

The New f-STOP

Quarterly Newsletter of the
Arkansas Outdoor
Photographers Club

MARCH 2022



NEXT AOPC MEETING

**THURSDAY, APRIL
21st, 2022, 6:30 P.M.**

**Our meeting place for
April will be at:**

**Calvary Baptist Church
5700 Cantrell Road
Little Rock, AR 72207**

The President's Message

By

Alex Kent

First and foremost, I repeat my gratitude for the recent past officers Ron, Cindy, and Nick for their leadership and dedication in keeping the club together during these challenging times. We all appreciate you three and everyone else who helped keep this club up and running.

If you know me well, then you know photography is a thread that weaves throughout numerous aspects of my life, but admittedly I have not been a consistently active member of the AOPC. However, I have had the opportunity to get to know many of the members in and outside of the club. When I was approached and asked to lead, thinking about the relationships, kindness, and inspiration I've gained from various members over the years is what sparked the motivation in me to accept this role. I will do my best to serve the club well.

The AOPC was founded in 1996 to create a community of like-minded individuals and a place to share their knowledge and experiences related to outdoor photography. We all know that community builds bonds that strengthen our overall wellness, so having a community such as the AOPC

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has immense value. Hearing that many in the group are eager to participate and once again be more active is beyond encouraging, so I hope you join us in our April meeting to discuss and plan for the club's future.

Thank you to all the past members and welcome to any that are considering joining us!

HIGH PROFILE: OUR NEW AOPC BOARD MEMBERS

By
Cindy Dawson



Alex Kent – President



Bobby Burton – Vice-President



Sandra Jackson – Secretary/Treasurer

At the first club meeting this year, held March 18, 2022 at Bedford's Camera and Video, an election of officers was held. Alex Kent was elected President, Bobby Burton was elected Vice President, and Sandra Jackson was elected to serve as Secretary-Treasurer. The outgoing officers, President Ron Russ, Vice President Cindy Dawson, and Secretary-Treasurer Nick Dawson want to express their great appreciation to Alex, Bobby and Sandra for their willingness to serve the club in these capacities at this time. Bobby and Sandra have both been officers for AOPC in the past, and Alex has been a favorite program presenter for the club. The baton has been passed to an excellent slate of new officers, who also happen to be quite good photographers, as you can see from photos included in this issue and, as many of you know, by their reputations.

1.You are no stranger to the members of the Arkansas Outdoor Photographers Club. Please recap your past involvement with the club and say how you became interested in it and its activities. What aspect of the club have you enjoyed or benefited from the most?

Sandra: I joined AOPC around 2012 after I discovered it online while looking for other people interested in outdoor photography. I have benefited from membership in AOPC in several ways: The great pleasure of being out in nature with my camera and my friends; the nice selection of interesting books in our library; learning so much from both the presentations at our meetings and from members willing to share their expertise; and last but not least, the fun of sharing photographs.

Bobby: I honestly cannot remember how I was first introduced to AOPC but the fellowship was the main thing that stuck out the most. During my days as President, keeping that core aspect together was always my focus. Today I have many great friendships that have formed over the years.

Alex: The AOPC has been a community for me to learn from as well as share my love for photography. I've been on both sides of the club. As an attendee, I've watched some amazing presentations and joined field trips. As a presenter, I've had the honor share my passions and knowledge on multiple occasions. Meeting others with a similar interest or passion for photography is my greatest joy from the club

2.Please share a bit about yourself---such as where you originated from, employment, and special interests outside of photography, etc.

Sandra: I was born and raised in the countryside of Northwest Arkansas and I've always loved being outside, enjoying the sights and sounds of nature. I worked in retail management in Fayetteville before meeting the love of my life. In 1982 we moved to New Mexico. While there, I attended New Mexico State in Las Cruces then returned to Arkansas to attend law school. I practiced law in Arkansas until 1989 when we moved to Las Vegas. I returned to Arkansas in 2006 and worked as an investigator/auditor for the State (regulating collection agencies). I retired from that position but then served on the board for several years. Right now, I'm pursuing degrees in earth sciences (geology) and English (writing) because I'd like to be able to write about the environment and global warming with the goal of helping people know more about these critical matters.

Bobby: I was born in Memphis, TN. In 2002, I moved to Little Rock to take a new job at the Daily Record, a local newspaper, that I still work at today. Outside of photography, bowling is my favorite thing to do.

