



James (Jim) Hagen

I was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1952, but moved to Florida when I was about 4 or 5 years old. I consider myself a Florida boy, but my roots say otherwise. Initially, my family moved to a rented home in New Port Richey. We moved to Tarpon Springs a year or so later. I guess if you asked where I was from, I would say Tarpon because I grew up there and graduated from Tarpon Springs H.S.

In 1972, after graduation, I joined the Marines and went to boot camp at Parris Island, S.C. While in the Marines, I decided to make it a career and retired after 20 years. While I was in the Corps, I was able to attend the computer mainframe technician course in 29 Palms CA. It was a very intense school. We started with about 130 students in basic school and graduated with 12 from mainframe school a year later. I was selected from the school to work in the intelligence community as a computer mainframe technician for about 3 years. From there, I went on to become the chief instructor for Data Systems for the Navy in Key West FL. I know - a rough job, but someone had to do it, just kidding. We taught the Navy all aspects of computer maintenance from printers to main frames. After the school command in Key West ended, I went back to the intel world and became the Intelligence Analyst Center section leader and the Department of Defense Information Intelligence Systems section leader until I retired.

I graduated with distinction from Park University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science.

I became interested in photography in 1976 while I was stationed in Iwakuni, Japan. The countryside was beautiful and amazing to a Florida boy who was used to seeing the countryside basically flat. I purchased a Canon F1 while I was stationed over there, and started learning what I could about photography. I was able to go to Hiroshima and walk the city, and was able to photograph the famous Hiroshima Peace Memorial (the atomic bomb dome) while I was there. It was amazing to see how far the city has come since WWII. Unfortunately, someone needed my camera more than I did and helped themselves to it right before I left the island. I really didn't get back into photography after that until about 10 years ago, when I purchased a Nikon D70. After that, I was hooked and had to get back into it. Digital - you gotta' love it.

I haven't selected a preferred genre or type of photography yet. Ten years and I'm still looking. One of the club members said "he liked to shoot whatever catches his eye". That might describe me to a tee, but I would like to settle on something and try to master it. (or come close)

I was a member of the Camera Club of Brevard in Melbourne, FL for about 3-4 years. The club had over 300 members and a person could get lost in the crowd. I moved to Pasco County in 2015 and joined the Chasco group in 2016. I'm now serving as the club Web Master.

My other hobbies include woodworking, fishing, reading, and working out.