

# SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN



# NATURE PHOTOGRAPHERS

## SANP News

Sharing the Awareness of Nature  
through Photography

Visit us on the web at [www.sanp.net](http://www.sanp.net)

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January 2006

### January Meeting:

### A Digital Evening with Larry Perry

The first program of the new year will feature **digital photography** with SANP's own Larry Perry as the presenter. Larry is the author of six books on Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Elements and is an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee and several other colleges around the country. A popular seminar and workshop leader on Photoshop and nature photography around the country, Larry is a prize-winning photographer in his own right. In late August and early September, he spent several weeks photographing the Alaskan Grizzly bears for publication—up close and personal!

Those of you who have heard Larry before know that he is often controversial, always entertaining and always in a helping and teaching mode. He is very unpredictable in his presentations, but rumor has it that at least a part of his program will include some of the shots of the bears. If you want to learn some neat tricks and ideas on how to use your images in Photoshop and Elements as well as learn a lot about digital photography, this is the meeting to attend. We must warn you though, he is a Nikon guy!

You'll learn the real meaning behind dpi vs ppi, layers, how to use the Liquify tool, a way to make your images really POP when you print them, neat tricks you can use, and how to "enhance" your images ...Larry's way. If you are a real purist with your nature photography, you are forewarned that he is pretty unorthodox in his enhancements. So don't be surprised at what he does to really good images to make them better.

Larry made a presentation at the East Tennessee Computer Society a few weeks ago and the attendees are still talking about it! So this is one you don't want to miss! Put January 31 on your calendar **now!**

### SANP 2006 Nature Photography Competition Judging Happens Feb. 4

Judging will be held on February 4 at noon at the First United Methodist Church, 3316 Kingston Pike, where our meetings are held. Alice Reed needs some additional volunteers to help with the judging process, so call her at 865.481.6237 to offer your help. Thanks to Julie Glibbery for arranging food for judges, helpers, and visitors!

Mark your calendars for the competition awards dinner, also at the church, to be held on Saturday, February 25, starting at 6pm with time to visit and view the color and black and white print entries. After a buffet dinner, the slide and digital entries will be shown and awards presented.

Advance reservations are required, so use the form found in this newsletter to order your tickets. Deadline is February 17. And don't forget to offer your help with the judging. This is a great way to get involved and see what the judges think of our work!

### Upcoming Meetings

- **February:** Annual Competition Dinner
- **March and April:** TBA soon!

### Member News

*Don't be shy! Notify the newsletter editor, Ron McConathy ([mccconathy@aronsha.com](mailto:mccconathy@aronsha.com)), if you have a service to offer members, have been honored, or have achieved something noteworthy. This is your newsletter—let others know what you are doing in photography.*

Lisa Hudson, SANP member and UT Photography student, recently placed 2nd at the Atlanta Photojournalism Seminars Nikon Shootout in December. Participants were all given the same theme and a Nikon camera to shoot the assignment with. Each had an hour to complete the assignment and turn in a single unedited photo straight out of the camera. Visit the seminar website at [www.photojournalism.org](http://www.photojournalism.org) for more detail. Congratulations, Lisa!

**SANP Officers and Committee Chairs**

<b>President</b>	Lee Ownby	865.690.8460
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joyce Wilson	
<b>Secretary</b>	Margarete Ohnesorge	
<b>Membership</b>	Alice Reed	865.481.6237
<b>Programs</b>	Brad Cottrell	
<b>Newsletter</b>	R/S McConathy	865.376.3976
<b>Workshops/Trips</b>	Kendall Chiles	865.693.2448
<b>Salon 2006</b>	Alice Reed & Bob Epperson	
<b>Publicity</b>	Open (any volunteers?)	
<b>Web Site</b>	Shawn Grant	

**Elected Board Members:**

Bill Carter	Harold Howell
Chuck Cole	Ron McConathy
Gloria Epperson	Alice Reed
Mark Frankel	Margarete Ohnesorge
Shawn Grant	Mike Williams

The SANP Board meets monthly. If you have issues you would like the board to discuss, contact Lee Ownby, [leeownby@mindspring.com](mailto:leeownby@mindspring.com).

SANP News is published monthly except June and July to provide information to members. Articles or ideas from the membership are welcome.