Alex: Born in Mountain Home AR, spent most of my childhood in Hot Springs, college in Conway, and lived in various cities in central Arkansas ever since. Even though I've done a fair amount of travel to 28 different states and 11 countries outside the US, I'm a truly a deep rooted Arkansan. So much so that I've recently discovered through exploring my ancestry that the majority of my 2nd and 3rd great grandparents from both sides coincidentally all came into Arkansas in the mid-1800s!

Many of you all know that I worked for Bedford Camera for years. From 2005 through 2016 to be exact. While I give them much credit and appreciation for "raising" me in the photo industry, in 2017 I made the leap to run my own commercial photography and education business.

I also enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, canoe/kayak/raft, snow skiing, disc golf, foraging, hunting/fishing, a bit of gardening, and more. Additionally, music, art, history, numismatics, and cooking are all interests of mine.

3. When and why did you first become interested in photography?

Sandra: I've always liked to "take pictures" but didn't have a good camera or any instruction. My husband gave me a wonderful Minolta and I was hooked but then ... well, film went away and I was forced to go digital. I loved it once I realized I could take many photos in search of just one good one.

Bobby: 2011. I started seeing night photography photos online and it was so inspiring due to my love for the night sky.

Alex: My earliest memory of becoming interested in photography was my grandpa handing me the camera while visiting Branson, at family reunions, and during holidays as a child in the late 80s. Besides taking snapshots of people and scenes, I would flip through my dad's Nat Geo collection which gave me early wanderlust, appreciation for photographs, and a glimpse of how others lived across the globe. No one around me were serious photographers growing up, so my path into learning the technical craft didn't start until my late teen years.

4. How would you describe yourself, in terms of being a photographer?

Sandra: Sadly, amateur and lazy. I went to all the trouble to learn how to use a camera and how to take good pictures and edit them but now I mostly have the camera set on "automatic"!

Bobby: A sponge. Always learning!

Alex: I shoot for fun, I shoot for hire, I shoot for therapy, I shoot to teach, I shoot to document the world around me, I shoot to create something beautiful, and sometime I simply shoot to practice. Photography intertwines into many aspects of my life. Fortunately over the years, I've learned to balance knowing when to set the camera down and just soak up the view.

5. What training or education in photography have you had? What learning have you found most helpful to making you a better photographer?

Sandra: After having to give up my film camera, I went through a few small digital cameras then bought my first Canon. I didn't know how to use either the camera or processing software very well – and I wasn't yet familiar with Bedford - so I registered for classes at UALR and stayed there long enough to earn a degree that encompasses still photography and film making (video). It was at this time I learned of the AOPC and became a member and while I appreciate my classroom education, I learned a lot from being out with more experienced photographers.

Bobby: I have only taken one class, which was an Intro to DSLR at Bedford's Camera Store. Aside from that, taking a few photography tours with the focus on teaching has also helped my development.

Alex: 2001, I took my first b/w film photography class at the AR Arts Center in Little Rock and the rest was history. I quickly switched majors to Fine Art and earned a BFA from UCA in 2005. Since then I have attended hundreds of presentations and workshops from amateur to world class photographers. Besides hands-on shooting (#1), teaching has taught me the most about becoming a better photographer.

6. What areas of photography especially interest you? Why?

Sandra: I love the outdoors – the scenery and working with natural light, perspective and framing. I love the little animals who are not always the most cooperative models.

Bobby: Nature photography is really my only interest. I enjoy being in the moments and it does not bother me if I do not come away with a photo. It's all about the experience first and foremost.

Alex: Nature is my first true love and passion. The therapeutic side of spending time in nature and the act of being present while taking photos is the "why". Otherwise working with clients to create content that is beneficial to their business is rewarding. Abstract nature and street photography are also fun and challenging ways to push my creativity.

7. What aspect of photography or the photographic process have you concentrated on lately?

Sandra: I have really slacked off. Stuck at home these last couple of years, my photographs are mostly of the wildlife that have kept me company, the deer, birds, squirrels and raccoons, flowers and vegetables from my gardens, and the beautiful sunrises and sunsets that remind me that things are still ticking along in the big picture.

Bobby: Learning how to capture mood better in camera to help create a better photo in post.

Alex: See my answer above.

8. What equipment do you find most useful in your photographic endeavors? Have you made any recent purchases or acquisitions that have elevated your photography?

Sandra: A few years ago I dropped my Canon and needed to replace it and my good lens so I decided to try Minolta. For some reason, we just didn't bond so I got a new Canon. I've largely left it on the shelf so I won't drop it and am getting by with the messed up one. After a camera and lens I feel comfortable with, I find the tripod the most useful piece of equipment because it eliminates hand shake.

