

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

Volunteers wanted!

Where can YOU lend a hand in the monthly operations of the club? Let Oz know of your interest to be a committee member, or lead a photo excursion, or anything else you have a talent for to help move the club forward.

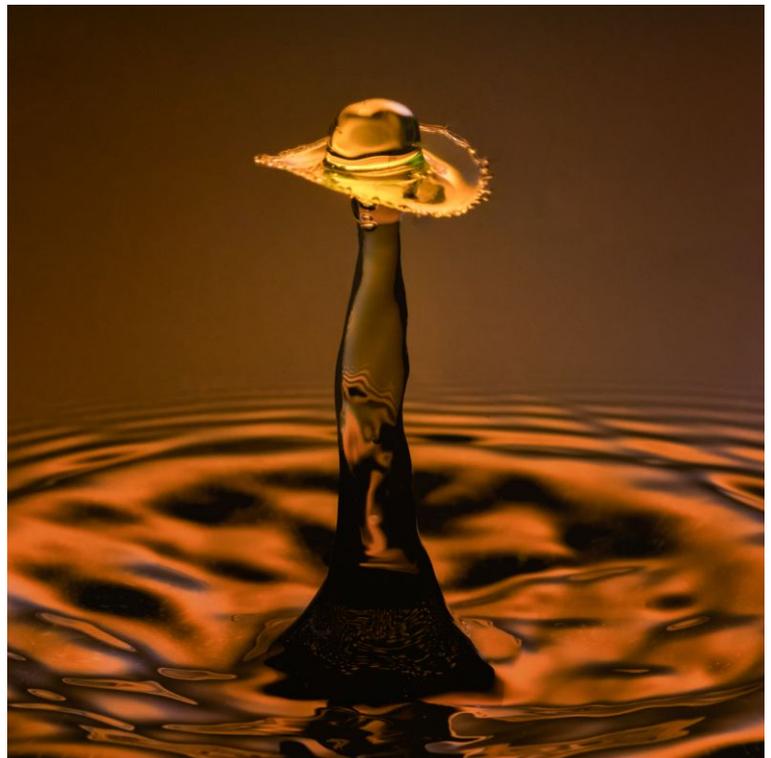
Everyone got an email with the “state of the club” message. We need people to help run things in 2022.

Email president@focuscolorado.com today.

Night and Low-Light photography

Shooting at night and in low light requires certain skills and methods. Here’s some info to get you ready for the November competition.

[Read the article here...](#)



At the Drop of a Hat by Butch Mazzuca

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Focus Camera Club Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

President: Oz Pfenninger
Vice President: Gwen Paton
Treasurer: Ron Schaller
Secretary: Bill Williams

Committee Chairs

Executive: Oz Pfenninger, Gwen Paton, Ron Schaller, Bill Williams and the Committee chairs listed below
Competitions: Butch Mazzuca & Cliff Stockdill
Programs: Shawn Slade
Membership: Larry Hartlaub
Newsletter/Website: Karl Peschel

Our Mission

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 Second & Fourth Wednesday of each month. Our meeting place is online via Zoom until further notice. Meetings start promptly at 6:30 PM and normally end by 9:00 PM.

Low-Light Photography

By Russ Burden

Make great images at dawn, dusk and during the night.



When the light is low, many photographers head back to their vehicles and call it a night. At dawn, many photographers wait for the first hint of the sun's illumination to press the shutter. I share with you some tricks and insight on how to extend your productive photographic hours. Learn to make images at dawn, dusk and during the night with these low-light photography tips.

My business tagline is, "It's All About The Light." For me, light is the key ingredient that makes or breaks an image. If the light is awful, even the most iconic mountain range or sea stack looks flat. A photo of a regal lion posed against an ugly gray sky

won't bring oohs and aahs from the crowd. I'd rather photograph a mundane subject in amazing light than a great subject in flat light. A spectacular sunrise or sunset over a prairie will make viewers look twice at that image. Replace the regal lion with a common jackal perched on that same rock, bathed in first light with a clean sky behind it, and it will create a successful photograph.

Dawn And Dusk Low-Light Photography

I absolutely love to shoot at "the edge of the day." Before the sun rises and after it sets, if the conditions are right, a pink earth shadow on the opposite horizon of the setting or rising sun occurs. Clouds can form electric color or an alpenglow can set the sky ablaze. This is when I look for silhouettes with interesting shapes or forms.

