

In Focus

The monthly Newsletter of the Focus Camera Club
March 2011

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

Number crunching...

Tim's written a nice summary of the recent Focus survey. Be sure to review the results, and a big "Thanks" to all who participated. Focus club dues must be paid by the March 1 competition. If you're a "last minute Larry" it is your last chance.

This Month's Featured Article

Blurry pictures will generally get tossed out of the competitions. But motion blur can be used creatively and to show action in a photo. Check out Russ' tips for long exposures.

[Read more here...](#)



Pre-Dawn Pastels by Jim Doolittle

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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.

Longer Than 1 Second

By Russ Burden

Showing the concept of elongated time in your photography as it blurs across a sensor requires a slow shutter speed to exaggerate the movement of the subject. The focus of this article is dealing with exposures of longer than 1 second.

The other day I was listening to satellite radio and the song, “Time”, by the Chambers Brothers came on. In that I was driving home from leading one of my photo tours to New Mexico, I was in a photo state of mind. As I was singing along to the chorus, one of the lines prompted the idea for this article - sing along with me: “Now the time has come There are things to realize.” What I want you to realize is how the concept of time impacts the outcome of an image.

Time is critical in high speed photography. Stopping a race car, freezing the moment a receiver snatches a football in the end zone, or capturing a single suspended drop of water as it cascades in a waterfall all require fast shutter speeds. Conversely, showing the concept of elongated time as it blurs across a sensor requires a slow shutter speed to exaggerate the movement of the subject. The focus of this article is the latter as I want to deal with exposures of longer than 1 second.

The Basics: In order to obtain slow shutter speeds, either the light level has to be low or you have to find a means of cutting back the existing light. The easiest way to do this is through the use of neutral density filters. They come in strengths of one to ten stops. I own a 6 stop and a 3 stop and I stack them if needed.

Some manufacturers offer models that vary the amount of density by rotating the front of the filter. By adding a polarizer, light levels can be cut even further. In that the viewfinder will be dark, it's best to first create your composition and then add the ND filters. Stop your lens down to the smallest aperture which nets the longest possible exposure.





Tripod It: While it's not necessary to use a tripod all the time in that intentionally moving the camera during long exposures can create interesting effects, it's essential one be used if you want stationary items to be crisp and sharp. Both techniques produce intriguing results.

Bring your camera and tripod to an amusement park at night and photograph the same subject both with the camera mounted on a tripod and hand held to intentionally move it. While you're at it, zoom your lens during the exposure to add an additional variable.

Technique: As you play with the concept, you'll find yourself wanting longer and longer exposure times. This being the case, be sure to enable long exposure noise reduction. It appears in the custom menu settings. Realize it will take time to process the photo so rapid fire is not the norm. If the exposure is 20 seconds, be prepared to wait 20 seconds before making the next image.

Stacking ND filters can cause vignetting especially if you're using wide angles. Its chance of happening is heightened the more you stop the lens down so be aware of its potential as it's difficult to see in the dark viewfinder. Be sure you have a locking cable release especially if you get into exposures longer than 30 seconds as this is where many cameras automatic settings stop.



Program and Competition Schedules

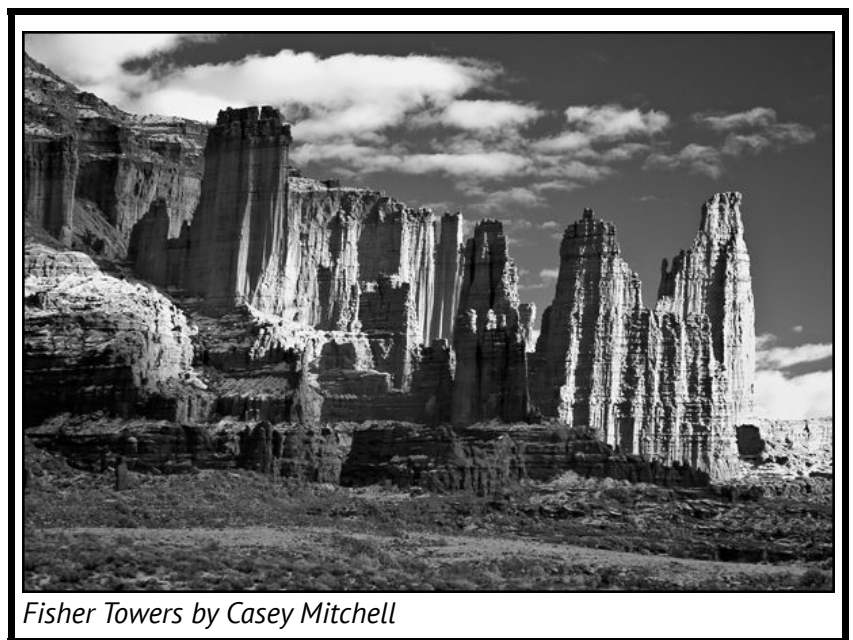
Program Schedule		Competition Schedule	
03/01/11	Presentation - Photography Composition - Taking your photography to the next level	03/15/11	Subject – Open
04/05/11	Presentation - Nik Software by Russ Burden	04/19/11	Subject - Backlight
05/03/11	Presentation - Subject TBD	05/17/11	Subject – Open

