focus CAMERA CLUB

In Focus

The monthly Newsletter of the Focus Camera Club

June 2015

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

Spring has Sprung...& Summer crashes the party

Okay, it's not official until the 21st, but temps in the 80's and the thunderstorms sure do feel like summer is here already. Anyone wanna guess when the first 100 degree day will be?

But summer also means more opportunities to get out and shoot. More events, more green stuff growing, flowers blooming, and animal activity. Fireworks, and the inevitable beer and barbeques.

Ahhh, Summer! Welcome back old friend.

This Month's Featured Article

If any buildings will be in your American Scenics entries, This article from Russ will help. Read more here...

California Rain by Kristen Mary Smith

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Focus Camera Club Officers and Committee members

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President: Guy Geoly
Vice President: Gary Witt
Treasurer: Todd Lytle
Secretary: Oz Pfenninger

Committee Chair & Members

Executive: Guy Geoly, Gary Witt, Dan Greenberg , Todd Lytle, Oz Pfenninger, Gwen Pina & Frank Gibbs
Competitions: Dan Greenberg, Nancy Myer, Richard Caverly, Joe Bonita
Programs: Gary Witt
Membership: Gwen Pina
Special Projects: (open)
Education: Gary Witt

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. Our **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.

Three Quick Tips for Better Architecture Photography

By Russ Burden

Books have been written on how to capture a great architectural image. There are a myriad of aspects to take into consideration. Chapters are devoted solely to the topic of lighting, composition, and perspective.

Yes, it's quite extensive and I've yet to mention the aspect of photographing interiors! But here's my take - in order to get started, a journey begins with a first step. Homer created a trilogy of epics placing the first letter of the first word onto a page. Aim your camera at a building and make that first press of the shutter. To get you started, I offer three Quick Tips to so that first release nets a more successful image.

Patterns, Shapes, Lines and Color:

Whether you start your architectural journey photographing a solitary barn in the middle of a field or a big city skyscraper amidst its brothers, study the patterns, shapes, lines and color of the subject. Note how light emphasizes these designs. Zero in on the parts that provide the most compositional impact.

What determines this is how shadows and light play off each other. The shadows and highlights are what accentuate the shapes.

Look for contrast but if it's too strong, be sure to expose for the highlights so they maintain detail. This being said, return to the same structure at different times of the day when the light will be warmer, softer, or less angular. Soft light provides less contrast and provides an option if you need to reveal lots of detail in deep shadowed areas. Dependent upon your location, different cities or parts of the world provide different looks. The art deco region of Miami necessitates different strategies than the lights of Vegas, which necessitate different ones from the Chicago skyline. Regardless, go out and make that first release of the shutter to get started.

Include The Environment:

Sometimes you'll focus on the small details to depict patterns, shapes and colors as referenced above, while at others you'll concentrate on the big picture.

This necessitates including the environment. In a big city, seek out the areas that provide clean vantage points so the foreground isn't filled with clutter. In a big city, this means an investment in time and energy but the reward is better photographs.

Look for subjects to include in the foreground. Use wide angle lenses but keep the camera parallel to the buildings to prevent keystoning. Keystoning gives the appearance the buildings lean backward into the frame. The more parallel a wide angle lens is held to the subject, the less keystoning.

When the big skyline shot is the focus, the light is extremely important. Make skyline shots at sunrise and sunset. The light is warmer in tone so the buildings glow. Glass buildings look as if they're bathed in gold.

So if the goal is to capture a big city skyline, go out and make that first release of the shutter to get started.

Use HDR:

Buildings that are elaborately lit make great night time subjects.

To the human eye, they look magnificently dramatic. The problem is translating that look to your digital camera. The sensor can't capture the dynamic range of the human eye. So with a single click of the shutter, the image looks too contrasty. Software can correct this but in the field prerequisites need to be made.

Capture a bracketed burst of five different exposures using one full stop increments. Be sure the camera is on a tripod and all knobs are locked down tight. The dark ones preserve the highlight detail while the bright ones reveal shadow detail.

