

THE CABLE RELEASE

Newsletter of the Virginia
Beach Photography Club

AUGUST 2001



From the President

Let's Build a Club Library

Do you have any Photography books sitting around collecting dust that you no longer use but that someone else might be able to get some use out of? We are looking for a few good books to build up a club library. Due to the limited space available to us in which to store the books, all submissions should be accompanied by the owner's name and phone number in the event that the book(s) need to be returned to the owner. The books should contain information that is relevant to photography today. If you have any books that you feel fit this description that you would like to submit to the club for consideration, please bring them to any of the regular monthly meetings.

Speakers

For July we were privileged to have Ms. Betty Owens and her very unique Reflective Photography. We also had a very large field of entries in the monthly contest. Some thought has been given to the idea of having a club member give a short presentation for those months where we have "Open" for the category, and Guest speakers for the months where a topic is assigned. Your comments are welcome!

Photography Courses

Tidewater Community College -

TCC is offering several photography courses this Fall at the Visual Arts Center in Portsmouth. Registration for Fall classes is July 16th thru August 22nd with classes beginning August 23rd. For more information, call TCC or visit them on the web at www.tc.cc.va.us

Virginia Living Museum plans safari to Shenandoah Mountains

Discover the fascination and beauty of nature in Virginia's Shenandoah mountains and valleys on a two-day naturalist tour with the Virginia Living Museum Sept. 29 and 30.

Participants will take an early morning bird walk and enjoy a walk to some of the last healthy ancient Eastern Hemlock trees. They will learn about the geology and history of this area as well as the abundance of fall flowers and wildlife. They'll study critters in the forests, streams and fields, take time to watch for migrating hawks and butterflies, and take a night walk to find a variety of nocturnal animals and see the stars.

Transportation in museum vans, motel accommodations (double occupancy), breakfast, and the professional service of two staff naturalists is included.

Full payment must be made by Aug. 21.

Refund minus \$30 is available up to Aug. 24.

Minimum age is 8 years; 18 years without a parent.

The safari will leave the museum at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 29 and return around 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30.

The cost is \$140 for museum members and \$165 for non-members. Call 757-595-9135 to register.

Calendar of Local Events

39th Annual Chesapeake Bay Art Show, Aug. 18-19, Ocean View Beach Park, Norfolk. FREE 588-4805

Princess Anne Park Art & Craft Festival, Aug. 4-5. P.A. Park, Va. Beach, FREE 479-5252

38th Annual East Coast Surfing Championships, Aug. 23-26, Btwn 1st & 10th Streets at the Oceanfront.

Hampton Cup Regatta, Aug. 10-12, 75th annual powerboat race w/ 9 classes of hydroplanes. Mercury Blvd., btwn Phoebus & Fort Monroe, 722-5343

Up coming competition categories are:

AUG "Boats"

SEP Open

OCT "Children at play"

NOV Open

DEC "Current Events"

Competition Categories for 2002

JAN Open

FEB "The Holidays"

MAR Open

APR "Reflections"

MAY Open

JUN 'Old Structures'

JUL Open

AUG "Water"

SEP Open

OCT "Trains, Planes and Automobiles"

NOV Open

DEC "Animals"

NEW ON THE MARKET

POWERFUL BATTERY PACK AND BATTERY CHARGER

With its Power Pack Sets, Ansmann eliminates the power supply problem that arises when a digital camera is used continuously. The sets are NiMH battery packs ensuring a voltage of 4.8 V at 3,000 mAh. This allows digital cameras to be operated non-stop for several hours, eliminating the tiresome need to change batteries. The Power Pack Sets are available in two versions. The charger of the Power Pack Set 1 provides a current of 300 milliamps at 4.8 volts. The Power Pack Set 2 is operated by a micro controller with pre-discharge and provides 700 milliamps for much shorter charging times. Both sets come with a leather case with belt clip, as well as adapter cables for digital cameras and digital video recorders. In order to get batteries up-and-running as quickly as possible, Ansmann also offers a quick charger by the name of DigiCam Power Set. It charges nickel-cadmium and nickel metal hydride batteries of sizes Mignon AA and Micro AAA, making it possible to put new energy into the common power sources for digital cameras. The micro controller with pre-discharge makes for rapid charging. The charger has a charge indicator and a faulty battery detector for each battery compartment. Four Mignon AA batteries are included.

