

## PHOTO FRENZY!

By David Dunagan ([d\\_dunagan@msn.com](mailto:d_dunagan@msn.com))

Here are some stories and images from six of our CHAA members who are enjoying their photography hobby.

**Don Holmes** ([Don.Holmes@jacobs.com](mailto:Don.Holmes@jacobs.com))

Aside from home, the Okavango Delta is probably our happiest place. We travel quite a bit, and my wife Lee (nee Lee Williams) never wants to go back anywhere because there are always so many new places to see and adventures to have. However, we've been to the Okavango Delta in Botswana on camera safari expeditions four times to date and are planning a fifth trip in September 2025. One of the reasons is you get so close to the animals.

Looking back on several of those trips, here are some scenes from the Okavango Delta.

We found a dead elephant calf one morning and came across its herd in the afternoon. One of the females, who was still quite upset, made a serious charge on our vehicle, which was rapidly exiting the scene in reverse when I took the photo. At the time, I was actually thinking that I would either get an interesting picture or die in the process.

That's my excuse for the poor focus on this one. [Click here for more of Don's photos.](#)



*King of the Delta.*



*A truly majestic African antelope.*



*A real charge!*



*World's worst attempt to use salad as camouflage!*

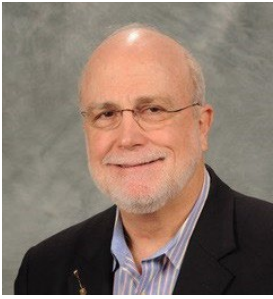


*One reason why walking safaris aren't allowed when the grass is high.*



*A thirsty herd.*

**Bob Forbes** ([RHForbesjr@gmail.com](mailto:RHForbesjr@gmail.com))



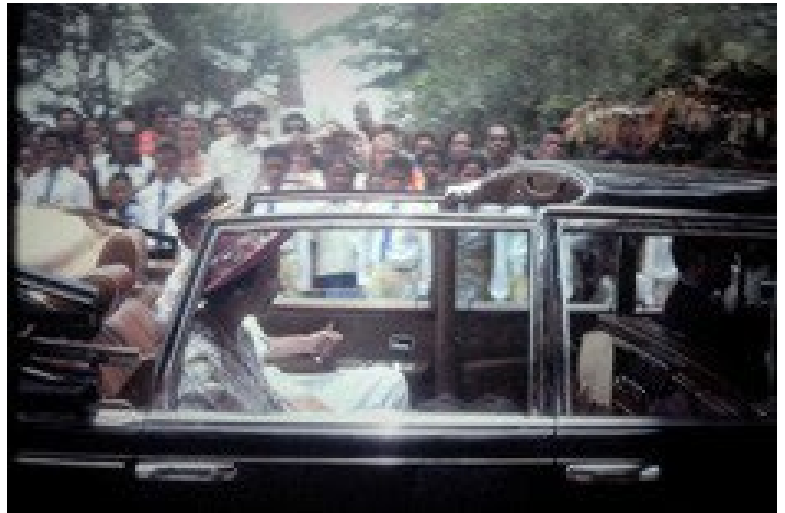
I first became interested in photography when I worked at a summer camp for boys after graduating from NC State way back in 1976. While taking campers on backpacking trips, I was enthralled by the beauty of the Blue Ridge Mountains. I bought my first camera to capture our hikes, a Kodak Instamatic. The quality of my photos could only go up from there!

That summer I also made a life-changing decision to join the Peace Corps. By August I had saved enough money to invest in a “real” camera, a Pentax SLR with a zoom lens, and by late September '76, my camera and I were headed to the Tonga Islands in the South Pacific, where I would spend over 2 years as a water supply engineer.

I chose Kodachrome slides as my photo medium, and they have lasted well over the years. Among the many photos I took in Tonga, perhaps my most recognizable photo from that time was of Queen Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip when they visited Tonga’s capital, Nuku’alofa, in 1978.

My favorite photos from my Peace Corps days were of the Tongan people. They celebrate the Christmas season with school dancing competitions, judged on the students’ attire as well as their dancing skills.

