

Focal Plane

A Publication Of the Ridgewood Camera Club

Volume 69 Issue 2

October 2005

October 2005 Calendar

Executive Meeting

Host: Vinnie Kempf

12 Print Competition

Judge David Mills

19 Pictorial Competition

Judge Adolfo Briceno

26 Program Painterly Photography Technics F. Weiss

28 Butterfly Setup

Jerry Fornarotto

From the Editor

The October Focal Plane is a little late because the editor went on vacation to Northern California and Oregon. There will be more on that trip in future issues.

Thanks to Jerry Fornarotto, Vinnie Kempf and Chick Chakarian for their contribution of articles it made it easy to put the Focal Plane together.

I will try to do better next month.

Dieter

How to Improve the Score on Your Image

No matter what format your image is being shown as, it must be your best, correctly spotted, titled and formatted. All slides should be free of dust, and mount edges not frayed or fuzzy. Prints should have clean mats. Digital files must be processed in accordance with the club's standards as provided on our website. It is the responsibility of the presenter to review their work. You can ask yourself; 1). Does this image meet the rules of competition? 2). Is the image sharp and in focus? 3). Is the composition artistically pleasing?

In the back of the room by the piano we have set out a light table and loupe. If you are not sure whether your image meets the standard, ask a more experienced member for their comments, before entering the image into competition.

Extra care has to be used for Nature Competitions. A title that identifies the subject will show the judge you put extra thought into it. For example, the title "Yellow Sulphur Cloud Butterfly" is more descriptive and informative than "A Yellow Butterfly." Lastly, does it meet the definition of "Nature Photography"? We subscribe to the definition which is as follows: "Nature photography is

restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history, except anthropology and archeology, in such a fashion that a well informed person will be able to identify the subject material and to certify as to its honest presentation. The **story telling** value of a photograph **must** be weighed more than the pictorial quality. Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation, manual or digital, that alters the truth of the photographic statement. All digital images used in PSA Nature Division approved competitions or for competitions governed by PSA Nature Division rules must be considered "Digital Realism". "Makers may perform any enhancements and modifications that improve the presentation of the image that could have been done at the time the image was taken but that does not change the truth of the original nature story. Cropping and horizontal flipping (equivalent to reversing a slide) are acceptable modifications. Addition of elements, removal of elements other than by cropping, combining elements from separate images, rearranging elements or cloning elements are not acceptable."

Adherence to these simple guidelines will greatly improve the presentation of your images and enhance your chance of earning a higher score.

Sincerely,
Jerry Fornarotto

Please welcome our new members.

**Karen Kruger, George Hall
and
Gwenn Levine**

Welcome back Gwenn

Focal Plane

Dieter Steinmeyer
Editor

201-652-3031

dsteinmeyer@verizon.net

Website - <http://www.ridgewoodcameraclub.org>

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Member PSA & NJFCC

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Is It Sharp?

Are you having trouble with your images being less than sharp when viewed by the judge in a digital competition. I have investigated a number of these unsharp images and found that the judge was correct, they are not sharp. I suspect that the issue may be that you are forgetting that the image is being significantly enlarged between your monitor and the screen at the club.

When you submit a slide you would probably not attempt to evaluate the sharpness of a slide with the naked eye. You need to look at the slide at least with an 8x or 10x loupe or better yet with a projector and show it near RCC screen size to evaluate sharpness. I know I used to trip myself up by looking at a slide with a loupe, think it was sharp and then project it only to see how soft it was.

The same phenomena is present in evaluating digital images, you are most likely viewing them at full monitor screen size and forgetting that they will be judged on a screen that is quite a bit larger than your monitor. You should enlarge the image and scroll through it on the monitor screen to evaluate the sharpness of the image. I would suggest enlarging the image to 400% to start as a guideline. You will start seeing pixelization but you can still very easily see if the image is sharp or not.

How to Make it Sharp

Do not rely on being able to sharpen an image in Photoshop. Get it sharp in the camera and you will have a much better image.

The first way to get it sharp is to use a tripod. Some people have the wrong-headed idea that since they are using a digital camera that they don't need a tripod. It may stem from the fact that you can increase the ISO easily and therefore the shutter speed for the image. That works to some degree but it creates more noise in the image. The tripod will not only increase the sharpness of the image but will improve your compositions. You also want to consider a cable release for certain types of photography such as scenics and still lifes. Don't bother with it in action photography it is useless in those situations.

Another cause of softness in an image is overexposure. When you overexpose you lose detail in the image. The eye and the brain look for contrast boundaries in an image that it interprets as sharpness. Be very careful of overexposure in a digital image, the detail lost in overexposure cannot be significantly recaptured in Photoshop. Look at the histogram and for "blinkies" on your LCD screen. If the histogram is clipped on the bright end or "blinkies" occur reduce the exposure and retake the image. In the event that you did not notice the overexposure when you were photographing try Jerry Fornarotto's technique of using a Selective Color adjustment in Photoshop and increase the black content of the overexposed color.

