

In Focus

The monthly Newsletter of the Focus Camera Club

July 2011

Photos in this issue are from last month's 'Anomalies' competition.

Celebrations go Boom!

Fourth of July fireworks are great, but don't miss out on all the other [photo opps and events](#) this month. There's a lot going on.

This Month's Featured Article

Click! You've captured that perfect moment in time. But what about just before or after? Do those moments help tell the story or evoke memories of that event? [Read more here...](#)



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Focus Camera Club Officers and Committee members

Officers

President: Joe Bonita
Vice President: Frank Gibbs
Treasurer: Peggy Dietz
Secretary: Paul DiSalvo

Committees

Executive: Joe Bonita, Russ Burden, Peggy Dietz, Paul DiSalvo, Frank Gibbs, Cliff Lawson, Marv Mickelson, Tim Visser
Competitions: Russ Burden, Marv Mickelson, Joe Bonita, Frank Gibbs, Nancy Myer
Programs: Tim Visser
Membership: Peggy Dietz
Special Projects: Marv Mickelson
Education: (Currently unmanned)

The purpose of the Focus Camera Club is to further its members' enjoyment, knowledge and mastery of photographic skills through cooperative efforts and fellowship.

Focus Camera Club Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held the First and Third Tuesday of each month. We gather in the meeting room at the back of the Animal Hospital building located at 5640 County Line Place in Highlands Ranch. Get a Google Map by [clicking here](#). Meetings start promptly at 7 PM. Parking is at the back of the building, but please leave the first 6 spots open. We can also park in the "Tiles for Less" parking lot just to the east of the hospital and walk across.

The Moments Before

By Frank Mercado

In our family, no Christmas season went by - at least when our four children were still children - without the obligatory group portrait of them in the holiday outfits their mom had created for them.

"The Moments Before" captures our four children on some long ago Christmas season evening, standing in age rank order, each wearing some matching - always matching - and vaguely Germanic (or is it Swiss?) looking outfit.



Some photographs, and I think this is one of them, capture not a singular 'decisive moment', but rather a few decisive 'moments'. Such photographs convey what happened in the moments just before or just after the camera's shutter opened and closed. Eddie Adams' infamous "Murder of a Vietcong by Saigon Police Chief" comes to mind. Such photographs are cortex videos – the video plays in the mind; the photograph is merely that video on Pause.

Traditional portraits, whether of an individual or of a group, usually are staged and capture only the moment of the shutter's blink. What went on before or after that blink is rarely conveyed. But 'The Moments Before' isn't a traditional portrait. This photograph is definitely not staged but it is not candid either; it is a cortex video of the staging process. When I press the mental Play button, I see our children respond to the threats of the stage director (Mom!) and momentarily get their act together. Then of course my mind's eye sees the video's closing scene - the perfect Christmas portrait of perfectly happy and perfectly behaved children.

What compelled me to take this image? I can't honestly recall. It might have been an impulsive act to capture a truth about our family. That is not to say that the image that followed - the traditional Christmas portrait of my four children smiling into the camera - was a complete falsehood. My kids were happy and they liked wearing the holiday outfits their mother created for them - at least I like to think so. But our traditional holiday portraits are not completely honest either. That perfect portrait - that one where every child has a nice smile, is looking at the camera, has hair the way mom combed it and hands in place rather than punching a sibling, is not a totally honest reflection of our young family life. In reality the process of getting to that split second of perfection was usually a little messy.

Was all of that going through my mind when I closed the shutter on "The Moments Before"? I doubt it, but who knows? Just as likely I thought it was a funny scene.

There is the oldest, Susan, looking askance at her ne'er do well brothers - always causing trouble those two. Sara asking Dad, "Why are you taking this picture?" Paul, clearly saying "Who me? It wasn't me, it was Scott". And the youngest Scott, saying "I wonder when I can go back to playing with the toy in my hand?" And of course, this photograph's "punctum" for me, the hand of SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED.

In any case there is no doubt why 'The Moments Before' is a "keeper" for my family. It evokes a laugh every time we get together for a family slide show. It is the slide show's comic relief, the humorous reality break.

Program and Competition Schedules

Program Schedule		Competition Schedule	
07/05/11	Presentation – Member Critique	07/19/11	Subject – Artificial Light
08/02/11	Presentation – Color of the World by Blaine Harrington	08/16/11	Subject – Open
09/06/11	Presentation – Nature's Gifts by Russ Burden	09/20/11	Subject – Altered Reality

July 5th Program is a Member Critique

This is your opportunity to bring in a print or digital image to have the club members provide you with a critique of the image. It could be an image you want to enter into club competition, local photo competition, trying to sell or just want to know what others think about your image.