Bobby: My tripod is probably the most important item. It's difficult to find a good one with so many options today. The last purchase I made that has made life easier was a small LCD 4K LCD screen that acts as a small TV when shooting. No more using the viewfinder or the much smaller LCD screen on the camera.

Alex: Some may perceive me as a gear head, but in reality I just want a quality camera with a sharp lens in hand. I've owned Canon, Nikon, Fuji and Sony systems over the years, and they all make great gear. Each has their pros and cons. My most recent purchases are the Sony 35mm 1.4 and Sony 12-24 F2.8. Both wonderfully sharp and useful lenses.

9. Where around this central Arkansas area do you especially like to go to take photos?

Sandra: No specific place, just outside generally, in the woods, by the river or little ponds, and downtown - there are some nice architectural aspects there and it's good for interesting faces as well. Also, the zoo is full of animal potential as the Casters demonstrate!

Bobby: Backroads during foggy weather. Never know what you might stumble across.

Alex: A quick few off the top would be Emerald Park, downtown LR and Argenta, Pinnacle Mountain St Park, and just simply walking around my neighborhood.

10. What photographers, local and otherwise, have inspired your photographic efforts?

Sandra: There are about a dozen photographers in the club who have inspired me – so many lovely shots, each with its own uniqueness and beauty that have made me want to imitate their subject matter, their locations, their lighting techniques, their styles.

Bobby: David Gillson was one of my first inspirations locally. His level of quality was what stood out the most. Outside of that David Kingham and David Thompson are two photographers that have always inspired me to continue learning. I'm not sure what it is about the name David.

Alex: Ha! Soooo many! Really far too many to list. Early on, Nat Geo photographers like Steve McCurry and Frans Lanting were part of what drew me to photography. Later Galen Rowel and of course Ansel Adams were sources of inspiration. Von Wong is one my most admired contemporary photographers for his commitment to social awareness. I intend to meet him in person one day. Some of my greatest honors in life were having the opportunity to share a meal with world renowned photographers like Sam Abell, George Lepp, Elia Locardi, Lindsey Adler, Matt Kloskowski and others. At the same time, I've gained knowledge, been inspired by, and had a great community of many local/regional photographers, photo mentors, and club members such as Alexandra Dugan, Anna Riggs, Bobby Burton, Jason Crader, Casey Crocker, Corky Egendorfer, Nick and Cindy Dawson, Denny Grandle, Dero, Dominic Rossetti, Donna Pinckley, Jason Burt, Jeff Rose, Jeremy Smith, Jeanne Hadley, Kim Godfrey, Larry Millican, Linda Henderson, Matthew Dyson, Mark Wagner, Nancy Nolan, Pam Stukenborg, Tim Donar, TJ Boarman, Robert Trawick, Roger and Kay Taylor, Sara Reeves, Sharon Prislipsky, Wesley Hitt, Lori Sparkman and many many MANY others. Geez, I'm surely missing many important names on here. Big thanks to all those mentioned and many more that are unlisted.

11. Over the last more than 20 years, AOPC has brought together hundreds of photographers into a community and provided opportunities for them to learn from each other and others outside the club. As an incoming officer of the club, what would you like to see AOPC do in the next year or so and what do you hope to accomplish?

Sandra: I feel that what we had was working pretty well back before covid came along and sent us all home so I'd like that to continue generally. Field trips are amazing times and I'd like to see more, perhaps, but members need to be reminded to be considerate to the hosts of such trips and show up or advise if unable to attend. If club equipment needs to be updated, we should look into doing that. I would like to see members more involved and not be afraid to speak up just because they are beginners – perhaps the more experienced could approach them after meetings to inquire about their interests and offer a few words of encouragement and guidance.

Bobby: A lot has changed over the years. I'd like to see the club be open for small changes that might help usher in a younger crowd and make the club more sustainable for future officers. "This is what we've always done" can be great for a long while, but at some point, it's important to try new things. I feel AOPC is primed to pivot.

Alex: I would like to see the AOPC become an active, community driven club as it has been in the past. 2020 to now has presented its obvious challenges, so the fact the current officers have pushed forward and kept the club together without being able to meet in-person is commendable and greatly appreciated. By serving as president my goals will be to reintroduce in-person meetings with speakers and field trips, create a more web based community for people to share their photos and gain inspiration, and brainstorm ways for a greater community outreach to give back to those around us.

Being President of the AOPC will be an honor and I extend deep gratitude for the consideration to serve.

AOPC MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

By vote of AOPC officers, anyone paying dues for 2020 or 2021 will be considered to be a current AOPC member for 2022. 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 two years and that members have therefore received less value for their dues than they would receive in normal years.