The third reason for softness is either shutter speed or aperture. When shooting action you had better consider shutter speed and when shooting close-ups and scenics you had better consider aperture. By the way if you are lucky enough to use Canon equipment get acquainted with its Depth of Field mode for determining the correct apertures and the lens focus point for a given depth of field, it is pure magic.

The fourth general cause of lack of sharpness is when the camera's auto focus sensor lands on the wrong part of the image. While most cameras today have multiple auto focus sensors you need to realize that in most cameras the camera will select the auto focus sensor that lands on a foreground object for the prime auto focus point. That works well in scenics but be careful with portraits where it may select the sensor focused on a cheek and not the eye. You may have to manually select the correct auto focus sensor to get the eye sharp.

Upcoming Programs by Camille LaPlaca-Post:

On October 26, our program scheduled is entitled, "Painterly Photography Techniques" presented by Ford Weissberg. I was fortunate to see Ford's show at Amherst this summer at the NECCC. It was outstanding and you will certainly come away with some new ideas and challenges to try.

On November 30, for our club fun night, I hope you will all try and participate in the Funniest Pics Ever and put several photos (up to about 6) either digital or slide entries of anything that portrays humor. The idea is to just have fun – laughter is sometimes the best medicine and we all need some of that in our lives. So if you need a good laugh, please join us. If you are not planning to be at the club that night, please send in your entries before the event. If you are submitting slides, please give to Chick by Wednesday, November 16th (at our 2nd print competition) or if you are planning digital, please submit by Wednesday, November 23rd to the vinkempf@gmail.com account. Please prepare and label your slides and digital images as you usually do. If you are submitting digital images, it would make the image display better if you title the image and place your name in the image such as in the image below. Just use a Text Layer to do it. For ideas you can go to www.aidanmoran.com or just do a Google search for photographic humor.

Please refer to page five for a sample picture

Nature Competition October 28 2005

Scott Cooper was judging

Nature General

Honorable Mentions

Nature's Jewel	A. Simpson
Panning for Gold	M. Schwartz
Grand Canyon of Colorado River.....	L. Spina
Tree in Bloom	C. LaPlaca-Post
Count my Dots	S. Szostak
Firehole at Yellowstone.....	C. Fox
Pony Tail Falls	T. Vari

Awards

Rocky Stream	N. Merena
White Sands National Monument	F. Kantor
Last Rays Capitol Reef.....	T. Vari
Lunch thru the Dew	S. Szostak
Winter Stream	B. Bain
Resting Duet.....	S. Szostak
Mt Rundle Reflection	J. Fornarotto

Nature Botanical

Honorable Mentions

Canada Mayflower	A. Simpson
Purple Lupine Pair	P. O'Malley
Spiderwort	D. Steinmeyer
White on Green.....	C. Gottlieb

Awards

Blusher Mushrooms.....	A. Simpson
Leaf, Water & Light	M. Schwartz
Wild Geranium	R. Gheno

Nature Zoological

Honorable Mentions

Stork	F. Kantor
Bringing Home Lunch	A. Gunther
Swimming Mallard	A. Parseghian
Everglades Denizen	M. Badala
Pelican Nest.....	S. Kantor
Striated Caracara #2.....	A. Parseghian
Gull Chicks.....	A. Parseghian
Frog at Lily Pond	G. Hall
Robin Nest.....	D. Steinmeyer
Lilac Breasted Roller	M. Kane
Protection.....	B. Bain
Swan and Reflection	D. O'Malley
Marbled Teal	M. Kane
Orchard Spider.....	R. Gheno
Roseate Spoonbill	V. Kempf
Wapiti	C. Fox
Just Hanging On	M. Molino
White Ibis in Flight	V. Kempf

Awards

Sandhill Crane in Flight	F. Kantor
Early Morning Reflecting	A. Gunther
Albino Tiger.....	J. Placer
Merganser Hen.....	M. Forrest
Fantasy Bluebird	R. Gheno
Acrobat II.....	D. Goodell
Reddish Egret Fishing.....	V. Kempf
Monkey Business	M. Molino
Roseate Spoonbill	C. LaPlaca-Post
Snowy Owl Wings Spread	P. O'Malley
Bee Up Close	D. Goodell
Sophie's Eyes.....	J. Placer
Where's That Fish.....	D. Goodell

Pictorial Competition October 21 2005

Judy Helderman was judging

B Group

Honorable Mentions

- The Dust & Dirt of
- Dirt Biking L. Spina
- Chapel Perched in
- Red Rock..... L. Spina
- Eighty Four Squares C. Gottlieb
- Strawberry Thief L. Lembo
- Not Alone..... J. Placer
- Marching on a Dandelion S. Szostak
- Native American S. Szostak

Awards

- Blue Eyes F. Lopez
- Three for the Line..... C. Gottlieb
- Mitchell Point..... J. Placer
- Oh Baby S. Szostak



