

# Camera Club Newsletter

EASTMAN CHEMICAL COMPANY

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## Civil War Reenactment Photo Outing to Saltville

Several photographers from the club drove up to Saltville VA in August for the Battle of Saltville Civil War Reenactment. This was one of our more successful and enjoyable outings this year.

You really had to be there to appreciate how much fun this was. It was almost like we had been transported back in time with our camera to 1864. We walked among the Union and Confederate camps, talked with the re-enactors and watched the battle, complete with canons.

Some photos from the trip are available on the club [SmugMug page](#)



## Camera Club Meeting Topics

We try to cover one photography technique, tool, or tip at each Camera Club meeting. Those who attended the Sept. 10 meeting came up with the following list of future topics:

- ◆ Understanding the histogram
- ◆ Filters and when to use them
- ◆ Shooting and processing in RAW
- ◆ White balance
- ◆ Night photography
- ◆ Noise reduction software
- ◆ Photoshop techniques
- ◆ Lightroom demo
- ◆ Photoshop Elements vs. Photoshop CS
- ◆ Flash sync modes
- ◆ Easy studio lighting

Contact one of the club leaders listed at the end of page 3 if you have suggestions for other topics.

## HDR

Steve Falling's slides from his introduction to High Dynamic Range (HDR) photography is available on the [club website](#) under resources.

## Railgrass Photography Gallery Display

The judging is complete and the winners were announced Sept. 12. Several Eastman Camera Club members won awards in this contest. All the photos are on display at the Downtown Kingsport Assn. offices at 140 West Main Street. The offices are open between 8 and 5, Tuesday through Thursday.



## Club Photo Outing to Asheville

There will be an outing to Asheville on Saturday September 19. We will meet in the Tri-Cities area and car pool over for the day to shoot downtown Asheville. If you've been there lately you know that area has a wealth of opportunities for urban and people photography. This trip is being done jointly with the Field Photography class.

Contact Tekii Boren at [tboren@eastman.com](mailto:tboren@eastman.com) to sign up or for more information.

## Histograms – Possibly the Most Useful Tool in Digital Photography

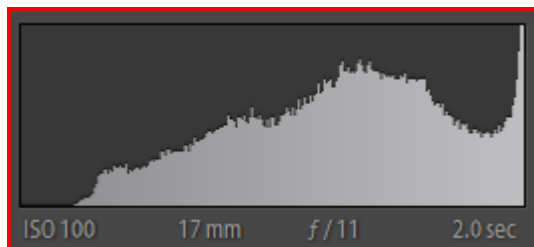
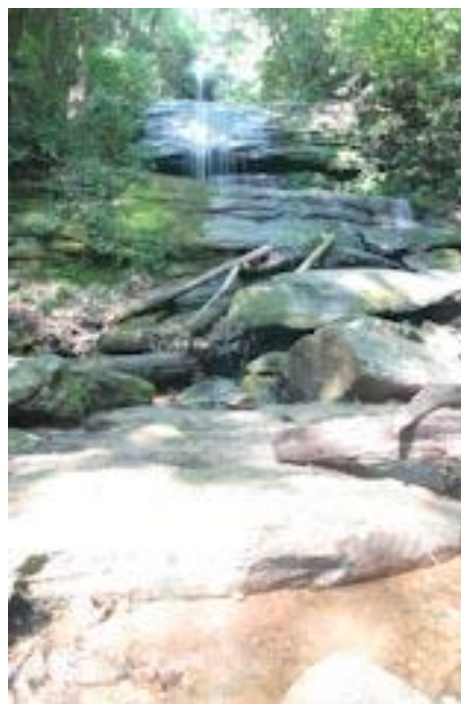
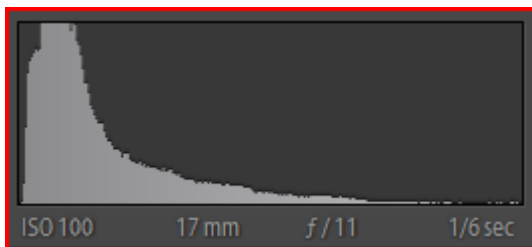
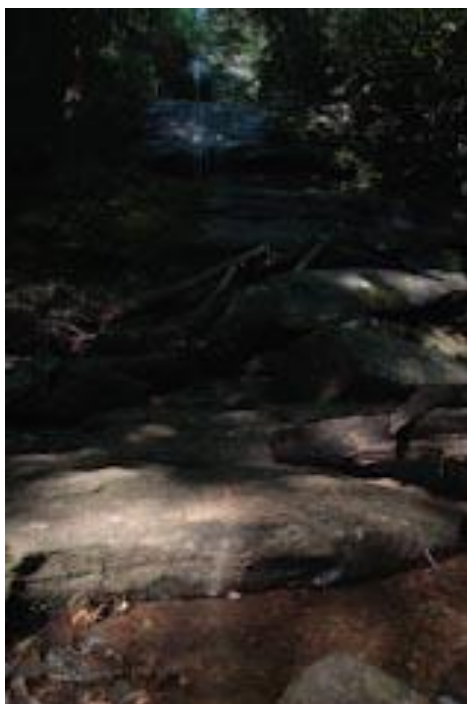
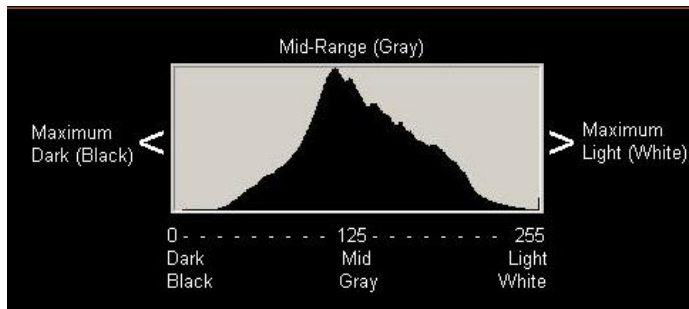
The word histogram may take you back to the days of studying math and statistics in high school. In the world of digital photography the histogram is a graphic representation of the distribution of tones (brightness) within an image. Understanding the histogram will allow you to take better photos at the correct exposure.

