In Focus

The monthly Newsletter of the Focus Camera Club

June 2012

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

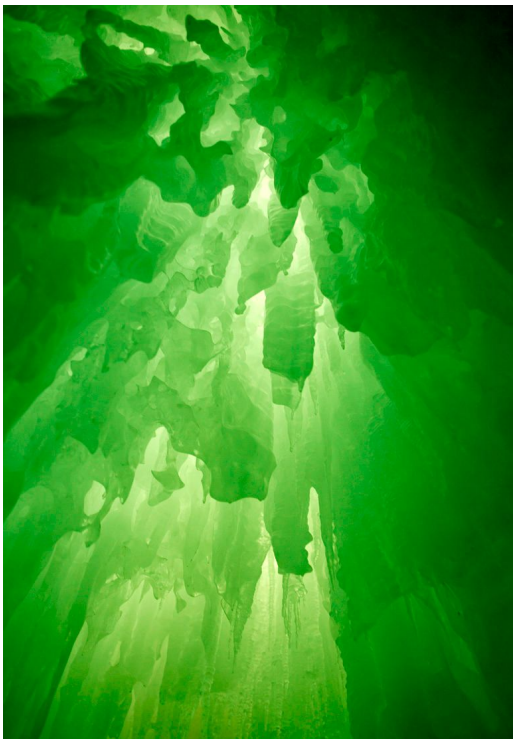
Build your stock library

This month's presenter will be giving us valuable info on stock photography. And there's lot of opportunities during the summer to go out and create images. Or you can stay inside (where it's cool!) and add to your portfolio.

25 years of Focus – part 1

Our first installment of the history of Focus is in this edition. From a simple idea to a reality, you'll learn about the beginning, initial growth, and changes that shaped the club.

Read more here...



Algae Ice by Gwen Pina

In This Issue

Focus Club – The first 5 years.....2
Program and Competition Schedules.....4
May Open Competition Results.....5
Calls For Entries / Photo Contests.....6
Local Photo Opps and Events.....6
Frame #37.....7

Focus Camera Club Officers and Committee members

Officers

President: Frank Gibbs
Vice President: Tim Visser
Treasurer: Peggy Dietz
Secretary: Paul DiSalvo

Committees

Executive: Joe Bonita, Russ Burden, Peggy Dietz, Paul DiSalvo, Frank Gibbs, Marv Mickelson, Tim Visser
Competitions: Russ Burden, Marv Mickelson, Joe Bonita, Nancy Myer, Richard Caverly
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 Thursday and Third Tuesday of each month. Our **new meeting place** is in The Community Room at the Greenwood Village City Hall, 6060 S. Quebec St. (That's on the east side of Quebec just south of Orchard Rd.) Get a Google Map by clicking here. Meetings start promptly at 7 PM and will end around 9:45 PM so we can be out by 10 PM.

Focus Club – The first 5 years

Focus Camera Club began in January, 1987, shortly after Dick York had judged Castlewood Library's annual print photo contest. The library staff was receptive to the idea of hosting club meetings and even created a mailer to send to its list of photographers in the area. On January 13th the first meeting was held, with 30 interested photographers attending.

Castlewood Library - "Birthplace" of Focus Camera Club

After selecting board members, electing club officials and discussing a constitution and bylaws, a general meeting was scheduled. Everyone got a say in the official name of the club, meeting schedules and competitions, annual dues, and ideas for field trips. Focus was the only area club with two meetings per month. One dedicated to education and another to competitions.

By mid year the club had grown to 50 members. Competitions were running strong, a newsletter was started, and the first field trip (Architectural Photography with Herb Engler) took place. Later in the year was another trip to Estes park and Focus competed in the Colorado Council competition, winning 2nd place in Color Prints.

Now we're rolling...

All in all a good start for the club. Successes continued in 1988 and we started the year with our annual dinner in January. Ribbons and plaques were awarded and new officers were appointed for the coming year.

Educational opportunities continued and club members traveled up to Laramie Mountain in northern Colorado in July. Among other presenters, the club was fortunate to have John Fielder come give a presentation in November on New Perspectives in Color Photography.

Competitions got restructured and refined at the end of the year. Fewer entries and advanced categories, along with a more varied subject matter list, helped challenge photographers to expand their shooting style and try new things. It is something we strive for to this day.

Progress and more growth

Slides. You remember those little pictures in square cardboard, right? In 1989 the club started raised funds to buy a new projector and lens to best show member's competition images. And our successes in local print competitions continued.

The Council Convention at Coors Auditorium saw Focus members taking nearly half the given points. Later in the year, at the Arapahoe Library District Annual Photo Contest called "Through the Eye of the Camera", Focus member took top awards. Bill Rothenmeyer took 1st in Color Prints.

Two years later Focus finished 1st in prints, 1st in Nature Slides, 2nd in Color Slides in Council's Annual Convention competition at Coors Auditorium.

Focus Club had an ever growing membership of talented photographers. Winning awards was nice, but the goal of educating members was still a priority. John Fielder returned for another November (1989) presentation and many other presenters generously gave of their time and talents.