Dues cost \$20 for an individual membership and \$30 for a family membership. If you are not sure if your membership is current for 2020/2021/2022, please contact club treasurer Sandra Jackson at sandrajackson1@me.com.

Dues can be paid either by mail to:

Sandra Jackson, 175 Ridgeview Trail, Maumelle, AR 72113

or by paying online through our website www.aopc.info. Any mailed dues should be accompanied by your current email address.

PHOTO SHOWCASE

ALEX KENT



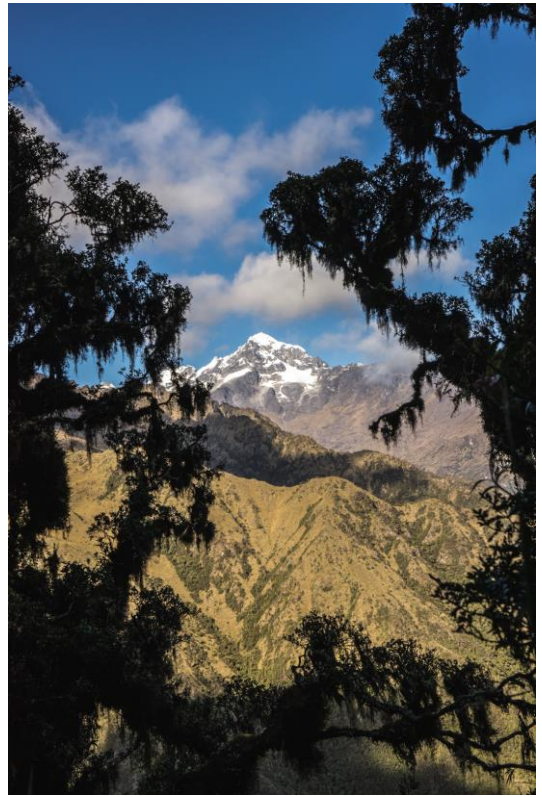
Grand Canyon



Balloon Fiesta



Grand Canyon, 2016



Peru

BOBBY BURTON



Moose



Milky Way (Toadstools)



Firehole Canyon Falls

SANDRA JACKSON



Birds



Racoons



Bison

PHOTO TIP OF THE MONTH

Wildlife photographer Bill Maynard's short article recently published in www.topazlabs.com contains, among others, a glorious photo of a snowy owl in flight, facing directly at the photographer, tack sharp as to its eyes, but with its flapping wings looking like two series of multiple, beautifully curved lines. His tip concerning the photo is reprinted below:

"Speaking of wildlife photography settings, to freeze action with birds in flight make your go-to shutter speed 1/3200th. Even faster for small songbirds and hummingbirds.

When the light is not in your favor you can pack it up and head home or try something outside of the box. I decided to drop my shutter speed to 1/80th to see what an intentional wing blur would look like. I was pleasantly surprised by the resulting image.

Next time you're out and the light begins to fade, try lowering your shutter speed into the 1/60th & 1/80th range to see what you get, the result may surprise you.

You can expect that your keeper rate when shooting like this will be extremely low. All you're looking for is one image where the eyes are in focus and the wings look like they've hit warp speed. This image required sharpening of the eyes in post, noise reduction, cropping, and enlarging. I could not have successfully rendered this image without processing it in Topaz Denoise AI, Sharpen AI, and Gigapixel AI. These three products are part of my editing workflow and I highly recommend them."

Reprinted excerpt from a portion of [5 Pro Wildlife Photography Tips to Get Amazing Images](http://www.topazlabs.com/learn/5-pro-tips-for-capturing-amazing-wildlife-images), by Bill Maynard at www.topazlabs.com. This is the link to the article:

https://www.topazlabs.com/learn/5-pro-tips-for-capturing-amazing-wildlife-images?utm_source=Topaz+Updates&utm_campaign=779a0481df-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_03_10_07_32&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5e4dd8652a-779a0481df-87198569&mc_cid=779a0481df&mc_eid=8571ea40

PHOTO EXPO 2022

MidSouth's **Largest** Photographic Event



PHOTO EXPO
August 4-6, 2022
OVER 30 CLASSES / WORKSHOPS
KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS
HUGE INTERACTIVE
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SPECIAL EVENT PRICING
MODELS
ARKANSAS' LARGEST
PHOTO WALK

NIKON AMBASSADOR
UNITED STATES
Moose Peterson

**Sony Artisans
of Imagery**
Patrick Murphy-Racey

FUJIFILM X
Miles Witt Boyer

**CANON
EXPLORERS
OF LIGHT**
David Bergman

2021 AOPC OFFICERS

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