

TANDRIDGE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2007 NEWS UPDATE

We start this month with a summary of Brian Smith's very informative talk on cleaning your DSLR's sensor, with some links to web resources for further information, or product purchase options.

CLEANING YOUR DSLR's SENSOR

Firstly, to check that your sensor does indeed need cleaning, take a picture of clear sky (or something else bright and white) with the lens stopped down to f22, and then examine the image full screen on the computer for tell-tale smudges.

Brian outlined 3 basic methods of cleaning the sensor, should you detect dust:

1. Dust Blower

The least intrusive method, and surprisingly effective much of the time. Buy a Giottos Rocket - around £8. It is available online from <http://www.warehouseexpress.com/> who sell also most of the items mentioned below.

2. Dry Brush

You need a soft artists brush made with man-made fibres (nylon or acrylic). Must not be natural bristle, as that won't hold a charge. It needs to be a flat profile of approximately the same width as the height of your sensor. A 3/4" brush which equates to 24mm is exactly right for an APS-C sensor.

The brush must be cleaned exceptionally thoroughly - test it by brushing 50 times across the surface of a clean multi-coated filter. It should leave absolutely no trace.

Then charge the brush with static using an aerosol air duster, and wipe across the sensor in one direction; re-charge and wipe again in the same direction.

There's a good description of this process at: <http://tinyurl.com/d5tlh>
(http://www.prime-junta.net/pont/How_to/a_Brush_Your_Sensor/a_Brush_Your_Sensor.html)

3. Wet Swab

This is sometimes known as the CopperHill method, and can be performed with a proprietary swab, or you can d-i-y. Brian showed one he made with a strip cut from an old credit or membership card - nb it needs to be slightly flexible. Wrap with Pec-Pad and dose with 2 drops of Eclipse Cleaning fluid (both available here: <http://www.warehouseexpress.com/?photo/cleaning/digipad.html>).

It's really that simple, but clearly requires more explanation than can be given here. Read the original CopperHill tutorial at:

<http://www.copperhillimages.com/index.php?pr=tutorials>

This website gave a decent overview of the whole issue:

<http://www.cleaningdigitalcameras.com/index.html>

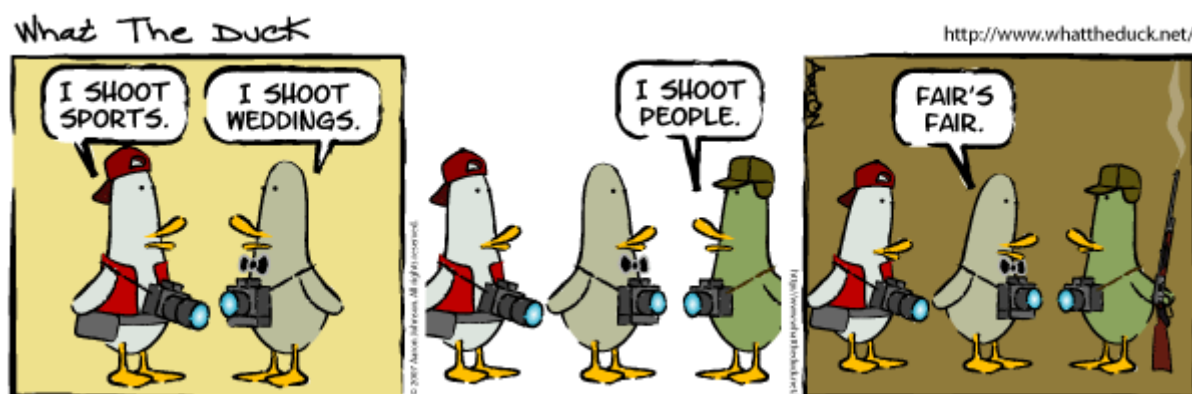
Brian showed videos culled from <http://www.youtube.com/> - just search for DSLR Sensor

Brian's Tips on sensor cleaning:

1. make sure the camera battery is fully charged
2. do it in a 'clean' environment like the bathroom
3. familiarise yourself thoroughly with the mirror lockup procedure for your camera
4. make sure you're not going to be interrupted
5. keep a steady hand - it's best to be sober!

