

# October PhotoShow Winners

*Action  
and  
Sports*



**More Top Pics  
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**1st Place—Carole Barnard**

## APC ACTIVITIES

Next Meeting

October 15, 2018 7:00 PM

PhotoShows

Nov. 19, 2018

Leading Lines

Board Meeting

October 1, 2018 7:00 PM

Programs

Oct. 15, 2018

Guil Johnson

“Trail and Photography”

Dec. 17, 2018

Christmas Social/Slide Show

## President's Comments—October 2018

Behind the Lens with Mike King

### The Smart Phone vs the DSLR

When I discuss Photography and my love of capturing images with a camera, many say that they just use their Smart phone and do not have a camera. This is fine, no problem here. In fact, I use my smart phone daily to document things at work and capture the day to day happenings around me. When I want simple and easy images that I will most likely only upload to the web or for social media, I use my phone. I also have a small Nikon Point and Shoot with 10 megapixels and a small zoom for those better grab shots on the go. It fits into my pocket and is always ready. It is not "Wi-Fi" ready, so I must take the memory card and download the images.

My question to you, has the smart phone replaced the camera today? For the average person, that is most obvious. Almost **everyone** has a smart phone that has taken the place of the home phone, camera, voice messaging, internet use, texting and a GPS. What can't a smart phone do?

What do we give up by using only a smart phone for our photographic mainstay? As great as the smart phone is, it is not a camera that allows stop action and versatility of magnification or zoom. The smart phone at best only brings in the subject to a standard magnification. The means of zoom on a smart phone is by way of digitally magnifying the image. Digital zoom only crops the image to magnify and that reduces the image quality. Other downsides to using a smartphone for photography is the range of light management or exposure. Most phones

have a limited ability of setting the aperture and shutter speed for subject control. The smartphone is a useful tool for capturing images on the go. As far as a camera for the advanced or even hobbyist photographer, the smart phone soon becomes a disappointment for high quality artistic and creative use, much like the Point and Shoot cameras.

Most likely as the DSLR becomes less attractive to the masses, the smart phone or some type of "all in one" device with zoom lens, advanced photographic features and with the "phone and computer" built in will evolve into a more useful camera for us.

As for this Photographer, I will continue to use my DSLR for photography for the art and quality and technical ability with control of the image. When I want convenience and quickness, my smartphone will most likely be in my pocket anyway. Why choose, use both as I do. I sometimes capture the image with my DSLR and send it to my phone for up loading and sharing while I am out in the field. Technology, I love it. Can you imagine the cool stuff that Ansel Adams would do with a Smart Phone?

**Mike King**

**APC President**

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**336-260-0379**

## MEMBERSHIP MEMO

By: Carole Barnard

Our year is coming to a close and what an exciting year it has been. The appearance of hurricane Florence is not the kind of excitement I am talking about however. I am referring to the interesting programs and the great PhotoShows we have had this year. Our exhibit at the Paramount Theater this year was a great success and we have our date for 2019 Exhibit already booked!

We currently have 64 members in our club and we normally have at least one guest or more come to our meetings to check us out! Now that we have our APC logo shirts we can proudly "strut our stuff" as we are out and about in the community and when we go on field trips. Does not hurt to have a little swag!

One more program and one more PhotoShow and we will end the year with our annual Christmas Party and slide show. Enjoy your Autumn adventures and we will see you at the next meeting!

Carole—Membership Chair

## APC BOARD

President	Mike King	Publicity Chair	Bob Finley
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> V/P and Program Chairs	Debbie Chandler Dave Kaplan	Exhibit Chair	Sandra Whitesell
Secretary	June Siple	Membership Chair	Carole Barnard
Treasurer	Nancy Jacobus	Twin Lakes Rep.	Len Barnard
PhotoShow Chair	Ivan Baez	Web Master	JP Lavoie
Co-Chair	Herbert House	Past President	Len Barnard
Outings/Field Trips	Hugh Comfort	Editor	Ray Munns

## September 17<sup>th</sup> PhotoShow—Action/Sports

### Critiqued by Dom D'Aleo

Dom D'Aleo, is a 21-year-old photographer based in Raleigh, North Carolina. A few years ago, he began teaching himself photography through YouTube videos. Nowadays, you may find him out on ECU's campus working with new clients, or in Raleigh exploring the most vibrant scenes the city has to offer.

