QuickPix – QuickPix is a great way to share your images with the club. Upcoming opportunities are:

Seascapes and Coastal Shots – submit images between August 30th and September 7th
Night Sky – submit images between September 14th and 21st

Mentoring Opportunity - Rick Strobaugh will repeat his successful RCC Mentor Circle at 5:30pm before the Oct. 19 meeting. Newer members in particular can benefit from this service, gaining information, engaging with others and feeling welcome to the Redlands Camera Club. If you are interested please email Rick at rpdrunner@msn.com.

Pre Meeting Slideshow Photos - If you want bragging rights for including your images for the slide show at the start of the meeting, send them to Steve Oberholtzer at stevetob1@verizon.net. Make sure images are sized for competition and they will be in the next pre-meeting slideshow. 12 seconds of fame! What a deal!

Photogram – If you have photo equipment that you are looking to sell, why not let club members know. Let me know by the 3rd Thursday of the month and it will be included in the next Photogram.

Programs for September & October 2015

September 7th	September 21st	October 5th	October 19th
Shooting the California Coast **With Ralph Nordstrom**	**Blending Astronomy and Photography** **With Dr. Tyler Nordgren**	**Members' Night** **Submit Images Between September 28th and October 5th**	**Pre Meeting Mentoring** **Doors Open @ 5:30pm**

Details for the current month's programs may be found in the Programs article, starting page 3.

Prez Sez
Carl Detrow

Shooting in the Desert

Back in the late 60's I was stationed at a desert test range just west of the Great Salt Lake. There wasn't much to do out there so I, like several others, bought a plinking rifle so I could amuse myself putting .22 rounds into pre-recycling era beverage containers. Little did I know back then that desert shooting would take on all new meaning for me in 2015.

In August I took what was for me the best field trip/workshop I've experienced since I've been associated with the Redlands Camera Club. To be honest there have been other great field trips that for one reason or another I've been unable to attend. Some have been overnighters, some have been to locations not so close (Bryce Canyon comes to mind, a lot of fun for those who went), and some just didn't fit in my schedule. After the Borrego Springs experience I truly regret missing every one of them.

I had to agree with Frank Peele when he strongly advised during the classroom session to avoid driving back to Redlands in the wee hours, so my wife and I stayed a couple of nights in the town, although nights weren't spent in the room. Frank and I were there a day early so we were able to scout out the sculptures we wanted to photograph in the daylight before we went out for a view of the Perseid meteor shower backlit by the Milky Way. While there we met a couple of professional photographers with exotic equipment making beautiful images. We got some great shots and were well prepared for the next night.

The next evening was the best part as nearly 30 club members braved the 115+ temperatures for what turned out to be the highlight of the shoot. We took a short tour of a few of the sculptures, then met for dinner. The pace is slow in the desert in August, and the service matched. But that turned out to be a good thing as there was plenty of time to get to know fellow members and swap stories of life experiences, not all of them photographic. The range of talent in our club still greatly impresses me every time we get together. And those of us less talented, but just as passionate about our art, drank it all in and learned, something we never could have done on a solo trip to the Anza-Borrego.

So thanks to everyone involved in the workshop/field trip, especially Frank and Debra, those who provided radios and carpooling, and everyone who attended. We learned some lessons, and will apply them, hopefully in the spring when the el Niño wildflowers emerge.

Happy Shooting

Programs
Jim Hendon

September 7th – Shooting the California Coast
Ralph Nordstrom

Crashing surf. Tranquil lagoons. Colorful tide pools. Dramatic cliffs and wind-twisted trees. The Golden State's 1,000-mile coastline offers a treasure of photo opportunities – but while this shooter's paradise is easy to access, getting a truly great image is harder than it looks. Join your RCC comrades and Southern California-based photographer Ralph Nordstrom on Sept. 7 to learn where, when and how to shoot magnificent seascapes. Ralph specializes in photographing the drama and might of Big Sur, but the knowledge he will share can be applied all up and down the coast. Before the presentation, we will enjoy Quickpix of RCC members' best seascapes and coastal shots from California and other locations (submit up to 3 images to the RCC web site between August 30th and September 7th. Ralph "grew up on nature and art," learning landscape painting from his dad, playing piano and backpacking the Sierra with a Pentax SLR. For the past decade, he has devoted himself to the pursuit of photography, following his heart, building his technical skills and honing his creative vision. His journey continues today, marketing fine-art photographs via his web site, doing presentations (including the "Four Pillars of Landscape Photography"), blogging on nature photography and leading workshops from Zion to Death Valley. Next: Big Sur in November.