This is a sample picture to go with Camille's article on page 2

A Group

Honorable Mentions

- Mission RuinsS. Kantor
- Don't want to go out in Rain.....A. Gunther
- Stem Tomato.....F. Alam
- Visual PaletteA. Parseghian
- Wood Grain & Nail.....G. Hall
- Optic FiberF. Alam
- Red & Gold on BlueG. Hall
- Trotter # 6F. Kantor
- Skippers in Paradise.....M. Forrest
- New York Harbor TugC. Fox
- View of Half Dome.....C. Fox
- Fancy IrisR. Gheno
- Morning on Moraine LakeF. Helfst
- Calla Lily #2V. Kempf
- Trotter # 4V. Kempf
- Iris.....N. Merena
- Sunflower and BudP. O'Malley
- Bahama RooftopA. Parseghian
- Denali ReflectedJ. Schilling
- Punch Bowl Falls.....T. Vari

Awards

- Glowing WaterlilyJ. Fornarotto
- Number 116J. Fornarotto
- Spicebush SwallowtailJ. Fornarotto
- ClematisD. O'Malley
- Pink ColumbineD. O'Malley
- Blue IrisD. Steinmeyer
- Reassuring LightT. Vari
- Riders of the Summer Wind.....R. Gheno

TOTALS SLIDES

Class B September 2005

	P	A	N	T
M. Badala	18		21	39
C. Gottlieb	23		22	45
L. Lembo	21		19	40
F. Lopez	21			21
J. Placer	24		25	49
D. Salamone	19			19
M. Schwartz			21	21
L. Spina	22		21	43
S. Szostak	25		26	51

Class A September 2005

	P	A	N	T
J. Fornarotto	27		23	50*
R. Gheno	24		26	50*
F. Kantor	22		26	48*
V. Kempf	23		25	48*
D. O'Malley	24		22	46*
A. Parseghian	22		24	46*
T. Vari	23		23	46*
M. Forrest	22		23	45*
C. Fox	22		23	45*
A. Gunther	21		24	45*
G. Hall	22		22	44*
S. Kantor	22		22	44*
A. Simpson	19		25	44*
D. Steinmeyer	21		23	44*
C. LaPlaca-Post	20		23	43*
P. O'Malley	20		23	43*
N. Merena	21		21	42*
B. Bain	18		23	41*
M. Kane	19		22	41*
M. Molino	18		23	41*
J. Levine	18		18	36*
D. Goodell			27	27
F. Alam	22			22
F. Helfst	22			22
J. Schilling	20			20
A. Chakarian	19			19

NOVA SCOTIA – A NICE PLACE

Helen and I have traveled to Nova Scotia four or five times and have enjoyed all of the trips. Over the years accommodations there have improved greatly.

The nice part of visiting Nova Scotia is that you throw whatever you think you will need into the car. No airport hassle.

The drive to Portland and the Scotia Prince car ferry is about 300 miles and easily done with enough time for a nice dinner at a restaurant that is a converted old ferry.

After dinner, you drive a very short distance and get on line for the ferry.

Drive on the ferry for the overnight sail to Nova Scotia arriving in Yarmouth at about 8:00 AM, the second day. We take a stateroom and can sleep through the night.

Well, we had made those reservations for this June's trip. About two weeks later, we got a call from the Scotia Prince people that the entire Season's trips had been cancelled.



The reason given was toxic mold at the Portland Terminal.

I then called the "Cat" out of Bar Harbor and reserved with them.

This now involved much more driving both going to Bar Harbor and returning home. The 500 plus miles to Bar Harbor is a bit much for us (at least) to do in one day. The "Cat" sails at 8:00AM necessitating spending that second night on the road.. It is a three hour sail with the "Cat". Choppy going over but pleasant returning.

Now, I feel that, unless one ties in Maine to the trip, perhaps one should fly to Halifax and rent a car. Continental serves Halifax, Nova Scotia.

What we have heard from Fred Greene and others is that the Scotia Prince lost its license in Portland. And the Portland people want the "Cat" to leave from Portland and Bar Harbor, too?) And the Scotia Prince is considering sailing from Boston, Mass. to Shelburne, Nova Scotia.



There is so much to see in Nova Scotia. Brier Island on Digby Neck, Cape d'Or, Louisburg Restoration, Sherbrook Village, Cape Breton, Halifax itself, Cape Forchu light, Evangeline and of course, Peggy's Cove. Many, many little coves and quaint harbors. Nice people and a nice break for the dollar against the Canadian dollar.

Need help planning the trip, just whistle.

Chick



Assigned Subjects for the 2005/2006 Season.

This time we only have two in order to keep the meetings from getting too long. We eliminated the normal creative subject because they seem to appear during the course of the regular pictorial competitions.

1. Fruit *and or* vegetables.

That means you can take a picture of a broccoli and an apple together or one at a time.

2. Fog

Like a foggy day in London Town, or a foggy day in Maine.

Or any other foggy place.

We meet on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesday of the month at 8:00 pm
The Woman's Club of Wyckoff, 176 Wyckoff Ave. Wyckoff. NJ
Guests are always welcome at regular meetings



**19 Smithfield Rd
Waldwick. NJ, 07463**