Summer is upon us at last - and we have the luxury of more water. Have you ever tried to take pictures of or through water? It is extremely hard to do with most totally automatic cameras, but not hard at all with cameras that have some manual overrides or manual metering.

Consider whether you want to stop the action of moving water or not. Waterfalls, rapids, “babbling brooks”, hard rain, water parks, etc. provide different moods whether or not you shoot to stop action. You have probably seen pictures of streams where the water looks like steam, or flowing mist. These pictures are not difficult to take, but you need a tripod and a remote release (because no living human can hold the camera steadily for such a long time). The trick to shooting the flowing mist type shot is to meter the scene, and use a very long exposure time and small lens opening. Say your meter reads 1/125 at f/4.0 for the correct exposure. This equates to 1/60 at f/5.6; 1/30 at f/8; 1/15 at f/11, 1/8 at f/16 (the effect now becomes visible); ¼ at f/22. If your camera is more automatic, using a neutral density filter and or a polarizing filter will force your camera to use a longer exposure.

A neutral density filter is a piece of optical material (glass or plastic), which is mounted in front of the lens. It is a neutral gray in color, and may be a lighter or darker gray. The darker it is, the more light it absorbs while letting less light gets to the lens and film. This is just like wearing sunglasses. This will cause the camera to use a longer exposure time and *Voila!* instant misty water. A polarizing filter is a special filter which contains an almost microscopic grid which only permits light perpendicular to the film pass through it. It also has density which helps the camera shoot at longer shutter speeds. More about the polarizer shortly.

If you wish to freeze the movement of the water, forget about all the things just mentioned, shoot away. If you are close enough to the water, use your flash.

Shooting through water (or non polarized, non tempered glass) requires a polarizer. A polarizer can be added to almost any camera, but compact point and shoot cameras require a little jury-rigging. Because the polarizer only transmits perpendicular light, it eliminates almost all reflections, allowing you to see through water, glass, etc.

These are techniques that must be done in he camera. If you digitize these images, even Adobe Photoshop won’t help you create these effects. The real answer is to <u>think about the picture before you take it</u>.

Nikon has recently made a decision about the distribution of their long awaited D100 digital SLR camera body: They want to sell it primarily to commercial photographers and industry. Nikon has created a new franchise called ADS

(Advanced Digital System) for dealers currently carrying the D1-H, D1-X, and Coolscan 8000. Our two stores had planned to carry both the D-100 and the new Fuji S-2, but will now only carry the S-2 (which creates higher file sizes – approaching 12 Mp!). These cameras should be in stock in mid July. Not necessarily Nikon based, but be on the lookout for a 2-megapixel SLR body selling for less than $1000 before 2003!

Both our Summit and Madison stores are looking to expand our staff to serve you better. If you know someone who may be interested in such year round employment, please ask them to contact Lynne, Mick, Rob or Jerry for consideration. Thank you.

Lynne & Jerry