Please try to limit your images to 3-5 to allow everyone to have a chance to hear the comments about their images. For digital images, please use our normal entry tool, <http://focuscoloradodp.com/index.php> and choose Critique for the Class.

This Month's Upcoming Competition is Artificial Light

Focus Definition: An image in which the light source is not from nature (sun or moon).

What? I can't use my beloved sunlight?

What's a photog to do?

For this competition you'll have to use your flash, a flashlight, Home Depot work lights, a candle, tungsten or fluorescent indoor light, football stadium lights, a street light, or the glow of a computer screen to light your subject.

Wow, that's a lot of different kinds of light.

Okay, I'm not scared anymore. Gotta go shoot...

If you need the Competition Entry forms or the template for the stick-on labels, you can get both [from the Focus website on the Competition Rules page](#).



Hi There! by Joe Bonita

Anomalies and Juxtapositions Competition Results

	Media	Artist	Image Title	Score	Award
f5.6	Color Print	Elmer Paetow	Follow The Paper Trail	8	1st
	Digital Projection	Gwen Pina	The pick up	9	1st
		Maria Armstrong	Grandma, Child Reunion	8	2nd
	Monochrome Print	Gwen Pina	The Helping Hand	8	1st
f8	Color Print	Jennifer Riefenberg	Nectar of BP	9	1st
		Joyce Mickelson	I Lost My Head	9	2nd
	Digital Projection	Todd Lytle	Here's Looking at You!	9	1st
		Wayne Corrigan	Here, There and Everywhere	8	2nd
	Monochrome Print	Jennifer Riefenberg	Posing with the Posies	8	1st
f11	Color Print	Barbara Kennedy	Bikes Belie Message of Window Signs	9	1st
		Mary Paetow	Wet Foot Picnic	9	2nd
		Nancy Myer	Only One Remembered?	9	1st
	Digital Projection	Nancy Myer	Great American Lawn	9	2nd
		Marilyn Clark	Towers-Towers	9	3rd
		Mary Paetow	Ice Elephant	9	HM
		Monochrome Print	Mary Paetow	Who Knew! Goats Can Read!	8
		Peggy Dietz	Dumping Strictly Prohibited	8	2nd
	f16	Color Print	Joe Bonita	Hi There!	9
Digital Projection		Joe Bonita	Lighthouse in Ruins	9	1st
		Russ Burden	Four Legged Wood Duck Baby	9	2nd
Monochrome Print		Joe Bonita	Mystery Woman	9	1st



Calls For Entries / Photo Contests

Tamron Nature Photo Contest

Just a reminder that the deadline is July 31. Details of the contest are in last month's newsletter.

Audubon Magazine Photography Awards

Deadline: September 5, 2011 **Entry fee:** \$14.99

Divisions (all ages as of May 30, 2011)

Professional (made \$5,000 or more in past year on photography)

Amateur (made between zero and \$4,999 in past year on photography)

Youth (13 to 17 years old)

Two ways to enter: 1. Submit your digital images online and pay a fee, 2. Mail paper prints for free

Some of the prizes: a top-tier nature cruise to the Galápagos; a deluxe trip to Peru, including the Amazon and Machu Picchu; five nights at a first-class ecolodge in Honduras; six nights in Belize; and more. Any one of them would be the experience of a lifetime—and all offer world-class birding. There are more prizes, too, from camera gear to cash to an iPad and iPods loaded with Audubon Guides apps.

Visit <http://audubonmagazinephotoawards.org/> for complete info on the contest and entry methods.

Local Photo Opps and Events

Crested Butte Wildflower Festival

It's that time of year again to head up to the alpine meadows for some great flower photography. Runs July 11 – 17, 2011 so you need to make some quick plans if you want to attend any photo hikes, workshops, classes, art or cooking classes, 4x4 tours or any other events.

Check the [festival website](#) for complete info, flower reports, etc.

Wild Wonders of Europe

You got an email about the Wild Wonders of Europe Conservation Photography Presentation on **July 14** at the Bradford Washburn Mountaineering Museum Auditorium, 710 Tenth St, Golden.

Cost is \$5 and doors open at 6PM, presentation at 6:30 PM.

I did get an email from one of the organizers of the event, but after searching their website, blog, Facebook page, and Twitter account I found no mention of this presentation. You may want to email the museum at info@mountaineeringmuseum.org or call 303.996.2755 to verify. (-KP)

Turn the Key Tour

For anyone who runs a studio (or is thinking of supplementing their income) the Turn the Key tour will give you solid information from experienced photographers. From their website:

“This seminar will be jam-packed with information that will be perfect for new photographers just starting out as well as the seasoned pro that is looking for new and fresh ideas on how to take their business to the next level. Hear what has worked to keep their studios on top in today's competitive market! Join us for a fast and furious five hours of solid topics and real solutions that can help you to turn the key and open the doors to your studio success!”

