THE AUSTIN SHUTTERBUG

Austin Shutterbug Club Newsletter   **Austin, TX October 2023**

The Big Bang

If you are curious, have an open mind, and can think out of the box, then you can rationalize that The Big Bang, Creation, and Evolution, are all simultaneously possible for the earth's early beginnings.

Think about this: As we look at smaller objects with more and more magnification, we see how many structures when viewed at the limits of magnification are arranged with order and precisions. That includes cells and their nuclei, molecules and their atomic particles and much more.

And, when we look into space, the same thing happens. We see planets and their moons, galaxies, and nebulae.

That means there is order to the universe (including Earth and Man).

Just think…this was not entirely random. Even though it required millennia to get to where we are today, it happened with order. There must be Something to direct the beginnings of all this.

If you wish to see into deep space, don't miss Mike Stys' presentation at the club meeting on October 5. He will go into more detail about his astro-photography and how it is accomplished.
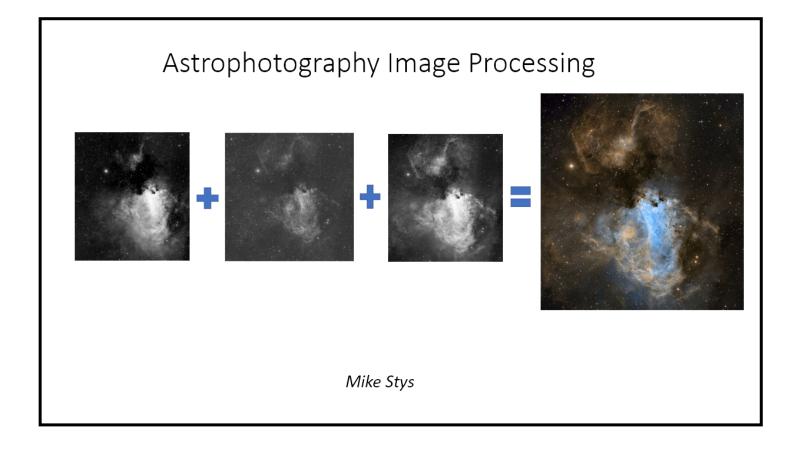
Photo and article by Brian Loflin

Astrophotography Image Processing

In this presentation, "Astrophotography Image Processing", I will provide a more in-depth look at how I process the images (subframes and metadata) that I capture over several night-time hours with the telescope and camera. I'll describe the stacking program I use and then explain how "stretching" takes this program's very dark output and provides a useable image. I'll show how to remove the stars so that the nebula image can be processed using operations similar to what we use with Photoshop, then will add the stars back in.

This whole process is usually repeated 3 times separately using Hydrogen, Oxygen or Sulfur filters, so I'll then demonstrate how to recombine these 3 component images to obtain the final version that gets posted.

Mike Stys –

"Man must rise above the Earth—to the top of the atmosphere and beyond—for only thus will he fully understand the world in which he lives."

- Socrates, Philosopher

Computers for Photography

Computers Are a Mystery!

I for one would just like to sit back and let it work for me without worry, care, or interruption. I have found that it just doesn't work that way. If we are to become proficient users, we need to become savvy with our computer equipment. Just like cameras, lenses, F-stops, shutter speed, and aperture, we must know how one component affects another.

One club member recently asked me why computers needed so much horsepower to process image files efficiently. He wanted to know if it was possible to upgrade his laptop. Here is a brief answer:

Processing images in computer software today requires more horsepower than ever. The software installation itself is several hundred MB.

Image files from today's cameras files can often exceed 50 MB. So, memory capacity is required at an exponential rate. It is not long before we acquire tens, if not thousands, of images. That also requires a lot of storage. And to create a redundant backup- twice that.

So, the solution is a robust computer designed and built with the components for our work.
Gone are the days where off-the-shelf laptops can do the job of modern photo editing with Lightroom, Photoshop, and Camera Raw.

Ideally there must be two or more hard drives installed. One drive for the Operating System and the Software ONLY. And another (or more) for files and documents. These should be 2 TB or larger and preferably solid state drives.

Then we need a hefty processor that will manage the work efficiently. INTEL or AMD processors with six, eight or more cores, running at 4.0 GHz or more, are now minimum.

All the data is temporarily held in and operated from RAM (Random Access Memory). 64MB of RAM is minimal, twice that optimal. It also takes a robust Mother Board and Video Graphics Card (with its own memory) to manage all that.

Now, all that stuff creates heat, the enemy of electronics. The computer case requires a lot of empty space in it through which to move air in large volumes. Therefore, the system needs lots of large fans.

Bottom line: YOU CAN'T GET ALL THIS IN A LAPTOP.