Included in that group are Dan Poleschook and Joe Lange. They presented programs at the club on nature subjects, and operated Four Seasons Nature Tours. Their generosity to Focus in sharing their experience and knowledge won't be forgotten.

Tweaking and refining

Any organization has growing pains. And things come up during the course of business that perhaps were not considered in the beginning.

Some refinements were needed. For instance, competitions. Photographer, Advanced and Salon groups were established. With so many excellent photographers in the club, there needed to be a separation between them and the less experienced members. Similar to our current system, it allowed competition at similar experience levels and "leveled" the field a bit.

Another needed addition was assigning points for competition winning images: 1st-5 pts, 2nd-4 pts, 3rd-3 pts, HM-2 pts. The process of advancing members to higher categories tied in with the Focus mission of helping photographers improve their skills.

Nature slides and Open slides categories, Contemporary Photography (using various alteration techniques), and the Best of the Best competition, further expanded on the variety of images members could submit. Competitions were more than a time for recognition. They were a challenge to try new shooting styles and to grow as a photographer.

You can see some of the initial structures of the club still exist today. Or a small variation of them.

Yet the primary purpose of the club remains the same. To "… further its members' enjoyment, knowledge and mastery of photographic skills through cooperative efforts and fellowship."

That's what we're about. That's what the club has been doing for 25 years. And we'll keep doing it as long as Denver area photographers will let us.

Watch for part 2 and the next 5 years of Focus in the next newsletter. And if you have photos, information, stories, or any tidbits to share about past years of the club, get in touch with Dick York now.

Program and Competition Schedules

Program Schedule		Competition Schedule	
06/07/12	**Presentation** - Stock Photography by Ben D'Andrea	06/19/12	**Subject** – Intentional Blurs
07/05/12	**Presentation** - Member Critique	07/17/12	**Subject** – Inclement Weather
08/02/12	**Presentation** - The Art of Creating a Powerful Image by Dan Ballard	08/21/12	**Subject** – Open
08/30/12	**Presentation 5th Thur.** - Using Flash - Cliff Lawson and Paul DiSalvo		

June 7 Program with Ben D'Andrea

Are you considering becoming a stock photographer? This program will help you get started on the path toward reaching that goal.

Ben D'Andrea will walk you through what it takes commitment-wise, how to find an agency that's a good fit for your shooting style, and what types of images are likely to be successful.

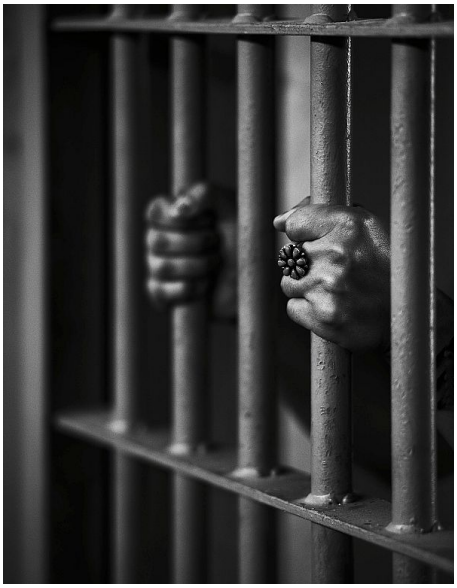
Ben D'Andrea was a partner in two different stock agencies and also served on the Board of Directors of the Picture Archive Council of America, the trade organization for the Stock industry in North America.

This Month's Competition is Intentional Blurs

The key word here is "intentional." Not those accidental slow shutter speed shots. Not the wind vibrating your tripod. Not the accidental images.

The blur should add to the photo, whether it implies motion or creates a dramatic change to the image.

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.



Behind Bars by Darrell Pierson

From Stan's Storm Photography session

Before you run out to shoot storms, here are a few useful links Stan provided:

http://www.spc.noaa.gov (storm prediction center)

http://www.rap.ucar.edu/weather (general weather info)

http://www.crh.noaa.gov/bou/ (Denver area forecasts)

May Open Competition Results

	Media	Artist	Image Title	Score	Award
f5.6	Color Print	Gwen Pina	Birds Eye View	8	1st
		Jan Fuiks	Hundreds of Flowerettes	8	2nd
	Digital Projection	Gwen Pina	Algae Ice	10	1st
		Jeff Owens	Summer's Blossoms	9	2nd
		Jeff Owens	Stop Right There!	8	3rd
	Monochrome Print	Jan Fuiks	Reeds and Ripples	7	1st
f8	Color Print	Joyce Mickelson	Aspen near Aspen	8	1st
		Paul Olthoff	Where's the 8 Ball	7	2nd
	Digital Projection	Jim Graham	After the Storm	9	1st
		Julia Spring	Freedom	8	2nd
		David Irwin	Misty Roxborough	8	3rd
		David Irwin	Visual Serenity	8	HM
	Monochrome Print	Jeff Jensen	Waiting for Chicks to Go By	10	1st
		Paul Olthoff	Reflections	8	2nd
f11	Color Print	Darrell Pierson	Back Street Café	10	1st
		Paul DiSalvo	Swinging for the Fences	10	2nd
		Guy Geoly	Theater District - Denver	10	3rd
	Digital Projection	Ken Farman	Lone Flight	10	1st
		Dick York	Dunes	10	2nd
		Marilyn Clark	End of the Road	9	3rd
		Tim Visser	Caught Ya	9	HM
		Marilyn Clark	Meet Me in the Courtyard	9	HM
	Monochrome Print	Darrell Pierson	Behind Bars	10	1st
		Darrell Pierson	Bike Storage	10	2nd
		Jimmy Doolittle	To Turn No More	9	3rd
f16	Color Print	Dan Greenberg	My Favorite 60's Group - The Doors	10	1st
		Joe Bonita	Reflected Chef	10	2nd
	Digital Projection	Russ Burden	Sunset at OxBow Bend	10	1st
		Dan Greenberg	The Buick of My Dreams	10	2nd
	Monochrome Print	Cliff Lawson	OK - It's Ice Cream or I Pull the Trigger	8	1st