Brian's Tips to minimise dust:

1. keep your lens bodies clean
2. change lenses out of the wind
3. in very dusty environments stick to one lens
4. open camera body for as little time as possible
5. regularly check for dust on your images



SPA INTER-CLUB COMPETITION

With our (third) success in prints in the match against Ashford (Middx) CC, we go forward to the Quarter Finals. Our opponents will not be known until February, when all league matches have been completed; but will be one of Capel C.C., Cheam C.C., Malden C.C. or Reigate P.S.

Our Quarter Final Match will be held at Cheam CC on **Wednesday 12th March 2008** when the judge will be Colin Westgate FRPS MFIAP APAGB.

TRIPARTITE COMPETITION

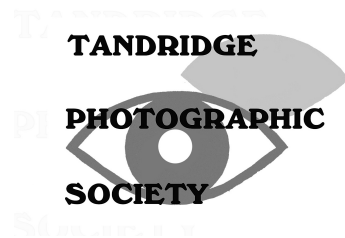
This year sees a major change to the Tripartite Competition; Projected Digital Images will replace the Transparencies.

The competition will be held at 8pm on **Friday 4th April** at **Selsdon C.C.**, who meet at: The Guide Hut, Rear of St John's Church, Upper Selsdon Road, Selsdon.

NEW TPS LOGO?

We are considering a new TPS logo*, and invite all members to design a new one. There's no limit to the number of designs a member can submit. We plan to have the designs displayed at the AGM in May 2008.

* The current one, below, does not always reproduce well.



DROP ME AN EMAIL AT (TPS@ELMS42.FREESERVE.CO.UK) IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE THIS 'OFFICIAL' TPS FONT IN YOUR DESIGN.

CHINESE WHISPERS II

We will start this off in January. It's not too late to join in the fun – just drop me an email asap. See the November 2007 Newsletter for the details.

OUT AND ABOUT

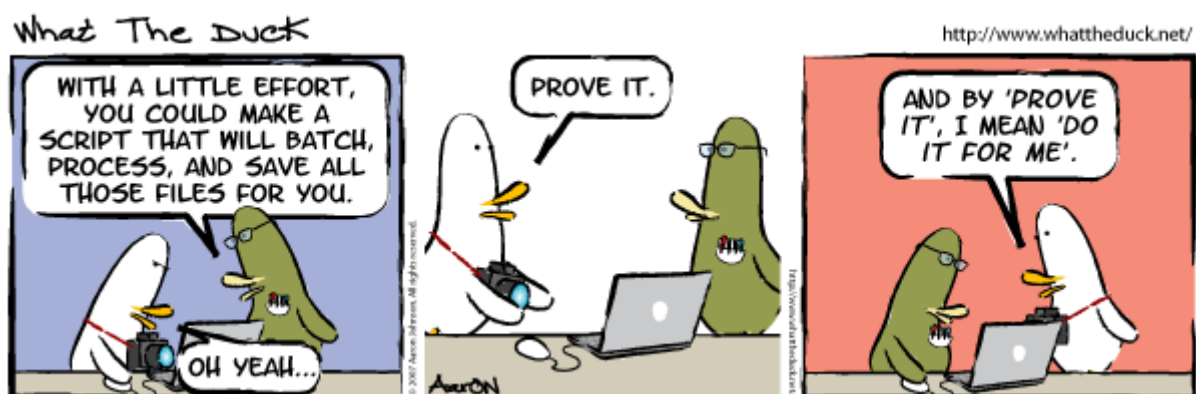
FSLPS Audio-Visual Digital Competition 2008

The Fifteenth Federation of South London Photographic Societies (FSLPS) Audio-Visual Competition will be held at All Saints Church Hall, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead, Surrey CR2 9AB on **Saturday 26th January 2008** at 4.30pm to about 9.30pm. Doors will open at 4 pm. Admission costs £5 and will include a programme and refreshments.

There will be both Individual & Club Sequences.

RPS Colour Group 2008 Exhibition

The RPS Colour Group will be back at the **Fairfield Gallery Corridor** at Croydon's Fairfield Halls again for their 2008 Exhibition from **Monday 7th January to Saturday 2nd February 2008**. Open during normal Fairfield opening times.