**Newsletter Deadline: First of each month**

Send submissions to [mconathy@aronsha.com](mailto:mconathy@aronsha.com)

SANP mailing address:

P.O. Box 32324, Knoxville, TN 37930-2324

**Antique film cameras may be closer than you think!**

Nikon UK has made an interesting announcement titled "Nikon prepares to strengthen digital line-up for 2006" that signals the beginning of the end of nearly 60 years of Nikon film cameras. Nikon Corp. has made the decision to 'focus management resources' on digital cameras in place of film cameras, and is discontinuing most film camera bodies, manual focus lenses and accessories, and all large format and enlarging lenses. In Europe only the flagship F6 film camera will remain on sale. Go to the Digital Photography Review website ([http://www.dpreview.com/news/0601/06011201nikon\\_news.asp](http://www.dpreview.com/news/0601/06011201nikon_news.asp)) for more information.

**Advertise Used Equipment Here**

If you have unused photo equipment taking up space at your house, use this newsletter to help it find a new home. Email the editor ([mconathy@aronsha.com](mailto:mconathy@aronsha.com)) with the details.

For sale: Canon EOS D60. Complete with all Canon included software, cables, strap, battery and charger. Like new condition. \$350. Contact Chuck Cole: 865.693.0232.

Film for sale: 3 boxes, 35mm (20 rolls per box) Fujicolor press 800, expiration 2002, \$80 per box. 20 rolls slide film Fuji Sensia 100, expiration 2002, \$5 each roll. All rolls have been continuously refrigerated. If interested, contact Wade Payne at 865.250.5095.

*President's Corner*

I'm taking a break this month... See Bill Carter's interesting article on flash photography just below. Thanks for contributing, Bill! —Lee Ownby

*Guest Column***Using TTL Flash in the Field**

— Bill Carter

Flash photography can be an intimidating tool in our arsenal of tricks to capture an image. It does not have to be if we keep it simple. If you are reluctant to use flash or would like to move beyond guide numbers, etc., perhaps this article will help. It is not intended to be a comprehensive approach to flash photography but rather a condensed version offering practical help in the field.

Electronic speedlights (flash units) offer two flash metering systems that are useful to the nature photographer. The first is TTL or through-the-lens metering; the other is manual flash. TTL is the most convenient to use in the field and in most situations will yield a good result. Exceptions to keep in mind are small subjects, off-center with a non-middle-tone background and large reflective areas. These exceptions will fool your meter and result in an incorrect exposure.

What advantage does flash offer users in the field? Flash can illuminate subjects in low light situations. It can also sharpen your images as it freezes movement, and it is used to soften harsh shadows.

Because of the convenience it offers, only TTL flash or TTL fill-flash will be addressed here. In TTL flash exposure, the ambient light on the subject is overpowered by the flash. The flash supplies all of the light on the subject. In TTL flash, the shutter speed will generally be set at the camera's sync speed, which can vary from 1/60 to 1/250 sec, depending on camera model.

It is important to note that the shutter speed used in flash can be slower, but not faster, than the camera sync speed. An aperture setting is selected that yields the desired depth of field. The closer the subject is to the camera, the smaller the aperture that can be used.

The readout on the back of the speedlight will indicate if the amount of light emitted is sufficient for the exposure. If not, a change in aperture setting will be required so that the light

*(Continued next page)*

## Using TTL Flash in the Field (con't)

needed for the exposure is within the speedlight's exposure range. In flash photography, the aperture setting controls the exposure of the subject. Shutter speed affects the ambient light exposure, which will be the background in daylight.

Considerations to remember about the ambient exposure:

- If the shutter speed is too fast, the background will be underexposed. *Remedy:* Select a slower shutter speed, which will allow the ambient light to register on the film, resulting in a brighter background.
- If the background is not close to the subject, the light falloff of the flash will underexpose the background, resulting in a photo that appears to have been shot at night. *Remedy:* Select a subject closer to the background so the flash illuminates the background. This is especially applicable in macro photography.
- If the shutter speed selected is too slow in bright, ambient light, a condition known as "ghosting" can occur. This results in two images being captured on film, one sharp and the other fuzzy. The sharp image will be the flash exposure (freezing motion), and the fuzzy one will be the ambient exposure (ghost). *Remedy:* Select a faster shutter speed to balance the flash with the bright ambient light, especially if shooting a moving subject. Remember not to exceed the camera sync speed in selecting a faster shutter speed.

