focus CAMERA CLUB

In Focus

The monthly Newsletter of the Focus Camera Club

February 2016

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

Hit the Program Meeting this month

Many of the club members travel for photo shoots, or just for relaxation. (Yes, your spouse is right. You're supposed to relax and not drag your entire gear collection with you!)

This month's Program will teach you how to contact and submit your travel photos to magazines. Could help pay for another trip.

A gentle reminder...

The beginning of the year is a big push for members to pay their annual club dues. It's important for you to do this as soon as possible, so go grab the Membership form from last month's newsletter or direct from the website. Print it, write that check, and get it taken care of now. Thanks.

This Month's Featured Article

My advice to an aspiring photographer. Read more here...

Ring of Fire by Nick Hemenway

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Focus Camera Club Officers and Committee members

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President: Gary Witt
Vice President: Gwen Piña
Treasurer: Brian Donovan
Secretary: Oz Pfenninger
Committee Chair & Members
Executive: Gary Witt, Gwen Piña
Competitions: Jeff Owens
Programs: Theresa Corrada
Membership: Cecelia Broder
Special Projects: (open)
Education: (open)

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 & Third Thursday of each month. Our **meeting place** is 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.

Advice for an Aspiring Photographer

By Karl Peschel

My daughter met an aspiring photographer over the weekend, Shannon. She is a newbie with a Nikon D3100 who wants to pursue photography and eventually go pro. She reached out to me on Facebook for some advice and as I was writing it I thought it may be a good read for Focus members.

I know many of you are past the newbie stage, but you may know someone who is just getting started who could benefit from this. Or perhaps a few of the tidbits here will be useful reminders to you.

Gear is not the Be All, End All

When you're starting out, a decent entry level camera and lens is perfectly fine. Don't buy anything better until you know what you like to shoot and what camera and lenses will help you get better results for that type of photography.

Every exposure you make comes down to ISO / aperture / shutter speed. And any camera can do those. 1/250th at F8 is the same on a point and shoot as it is on a $4000 DSLR. Master the basics of exposure and light before deciding which camera/lens combo will offer you a better quality image or faster focus or 6-8 frames per second. Depending on what you shoot, some of those things matter and some don't. (Landscapes don't move around, so 8 FPS really doesn't matter.)

Lenses matter more than the camera body

When upgrading, spend money on good glass first. And seriously consider a 35mm/f1.8 or 50mm/f1.8 to start with. They are lightweight, inexpensive, super sharp and let in a lot of light.

More importantly, fixed focal lengths force you to "think" more about what you are shooting. You can't stand in one place and zoom the lens. You have to move around, find the best spot, think about composition, and you learn to "see" the world as that lens does. It's one of the best learning tools you can get.

Learn about Light

Understanding light, natural light, is an important part of being a better photographer. Soft light, hard light, light angles, shadows, color temperature, all play a part in creating great images. Experience is a great teacher. Shoot in various light - sunset, midday, overcast, shade - and you'll soon learn the differences.

And learn about light modifying tools like reflectors and diffusers so you can change the way light strikes your subject. Don't tackle artificial light, flashes or studio lights, until you understand the nature of light.

One of the best books on the subject is Light Science & Magic.

Ignore the internet (mostly)

If you hang around the numerous photo forums, photo sharing sites, Facebook groups, etc. you may start feeling like your gear isn't up to snuff. Some folks look down on you unless you're using a top line Canon or Nikon, and the "holy trinity" of lenses. 14-24/f2.8, 24-70/f2.8, and 70-200/f2.8

Ignore them. In fact, remind them they too started with basic equipment.

There are many photographers who create incredible images with kit lenses, fixed focal length lenses, or even a compact P&S style camera. Don't let anyone intimidate you. Allow your images to speak for themselves. The end result, that beautiful image, is all that counts.

DO pay attention to the thousands of resource available online. You can get a good photo education via sites like CreativeLive, Kelby Training, Youtube videos, and scores of other places.

And there are many good photo forums and Facebook groups for every photography subject, along with ones dedicated to each camera manufacturer.

You can't fix it in post

Digital photography has ushered in the (horrible) thought that you can just fix an image in Photoshop. Shoot sloppy, work it in PS to make it better. Grrrrr!

Granted, there is some flexibility with digital files for exposure, color correction, cropping, etc. But to think everything can be made better in an editor is folly.

The old adage, **Get it Right in the Camera,** still holds true today. Shoot it right and you will not have to spend hours in PS trying to make things better. And you can't fix everything either. Out of focus is out of focus. Bad exposure is bad exposure. Poor composition or the top of your subject's head chopped off can't be fixed.

Pay attention while you are shooting and strive to get the best image possible. Shoot multiple angles or lighting too. Don't rely on just one shot.

Get together with other photographers

Join a camera club. Monthly educational programs and competitions will expand your knowledge and challenge you to create images to fit the competition subjects.

Many of the subjects will be things you've never tried before. They will help you think creatively, and the critiques in judging will help you hone your skills.