July 22nd in Denver, Trade Show 1:00 to 2:00 - Show 2:00 to 7:00

Renaissance Denver Hotel, 3801 Quebec Street, Denver, Co 80207 (Self Parking \$5)

Special guest speakers for this city will be Peter & Kathy Holcombe at 2pm sharp! Get there early so you don't miss out. The first 50 attendees to sign up in this city will receive a special gift from each of our main sponsors! Total value worth over \$1000!

Get full details [at the website](#), and use coupon code AMPHOTO to get the \$59 discounted fee (reg \$129).



Grandma, Child Reunion by Maria Armstrong

Soul Road Trips with Jeff Johnson

Most of you know who Jeff Johnson is. He's been a judge a few times and has given presentations. He has a number of workshops / photo trips coming up in the next few months that would appeal to anyone in the club. Jeff is a great teacher and just a plain nice guy.

Looking at this month alone, you could do natural light portraits in Hudson Gardens, shoot big cats at Serenity Springs, wildflowers in Yankee Boy Basin, “experienced machinery” at Queen City Salvage, and get some Photoshop classes in. I think that covers everyone!

Check his [current schedule at the Soul Road trips](#) website.

Black Hills Photo Shootout

The Black Hills Photo Shootout will be held **Sept. 30-Oct 2, 2011**. They will have workshops, seminars and photo walks with a keynote presentation by “Photographer of the American West”, David Stocklein.

From their site: *“The 2011 Black Hills Photo Shootout will focus on the northern Black Hills with a base camp at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota. From here, photographers will have a chance to explore and learn in places like Spearfish Canyon, Deadwood, Roughlock Falls and Bear Butte. Two days of sessions will be provided with instruction from top shooters and locals who know the lay of the land, all who aim to educate and inspire you.”*

Details are at www.blackhillshotshootout.com or you can become a fan on Facebook via the widget on the Photo Shootout site. Some of the sessions are full already, so you should start making plans soon.

Classified Ads

Equipment For Sale

No equipment listings this month.

Equipment Wanted

Help Needed

I need volunteers to write a 1-2 page article to use in the next newsletter.

Interested? Email Karl at

newsletter@focuscolorado.com

Photo Excursions

Russ Burden Photo Tours

www.russburdenphotography.com

303.791.9997

2011 Photo Tours

Sept 24 - Oct 3, Yellowstone and Teton Natl. Parks in Fall - 10 days

Oct. 18 - 23, Hunts Mesa - Aerial perspective of Monument Valley and Capital Reef NP

Nov. 5 - 11, Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks

Dec. 6 - 12, Bosque Del Apache & White Sands Natl. Monument



Four Legged Wood Duck Baby by Russ Burden

“ When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. ”

- Martin Luther King, Jr, 1929 - 1968

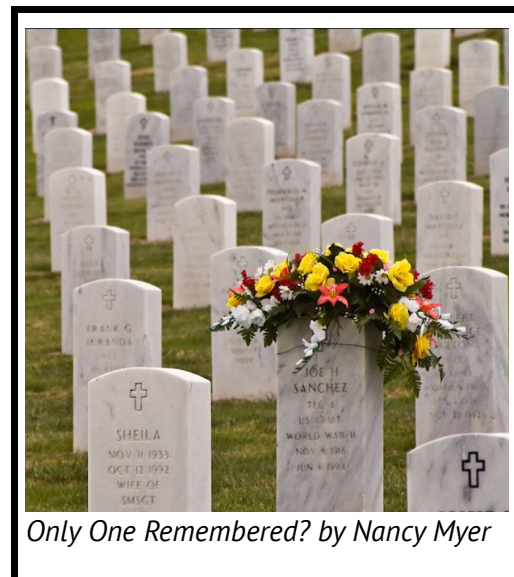
Frame #37

A collection of extra tidbits I've discovered during the past few weeks.

– While you're dabbling with artificial light this month you may want to find a way to soften that light. There's a [perfect article over on Strobist](#) just for you!

– Need an awesome masking tool for Photoshop? Try out [Topaz Remask](#) on a 30 day trial. Ready to buy? Use the coupon code 'quickmask' to save \$20.

– Got an Android phone? Check out Retro Camera and Sundroid (sun/moon positions). Both available for free in the Market. And make sure you Star your best photo locations in Google Maps. Then you can use the GPS (if your phone has one) to get right back there.



Only One Remembered? by Nancy Myer