

# The New f-STOP

Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Arkansas Outdoor  
Photographers Club

FEBRUARY  
2021



## AOPC Meetings:

**DUE TO THE COVID-19  
VIRUS, AOPC IN-PERSON  
MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY  
SUSPENDED FOR NOW.**

**But .....**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY  
18th, 6:30 P.M.**

**We will have a virtual Zoom  
AOPC meeting, hosted by  
longtime AOPC member and  
past-president Jason Crader  
and featuring another past-  
president, Bobby Burton, as  
our speaker. This will be for  
current AOPC members only.**

**Further details can be  
viewed at the end of this  
newsletter**

## The President's Message

by

**Ron Russ**

Just wanted to welcome everyone to the Arkansas Outdoor Photographers Club. If you notice there is no apostrophe in our name, since the club belongs to all of us. Not just one person. I consider myself to be a steward, keeping things together and moving during this difficult time. We've been having online monthly meetings and will continue to do so, as long as people want to meet. For those new to the club and those that might be interested; we have photographers of all different interests and levels of experience. The club doesn't have internal contests, like some clubs do, and we try to be non-judgmental. A long time ago we found that people don't want their photos to be criticized. In a way, in this day and age, this is quite refreshing, since criticism is available in abundant quantities. We hope you take a look at the newsletter and see the types of things that our photographers do. Whether you are new to photography or been a photographer for over 40 years, you'll always have a place with us. We also have a popular AOPC Facebook page so look us up. The link to the page is

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/aropc>. If you feel the club is right for you, dues are \$20 for an individual membership/\$30 family membership. Those who paid dues last year are considered paid members for this year. Anyway, best wishes in 2021. Hopefully, we'll be able to meet in person before the year is up.

## HIGH PROFILE: NEW AOPC PRESIDENT RON RUSS

By Cindy Dawson



Hail to the new Arkansas Outdoor Photographers Club president, Ron Russ! Ron is a long-time club member, being one of the first to join in 1997 when Tim Boone and others started forming the club. Both Ron and his late wife, Karen, came to Little Rock from New York state in 1996 to take university librarian jobs. Ron has now worked at Arkansas State University—Beebe for over 23 and a half years. His job keeps him fairly occupied, but he also serves his profession as the webmaster and as an executive board member for the Arkansas Library Association. He has served that organization in several other capacities in the past.

Ron has also ably served AOPC in several roles over the years. Ron was one of our newsletter editors, served as a co-librarian of the AOPC library (with his wife Karen, who sadly passed away in 2017), and also was our treasurer for a number

of years. In addition, Ron has been one of the unofficial grill masters at AOPC picnics. Most recently, Ron was the club vice president for the past two years. He said he surprised himself when he volunteered at a meeting two years ago to serve as vice president but it appeared no one else was ready to do so at the time. Ron has been wonderfully supportive in that role and then he kindly and readily volunteered to take the helm when President Cindy Dawson wanted to step back. As required by the club's constitution, an election of officers was held in January and the vote was unanimous: Ron Russ for President, Cindy Dawson for Vice President, and Nick Dawson to continue as Secretary/Treasurer for 2021.

Ron's interest in photography started early, when he was 9 or 10 years old. He became fascinated by the cameras around the house. His first camera was a Polaroid. Now he has a Canon Rebel T7i. His main lenses are from Tamron: a 16-300mm, a 60mm macro, and a 150-600mm lens, which he enjoys using for bird photography.

While Ron gravitates somewhat toward nature, birds and flowers in his photography, he has an interest in a lot of subjects. One particular inspiration in his photography hobby was the Jim and Barbara Gerlach seminar in 1997. It was there and then that he first learned about AOPC forming and where he first met Jason Crader, now another club stalwart. Aside from the pleasure he derives from taking photos in his leisure time, Ron also uses his photography in his work, taking promotional photos for the library and posting photos on an app for the college.

As for the future, Ron would like to learn more about lighting and how to use it better in his photos. Ron usually takes photos in jpeg format and prefers to get the best quality shots in the camera in the first place so he can minimize his photo processing time. For him, "the fun of photography is being there taking the shots, not sitting in front of a computer later." He also is not a fan of tripods. "When I first heard there was image stabilization, I was there." Sometime in the future, he might like to get a fisheye lens. He was struck by photos

from Sean Gao, who has been an AOPC member in the past and who occasionally showed the club some of his great photos using a fisheye lens. Ron expresses having no favorite locations for photography, saying, “the more variety the better,” but if possible, he would like to go to the Galapagos and Montreal someday.

