ON THE EDGE.....

On The Edge Of Winter 1. (A Winter Triptych) - Bill

Snow On The Edge - Babs

White Balance - What? Why? How?

White Balance is the term used to decribe setting the overall hue of a photo to be correctly referenced to a true white point. If white balance is incorrectly set the result can be an overall color cast to the picture. It can usually be adjusted in camera, before you take a picture (or afterwards using editting software). Although called white balance it is usually referred to in terms of a temperature (not color) setting ranging from 2000 (cool /blue) to 7500 or more (Warm/Red). However the effect can be subtle and may not even be noticed at first, until compared with a properly set white balance photo. This will be demonstrated by using the same scene with (1) cool, (2) warm, and (3) correct white balance.

(1) This picture shows the scene with too cool a white balance, (4950) and therefore an overall blue tinge. However by itself without referring to the correctly set picture, it can still look convincing.
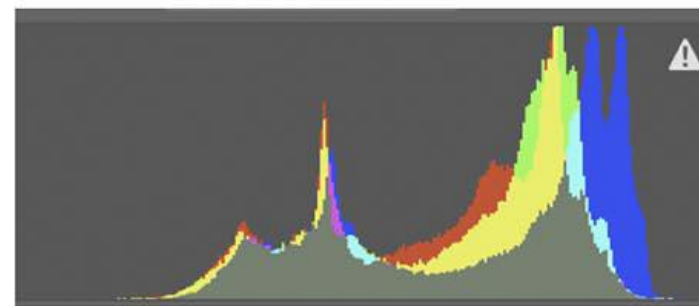
(2) This second picture on the other hand is too warm (7350) and the resulting red tint.
Again, by itself without referring to the correctly set picture, it is not unpleasant. Indeed sometimes a photo can be enhanced by setting the balance towards 'red' end, producing a pleasing 'warm' picture.
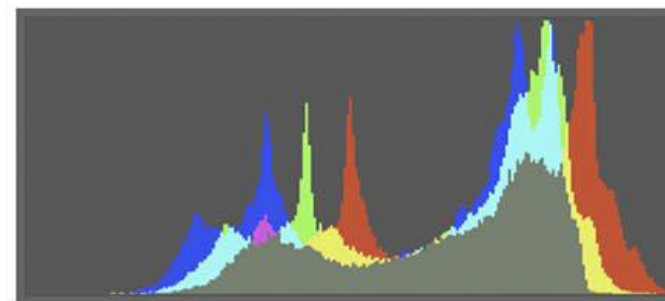
(3) This shows a correctly set white balance obtained by balancing in-camera spectra. 6550 in this case.

Whites are truly white, and the spectrum of colors is evenly balanced between white and black.
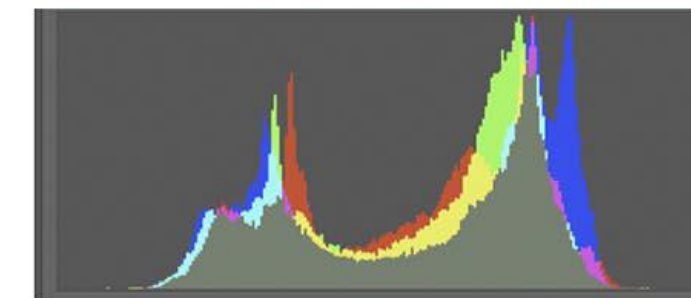
In camera you adjust the RGB histogram so that all three curves (usually Red, Green, Blue) are synchronized. This will give perfectly 'white white'. Note that setting white balance for one shot will not neccessarily be correct for subsequent shots (even of the same scene), under different lighting.

Most Cameras will have an "Auto White Balance" feature, but while technically it may be 'balanced' it may not give the correct hue/balance you want. I recommend always setting white balance manually.
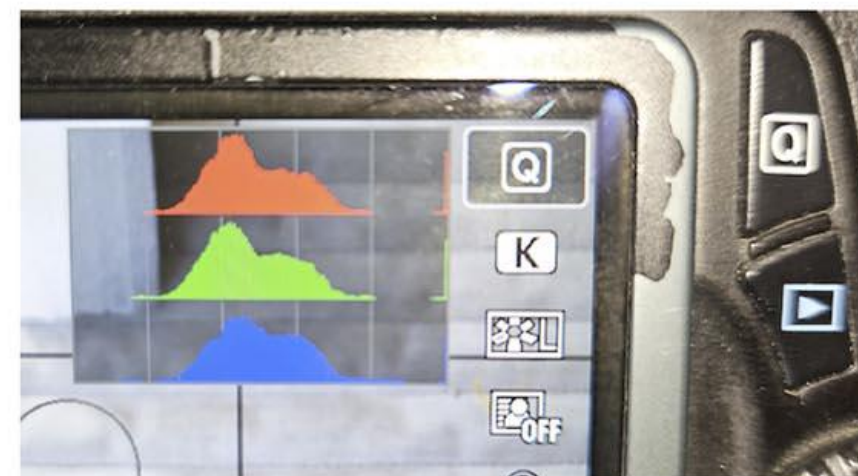
The "classic" method of setting white balance is to photograph a single sheet of white paper, then adjust the white balance, take another shot, repeat, until it looks properly white. However this can be biased according to the lighting of the situation (taking a picture under a yellow light will give a different white balance to under a blue sky)and also the fact that some 'white' papers are not truly white. Most new 'white' quality printer paper is in fact blue and old paper can be distinctly yellow. Counter-intuitively cheaper paper such as in a folio notebook is more properly white.

Tough But Fun - Hayam

Well Edged Path To Paradise - Hellen

A Salty Edge - Marilyn

On The Edge Of society - Natalie

Stanage Edge - Paola

Standing On The Brink - Richa

On The Edge of Winter 2 (A Winter Triptych) - Bill

Global Tipping Point - Babs

Can I Get Some Privacy? - Hayam

An Edgy Grip - Hellen

Smoking Edge - Marilyn

Democracy On The Edge - Natalie

Edgy Onions - Paola

Between Generations - Richa

On The Edge Of Winter 3 (A Winter Triptych) - Bill

Zimbabwean Security Detail - Babs

What Are You Looking At? - Hayam

Magic Tea-Pot - Hellen

Pools On The Edge - Marilyn

On The Edge Of Extinction? - Natalie

Come All Ye - Paola

On The Edge Of Collapse? - Richa

Photo Of The Month

by popular vote

February 2025 - On The Edge

On The Edge of Winter - pt1 of A Winter Tryptych by Bill

Honorable Mention

On The Edge Of Society by Natalie