

The

CACCA

Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association

News

VOLUME 77

JANUARY 2009

NUMBER 3

MAKE YOUR BEST SHOT...

Resolve To Get Organized – Storing, and Backing Up Your Images

by Marie Rakoczy

It's a new year, so if you are still in search of a resolution, how about directing some of your thoughts towards organizing your images?

The more photos you take, the more storage space you need, and the more quickly disorganization can set in. Photoshop Elements does offer the Organizer as a tool for putting some order to your work. This tool allows you to keep track of your photos by date, and also allows you to sort them into "collections" and give them tags, categories, and subcategories. This is a great tool for someone who has a lot of time on their hands, and if your photos are already fairly well organized, maybe this is a step that you can take to make them even more organized (you can do it when you are done storing your canned goods in alphabetical order!). But for most of us, just keeping some simple order (*any* order) is probably an improvement over our current system.

One suggestion is to create a file system on your computer that is date-based. The Organizer does this for you, but you might find it easier to do on your own, especially if you have a separate laptop computer that you use for vacation photo shoots. Organizing independently of Photoshop Elements will give you a database that you can easily access both inside and outside Elements. With this method, you can organize as you go along, then merge the new files with the other archived ones when you get home.

Every vacation day, when I upload my photos to the vacation laptop using the Adobe Photo utility, they come across as dated files. I place them in a directory for that vacation (e.g. "Northwoods Fall Trip") and within each day's folder, I create separate folders by subject and move the photos into the appropriate subject folders. It's good to do this on vacation because the subjects are still clear in your mind and you are usually anxious to look at your shots anyway. If you do not take a laptop on vacation, you should take notes of your photo subjects by day to make it easier to sort them out when you arrive home. A glance at the directory would show this:

My Pictures

Northwoods Fall Trip

Sept 28 2008

Brockway Mountain

Cliff Drive

Eagle River

Lighthouses

Sept 29 2008

Logging Roads

Ore Boats

Color on Route 41

Lake Medora (etc.)

After vacation, I burn DVD's of my work, which I then use to load the image data onto an external terabyte drive. While a "terabyte" may sound like a dinosaur of some kind, it is actually a measure of data equivalent to 1,000 gigabytes (G), a gigabyte being 1,000 megabytes (M), and a megabyte being 1,000 kilobytes (K). This means that if your average digital image is 20 M, you can fit 50,000 images on a terabyte drive. (You can buy a terabyte drive for about \$150). I copy the images right into the directory (by date) where they belong, and I organize by quarter. If you replace "Northwoods Fall Trip" in the example above with July-Sept 2008, that is how the directory on the terabyte drive would look (though it would, of course, show plenty of other dates from July to September under the July-Sept 2008 folder, each containing many subject sub-folders).

The terabyte drive is like a "negative drawer" from 20th century photography. You would never alter your negatives. They could be used over and over again to create new prints and then placed safely back into the drawer. The terabyte drive is a great backup/archive and I never store any altered images on it, except for those in my camera club archive.

Some people like to burn a DVD or CD of their work every time they upload a memory card from their camera, so that each DVD is like another roll of film (again borrowing from 20th Century photography). This would also work, (and would also serve as a backup) though the individual DVD's and CD's would have a lot of wasted space on them since the number of photos on a card can vary quite a lot from day to day.

UH-OH! I used that word -- BACKUP -- in the previous paragraph. The word BACKUP scares a lot of people because they know that they heard somewhere that you're supposed to have one, but they either a) don't know how you create one and what you do with it, b) know what it is but haven't "needed" it yet, c) know what it is and how to create it but are too busy to do so. A backup is an identical copy of the original data, and it is your safeguard. I'll bet you knew that. But I'll bet that you don't have one, or if you

continued on page 2



THE CACCA NEWS - Published October through May by the Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association, member of the Photographic Society of America.

Editor **William Moskoff**
What's Clickin' **Janet Schleeter**
 25912 W. Timber Ridge Drive
 Channahon, IL 60410
 jsphoto222@sbcglobal.net

For additional information on Camera Clubs please contact

President **Jerry Hug**
 957 S. 6th Ave. • Des Plaines, IL 60016
 Ph. 847-299-9099
 Email: jerryhug@comcast.net

CACCA Calendar Meetings

Saturday, February 14, 2009

Saturday, March 14, 2009

Palos United Methodist Church

121st and Harlem Ave, Palos Heights

Board of Directors' Meeting - 10:30 a.m.