September 21st – Blending Astronomy and Photography
Dr. Tyler Nordgren

Learn to photograph the night-sky and see our visible universe in new ways on Sept. 17 with Dr. Tyler Nordgren, University of Redlands professor of physics and astronomy, and author of Stars Above, Earth Below: A Guide to Astronomy in Our National Parks. With a Ph.D. in astronomy from Cornell University, Dr. Nordgren has developed expertise ranging from dark matter in galaxies, to the pulsation of stars and the size and age of the universe – and he has helped to design instruments used aboard NASA's rover expeditions to Mars. Concerned about the steady intrusion of city lights obscuring our night skies, Dr. Nordgren has worked with the national parks to promote astronomy education in special, dark places which still offer clear views of the universe. He has shared his award winning night-sky photography throughout the country – and launched a poster campaign ("Half the Park is After Dark!") with the National Park Service to promote night-sky appreciation and protection. Supported in part by The Planetary Society, Dr. Nordgren's work encourages an integrated understanding of the universe with geology, art, history, Native American studies, exploration and environmental conservation. A former director of the International Dark-Sky Association, Dr. Nordgren regularly gives talks to visitors and rangers in the national parks (he recently led a night-sky raft trip through the Grand Canyon). For this RCC program, we will also share members' images of night skies in a Quickpix session before the presentation (submit up to 3 images to the RCC web site between Sept. 14 and morning of Sept. 21). Join us for what promises to be both an informative and inspiring evening!

Membership
John Williams

If you haven't paid your dues, your Membership for 2015-2016 is way past due!

Presently we have 130 members who have renewed their membership. However, many members (over 50) have not renewed their membership. Renewal is as easy as going to the club web site (www.redlandscameraclub.com), clicking on the "Downloads" tab and downloading the "Membership Application" file. Follow the instructions on the form and your all set! Dues are the primary sources of club revenue allowing us to provide you with quality programs and training. Only currently paid member can take part in RCC classes, events, free workshops, field trips and competitions.

Please welcome our newest members who joined in recently:

Francine Landau

Dave Moore (previous members who has been absent)

Thorne Sandra

Marilyn Simone

Neil Williams

Field Trips
Debra Dorothy

Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve

Date: September 27th Sunday

Location: Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve 3842 Warner Ave. Huntington Beach, CA 92649-4263

Time: 7:00AM - Whenever people want to leave.

Equipment needed: You will want to bring your longest lens, fresh batteries and memory cards. Bring lots of water and either a lunch or snack. I went there a couple of weeks ago and there were a lot of birds. There are also birding opportunities for those with shorter lenses at a couple of places on the beach across the street.

After the event we will meet at a Mexican Restaurant near there for dinner before returning home. This restaurant also has vegan dinners for those who are interested.

We will meet at the Coco's in Redlands at 7:00AM to carpool to Bolsa Chica. Please email me ahead of time to let me know if you are attending and if you would like to carpool. If you have any questions please email me at Debbiedsd.dorothy@gmail.com.
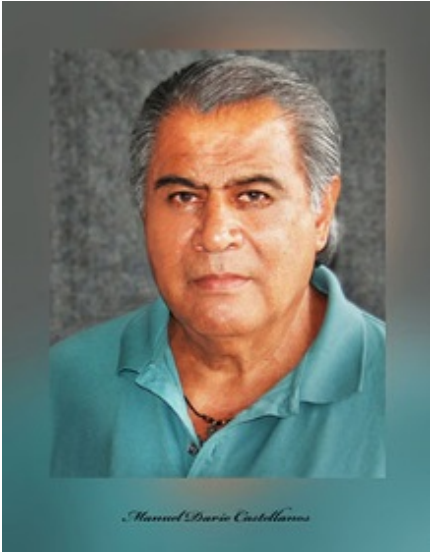
If you have any questions, please email: **Debbiedsd.dorothy@gmail.com**

RCC Featured Photographer - September 2015
Wayne (Woody) Wood

Manuel Dario Castellanos

Mother Nature has never produced an "ordinary" object or living thing. Extraordinary too, are the works of Manuel Castellanos, an artist with the gift of bringing the beauty of nature and everyday things to our attention through a sharp eye and the lenses of his camera.

