



The View Finder



Catawba Valley Camera Club

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March, 2012

March 7th 2012 Program - Night Photography - Kevin Adams

Kevin Adams started teaching nature photography seminars in the early 1990s, and soon afterward began leading photo tours to the North Carolina mountains to photograph waterfalls. He continued to enjoy teaching others how to photograph through photo tours, nature photography workshops, and

seminars. In addition to nature photography instruction and stock photography, he also works in the advertising and commercial photography market. Kevin says he's always loved nature and the outdoors. As a kid, family vacations were always to the North Carolina mountains in search of water-

falls. Other family members had talked about writing a North Carolina waterfall book. Kevin decided to write the book that his family had talked about. After that other books followed.

Kevin's current passion seems to be night photography, the topic he will be presenting to our club.



<http://www.kadamsphoto.com/>

Among my greatest satisfactions is producing nature and photography books. In 1994 I wrote the *North Carolina Waterfalls* book my family had always talked about. Two years later I wrote *Wildflowers of the Southern Appalachians* with coauthor Marty Casstevens. Then I took a break from books for a few years to concentrate on building my stock photography files. In 2002 I published *Waterfalls of Virginia and West Virginia* and the following year *Hiking Great Smoky Mountains National Park*. *North Carolina's Best Wildflower Hikes* came out in spring of 2004, and *Our North Carolina* in 2005. Also in 2005 came the long-awaited revision to my *North Carolina Waterfalls* book, which added some 400 waterfalls to the original version. In 2007 my photography book *North Carolina Then & Now* was published. My latest book, *Backroads of North Carolina* was published in spring of 2009.

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Crazy Little Thing Called Zodiacal Light

Night Photography Adventures with Kevin Adams



“The zodiacal light occurs when interplanetary dusk scatters sunlight.”

There’s always something new and exciting to photograph! That’s one of the reasons I enjoy night photography so much. With all of Heaven and Earth to explore, a curious and imaginative night photographer never runs out of subjects.

A decade ago, I spent an autumn night in the West Virginia Highlands photographing the night sky. A few hours before sunrise, I saw twilight begin on the eastern horizon. It seemed way too early for it to occur, but seeing is believing

and so I started preparing for the morning sunrise shoot. Over an hour later, when I still couldn’t see any color on the horizon, I attributed the light to light pollution from a distant city that had “woken up” in the morning. A few years later, I learned that the phenomenon I had witnessed was called the “zodiacal light,” and it had nothing to do with artificial lights or twilight.

The zodiacal light occurs when interplanetary dusk scatters sunlight. In the northern hemisphere, it

appears as a faint cone of light above the western horizon after sunset and on the eastern horizon before sunrise. Its light intensity is greater than the Milky Way. Typically, the light is colorless, but in rare circumstances it can have blue, green, yellow, or red hues. If the conditions are right, it is easy to see the zodiacal light, but because it is so faint and occurs near the horizon, most viewers think they are seeing twilight or the light from a distant town, as I did the first time I saw it.

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Calendar of Events



March 7	Instruction: Night Photography	Kevin Adams, 7:00 pm.
March 21	Print Competition (2)	Flowers as Still Life, 7:00 p.m.
March 24	Field Trip: Roanoke, VA Trains	Robert Hambrick
April 4	Instruction: Wildlife Photography	Wink Gaines
April 18	Projection Competition (2)	Rock Stars, 7:00 p.m.
April 21	Field Trip: Weekend, Beaufort/Morehead City, N.C.	Robert Hambrick
May 2	Projection Competition (2)	Repeating Patterns, 7:00 p.m.
May 16	Print Competition (2)	Open, 7:00 p.m.
May 19	Field Trip: Duke Gardens & Butterflies	Mitzi Gellman



North Carolina Waterfall Quiz

North Carolina has hundreds of waterfalls of all sizes. Test your knowledge of these cascades with answers to this month's quiz on our state's wonderful waterfalls.