With regards to exposure, meter off the sky, especially if there are some bright yellows or oranges. In checking the histogram, be sure you activate the RGB and Luminosity histograms.



Base the exposure off your Red channel for two reasons: a) warm tones are the most sensitive to record; b) if they're blown out, they'll be void of detail. Continue to quickly make more images as the magic doesn't last long.

Night Photography

Night photography involves a lot of artificial light. Whether it's generated by a cityscape, head and tail lights, flood lamps, etc., interesting effects can be produced. Zoom the lens during a multi-second exposure to add drama and creativity. Deliberately move the camera during the exposure to apply painterly qualities. Try a few multiple exposures to impart interesting effects. Many techniques can be applied to make your images stand out from what would otherwise be deemed as a record shot.



Flash For Low-Light Photography

Flash is a versatile tool and it “shines” in the dark. If it has the capability, set it to the stroboscopic effect and focus on something that moves. Use slow shutter synch to allow ambient light in the background to build up on the sensor. This prevents the black dark void that's so often associated with the use of a flash. If a small item is the main subject, use the flash as a backlight. Let your creative juices flow to see what you may conjure.

Don't Fight It

When light levels drop, if you can't freeze the action, make it work for you. Pan the camera with the subject to emphasize the movement. Use a shutter speed that allows the background to streak while you track the camera at the speed of the subject. The goal is to record the subject that reveals some sharp parts while the background becomes a blur caused by the movement of the camera. Look at the image on the LCD. If the effect isn't what you want, raise the ISO to get a faster shutter speed or use an even slower shutter speed to create an other-worldly image.

Stability

Low-light photography means long shutter speeds, which necessitates you support your camera to get sharp images. Tripods, window mounts, bean bags or other means of stabilizing the camera and lens during the exposure is necessary.

Program & Competition Meetings

Program Schedule

- 10/13/21 **Program** – Light Side Up by
Nate Luebbe
- 11/10/21 **Program** – Why Black & White?
By Cole Thompson

Competition Schedule

- 10/27/21 **Subject** – Open
- 11/24/21 **Subject** – Night Photography

October 13 Program with Nate Luebbe

Filmmaker and photographer, Nate Luebbe, had always been fascinated by the night sky and in particular, the Aurora Borealis. But he always felt disconnected – what if you could change your perspective and witness the spectacle from a vantage point other than the ground? How close could you get?

But he was limited by the equipment. Lowlight-optimized cameras were heavy and expensive, and given the high chance of failure, this problem was prohibitive. See how he and his team overcame these obstacles and launched a weather balloon to capture unique views of the night sky.

This Month's Competition is Open

The official definition (you should have this one memorized by now) - *“The Open category allows photographers to submit images of any subject matter. Members are encouraged to explore photographic techniques and subjects outside their usual style.”*

Judge will be **Kevin Holliday**

And remember, we are limiting to 2 images per person for all Competitions done via Zoom.



Havana Haute by Todd Lytle



Hats on Rack by Bill Dickson



I'm All Grown Up Now
by William Williams

September 'Hats' Competition Results

	Media	Artist	Image Title	Score		
F5.6	Color Digital	William Williams	A Stroll On The Beach	9		
		William Williams	I'm All Grown Up Now	10		
F8	Color Digital	Steve Wilton	Mr Mustard in the Kitchen with a Knife	10		
F11	B&W Digital	Ally Green	Howdy!	9		
		Joe Razes	Workin	9		
		Victoria Ashby	Go On Ahead	10		
		Ally Green	Cooling down	10		
		Clifford Stockdill	Hat Stack	10		
	Color Digital	Lucius Ashby	My Golf Hats	9		
		Bill Dickson	Hats on Rack	9		
		Lucius Ashby	A Panama	10		
		F16	B&W Digital	Ron Cooper	Joe	10
				Oz Pfenninger	Birding Overhead	10
Color Digital	Travis Broxton		stack of hats	9		
	Travis Broxton		they call me mello yello	10		
	Dan Greenberg		FDNY - Retired	10		
	Dave Hull		Elbert County Hat Rack	10		
	Todd Lytle		Havana Haute	10		
	Butch Mazzuca		At the drop of a hat	10		
	Butch Mazzuca		National Pastime, Circa 1933	10		
Gwen Paton	Where's My Hat?	10				

Judge for this competition was Cliff Lawson.

See all the winning images [in the Online Gallery](#).