Find his website at: *domdaleophotography.com*

See next page for top PhotoShow photos.



**Thank you Dom for critiquing our work along with your valuable suggestions with each photo!**

## APC LOGO T-SHIRTS

At our September meeting, we had several members who purchased T-Shirts and Polo shirts with the Alamance Photography Club logo. I expect to have them in a couple of weeks. At that time I was also asked if I would be taking additional orders at our October meeting. My answer was yes; however, after I know more about shipping cost I may need to place a minimum order quantity or possibly increase the cost on each shirt.

If you are interested and want more information, please see the APC September Newsletter. If you do not still have it, go to our web site to view at:

<https://www.alamancephoto.com/newsletters>

I hope all APC Members will show their APC Colors!

Questions call Len at 336-270-3194 or email, [lencarole56@gmail.com](mailto:lencarole56@gmail.com)

Len Barnard



## More PhotoShow Winners



**2nd Place—John Reich**



**3rd Place—Dick Schenck**



**1st HM—Len Barnard**



**3rd HM—Herbert House**



**2nd HM  
George Siple**

## Attention Please!!

- ◆ Club Members Gallery One of the most satisfying and enjoyable things about our Alamance Photography Club is the time we spend with other members – getting to know them, seeing their photos, going on photo outings together, learning from each other, becoming friends, etc. This “Club Members Gallery” page or two will help us get to know each other better with respect to our photo interests, travels, life activities, and more. Having a monthly bio and photos from a member (who volunteers) will help us all get to know one another better. This can only strengthen our club. Help us get to know you better by volunteering to be part of the “Club Members Gallery”.
- ◆ Volunteers are needed for 2019 in various positions. If you are willing to help, please contact Mike King at 336-260-0379 or [Mking0379@gmail.com](mailto:Mking0379@gmail.com).
- ◆ Club tradition is that at our December meeting we have a slide show of members’ photos that were taken during the current year. These 2018 photos can be from club field trips, exhibit photos, and daycation/vacation photos. If you have some you would like to show, email them to Mike King at [Mking0379@gmail.com](mailto:Mking0379@gmail.com). About 15 images per member will be great.

## CLUB MEMBERS GALLERY

By Russell Stott

Russell Stott was born in Japan of missionary parents who left Japan in 1941, before Pearl Harbor. He grew up in several small towns in eastern NC, where his father served as a pastor of multiple congregations. He earned some pocket money when he was fourteen by taking b/w pictures at birthday parties, using a twin lens Argus-75 camera. It was truly a point and shoot, no focusing, no settings to worry about: look through the



top and snap. There was a small switch on the front labeled “instant” and “time.” Since he had no tripod, the “time” option was never used. A knob advanced the 620 film. It did have two holes on the side where a flash gun could be attached. Licking the end of the flash bulb helped to make sure it fired.

Using a Voitlander Vito II, Russell learned about focusing and the relationship between shutter speeds and *f*-stops, depth of field, and qualities of light. When color film became available, he was amazed at the results. While in graduate school, he worked in the camera department of Rich’s in Atlanta, getting acquainted with many cameras. He won a professional Polaroid camera, with roll out bellows. Using a Kodak (model number forgotten), he took pictures of some of the lovely homes and dogwood lined streets, showing the owners a small photo to sell them an enlarged one to frame.

Then companies would seek photographers to take photos to advertise their products. A photographer would send a drawing, b/w picture or description of the idea he/she had in mind. The company would write back saying they would consider buying the picture if it met deadlines and quality standards. Toothpaste, swim suits, cigarettes, clothing – you name it. These two and party photos earned money.

Today Russell uses a pocket-plus size Panasonic Lumix DMCZS for 90% of the time. It has 5~20 MP, with accompanying 1000mm~25mm *f*/2.8. He carries it all the time. He also uses a Sony A77 mostly with a 18~250 lens, plus some special lenses. He enjoys candid shots of unaware people, nature, macro and micro shots, formal and informal portraits, story-telling images, groups & special occasions, architectural, historical, etc.