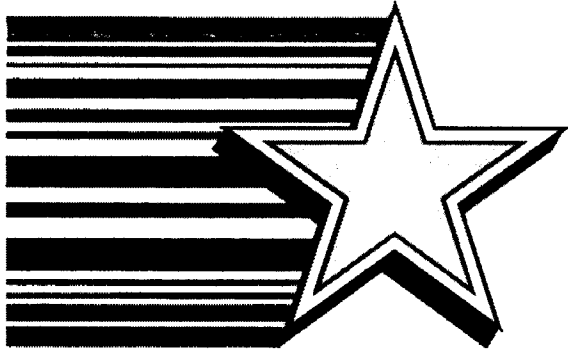
* <http://www.agfanet.com/newsletter/?id=874>

WIDE-ANGLE, TELEPHOTO AND MACRO ATTACHMENTS FOR DIGITAL CAMERAS

Soligor offers a wide-angle and a telephoto lens attachment for digital cameras with filter threads of 37 and 52 mm diameter. The wide-angle attachment reduces the focal length of the lens by a factor of 0.6 - e.g. from 35 to 21 mm. On the other hand, the Tele-converter permits extension of the focal length by a factor of 2 -e.g. from 38 to 76 mm. The attachments are simply screwed into the filter thread of the digital camera. Soligor offers

adapter rings for thread diameters of 27, 28, 30, 30.5, 41, 43, 45, 46, 46.5, 49 and 55 mm. In addition, for digital cameras without a macro mode - such as is used when taking photographs of insects and flowers or capturing stamps and coins, for example - there are also macro lenses for cameras with a filter thread diameter of 37 or 52 mm. These make it possible to get within ten centimeters of the subject. Like the converters, the macro lenses are simply screwed into the filter thread of the camera.

* <http://www.agfanet.com/newsletter/?id=876>



JULY COMPETITION RESULTS

“Open”

Color Slides

- 1st “Lily Close-up” by Walter Demchuk
- 2nd “Blue Eye” by Kathy Szilagyi
- 3rd “Morning Mist” by Herb Walls

Color Prints

- 1st “Summer Soirée” by Richard Christy
- 2nd “Keys to the Kingdom” by Red Twine
- 3rd “Mabray Mill” by Tom Allen

B/W Prints

- 1st “Mabry Mill” by Connie Carey
- 2nd “Dry Fountain” by Walter Demchuk
- 3rd “Wisconsin’s Big Guns” by Walter Demchuk

*** TIP OF THE MONTH ***

Great Software Available

HARRY'S FILTERS (as of 5/25/2001)

If it were possible to "strike gold" in the field

of digital image editing, then programmer Herald Heim has certainly done just that with his "Harry's Filters" software. The new Version 2.0 of his filter collection consists of a single Photoshop plug-in that offers an enormous number of effects, but is still available for free on the Internet.

AGFAnet SOFTWARE REVIEWS:

* <http://www.agfanet.com/newsletter/?id=777>

SOLARISATION

Everyone interested in photography will probably have seen it at some time: so-called solarisation, which already presented psychedelic image effects and "pop" colors long before the days of digital image editing. Incidentally, the correct term for this method, which makes the picture appear partly as a positive and partly as a negative, is in fact pseudo-solarisation (or the Sabatier effect), as solarisation really describes a completely different scientific phenomenon.

In a darkroom, a (pseudo-)solarisation effect is obtained by briefly exposing the image to a light source during developing. This process is, of course, very hard to control, so the results don't always turn out the way you intended. Digital image editing programs usually offer a solarisation filter. While it may well produce perfectly good results, it is again not controllable in most cases. In contrast, it is a little-known fact that you can get subtly controllable solarisation by using the Curves function of programs like Adobe Photoshop and others.

First, drag the top, right-hand end of the curve all the way to the bottom, whereupon the preview turns black. Then grab the now "horizontal" curve in the middle and drag it upwards - to the middle of the available range. The result: the darker shades, located in the left-hand half of this inverted V, still appear in positive form, while the lighter shades, located on the right-hand, downward-sloping part of the curve, are now negative. At this setting, the effect is exactly the same as that of the

corresponding filter in the Photoshop menu. In contrast to the latter, however, you can now vary the solarisation effect infinitely by adjusting the curve.

SOLARISATION LINKS

* <http://www.agfanet.com/newsletter/?id=870>

If you look for "solarisation" in the official archives of the work of Man Ray, you'll find what you want more than 70 times - the master of photography did a lot towards making this effect so popular.

* <http://www.agfanet.com/newsletter/?id=871>

Informative article about (pseudo-)solarisation with practical tips on how to obtain the effect in the darkroom.

* <http://www.agfanet.com/newsletter/?id=872>

Extremely comprehensive article on the phenomenon - including numerous (literature) references.

* <http://www.agfanet.com/newsletter/?id=873>

In contrast to many commercial programs, XNView offers a controllable solarisation filter: the "Edit" item in the "Image" menu contains the "Solarise" option. XNView is available as freeware in countless languages for Windows, Linux, MS-DOS, Atari, OS/2 and many other operating systems.

CLASSIFIEDS

No items submitted

The Executive Committee

- President - Connie Carey 431-8461
- Vice Pres./Guest Presentation - Herb Walls 362-5231
- Secretary / Treasurer - Ken Reidel 499-3379
- Competition Chairman - Charlie Davis 474-1466
- Newsletter - Pete Hennessy 497-6594