Check Meetup.com for local gatherings and shoots. Take a class at the community college. Do a 52 week project and post it online for others to see and comment on. (Facebook, Instagram, Flikr, 500px and many other photo sharing sites are available.) Getting feedback on your images from strangers, instead of your family and friends who all love your work, can be very beneficial. (Again, watch for trolls.)

You can learn from others, or on your own, in a variety of ways.

Be someone's Assistant

Once you've narrowed down to the type of photography you want a career in, go work as an assistant to a local working pro. Whether it's band photography, weddings, portraits, architecture, or sporting events you can get a lot of experience as an assistant.

Shadowing, and learning from, someone who makes their living doing what you want to do may be worth more than a college education.

Program and Competition Schedules

Program Schedule		Competition Schedule	
02/04/16	**Program –** Getting Your work Published in Magazines by Efrain Padró	02/18/16	**Subject** – Nature
03/11/16	**Program –** Photojournalism in the 21st Century by Jon A. Yamamoto	03/29/16	**Subject** – Still Life
04/08/16	**Program –** TBA	04/21016	**Subject** – Workers / People at Work

February 4 Program with Efraín M. Padró

Join travel photographer Efraín M. Padró for this informative talk about how you can get your images published in travel publications. Efraín will discuss how to identify magazines that might be interested in your work, outline how to prepare a submission, talk about important contract issues and pricing, and more. Efraín will include in his presentation samples of published work and some of his best-selling images. The presentation will conclude with a Q&A session.

Efraín M. Padró is a professional photographer and educator specializing in travel, nature and architectural subjects.

His company, Padró Images, was founded in 1999 and is a stock and assignment photography business based in the Denver/Boulder Area, Colorado. Efraín's stock collection includes images of the American Southwest as well as Argentina, Chile, Perú, Spain, France, England, Scotland, India, Turkey, Holland, Morocco, Puerto Rico and other countries.

This Month's Competition is Nature

The official definition - *Nature photography is the depiction of the natural world in such a fashion that a well-informed person is able to identify the subject. Nature photography focuses on landscapes, wildlife and plant life as they are found in a natural environment.*

However, neither humans nor elements created by humans shall be present except when the photo tells a nature story, they enhance that story and are not dominant. The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable. Photographs of zoo or other captive animals are acceptable if the captivity is in no way evident. Mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are not acceptable.

Life is Good by Laura Moran

Images that are manipulated beyond the changing of brightness, contrast, hue or saturation of all or part of the image are also not acceptable.

Do note there are some **very** specific rules for this competition. Make sure you are scrutinizing your images and post processing so they fit all the criteria above.

Judge will be **Dan Ballard**

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.

Winter Approaching the Dunes by Dave Hull

Rifle Falls by April Moore

Magic Brew by Butch Mazzuca

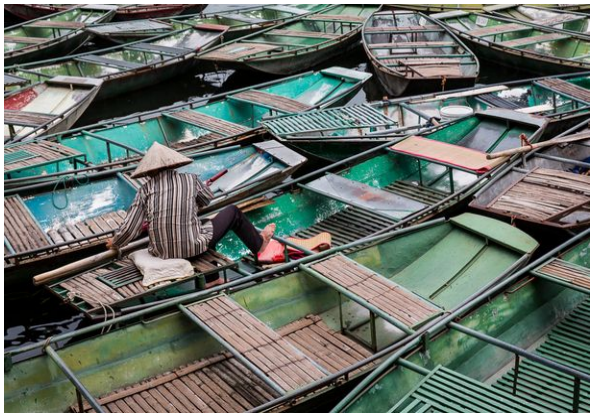
January Open Competition Results

	Media	Artist	Image Title	Score
f5.6	Digital	Dave Hull	Winter Approaching the Dunes	10
		Laura Moran	Life is Good	9
f8	Color	Gary Patterson	Bristlecone #2	9
		Gary Patterson	Mountain Man & Hummingbird	9
	Digital	April Moore	Rifle Falls	10
		Nick Hemenway	Ring of Fire	9
		April Moore	Baby Colson	9
		Ron Schaller	Linked In	9
f11	Color	Jimmy Doolittle	Harvest Time	10
		Jeff Jensen	A Potential Jam	10
		Jeff Jensen	Hood Ornaments	9
	Digital	Todd Christensen	Tasty Waves on Oahu's North Shore	10
		Todd Christensen	Blue Angels over Oahu	10
		Brian Donovan	Fairy Tale Castle	10
		David Irwin	Stone Throwing 101	10
		Butch Mazzuca	Magic Brew	10
		Bob Bartlett	Comin' Home	9
		William Brant	Ethereal Wings	9
		William Brant	Edge of the Universe	9
		Cecilia Broder	Finding Light in Chaos	9
		Theresa Corrada	Fish Chunks	9
		Theresa Corrada	Field Trip	9
		Wayne Corrigan	A Touching Moment	9
		Wayne Corrigan	Glass Ball Boat	9
		Diane Katzenberger	Last Days of Summer	9
		Butch Mazzuca	Delicate Arch at 3:00 AM	9
		Kristen Mary Smith	Snow Globe	9
		Cohan Zarnoch	In the Dark of the Night	9
	Monochrome	Jimmy Doolittle	Morning Drive	10
		Jimmy Doolittle	Sunrise on the Farm	10
f16	Color	Joe Bonita	To Soothe the Soul	10
		Ron Cooper	Striped Shirt	10
		Cliff Lawson	Sand Wave	10
		Cliff Lawson	Safe	10
		Scott Wilson	Reach	10