Speedlights are just like cameras when it comes to exposure. They are designed to deliver a middle tone subject. Cameras and flash units these days are very sophisticated, and in many cases the various program modes deliver an acceptable image.

Here the assumption is that our settings are in manual mode. In flash photography as in non-flash photography, we must determine and compensate for the subject's tonality to get a correct exposure. There are two ways to deal with exposure compensation.

Both the camera and the speedlight have exposure compensation dials. Either can be used. The advantage using the speedlight exposure compensation holds over the camera is in damage control. If the exposure compensation dial on the camera is used, it is easy to forget to change it back after an exposure. It may be several rolls of film later before you discover that you have

either overexposed or underexposed your film. Since the flash is not used on every exposure, it reduces our chances of making a big mistake.

Exposure compensation is a way of making an adjustment for subjects that are not middle tone. Listed below are TTL exposure compensation values that can be used as a starting point to arrive at your own preferences.

### TTL Exposure Compensation

**Middletone subject:** no compensation needed

**White subject:** plus 1 (overexpose by one stop). TTL flash wants to shut off early, resulting in a middle tone subject. By overexposing one stop, we get a white subject.

**Black subject:** minus 1 (underexpose by one stop). TTL flash wants to make the subject middle tone. By underexposing one stop, we get a black or very dark subject.

In TTL fill-flash, the exposure is based on the ambient exposure. TTL fill-flash is used to add "pop" to images, add light to shadow areas, and soften harsh shadows. In TTL fill-flash, the flash compliments the ambient light exposure and does not overpower it. After your ambient light exposure has been determined, dial in  $-1 \frac{3}{4}$  or  $-2$  on the speedlight's exposure compensation dial. Your flash will deliver  $\sim 2$  stops less light than the ambient exposure. Your preference dictates how much exposure compensation to use.

Here are a few other things to think about when using TTL flash in the field.

### Off-camera flash:

- Will eliminate or reduce harsh shadows cast by the flash.
- Up close, can become a diffused light source instead of a point source.
- Reduces or eliminates red eye, the condition caused by flash reflecting off the eye's retina.

### Macro Photography:

Make sure your subject is illuminated. If your flash is in the hotshoe on the camera, you may need to use a bounce card to ensure your subject is illuminated. A bounce card should be placed on top of your flash to direct light downward. Some flash units are equipped with this feature. Another remedy is an off-camera cord.

There is so much to cover, it is hard to know when to stop, but stop I must before this is no longer simple!

**SANP 2006 Nature Photography Competition Dinner Meeting  
Order Tickets by February 17, 2006**

The SANP 2006 Nature Photography Competition dinner meeting will be held on Saturday February 25th at the First United Methodist Church, 3316 Kingston Pike, Knoxville TN. The fellowship hall will be open at 6:00 P.M. for a social at which time the color and black&white print entries can be viewed. The buffet dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M. Afterwards, the slide and digital entries will be projected.

Tickets to the SANP 2006 Nature Photography Competition dinner meeting must be ordered and paid for by February 17, 2006. The cost is \$15.00 per person, members and guests. Make your check payable to SANP and mail it to:

SANP  
c/o Alice Reed  
102 Capital Circle  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Advanced **ticket orders are required**. Alice must **receive your payment by February 17, 2006**. Upon receipt of your payment a confirmation letter will be sent to you which will be your admittance ticket.

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DINNER MEETING TICKET RESERVATION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF DINERS: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers**

**P.O. Box 32324**

**Knoxville, TN 37930-2324**

### **In This Issue**

- **January meeting: Larry Perry presents a "digital" evening**
- **Information about competition judging and awards dinner**
- **Antique film cameras may be closer than you think!**
- **Bill Carter's "Using TTL Flash in the Field"**

**Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to "Sharing the Awareness of Nature through Photography." The club meets the last Tuesday of every month except June, July, and December at the First United Methodist Church on Kingston Pike in Knoxville at 6:30 p.m. for social time and 7 for the program. Visitors are welcome!