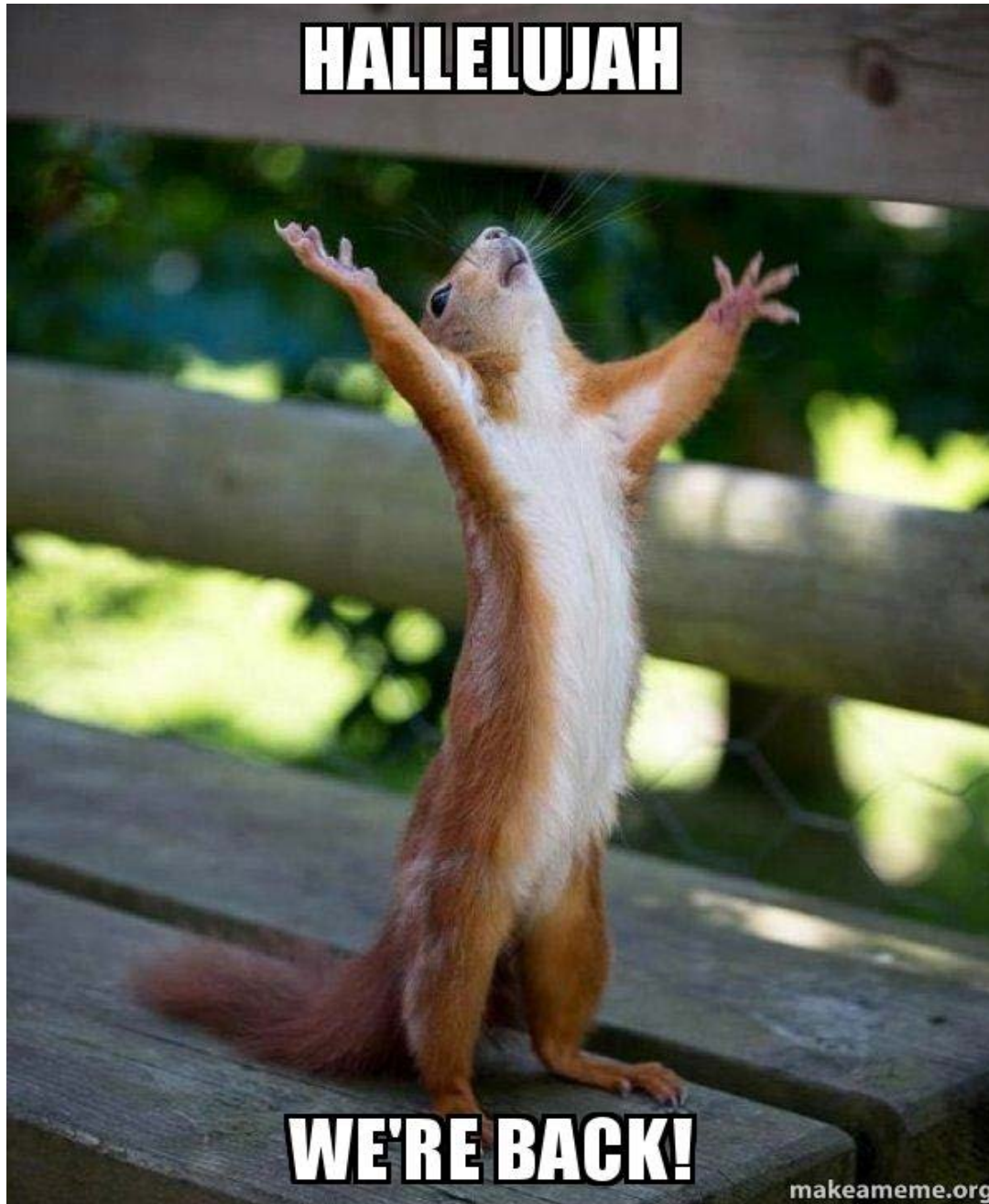




Due to Federal and Local mandates, we have canceled all future meeting until further notice. Lets be in prayer for our country and others around the world as we all battle this pandemic



Northwest Recreation Center
2913 Northland Dr. Austin, TX 78757



Visitors Always
Welcome!



Austin Shutterbug Club



From the President

March 2, 2021

I just woke up this morning with the Club heavy on my mind. I felt the urge to communicate with all our members to say that we all may need a little encouragement to pull up our boots and get going.

I know that this past year has caused a serious disruption in our lives. And that may include the loss of habits, hobbies, financial loss, and even clinical depression for some. That, with the recent weather, really put some of us on our collective ass. Well, in my book it's time for the tough to get going-- again.