Manuel, a former glazier who found his true calling in midlife, ascended the ranks of the local photography scene through strict adherence to a professional credo and dedication to his craft. He sharpened his credentials through training at the TRI Community School of Photography, Covina, California.

Utilizing his Nikon D80 with 18-105 lens, Manuel, a proud Guatemalan-American, takes his inspiration from the glory of his Ancient Mayan heritage and brings his worldview to the objects which surround us but we never see, and like a true artist, captures his subjects in that instant, at that unrepeatable moment and cements the images in a digital space. Thus, every piece is unique and is one reason why Manuel's works are to be valued.

His works have been exhibited at art shows in San Juan Capistrano, Monrovia, Sierra Madre and Big Bear, California and at The Parkhurst Gallery and San Pedro Art Association, in San Pedro, California

Manuel's color and black and white images can be printed on canvas or photo-quality paper stock and are expertly mounted and framed for delivery.

When an executive office, a public space or a home is in need of a special thing of beauty, give consideration to one or more of the works of this rising star who labors within our midst.

Manuel Castellanos is indeed one of our homegrown treasures.

His works are available for a private viewing at 9355 Calle Vejar, Rancho Cucamonga, CA. 91730. Call 909 223-3595 or e-mail castellanosphotography@yahoo.com for more details.
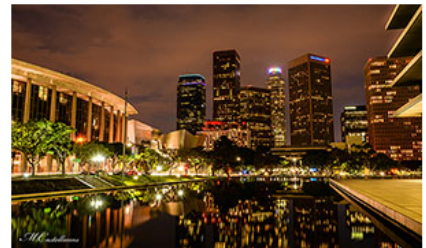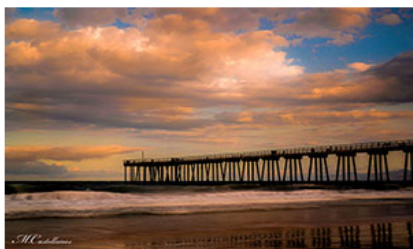
Chimney Rock, Capitol Reef Utah

Convict Lake, CA
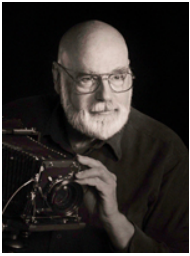
Downtown Los Angeles, CA

Hermosa Beach Pier, CA

Mono Lake, CA

Tenaya Lake, Yosemite CA

Education/Workshops /Exhibits

Frank Peele

Borrego Springs Night Sky Workshop/Field Trip

We had a wonderful time shooting Meteors, the Milky Way and the Ricardo Breceda sculptures in the workshop/field trip to Borrego Springs. The Perseid meteor shower was less dramatic than expected, but still inspiring. The Milky Way put on a great show, and the sculptures never cease to be photogenic – day or night. Thirty-two RCC members participated, including several who joined specifically for the event. We look forward to seeing night sky images as QuikPix at the Sep. 21 meeting, before astronomy professor Tyler Nordgren presents his fascinating program "Blending Astronomy and Photography".

Upcoming Workshop

You've seen his eye-popping images in Members' Nights and the last RCC competition, and now Carl O'Day has offered to reveal his secrets of shooting "splashes" in a workshop to be held this fall. As soon as we work out a suitable venue (there will be lots of liquid flying around!) and have a date scheduled, we'll announce the event. This one may be limited in the number of members we can accommodate, so you'll want to sign up quickly when the announcement is made.

New Classes and Workshops Coming Soon

You've submitted your surveys, they've been collated and studied, and as a result we're busy formulating the schedule for the 2015/2016 session of the RCC School of Photography. There will be a more hands-on emphasis where feasible, both in classes and workshops. Stay tuned for the schedule, to be announced as soon as detailed planning is completed.

Scott Kelby Worldwide Photowalk

Saturday, Oct. 3, is Worldwide Photowalk day. Organized by Scott Kelby, walks will take place in locations around the world. Each is an informal opportunity to explore and photograph a place of visual interest, while meeting new friends who enjoy photography. Here in Redlands our own Frank Peele will lead a walk on the campus of the University of Redlands; you can find details and sign up (it's free) here.

If you have any questions, please email: **educationworkshopsrcc@gmail.com.**

Southern California Council of Camera Clubs

Deborah Seibly

S4C Competitions Return September 19!