Lately he has turned photos into digital paintings and greeting cards. He is interested in the Wabi Sabi aesthetic. He has been taking pictures for 70 years and is still learning. It’s so much fun!

Russell is a retired pastor and college professor. He is a certified Neuro-Linguistic Practitioner and a Body -Mind Re-educator. For 20+ years he made art objects from slate.

**CLUB MEMBERS GALLERY . . . CONTINUED**

Photos by Russell Stott



Have a wonderful Birthday!



When the Light comes  
people rejoice and  
trees dance.



## October 15, 2018 Program

### “Trail and Photography”

By Guil Johnson

Raised in Alamance County, I graduated from Western Alamance High School and received my B.S. in Recreation Management from Appalachian State University. After college graduation, I received my certification as a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional. Shortly after, I started working for Alamance County Recreation and Parks as a Park Technician at Cedarock Park. After a year, I took the job as the Haw River Trail Coordinator. My responsibilities include planning the development of trail and greenway efforts, open space preservation programs, and riparian and interior land conservation. My position places me as the main contact for information about the Haw River Trail in Alamance County.



Recently, I married my lovely wife Andrea. We bought a house along the Haw River where we live in a renovated textile mill home with our three dogs: Kota, Comet, and Haw. My family enjoys paddling on the Haw River, rock climbing in the Appalachian Mountains, and hiking at the numerous NC State Parks.

Unfortunately I don't have much of a resume of taking photos. I often take photos for our media sources of the trails along the river, wildlife, and action shots of participants of our Haw River Trail fundraisers.

I hope to bring interest in the Haw River Trail during my talk. I want to provide the Club with places to enjoy and photograph nature. Hopefully we can partner with your club to share pictures taken of the Haw River Trail with the public through our media sources.

Guil Johnson, CPRP  
Haw River Trail Coordinator  
Trails & Open Space Coordinator  
Alamance Parks  
3916 R. Dean Coleman Road  
Burlington, N.C. 27215  
Office: 336 229 2380



## *Christmas Party*

**December 17, 2018**

**Time - 7:00 pm**

It's Party time—Start planning. December is around the corner! We will start about 7:00 pm. The Club will provide coffee, punch and all paper products. Members are requested to bring the appetizers of their choice and arrive around 6:30 pm, giving the host time to arrange the food table. If you desire a drink other than those mentioned above, you will need to bring it.

## *Alamance Photography Club*

*Annual dues for 2019*

*Individual = \$40.00 Family = \$60.00*

*Payable by check or Cash at future meetings.*

*Member's Name will be removed from membership*

*Roster for Non-payment of dues after*

*February 19, 2019*

# APC Fall 2018 Field Trip—Old Salem

## Hugh Comfort—Outings/Field Trips Chair

Our Fall 2018 Field Trip is to **Old Salem (in Winston-Salem) on October 20<sup>th</sup>**. To quote from the Old Salem Museums and Gardens website, *“Old Salem Museums & Gardens presents an authentic view of the rich cultural history of early Southern life to diverse audiences—with special emphasis on the Moravians in North Carolina—through the preservation and interpretation of historic objects, buildings and landscapes.”* [See <http://www.oldsalem.org/> for detailed information]. The museums require tickets, but the streets are public and do not. Flash photography inside is not permitted, but otherwise photography such as ours has basically no restrictions [see their photography policy at <http://www.oldsalem.org/visit/photo-policy/>]. As part of our field trip, we will plan to



make reservations for lunch at the historic Old Salem Tavern for those who are interested. In addition, those who were enticed by our August program can plan to make a side trip to the Reynolda House to view the Dorothea Lange photography exhibit, which is located a short distance from Old Salem. Final sign-up will be at our October 15 meeting.

### Additional Details:

Although the public areas (streets, and some stores) are free, the only free garden is the Single Brothers' Garden. Other gardens are associated with adjacent museums and require admission tickets for the museum. All-in-one tickets are \$27 for a day ticket, or \$18 for admission to two museums of your choice. Tickets and maps are available at the **Visitor's Center (900 Old Salem Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27101)** which is across Old Salem Road from the historic district. The Visitor's Center opens at 9:00 AM and that is where you should park. The museums themselves are open from 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM. For more details, see the website at the link above. For questions, contact Hugh Comfort (Ph. 336-350-9241, Email [comforthrh@gmail.com](mailto:comforthrh@gmail.com)).