Out of Covid

It is not correct to say that we are out of the woods-not yet by a long shot. A half a million deaths is a terrible reminder that this pandemic is still leaving its mark on us and the global community.

But, I would like to believe that we are turning the corner. The road is still long, but we are on the right path. Many of us have received our Covid vaccinations and many more will do so in the near future. But we need to continue to be smart, practice social distancing and wear a mask and do all the things that will keep us and others safe. Our own actions help everyone.

I want to encourage our membership to think about things that can foster our group relationship. I am not suggesting that we become irresponsible in reviving group meetings or activities where we will endanger each other or those around us. However, I am suggesting that we recognize we need to rebuild our community fellowship and camaraderie.

Communication fosters Community

I want to see an immediate revival of the Austin Shutterbug Club newsletter. I would like to see an April 1, 2021 edition. This doesn't mean that the Editor must do all the work. Each of you have something to contribute. What did you photograph during Covid? Where did you do it? What do you plan to do when the travel restrictions lift? What's on your photographic bucket list?

I would like everyone to write a small bit. You don't have to be a published or polished author to do so. Just think of something that was of interest to you. Write it down because it will be of interest to others as well. I am going to get the ball rolling by sending two pieces this week.

Austin Shutterbug Club

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Challenge of Competition

We don't need to meet to host a competition or a club evaluation. I ask the Evaluation Committee, Fred Peebles, Steve Houston, Linda Avitt, and Cheryl Callen to create an on-line activity for the Club for April. We should keep it simple. Use an assignment like: "My memorable image during Covid." Even if it is not an evaluation in the strictest sense, lets publish and discuss some member's images.

Tell a Visual Story

I want to encourage the membership to get more active on our Facebook Page. It's not hard to do. There are several members who post regularly, and they do a nice job and I'm always happy to see their images. Your posting does not have to be something new, or world class, just post something of what you have been doing.

So, if you baked a new recipe for bread or cookies or pie, post it on our Facebook Page. We would love to see it. And remember, you can use your iPad, tablet or cell phone to make the images as well. That technology is remarkable.

Lifetime of Learning

I hope that everyone has taken the time away from our normal routine to learn something new. I believe it's a good thing to get out of your comfort zone and try something different, even challenging. There is no time like now (pandemic, or not) to start something fresh.

There are a good number of really fine educational forums online, Scott Kelby, Matt Kloskowski, Creative Live, Phlearn.com, PiXimperfect, and others on YouTube, and many more. Take some time and explore.

Remember the old man in Manhattan that answered: "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" With Practice, Practice, Practice! Practice is one of the most important elements in our photographic growth. Even top professional musicians practice daily to stay on top of their game.

I practice my photography daily- that's every day. I may not always make a photo every day, but I work in Lightroom or Photoshop every day. There are new tools or processes coming to the market all the time. And if you are not using the tools on a regular basis, you get rusty, stale, or loose a bit of muscle memory.

My favorite Thing

It occurred to me the other day while helping a member, that everyone may appreciate a tip that would improve their photographic life.

My first suggestion is to use a standardized Quick Release (QR) clamp system on your tripod head, your camera and lenses that have a tripod foot. I especially like the right-angle camera plate that allows instant vertical in addition to horizontal mounting.

My suggestion is the Arca Swiss style and dimension system. This system refers more specifically to a physical arrangement and dimension rather than a brand, per se. Get started with a system that is accepted more universally and all your equipment will be compatible.

The Arca system is available through Kirk Enterprises, Really Right Stuff, Henjar Photo Design and can also be found through B&H or Adorama.

In Conclusion

I believe that I have dropped the ball as your leader in keeping the club activity flourishing during this past year. For that, I am truly sorry

Stennis, Larry and Beverly have planned a great outing to the Big Bend area for early April. I see eleven members on the reservations list. This will be a good kick-off for safe club activities in 2021. We will have others as the year moves along.

I am promising to turn a new leaf as well. Let us step out into a new world for our club and get on the road to vibrant activity.

All my best,



From Our Members

Rose Epps

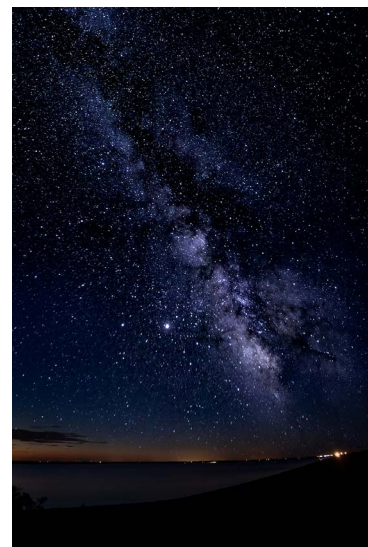
Rose Epps

As Brian requested, below is my bit for the newsletter. Thanks so much in advance for your work!