Calls For Entries / Photo Contests

Waiting for Chicks to Go By by Jeff Jensen

C4FAP – Center Forward

Theme: Center Forward

Deadline: June 20, 2012

Photography, perhaps more than any other medium, seems inextricably linked to an increasingly complex modern world constantly unfolding in new and unexpected ways. Its ability to capture our cultural changes, the environments we inhabit, and the thoughts we keep play a vital role in giving us greater insights into our world and ourselves. In the 2012 Center Forward exhibit we are interested in exploring this unique quality of photography, therefore the theme is open and all subject matter is welcome.

Visit the website for complete information.

First Impressions Photo Contest

Submit the most visually-stunning photos from your portfolio for your chance to win a prize package that includes $1,000 cash and publication of your photo in Digital Photo Pro!

Entry deadline is June 12, 2012

See full details and info on the DPP website.

Local Photo Opps and Events

Russ Burden Photo Tours

www.russburdenphotography.com 303.791.9997

2012 Photo Tours

June 16 - 22, Grand Teton / Yellowstone National Parks – Spring

Sept 23 - Oct 2, Tetons and Yellowstone Natl. Parks in Fall - 10 days

Oct. 16 - 21, Hunts Mesa - Aerial perspective of Monument Valley and Capital Reef National Park

Nov. 3 – 9, Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks

Dec. 1 - 7, Bosque Del Apache / White Sands Natl. Monument

Crested Butte Wildflower Festival

Mark your calendar for July 9-15 for the annual Wildflower Festival. Lots of photo opps, classes, tours and hikes are available for you to take advantage of.

You can get all the details on the event, complete schedules and up to date info on what's blooming in the area at the Festival's website.

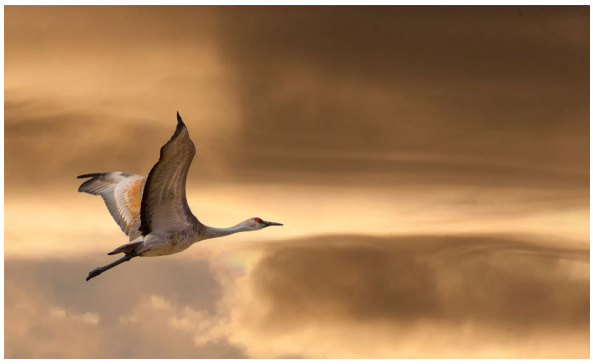
Frame #37

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

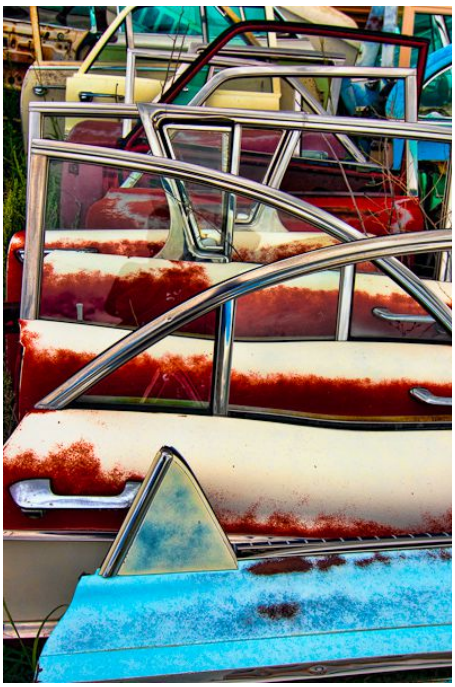
— Wanna get info on a simple but effective macro setup? Visit Robert Otoole's site for a nice little article about the setup he now uses.

— Got a Facebook Page for your business? The folks at PhotoShelter have put together a nice article on maximizing your Timeline cover photo and other elements on your Page.

— Adobe's Creative Suite is much more than just Photoshop. Want the skinny on all the apps that are part of the suite? Visit the PhotoshopCafe CS6 super guide site now.



Lone Flight by Ken Farman



My Favorite 60's Group - The Doors by Dan Greenberg

> I don't do reality well. I have to romanticize things. I dream up images and I shoot them - fantasies and escapism. If I can't feel the image, it won't work.
>
> *- James B. Wood*