# Fall Color Tips

By Russ Burden



**Sunstar + HDR:** Backlit fall color glows as rim light and decorates each leaf. Additionally, all foliage takes on a radiance giving the impression that each petal, frond or blade is lit from within. I always say, “It’s all about the light,” and when it comes to fall color, the most dramatic is backlight. The problem with backlight is controlling the sun. Enter a total photographic bonus that perfectly falls into place. Autumn is the time for scenics, which need depth of field. Depth of field is increased when the lens is stopped down. When the lens is stopped down, a bright light source becomes a sunstar when just a piece of the light is made visible. To create this, hide the sun behind a branch of a tree or thick cluster of leaves. Then, ever so slightly, move to the left, right, up or down to let about one-third of the sun become visible. With the lens stopped down to  $f/22$ , you should get a gorgeous sunstar. There’s one more issue that needs to be addressed with regard to backlight—contrast. To combat the contrast, shoot a bracketed series of exposures without moving the camera, which is best accomplished by putting it on a tripod. Make a 3-stop series of 2 stops under, on the meter reading and 2 stops over. Process the three images in your favorite HDR program, and you’ll be rewarded with a backlit autumn scene that contains a sunstar and is perfectly exposed. One word of caution—when you shift your position to include one-third of the sun, be *extremely* wary of eye damage and use *extreme* caution!

### Fall Color Tips . . . Continued



**Seek Reflected Light:** Ask 90 percent of all photographers to show you their fall images and you'll see trees, barns, covered bridges, country roads, footpaths blanketed with fall color, etc. Rarely will you see images of just reflected fall color. Learn to not be like everyone else and seek out the images that separate you from the masses. Yes, still make the obvious shots, but expand your boundaries and look beyond the obvious. A still lake reflects color, trees and mountainsides, but even these images are quite the norm. Take it a step farther and look for subtle reflections. Strive to make images that are solely abstract. If that's not comfortable, include a surrounding element that's obvious to the viewer so the onlooker turns to you to say, "I get what you did—very cool!" In essence, expand your horizons.

### Fall Color Tips . . . Continued



**Stage It:** Autumn is a great time to be with friends and family. It's nice to document the time you spend together. If photography is more than a hobby and you strive to sell prints or get invited to submit images to a stock agency, think about what you can do to make the images of those with whom you travel moneymakers. Before you head out, have them wear specific-colored clothing and then include them in your photos. Bring along a prop or two that would make sense, such as an umbrella, a cane, a cool hat, red wagon, etc. Have them pose in places that are iconic and scenic so it becomes more marketable. Look for a winding path, a tree in peak color, a country road or another location that screams autumn and good times.

## Fall Color Tips . . . Continued



**Polarizer—don't leave home without it:** The polarizer helps saturate a blue sky when positioned 90 degrees from the sun, and it also removes glare that robs leaves of their color. As you spin the polarizer, both these things will be visible through the viewfinder.

**Zero In:** Break out your macro lens, and don't overlook the single fallen leaf, the one that dangles by a hair before its inevitable descent to the ground or the one that lives on a rock next to a pristine stream. Also, think about making images that include just parts of a peak-colored tree, a fence with fallen leaves or any other small-scale subject.

**Time of Day:** Sunrise and sunset provide the warmest tones that bathe subjects in gold, yellow and red. Because the warm tones are emphasized, be sure to monitor the red channel of your histogram so you don't overexpose delicate yellows, red and oranges.

**Send in the Clouds:** Clouds cover the sun, and a covered sun means soft light. Country roads and dirt trails love to be photographed in soft light as the contrast is lessened and every detail becomes visible. If you get an overcast day, exploit the light.

# Focus Challenges and How Live View Can Help You Get Razor-Sharp Images

By Frank Myrland

There's no feeling quite like the dread that sets in when you are reviewing your photos from the day and you notice that some of those stellar images you snapped are soft and out of focus. For photographers who like to shoot with a wide aperture, sometimes hitting your focus is like walking on a tightrope – and missing by just a tiny little bit can seriously ruin your day.



The watch is the focal point of this shot, and some careful technique helped ensure that it stayed tack sharp.