March 1st Program with Joe and Cliff

Our March program will feature our very own Joe Bonita and Cliff Lawson. This program is all about composition and how to make it artistic. You'll learn many new ideas and ways to improve your composition.

Joe is going to review the various "rules" of composition and then will suggest various compositional forms and elements that you can consider to make your compositions more interesting. Lots of example images will be used throughout his presentation.

After our break, Cliff will demonstrate how light is the key to any good composition. If you already demonstrate good composition or have challenges with composition, after this program your images will improve by utilizing some the great techniques both Joe and Cliff use.



Fisher Towers by Casey Mitchell

This Month's Upcoming Competition is Open

Eeny, meeny, miny, moe
Which fine picture shall I show?
Should it be a flower shot?
A landscape photo? I think not!

I have to try out something new.
Expand the type of images I do.
Success or failure matters not.
To grow as a photographer, that is my lot.

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](#).

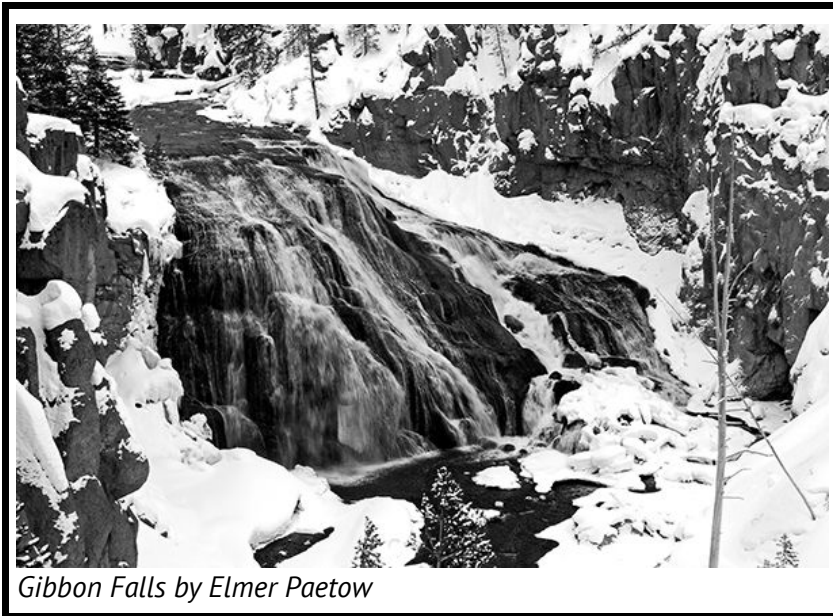
February Nature Competition Results

	Media	Artist	Image Title	Score	Award
f5.6	Color Print	Elmer Paetow	Out of the River	9	1st
		Barb Roche	Landing Pad	9	2nd
		Katie Roche	Beijing Lotus	9	3rd
		Dwight Hall	Green Maple	9	HM
Digital Projection	Elmer Paetow	Bison at Old Faithful	8	1st	
	Spencer Perry	Coyote on the Cool Log	8	2nd	
	Gwen Pina	Fabulous Fern	8	3rd	
Monochrome Print	Elmer Paetow	Gibbon Falls	8	1st	
	Muffie Swan	Palm Trio	8	2nd	
f8	Color Print	Tim Visser	Ox Bow Bend Sunrise	9	1st
		Richard Caverly	Spike	9	2nd
Digital Projection	Todd Lytle	Denali - The Great One	9	1st	
	Diane Katzenberger	Sand and Foam	9	2nd	
	Todd Lytle	Layers, Layers and More Layers	9	3rd	
	Frank Mercado	Slow Day at the Office	9	HM	
	Richard Caverly	Shelter	9	1st	
	Monochrome Print	Richard Caverly	Shelter	9	1st
f11	Color Print	Jim Doolittle	Pre-Dawn Pastels	9	1st
		Casey Mitchell	Maroon Bells Majesty	9	2nd
		Casey Mitchell	Roxborough Contrast	8	3rd
		Jim Doolittle	Aspen vs. Antler	8	HM
	Digital Projection	Nona Radin	Put Your Best Foot Forward	10	1st