Delegates' Meeting - 12:30 p.m.

Contests

Saturday, February 14, 2009

Nature Slides & Prints

Special Category - The letter "P" must appear in the title

Saturday, March 14, 2009

Alteration of Reality Prints

PJ Slides & Prints

Portrait Prints & Slides

Special Category - Geology (i.e. mountains, rocks)

Spring Salon Material Due

Spring Salon - March 21, 2009

Send competition results and other articles to:

William Moskoff, Editor

148 Washington Circle • Lake Forest, IL 60045

Ph: 847-234-8243

Email: moskoff148@comcast.net

Website: www.chicameraclubs.org

The CACCA News is printed by

ADCRAFT PRINTERS, INC.

Kankakee, IL 60901 • Ph: 815-932-6432

Continued from page 1...

do, there's a good chance that it is not a *safe* backup.

When I first started using a digital camera, I did not keep a backup. Heck, what could happen to *my* pictures? I knew what I was doing, my equipment was good, and that stuff only happens to other people. One day, I was "cleaning up" what I thought were some duplicate files and pressed DELETE to the My Pictures file. The computer very nicely came back and told me that the file was too big for the recycle bin, and did I still want to delete? With my all-too-quick finger, I clicked YES. OOPS!!! I wiped out my photos. After a tearful encounter with a local computer geek who offered to help me for \$500, I went home, distraught, and did some research on my own. I found out about a data recovery utility, **Search and Recover** (about \$30) and bought it at a computer store. After hours of work, I was able to get back most of what I lost but will forever mourn the loss of the 2005 Wisconsin State Fair. But I did learn a valuable lesson: keep a good backup.

As I said above, I burn a DVD of my images and also copy them to my terabyte drive. That sounds like a good backup, but only if one copy is *stored* somewhere else. If you make a backup of computer files and store it next to the computer, then what happens if there is a fire or a flood? Both copies are ruined and your backup is no good. You should either store the DVD in a safe-deposit box (where it is climate-controlled and safe) or you can ask a friend to keep it at their house (hopefully, someplace safe) , or

you can (maybe) take it to work and put it in your (locked) drawer there.

To make a backup, you need appropriate hardware and software. The hardware would be either the DVD burning capabilities on your PC, or, if your PC can't burn DVD's, you need to purchase an external DVD burner. (Alternately, you could use a tape backup, which should come with its own proprietary backup software). Roxio and Sonic software are good DVD burning utilities that come with many PC's, or you may have another DVD burning utility that you can use to copy your files. You can also just use the copy feature in the *My Computer* area of your PC. (I apologize to Mac users, as I am not acquainted with backup methods on that system).

Store your DVD's in slim jewel boxes, and give a detailed description of the contents of the DVD – if you ever need it, you won't want to waste a lot of time searching for things. If you realize the importance of a good backup, you will sleep better the day that you have one safely tucked away.

Once you have your photos properly backed up and are ready to edit, open the image in Photoshop Elements and immediately save it to somewhere safe on your PC's hard drive. This will prevent you from overwriting your original and losing it. To do this, click on FILE – DUPLICATE – OK, thereby automatically creating a *copy* of the original image. In order to save this duplicate image, if you click on **SAVE**, it will place the

**Central
CAMERA CO.**

**Three Generations Serving
Chicago's Photographers With:**

- **Great Selection**
- **Great Service**
- **Great Prices**

**Since
1899**

On The Web: centralcamera.com
 email: info@central-camera.com

230 S. Wabash
 (Near Jackson Blvd.)
 Chicago, IL 60604
312-427-5580

Store Hours: Mon-Fri:
 8:30-5:30, Sat: 8:30-5:00
 We Accept Visa • MC
 • Discover • AMEX
 24 Hour Fax Line: 312-427-1898

FREE
DELIVERY or U.P.S.
Shipping

For orders over \$50.00
 in the Chicagoland area
 with the use of Visa, MC,
 Discover, or Amex.
 Just Mention This Ad

Using Photoshop to Enhance Copyright Protection

by Bert Krages

As discussed on the page about copyright registration, registering works with the U.S. Copyright Office provides significant advantages when seeking redress against infringers. Registration of groups of photographs is neither expensive nor difficult and can be done quickly and with little effort if steps are taken to incorporate copyright issues into the normal work flow of processing images. Photoshop's actions function can be used to expedite the process of creating the deposit of images that is required when you submit your registration application and can also enhance the level of copyright protection by embedding a copyright notice into the metadata of your image files.