The first S4C competition of the year begins September 19th, Entries can be submitted from the 19th through October 3rd. If you do not have a UEN (number required for entry), now is a good time to get one. There is no charge for submissions. Further details can be found on the S4C web site (http://www.s4c-photo.org). The web site lists other competitions, such as the Golden West Small Print competition, which may interest some members. I will be reviewing any changes to the competition rules for this year and will try to summarize those in the next newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need assistance in any way.

If you have any questions, please email: **dlseibly@gmail.com.**

Club Calendar

Information that was available to the editor at the time of publication.

|	
Aug 30 – Sept 7	Submit QuickPix Images: Seascapes and Costal Shots
September 7	Shooting the California Coast with Photo with Ralph Nordstrom
September 14-21	Submit QuickPix Images: Night Skies
September 21	Blending Astronomy and Photography with Dr. Tyler Nordgren
September 28	Begin Uploading Members' Night Images
October 5	Members' Night – Submit Images Between Sept. 28th and Oct. 5th
October 19	Pre Meeting Mentoring Session – 5:30pm

Members Gallery

2015 Summer Competition – Second Place

Batter Up
Apprentice - People
Second Place
Phillip Tenpenny

Sunset On Otago
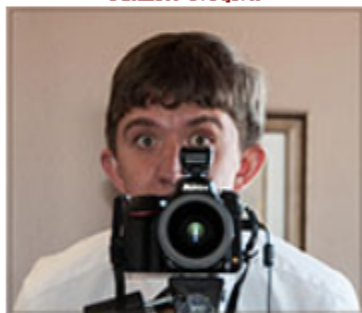Apprentice - Places
Second Place
Pat Applegate
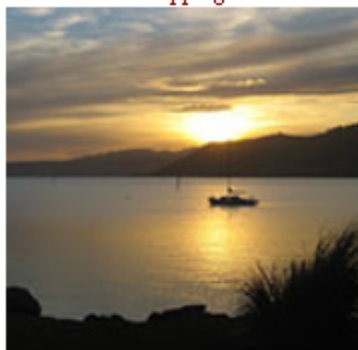
Back In The 60s Again
Apprentice - Open/Misc
Second Place
John McCormack

Family Meeting
Intermediate - Close-Up
Second Place
Christine French

WOW
Intermediate - People
Second Place
Russell Trozera

Natures' Twists And Turns
Intermediate - Places
Second Place
Bitsy Bernor

The Raven And The Ghost Crab
Intermediate - Open/Misc
Second Place
Jim Hendon

The Pause Contest
Advanced - Animal
Second Place
Dale Showman

Blue Dragonfly
Advanced - Close-Up
Second Place
Bruce Woodcock

Silk Flows Over Vernal Falls
Advanced - Places
Second Place
Joseph Niehus

Fender Of Many Colors
Advanced - Open/Misc
Second Place
Jerry Reece

Here's What I Think!

(Note: The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Photogram or of Redlands Camera Club.)

Creating Great Night Sky Images with Lightroom and Photoshop

By John Williams

- **Purpose of this article:**
  - Photographing the universe from Earth presents some unique challenges when shooting the night sky. Fortunately, you can fix problems using Lightroom and Photoshop to create images from vividly real to the artistic and abstract.
  - There is a lot of subtle color in the night sky that the camera captures. The green is primarily "Airglow", somewhat like the aurora. The sun's extreme ultraviolet light excites oxygen and nitrogen atoms in the upper atmosphere during the day. The products then interact with other atmospheric components to later produce light emission by chemical luminescence at night. The camera can detect this but our eyes cannot. The yellow, orange, and red can be due to the setting sun or moon, and in large part due to light pollution. Light pollution can be seen for hundreds of miles.