Since our last Shutterbug meeting, hubby and I have been seriously isolating due to COVID risk. There were no trips, and my photography consisted of a few local bird outings by myself and flower photography wherever I could find it--neighborhood, Zilker, Mayfield Park. During the warm months, some of us Shutterbug gals met (socially distanced) at Granger Lake and Muleshoe Bend to practice astrophotography, shooting the Milky Way and star trails. At home, I may have become the "photo webinar queen," watching as many as my schedule would permit. Many professional photography instructors and workshop companies were extremely generous with their time, and Adobe offered a Virtual Summit at no cost. I also managed to self-publish a couple of Blurb books on past photo trips. Distractions last year were my genealogy research addiction and noticing all the little things that needed to be done around the house since I was spending almost all my time there! Never a boring moment.

During 2021 I plan to attend two photography workshops which were rescheduled from last year--one at the Chicago Botanical Garden and the other in Rocky Mountain National Park. I'm also a part of the club trip to Big Bend National Park in April which was planned long before the pandemic, and am so looking forward to getting out again with some of my Shutterbug friends. I'm especially looking forward to the time when all members can meet in person!

Rose Epps



From Our Members

The Bennett's

Joyce & Richard Bennett

During the past year of COVID, we have taken a few trips to photograph birds and other wildlife. Listed below are the adventures we have taken.

1. July 8 -10, 2020, we traveled to Jefferson, TX and took Captain Ron's Swamp Tour on Caddo Lake.
2. July 10, 2020, we also went to Old Tunnel State Park to watch the bats.
3. September 2 - 28, 2020, we took a month long road trip which has been on Richard's bucket list for several years. We loaded the truck and headed for:
 - South Dakota, where we visited the Badlands National Park, Custer State Park and Crazy Horse Memorial.
 - Wyoming, where we visited Yellowstone National Park, Grand Tetons National Park and the Buffalo Bill Center of the West Museum and Old Trail Town in Cody.
 - Colorado, where we visited Garden of the Gods and had dinner at the Flying W Chuckwagon Dinner Theater in Colorado Springs.
 - In Durango, we enjoyed the Cascade Canyon Train Ride and visited San Juan National Forest and Mesa Verde National Park.
 - New Mexico, where we spent two days exploring Santa Fe.

Upon returning to Texas, we changed our plans and decided to extend our trip and visited the Fort Davis area.

4. January 11 - 14, 2021, we took a road trip to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Delores Fenwick Nature Center in Pearland, TX and Resoft County Park in Alvin, TX. This gave me a great opportunity to try out my new Canon R5 Mirrorless camera which Richard bought me to replace my aging 7D Mark II. Needless to say, I was very satisfied with the focusing speed and image quality.
5. February 22 - March 3, 2021, we took another road trip to the Lower Rio Grande Valley area visiting several State Parks, South Padre Island Birding and Nature Center and rounding out the trip with a Whooping Crane boat tour with Aransas Bay Birding Charters.

For our upcoming adventures, we have two trips scheduled:

1. April 4 - 13, 2021, we have a trip planned for Big Bend National Park, Big Bend Ranch State Park and the Fort Davis area.
2. September 23 - October 11, 2021, we are taking a 15 day Viking River "Grand Europe Tour" Cruise. We will begin our adventure with a pre-cruise extension to Prague for 3 days. The cruise will take us from Budapest to Amsterdam down the Danube and Rhine rivers and thorough 4 countries.

For Richard's photographic bucket list:

1. Night time photography in Big Bend area.

From Our Members

Matti Jaffe

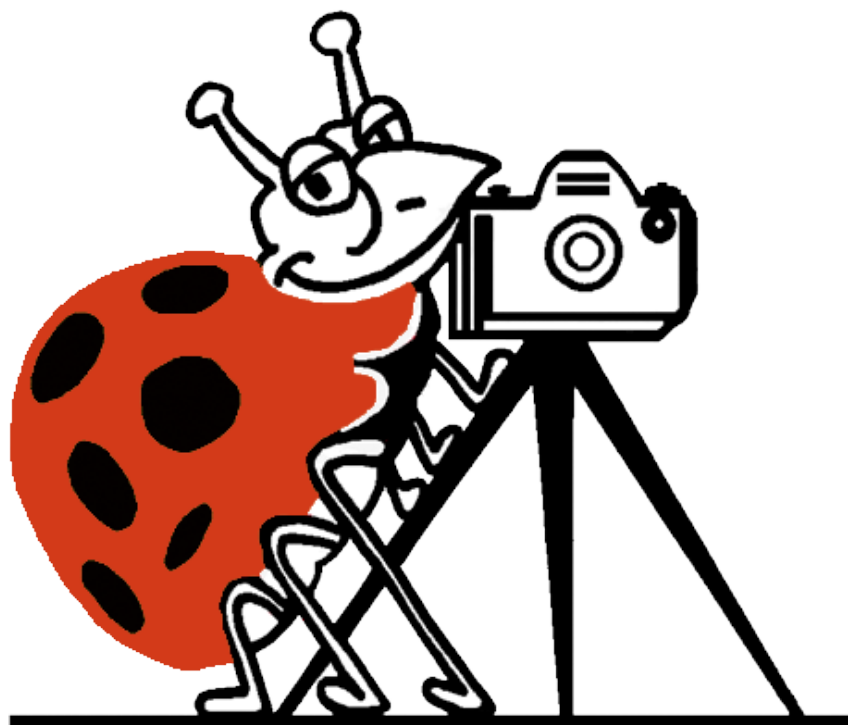
Matti Jaffe

Increasing my photographic art creativity

In the past few months, covid time, I got itchy not processing new photos, so I decided to go over old ones in my portfolio. At the same time I discovered the Topaz editing suit and Studio, in particular. Previously, my only exposure to art was through museums and building fine wood projects based on masters' mentorship (fun days). So when I got my hands on the AI-based Studio software, I started to enjoy "playing/creating" various artsy presentations using various filters. More recently I also started to print large images on canvases and special paper to my increased joy.

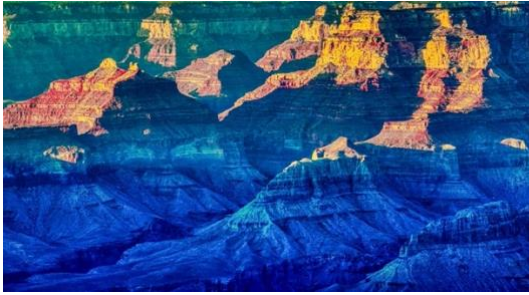
The following represent few "before and after" images,

So, is this "art?" - You decide.



Matti Jaffe

Before



After



From Our Members

George Krezinski

George Krezinski

Brian, David:

Great to hear from you and I welcome your effort to kick us in gear during these isolating times.

Here is my first contribution. If you remember, on the morning of February 27 Austin had a very dense fog alert. I took advantage of the rare opportunity and rushed down to the Pennybacker Bridge to check out the situation. Attached are two of my favorite images from that early morning adventure to see the river and bridge in the fog. It was better than a hot cup of coffee!

Cheers,

George Krezinski



From Our Members

John Davis

John Davis

Christmas is my favorite time of year. Even with COVID, I was able to celebrate with the members of my family. Everyone had their own schedule and my holiday stretched from December 24th to January 3rd. By far my favorite gift was a Brownie Hawkeye camera that had been converted into a lamp. Is there no end to how clever someone can be? To look at it, you would swear that this is what its original purpose was meant to be.

True deep space object images, yearning for those light-unpolluted night skies such as are found in Big Bend!



From Our Members

Mike Stys

Mike Stys

After my first attempts during our 2018/19 trips to the Valley and Rockport areas, I decided to pursue bird photography, locally and in Minnesota, and last year was able to capture around 40 species.

Our April webinar with Matt Kloskowski motivated me to move up to Photoshop from Elements. I had known about his effective teaching skills from an earlier Elements book, so since April I have taken nearly all the courses he offers, which I would highly recommend.

Finally, this year I started dabbling in Astrophotography. Using a recently-acquired tracking mount, I aspire to capture deep space object images, yearning for those light-unpolluted night skies such as are found in Big Bend !



From Our Members

Linda Sheppard

Linda Sheppard

It has been a long year and we have all faced some challenges. My husband and I have finally gotten our COVID vaccine taken care of. Spent time organizing things, reviewing old images, deleting some, trying to learn some new techniques in processing. The most exciting thing for me was the purchase of the 14-24 f2.8 Nikon Z mount lens and the 70-200 f2.8 lens along with a teleconverter. Still holding on to some of my DSLR cameras and lens. Finding use for both.

Had some fun filled days of carrying on group text that started very early in the morning and continued into evening bed time. A lot of confusion of who said what and many laughs. So thankful for friends!!!

Linda Sheppard

Cleaning the Digital Camera

Brian Loflin

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Cleaning the camera is a periodical and necessary step in order to produce consistently excellent photographs. It is neither costly nor difficult. A few specialized materials and a little effort is all that is required.