Start with an exposure two stops darker than the meter reading, then one stop darker, then one at the meter reading, then one over and finally two over. Run these images through High Dynamic Range (HDR) software such as Nik HDR Efex Pro2 or Photomatix.

The program will extract the best parts from each exposure to provide an evenly toned final result.

This method requires a bit more thought and effort but if architectural photography is in your future, go out and make that first release of the shutter to get started.

Program and Competition Schedules

Program Schedule		Competition Schedule	
06/02/15	**Presentation –** Planes, Trains and Automobiles by Eric Cain, Sam Howard, and Dan Greenberg	6/16/15	**Subject** – American Scenics
06/30/15	Mentor Meeting		
07/07/15	**Presentation –** Be An Artist First, Photographer Second by Eli Vega	07/21/15	**Subject** – Open
08/04/15	**Presentation –** TBA	08/18/15	**Subject** – Altered Reality

June 2 Program with Eric, Sam and Dan

In an effort to highlight some of our member's photography, the June program was created to showcase the work of new members Eric Cain (planes), Sam Howard (trains) and Dan Greenberg (automobiles). Each will take a portion of the meeting to show and discuss some of their images on these specific topics.

Eric Cain joined FCC just four months ago but has already shared his photographic talents with some phenomenal competition images. Eric holds a Bachelors and Masters degree in Aerospace Engineering and currently works at Sierra Nevada Corporation as an Aerospace Engineer. On a daily basis his work includes overseeing design teams on both aircraft modification and spacecraft design programs. He is the company's unofficial photographer, having photographed many of the company's projects and flight test activities for documentary purposes.

Sam Howard has always lived in Colorado and spent a lot of time in the high-country while growing up. He learned photography at an early age from his best friend and mentor (his father). Sam has always been a railroad enthusiast and has used Colorado railroads as his main photographic subject. This theme provides endless opportunities from steam locomotives to scenic landscapes throughout Colorado.

Dan Greenberg is a photographer specializing in fine art automotive photography, based in Parker, Colorado. He has been photographing vehicles of all types at car events, in salvage yards, at custom portrait sessions and many other places for over thirty years. His work has been published in car magazines as well as in his own series of self-published and ever growing car art books available on Blurb.com.

This Month's Competition is American Scenics

You mission, if you wish to accept it is to photograph *"Images of landscapes, cityscapes, landmarks, monuments, small towns, buildings, farms and the like that convey an identifiable American theme or feeling and that were taken in the United States."*

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.

May 'Wet' Competition Results

	Media	Artist	Image Title	Score
f5.6	Color	Gary Patterson	Yucatan Sunset	10
		Gary Patterson	Hope, Abandonment & Isolation #2	9
f8	Color	Jeff Jensen	I Love My Job	10
	Digital	Theresa Corrada	Rainy Alley	10
		Gwen Piña	Plasma	10
		Theresa Corrada	About to be Wet	9
		Jeff Owens	California Dream'n	9
		Elmer Paetow	Back Off Buster!	9
		Julia Spring	Panama Sunset	9
f11	Color	Jim Doolittle	Ker-Plunk	10
		Jimmy Doolittle	Splash	10
		Rich Hayes	Deeply Rooted	10
		Danny Lam	Last Leaves of Autumn	9
	Digital	William Brant	Cosmic Undulations	10
		Brian Donovan	Pools at Sea	10
		Danny Lam	Wonderful Life	10
		Butch Mazzuca	Canon Beach	10
		Bill Rothenmeyer	Snowy Egret With Wet Feet	10
		Kristen Mary Smith	California Rain	10
		Gary Witt	After the Rain	10
		Dick York	Water Power	10
		Dick York	Morning Dew on Forest Floor	10
		William Brant	Spring Showers	9
		Wayne Corrigan	Rifle Falls	9
		Diane Katzenberger	Into the Mist	9
		Fred Larke	Double Falls	9
		Butch Mazzuca	Geese on the Water	9
		Bill Rothenmeyer	Backpacking in the rain	9
		Kristen Mary Smith	Cool Runnings	9
	Monochrome	Kevin Holliday	One Thousand Splinters to Pull	10
		Jimmy Doolittle	Cascade of White	9
		Danny Lam	Bayou	9
f16	Color	Joe Bonita	Rainy Day Strawberry	10
		Guy Geoly	Nude & Wet	9
		Cliff Lawson	One Breath to the Finish	9