Go On Ahead by Victoria Ashby



FDNY - Retired by Dan Greenberg

Photo Contests

International Landscape Photographer of the Year

Deadline: November 15, 2021

We really believe there's nothing more satisfying than seeing your photos published alongside the world's best. And the International Landscape Photographer of the Year Awards book is a real book - printed on paper and bound between hard covers, but of course, you can also see the wonderful flip-book presentations here on the website. Being published is a mark of success!

This is our eighth year of the International Landscape Photographer of the Year Awards and the main aim of our Award is to be one of the Top 101 landscape photographs of the year. This gives you a place in our exclusive book which is published online and can be purchased as a 'real' hard-cover paper publication as well (it's proudly printed by Momento Pro).

[Visit the ILP website](#) for details about entering, prizes offered, etc.

Outdoor Photographer – Nature's Colors

Deadline: November 23, 2021

Each year, we celebrate the beauty of the natural world with our annual Nature's Colors photo contest. From stunning landscapes to magnificent wildlife, show us how the world's colors blend and contrast in ways that make us say "wow." Submit your best photography showcasing nature's colors to win incredible prizes.

(Be sure to review the FAQ section as there are specific rules about images that include wildlife. Things like "no baiting" or "harassed wildlife" and other items.)

[Visit the OP website](#) for details about this annual contest.

Local Photo Opps & Events

Denver Zoo – Free Day 10/21

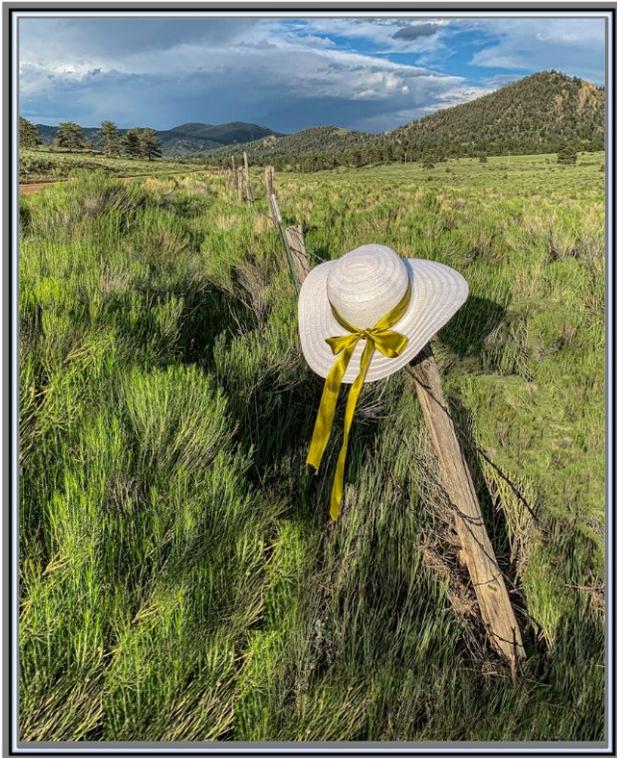
COVID has really changed how attractions like the Zoo do business. In past years you could just show up at the gate and go in. Now...you have to enter a lottery and there are limited, timed tickets for the "free day." Entry into the lottery starts Oct. 11 and goes thru the 13th.

[Visit the Denver Zoo page](#) for free days to enter the lottery to get a ticket.

Seeing Fall Color

Many photographers love this time of year – fall color is magical but fleeting.

If you're looking for ideas on where to go then check this list of [11 drives around the state](#) for inspiration. Or maybe you fancy a train ride through the mountains around Leadville or Georgetown. Check [this list of 9 popular Colorado train](#) excursions.



Where's My Hat? by Gwen Paton



Elbert County Hat Rack by Dave Hull

Frame #37

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

- Take a look at the 2021 winners of the [Nature Conservancy photo contest](#). Notice how many are aerial views – drone photography is getting better and better.
- Want more drone images? How about a site and contest solely about drone photos? The 2021 Drone Awards site has some amazing images in multiple categories. [Take a look for yourself](#).
- Do you currently print your images or are interested in getting started? Moab, who makes a wide variety of inkjet papers, has [recently setup Moab TV](#). It's a collection of recorded webinars on printing and getting the best results as home. Plus, they have a free Ultimate Guide ebook linked there.

Light in Nature creates the movement of colors.

– Robert Delaunay