1. High Shoals Falls on the Jacob Fork River in Burke County tumbles 50 feet and has an observation deck where visitors can get an up-close view. In what state park are these falls located?
 - A. Crowder's Mtn. State Park
 - B. Hanging Rock State Park
 - C. South Mtn. State Park
2. The top of Hickory Nut Falls on Fall Creek at Chimney Rock State Park can be reached by a walking path. How high is this waterfall that was featured in the 1992 movie Last of the Mohicans?
 - A. 305 feet
 - B. 404 feet
 - C. 606 feet
3. Cullasaja Falls is 250 feet tall and tumbles down a precipice to U.S. Highway 64 between Franklin and Highlands. What national forest is Cullasaja Falls located in?
 - A. Croatian National Forest
 - B. Pisgah National Forest
 - C. Nantahala National Forest
4. Approximately 120 feet tall, Mingo Falls is said to be the highest waterfall in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Mingo Falls is located off U.S. Highway 441 and Big Cove Road in what area?
 - A. Qualla Boundary
 - B. Cherokee Boundary
 - C. Junaluska Boundary

Answers on page 4

Western North Carolina Foto Fest with Bill Lea & Kevin Adams

Special guest speakers for 2012: Les Saucier, Lori Kincaid, Stephanie Thomas

September 7-9, 2012: Registration: \$145 (\$95 for students), Location: Montreat, NC

Wow, are you in for a treat!! Bill Lea and Kevin Adams have organized what has become the MUST-ATTEND photography event for North Carolina and the Southeast. With experience gained from a combined 60 years of photographing and teaching, Bill and Kevin started from the ground up in creating this extraordinary festival. They've combined the best features from other photography events with their own ideas for an exciting and rewarding learning experience.

Persons who attend Foto Fest tell us that what they like most about the event is not only the terrific learning experience and access to a wide range of vendors, but rather the personal touch. At Foto Fest, you are not just another attendee at just another photography convention. You are part of a photographic family.

If you have ever witnessed the passion, dedication, and strive for excellence that Bill and Kevin have for everything they do, then you know that Foto Fest is an event you will not want to miss. For 2012, they have retained everything that made the first and second events such big hits and have also incorporated numerous new ideas to build upon this success. <http://www.wncfotofest.com/>



The Battle at F-Stop Ridge

When the team at The Camera Store in Calgary decided to make a commercial for their store, none of them expected for it to become an internet sensation. You can imagine their delight when “The Battle at F-Stop Ridge” racked up over two million views and was featured on the homepage of YouTube. The creative ad spot features a battle of epic proportions; however these soldiers traded in their guns and ammo for cameras and film. If you haven’t seen the ad yet, take a look here ([you can see the video here](#)):

The idea for the clip started out almost as a joke between co-workers, admits Chris Niccolls, “We were doing our usual thing where we’re supposed to be working at the store, but instead we were talking about movies and ideas and things we could do.” When Jordan Drake mentioned his idea of cam-

era wielding soldiers, the two ran with it. They got their co-workers on-board, all the while hiding it from management in fear the ad would be shot down, pun intended.

As the popularity of the clip rose, The Camera Store staff geared up for a second invasion and produced a sequel to the viral video. At the time of writing this article, The Battle at F-Stop Ridge 2 is only a few weeks old, but is already following it’s prequel’s footsteps as it already has accumulated tens of thousands of hits. Watch part two, here ([you can see the video here](#)):

To shoot the commercials, Drake and Niccolls borrowed a collection of cameras from the store to use as props and a professional grade **JVC HM700** solid state camcorder. Of the cameras many notable qualities, Drake especially enjoyed the in-camera cranking ability.

Greensboro

Reenactment of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse

March 17-18 More than 400 Revolutionary War reenactors come together to commemorate the 231st anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Events include interpretive programs demonstrating military life, Colonial life-ways, 18th-century dancing, fire-arms demonstrations, encampments, and guided walks of the battlefield. Events start at 10 a.m. Battle reenactments begin at 2 p.m. Park open from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission. Guilford Courthouse National Military Park.

(336) 288-1776 or www.nps.gov/guco.

Waterfalls Quiz

1. C. *South Mtn. State Park*
2. B. *404 feet*
3. C. *Nantahala National Park*
4. A. *Qualla Boundary*



Some pictures from the February filed trip to Old Salem

The number of participates for this filed trip was very good. It didn't hurt that the weather was so nice.





Continued from page 2

The zodiacal light is easily seen only in the spring and fall in mid-northern latitudes, and only on clear nights without any light pollution from cities or the moon. Those in northern latitudes might not see it at all, while those in the tropics can see it more regularly. In the southern hemisphere, it is best viewed before sunrise in the spring and after sunset in the autumn. In my neighborhood at latitude 35 degrees north, the ideal viewing times are after sunset from mid-February to mid-April and before sunrise from mid-September to mid-November. You can begin to see the light as twilight ends at dusk in the spring and for about an hour afterward. Conversely, in the fall, you'll want to start looking for it at least an hour before twilight begins.