Two photogenic sisters posed for me before going onstage, wearing their traditional outfits of native tapa cloth and woven leaves, plus some exotic feathers adorning the little sister’s hair.



I took many slide photos while I lived in Tonga, backpacked in New Zealand, and wound my way home through Fiji, Samoa, and Hawaii after my Peace Corps service ended. If you’re interested, I’ll bring out the old Carousel projector and show you a few dozen!

I started work at CH2M HILL right after earning my MS in 1981 and stayed on through its acquisition by Jacobs in 2017, followed by my retirement in 2019. I worked my last two decades as a technologist with the Global Water Group, taking me to some of the world’s most exotic locations for wastewater treatment plants as the age of digital photography took off.



Here’s a Sunday afternoon shot of Copacabana Beach that I took from the top of my hotel in Rio de Janeiro with my cellphone while I decompressed after an overnight flight from Miami. And yes, all those little dots are people on the beach. The Samsung Galaxy phones have great cameras!

After retirement my wife, dogs, and I relocated to the Albemarle Sound area of North Carolina, presumably giving me more time to practice photography. This is a cool area for wildlife, especially birds. My favorite avian subjects are a pair of bald eagles in our neighborhood who I’m certain are married based on their behavior, as captured in this photo, ruffled feathers and all.



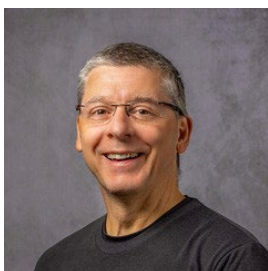


*Red sky at morning, sailors take warning!*

I took the eagle photo with my latest acquisition, a Nikon Z50 mirrorless camera. Mirrorless cameras are light, compact, and capable of very sharp photos when matched with high-quality lenses, so naturally they come at a cost. The Nikon Z50 is one of the least costly at about \$1,200 with two lenses. Additional lenses will add up, of course! Sunrises and sunsets are fantastic from the Albemarle Sound, so I'll end this story of "My Life in Photography" with one of my recent sunrise shots.

[Click here for more of Bob's photos.](#)

## Ned Pennock



I've been interested in photography most of my life. However, my love of photography really took off between 2014 and 2016 during an overseas assignment to the country of Georgia. It was there that I learned that photography is much more than simply pushing the shutter button to capture an image.

Each of the photos shown below highlight some of the important lessons that I have learned to become a better photographer. I share these images and advice in the hope that they might help others to improve their photographic skills.

If you want to see these and more of my images, please visit my website: [www.nedpennockphotography.com](http://www.nedpennockphotography.com), contact me by email ([nedthephotodude@gmail.com](mailto:nedthephotodude@gmail.com)) or phone (937) 689-6093.

**Caiman and Friend** – Know your equipment. It might sound obvious, but it is really important to know your camera. I took this photo from a small boat in the Amazon.

One of the keys to getting this image before the butterfly or the chain moved was to know my camera and how to quickly change the settings to ensure that the image that I captured was in focus and exposed correctly. Practice using your camera before you go on a trip of a lifetime, so you can capture all of those once-in-a-lifetime images. There is nothing worse than fumbling around with your camera trying to get the shot, not only miss the shot, but also miss the one-in-a-lifetime experience.



*Caiman and friend.*



**Mesa Arch (Canyonlands NP, Utah)** – Research the location. There are many phone apps that allow you to see when the sun/moon will rise/set or to see when your subject will be in direct sun or shadows. You can also scout out a location by visiting it a day or two in advance to improve your photography.



**A Checkered Past** – Consider the background as much as the subject. When you can, choose a background that complements the subject, or move your position slightly to avoid a background that competes with the subject. In this photo, a wooden checkerboard not only provides a pleasing background for the waterdrop, it is also focused by the waterdrop in a way that helps to bring the waterdrop to life.