Our new president was asked what he would like to accomplish as club president and Ron responded, “honestly, since it isn’t a normal year, first and foremost I would just like to keep the club together during this pandemic so that we can continue to have a community to discuss and enjoy photography.” With the steadfast volunteer spirit and dedication Ron has always shown to the club, there is no doubt he will be successful.

## AUSTIN PITTMAN, NEW PRESIDENT OF BEDFORD CAMERA AND VIDEO

By Cindy Dawson



Bedford Camera and Video recently announced that its president, Jeff Beauchamp, retired after 38 years with the company and that Austin Pittman, a vice president of the firm for the past 6 or 7 years, has become the new president. Bedford's has been a local institution in the photography business here in central Arkansas and a great partner to AOPC since it came to Little Rock in 2000, but the company was established decades earlier, in 1974.

Stan Bedford was quite the businessman. He started Bedford Camera and Video with one store in Springdale, Arkansas in 1974 and was its only employee for the first year of its operation. In 1979, he started a second store in Fort Smith and, later that same year, one in nearby Rogers. Jeff

Beauchamp began a long and successful career with Bedford's at the Fort Smith location and for years was the manager there before working his way up to be president. Locations in Fayetteville (1996), Little Rock (2000), North Little Rock (2003), Oklahoma City (2012), Tulsa, Oklahoma (2014) and Springfield, Missouri (2015) followed. Additional expansions are in the planning stage. Before he passed away in 2014, Stan was no stranger to photographers in central Arkansas. He and Jeff Beauchamp, although based in northwest Arkansas, would be seen at various photographic events and special sales in our area held at or sponsored by Bedford's.

Austin Pittman is known to most photographers in our community, having moved here from Fort Smith in early 2001 to be the manager of the Little Rock Bedford store. Austin also worked his way up in the company, having begun with a part-time sales job with Bedford's in Springdale while he was attending the University of Arkansas. Austin tells the story that his two big outside interests while he was in college were photography and golf, so he applied to both Bedford's and to a golf center. Stan Bedford gave Austin such an intense interview that he went home and told Shannon, his wife, that he was sure he did well at the golf job interview but was very doubtful about the one at Bedford's. Nevertheless, two days later, Stan's call came and Austin has worked long and hard to help the company and the photographic community ever since. Austin's own interest in photography began in his youth. He grew up sharing his dad's interest in photography and his dad gave Austin his first camera, a Canon AE1. Austin is originally from Colorado and has a love of the outdoors, with his current favorite pastime being fishing. Austin and Shannon have a 15-year old son and fortunately for us, they will stay in Little Rock, even after Austin's promotion to be president of the company. He is assisted by Executive Vice President Steve Elkins, Stan Bedford's nephew and Bedford employee since

1984, who is based out of northwest Arkansas. John Rose, also well-known locally, has been the long-time manager of Bedford's in Little Rock.

More than being our local friendly camera store where for several years many of us have happily shopped for new cameras or lenses, asked their knowledgeable staff for advice, or had film processed, Bedford's has played a special role in supporting and growing the Arkansas Outdoor Photographers Club. From their first year in operation here in Little Rock, Bedford's offered their help to increase our club membership by special promotions. Many of our members found out about our club through someone at Bedford's. They have provided prizes for photo contests that the club sponsored and for our holiday giveaways and have given discounts to our members on some of their events. Bedford personnel provide occasional speakers or suggestions for speakers for our monthly programs, and help with advertising and other support for club events. The club's association with Bedford's has been beneficial to both entities as all involved have a strong interest in having a thriving photographic community, one in which we can learn from each other and enjoy and utilize the fruits of our photographic endeavors. As just one example, Bedford's printed photos from several AOPC members on gallery-wrapped canvases and displayed them at the store for several months, after which we were able to take them home. Bedford's also is an employer of photographers, some of whom are or have been AOPC members.

Bedford's has also helped to grow photographic knowledge in our community. They have long provided classes on various topics and techniques, from basic camera use to processing (Photoshop and Lightroom), lighting, etc. and they have now branched into some virtual classes. Their most popular class is the one on introduction to exposure. Jeremy Smith is the instructor here at the Little Rock store and he has a wealth of knowledge about photography. Bedford's has also sponsored contests like The Big Shoot and brought well-known photographers and speakers to our area to conduct seminars and workshops. The George Lepp weekends are a good example. The Photo Expo and its trade show and wide range of nationally recognized photographers, experts and subjects that Bedford's puts on in Little Rock or Memphis has been a popular two-day annual event with photography enthusiasts each year since 2013, except that the pandemic temporarily interrupted that effort last year. We look forward to attending the next one, whenever that will be.

