Group Name: A Path to Learn Digital Photography

Facilitator: Guillermo Olaizola

Group Size: 5

Skill Level/Other Requirements: This is an introductory course for beginner photographers and others who think they would benefit from this approach.

Location: Guillermo Olaizola's home- 5825 Tanglewood Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817.

Equipment Needed/To Be Used: Big screen TV

Days/Dates: Once every two weeks on Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9:30 PM, Starting date, November 13, except Christmas

Number of Sessions: 5 or 6

Brief Description of Content/Approach:

I will present a practical and effective approach to learn photography for beginners, based on my own experience learning from many sources, including e-books, bloggers, tutorials in YouTube and the internet, and from many talks, courses and critique sessions offered by the North Bethesda Camera Club and other organizations.

The goal is to help the attendees visualize the path to reach digital photography at an advanced enthusiast level. The two fundamental skills that will be discussed are:
- *The craft,* which is the command of the camera gear and the electronic dark room (software). Looking back at my own experience learning photography, I will present the steps that I would follow if I were to start from zero. I will discuss the "traps" and distractions that I think slowdown the learning process. I will go over some of the basic technical concepts and the tools involved in making digital photographs, without getting too deep into details.
- *The art*, which considers the aesthetical and creative side of photography. I will discuss the elements that play a role in creating visual impact in an image, starting with the importance of having a clear vision and intent when shooting a picture. I will review some of the fundamentals of composition and visual design that are important to keep in mind when approaching a photo, as well as the critical role of light and its qualities in creating a compelling image.

I don't intend to go in depth into any of these subjects. My objective is to get the attendees to understand that they can get up and running quickly and start shooting impressive photos in a relatively short period of time, by pointing to them what is important and what is not from my point of view.