

## Photo Editing Comments

Main Camera - Nikon D4 – This is a full-frame camera (FX) that has a sensor about the same size as a 35-mm film camera.

Secondary Camera - Nikon D500 - this is a smaller format (DX) which has a smaller sensor and is similar to the format of most of the point and shoot cameras.

I almost always shoot in RAW mode so that corrections can be more easily made if the light is too little or too much or if the light source (incandescent vs day-light or fluorescent) produces strange colors in the photo.

After an initial adjustment in RAW mode using Nikon Software (Capture NX-D) I will usually save the adjusted file in jpg or tif. (If the plan is to make additional edits and then print a fairly large hard copy, then I would opt for tif since that format does not do as much “averaging out” of the raw data.

Typical adjustments using Capture NX-D are light level (exposure) and adjustments of light source (white balance) – sometimes needed when I do photos in church where there are many different light sources impacting the subject. The NX-D software has an object remover tool that will allow removal of unwanted features in the original photo such as a neighbor’s house that is not wanted when I am photographing a nice sunrise or sunset.

Next I may crop the photo to eliminate extraneous (non-interesting) features that do not help the photo subject. (Some time I get it right by zooming in the lens when the picture is taken.)

There is a general “enhancement” feature in this software that does some presumptions of settings such as sharpness, brightness, hue, etc that might help the photo. I will usually use that feature and then adjust – maybe add more sharpness and less color saturation or adjust the hue a little – this is more touchy-feely than anything else –

I then export the adjusted photo to a file suitable for the subject and will do some additional editing on the jpg or tif file. For this step of the editing process I use Paint Shop Pro which is sold by Corel Software. (Corel has been in the digital graphic software business for decades and may have predated Photoshop by Adobe) It was software that Eastman photo editors used years ago and was recommended to me by Larry Cregger (former member of ISBC) who did photo editing work for Eastman Chemical.

From what I know it is much more versatile than Photoshop Elements but has somewhat less capability than the full Adobe Photoshop. PSP is reasonably priced (less than Elements) and a lot less than the full Photoshop. (Typical price is around \$60)

In PSP, I will try several different “edits.” The first thing is to attempt to adjust the sharpness. This could involve “removing digital noise” and/or adding sharpness. If the colors don’t look exactly “right” then I might adjust the white balance to move the photo toward “cool” (bluer) or “warm” (more yellow tones).

If the photo is of a wide vista landscape and there is some “haze” in the picture, then I would do

an adjustment of “Local Tone Mapping” that tends to cut through the haze but can make the photo look “harsh” if it is over done. I then will adjust “fill light/clarity” will can improve some photo by enhancing some features – I may adjust the level depending on “how it looks” – does it enhance the features or make the features appear to be harsh or unnatural.

I might also try a feature that would enhance “vibrancy” color to produce a more pleasing picture. (Sometime the photo is better than what we see in real-life.)

If the photo needs “cleaning up” to remove distractions such as electrical power lines and poles, then I will use the “cloning” feature of the software which includes a “scratch remover option” that is great for eliminating poles and wire.

If I am doing portraits, then I might use the “makeover” tool that would allow the removal of imperfection such as moles and dark spots as well as correct “red eye” and whiten teeth. There is also a feature that will smooth out wrinkles.

I can also use this software feature to “thinify” a person in a group photo.

I have used it to correct “closed eyes” in portraits – If several photos are taken and one has a pleasing smile and closed eye and another than a less pleasing smile and open eyes, then the open eyes and be copied and used in the other photo.

Sometime the light level at the top of a landscape scene photo (the sky) is too bright at the top compared to the bottom of the photo (ground or water scene). Ideally, a good photographer would have used a neutral density filter to correct this situation before the photo was taken. If that didn’t happen, then software can be used to added such “neutral density filter” features. The two photo that I post on April 26 is an example of this feature and a lot of the edits I mentioned above. The top photo has too much brightness in the sky are and I used the Neutral Density feature that is in some “effects” plugin that will do such changes automatically – the intensity and positions can be manipulated to get the effect wanted.

Referring to these same two photos the top photo has haze and that was removed with ‘local tone mapping.’ The wires and the poles in the upper photo was removed by the clone feature. I used the crop tool to get right of the houses in the bottom part of the top photo.

The details of the mountains as well as the details and improved color of the bottom photo was done primarily with another “effect” plugin from Topaz software that has many preset for such enhancements.

What I post is a lot more than uploading something from the camera. I try a lot of things that “don’t work” and fortunately those things can be deleted – some things do work and when they do it provides some level of satisfaction.