f16 (con't)	Color	Oz Pfenninger	River's Edge	9
	Digital	Dan Greenberg	Waterfall in Paradise	10
		Dan Greenberg	Fire in the Rain	10
		Todd Lytle	Making a Splash	10
		Mary Paetow	Hang On	10
		Mary Paetow	My Feet Are Wet	10
		Oz Pfenninger	Rainy Day	10
		Leander Urmy	Dew on Grass	10
		Nancy Meyer	The Making of Very Wet Rocks	9
		Nancy Meyer	Creative Wetness	9
		Leander Urmy	Autumn Rain	9
	Monochrome	Joe Bonita	Suspended Animation	10
		Dan Greenberg	I Would Rather Be in My Garage	9

Remember to send your winning Print images to Webmaster@FocusColorado.com for the online galleries. And please use the same naming conventions as we do for Digital Submissions. ☺

Calls For Entries & Photo Contests

C4FAP - Still Life 2015

We welcome all artist interpretations on the Still Life theme. All capture types and photographic processes are eligible to submit.

Deadline: June 24, 2015

Juror: Del Zogg

Del Zogg has held the position of Manager, Works on Paper & Photography Collections and Study Center at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston since 2002. Prior to moving to Houston, he was at the George Eastman House, International Museum of Photography & Film in Rochester, New York (1981-2002).

Visit the C4FAP website for complete details.

Suspended Animation by Joe Bonita

20th Annual Gateway to the Rockies Art Show

An opportunity to not only showcase your work, but sell it too. Grab the prospectus at the link below for info about image / print submission, pricing and sales, and dates for submissions and the show itself.

Entry Deadline: August 15, 2015

Visit the Aurora Artists Guild website to download the prospectus and get complete details.

Canon Beach by Butch Mazzuca

6th Annual Great Outdoors Photo Contest

The great outdoors offer endless scenic opportunities and bring in amazing images from around the world. In its sixth year, our most popular photo contest inspired by the great outdoors is still going strong and is now accepting entries.

Outdoor Photographer invites you to submit your best photos of outdoor locations from around the world for your chance to win publication in an issue of Outdoor Photographer and great photography prizes!

Entry Deadline: June 25, 2015

Visit the contest page on the OutdoorPhotographer website for all the info.

Mentor Series Travel Photo Contest

Here's a bit of a different way to run a contest. Images must be posted to Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #mentorseries to be eligible.

Popular Photography invites you to enter our Travel Photo Contest with your most spectacular photos highlighting the adventure, culture and beauty of the world. From India to the Grand Canyon to Iceland and beyond, we want to celebrate the splendor of countless travel destinations, both near and far. With your photos, we will showcase the brilliant landscapes of the world on our website for our readers to observe and enjoy.

Pools at Sea by Brian Donovan

From May 1 – July 1, 2015 *post your travel photos to Instagram and/or Twitter and tag it #mentorseries and a team from Pop Photo will select the top images.*

Visit the PopPhoto website contest page for more info.