In the meantime, Bedford's has begun what they call "monthly meetups," which are free once-a-month trips or in-store events for photographers to gather and take photos. One upcoming meetup will be a Photowalk in the Rock on the evening of March 15 where photographers and models can join for photo shooting at the River Market and Riverfront. There is more information about the meetups on Bedford's website and the meetup app. Another new endeavor by Bedford's is their "Photography Spotlight" series, in which the noteworthy work of a different photographer is featured each month on Bedford's social media and on video displays in their store in Little Rock. AOPC club members interested in getting this recognition for their photography should contact John Rose at (501) 224-2020.

Other services from Bedford's include their full-service lab for photo restorations, processing and printing, video transfers, printing on canvas and metal or on gifts. They also have a huge selection of used gear, which they buy, sell, trade and rent. Rental cost can be applied to the cost to buy the item. Austin said that like other businesses and operations, their stores have to evolve as conditions and technology change. Camera stores used to do a ton of film processing but with the ascendancy of digital photography, that business has waned. Bedford Camera and Video stays in the forefront of photography-related businesses by delivering an updated variety of products and services. They are full service dealers for Canon, Sony, Nikon and Fuji products but they also sell drones and provide video streaming services, such as for churches and other organizations.

# Zoom Meeting for Members Only

“Winter in Yellowstone: How to Prepare”

by Bobby Burton

Thursday, February 18th, 2021

Bobby Burton, a past president of the organization, will present a Zoom program online for current members of the club. The Zoom meeting will take place online by invitation to those who have a 2020/2021 paid membership in the club. This presentation will include some of his amazing photos (of course) as well as information he and Brandi have learned from the past 3 years of their traveling through Yellowstone in winter. He will discuss clothing, camera gear, logistics, lodging options and weather.

By vote of AOPC officers, anyone paying dues for 2020 or 2021 will be considered to be a current AOPC member. This is to provide additional value to club members in recognition of the fact that the COVID-19 virus disrupted club activities for the past twelve months and that members have therefore received less value for their dues than they would receive in a normal year. Hopefully, we can get back to regular meetings later in the year.

Dues cost \$20 for an individual membership and \$30 for a family membership. If you are not sure if your membership is current for 2020/2021, please contact club treasurer Nick Dawson at [nickdaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nickdaw@sbcglobal.net). Dues can be paid either by mail to Nick Dawson, 8 Brodie Circle, Little Rock, AR 72211 or by paying online through our website [www.aopc.info](http://www.aopc.info). To receive the emailed invitation to Bobby's presentation, and you have not paid for either 2020 or 2021, please pay dues so that they are paid and received no later than February 17, 2021. Any mailed dues should be accompanied by your email address so we can issue the emailed Zoom meeting invitation. Any member who has recently changed his or her email address should advise Nick of the change.

You can watch previous Zoom AOPC meetings by clicking on these YouTube links:

<https://aopc.us10.listmanage.com/track/click?u=fa96f3dd5d6b1b74394a6eaf2&id=657bc7e0b8&e=d0494effee> (September 2020)

<https://youtu.be/G3p8x0QRrlo> (December 2020)

<https://youtu.be/3OrNkGqkTXU> (January 2021)

## MIRRORLESS MATURITY – AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CANON R5

By Nick Dawson

The Canon EOS R5 mirrorless interchangeable lens camera was announced in the summer of 2020 to much fanfare, both from Canon and the photographic media. I had enjoyed using my Canon EOS RP

mirrorless camera and was initially lured by the whisper of 45 megapixels and Canon's first in-body image stabilization (IBIS). The upgrade from 25MP to 45MP was nice but anyone that knows me and my photographic habits knows that I very rarely use a tripod. In fact you may label me as tripod-phobic. So IBIS, combined with Canon's already reliable lens image stabilization was very alluring. Up to eight, yes EIGHT, stops of image stabilization sounded too good to be true. So, a trip to Bedford Camera and Video was undertaken to buy, or more likely order, an R6 as I had decided that the younger brother of the R5, at 20 megapixels (but with the same autofocus system and IBIS) and significantly cheaper was for me. John Rose, Bedford's Little Rock store manager, told me what I already knew from many sources, that the R6 and R5 were sort after and in incredibly short supply and they had no R6's in stock ... but .... they did have an R5 ... did I want to try it? Well, yes! And that was that; the autofocus was astounding, the IBIS was astounding, the image quality was astounding. I left the store shortly thereafter with a nicely boxed R5 in hand. Two weeks later my better half, having seen what the R5 could do, said nonchalantly "I'd like one, too". I told her she would probably have to pre-order but, on arriving at Bedford's again, John magically came up with an R5 for her. Moral of the story – if there is a huge national back-order of a product you want, go and check out your local photo store!