The first action described below saves the file in the current directory, prepares a low-resolution copy, stores the low-resolution copy in a separate designated folder, and then closes the image file. The low-resolution images can then be copied from the folder onto a CD or DVD for inclusion with the application. If you want, you can modify this action to create actions that copy the low-resolution files to different destination folders for published and unpublished images.

The second action embeds a copyright notice and related information for unpublished images into the IPTC space of a digital image file. IPTC is an internationally recognized protocol that enables text information to be embedded in the image for future reference. Using this action will also cause Photoshop to display a copyright symbol on the title bar of images that are opened in Photoshop. If you want, you

can modify this action so that it can be used for published images.

THE COPYRIGHT DUMP ACTION

To create the Copyright Dump action:

1. Create a directory folder called "Copyright Dump" or similar name. This is the directory in which you will store the low-resolution images produced by the action. When you are ready to submit the application to register the copyrights to the images, you can copy the images in the folder onto a CD or DVD.
2. Open an image for which you will want to register the copyright.
3. Go to the View menu and click to make the "Actions" palette appear on the monitor.
4. Click on the "New Action" symbol which is the square-within-a-square icon at the bottom of the palette.
5. Enter "Copyright Dump" in the space for "Name" and click on "Record."
6. Click onto the "File" menu and then click onto "Save." This will save the image in its current file folder.
7. Click on the "Image" menu and click on "Image Size."
8. Click on "Auto Resolution" and enter "75 lines per inch" in the space for "Screen."
9. Click OK and then click OK to exit the Image Size

continued on page 4

Continued from page 2...

copy in the same directory and folder that it came from. This means that if your image is coming from an external drive, it will be saved right back into the folder on that external drive where the original is stored. A better choice would be to use **SAVE AS** and to direct the image to a place on your hard drive where you store working images. I have a whole directory of Camera Club images, with subdirectories by competition type and date. I also have a "possibilities" file for my working images:

```

Camera Club
  Camera Club Color
    Color 0405 (Contains individual images)
    Color 0506 " " "
    Color 0607 " " "
    Color 0708 " " "
  Camera Club Monochrome
    Mono 0405 (Contains individual images)
    Mono 0506 " " "
    Mono 0607 " " "
    Mono 0708 " " "
  Camera Club Nature
    Nature 0506 (Contains individual images)
    Nature 0607 " " "
    Nature 0708 " " "
  Possibilities 2008-09 (Contains individual images)
  
```

When I am finished working on an image in the Possibilities folder and enter it in competition, I make sure to give the im-

age the name that I used for competition so that I can easily find it and be sure of what it is. My file naming convention is my initials plus the image name (e.g. MRLandscapeArch, or for mono, MRLandscapeArchBW). I then file the image in the appropriate Camera Club folder. Images stay in the Possibilities folder until they are used (and refiled elsewhere) or deleted, and the images are frequently reviewed so that the file doesn't become too large. If there are too many photos in the Possibilities folder, it can be better organized by creating subfolders within it and dividing the works in progress any way you see fit. Sorting them by image type (color, mono, nature, photojournalism) or place taken (Utah, Wisconsin, Chicago, etc.) will keep them in good order.

It is easy to create new folders in which to store images. When saving an image using SAVE AS, use the drop down box at the top to select the drive and directory that you will be saving to. Once you have the proper directory listed (e.g. My Pictures), create a new folder by right clicking the mouse, then clicking on NEW and then FOLDER. A new folder appears, all ready to be named. Give the folder a name and click on it to open it, then save your image to that folder, changing the format (shown under the file name) to a Photoshop file (.psd).

There are many different ways to organize your photos, and these tips may have inspired you to get to work on an organizing scheme and backup procedure of your own. Any organization is better than none at all, so resolve to keep those images in line in 2009!