		Jim Doolittle	Morning with Mt. Moran	10	2nd
		Jim Doolittle	Magnificent Moose	10	3rd
		Nancy Nelson	Black Faced Grosbeak	9	HM
Monochrome Print	Casey Mitchell	Fisher Towers	9	1st	
	Guy Geoly	End of Day	9	2nd	
f16	Color Print	Ilene Nova	Twig Geyser	10	1st
		Russ Burden	Osprey Breakfast	10	1st
	Digital Projection	Ilene Nova	Water Garden Touched by Sunlight	10	2nd
		Monochrome Print	Helen Tyler	Pending Deluge	10

“ Most people try to include too much in the picture. If you are photographing a child playing on the lawn, photograph the child, not the trees, the house, and everything else in sight. Photography is really a simple statement and the clearer it is the better. ”

- *Eliot Elisofon*

Calls For Entries / Photo Contests



Gibbon Falls by Elmer Paetow

C4FAP - Black and White

EARLY ENTRY: MARCH 21, 2011

ENTRY DEADLINE: APRIL 5, 2011

All black and white photography is welcome. This includes alternative, traditional, digital, and toned black and white images. All subjects are eligible.

Juror Catherine Edelman is the founder of Catherine Edelman Gallery which opened in 1987 and quickly established itself as one of the leading galleries in the Midwest devoted exclusively to the art of photography. Full details [at the C4FAP website](#).

Local Photo Opps and Events

Adobe Lightroom 3 Workshop: Denver, CO

Presented by Nat Coalson, Adobe Certified Expert, Lightroom

Author of "Lightroom 3: Streamlining your Digital Photography Process"

When: Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17, 2011 9 am-4 pm each day

Cost: ~~\$199.00~~ per person, Early Registration through March 11 only \$159!!

Are you a photographer just getting started with Lightroom, or someone who has used Lightroom for a while and is struggling to master its real power? This workshop was created especially for you!

During two intensive, hands-on sessions, you will learn not only how to make every picture look its best, but also how to tie all the steps together into a fast, efficient workflow that you can use again and again.

Visit <http://www.lightroomclasses.com/> for complete details.



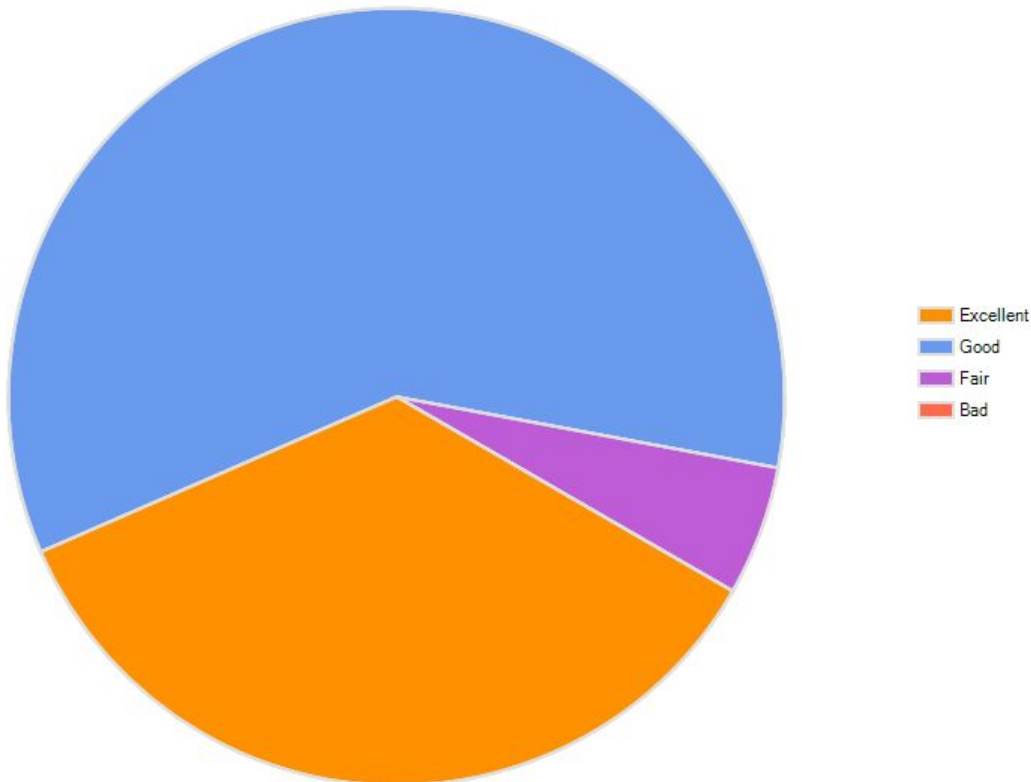
Put Your Best Foot Forward by Nona Radin

