

THE CABLE RELEASE

Newsletter of the Virginia Beach
Photography Club

AUG. 2002



Next Meeting is Tuesday,
AUGUST 6th, 7:30
P.M. !

The Club's Website

The web site for our club is located at:
<http://www.groups.hamptonroads.com/VBphotoclub/>.

Don't forget to bring in your photos for the club's website. Remember, the file cannot exceed 100KB and the preferred size is 10 – 30 KB. You can email them to Connie at stargaz@erols.com or bring them with you to the next meeting

Pembroke Mall Exhibit

The photo exhibit at the mall will be changed

out on **Wed., Aug. 7th, at 6:00 PM.** Please insure that your photographs are wired for hanging prior to coming to the mall.

JULY COMPETITION RESULTS

July 2002: "Open"

Color Slides

- 1st "Icicles" by Walter Demchuk
- 2nd "View from Heaven" by John Gorenfino
- 3rd "Pigeon" by Lyle Sanders

Color Prints

- 1st "Fire in the Sky" by Liz Liebrich
- 2nd "On the Waterfront" by Dale Carey
- 3rd "Abundant Bells of Joy" by Jim Writesel

B/W Prints

- 1st "RMNP" by Connie Carey
- 2nd "Back Bay Bridge, NC" by Jim Writesel
- 3rd "Elements of Nature" by Jim Writesel

Competition Categories

AUG "Water"

SEP Open

OCT "Trains, Planes & Automobiles"

NOV Open

DEC "Animals"

JAN "Open"

The list of categories has gotten short! When the new categories are selected your input would be deeply appreciated. Please let us know what you would like to see for next year.

Calendar of Local Events

Nature Hike

Friends of First Landing State Park
Date: May 4, 2002 to August 27, 2002
Saturday,
Time: 1:00PM

Location: First Landing State Park Trail Center

Address: 2500 Shore Drive Virginia Beach 23451

Meet at the Trail Center for this informative and entertaining walk in the woods. Area history, and habitats will be discussed, and of course looking for wildlife will be conducted on this walk

Classic Cruisers Car Club of Virginia Classic Car Cruz-In

Car Club Council of Hampton Roads

Date: April 6, 2002 to October 26, 2002
Saturday,

Time: 5 -10 p.m. (weather permitting)

Location: Heritage Square Shopping Plaza

Address: 4318 Geo. Washington Memorial Hwy. (Route 17) Grafton VA 23692

More Info: Steve Keel 757 898-4409
keelpaintingcon@aol.com

Tip of the Month

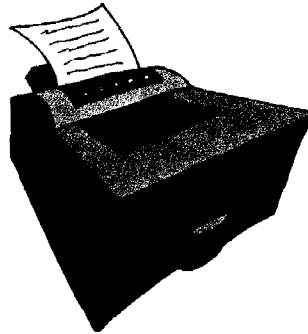
If you're new to digital imaging, you should begin to think of an original digital image as the equivalent to a film negative. Just as you would never alter a negative, you should never alter an original digital image. So before you begin editing, always save a copy of the original file in a lossless file format, such as TIFF, and then work on the copy.

Although the original image may have been taken in JPEG format, the JPEG compression scheme discards bits of the image with each compression (or each time you save the image).

Granted, the compression keeps the file size low, but you do not want to progressively lose bits from the image. Over time, repeated compression reduces the overall quality of the image. (An important principle in digital imaging is that the more pixels there are in an image, the higher the resolution of the image. And the higher the resolution, the larger the print you can make.)

Once you've made a copy of the original, be

sure to store the original image in a safe place, and back it up on a CD or other media.



Setting print resolution

Planning on printing your own enlargements on the home PC? Most software programs require you to provide information on the size of the planned print and the image resolution that the printer should use. That may be 300 pixels per inch, or ppi, a common setting. (Although ppi is the correct term for printer resolution, dpi [dots per inch] is commonly used.)

Let's say you want to make a 7.5 x 10-inch print at 300 dpi from a 9-MB file. Enter that information in the Image Size section of your image-editing software. Make sure that the **Resample** box is selected. (It should contain a check mark.) The software will then calculate the required file size at 19.4 MB. Such a huge increase would degrade image quality. Your print may be blurry, exhibiting low resolution and a lot of digital artifacts such as blotches in a sky area or a grainy look.

The next section describes a partial solution to this problem by printing at a lower dpi.

Tip The term for changing image file size is "resampling." Increasing image file size is called "scaling up." Your image-editing software employs "interpolation" for scaling up. It adds new pixels by copying existing pixels to increase image file size. Depending on the software that you use, image quality should remain high with a 25 to 50 percent increase.

Printing at lower dpi Most inkjet printers are optimized for printing at a 300-dpi resolution at the desired image size. However, many

models will produce excellent results even at a 240-dpi setting. Check your printer manual and make a few test prints at 240 and 300 dpi. Why print at 240 dpi if the optimum resolution for your printer is 300 dpi? There's one very good reason. As mentioned in the previous section, you can make larger prints at lower dpi settings without a major increase in the image file size. Consider the following example.