Local Photo Opps and Events

Russ Burden Photo Tours

www.russburdenphotography.com 303.791.9997

2015 Upcoming Tours and Dates

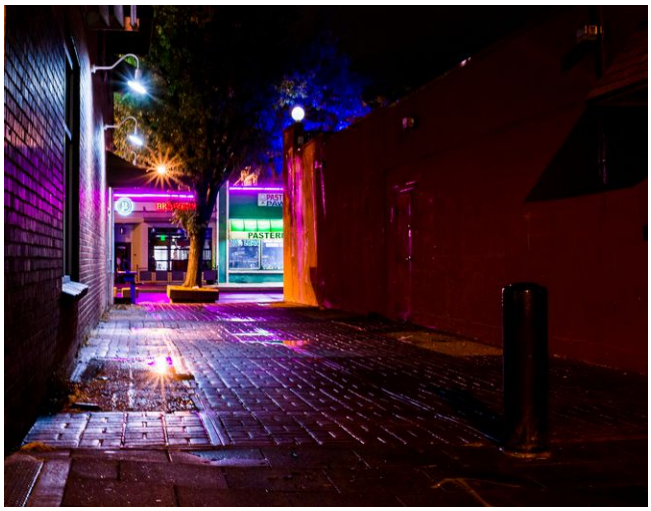
July 11-17, Colorado Wildflowers and Alpine Scenery

July 24-30, Glacier National Park Tour 1

July 31 – Aug 6, Glacier National Park Tour 2

Aug 22 to 28, Goats and Gods

Sept 24 – Oct 3, Grand Teton / Yellowstone National Parks, Autumn



Rainy Alley by Theresa Corrada

Denver Chalk Art Festival

Talk about a great "street photography" opportunity!

June 6 & 7 in Larimer Square

More than 200 professional, amateur and student artists will delight and amaze Denverites with their incredible talents in what has become one of the city's most treasured events. Over the course of two days, the artists will take to the street armed with vivid pastel chalks and spend hours on their hands and knees recreating major masterpieces or sharing original works of art. Spectators will watch as the intricate chalk paintings come to life and spread out to adorn four downtown blocks in and around Larimer Square. Visitors will enjoy live music, food and beverages while also having the rare opportunity to interact with the artists as they work.

Get all the info at the Larimer Arts website.

Colorado Photography Festival

Make plans if you haven't already...

The 5th Annual Colorado Photography Festival will be held from August 8-13, 2015. Ten of the state's premier photographers will give instruction in the classroom and in the field on numerous aspects of professional photography, from capturing your images to optimizing them in Lightroom.

Get details on the classes, night photography opportunities (including the Perseids meteor shower!), and all the rest at the Festival website.

Water Power by Dick York

Colorado Renaissance Festival

It kicks off this month, so grab your favorite wench or jester and head out there.

2015 Dates: June 13-14, 20-21, 27, 28, July 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26, August 1-2.

From minstrels to maidens – jousters to jesters. There's a lot of fun to be had at a Renaissance festival. And some wonderful photo opps too. Then you can enter their photo content.

Saturdays & Sundays Only / 10:00 am - 6:30 pm, Rain or Shine

Check the RenFest website for schedules and details about the event.

Frame #37

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

— Looking to buy a new Nikon body and some lenses? Pop over to B&H and pick your body from the left column. Some nice deals on extra lenses, flashes and TC's are available this month.

— Do you share your images online? It's near impossible to prevent anyone from grabbing them and using them, but Watermarking can at least sway a certain percentage.

For Sale Items

Barb Roche has a number of items for sale. Contact Barb: 303.408.1063 blroche@icloud.com

- Westcott 10x12' #5717 white pole pocket backdrop. Never used. $80.00
- Adorama Belle Drape #315 10x12' muslin backdrop. Never opened. $30.00
- Adorama Belle Drape #570 10x12' color patterns backdrop. Never opened. $40.00
- Lastolite baby poser modular system. Never used. $100.00
- Manfrotto 300 1 BPRO Tripod: $100.00
- Wacom Intuos 3 6 x 8 Graphics Tablet: used once. Original box with everything. $99.00
- Lasotolite black/white collapsible backdrop 6 x 7 with train. Never used. $270.00
- Nikon D70: camera body, battery & charger. $50.00
- Ultimate Light Box Diffuser for Nikon SB-900. Used 1x. Original box. $40.00
- Sekonic L-358 Flash Meter. Excellent condition. Original box etc. $215.00

One Thousand Splinters to Pull by Kevin Holliday

California Dream'n by Jeff Owens

> "It is the photographing of ordinary things, in extraordinary light, which results in extraordinary photographs."
>
> *– David Young*