,
Bank of the Arts

YOU must report your points earned no later than 10 days after the event
on the [members only webpage](#).

Board Members are not eligible for Participation Points



About the Coastal Photo Club

Aspire • Learn • Develop

We provide a variety of opportunities for our members with the hope that each member will find something of interest. The best way to improve your photography is to get out and shoot. All of our activities and community service projects are designed to help our members learn. There are a lot of experiences for you to get involved in. We hope to see you at some of them.

Coastal Photo Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 585
New Bern, NC 28563-0585
cpcnewbern@gmail.com

2023-24 Club Officers & Board Members

President

Robbin Haigler

Secretary/Treasurer

Carol Krom

Competition

Marty Pitcairn

Special Events & Community Service

Rick Meyer

Past President

Bob Dumon

Vice President

Doug Carawan

Membership

Becky Adcock

Field Trips & Outings

Cathleen McAnneny

Marketing & Public Relations

Alan Welch

Members-at-Large

John Steady,
Karl Mielenhausen

Coastal Photo Club News is the monthly newsletter emailed free to members and friends of the CPC. Items highlighting the activities of the club, news, opportunities, and awards, as well as items related to the photography field submitted by members are encouraged and welcomed. The experience and accomplishments of our members are diverse, but we encourage learning and sharing. Members' photos for our Club Gallery are especially encouraged. All image rights reserved by the photographers.

Membership Benefits

- Web portfolio: Display and edit your portfolio at no charge on the CPC web site.
- Competition: Challenge yourself and receive feedback on your work through monthly competitions available only to members. Two juried competitions annually.
- Instruction: In-house, hands-on workshops with experts and novices, and presentations by visiting pros make meetings interesting and useful.
- Exhibit your work: The CPC is regularly invited to mount exhibits in galleries and other public venues. Usually, you can offer your prints for sale.
- Service: Give back to the community by doing what you love. CPC members have the opportunity to volunteer as photographers for local nonprofit events and organizations.
- Free newsletter: Our monthly newsletter offers photography tips and event information. Submit your own images for publication.
- Field trips: Enhance and practice your skills in new settings. Group travel makes it fun and affordable. Past trips include Historical North Carolina towns, nature & wildlife settings and local outings in New Bern.
- Discounts: At redriverpaper.com/myclub, enter the club code "coastal" when placing your order. The club also gets a commission each time you order. Ballantyne Framing and Art in New Bern offers a 15% artist discount to active CPC members.



Treasurer's Report November 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE:	\$5,982.37
DEPOSITS:	
Family Membership	\$30.00
EXPENSES:	
Check/Bob Mackowski	\$50.00
Check/Dara Morgan	\$50.00
Check/The County Compass	\$75.00
Constant Contact	\$21.85
Amazon Marketplace (microphone)	\$84.84
Morgan's Tavern (judges lunch)	\$19.70
ENDING BALANCE:	\$5,710.98
NURSING HOME RESERVE:	\$1.00
AVAILABLE FUNDS:	\$5,709.98

Submitted by Carol Krom, 12/1/23

Stay Connected



Facebook users, join our members only group and feel free to ask questions and/or advice from your fellow photographers, as well as share your images

Look for details in the weekly club emails.



COASTAL PHOTO CLUB



CPC Newsletter Archive

Missed a previous issue? The last 12 months of CPC Newsletters are available [online](#).



asapphoto.com

252.321.8888
3701 Charles Boulevard, Suite 100
Greenville

Hours:
Monday-Friday: 9-6
Saturday: 10-3
Closed Sunday

ASAP Photo's goal is to equip and inspire you to use photography, videography and audio to capture meaningful moments in life. To stay up-to-date with special offers and new product releases subscribe [HERE](#) for their newsletter.

Member Photo Gallery Submissions

Submitted photos should be in .jpg format.
Please label your file with the title of your photo. Titles add context or meaning to your photo. (Example: Jane Doe_Fall Leaves.jpg).
Please send photos at 72 ppi and 1,440 pixels on longest side to Dave Hilbert (email address available in CPC newsletter and emails).



About the Photographic Society of America (PSA)



The Photographic Society of America (PSA) founded in 1934, is a world-wide organization providing abundant resources for photographers, from the novice to the professional.

Membership is in over 80 countries, 5,000 members, 460 Camera Clubs and 11 Chapters across the United States.

Coastal Photo Club is a member of PSA. A benefit we are receiving is a professional judge evaluating/critiquing the monthly mini comps. Members are finding these comments quite helpful with their images as well as images of others in the competition. You may want to consider joining this organization as an individual as a viable option in training for you.

Annual individual digital membership is only \$45.

Benefits of membership include:

- Study Groups
- Online Photography Classes
- Webinars
- Personal Gallery Page
- Individual Competitions
- Member Discounts
- PSA-Recognized Exhibitions
- Photography Recognition
- Society Recognition
- Monthly Journal
- Mentors and Consultants

Visit PSA [Online](#) or [Facebook](#)



Ballantyne Framing & Art, now owned and operated by Rachel Burger after the retirement of Mary Kay and Marianne.

- All pieces are handled in-house and never shipped to a different location for framing. Moulding is cut and assembled on-site
- Wide variety of moulding to choose from – wood and metal available
- All work mounted and matted using acid free materials
- Standard glass used is Conservation Clear glass –99% UV protective - museum glass and acrylic options are available at additional cost.
- All artists receive a 15% discount when bringing in their own work to have framed.
- All pricing includes custom frame, mounting materials, glass, backing paper, hanging hardware and glass spacers