All DSLR cameras and even the basic compact digital cameras can display the histogram on the back of the camera. Below is an example of a histogram from a digital camera. The horizontal axis represents each pixel tone value possible from black (0) to white (255). The vertical values indicate the number of pixels in the image that occur at each value level.

### Why is the histogram important?

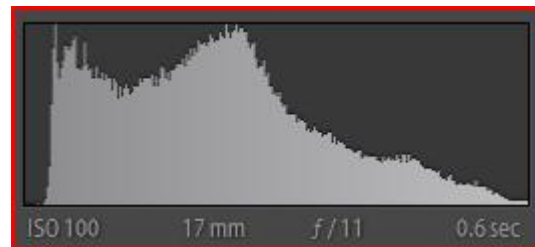
When you press the shutter your camera will measure the light in the scene, average it out and adjust the exposure to render an “average” mid-tone. Today’s digital cameras have advanced computers and will do a pretty good job in most situations, but the average tone may just not work for your photo. You may need to override or adjust the camera settings to get the right exposure for the scene you are photographing.

Below are two cases where the exposure is wrong.



The picture on the left is underexposed. There is a spike near the left or dark side with almost nothing on the right or light side. If a histogram is up against the left side then sections of the photo will show up as very dark or even black with no details. In this example, you can not see any details in the trees. If you try to lighten this up on the computer using Photoshop, Picasa or other editing tools it will often appear washed out and the results will be very disappointing. In the example on the right the picture is overexposed. When the histogram is up against the right side then areas of the photo are “blown out” without any details. The rocks in the foreground are blown out in this example, appearing as pure white. As with an underexposed photo you may not be able to fix this on the computer. These need to be fixed when you take the photo.

The third example illustrates a properly exposed photo that is not bunched up on either side. You can't always tell if a photo is properly exposed by looking at the photo on the back of the camera. The camera's LCD display may display too bright or too dark. You should get in the habit of reading the histogram to determine if the exposure is correct.



So, how do you fix those situations where your camera is not exposing the scene right? You'll have to take your camera off Auto and use Program or another mode that allows you to dial in exposure compensation. On both Nikon and Canon cameras, the exposure compensation button looks like a plus and minus sign (+/-). Other cameras may have similar controls. If your photo is underexposed (skewed to the left) then dial in a positive compensation and shoot again. Conversely, if it is overexposed dial in a negative compensation. Try a few different settings until you get the best exposure as shown by the histogram. In general, it's better for the histogram to be skewed to the right side as long as it's not bunched up on the right side, which would indicate blown out highlights. If you turn on "the blinkies" (called highlight warnings by the camera manufacturers) on your camera it will tell you if you have blown out the highlights.

There is not a perfect histogram. In some cases, you may want the histogram bunched up on one side or the other. By understanding and using the histogram you can get the exposure you want and not rely on the camera to take an "average" picture.

This article discusses an advanced technique that requires you to know how to make adjustments to your camera. This is one of those times where you may have to break down and open the user's manual that came with the camera. Or, bring your camera to one of the Eastman Camera Club meetings and someone will be glad to show you how to make these adjustments for yourself.

### Upcoming Classes

Field Trip Class— Starts Sept 19th —Instructor Claude Kelly—Photographic trips to the surrounding area to practice techniques. Contact — [ckkelly@chartertn.net](mailto:ckkelly@chartertn.net)

The Photoshop and Basic Photography classes have been filled. Watch the newsletter for announcements about future classes.

### Contacts:

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