

# **PLANNING YOUR COMPOSITION**

**THE FINE ART OF SEEING SIG**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

**MIKE SCHAFFNER**

**Do Both!!!!**

## FINDING A GOOD SUBJECT

**DO YOU HAVE A BIG TRIP PLANNED AND WANT TO DO SOME PHOTOGRAPHY. DO YOU ...**

**A. RAMBLE AROUND IN THE HOPES YOU'LL STUMBLE UPON SOMETHING INTERESTING, OR**



**B. CREATE A SHOT PLAN; AN ITINERARY OF DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS OF THINGS TO PHOTOGRAPH**



# **FINDING A GOOD SUBJECT**

**RAMBLE AROUND IN THE HOPES YOU'LL STUMBLE UPON  
SOMETHING INTERESTING**

- **A GREAT WAY TO LEARN THE AREA AND HOPEFULLY FIND SOME  
UNIQUE IMAGES**
- **THE JOY OF DISCOVERY CAN MAKE FOR A MEMORABLE TRIP**

**BUT TODAY'S TOPIC IS ON PLANNING SO WE'LL STICK TO  
THAT**

# FINDING A GOOD SUBJECT

**THE INTERNET IS A RICH SOURCE OF DATA TO HELP YOU FIND GOOD SUBJECTS**

- **SHOTHOTSPOT** [HTTPS://WWW.SHOTHOTSPOT.COM/](https://www.shothotspot.com/)
- **FLICKR** [HTTPS://WWW.FLICKR.COM/](https://www.flickr.com/)
  - **FLICKR WORLD MAP** [HTTPS://WWW.FLICKR.COM/MAP](https://www.flickr.com/map)
- **FACEBOOK GROUPS**
- **GOOGLE IMAGES**
- **ANY OTHER PHOTO SITE THAT ALLOWS YOU TO SEARCH BY TOPIC OR LOCATION**

# **A WORD OF CAUTION ABOUT GEOTAGS**

**WHILE MANY OF THESE SITES PROVIDE ADDRESSES, COORDINATES OR DIRECTIONS YOU NEED TO VERIFY**

- **GPS DATA CAN BE ACCURATE TO WITHIN A FEW FEET BUT YOU DON'T KNOW IF THE DATA WAS PROVIDED BY GPS OR SOME OTHER WAY OF GEOTAGGING**
- **PEOPLE MISSPELL CITY AND/OR STREET NAMES**
- **PEOPLE CONFUSE DIRECTIONS AND DISTANCES**
- **PEOPLE MIS-REMEMBER LOCATIONS**
- **THE SAME TARGET CAN BE GEOTAGGED TO DIFFERENT LOCATIONS**

**VERIFY THE LOCATION AND STATUS**



# KEEP A LIST

**KEEP A LIST OF PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES AND DETAILS FOR YOUR TRIP OR POSSIBLE FUTURE TRIPS**

- **YOUR MEMORY ISN'T AS GOOD AS IT USE TO BE – JUST SAYIN'**
- **GOOGLE “LIST APPS” FOR MANY CHOICES**
- **HARD COPY -USE WORD OR EXCEL**
- **USE EXCEL OR GOOGLE SHEETS AND LOAD IT TO GOOGLE MY MAPS**  
**[HTTPS://WWW.GOOGLE.COM/MAPS/D/](https://www.google.com/maps/d/)**

# PLANNING THE SHOT

**DON'T JUST PLAN THE SUBJECT BUT ALSO HOW YOU'LL TAKE THE SHOT**

- **REVIEW PHOTOS FROM OTHERS TO GET IDEAS**
- **USE GOOGLE MAPS STREETVIEW TO GET IDEAS, SIGHTLINES, OBSTRUCTIONS**
- **LOOK UP HOURS OF OPERATION**
- **FIGURE OUT WHERE THE LIGHT WILL BE COMING FROM**
- **CHECK THE FORECASTS FOR WEATHER AND CLOUDS**
- **VISUALIZE YOUR SHOT AND DETERMINE THE EQUIPMENT YOU'LL NEED**



# PLANNING TO MAKE IT UNIQUE

**NOBODY WANTS THE SAME SHOT OF AN ICONIC SCENE AS EVERYONE ELSE – WHAT'S THE POINT?**

- **THINK – EIFFEL TOWER. YOU CAN'T COME UP WITH A COMPOSITION THAT SOMEONE OR MANY HAVEN'T USED BEFORE. BUT YOU CAN BE UNIQUE IN:**
  - **PROCESSING – B&W, SPLIT TONING, HIGH/LOW KEY, ETC.**
  - **DETAIL SHOTS – FOCUS ON THE SMALL DETAILS OF YOUR TARGET**
  - **TECHNIQUE – DISTORTION, ICM, MULTIPLE EXPOSURE, ETC.**

# PLANNING TO MAKE IT UNIQUE – FIREFALL

- NOT AS ICONIC AS THE EIFFEL TOWER BUT VERY POPULAR
- A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL TAKE THE EXACT SAME SHOT
- OTHER POV'S LIMITED BUT DETAIL SHOTS OR UNIQUE PROCESSING ARE POSSIBILITIES
- **BUT** IF YOU DO THE RESEARCH YOU CAN FIND OTHER COMPOSITIONS