Photographing the zodiacal light is pretty straightforward. Basically, you do the same thing that you would for any static star scene. Try f/4, ISO 1600, 30 seconds as a starting point. Of course, you can also shoot star trails while the phenomenon is occurring. If you shoot right when twilight is ending at dusk or just beginning at dawn, you can catch the twilight glow on the horizon.

I shot the accompanying image after twilight began and just a

few minutes before it became bright enough to wash out the zodiacal light. You can see how someone not familiar with the zodiacal light might think the diffuse white cone is just part of twilight, but as a night photographer you know that twilight light is not white. In addition to capturing the zodiacal light and the first hints of twilight on the horizon, this image records a meteor streak on the right side of the frame and what I think is an Iridium flare within the zodiacal light itself. The latter might be another meteor, though.

One of my favorite rock bands from the 1970s and 80s was Queen, and one of my favorite songs by the group was "Crazy Little Thing Called Love." Who'd a thunk that 32 years after that song hit number

one on the Billboard chart, I would learn that Queen's master drummer, Brian May, had love for astrophysics. (Oh, the irony of a rock musician moonlighting as a scientist!) In 2007, May completed his PhD thesis, A Survey of Radial Velocities in the Zodiacal Dust Cloud. I guess you could say of Brian May, another one bites the dust!

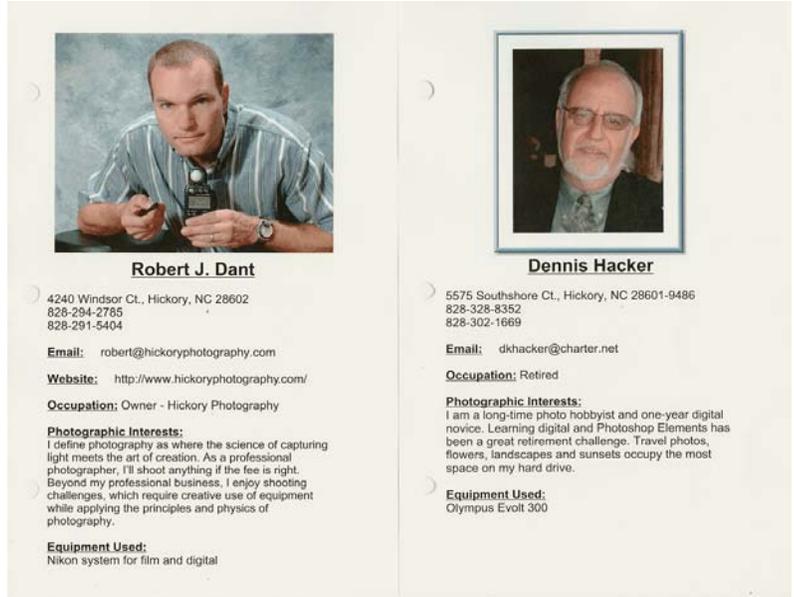
*Hmm, if it's okay with you, I think I'll stick to PHOTOGRAPHING the zodiacal light and singing along to "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," "We Will Rock You," "Bohemian Rhapsody," and all those other great songs from Queen. You guys can figure out what the *@#\$\$%^& a radial velocity in a dust cloud is!*





Member Directory Update

The members directory is in need of updating with current information on old members as well as adding new members information. If you are a current club member please print this page and fill in your information and return it along with a picture so we can add you to the club's directory. Pictured on the right are two pages from the old directory as examples. The new directory will be formatted similar to this but will be put in a password protected PDF file on the club website. Only club members with the password will have access to the information. This makes it easy for anyone needing to contact other members to do so. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



Name: _____

Equipment Used: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Occupation: _____

Photography Interests: _____

The name and email address are the most important items along with a photo. If you do not want the other information made available to club members, that's ok, just leave them blank.