- <mark>**Lightroom Initial Basic Workflow:**</mark> Make all your normal RAW adjustment in Adobe Camera Raw or Lightroom:
  - If you're going to be blending multiple exposures (focus stacking) in Photoshop you should make basic edits in Lightroom (or Camera Raw) first. As a minimum you should correct **White Balance**, **adjust Sharpening & Noise reduction**, enable **Lens Profile Corrections** and **Remove Chromatic Aberrations.**
  - **White Balance:** Chances are you'll need to adjust the white balance of your photos to make the colors look more natural, but you can also use it for creative effect to shift the mood of the photo. Remember, when you shoot RAW you can completely correct the white balance in software, you don't have to worry about the adjustment causing artifacts in your photos. Try a Temperature between **3500-4000°K**. Find a setting that is a balance between the cold blues and warm oranges. If the sky is too green, you can add Magenta.
  - **Tone Sliders:** Try adding some contrast to make the Milky Way pop. Increase **Exposure** and see if it allows you to see more stars. Increase the **White** slider and decrease the **Black** slider (avoid clipping blacks) to give the image more contrast. The **Clarity** slider can make the stars pop. However, be careful when using it, you can easily add too much clarity and cause ugly halo artifacts, particularly around the horizon and stars. Also try adding some **Vibrance** and **Saturation**.
  - **Tone Curve:** Darkening the shadows and brightening the highlights often makes your image 'pop.'
  - **Hue/Saturation/Luminance:** Your goal is to adjust the sliders to find colors in the Milky Way that are more visible and visually pleasing.
  - **Sharpening:** For night photography you can use it to sharpen up the stars a little bit and sharpen the foreground details, but the most important thing is make sure you're not sharpening the noise in the photo. You will want to adjust the **Masking** slider in the

Sharpening section of the Detail panel so that dark parts of the sky are not being sharpened. If you don't do this, then the noise in the sky will be sharpened, which will make it more prominent. Be sure you zoom into your image to see your adjustment. Suggest initial settings are **Amount** 50, **Radius** 0.7, **Detail** 15-20 and **Masking** 50

- **Noise Reduction:** With high ISOs needed to capture the night sky you'll probably find that your images will contain noise that should be removed. The Adobe RAW editor will provide good noise reduction, but you'll probably get better noise reduction by using a third party plug-in. You will want to practice and find the right balance between smoothing out noise in the sky without smoothing out the stars and foreground. Try using 50-80 on the **Luminance** slider and increase the **Detail** slider to 40-50. Too much detail will introduce noise back into the photo. To see Luminance noise hold down the **Alt** key and slide the Luminance slider. The image will turn to black and white allowing you to see luminance noise much better. For Color noise reduction try these initial settings: **Color** 17-20, **Detail** 50 and **Smoothness** 100.

- **Lens correction:** In the Basic tab, check the **Enable Profile Correction** and **Remove Chromatic Aberrations** boxes. Under the Manual tab and the **Lens Vignetting** section, you can move the **Amount slider** to the right to further lighten the edges after you enabled Profile Correction.

- **If you are not opening the image in Photoshop, use the Lightroom Adjustment Brush/Gradient tools:**

  o **To make the Milky Way pop**, paint over the Milky Way using the Adjustment Brush tool and increase Temperature/Tint (use suttle setting), Exposure, Clarity and Saturation. After painting over the image, adjust the sliders to your liking. The key is to paint accurately over the Milky Way. You can paint in stages by selecting New which will give you a new control point.

  o **Selective coloring to change the sky color:** Use the Adjustment Brush tool and click on the Color box and with the eyedropper tool select a suttle bluish color. Paint over the sky area with a large brush. If the color is too intense, move the slider on the **Select a Color** dialog box to the left and the area you painted over will reflect the color change. After painting over the image, you can hover the eyedropper over the colors and select a new color. The key is to paint over large sky areas to make the sky even and natural looking.
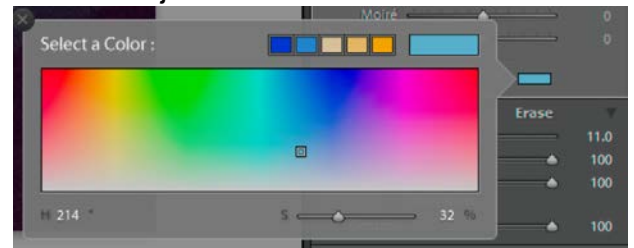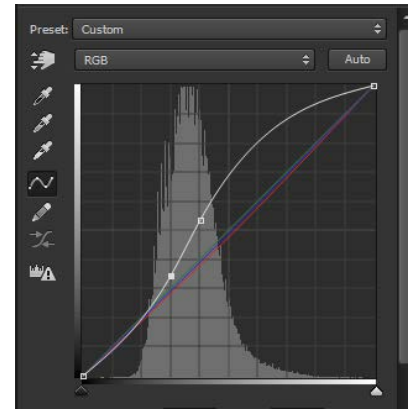
- <mark>**Photoshop processing:**</mark>