# PLANNING TOOLS

- PHOTOGRAPHER'S EPHEMERIS [HTTPS://WWW.PHOTOEPHEMERIS.COM/](https://www.photoephemeris.com/) (FREE/\$) AND APP (\$) SEE THE SUN AND MOON POSITIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY
  - PHOTOGRAPHER'S TRANSIT APP (\$) VISUALIZE COMPOSITIONS AND LENS/CAMERA SELECTION.
  - PHOTOGRAPHER'S EPHEMERIS 3D APP (\$) VISUALIZE THE SUN, MOON AND NIGHT SKY AGAINST THE TERRAIN WITH SIMULATED LIGHTING AND SHADOWS.
- PHOTOPILLS [HTTPS://WWW.PHOTOPILLS.COM/](https://www.photopills.com/) APP (\$) PLAN ASTRONOMICAL DATA. AUGMENTED REALITY - VISUALIZE SUN, MOON AND MILKY WAY POSITION AND PATH
- GETOUTCAST [HTTPS://WWW.GETOUTCAST.COM/](https://www.getoutcast.com/) (FREE) FORECAST OF VARIETY OF FACTORS SUCH AS SKY CONDITIONS, FOG, THUNDERSTORMS, ETC.
- CLEAR OUTSIDE [HTTPS://CLEAROUTSIDE.COM/](https://clearoutside.com/) WEB & APP (FREE) HOURLY DETAILED FORECAST OF SKY CONDITIONS (CLOUD COVER, WIND, RAIN, ETC.)
- DARK SKY MAP [HTTPS://WWW.DARKSKYMAP.COM/](https://www.darkskymap.com/) WEB (FREE) LIGHT POLLUTION MAP TO HELP YOU FIND GOOD SPOTS FOR ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY
- AND MANY, MANY MORE.
- OVERLAP IN FEATURES BETWEEN MANY OF THESE APPS

# ABSOLUTES AND ESTIMATES

- SOME OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THESE APPS ARE “ABSOLUTE” MEANING YOU CAN COUNT ON THEM HAPPENING AS INDICATED (WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF THE TERM). EXAMPLES: TIME OF SUNRISE; AZIMUTH TO THE POINT OF SUNRISE FROM GIVEN POINT.
- SOME OF THE INFORMATION IN THE APPS ARE “ESTIMATES OR PREDICTIONS”. THESE ARE WEATHER FORECASTS TYPE OF THINGS SUCH AS CLOUD COVER, RAIN ETC. THEY MAY OR MAY NOT HAPPEN AS FORECAST

# SOME DEFINITIONS

## **SUNRISE**

SUNRISE IS DEFINED AS THE INSTANT IN THE MORNING UNDER IDEAL METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS, WITH STANDARD REFRACTION OF THE SUN'S RAYS, WHEN THE UPPER EDGE OF THE SUN'S DISK IS COINCIDENT WITH AN IDEAL HORIZON.

## **IDEAL HORIZON**

AN IDEAL HORIZON EXISTS WHEN THE SURFACE FORMING THE HORIZON IS AT A RIGHT ANGLE TO THE VERTICAL LINE PASSING THROUGH THE OBSERVER'S POSITION ON THE EARTH. IF THE TERRAIN SURROUNDING THE OBSERVER WAS FLAT AND ALL AT THE SAME HEIGHT ABOVE SEA LEVEL, THE HORIZON SEEN BY THE OBSERVER STANDING ON THE EARTH WOULD APPROXIMATE THE IDEAL HORIZON.

DEFINITION SOURCE: GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA [HTTPS://WWW.GA.GOV.AU/HOME](https://www.ga.gov.au/home)

Lake  
Woodlands  
Bridge –  
Joan Tilton  
8/6/2020  
6:32AM



# PHOTOGRAPHER'S EPHEMERIS QUICK DEMO



1:11 PM Sat Sep 12

Advanced

Visual Search

BODY

Body

Sun

Moon

SEARCH PARAMETERS

Find

Rise/Set

Az/Alt

Target altitude °

-0.0

Target azimuth °

105.8

Tolerance ±°

0.50

Reset To Match Geodetics Results

Parameters differ from geodetics results.

DATE

Start date

Thu 06 Aug, 2020 -0500

Dur...

6m

1y

2y

5y

SEARCH

Perform Search

6 results

Thu 29 Oct, 2020 | 7:35 AM  
Az: **105.54°** Alt: **-0.03°**

\*

Fri 30 Oct, 2020 | 7:36 AM  
Az: **105.92°** Alt: **-0.02°**

Sat 31 Oct, 2020 | 7:37 AM  
Az: **106.30°** Alt: **-0.02°**

Wed 10 Feb, 2021 | 7:07 AM  
Az: **106.08°** Alt: **-0.03°**

\*

Thu 11 Feb, 2021 | 7:06 AM  
Az: **105.70°** Alt: **-0.02°**

Fri 12 Feb, 2021 | 7:05 AM  
Az: **105.31°** Alt: **-0.02°**

Map

AR

Locations

Horizon

Visual search

Shadows

Skyfire™

More

H

# NEXT MEETING AND HOMEWORK

## **NEXT MEETING**

- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup> 2-4PM (OUR LAST MEETING OF 2020)
- PAT WAYNE WILL PRESENT ON “FOCAL POINT ISSUES”

## **HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT**

- DO SOME RESEARCH AND PLAN YOUR SHOTS. BRING IN UP TO 4 IMAGES AND DISCUSS YOUR PLANNING PROCESS

## **SPECIAL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT FOR JOAN TILTON**

- GO OUT AND RE-SHOOT YOUR BRIDGE PHOTO AT SUNRISE ON OCT. 28<sup>TH</sup>/29<sup>TH</sup>/30<sup>TH</sup> AND EMAIL IN YOUR RESULTS SINCE WE WON'T MEET AGAIN TILL 2021 AT THAT POINT