Continued from page 3...

palette. The image size should now be smaller.

10. Click onto the "File" menu and then click onto "Save As." Make the file type either JPEG, TIFF, or GIF. Change the folder to "Copyright Dump" and click "Save."

11. Click on the square at the bottom of the action palette to stop recording the action.

To use the Action

Each time you are done processing an image in Photoshop, play the action and Photoshop will automatically save the file into its current directory and then create and store a low-resolution copy into the Copyright Dump folder. When you are ready to submit the registration application to the U.S. Copyright Office, you can copy the entire Copyright Dump folder onto a CD or DVD to prepare the required deposit. Afterwards, you should copy the files to another CD or DVD for your records and delete all the images from the folder. Alternatively, if you want to keep the record of the registered images on your hard drive, you can rename the Copyright Dump directory to correspond to the title used on the registration application (e.g., Images, October to December 2006) and create a new folder called "Copyright Dump."

THE COPYRIGHT NOTICE ACTION**To create the action:**

1. Open an image for which you want to insert the copyright notice.
2. Go to the View menu and click on

"Actions" to make the Actions palette appear on the monitor.

3. Click on the "New Action" symbol which is the square-within-a-square shaped icon at the bottom of the palette.

4. Enter "Copyright Notice" in the space for "Name" and click on "Record."

5. Click on the "File" menu and then click on "File Info."

6. Enter your name into the space for "Author," click on the space for "Copyright Status" and indicate "Copyrighted Work."

7. In the space for "Caption," enter "unpublished work Alt-0169" from the numbers keypad if using a PC or "unpublished work Option-g" if using a Mac. Append this phrase with your name and the year of creation so that the entire phrase reads something like "unpublished work © Your Name 2005." Copy and paste this information into the

space of "Copyright Notice" as well. You want to use the caption space because this is where some other programs read the basic file information. It is a good idea to include your address and contact information into the caption space.

8. Click on "OK" and then click on the square at the bottom of the Action palette to stop recording the action.

Note: You can create a separate action to be used for published images. To do this, omit the phrase "unpublished work" in step 7 and insert the year of first publication.

To use the action:

Each time you are finished with processing an image in Photoshop, play the action and Photoshop will automatically insert the textual information into the IPTC space.

The author is a photographer and attorney in Portland, Oregon. The article is reprinted with his permission.

New Postcard Competition

by Mark Southard

CALL FOR ENTRIES! CACCA is now holding a postcard competition. One of the main complaints with entering print competitions is the cost involved. Now, you no longer have that as an excuse! A postcard – a simple 4x6 image, either vertical or horizontal. What could be simpler? This competition is open to any individual who is a member of a CACCA club.

Your challenge is to make your wonderful images into a postcard. Double

weight paper is a good idea, or pasting your photo to a light paperboard, or even using the postcard backings available at your local photo store.

The subject matter is totally your call, nature, abstract, pictorial, hand-colored, etc. Go for humor, brilliant color, historic, whatever... but have fun! The judges have no preconceived ideas. This is a truly open competition. This will be a part of CACCA's April competition. In particular, encourage your new members who might be intimidated by the impressive large prints they see each month.

AWARDS. They will be based on the number of entries just as in other CACCA competitions.

1. Number of entries – a maximum of four (4) per person.
2. Size – 4x6. Color or black and white prints.
3. All entries must supply a title, camera club, name, address and phone number along with your signature to signify that the image is your own.
4. If you would like a list of winners, include your e-mail address.
5. Although this is an individual competition, your own club may want to have a separate contest, as is being done by Des Plaines, Lombard and others.



HELIX Camera & Video
310 South Racine Avenue
Chicago, IL 60607

Phone: 312.421.6000
Fax: 312.421.1586
Email: info@helixcamera.com

We are **THE SOURCE**
for all of your photographic needs.

We Carry The Best Names
In The Business

FUJIFILM	HASSELBLAD
LEICA	OLYMPUS
PENTAX	CANON
SaDiSk	KODAK
PROMASTER	TAMRON
Lexar	Mamiya
SONY	Nikon

• Digital Equipment	• Underwater Photography
• Darkroom Supplies	• Lighting Equipment
• Studio Equipment	• Used Equipment
• Photofinishing	• Camera Repair
• Film to DVD Transfers	• Passport Photos
• Poster Prints	• Seminars
• Digital Video Equipment	• And much more!

www.helixcamera.com

First order of business is to let the newsletter editors and/or club secretaries know that I have a new email address. Please send copies of club newsletters to jsphoto222@sbcglobal.net instead of the “janet49” address used previously.

