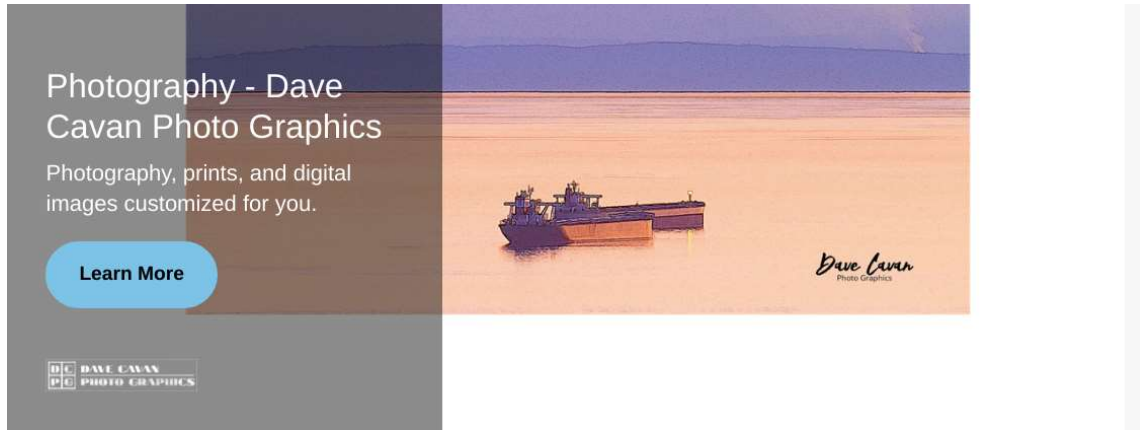


Irregular Thoughts of a Wandering Photographer

Dave Cavan Photo Graphics <davecavan@davecavan.com>
Reply-To: Dave Cavan Photo Graphics <davecavan@davecavan.com>
To: Dave <davecavan@davecavan.com>

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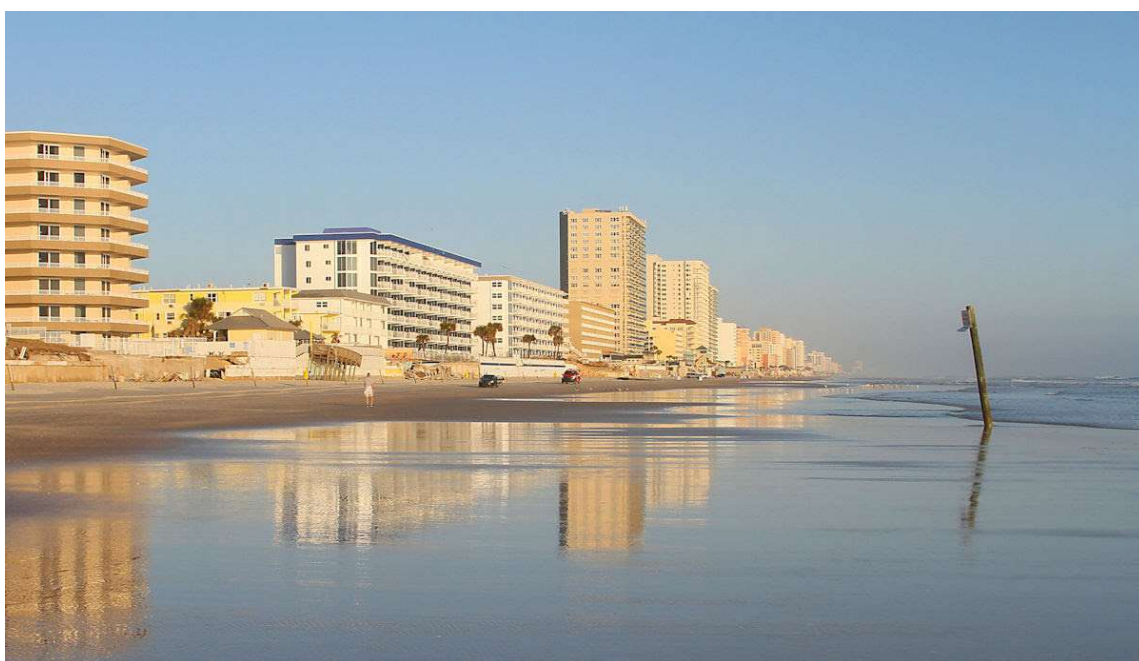