Editing can do a lot to save a picture; you can make areas of it brighter or darker, you can modify colors and add your own distinctive style – but there's no way to completely fix a shot where the focus simply missed.

Fortunately, when shooting in controlled situations, there's a useful trick for making sure each and every shot is in razor-sharp focus.

Why are some of my shots out of focus?

In a perfect world, cameras would adjust correctly to the lighting and dynamics of every shot and deliver focus with pinpoint precision. Unfortunately, reality gets in the way.

There are a few reasons why your shots sometime come out a bit soft, meaning that the camera has decided to focus a bit too far in front or behind the target you were actually aiming for.

## *Focus Challenges and How Live View Can Help . . . Continued*

### **Lack of contrast**

Cameras determine focus based on contrast. When you try to focus on an object that doesn't have much contrast, say a smooth white wall, for example, there isn't contrast for the camera to lock onto. Sometimes the camera will hunt for a focus point, shifting back and forth for a few seconds, and then give up. Sometimes the camera focus will latch onto a different part of the picture, putting your true subject out of focus.

This shot was supposed to be focused on the red ornament, but finer details in the background and the flicker of lights grabbed the attention of the camera's autofocus instead.



After flipping over to manual focus and choosing the focus point more deliberately, the final shot looks a whole lot better!

This can also be a problem in low light conditions. Once again, the camera doesn't have any strong contrasts to grab onto and can miss its target.

## *Focus Challenges and How Live View Can Help . . . Continued*

### **Bad focus caused by user error**

As much as we hate to admit it, user error can cause some missed focus problems too. If you lock your focus on a target, then either move the camera or wait too long and allow the target to move significantly from where it once was, the resulting shot isn't going to be razor-sharp.

Another common problem for shooters using autofocus is when the focus locks on an unintended part of the image, leaving the main subject blurry. One good way to counter this is to choose a more specific focus mode, such as single point focus.



The focus of this shot is tight on the King, emphasizing the piece's importance in the game.

Here the autofocus grabbed a different part of the frame, leaving this picture without a clear subject or purpose.



## *Focus Challenges and How Live View Can Help . . . Continued*

### **Slow shutter speed**

Some blur that looks like missed focus could also be the result of using a shutter speed that is too slow. The resulting movement in the camera from pressing down the shutter button can blur out the fine details in your shot.

If your shot isn't turning out right, take time to consider whether it might be because of one of these common problems before you throw your camera at the wall in frustration.

### **So how can Live View help me with focus?**

Live View is a mode where you can see through your lens using the LCD screen on the back of your camera. It can be used to pinpoint your focus in situations when your subject isn't moving and your camera is on a tripod.

The advantage of using the camera's LCD screen is that you get a 100% accurate look at how the picture is going to turn out once you press the shutter button.



The camera is set up in Live View mode, ready for precision focusing.

In Live View mode, you can focus up to 5 times magnification. Some cameras can even zoom to 10 times magnification, helping guarantee that the focus is precise, even at f/1.8.



## **Focus Challenges and How Live View Can Help . . . Continued**

This technique is mostly useful at wider apertures when your camera's autofocus may miss its target, even with using single point focus. When shooting at a wide aperture of  $f/4$  or lower, the margin for error is very slim. With an extremely narrow depth of field, missing your focus by even a couple of centimeters could make those crucial details in your shot look soft.

If you are taking a landscape photograph and are using a narrow aperture (such as  $f/16$ ) to keep as much detail in focus, there is a lot more room for error.

### **What about using the single point focus mode?**



For precision focusing, the single point focus mode goes a long way.

This is a mode where you can choose just one point for the camera to automatically focus with, rather than allowing the camera to consider the entire scene.

Single point mode was a good choice here in order to make sure the focus was accurate on the orange insect.

When you need to nail a tough shot on a moving subject, single point focus is definitely the way to go. For stationary subjects, however, shooting in manual focus mode and using Live View to ensure your focus is tack sharp removes any potential for trouble. Even single point focus can have issues with accuracy in dark or low contrast situations.

Discovering what subjects you like to photograph and chasing unique moments with a camera is a thrill. And practicing your focusing technique and using tricks like Live View focusing can help you make sure you come home with more and more keepers after every shoot!

