

FOOTHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Monthly Newsletter

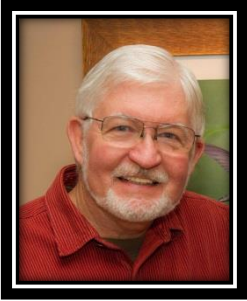
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Photo Provided by FPG Member, Tanya Smith

From our president....



Hello, Friends! How is your new year going? Mine started off with a bang! Literally! As in the front bumper of my car crashing into a guard rail, which luckily prevented me from flying through the air onto the four lane highway about 40' below! It all happened so fast. One minute I'm on my way to a luncheon in Commerce, the next I'm skidding sideways down the sheet of ice that the tall trees by the road had shaded and prevented from melting like the rest of the perfectly cleared highway. The force of the crash bounced my car back from the guard rail and up.... and over onto its side! My seat belt kept me from falling onto the passenger seat. Some Good Samaritans stopped and helped me climb out. They wanted to know if I was ok. I wanted to know if my camera was ok! I had a camera bag in the passenger's seat which I now discovered was wedged under the overturned car. I was able to squeeze it out. Fortunately, my best camera was in the shop! Unfortunately, my best lens was in the bag! So, I ask....how's your new year going? I was blessed, no injuries, and now, because that car was totaled, I have a newer and better car.



Let's change the subject. How many times have you been on your way to a place to make images and while going there you think to yourself, "I might as well go over here since I'm this close by"? That's happened to me a lot. It happened recently on my trip to photograph birds at Viera Wetlands in central Florida. I'm driving home from there and, just on a whim, I turn on the road that goes to Merritt Island NWR. I was ahead of my schedule for the day, and though I didn't think I'd find anything that compared to what I had just experienced for 3 days at Viera, I went anyway. Wow! As I approached the place, beautiful fog appeared out of nowhere. There was no breeze. Perfect stillness. I could just feel a special image waiting for me. And sure enough, there it was...a solitary roseate spoonbill feeding in shallow water, less than 40' from the gravel road, and the sun coming through the fog made for perfect light. I stopped, turned the car off, and slowly made my way to the nearest good spot. The water



Danny Young
dannyyoungphotography.com

was as smooth as glass! But each time the spoonbill raised its beak, drops of water created ripples. My heart was beating out of my chest with excitement! Then it happened. The bird held its head up long enough for the ripples to disappear and when he put his beak back into the water....click, click, click! Here's the image I was able to make. And all because I just happened to stop while on my way to somewhere else! (I cleaned up the surface of the water, removed a few bugs and some distracting little pieces of stuff. But, really, the water was this smooth!)

Welcome New Members. Katherine Warwick, Willie Boyce!

February Critique Theme: The Look of Love

Board Members for the New Year. Our new club year starts March 1. According to our Constitution and By-laws (which you may see on the website) we announce and vote on the Board of Directors at the February meeting. Please come to the February meeting and do your patriotic....well....
....photographic? duty! Also, it's time to renew membership fees. Individuals are \$40, families are \$50, and students are \$10.

Happy Trails!

Danny

A Note From Our Program Director

Hello, All.

You asked for "hands on" and here it comes!

The February meeting of Foothills will include 4 different venues of things you will want to know. The format will be a round robin setup where attendees travel to each station for 15 minutes. Here's the menu:

MAT CUTTING AND VIRTUAL MAT MAKING. Danny Young will show us how it's done both with a mat cutting knife and (virtually) on your computer.

RESOURCES FOR FINDING PHOTO SITES. John Martin has done a lot of traveling around the world and will show you how to find those fantastic sites both here and abroad. Remember what National Geographic's J. Kingston said: "If you want to be a better photographer, stand in front of better stuff."

STUDIO LIGHTING AND PORTRAITURE. Matt King has been making studio portraits professionally for twenty-five years. It's the stuff you always wanted to know but didn't want to ask.

iPHONEOGRAPHY. Tanya Smith makes her photographs almost exclusively with her iPhone – and she makes some stunning photos. She will show you how it's done.

This will be GREAT meeting to attend and to bring a friend.

Note to non-members: The members of Foothills Photography Group are a welcoming bunch. We will make you feel at home. The next meeting is at 6:30 on February 21. As you approach North Georgia Tech you will see signs directing you to the Visual Arts Building.



SPOTLIGHT MEMBER

Captain Steve Griswold

I was born in Lexington, KY, raised in Westminster, MD from the age of 3, on a dairy farm. My dad was a college professor and during his career became involved with making documentary films, where I sometimes helped with the filming (16 mm). We had a darkroom in our basement (a converted fallout shelter from the '60s), so I did a lot of black and white work there during high school, running a small photo business with some friends - one of whom went on to be a successful professional photographer in New York.



My early love of flying, instilled by my dad, who was a B-17 pilot during the war, has led me on a career path in the air, beginning with flying gliders at age 14, later becoming a flight instructor, commuter pilot, and then flying for Delta these past 40 years. My dad got a movie of my first solo flight in a glider which I still have. Most of my flying now takes me to a variety of European cities. Retirement is just over a year away. Through the years, I've taken a lot of photos out the cockpit window, and I never go on a trip without a camera. You never know what you might see!

I've always been the designated photographer at events throughout my life, from family gatherings and trips, Boy Scout trips, church youth mission trips. My wife, Carrie, and I met in High School, and raised three kids and now enjoy our four grandkids, so lots of opportunities for photography.

Our photo club has been a great learning experience for me, and I think that it's really improved my picture-taking, opening up new avenues. I finally got a nice camera a while ago (Nikon D750), and really enjoy using that. I've gotten back into scuba diving as of late, so now am researching underwater cameras. I think I'll start off simple, as you can spend a lot of money on underwater photography equipment in a hurry!

Article of the Month -- by John Martin

Photography Trips Make friends before you go...

I don't know a soul in Italy. Not good if I plan to interact with photographers when the Bride and I travel to Sicily this spring.

But that will change. Before we take our seats on the plane I will, at the very least, be talking acquaintances with several photographers and I'll have a fairly solid itinerary of the places and venues we will visit. Here are a few real life examples of how I've done that in the past.

In June of 1997, while planning a trip to Norway, I discovered a Google Groups forum called [rec.travel.europe](#). On that venue I had expressed some interest in the ancient stave churches in Norway and was helped by a man who lived in Bergen. We traded emails for a few months and, to our everlasting thanks, Paul offered to meet us in Bergen and travel with us to some of the stave churches. That was sixteen years ago. Paul has visited us here in the States and we stay in touch.

More recently (May two years ago) the Bride and I were planning a trip to Scotland and I noticed a contributor to Google+ who regularly posted images of the Callanish Stones on the Isle of Lewis. Since that was a place we planned to visit and wanted to learn more, I started a conversation with her. Before we left the states Emma reviewed our entire Scotland itinerary and had made suggestions for changes and additions. What a marvelous development!! On a rainy morning in May the Bride and I met Emma for coffee at the Callanish Stones. And this is cool: Over 10,000 people have Emma Mitchell in their circles on Google+. She wrote on Google+ recently that I am the only Google+ friend that she has ever met in person.

But I digress.

It makes perfect sense to me to study about your destination as you make your travel plans. And it makes equally good sense to try to become acquainted with people in the area before you travel. This doesn't necessarily imply that you will meet the person in their country -- but it would certainly be a bonus if that worked out.

