



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

May 2013 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

May

Meeting: May 7

Program: Photos from Outing

15 Minutes of Fame: none

Contest: Cell phone or point-and-shoot (60 day)

Outing: Indian Kitchen, May 11

Planning Meeting: May 21

June

Meeting: Jun. 4

Program: Archiving and Storage,
Jonathan Springer

15 Minutes of Fame: Jo Dodd

Contest: Rocks and Stones (1 year)
(unlimited postprocessing)

Outing: SIPS picnic, Jun. 8

Planning Meeting: Jun. 18

July

Meeting: Jul. 2

Program: On-site library photos
- Bring your camera!

15 Minutes of Fame: Dave Horning

Contest: My Kind of Town/City
(60 days)

Outing: Richard & Susan Day's

Planning Meeting: Jul. 16

Inside...

News and the latest from Jim Osborn!

April Meeting

Our April meeting program, presented by Jim Osborn, focused on smartphone cameras. These cameras are getting better all the time, and while they don't take the place of a good dedicated camera, they can do a lot.

Jim focused on the iPhone, since that's where he has personal experience. You can get tripods and external lenses for the iPhone, cases for underwater photography, and even a dolly for taking videos from a rolling camera. For these accessories to work, however, the iPhone typically must not be in a case.

There are also many, many apps for taking advantage of your camera phone. Jim found over 300 free ones and a similar number for purchase. Jim had a number of tips for selecting among them.

1. They are very inexpensive, making them low-risk to try.
2. Read reviews. There are a number of websites that rate and rank.
3. Often, the same app will have a free basic version and a for-cost one with extra features.
4. Make sure an app will work on your particular phone model.

Highlights from Jim's List: Camera Plus (\$.99); Snap Seed (by Nick); PhotoSynth @ \$1.99 will stitch photos together; Diptic (\$.99); Slow Shutter Cam (\$.99); Color Splash (\$.99); Filterstorm (\$1.99); Dynamic Light (\$.99) get HDR images); The Photographers Ephemeris (\$8.99).

Later in this newsletter we have included Jim's full list of apps. See also the article on the SIPS web site (in the Club News section), which lists all of the apps and a number of other interesting links Jim found as well.

Our 15 Minutes of Fame this month was given by Bill Thomas, who wowed us with his photos from England and Scotland. He presented us with a travelogue, covering his route from Bath, England through York, then Edinburgh, and back to London.

cont'd on page 2 - April Meeting

Tech Savvy

by Jim Osborn

Perhaps I'm just getting older and dementia is setting in, but I'm finding I need to write things down more

often to remember what I need to remember. Every month I write a column of advice for you on photography and yet there are times I find myself failing to follow my own advice. If some of you are making rounds in southern Illinois without your camera next to you, then that's your fault; but if you have your camera with you and you suddenly find you aren't prepared for that moment when your National Geographic Award Winning Photo opportunity presents itself to you, then join the club! For this article I decided to list the top 10 things I often forget when preparing to take photos. Perhaps some of you can relate to this. I should state in advance that I shoot 95% of my images in aperture priority mode. If you are shooting in a different mode all of these may or may not apply to you.

1. Leaving the Lens Cap on the Camera—Have you ever lifted the camera to your eye to take that photo-of-the-moment only to realize that the lens cap is still on the camera??
2. Forgetting to Put a Flashcard in Your Camera—I spent a whole Saturday morning a couple years ago taking pictures with no flashcard in the camera. What a disappointment!
3. Forgetting to Erase Old Photos from Your Flashcard—This is more of a hassle in downloading images; still it can be inconvenient.

4. Forgetting to adjust the F-stop on the camera—Recently, I was at Mermet Lake. My camera was beside me with the telephoto lens was extended to 350mm. All of a sudden an osprey hit the water about 30 yards out from me. I knew I only had seconds to snap a few shots. Unfortunately, I was shooting in aperture priority (the



cont'd on page 2 - Tech Savvy

April Meeting

cont'd from p. 1

Highlights included Stonehenge, the train station in York (largest in the world when built), street architecture in Edinburgh, prep school children getting on a bus, Westminster Abbey, changing of the guard and Buckingham Palace, and the Cutty Sark sailing vessel.

Our photo contest this month was "Someone You Don't Know." Our winners were:

1st place: Mike Hicks, "The Old Man"

2nd place: Mike Hicks, "Fishing in Minneapolis"

3rd place: Jo Dodd, "The Man on the Beach"

Congratulations to all these! Our contest next month is "Cell phone or point-and-shoot".

iPhone Camera Apps

by Jim Osborn

Instagram (Free): This app features custom filters and you can edit photos a bit by tilting or blurring them. It offers only square photos.

Camera+ (\$0.99): This app is very fast and has lots of advanced features, including a 6X digital zoom. You can correct saturation and exposure. There are select scene modes such as Sunset, Beach, Nighttime, and Portrait. The app comes with an intuitive interface which makes regulating parameters of your image simple. It also comes with a strong editing set for post-shot refining.

Snapseed (\$4.99): Snapseed is possibly the most powerful iPhone image-editing app available. Snapseed makes photo editing simple and is full of features that let you do everything from selectively adjust portions of the photo, rotate/straighten, center focus to grab attention, and much more. This app was developed by Nik.

Adobe Photoshop Express (Free): This free app is an excellent photo editor. The app features basic and paid tools. There are many basic tools to choose from. You can manipulate color, add filters and effects, create borders and still do simple things like crop, straighten, rotate and flip photos. Although this app is free, you will need the \$4.99 upgrade to

get full app functionality.