So, here we are, three months into ownership of two R5's and we could not be more satisfied with our new cameras. My main lens is an RF 24-240mm f/4 – 6.3 IS USM. This has proved to have outstanding optical capabilities and since the RF lens mount is dedicated to Canon's mirrorless cameras (the light path is straighter than using an EF or EF-S Canon lens and has better image quality as a result) the lens is light and although not of "L" weather resistance is well built. The new cameras are able to correct for distortion, chromatic aberration and other optical problems either in-camera (shooting JPEGs) or in Canon's RAW converter (RAW files). I was worried that the lower cost 24-240 lens would not best utilize the R5's 45MP capabilities but I need not have worried. Initially thinking that I did not need the extra megapixels over my 26MP Eos RP camera, I have found that being able to crop substantially and still have a high quality, low-noise image is game changing. In essence, I have an APS-C camera built into the R5 with lower noise. Fantastic! The IBIS is also very, very useful as I have been able to keep my ISO down (at least on static images) and I am getting almost all images made at 240mm focal length and 1/4 second of useable quality as are about half of those made at 1/2 second. Without image stabilization, I would need to use 1/250<sup>th</sup> second. This is a 6 to 7 stop IS difference.

The other very useful feature is one Cindy has discovered. She takes photos at the Little Rock Animal Village (the city owned animal shelter) to showcase their adoptable dogs and cats on their website. Initially she was using her longtime favorite lens, a Tamron 28-300mm f4-6.3 VR PZD lens coupled with an EF to RF lens converter but found that not only did the Canon RF 24-240 lens focus much faster and weigh less (as it needs no converter) but that the image quality was superior. ALSO, she discovered that the R5 (and R6) have an autofocus mode called "Animal Eye" that can find the dogs' eyes and focus automatically on them even when they are moving. I was aware that Sony had implemented this autofocus mode in some of their upper range mirrorless camera but it is a first for Canon. In addition, since she needs a higher shutter speed to stop the dogs' movements, she uses a higher ISO and has found a significant reduction in noise from her previous camera and, maybe just as important, a wider dynamic range that enables better exposures in challenging lighting conditions.

So to sum up, we are quite enamored with our R5 cameras and would recommend them highly. Neither of us shoots video so the capabilities of these cameras in that area is not personally known. If you don't need the higher megapixel count, the 20MP R6 has most of the R5's features and costs less. The R5 and R6 can use all Canon EF and EF-S lenses with a converter (and a reduction to 19MP resolution in the case of the EF-S lenses). The only third party lens manufacturer that makes lenses in an RF mount right now is Samyang. I have purchased a 14mm ultrawide from them that has autofocus and is of very high optical quality. I am sure Sigma, Tamron and Tokina will be selling RF mount lenses before long. I read recently that Sony has just introduced their flagship Alpha 1 camera with 50MP and a \$2500 higher price tag. That should make an interesting comparison in the near future.

# **PHOTO SHOWCASE**

**Helen Jones**









# UPCOMING PHOTO COMPETITIONS

## ASC –

This is a reminder to your Arkansas Outdoor Photographers Club's community that The Arts & Science Center for Southeast Arkansas (ASC) is now accepting entries to the 2021 Irene Rosenzweig Biennial Juried Exhibition. ASC is also happy to announce that our Juror is Deidre Argyle, Assistant Professor of Sculpture at Missouri State University. Her work has been exhibited internationally in Los Angeles, Tucson, Canada, Venice, China, and more. Learn more about Argyle at [socksstudio.com](https://socksstudio.com). This prestigious show is an opportunity for established and up-and-coming artists 18 or older to gain recognition and earn prizes, and for ASC to grow its Permanent Collection. Call for entries are open to those in Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. The accepted art forms are: Painting, drawing, original print, fiber art, ceramics, sculpture, and photography.

The prizes are:

- \$1,000 — Best in Show
- \$500 — First Place
- \$200 — Second Place
- Three \$100 Merit prizes
- \$2,000 available in Purchase Awards

**The submission deadline is 11:59 p.m. CDT Sunday, June 6.**

For complete guidelines and to enter, visit [asc701.org/rosenzweig](https://asc701.org/rosenzweig). The fee is \$20 per entry (limited to 5). The exhibition runs from July 22–October 16, 2021, with awards announced at 5:30 p.m. CDT Thursday, July 22, at ASC and via social media. A virtual exhibition will also be available to viewers anywhere.