Reporting-in from the tranquility of St Augustine. After the hectic activity of Daytona a few days in St Augustine had a bit of a surreal feel, like the 90 minute drive is akin to a portal to another planet. Or at least to another time. In these post-pandemic days with smaller crowds it was a welcome place to spend some unscheduled days. St Augustine is always an interesting place to try to photograph, as it consists of so many details that are hard to capture, many of those found in narrow streets and without great light. But as usual we enjoyed it - it is a long way from a Vancouver winter's day to the sun and warmth of Florida, wrapped in a city founded in 1513. Leaving was hard. More on that later, but first a quick note on our 13th Rolex 24 Hour experience.



Watch for the new Rolex 24 gallery later this month.

The sensory overload of the Rolex 24 hour race at Daytona was as profound as ever. Weather was great. The crowds were as large as expected, the racing was good, there were no major incidents, and the hybrid era of sports car racing is off to a great beginning. Spending this time with friends made it even better. Perhaps you've seen my [social media posts from the past week](#) - lots of great action and many, many motorsports photography moments. The reaction to last month's [12 years of F1 web gallery](#) showed me that a similar gallery for the Rolex 24 events is a great idea for sharing. The Rolex 24 collection should be more about the people and teams I believe - the access we have for the Daytona race gives us many more people-interactions to share. Although racing has beautiful machines, first and foremost it has a lot of dedicated people with great skills to make those machines work, and stories of their own. Talking with them and getting their perspectives on the weekend, their drivers, and their car is always part of the experience.



Early morning beach strolls at Daytona - not a bad way to start your day.



Updates On The Way for [Blue Marble Scenes](#)

Callyann loves beaches, and Florida is a good place to find those. I'm not personally upset about the opportunity to spend time walking up and down a beach in the sunshine while it is raining and almost freezing thousands of miles away in Vancouver - it makes the trip even more worth it. Sunrise and sunset, waves and seabirds, views of miles of beach that disappear in a vanishing point in the distance, all of this makes for a good morning or afternoon. And some great photographs as well. I realized that I don't have a lot of ocean-meets-the-shore scenes on the website, and I know there's a fair amount of raw material in the archives, so that is an update that is now in sight.

Observations from a wandering photographer

A new section in the newsletter, and if it works out here I might make it a regular thing. We will see. This month two things have been front of mind, and perhaps worth sharing.



Details matter. They mattered in the things I did in my career before photography, and they matter just as much now. Sometimes that means making sure the settings are all correct (a challenge when you have one camera body with the tendency to change photo modes in the middle of a shoot), other times it means seeing the details in the opportunity. Yes, the beach was huge and the waves amazing, but this perfectly shaped and well-lit shell was a tiny but important part of that scene. And well worth a photo or two. I often hear people say they can't find anything interesting to photograph, but mostly I think it is all interesting.

"We are making photographs to understand what our lives mean to us."

This quote from Ralph Hattersley is an old one, but even more true today than when he wrote it. I'm not exactly sure why I take pictures, but I do know it matters to me because the subjects I'm photographing matter to me. The picture is not the objective, it's the outcome of the process that stays with us, freezing that moment in time for as long as the picture exists. I think that's important, and perhaps at some point I'll figure out why - or someone will explain it to me. That would work as well.

In closing, this sunrise on the morning we left St Augustine was the only really good sunrise we had which is unusual on the east coast of Florida. Perhaps that's a good thing - even though we headed home to all that needs to be done here it was a great start that trip.



Our mailing address is:

Dave Cavan Photo Graphics
269 Carisbrooke Cres
North Vancouver, BC V7N 2S3
Canada

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