**Bar Glasses** – Pay attention to detail. I spent hours creating Bar Glasses. At first, I paid attention to the number and types of glasses to use. Then I worked on the positioning of the glasses relative to each other...then the colors of liquids and the amount of liquid in each glass. Finally, I finetuned the positioning of each glass and the lighting to achieve the

precise overall composition I was looking for.



## Finishing Touches

Get outside of your comfort zone. I traveled to Indonesia to attend a “photo storytelling” workshop with National Geographic photographer John Stanmeyer. Talk about stepping outside of my comfort zone! I entered Finishing Touches in a juried exhibition in 2024. The exhibition judge, Joel Whitaker, provided the following comments: “I was so impressed with the range of subject and overall professional approach to all the photographs exhibited. They all demonstrated authenticity, personal engagement, and an individual approach to subject. I chose this photograph as Best In Show because in addition to the aforementioned qualities, this photograph projected empathy and a visualized connection to the subject, as well as attention to the composition and use of color.”



**Smoky Rose** – Experiment with new techniques. I love to explore different techniques to create one-of-a-kind works of art like Smoky Rose. Let me know how you think I captured this image.

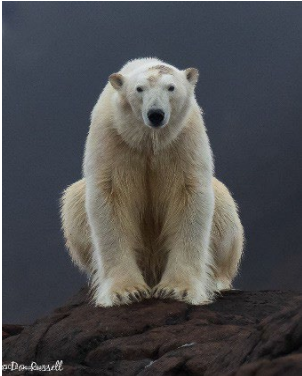


**Don Russell** ([russelldr@comcast.net](mailto:russelldr@comcast.net))



In late July and early August of 2022, I took a trip to photograph the Polar Bear, landscapes, and other arctic animals on the Svalbard Norway islands. It was a fantastic trip! The animals, landscapes, fellow photographers, trip organizers, guides, and the ship's crew were exceptional.

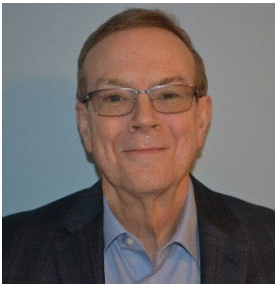
I consider myself an adventurer with a keen interest in using photos to document my activities. I am not highly engaged in taking the perfect shot. More interested in making sure I have captured the moment and the essence of the place/animal.



During the past seven years I have photographed African animals in Tanzania and Rwanda, Spirit Bear in Canada, jaguars in Brazil, Bengal tigers in India, brown (grizzly) bears in Alaska, and polar bears in Norway.

[Click here for more of Don's photos.](#)

**Bill Kreutzberger** ([bkreutzb@gmail.com](mailto:bkreutzb@gmail.com))



I enjoy photography mostly as a way to document where I've traveled, both in the US and internationally. I especially like to call attention to striking or unusual features of the natural world.

[Click here for more of Bill's photos.](#)



*Blue Ridge sunrise.*



*Blue Ridge late afternoon.*



*Bison at Yellowstone.*



*Three Top Mountain.*



*Yellowstone River Canyon.*

**David Dunagan** ([D\\_Dunagan@msn.com](mailto:D_Dunagan@msn.com))



A couple of months before retirement back in 2014, I bought my first “grown-up” camera and began a hobby that continues to this day. Hope you enjoy a few images I’ve captured so far.

Over on the riverbank, he seemed to be begging his mom to ask for permission to ride with me. She finally gave in, the boy climbed aboard, and I invited him to paddle. I’d never seen a happier kid. We didn’t speak the same language, but that could not have mattered less.



*Canoe adventure.*





*Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker on holly.*



*Baby raccoon waiting for mom.*



*Barred owl dreaming of its next chipmunk!*



*Cuties in the woods.*



*Ant adrift.*

I enjoy playing around with ambiguity in nature. In this case, the feather was slowly drifting along the river's edge. I was sitting on a rock in the water as the feather floated my way. Below the feather you don't exactly "see" the water but rather reflections of the ant and feather, the clouds, and the blue sky. OK, so I'm easily amused!

[Click here to view more of David's photos.](#)