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You only have so many days

1 message

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“You only get one sunrise and one sunset a day, and you only get so many days on the planet. A good photographer does the math and doesn’t waste either.”

Galen Rowell



Le printemps à Paris

It has been a while, hasn't it? The last photography newsletter was in early March, and here we are in mid-July. So, how did that gap happen?

The gap has been intentional, driven by what I'm continuing to learn about this business. This recurring newsletter has become an opportunity for me to regularly look back at what I've accomplished since the last issue, and to consider whether I'm achieving the objectives I set for myself. How will I know if I am succeeding - what will I use to measure that?. And most important - what am I learning that changes everything I had planned to do? And that's where this year is different than before - the gap between newsletters happened because I've come to grips with something I had not originally considered, requiring my time to be scheduled differently. Basically I've been saying yes to opportunities, and that has increased my time out on the field.

All the usual business things you would expect are still absolutely important. Networking, sales, partnerships, admin tasks, websites, social media, and of course, newsletters. Over the last few years I established the internal things to manage the business, They are all required. However, the one thing that has become more obvious for a successful photography business is to feed one constant monster - an ever-hungry beast. Content. Fresh material. Interesting images that reflect and express you as a photographer. You can't stand still and rest on what you did last year. That understanding has driven my planning for this year. I am extremely pleased with what has been accomplished at this half-way point of 2025, and there's a lot of year left, and

opportunities for more new ideas and images. To be clear, I have no interest in slowing down on this path, only in getting better at it.



Galen Rowell's quote above about doing the math really resonated with me this week. Most of you know my life changed two years ago in a way that I hope no one else ever has to go through. As an experience it changed my understanding of everything, and I found it had the potential to be absolutely motivating. We aren't promised another year, or even another day. What we have is the opportunity to take each day and make the most of it. When I looked at this year a couple of things stood out. I am turning 75 years old, and there are so many things I want to photograph and add to my catalog while I still can. That meant travel, and focused work. I've been fortunate to be able to do that, and so far this year it has been an incredible journey. Since the last newsletter I've spent time in [Paris](#) and [New York](#) (city and [upper NY state](#)), toured multiple times in [western Canada](#), and covered action events at [multiple rodeos](#) and [race tracks](#). Each of these opportunities has provided an opportunity to learn, and that is very empowering. As a result of this shifting of priorities there is significant new content that you have seen in my social media activity and published on my websites.

While this increase is happening I also know that what I'm producing has to be quality work. I trust that what I am creating is providing enjoyment, or at least interest. A friend said to me today that humans want the opportunity to react to images. Whether they see something something as good, or bad, it provides a sense of life, of engagement. It is important to me that you find my work in this newsletter, on social media, on my websites, and in published albums is at least interesting. Obviously I hope you like the material, but at least I trust it causes interest and a reaction. And by the way, I really like to get those reactions - your input helps me understand what is working, and what needs more work.

Thank you for your support, and watch for more to come. Every image has a story and I would enjoy that conversation with you. There are images below in the links on this newsletter and I hope you have the time to see them.

New content

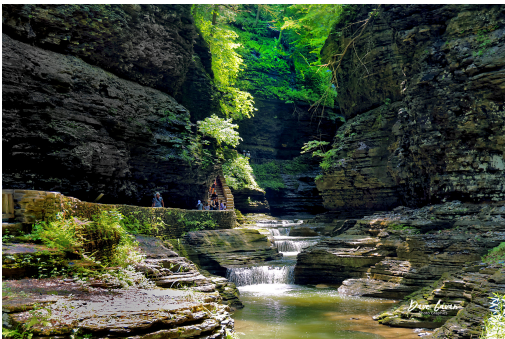
click below to see selected new content now available