Therefore, you need to find one off the shelf that is built for gaming or design/build one customized for your needs. You may spend $2,000.
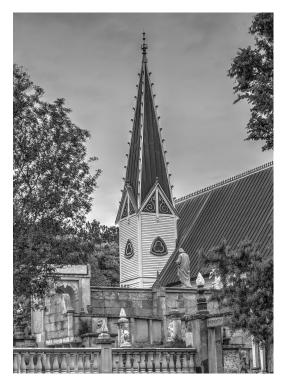
See this example from B&H:

https://www.bhphotovideo.com/c/product/1734901-REG/
lenovo_30e000meus_thinkstation_p620_ryzen_threadripper.html

Article by Brian Loflin –

September Evaluation and Critique Entries

Assignment Category

Barbara Hunley
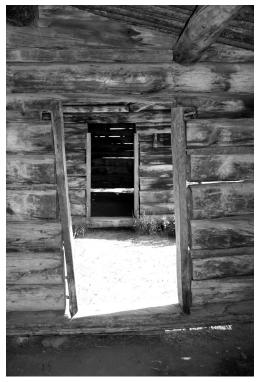

Brian Loflin

Barbara Hunley

John Davis

John Davis

Assignment Category

Brian Loflin

Pete Holland

Pete Holland

Cathey Roberts

Cathey Roberts

Assignment Category

Mike Stys

Paul Munch

Therese Beck

Mike Stys

Paul Munch

General Category

Dennis Ellis

Dennis Ellis

Jill McLain

Jill McLain

Therese Beck

Changes to Shutterbug Club Evaluations

Effective July 2023, visible changes have been made.

The objective for evaluations has always been to provide a forum for education about producing good photographic images. For a very long time the process was presented within the meetings. At one time because of a large number of images presented and the time limitations at the Rec Center, the process was moved off site. This was deemed a mistake in judgment.
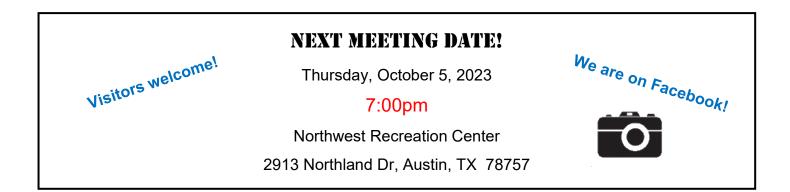
Therefore, the entire process will again happen during the actual club meeting every other month.

The images will be collected via email to bkloflin@austin.rr.com. They will be distributed to a panel of three or four evaluators who will review the images prior to the meeting. At the meeting the images will be projected, and comments made by the panel with additional comments and/or questions from the audience. Since this may be a bit lengthy, no other activities are planned for evaluation nights.

Additionally, the requirement for assignment images to be made within the current year **HAS BEEN ELIMINATED**.

It is felt this change will again bring the educational value of the process back to the image maker and to the club as a whole.

Visitors welcome!

NEXT MEETING DATE!

Thursday, October 5, 2023

7:00pm

Northwest Recreation Center

2913 Northland Dr, Austin, TX 78757

We are on Facebook!

Austin Shutterbug Club
Northwest Recreation Center

Meeting Minutes for September 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Brian Loflin at 7:08 pm. One guest (now a new member) was introduced. There was a question regarding the end of year banquet. Brian said that we plan to have one, but no end of year awards this year.

The photo critiques followed. Brian discussed a number of techniques involved in creating good photos, including white and dark balance, contrast and its effect on highlights, composition, techniques for straightening buildings that appear slanted due to distortion, and cropping for best effect.

He reminded the group that there will be a workshop on Saturday, Sept. 16 at the Yarborough public library, 2200 Hancock Drive from 10 am until noon. The workshop will cover post processing techniques. Attendees should feel free to bring a laptop with images to practice on, or just come and listen and take notes. The San Antonio Zoo trip has not yet been rescheduled. We are waiting for better weather.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Volunteers needed for the following categories:

- **Newsletter editor** - Produce a monthly newsletter.

- **Programs, field trips, and workshops**. Someone to help coordinate these events.

If you feel lead to volunteer in one of these capacities, please email Barbara Hunley at austinshutterbug@gmail.com

You cannot possibly hit the shutter without leaving a piece of you in the image.

- Joe Buissink -

Austin Shutterbug Club Activities

NOTE: Monthly meetings are held at Austin's **Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Dr., Austin, TX 78757. (NWRC)**

OCTOBER

Meeting: Thursday, October 5, 2023,
Program: TBD
Workshop: **Bring your Grandkids for "Family Photos Workshop**" Saturday, October 7, 9:00AM- 12:00 PM, Northwest District Park, 7000 Ardath St.

NOVEMBER

Meeting: Thursday, November 2, 2023,
Evaluation: **"Action Shots of People"**
Special Presentation: Eclipse Photos from Members.

DECEMBER

Meeting: Thursday, December 7, 2023,
Holiday Dinner Party TBD

Assignment Categories for 2023

November 2

Action Shots of People –

An image of one or more people <u>in action</u>. The image may or may not demonstrate motion blur. May be color or monochrome.

January 4, 2024

*Image enhanced by <u>significant</u> Post-Processing** –

The image must be based on an actual photograph which has been artistically altered through the use of computer post-processing. These methods may include HDR, Compositing, Sky replacement, Color replacement, Photo-stitching, Photo-stacking, and innumerable other methods. Original and final Processed photos should be submitted for review and discussion of techniques. May be color or monochrome.