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THROUGH THE LENS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER of ISLAND PHOTO GROUP

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RAW: The Pro Format

by Rob Sheppard

This article originally appeared in the September 2004 issue of "Outdoor Photographer" magazine. It was written by the editor, Rob Sheppard, and has been excerpted by Hank Meier.

The article provides some interesting and provocative conclusions. The author shoots mostly high quality JPEG; nearly everyone of his published photos in the magazine and in his books are from that format, including a recent cover of the magazine (April 2004).

A side by side comparison of images shot in both JPEG and RAW produced interesting results, showing that JPEG (unadjusted) may be superior to RAW (unadjusted). The JPEG image had greater tonal range, better highlight details, richer color, and less noise. The RAW file can match and even surpass the JPEG file, but only with adjustments. His camera of choice is a Canon (model not indicated) with its DIGIC chip and its ability to deal very well with highlights as well as minimizing noise.

JPEG can offer benefits to photographers who don't want to spend time processing RAW files. This means shooting high quality JPEG with attention to how you work. Exposure has to be done right, white balance has to be chosen correctly and so forth.

RAW offers more flexibility. It helps when the picture wasn't shot quite right, especially if the exposure or white balance is off. It avoids any problems of JPEG artifacts and offers a potentially greater dynamic range which can be helpful in tricky lighting situations. It has the potential for the highest quality, however, when RAW and JPEG are shot side by side with proper techniques, differences are hard to see.

Some photographers are promoting RAW as the only way to shoot digitally when it's not for everyone, be it pro or amateur. The author states that because many amateurs like to follow what top photographers do in this area, they sometimes blindly use RAW regardless of their inclinations. They shoot RAW when it can limit their pleasure of photography. They may find that it doesn't fit their way of working, they may also find that they don't want to spend the time processing everything which RAW requires.

Should you shoot RAW or JPEG? Make your own choice and know that you can get high quality from both.

In conclusion, I recently did my own testing of RAW versus JPEG. I shot a series of identical images; camera on tripod, a still subject, proper exposure and white balance, and shot in both RAW and JPEG. When compared side by side on the monitor, I found no difference in any of the images, even after extreme enlargement of a portion of the images.

What's New

IPG Program - Paul Whiteman: 40 Years of Images ...	October	4
PFLI Competition	October	8
Columbus Day - No IPG Meeting	October	11
Long Island Photoshop Meeting	October	13
IPG Critique Night	October	18
IPG Thursday Social Night / DVD Premiere	October	28

Quick Tips for October



If you're storing your digital images on CDs or DVDs, this article will be of great interest to you.

Adhesive labels should not be applied to optical discs destined for long-term storage (more than five years). DVDs are more susceptible to reading problems from minor imbalances than CDs. To ensure the long-term availability of information on a disc that already has an adhesive label, the information on the disc should be copied to, and stored on a disc without such a label.

Adhesive labels may be well suited for short-term disc usage (less than five years), and can even add a layer of protection from scratches and other potentially harmful contact.

Disc manufacturers advise against using adhesive labels because they can create unbalanced disc spin, resulting in premature wear of the drive. If a label is used, it should be manufactured for use on CDs or DVDs, and an appropriate disc label applicator tool should be used to affix the label. The label applicator tool should center the label on the disc so as to maintain the disc balance as much as possible.

Where Can I Photograph Fall Color?

by Glenn DeBona

While NEW ENGLAND is billed as the epicenter of fall color, that's as much a credit to the tourism industry of these states as it is to reality.

It usually starts in New England, but there are great displays in New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, as well as Mid-Atlantic States such as Virginia, Tennessee and West Virginia.

Hardwood forests stand across the Midwest yield plenty of opportunities, as do the mountains of the west, the Sierras, Rockies and the peaks of Utah.

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IPG Meeting Information

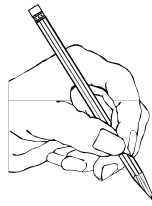
IPG meetings will be held from 7:30 - 10:00 PM on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Mondays of each month, except for holidays, at our meeting room located at:

Ellsworth Allen Park
101 Motor Avenue
Farmingdale, NY 11735

Critique Nights will be held the 3rd Monday of every month

All IPG members can submit 2 photos in each of the following categories:

Color Prints, B&W Prints and Slides



President's Message

We now have a permanent exhibition of our members' images in our meeting room.

It looks extremely good, and not only does the display enhance the room's atmosphere, but it speaks very well of IPG's pool of photographic talent. The Allen Park meeting room is used by a large number of community organizations and our display will serve as daily publicity for IPG. I thank everyone who supplied images for the exhibition. There is still room for several more prints and I urge all members to get involved. Bring your prints to a meeting and we will take care of hanging them. **NOTE THAT ALL PRINTS MUST BE FRAMED AND WIRED FOR HANGING.** A special thanks to Dave, Phyllis, Tony and Glenn (who arranged for the exhibition) for helping to hang all the images.



Charlie Bowman, IPG President

The Executive Board held a meeting on 9/27. Among other things, we discussed and made plans to improve our Programs, Instructional Workshops, as well as our website. You will see these improvements in the coming months. We also made plans to hold a "*Member's Social Night*", similar to the one we had last year. The date/time for this event is Thursday October 28th at 7:30 PM.

It will again be an opportunity to mingle with fellow members in a social atmosphere. You are invited to bring spouses, guests and friends. The *IPG Photography Annual DVD Show* will be premiered at our "*Member's Social Night*". I know that all of you will really enjoy it.

In an effort to raise funds for our treasury, copies of this DVD will be available for sale at a very reasonable \$10 each. I have no doubt that I can count on all of you to purchase a copy.

Finally I want to remind those of you who have not yet paid your 2004/2005 dues to do so ASAP. We currently have 28 paid up members out of a 40 person roster. Effective as of our October Critique Night (10/18), only members whose dues are paid and new guests, will be eligible to submit images for critique.

Please Note Day & Date

***IPG Member's Social Night
and DVD Premiere
Thursday, October 28th at 7:30 PM***

Fall Color continued from page 1

Northern California and the Pacific Northwest also have displays that can yield marvelous photographs.

In short there are a lot of opportunities. In fact, the best place to photograph fall color is probably the place that is most accessible to you.

It's better to be able to come back to a scene from time to time so you can take pictures while the color emerges, and take advantage of different times of the day and lighting conditions.