BRMP National Juried Nature and Fine Art Photography Exhibit

September 8th - October 14th, 2012 Entry Deadline: July 2, 2012 Early Bird Deadline: June 1, 2012

You are cordially invited to enter the 2012 National Juried Nature and Fine Art Photography Exhibit sponsored by the Blue Ridge Mountain Photographers (BRMP) and the Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association (The Art Center). The Prospectus for the 2012 show can be found at the link above. The juried show is open to all photographers, both amateur and professional, and all original photographic media, including film and digital images. Monetary prizes totaling \$2,000 will be awarded including Best of Show. The exhibit will be on display in the Richard Low Evans Gallery in The Art Center, located in the picturesque mountain town of Blue Ridge, Georgia, during the Fall Arts in the Park Festival, October 13 & 14, 2012.

www.blueridgemountainphotographers.com or www.blueridgearts.net/BRMPNationalShow.aspx

2012 Judge: Paul Dunlap

Paul Dunlap teaches Photography, Color Theory and Senior Thesis at North Georgia College & State University.

Paul earned his BA in Studio Art from North Georgia College & State University in 2001. Dunlap then earned his MFA in Photography from the University of Georgia in 2004 and has been working at North Georgia College & State University as Assistant Professor of Art in the Department of Visual Arts since completing his graduate degree.

His personal creative interests are focused on alternative photographic processes and 19th century photographic processes where he blends the use of traditional film with contemporary digital approaches.



You may contact us about the exhibit via email at brmpnatshow@yahoo.com.

Spring Shutterbugs Nature Photography Workshop

Location: Chimney Rock at Chimney Rock State Park

Date/Time: Saturday & Sunday, May 12 & 13. Sat, 8:30am-4:30pm; Sun, 8:30am-3pm

Cost: \$160 non-passholder; \$135 Annual Passholder. Tuition includes Annual Pass for non-passholders. *Save \$10 off full price if you register by March 26

Description: Capture spring wildflowers, 75-mile views and a 404-foot waterfall with your camera at Chimney Rock! The instructor, Les Saucier, has led nature photography workshops for more than 26 years, participates in many juried shows and has had his work published in numerous books and magazines, including *National Geographic*. This 2-day workshop includes classroom time, field time and critique. For more information about Les and his photography, visit his website at www.appalachianjourney.com.

Registration: chimneyrockpark.com/events



From the Editor

The ability to communicate with fellow club members, be it about field trips, photo techniques or personal business is important. This communication among club members builds a bond that helps to keep our club alive and well.

Therefore, having a members directory that is available to all members on our website is essential. Our current directory is sadly not up to date and missing most of our current members. At the very least we need names and pictures of our members in the directory. If you do not wish to share phone numbers, email address or other personal information that's fine. But please consider at least putting a picture and some information on our website in a password protected document that only members can access.

One page 7 of this newsletter is an example of information that you are encouraged to share.

Donny Teague

Club Officers

- President: **Rick Bell**
- Vice President: **Donny Teague**
- Secretary: **Richard Griffin**
- Treasurer: **Robert Dant**
- Image Coordinator: **Ed Lane**
- Webmaster: **Scott M. Powell**

We're on the Web

<http://cvclub.wordpress.com>

Presidents Report

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone for the excellent way they participated in the recent student critique. It was a fun evening where I think we and the students benefited.

Light sings all over the world... These lyrics from an old 5th Dimension song could have been written by a photographer. We ride the light, we capture the light, we modify the light and we post process the light all with the intention of making the light sing. Ideally, we time our photography to catch the light at it's best. Those golden hours following sunrise and preceding sunset. Often our fetish for shooting

in the "golden hours" lead us to putting our cameras aside at all other times. It's a known thing that only the photographers of *National Geographic* have the time to wait until the light is perfect; so often we must find ways to make the light we have suitable.

One trick I have learned for pursuing photography during the harsher, high contrast hours of the day is to shoot in the "open shade". Those locations where something, normally foliage, acts in the same way a diffuser does, spreading the light evenly and reducing harsh shadows. Seldom will you shoot panoramic landscapes but many pho-

tographs are waiting there for the imaginative eye to discover. Someday at noon, or at least during the harsh light, go out into your back yard or into the woods nearby and look for what images you can find. Keep looking until you find something. It will train your eye and challenge your exposure control.



Application for Membership

NAME _____ **DATE** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

E-MAIL _____

Please print clearly as our club correspondence is conducted via e-mail.

PHONE: HOME _____ **WORK** _____ **CELL** _____

Dues are \$35 per year. Meetings are the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Students: \$15 per year

CLUB USE ONLY: Date Received _____ **Cash** _____ **Check** _____