  - **Basic adjustment to consider:**

    o Consider using two adjustments: **Brightness/Contrast** adjustment (avoid blowing out the highlights) and using **Photo Filter** adjustment to adjust the color balance [consider using Cooling Filter (80)]. Be sure to use Masks to hide the adjustments in certain areas of the photo such as the Landscape areas. To boost the stars, select **Screen** blending mode.

    o **Correct color of the sky:** One give away that your sky is not naturally colored is if the sky is orange, brown, green or completely blue. To correct the color, add a **Levels Adjustment**. Change RGB to the Red channel and move the middle slider (midtones) to the right until the image becomes noticeably green. Then change to the Green channel and move the middle slider to right until the sky becomes a pleasing color. Next move change to the Blue channel and move the middle slider left and right to obtain a pleasing color. Finally switch back to the RGB channel and move the middle slider to the left to

brighten (or right to darken). To darken, move the right Output slider to the left. Alternatively, you can add a **Curves Adjustment** to lighten or darken the image.

- o **To brighten the Milky Way** add a **Curves Adjustment** and change the mask to black (click on the white Mask and depress **Ctrl+I** or select **Invert** in the Mask properties). Then paint with a white brush over the Milky Way (suggest you increase the midtone contrast before painting to see your brush strokes). Click on the Mask and increase the **Feather** of the Mask or go to **Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur** and significantly increase the pixel amount. Place two adjust points on the curve inside the bell curve as indicated in figure. To increase contrast raise the right control point up and move the left control point down. Then to change the colors of the Milky Way select the Red, Green and Blue channels and adjust the color by moving the center point of the curve. Alternative way to change color is to move the Black left Input slider to the right (very bottom left adjustment point) and do not add any control points to the curve.

- o **To sharpen only the Milky Way**, on a new layer go to **Filter > Sharpen > Unsharp Mask**. Set the Radius between 40-50 and the Amount to 90. Then add a Black Mask and paint with a White brush over the Milky Way. Feather the mask as described above. The sharpening will probably be too much so reduce the Layer Opacity.

- o **Reduce light pollution:** Near the horizon you will normally have light pollution and colors that do not complement the sky.

  - ➤ Duplicate the Layer (**Ctrl+J**) and add a **Levels Adjustment**.

  - ➤ Set the "black point", that is, the values of the darkest pixels in the image. These would represent the color and density of the sky background. Select the **Black eyedropper** tool and click on the darkest point in the sky.

  - ➤ Select the Red channel and move the middle slider (midtone) underneath the histogram to the right until the sky turns green. Then select the Green channel and move the slider to the right until you have a satisfactory color. Then select the Blue channel and move the middle slider to the right/left until you have a pleasing color.
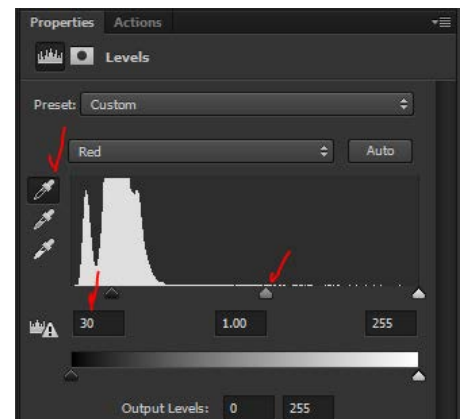
  - ➤ **Increase Contrast:** Select the RGB channel and move the white levels slider (far right slider) and drag it to the left to increase contrast. Note that as you move the white point slider to the left, you will start clipping highlight detail. The stars in the image will grow larger as the contrast is increased.

  - ➤ **Increase the Brightness:** While still in the Levels RGB dialog, you can increase the brightness of the mid-tones of the image by dragging the middle slider to the left.

- ➤ **Final adjustments:** To add punch to your photo, add a Hue/Saturation adjustment and slide the Saturation slider to the right to increase color saturation. Also you can add a Brightness/Contrast adjustment and increase both sliders

