

Jack Cooley

All my life I have been pulled in three separate directions - outdoor activities, doing "technical things", and expressing myself artistically.

For a career I chose "doing technical things". After attaining a BS in Physics and MSEE in Computer Science, I worked in software development 26 1/2 years before retiring from Hewlett-Packard in 1999.

Weekends and vacations were spent hiking, canoeing, bicycling, x-c skiing, camping, backpacking... My love for the outdoors started as a Boy Scout, and has continued to grow ever since. I fell head-over-heels in love with mountains the first time I came to Colorado, and have lived here continuously since 1975.

Artistic expression came initially through music. I became a folk guitarist in college, and continued to play for fun and at church for over 25 years.

Around 1982, I discovered photography, or photography found me - I'm not really sure which. Photography is a natural extension of my outdoor activities, is technical enough to be interesting (especially with an old timey wooden camera), and the opportunity for creative expression goes without saying. No longer pulled in three separate directions, the pieces came together. I started a part-time photo business in 1993, went full time in 1999.

I am a "self taught" photographer, which means I've had no formal training in photography. I learn continually from books & magazines, from my own experiences, and most important from scores of people who share their knowledge and expertise - A most delightful way to learn most anything!

I use primarily a large format field camera, the choice of Ansel Adams and many of today's landscape masters. It's large film size (4"x5") and additional focus controls allow sharper, clearer photos than possible with 35mm. And the aesthetic feel of the wooden body, leather bellows, brass knobs, ground glass focusing ... - it's indescribable!

Each year I set out to create five to ten superb new photographs - images that evoke fond memories of beautiful places, that bring a sense of nature's peace, beauty, and grandeur to our everyday lives. These photographs are then matted and framed in a manner suitable for display in living rooms, professional offices, and art galleries - the best quality photographic art I know how to produce. Nature has always provided my respite from the stress of modern living – soothing my psyche and uplifting my spirit. My photographs are an attempt to share these experiences with others.