Focus Survey Results

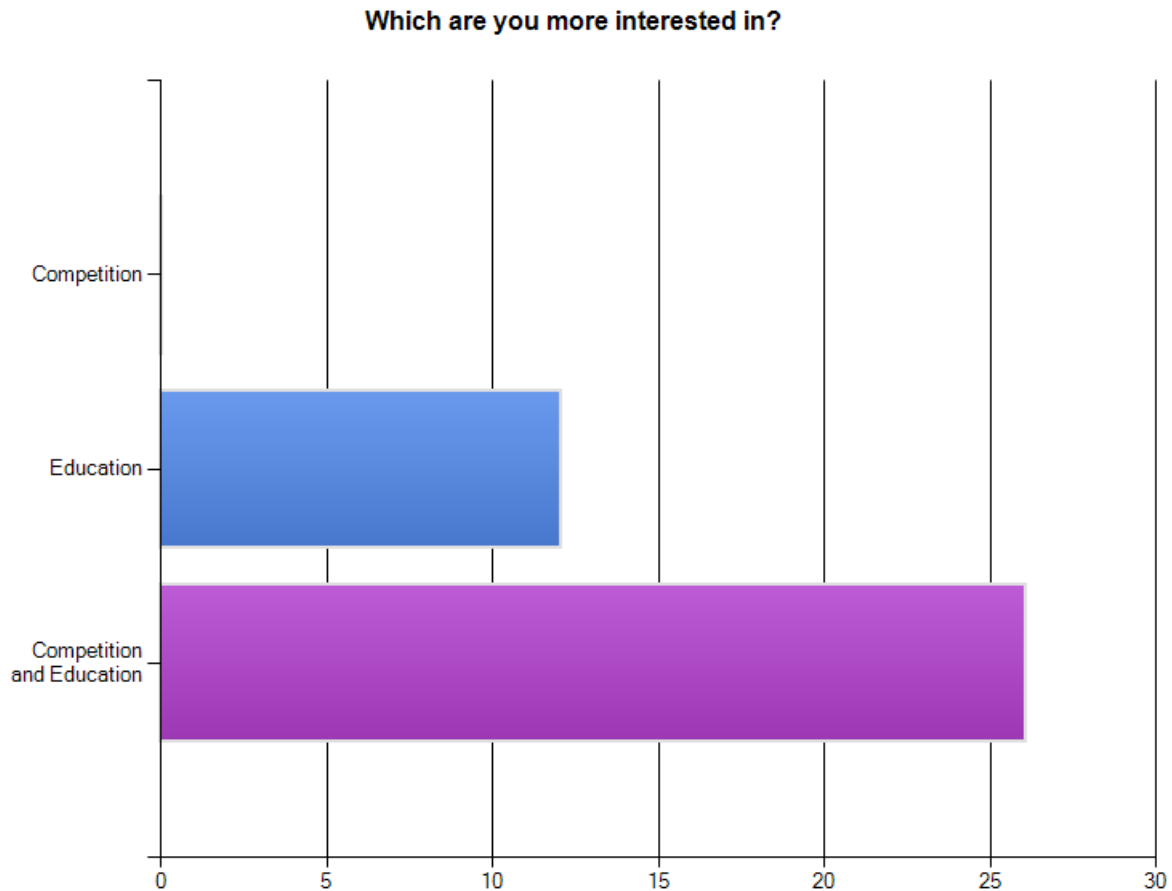
From Tim Visser -

In January I sent out a survey to understand what programs you are interested in, if you would like to be a mentor or be assigned a mentor, and if you are interested in location shooting. I want to thank you for taking the time and filling out the survey. I received 39 responses from our club members, THANK YOU!!! I wanted to provide you with a few of the responses that I received and will be working on for upcoming programs and location shoots. We have a wide range of members who have been in Focus from one month to 17+ years. Our members are looking to our club to become better photographers, for inspiration and motivation, technical updates, and a friendly and safe atmosphere to share a hobby or profession that you enjoy. We are always trying to improve our club and our members feel that our programs last year were good to excellent.

How would you rate the quality of the programs in 2010?



Out of the 39 responses, 35 of you want to attend Club Location shoots. I received many great recommendations from everyone and hope to continue to receive more. Moving forward, Nancy Meyer has agreed to help me schedule these location shoots and more details will be announced in our April newsletter. We had 38 responses to which are you more interested in, Competition, Education or Competition and Education. Of those 38 responses, 31.6% of you are here for Education and 68.4% are here for Competition and Education.



Seven of our members graciously volunteered to be a mentor. There are 15 members who desire to work with a mentor. I will be working with the mentor team over the next month to determine how this will work. Look for more information regarding a mentor program in the coming months.

Not surprisingly, the topics which our members enjoy shooting now show 84.6% enjoying Landscapes, 84.8% enjoy Scenic and 84% enjoy Nature. The top areas that you are beginning to try are night photography, architectural, panoramic and pets. Areas that some of you are interested in trying are Stock with 60%, Photojournalism 30.3%, Panoramic 29% and HDR 27.3%. The top three highest percentage areas that members are not interested in were Wedding with 61.3%, Pets 33% and Photojournalism with 27.3%. The areas that you would like to learn more about are Manipulated images (plug-ins) 96.6%, HDR with 92.6%, raw workflow 91.7%, macro 90.6%, Manipulated Images (Photoshop) 90% and Seeing Creatively with 89.7%.