Now that I have hi-speed it's possible for me to take a better look at the club websites. If you haven't done this yourself, go to www.chicameraclubs.org, click on “clubs” then “club websites”. Wow! Bob Brandes has made this so easy. I did notice a listing for Salt “Creak”. Is this a reflection on the age of the members???

We all know the economy is in the dumps, but look on the bright side—in 2002 Adorama was selling a San Disk 16 MB memory card for \$21.95. The largest listed in their ad was a 1 GB which was \$659.95! Unfortunately, ink cartridges haven't gone down the equivalent. I was listening to a tech radio program recently, and I don't know if it is correct, but it was mentioned that some inks cost around \$8,000 per gallon. (We thought gas was expensive!) I don't know how much ink is in a single cartridge, but considering that there are 128 ounces in a gallon, you know there is no such thing as cheap ink.

Congratulations to Pixel Image Camera Club. They celebrated their 10th anniversary and were the first of several digital clubs to form. Their members continue to teach each other everything from the simple to the complex. Way to go, Pixel!

Foresters' newsletter included timely tips on photographing snow (overexpose 1-2 stops) and capturing Thanksgiving with your camera. The key is to make sure the desired focal point of your photo (is it Grandma or the turkey) is the most important thing in the frame. Eliminate distractions. Capture the spirit of the holiday and the sense of family. One suggestion is to use the famous Norman Rockwell painting as a guideline—don't just have everyone sitting at the table look at the photographer. Capture them doing something such as making a toast or watching the turkey being carved.

Upcoming programs:

January 19 - Riverwoods—“It's a Wet World” by Will Clay

January 19 - Mayslake—“Lightroom 2” by Fred Drury

January 27 - Downers Grove – 5-minute digital programs by members

February 16 - Riverwoods—“Travelogue-The Amazon” by Dave Madden

February 16 - Mayslake – “Converting Digital Images to Black & White” by Don Carter

February 17 - Downers Grove – “Portrait Lighting” by Bruce Van Pelt

March 16 - Riverwoods—“Weather Photography” by Mike Caplan

Just an FYI, the Canon photographers beat out the Nikon photographers in the special contest at Washington Park. Quote of the month: “Just because you own a Nikon does not mean you are a photographer, it means you are a Nikon owner.” This was overheard at SWMCCC and reprinted in the newsletter at the request of the Canon team. Canon-88, Nikon-85.5. The club members had a great time with this and considered everyone winners.

I find out all kinds of interesting tidbits from the newslet-

ters. Garden points out that you may have printer feeding problems in the winter because of the change of humidity in the house. Use a small humidifier, and if you have trouble with static, you might rub a fabric softener sheet on the paper before feeding. This info came from the Red River website-www.redriverpaper.com. You can check out their blog and sign up for their newsletter at blog.redriverpaper.com.

Nature Camera Club of Chicago's new “photo findings” feature list hints, websites, gadgets, etc. found of interest to its members. Here's something from a recent newsletter:

The complete archive of photographs from Life Magazine is now available online, free, for viewing, downloading, and even manipulation, and the resolution of the pictures is high enough to be printed on your printer in sizes up to 8 x 10. Go to the Images section of Google and enter Life Magazine. There are currently 2 million images in the library and up to 10 million are expected eventually. Most of them have never been published.

Nature always includes an excellent CACCA update and links to interesting websites.

WHAT'S CLICKIN'

BY JANET SCHLEETER

I have made frequent references to Arlington Camera Club's newsletter. I can't include all the interesting stuff in What's Clickin', but you can see the whole newslet-

ter at their website www.arlingtoncameraclub.org. It's one newsletter that despite the cost of ink, I always like to print out to make sure I don't miss anything. The December issue includes a photo-oriented article on the Canadian Rockies by Diana Jacobson. Diana toured via a workshop given by Joe and Bonnie Lange. Her experience even included a helicopter ride to the remote Mount Assiniboine Lodge where you could just sit on the porch and take pictures right there.