- o **Luminosity Masking:** Luminosity masks allow you to select certain areas of the image based on tonality (selections based on how brightness or darkness).   You can use luminosity mask adjustments in order to increase the brightness of the stars while leaving the darks areas of the photo untouched. Luminosity Masks are made from the Channels palette. However, you must create them first, which is a rather time-consuming process (see instructions at http://design.tutsplus.com/tutorials/how-to-create-and-use-luminosity-masks-in-adobe-photoshop--cms-23549). Fortunately, there are various sources on the Internet where you can download pre-created Luminosity Masks action sets. My favorite action is the Zone system by Blake Rudis (**http://zone-edit.com/home/**) and it allows you to run an Action that will divide the image into the 11 tonal Zones using a Curves Adjustments and Layer masks. The Curves are used to manipulated and adjust each tonal value in the Zone of choice without affecting the areas around them.
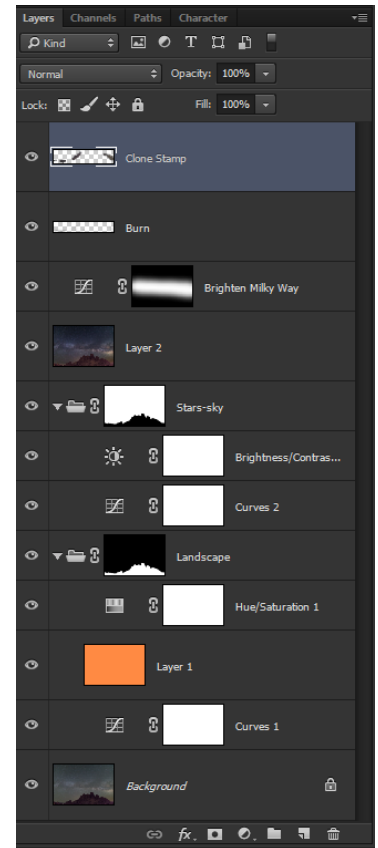
- ▪ **Alternative way to post process in Photoshop:**

  - o First depress the **Create new group** icon at bottom of Layers panel. Then repeat adding a new group. Name the bottom group **Landscape** and the top group layer **Milky Sky-Sky**.

  - o Then make a selection of the sky or landscape that will give you the best selection. Normally the Landscape will be dark and give you the best selection. Next add a mask to the Landscape Group Layer. Feather the selection about 1.5 - pixels. Click on the Mask while hold down the Alt key and move the mask up to the Stars-Sky Group and inverse (**Ctrl+I**) the mask.

  - o Highlight the Land group and add a Curves Adjustment. Then lighten or darken the land area.

  - o With the Landscape Group Layer highlighted, depress the **Create a new layer** icon. Then click on the Foreground color icon to bring up the Color Picker and select an Orange color. Depress the **Alt+Delete** keys to fill the landscape area with the Foreground color (orange). Change the Blend mode to **Color** and reduce the Opacity so you have a pleasing color. Finally depress the **Ctrl+U** keys to bring up a Hue/Saturation adjustment and reduce the Saturation slider. You can also reduce the Lightness slider and adjust the Hue slider to change the color.

  - o Remember in a Group Layer that the adjustment layer above affects the bottom adjustment layers.

  - o Add a **Curves Adjustment** to the Sky group and make a contrast adjustment by increasing the Lights and decreasing the Darks.

  - o Add a second Curves Adjustment and change RGB channel to Blue Drop the curve line on the upper right side (lights) down to add some yellow and raise the lower right side (darks) curve line up to add some blue. Then change the RGB channel to Red and move the center of the line up or down. Repeat for the Green channel. You probably will only make slight adjustments with the Red and Green channels. Note to reset the curve for a particular channel, depress the **Delete** key.

- ▪ **How to make Star Trails Images:** Star trails is a photographic effect that gives an illusion of motion to the stars along a circular or an elliptical path. Traditionally, star trails are captured by taking multiple shots of the sky in succession over a period of many hours to make almost

a full circle of star trails. However, the processes described below can give you good results using only seventy time-lapse exposures or one image.

1. **Star Trails Photoshop action — Single Image:** The Star trail action comes as part of Photoshop CS5 and above, and you will need to load the action. To do so open the actions panel in Photoshop and the click on the top right of the actions palette on the fly out menu down arrow and select Stars Trails. Then duplicate your stars image and play the Stars Trails action. The action will rotate your single star image 0.2 degrees, then blend the rotated image with the original image using a lighten blend mode which makes the dark areas (black sky) transparent and then it repeats these steps 60 more times. The process can take a few minutes and you can apply the technique several times to create longer star trails. The finished result is an image were the stars will appear to rotate about the center of the image. A fuller explanation can be found at **http://www.russellbrown.com/scripts_archive.html**.