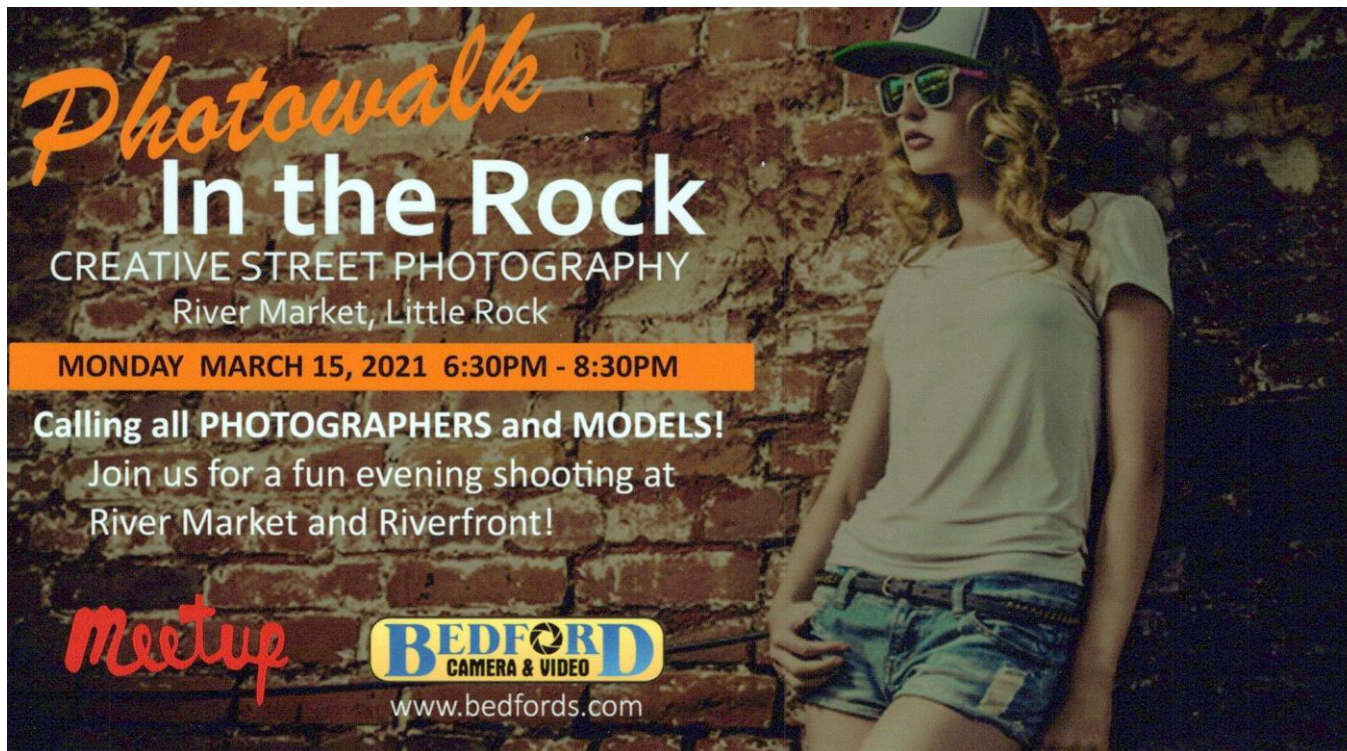
## AUDUBON SOCIETY –

**The 2021 Audubon Photography Awards are officially open for submissions!**

And this year we're excited to announce two new prizes: a Video Prize and Female Bird Prize. Like in years past, winning photos will be published in future issues of *Audubon* magazine, our Youth winner will be awarded a special trip to take their bird photography to the next level, and our Grand Prize winner will take home a cash prize of \$5,000!

After a year that tested our resolve in ways we never could have imagined, many found respite and inspiration in birds and nature. We look forward to seeing the beauty and talent displayed in the photos submitted and can't wait to share the winners with you later this year.

Visit <https://www.audubon.org/photoawards> for more information



# Photowalk In the Rock

CREATIVE STREET PHOTOGRAPHY  
River Market, Little Rock

**MONDAY MARCH 15, 2021 6:30PM - 8:30PM**

**Calling all PHOTOGRAPHERS and MODELS!**  
Join us for a fun evening shooting at  
River Market and Riverfront!

**Meetup**

**BEDFORD**  
CAMERA & VIDEO  
[www.bedfords.com](http://www.bedfords.com)

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## 2021 AOPC OFFICERS

- President — Ron Russ, [aopcpres@gmail.com](mailto:aopcpres@gmail.com), (501) 416-3206
- Vice-President – Cindy Dawson
- Secretary/Treasurer – Nick Dawson (501)221-9118 [nickdaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nickdaw@sbcglobal.net)
- Webmaster - Bobby Burton

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