f16	Color	Danny Lam	Time for Me	9
	Digital	Danny Lam	Sunset at Bandon	10
		Todd Lytle	Hang Time!	10
		Oz Pfenninger	A Bit Shy	10
		Leander Urmy	Bosque Sunrise	10
		Leander Urmy	A Leaf of Color	10
		Scott Wilson	Penmon Lighthouse	10
		Scott Wilson	Rojo	10
		Dan Greenberg	Land of Many Textures and Colors	9
		Dan Greenberg	Route 66 at Dusk	9
		Kevin Holliday	Elevated Illusions No. 1 - Y Bridge	9
		Todd Lytle	Pile O' Pallets	9
		Nancy Myer	Rose Garden Arcade	9
		Nancy Myer	Waiting for Riders	9
		Oz Pfenninger	Rainy Evening in the City	9
		Gary Witt	Barcelona Blue	9
		Dick York	Dune Art	9
		Dick York	Winter's Artwork	9
	Monochrome	Ron Cooper	The Boatman	10
		Ron Cooper	End of Day	10
		Kevin Holliday	Desolate Desperation	10
		Kevin Holliday	Fistful of Stoned Illusions	10
		Guy Geoly	For the Love of Music	9
		Danny Lam	My Journey	9

Judge for this competition was Ilene Nova. See all images in the Online Gallery.

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. ☺



Striped Shirt by Ron Cooper

Rojo by Scott Wilson

Calls For Entries & Photo Contests

UCAR "Call for Artists" Community Art Program

(got this via email)

Greetings Artists,

Artists will be selected by jury for solo or group exhibition in the two public galleries of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder on Saturday, April 16, 2016. Individuals interested in submitting their work for consideration may register via: On-Line Registration at the Community Art Program- UCAR Center for Science Education.

The deadline for registration is April 11, 2016 at 5pm. There is no fee. Registration may be limited, if necessary. This round of judging will select artists for exhibits June 2016-May 2017, at NCAR's Mesa Laboratory. Artists are requested to submit three representative pieces of their work and may provide a statement of 100 words or less (optional). Gallery space limits NCAR exhibits to wall-hanging artwork.

The NCAR Mesa Laboratory is located at 1850 Table Mesa Drive in Boulder. Its galleries and Visitor Center are open to the public on weekdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and on weekends from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Once we receive your on-line registration you will be processed and receive an information letter. Thank you and good luck!

Best Regards, Audrey Lewis #303-497-2570 email: alewis@ucar.edu

Photo.net Macro Contest

Round up 5 of your best macro shots and enter them in the Macro Photography Photo Contest for a chance at winning a terrific lens from Tamron to propel you in your Macro Photography journey!

Details and submission info is at the Photo.net website.

Local Photo Opps and Events

Russ Burden Photo Tours

www.russburdenphotography.com 303.791.9997

2016 Upcoming Tours and Dates

Feb 20-26, Birds of Florida

Apr 13-25, Tanzania Safari #1

May 27 – Jun 5, Oregon / N. California / Redwoods

July 23-29, Glacier National Park

Aug 20 - 26, Goats and Gods Wildlife/Scenery

Oct 15 – 21, Monument Valley / Slot Canyons

CreativeLive Photoshop Week

Okay, an online event instead of a local one. But if you want a great Photoshop/Lightroom education, this is the thing to do. It runs Feb 22-27 and includes 6 days of training, 19 instructors and 39 sessions.

For the $299 fee you get Exclusive bonus content, Lifetime access with on-demand download, 100% satisfaction guarantee, 20% off Adobe Creative Cloud Photography plan.

Visit the CreativeLive website for full details and purchase.

Frame #37

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

— Do you print your images? When I worked at Ritz/Wolf Camera we told our customers "it's not a photograph until you can hold it in your hand." Of course, the photo lab was the profit center of the store.

But then again, having your best work languish on your hard drive and never see the light of day is a shame. Learn about printing in the first of a series over at Outdoor Photographer.

— This month marks a new law effective Feb 19 for drone owners. You **MUST** register your drone device with the FAA or face civil and criminal penalties. Check the FAA website for details.

— Can you shoot 3 different lighting setups in 1 second? The answer is yes!! See how you can use radio transmitters, lights and different channels/zones to do just that. Very cool idea when you're pressed for time and need to produce different results for a client.

> "In photography, the biggest difference between an amateur and a professional is... the size of the wastebasket."
>
> *- Anonymous*

Field Trip by Theresa Corrada

Desolate Desperation by Kevin Holliday