2. **StarStax image stacking software — Merging Multiple Time-Lapse Images:** If you shot several images in succession, you would first post process one image in ACR including noise reduction and then SYNC the setting to all the other images. Then use the StarStax software (freeware) to merge the series of sky photos into a single image, where the relative motion of the stars in consecutive images creates structures looking like star trails. A fuller software explanation can be found at http://www.markus-enzweiler.de/StarStaX/StarStaX.html. Other software you can use to merge a series of photos are **StarTrails** (http://startrails.de/html/software.html) and **Image Stacker** (http://www.tawbaware.com/imgstack.htm).

3. **Merge multiple Time-Lapse Star Images using only Lightroom & Photoshop:**

   o   Download all your photos into Lightroom.

   o   Adjust a single image (White Balance, Tone, Presence, Sharpening, Noise Reduction, Lens Correction, and Crop if necessary). Next **Sync** all the images.

   o   Then select all your images and then right-click and select **Edit in > Open as Layers in Photoshop**.

   o   After all the images are loaded into Photoshop, select all the layers by clicking on the top layers and then hold down the **Shif**t key while clicking on the bottom layer. All the layers should be highlighted.

   o   Align all your images by going to **Edit > Auto-Align Layers**. When the Auto-Align Layers dialog box opens select Auto and then depress the OK button.

   o   Next select all the layers **EXCEPT** the bottom layer. Change the blend mode to **Lighten** on the selected layers. Lighten will blend the lightest part of each layer and will now see a star trail photo. You will probably see some extraneous light in the bottom landscape area. NOTE: You can reduce the opacity of each layers to create comet-like effects. Start with the first at 100%, then change the next to 90% opacity, the third layer to 80%, the next layer to 70%, etc.

- o   With all the Lighten photos still highlighted, go to **Layer > Group Layers**. You could call the group **Star Trails**. Next add a Mask to your Star Trails group.
- o   Select the Mask and paint over the landscape area with black brush (100% Opacity and 100% Flow).
- o   If there are streaks in the photo such as an airplane light trail, add a transparent layer (depress the Create a new layer icon at bottom of layers panel) to the top of all layers. Then with the Clone Stamp tool remove any unwanted objects or streaks.

Finally you can flatten your layers or make a stamp of the visible layers (**Ctrl+Shift+Alt+E**). Then post process your star trail image using the methods described above.

For Sale / Member Announcements

For Sale: New in Box
Tascam DR-60D Digital Audio Recorder

Want to greatly improve the audio quality of videos made with your DSLR, Mirrorless or other digital camera? Tascam, the professional division of Teac Audio, has your solution – the DR-60D 4-channel audio recorder. Built to mount under your camera either on or off a tripod, this recorder offers 2 professional balanced XLR or ¼" TRS mic inputs plus a 3.5 mm stereo mic input. Its many modes allow you to capture very high-quality sound, tailor the sound to your preferences, and use microphones of widely different types. The LCD screen is fully visible in any lighting condition (even direct sunlight), and complete controls put you in charge of your recordings. Unit is in original box, has never been used, and comes with all included accessories. Sells on Amazon for $199; priced for quick sale at $150.
Frank Peele, 909.798.7999, or email to FrankPeele@verizon.net

ViewBug Online Photo Contests

Hi RCC members,

This is Stephanie and I want to invite you to view my ViewBug gallery of photographs. ViewBug is a contest site for worldwide photographers of all skill levels, amateur party shooters to professional international photographers. I have been on the site for a little over a month and I'm enjoying it. I'm really inspired by the photos I'm looking at, and I'm encouraged by not only the peer awards I receive, but also through online conversations that I have with my fellow photographers. It's truly a community of supporting photographers. You can visit my gallery at: http://www.viewbug.com/member/stebil30

But like I stated its primary purpose are contests! I've entered several of them, and now its time to vote. The more votes an image gets the better chance it has of getting into the finals. The final images are then juried by a professional photographer (Scott Kelby has actually been one of the jurors—not to drop names or anything). I listed a few of mine that are now being voted on. Please take a look at them and vote for the ones that you like best, that's if you like them.

FYI: Non-members can only vote for 3 images then they will be asked to join ViewBug

http://www.viewbug.com/contests/men-at-work-photo-contest/57412781   Vote until Sept 10th
http://www.viewbug.com/contests/men-at-work-photo-contest/56886610   Vote until Sept 10th

I hope you enjoy my gallery!!!

Stephanie Billings