Camera Cleaning Materials

Camel's Hair Brush

A good quality brush should be acquired from the art supply store. Cut off the handle and dedicate the brush to your camera care kit. Use it dry and never wash it. It will last a lifetime.

Rubber Air Blower

A baby ear and nose syringe or the new style "Q-Ball" rubber photographic rubber blower is an essential tool for blowing dust out of cracks and crevices.

Lens Cleaning Tissue

Good quality lens tissue is essential. The Kodak brand is readily available in inexpensive.

Lens Cleaning Fluid

This fluid is designed for modern lenses and is desired as it will not damage the optical coating or the cement of lenses.

Cotton Tip Swabs

A good, wooden stick swab can provide good control to remove dirt from between the knobs and controls of the camera exterior.

Screw Drivers

These should be regarded as screw "tighteners" as no attempt should ever be made to remove or repair anything. A good flat and a Phillips jeweler-sized screw driver are used to keep all exterior screws tightened on the camera body and lens barrel. Travel and vibrations may tend to loosen screws. Catch them prior to loss.

How to Clean the Camera

Set up in a clean, well lighted spot and have all the materials at hand and ready to go. Try not to have ceiling fans and air ducts blowing directly on your work.

As a principle of cleaning, remember this order: Blow, Brush, and then Wipe. This technique enables the removal of dust and solid particles before touching any surface so that the wiping action will not scratch the delicate surfaces. Follow the following steps for an effective camera cleaning:

1. Turn off the camera and remove the battery. Blow out the battery compartment of any accumulated material.
2. Check all external screws for security. Tighten as required.
3. Blow off all external surfaces of the camera body and lens. Blow off the front surface of the lens glass element well.
4. Brush off the entire external surface with the camel hair brush, including the front glass surface.
5. Use the cotton swabs to get down into the cracks and hard-to-reach spots around knobs and controls. Do not use the swab on the lens surface.
6. Examine the camera to assure this procedure has cleaned the external surfaces well.
7. Critically examine the glass surface of the lens with glancing light to check for other solid materials. If present, repeat the blowing and brushing until absent.
8. Clean the inside of the lens cap of all materials with the blower and a cotton swab.
9. Take a single piece of lens tissue and fold it in quarters. Drop one or two drops of lens cleaning fluid on the tissue, not the lens. Wipe the lens in a circular motion from its center outward until you reach the edge. Discard this tissue and do not reuse. Repeat this process with a clean, dry tissue.
10. Repeat this process on the camera viewfinder opening, the glass Control Panel and the Glass surface of the Monitor.
11. Remove the lens. Place the camera body down on a clean surface with the front and its lens pocket downward to keep stray dust from falling into the body.
12. Repeat the cleaning step above on the rear glass element. Carefully set the lens aside.
13. Take the camera body and examine the interior of the lens pocket. Identify and examine the mirror. Notice it is front surfaced and has etchings on it for focus, and metering. Therefore, it is exceptionally fragile. Blow off any noticeable dust from its surface. Do not touch the surface of the mirror with anything in the cleaning process.
14. Replace the Lens, Lens Cap, and Battery and close the door.

Now the camera should be clean and ready for use. In some infrequent cases cleaning the internal digital sensor may be required. See the next section for this procedure.

2021 Calendar



2021 Assignments



Club Leadership for 2020

President	Brian Loflin	512-331-2820
Vice President/Programs	Stennis Shotts	678-637-8367
Secretary	Jill McLain	512-750-1997
Treasurer	Kathy Kraft &	512-443-3204
Treasurer	Barbara Hunley	512-250-1144
Evaluation Chair	Fred Peebles	512-468-0928
Evaluation Co-Chair	Steve Houston	512-418-8878
Evaluation Committee	Dolph McCranie	512-394-9031
Evaluation Committee	Linda Avitt	512-468-1542
Field Trips & Outings	Beverly Lyle &	512-797-5661
Field Trips & Outings	Larry Peruffo	512-306-1095
Hospitality Chair	Kim Shotts	678-637-8367
Newsletter Editor	David Pettit	512-762-7848
Refreshments	Richard and	512-301-2718
Refreshments	Joyce Bennett	512-301-2718
Refreshments	John Davis	512-327-5996
Refreshments	Beverly McCranie	512-394-9031
Exhibits	Vacant	Vacant
Exhibits	Vacant	Vacant
Webmaster	Barbara Hunley	512-250-1144
Electronic Communication	Barbara Hunley	512-250-1144
Roster and Name tags	Barbara Hunley	512-250-1144