Paris in April



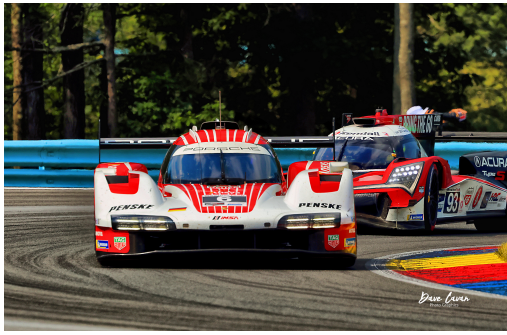
Manhattan wandering



Finger Lakes summer



Western Canada road trip



Motorsports Photography



Rodeo Photography

Don't forget to check the website content updates where you can see samples of images on walls. All images in this newsletter are available - contact me for more information

davecavanphotographics.com

dynamiccaptures.com



Background noise

Thoughts on what's behind the planning and photography work

Springtime in Paris

In April I had the opportunity to visit family near Paris, and to spend 5 days in the city by myself. I had a list of places that I wanted to visit, and some shots that I felt were important for a different look at a city that I know fairly well but have not visited on my own before this trip. I travelled light, carrying a single big camera body as well as a GoPro and a smart phone which are much easier to work in crowded places and the 4k videos are actually very good. Logistically speaking, I learned quickly the need to book time in the popular places in Paris well in advance as everything has major lineups now. But good weather, and many hours on my feet brought some great results that were truly different from what I've done before in this still amazing, but definitely changed city.



New York wandering

It has been thirteen years since I worked in New York City and my objective was to see what has changed and use that as a basis for a 3-day photography visit in June. The weather was not perfect, with some showers and generally cloudy days but in fact it was probably better than the usual 90's with high-humidity weather. The amount of new construction mixing with 19th and 20th century buildings really caught my attention and I found some interesting ways to present that. I'm still working on finalizing those shots but there are some that have been on social media already. I'm still finding gold in the shots I brought home so I think this project will go on for a while.



Finger Lakes summer

I signed up to be involved with the IMSA race at Watkins Glen in June. I had never been in this area of finger lakes fed by rivers that have cut deep gorges into the Appalachian plateau. Amazing hikes, beautiful waterfalls, and picturesque lakes. I spent three days being totally surprised by the beauty of the area, taking lots of photos, and travelling on as many backroads as possible. Because I was not sure what to expect I didn't really have a plan, there was just so much natural beauty it was somewhat overwhelming. It definitely requires a return visit, but I did come away with a number of photos that I'm quite happy about.



Western Canada road trips

From the fireworks festival in Vancouver to the vineyards and deserts of the Okanagan Valley, to northern BC and Alberta for the Grande Prairie Stompede rodeo. Then back through Jasper and Banff national parks onto the Trans Canada highway and home to Vancouver, and a northern Vancouver Island 3-day trip. Many photo opportunities travelling through some of the best scenery on the planet. First time on the Icefields Highway since the Jasper fires, that was a very surprising outcome from a tragic natural event, and the scale of it was shocking. Driving through the Rockies and national parks is always a lifetime experience. This is a selection of a few of those photographs.



Motorsports photography

The basis for my Action Graphics brand is motorsports, and the majority of that work over the past 3 years has been the Radicals series at Area 27, which I believe is the best series in Canada. As well, I keep my options open, shooting the Rolex 24Hr race at Daytona for the past 15 years, and this year I added the IMSA race at Watkins Glen in June. The sights and smell of a race track are enough to keep me interested, and finding new ways to shoot a race is a great way to keep it fresh. Catching the perfect pan of a car going by at 200kph is an amazing feeling as a photographer.



Rodeo photography

Rodeo is an interesting action sports opportunity. Once you get to understand how an activity (e.g. bull-riding) works you have a good idea about where to be ready to press the shutter, it becomes somewhat predictable. However this year I attended the Grande Prairie Stompeded in northern Alberta and was able to work at ground level and had to learn several new activities I have not shot before so it took some learning. The most interesting was chuckwagon racing, which is chaotic and spread around so you're not sure what to aim at, at least initially. It was a lot of fun but I know I missed some shots. Next year! I also shot the Cloverdale Rodeo in the Vancouver area, the first time I've shot two in one year.



Thanks for checking out this initial version of Background Noise - I kind of like this approach and will consider using it for upcoming versions of this photography newsletter.



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