HINTS & TIPS

Numbering Picture Files Sequentially

You know how annoying it is with RAW files (unless you have taken a simultaneous JPEG). You put them in the computer, then open the folder in Windows to copy them on to a CD or external hard disc, and the only identification of each file is a number, viz IMG 1234.

Windows can only see JPEGs, not RAW files*.

You then have to open the image again in software which can read RAW files in order to

identify each separate picture. If you have taken a lot of files of the same subject in a short time, it would be so much easier to identify them straight away. To do this, open them in Adobe Bridge, or similar software, and make a note of the numbers of the first and last pictures of the sequence which you want to name. Then open the folder in Windows. Select ALL the files in the sequence you want to rename (not just the first one). Take the first one, and right click (on PC). You have an option to rename. Rename your first picture viz IMG 1234, say, Elephants masai mara (1) with the first number in brackets as shown. Then press return. Windows will automatically rename all the others you have selected sequentially, viz Elephants masai mara 2, Elephants masai mara 3, etc. This is a very easy way of enabling you to identify what is what.

John Nathan

* There is a free Windows RAW Viewer (RAWimage Thumbnailer and Viewer for XP) - download for free at: <http://tinyurl.com/2gxkla> that shows thumbnails of raw files in Windows Explorer - Ed.

[The Bureau of Freelance Photographers Press Release](#)

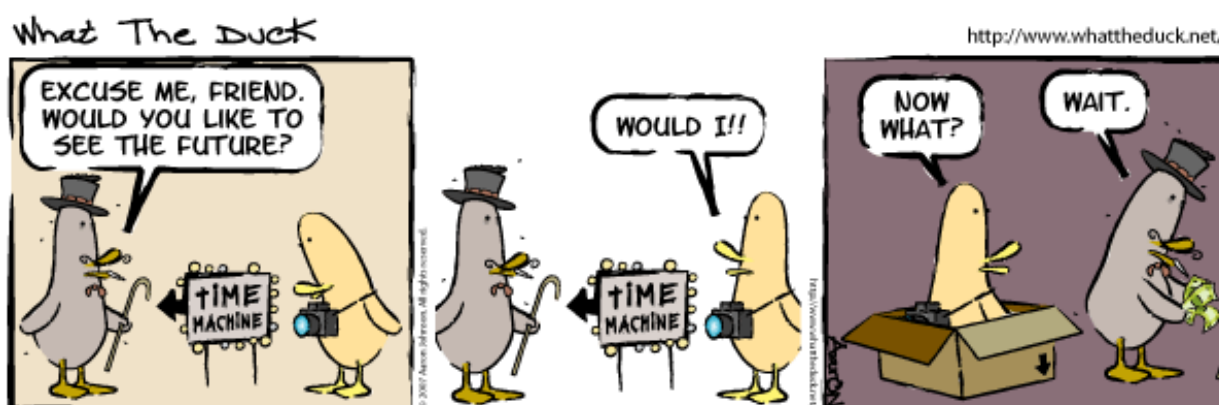
Photographers are increasingly being viewed as potential criminals by police and stopped from doing their work, according to the Bureau of Freelance Photographers. In many cases, police are using stop and search powers without reasonable cause to prevent photographers – both amateur and professional – from taking pictures.

An increasing number of members have sought help from the BFP after facing what they consider harassment. One member, a semi-professional, was stopped from taking pictures in Ipswich town centre of Christmas lights being turned on. The policewoman involved even demanded to know whether the photographer had a licence to use his camera! He was made to erase images and instructed to complete an Encounter and stop/Search Record.

Another member claims he is constantly moved on when innocently taking pictures in London. "Putting up a tripod merely compounds the so-called offence," he says.

This despite best practice guidelines on improving relations between the police and photographers, drawn up by the Association of Police Officers and photographers' organisations.

"But guidelines or no guidelines," says John Tracy of the Bureau of Freelance Photographers, "the simple fact is the police do not have the right, except in exceptional circumstances, to stop people from taking pictures in public places."



Thanks, and Happy snapping,

Steve

7th December 2007

ps Don't forget, this is YOUR News Update, and I welcome any contributions from members. Send me your: comments, idea's, articles, events, exhibition details, etc. Send all contributions to: tps@elms42.freerve.co.uk