



On a warm summer evening, I was with an [Outer Banks Photo Workshops](#) student on one of our [Sunset Workshops](#) on [Jockey's Ridge](#)

. Of course, we can never tell what Mother Nature has in mind when we schedule these workshop sessions. Part of the lesson is finding great images in whatever weather and lighting conditions we get. This evening, we were given a pretty dense cloud cover. It was dull looking as we started up the hill. But as the sun got low in the sky, it burned its way through the thinner parts of the cloud cover, lending some exciting drama and color to our sky. It's important to be out there and ready, particularly in the hours before and after dawn and dusk. The conditions can quickly change and provide some great photo opportunities, as it did this evening.

A limitation of photography is that we are trying to represent three dimensional space in just two dimensions. I find I am much more successful in conveying a sense of depth, that missing third dimension, by including interesting stuff in multiple planes. And this evening, that opportunity came together. I had that colorful layer of clouds in the background, and that little cloud on the left poking up over the dune horizon in front of the big cloud bank. Looking around at the other people on the dune that evening, I spotted this woman preparing her kite. A solid, recognizable shape in the foreground, with the planes of clouds behind, give my image the feeling of depth I wanted.

Because that solid object in the foreground was recognizable as a person, it added further interest to the image. Too often, I forget to take advantage of adding human interest in my images. But it's an easy way to lift an image above average. For another example of a human interest "making" a photo, check this [link](#) .

The sky was considerably brighter than the shadow side of the lady. By exposing for the sky, the lady and her kite became a silhouette. The obscured details of her silhouette added intrigue. In post-processing, I bumped up the contrast a bit to keep her silhouette dark and add some definition to the clouds.

So, four quick lessons in this simple image:

- Be out there and ready, the conditions can change constantly.
- Have interest on multiple planes to give the feeling of depth.

Kite Preparation 7012

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- Take advantage of human interest.
- Expose, then make image tweaks to create a silhouette, adding a intrigue.

Instant downloads, prints, and gifts with this image are available [here](#) .

More info about [Outer Banks Photo Workshops here](#) .

Happy shooting!