

JUERGEN THIESSEN

I was born during World War II in East Prussia, then Germany, and now Eastern Poland, and lost most of my relatives in that tragic war. After fleeing ahead of the Russian Red Army, I grew up in Hamburg, Northern Germany. I attended Hamburg University in Germany plus spent 2 semesters at Oklahoma State in OK to study American History. I have an MBA in Business Management and worked for “The British Petroleum Company” in Germany and London, and “Bayer Corporation” in various management positions in the USA and Germany, and have lived with my wife for 8 years on HHI.

My grandfather bought me a “Box Camera” when I was 14 years old. You had to press the camera to your body, inhale, press the shutter, and hope for the best, since the camera only operated at 1/30 for a 50 ASA B/W film. My first B/W photos were taken of my grandfather gardening. As “dumb luck” would have it, I caught the ideal shot with side lighting in the afternoon sun, proper exposure, and good framing. The photo shop exhibited my photo in their window and sent it in for a local newspaper contest, which I won in my age group. Thus I became hooked on photography.

High-spirited and idealistic, I enrolled at the Fotofachschule in Hamburg to study Photo Journalism. I realized after 2 semesters that I would not earn much money in this job and switched to business studies at Hamburg University. However, I continued to work as a student photojournalist for a large Hamburg newspaper and for the DAILY OKLAHOMAN in OK. All newspaper photography was in B/W. The photo fever has never left me.

After getting my feet wet with B/W, I concentrated on color slides, as my job no longer left me much spare time to do darkroom work. Four years ago, I took the big step of switching from analog to digital photography.

My wife and I love to travel and have been to many parts of the world, including Australia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. Some of my African photos have been bought by the Namibian Airline, quite a few by a large travel agency in Namibia, and some were published in a Cape Town newspaper, in South Africa.

I am a member of the Camera Clubs of HHI and Beaufort, and I am the current Chair for the NIKON SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP for the HHI camera club.