Print resolution example In its highest-resolution mode, a 3-megapixel digital camera may make an image that opens as a 9-MB file when uncompressed. If you size the image for a 300-dpi output in your photo-editing software, you can make a 5 x 6.8-inch print. Set the output resolution to 240 dpi, and you can make a 6.4 x 8.5-inch print without the need for resampling and scaling up. If you want to make a 7.5 x 10-inch print, the software will need to scale up to 12.4 MB. This is a modest increase that should still maintain high print quality.



Photographing People?

Aim for natural expressions. For pictures of people, look for natural and relaxed expressions, and remember to *always focus on the eyes*.

Keep the background clean. Change your position to avoid visual clutter, or switch to a wider aperture ($f/5.6$ or lower) to blur the background.

Meter for skin tones in portraits. To meter for skin tones, point the camera to an area on the subject's face and take a meter reading. Set the exposure, recompose the shot, and then take the picture.

Move in close to the subject. Step closer to the subject, or use a zoom or telephoto lens to zero-in on the subject.

Shoot lots of pictures. The best insurance for getting wonderful "keepers" is to take lots of pictures.

A Quiz on the Basics

When was the last time you found yourself "in over your head" during a discussion about photography? For most casual and occasional snapshooters, the answer may be "every time the subject of photography comes up." Most people don't want to think about the technical details of making pictures until they begin tossing more images into the trash than they paste into the "brag book." This is when many people realize that they need know at least the basics of cameras and photography to get consistently good pictures.

Or you may have had an introduction to photographic concepts at some point along the way, but the fine points have faded over time. Whichever camp you fall into, now's a good time to see how photo savvy you are. Just take the following quiz by matching the term to the correct definition. Don't worry if you don't already know the fine points of exposure. The answers give you the basic information, and, at the end of the quiz, you'll learn how all of the elements combine to create good exposures, and how you can use them creatively.

The questions are:

1. What is ISO?
2. What is aperture?
3. What is depth of field?
4. What is shutter speed?
5. What is Equivalent Exposure?

1. What is ISO?
 - A. An abbreviation for Industry Standard Optics that determine the resolution of your camera's lens.
 - B. I am clueless. Should I care?
 - C. It indicates how sensitive the film is to light.

Correct answer: C. ISO, and ISO equivalent settings on digital cameras, are numbers that indicate the film's or digital image sensor's sensitivity to light. In other words, the amount of light required to make an accurate exposure. The higher the ISO number, the more sensitive the film or sensor is to light, or the less light will be needed to make a picture.

The ISO sequence runs as 20, 25, 32, 40, 50, 64, 80, 100, 125, 160, 200, 250, 320, 400 and so on up, although not all these numbers are currently in use. An easy way to think about ISO is to know that ISO 200 film (or the equivalent digital setting) is twice as sensitive to light as the ISO 100 setting. If you use ISO 200, the film or image sensor requires half as much light to make an exposure as ISO 100 film. Photographers refer to film or settings as being slow (under ISO 200), fast (ISO 400 to 800), and very fast (over ISO 800).

films in the ISO 50 to 100 range are very slow, or they are the least sensitive to light. Hence, they require a long exposure, or a "slow shutter speed," to produce a well-exposed image. For example, on a gray, overcast day using ISO 50 film, you may need to use a 1/8 sec. shutter speed to photograph a landscape at f/16.

Examples of very fast film include those with an ISO of 1600 and 3200. Because these films and settings are very sensitive to light, they require shorter exposure times, or a faster shutter speed. On the same overcast day, you could switch to ISO 1600 film and take the same landscape picture at f/16 with a shutter speed of 1/250th sec.

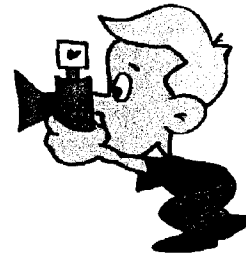
What are the tradeoffs of using a fast film or setting versus a slow film or setting? The tradeoffs include reduced sharpness and detail, less saturated color, and increased grain. Virtually all digicams have higher ISO settings too; some set it automatically while others require you to set it.

In the case of digital cameras, a high "ISO equivalent" setting provides greater sensitivity to light just as it does with film. At ISO 400

and higher settings, image quality degrades especially by the increased signal noise, which appears in pictures as digital grain.

How to set the ISO The vast majority of newer film cameras automatically read the ISO code from the film cartridge, so you don't have to set the film speed. On older cameras, the ISO is set by rotating a dial on the camera's "shoulder." This dial generally offers the full range of common ISO numbers from 25 to at least 1600.

digital camera, the ISO equivalent is usually set using one of the camera's electronic menus or submenus. Some models set the ISO automatically, selecting a higher ISO equivalent in low light for faster shutter speeds. To be continued next month!



The Executive Committee

- President - Connie Carey 431-8556
- Vice Pres./Guest Presentation - Liz Liebrich 474-3950
- Secretary / Treasurer - Ken Reidel 499-3379
- Competition Chairman - Charlie Davis 474-1466
- Newsletter - Pete Hennessy 497-6594
- Pembroke Mall Exhibit - Tommy Finch 486-8051