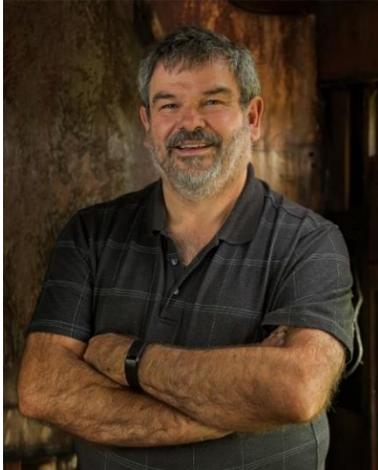


Steve Ricketts



I first became interested in photography in 2010 as a pre-retirement project and as a homage to my Dad, and I discovered that I enjoyed it immensely. I find myself drawn to photography because of its ability to tell a story without the use of words. One can write at length about a topic but a single image can be much more powerful.

I'm mostly self-taught; i.e. I have no formal training in photography or in art. I'm not exactly artistic. If anything, I'm the opposite; I'm a scientist by education and work, and I take a very scientific and logical approach to photography. I have learned a great deal by reading books by photographers, by traveling with other photographers and seeing what they do, and by taking photos. Lots of photos.

I mostly do landscape photography but I also enjoy experimenting with shooting weather (storms) and atmospheric phenomena (aurora, noctilucent clouds), portraiture, urban photography, and the blur created by intentional camera movement. I am constantly looking for images that capture a special moment.

Over the past year, I have found myself drawn to black & white photography as I like how it draws the viewer's attention to the contrast and texture in landscapes. I often use a telephoto lens and zoom in on a small area to capture lines and curves; it's very much a desire for minimalism.

I use Adobe Lightroom for all my image processing, and Nik's Silver Efex Pro for black-and white conversion. I try to minimize the amount of editing that I do. While today's software allows for powerful manipulation to create a wonderful image, I prefer to challenge myself to be in the right place and at the right time to capture the image that I have in mind.

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Member, Images Alberta Camera Club (<http://www.imagesalberta.ca/>)

Exhibits, accomplishments

- InFocus Photo 2016 exhibit (1 image)
- Images Alberta Camera Club Exhibits at Jake's Framing and Gallery: 2015, 2016
- Exhibit, Common Ground Café, Sherwood Park, Oct 2016
- 2016 Black & White Spider Awards (1 nomination)
- InFocus Photo 2017 exhibit (2 images)
- Solo exhibit, Kaasa Gallery, Northern Jubilee Auditorium, May-June 2017
- 2017 Black & White Spider Awards (3 nominations)
- InFocus Photo 2018 exhibit (1 image)

Artist Statement

While the Alberta Rockies are the home of a lot of spectacular scenery, there is beauty in the Alberta prairies too, and I find myself increasingly drawn to shooting the landscape in and around my home in Sherwood Park, especially in Strathcona, Lamont, Minburn and Two Hills Counties.

That is, rather than take the viewer on a journey to marvel at the grandeur of the Rockies, I prefer to take them on a journey around my backyard to see the subtle beauty of the Prairies.