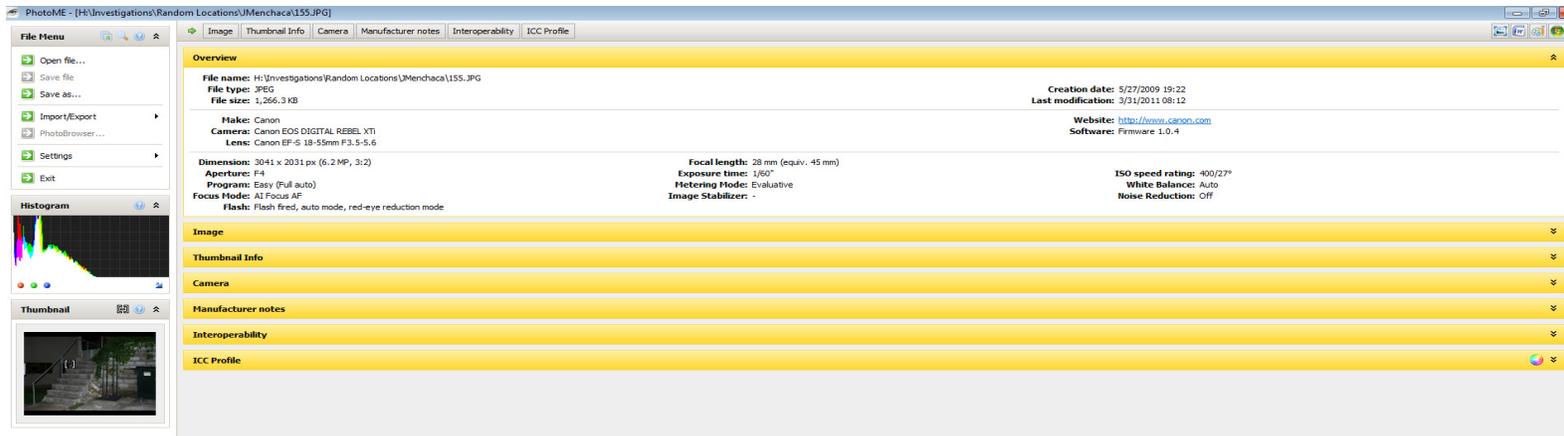# Bumps in the Night!!!!

Tools of the Trade

Photo Software

We receive photos to review all the time from people we meet at events, find us online, or that we know. They want us to review the photos and let us know what we think. The majority of what we find is that these "orbs" in photos are just dust, bugs, or other airborne particles or are examples of matrixing (almost 99% are). In order to make that assessment we use several photo software applications to review the photos in. Two of those such applications are: PhotoME and Picnik.

PhotoME is an application that allows us to get to the Exchangeable image file format (Exif) data for a digital image (picture). Exif data is embedded within the image file itself and contains information about the image, such as: date taken, date modified, type of camera used, ISO setting, F number, was a flash used, aperture setting, etc. This information assists us during a review of the image for many reasons. The primary reason is that it tells us if an image has been modified since it was taken. Another key reason is that some camera models have known defects with the camera and/or firmware for the camera that will cause a false positive (something that looks paranormal, but is not) appear on the image. Then information such as flash, F number, aperture, etc. help us evaluate if the setting used when taking the image caused a false positive.

Picnik is an online application that allows you to edit your photos. However, we use it to apply different filters to the photos to get a closer look at what is there. We will review it in black and white, with heat signatures applied, etc.

Besides these applications there are many, many more than can be used. Each application has it's own use and features that can be useful.

No matter what application used, just remember that most of what is captured in an image can be explained and is more than likely not paranormal. However, if you do get lucky enough to take a photo that falls into that 1% pass it our way…we'd love to see it!