# 23 Easy Tips for Better Smartphone Pictures

By Bastian Bodyl



## Technical

First some technical improvements you can do easily without knowing too much about the technical things in your smartphone. Most time you can improve photos just with some simple tricks. You do not have to use them all at once, sometimes just one little thing can make the difference.

### 1 – Go closer, do not zoom

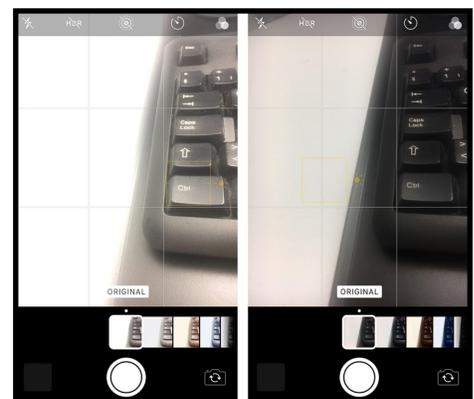
**If you can, go closer instead of zooming.** In the newer phones with higher megapixel this does not matter that much, but often you make the images worse by zooming with your smartphone. If you can't get closer because there is a cliff or a dangerous animal, use the zoom.

### 2 – Use portrait modes

Some of the newer smartphones have portrait modes. They blur the background and give the look of a professional camera. **Use these modes and you can get great results.** They do not have the same quality like a pro camera but you can improve your smartphone pictures a lot by using them.

### 3 – Use light metering

When you tap on your screen in photo mode, you can change where the brightness is measured. This can be helpful if you have a lot of contrasts in your picture. **The automatic light metering does fail in these situations sometimes and you get better results just by controlling it manually.**



## 23 Easy Tips for Better Smartphone Pictures . . . Continued

### 4 – Set your focus

If you have objects close to your lens, sometimes it is better to set your focus manually by tapping on the screen. You can better control what you want in focus, and what you want out of focus. (picture at right)



### 5 – Move your model to a lighter spot

If you are photographing a person, most of the time it is better to move them in a better lit place especially in dark places. Keep attention that the whole part of the person that you want to photograph is in the light.

### 6 – Do not take photos with high contrast

If you have high contrast in your picture, the smartphone lens has trouble processing it. Most sensors in smartphones cannot process high contrasts. You can get images where the clouds in the sky are not visible or the dark parts in the images are too dark. **It is sometimes better to cut extreme dark or light parts out of your composition.** If you want to make a high contrast picture, the next tip is for you.

### 7 – Use HDR Mode

HDR means High Dynamic Range. The smartphone will take three pictures and overlay them. **You get more details in high contrast pictures.** The disadvantage is that the images can look flat.

### 8 – Take control over the flash

The flash makes every image better – not really. Especially with objects far away, the flash disturbs more than it helps. **So do not be that guy who takes a picture in a concert with a flash.** An easy rule is, if the object is close, the flash will help. If the object is far away, the flash disturbs.

On close objects the flash can help to improve the picture.



On objects far away the flash can ruin the image.



## 23 Easy Tips for Better Smartphone Pictures . . . Continued

### 9 – Use the burst mode

If you want to photograph a fast moving object, use the burst mode. **On most smartphones you can just hold the release button.** The Smartphone will take photos as long as you hold the button. You can select the best one afterwards.

### 10 – Use long time exposure

Some smartphones, like the iPhone, have a hidden long time exposure feature. **Just scroll down if you have opened a live photo in the photo app and you will see them.** With this function you can make blurred water or light trails.

### 11 – Control your camera settings

There are a lot of apps that let you control your camera settings on the smartphone. **You can control everything like in a DSLR.** This is great if you have reached some limitations with your smartphone and do not want to invest in an expensive camera. There are also advanced modes like long time exposure.

### 12 – Keep the lens distortion in mind

**Smartphone lenses have a huge lens distortion at the edges in the pictures.** You will recognize this the most if you make pictures of people in portrait orientation where the person fills out most of the picture. The face or the legs sometime look really weird. You can avoid this just by stepping back a little bit so that the person does not fill out the whole frame or by holding your smartphone in landscape orientation. If you want, crop the edges afterwards.