Hipstamatic (\$1.99): This photo app makes your digital photos look analog. It features 4 lenses for different effects, 3 various forms of film, 3 various forms of flash and can even order real prints and have them delivered to you right from the app. To get full use of this app additional add-on purchases are necessary.

Photosynth (\$1.99): Photosynth is a panoramic picture stitcher. The app lets you take gorgeous wide-angle shot up to 360 degrees then you can share them on Facebook or Twitter.

Aviary (Free): Aviary is a photo editor with lots of different features. The app lets you enhance photos with a tap, includes gorgeous effects, stickers, color balance, crop and rotate, adjust brightness, contrast, saturation, and add text.

Diptic (\$0.99): Diptic lets you quickly and easily combine multiple photos to create a new image. The app also supports filters.

Slow Shutter Cam (\$0.99): Slow shutter cam gives your phone the slowed down effects that generally are only available on higher priced DSLR cameras. The photos come out looking amazing. Features include: innovative "freeze" control, selectable shutter speeds, exposure compensation, and tape to adjust exposure.

Color Splash (\$0.99): Color Splash is a neat app that lets you selectively color portions of your photos. The app features Facebook, Twitter, and Flickr integration. You can choose from 4 different brushes (hard, soft-edged, opaque or transparent).

Incredibooth (\$0.99): The app imitates the experience of a photobooth at a video arcade. You direct your camera towards yourself and your friends and Incredibooth spits out a form of a digital strip. You can save any separate photos from the strip or save the strip itself in your iPhone. It comes with 4 filters, but more filters are available for \$0.99 each.

Camera Genius (\$1.99): Camera Genius adds some cool shooting and post-shot tools. It is one of only a few apps that can time and location-stamp your images. It also lets you trigger the

cont'd on page 3 - iPhone Apps

Tech Savvy

cont'd from p. 1

setting left over from my last shot was F16). Needless to say, that resulted in a slower shutter speed and my images of the osprey ended up blurry.

5. Forgetting to adjust the ISO on the camera—Similar to #4, if your ISO is set low (e.g. 100) and you are hoping to photograph a fast moving bird or deer, the shutter speed will be slower, producing blurry pictures.

6. Forgetting to reset the focus point in the viewfinder—I usually select a single point on the focusing matrix for each picture I take. If my focal point is not reset to the middle after taking a picture then it might not be in the correct position to get the sharpest image of the critter you want to photograph later. At the worst, it will add seconds to your preparation.

7. Forgetting to put on or take off a filter from your lens—Have you ever started to take a picture at dusk only to realize that your polarizing filter is still on the lens, thus reducing light and thus slowing down your shutter speed?

8. Forgetting to charge your battery—After this happened to me once I started carrying an extra (charged) battery.

9. Forgetting to anticipate the lens I might want to use—Landscapes almost always wait for you to get everything set, and usually you will be shooting landscapes with a relatively wide angle lens. So if you are on a mission to photograph animals at a distance, you really need to have your telephoto lens mounted and ready to shoot.

10. Forgetting to turn off the image stabilizer—Leaving my image stabilizer on when I am shooting a burst of shots or moving wildlife is probably the worst habit I still have to break. If you are using image stabilization and trying to shoot in burst mode or shoot a moving subject, your camera/lens is trying to adjust to each image as you snap the shutter button. Using image stabilization will only slow down your camera and could impact the crispness of your images.

iPhone Camera Apps

cont'd from p. 2

shutter using your voice, a timer, or when the image comes into focus.

Magic Hour (\$1.99): Magic Hour offers a robust and flexible set of photo editing tools that allow you to create and share your own filter.

Pano (\$1.99): Pano lets you take beautiful, seamless panoramic photos straight from your phone with no other necessary software.

Photogene 2 (\$1.99): This updated version added a lot of new features. "Photogene is the ultimate tool for handling your iPhone photos. The app offers a wide selection of photo editing tools. No gimmicks—they actually make your photos look better."

Filterstorm (\$1.99): Filterstorm uses a touch interface and allows for more intuitive editing than desktop counterparts. The set of tools includes curves manipulation, color correction abilities, noise reduction, unsharp masking, and black and white conversion fine tuning. It also has layering and masking tools that give you the ability to apply filters by brush, gradient, color range, and more, as well as to the whole image.

Dynamic Light (\$0.99): Dynamic Light gives you the best and most vibrant HDR-like images of any of the mobile apps—with a single photographic image. Everything is controlled using a single dial. Rotate the dial to the right and you get the HDR look.

The Photographers Ephemeris (\$8.99): This app helps you plan your outdoor photography, particularly for landscape and urban scenes. It is a map-centric calculator for any location on earth that lets you know how the light will fall on the land in both day and night. This app is called, "must have for any outdoor photographer."

Perfectly Clear: An intelligent auto-correction app available for both iPhone and Android.

Vingette: This app provides 70 customizable filters and 50 frames. It also offers digital zoom, time lapse and self-timer functions. Available for Android.

Scavenger Hunt

A reminder, we have a yearlong "scavenger hunt" photo contest. The topics are:

1. Still Life
2. Through My Window
3. My Best Friend
4. 6 or 8-legged Creatures
5. Pond Life
6. Railroads
7. Curves
8. Abandoned Buildings
9. Shoes and Boots
10. Silhouettes

Contest entries are due at our meeting in November.