

1. What sparked your passion for photography?

I was about 11 years old when my older brother, Tony got briefly involved in photography, taking, then developing and printing pictures in our basement's makeshift darkroom. I was fascinated by the workings and when he got bored he gave me and I gladly accepted the meager processing equipment he had.

I was a paper delivery boy at the time and was earning about \$10 per week on my 100 customer paper route. I spent most of my money earned by building up additional camera and processing equipment. I would take a bus from my house to Jamaica, Queens and walk about a mile to the "Sunshine Camera" store. They got to know me pretty well.

In the eighth grade my principal advised me that the High School of Performing Arts in NYC was opening a brand-new program for Theatrical Photography with the aim of promoting the school and for other reasons. While there I learned a great deal about the art and technical aspects of the trade which I loved. My teacher, Mr. Mel Saltzman was an inspiration to me. The city closed down the program after 2 ½ years but went on after High School to gain an Associate's Degree in Photographic Technology. After that I went further in my education to earn both a Bachelor's and Masters Degree in Electronic and Electrical Engineering, which combined with photographic science rounded out my understanding of today's digital photography.

2. How and when did you join the SSCC?

Around 1986 I got heavily involved into cycling and was in a bicycle club from 1997 until 2017. Age was advancing so I gave up the cycling but was still heavily involved in photography. My Son Chris introduced me to the Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area in the Summer of 2018 and when there I met a member of

SSCC, Carole Meyers who noticed my gear and interest in Nature Photography and told me about SSCC. I was thinking about a club to join, and this seemed perfect for me, so I joined the club in January 2019 and have been here ever since making many friends at the club and enjoying the experience.

3. Do you have a favorite type of photography or a signature style?

Two signature areas in photography are Wildlife and Landscape Photography. In traveling with my son Chris to the Southwest and the West Coast, I got involved in landscape photography and did many trips with him perfecting that art. Sometime around 2011, while in New Mexico, I traveled to the Bosque Del Apache Wetlands and was amazed with the variety of wildlife there particularly the migrating Sandhill Cranes birds. From that point on I started my journey in Bird and Wildlife Photography.

4. Which cameras and lens do you like?

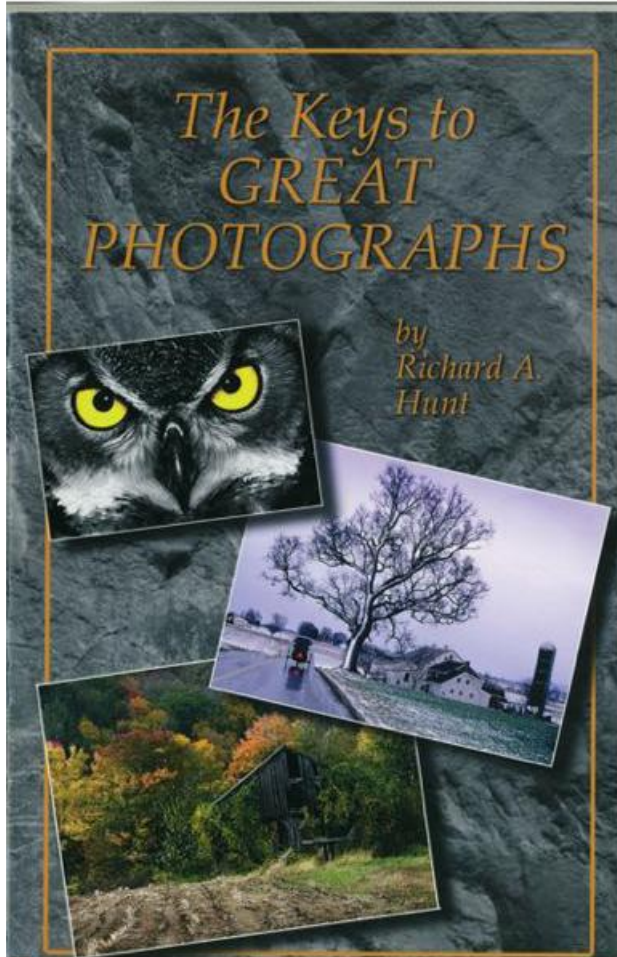
My favorite camera and lens is the Sony Alpha A1 and the Sony G 200-600mm lens.

5. How do you approach post-processing your images?

My workflow includes Adobe's Lightroom Classic and Adobe Photoshop. I use Lightroom to catalog my images, to convert the raw images then to do some basic image processing. After that I send and open the image in Photoshop using it with the application's many features, multiple and smart layers, with various plug-ins to complete the editing process. I subscribe to Adobe's photography program for \$10 / month which gives me Lightroom, Photoshop and Bridge with all the updates.

6. What advice would you give to new photographers?

a. Learn about the ingredients that make up a good photograph, impact, lighting, composition, storytelling etc. A good brief guide is Dick Hunt's tutorial on "The Keys to A Great Photograph, embedded here:



- b. Study the Masters to see their style by going to the library or online.
- c. Get on the learning curve, work hard, you must put in the time to become better. Practice, practice, practice!, take many, many photos.
- d. Learn about the workings of your equipment and how it affects your images.

e. Organizing your photographs on your computer.

f. Choosing an image editing program(s) and learning them in depth by studying the many tutorials particularly the videos available **online**.