I will be working hard to bring in speakers to present those areas to help increase your knowledge. Don't miss our program in April as Russ Burden will be speaking about Nik Software plugins and how you can use those for manipulating your images.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to respond to the survey and to help me provide you with programs, location shooting, etc. that you are interested in.

– Tim

Classified Ads

Equipment For Sale

FOR SALE:

1. Wacom intuous3 6 x 8 tablet & pen. Original box. Everything included. Used 2x. Org. \$300. Now: \$150.
 2. Gary Fong Lightsphere-2 diffuser/cloud (used 2x): Org. \$60 Now: \$10.
 3. Ultimate Light Diffuser for Nikon SB-900. Used 1x. Org. \$115. Now: \$ 40.
 4. Neumade safe, long term slide storage. 5-drawer metal & baked enamel cabinet holds 5000 slides. 150 adjustable & removable dividers (included). Excellent condition. New: \$678. Now: \$ 200.
 5. Testrite CS3 copy stand & lights. Capable of holding 35mm – 4x5 cameras. 4 parallel arms, 38” chrome post, 16” x 22” baseboard, 4 lights, 4 aluminum reflectors. Copy up to 16” x 20”. In original box with original wrapping.. Never put together or used. New: \$280. Now: \$140.
- Contact Barb Roche 303.721.0411 blroche@comcast.net



Osprey Breakfast by Russ Burden

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

- Apr 16 – 22, Monument Valley / Slot Canyons
- May 7 - 13, Arches + Canyonlands National Parks - includes 5 days of Photoshop instruction
- May 25 - June 3, Oregon Coast - 10 day
- June 18 – 24, Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Spring
- 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

Frame #37

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

- Here is a link to [quick guides from Canon](#) posted on a Yahoo photo groups (thanks J Bryan Kramer). These are designed to be printed double sided and folded up as a trifold and carried in your bag. Read the printing instructions on the bottom of the page.
- Wanna learn lighting from two of the best in the industry? Check out [the FlashBus tour](#) with David Hobby (of Strobist fame) and Joe McNally (of awesome photo genius fame).
- (Not a photo thing, but just a bit of meaty awesomeness.) Love bacon? Do you think “pork fat rules” like Emeril does? Try a [Bacon Explosion](#), but make sure you have a defibrillator handy.