Kankakee judged their scavenger hunt in December. This year the club scheduled an outing to Dollinger Farms (Chanahan/Minooka/Morris area) in October to photograph Civil War and autumn subjects. Subjects included: horse, settler, soldier, cooking area, cannon, battle, ammo, musket, autumn theme, wagon, pumpkins, and musical instrument. There were some competition quality images that came out of this fun event. If you have never been to this place, it isn't an historic farm, but they host 2 special events, a steam show in July and a Civil War encampment and battle re-enactment in October. If you are interested in that type of photography check their website www.dollingerfarms.com for the latest information on these events.

Here's to a healthy 2009. A number of our members have had serious health issues, and we hope everyone gets better this year. Those who especially need our thoughts, cards, and prayers include Ruby Riota, Mary Root, Pat Wadecki, Sam Krizan and Don Alton. We'd like to see them all feeling better in the new year.

A couple of final notes to delegates. Some of you come to the CACCA meetings and immediately start looking for stickers and forms for the current month's entries. You can download these items from the CACCA website. Remember, it is **your** responsibility to make sure stickers are on the back of all Interclub print entries and to be sure both parts of the 2-part entry form are completely filled in. Thanks for all you do!

Wildlife Photography in the Comfort of Your Home

by Bob Noble

It's cold outside. The wind and snow are blowing. It is a great time for winter wildlife pictures. Even better if you are warm and dry in your home. You can take a natural picture from your window with a little planning and preparation.

First you want the birds to be where you can photograph them – well lit and close. Remember most birds are tiny. Ten feet away can allow reasonable coverage with a hand held telephoto. Currently I am using a Nikon D200 with a 70-200mm 2.8 VR and a 1.4 extender. This gives me a 420mm 35mm equivalent in a package that can be easily hand held. It can also fire bracketed shots at 5 fps. Because of the white on songbirds, and the dark areas on others, I bracket three shots at metered $\pm .7$ EV. Most small birds need a setting of f8 or f11, and as much shutter speed as you can get. Normally in the winter a setting of ISO 640 will get a shutter speed of 1/60 to 1/125.



This Red-breasted Nuthatch was photographed from the author's living room window.

How do you get the birds well lit and close? I use a setup on my back patio of two or three 16 inch flower pots filled with stones. Into these are placed tree tops or branches. They are then located so that the branches photograph well from my living room or office.

Three feeders are located off the patio behind the potted branches – a suet feeder, thistle seed sock, and a feeder filled with equal amounts of black sunflower and millet. The feeders attract cardinals, nuthatches, finches, sparrows, woodpeckers, and other birds.

I also get squirrels, and chipmunks.

This is wildlife photography, so there is a lot of waiting. Ideally you will have camera in hand while looking at your dead tree in a flower pot, and some great bird will land on a branch, pose in a number of positions (all with eye highlight) and you will have a 100 bracketed photos to choose from. Good luck.

2008-2009 Competition Dates

	10/11	11/8	12/13	1/10	2/14	3/14	4/11	5/9
Interclub Slides & Prints	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Alteration of Reality Prints		X		X		X		
Photojournalism Slides & Prints		X		X		X		
Nature Slides & Prints	X		X		X			
Portrait Prints & Slides		X		X		X		
CACCA Spring Salon Material Due						X		
Special Category Slides	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

The deadline for entries in the Interclub Digitally Projected Images Slide division will be one week before the monthly CACCA meeting.

The Best of Year in the Individual Nature Slide and Print divisions and judging for the Grace DeWolf Award (for diversity in nature photography) in both slides and prints will be March 14. Up to six images that have been in competition during the three competitions may be submitted. Any point count can be entered for three of the six images. The other three must be awards or have earned at least 24 points.

Special Category Subjects: Oct. Places of worship or a part thereof; Nov. – Old weathered things; Dec. – People, two or more; Jan. – Wild animals; Feb. – The letter “P”, must appear in the title, e.g., purple, pepper, pigs, etc.; Mar. – geology, e.g., mountains, rocks, rock formations; Apr. –Two colors.

Spring Salon: Saturday, March 21, 2009

Awards Banquet: Sunday, June 13, 2009