## Composition

Beside the technical things, another point is the composition. You do not need to know special things for smartphones. You can also use these tips for photography in general.

### 13 – Rule of thirds

I love and hate this tip at the same time. This is the very basic tip you hear every time, but for a long time, I could not do anything with this tip. It is based on a layer where your picture is divided into nine parts. Over time I found out for myself, that most of my pictures that I like best have the rule of thirds somewhere. This does not mean you have to apply the rule in every part of the picture and there are definitely pictures that are not composed with the rule of thirds, but it is most of the time a good help.

You can show the lines of the rule of thirds on the screen as a little help (go to the camera settings). If you have just one thing in your picture that is composed by the rule of thirds, the picture will most times look better. This can be one third ground, two thirds sky or one third beach, one third sea and one third sky. Do not worry too much about this rule. It is fine most of the time if there are some other elements in the picture that do not fit in the pattern.



## 23 Easy Tips for Better Smartphone Pictures . . . Continued

### 14 – Straight horizon

This is important especially if you have a straight horizon like at the sea. Also, the grid on your screen helps a bit. I am personally failing a lot at this point, but you can straighten the horizon afterwards. A tilted horizon can look very weird and distract the eye when looking at the picture.

### 15 – Use landscape orientation

When you pull your phone out of your pocket, you have automatically the portrait orientation. It is the way we look at our phone screens. But before you take a picture think first if the portrait orientation is the best for the photo. Sometimes you can get much better results with a landscape orientation. Just try from time to time the landscape orientation.

### 16 – Simplify

Too many things in the picture can make a photo bad. So a great tip to make a better composition is to simplify your picture. Simplifying can mean different things; for example, not too many colors or not too many things in your picture. Focus on what is important. If you want to make a portrait, focus on the person you photograph (use a portrait mode). If you are photographing a landscape, look for a prominent landmark and focus on that.

### 17 – Shoot Black and White

This is also something that can help to simplify your images. **If you take photos with a lot of different colors, it can help if you switch your camera to black and white.**

### 18 – Change the perspective

**The great thing about the smartphone is that it is very light.** This makes it easier for you to change your perspective by holding it up about your head or holding it down to the ground. With the perspective change, you can simply make more interesting pictures.

### 19 – Slight change of the perspective

**This is more like an exercise you can do.** When I take pictures, I usually take several from a slightly different perspective. In most cases I like the last picture the best. Take the photo three times from a slightly different angle and choose the best afterwards.

### 20 – Panorama

**Most smartphones have a panorama function.** Sometimes when you have great scenery, panoramas can also be a good option. It depends a bit on the motive but most times wide open spaces like lakes, beaches and lookout points from mountains work best for this.

Beaches are good for panoramas.



## 23 Easy Tips for Better Smartphone Pictures . . . Continued

### Postproduction

The last thing most photographers do is postproduction. You can do this also on your smartphone. There are a lot of apps. This is not an exact science where you can tell what works the best. Just try it and see what you like.

#### 21 – Use Filters

This tip is a bit like tip 16, but you can also change the color of your picture afterwards. You can do this on some smartphones directly in the built in photo app. But you will find definitely a lot of filter apps in the App Store. You can also use Instagram to apply filters or make some basic edits.

#### 22 – Use a postproduction app

Some smartphones have built in post processing apps. In IOs you have a lot of possibilities to make edits in your photo. But there are also a lot of apps available like Snapseed or Lightroom. Just try out everything (every setting and slider) and see if you like the picture. There is no right or wrong.

#### 23 – Shoot RAW

This is technical and a postproduction tip. A RAW photo is an unprocessed photo. If you take normal photos, your device makes some things automatically like adding contrast or pushing some colors. Shooting RAW means you have to do it by yourself but you have the full control over it. You need on most smartphones an app for this.



### Use RGB Histograms

By default, most digital cameras display a luminosity histogram, showing the distribution of tones across all color channels. The histogram is useful in evaluating overall exposure; however, it doesn't always tell the whole story. In particular, when photographing bold colors, such as autumn foliage, one or more of the individual color channels (red, green or blue) may be clipped and lacking in detail. By examining the individual RGB histograms, you'll be able to see whether specific channels are clipped and correct the exposure as necessary.

