

THE CABLE RELEASE

Newsletter of the Virginia
Beach Photography Club

OCT. 2003



Next Meeting is Tuesday,
Oct. 7th, 7:30 P.M.

The Club's Website

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

To have your photographs added to the website, email them to Connie at stargaz@erols.com

Presidents Monthly Quote

***"It is no accident that the
photographer becomes a
photographer any more than the
lion tamer becomes a lion tamer"***

- Dorthea Lange

The President's Corner

With the recent visit of our not so good friend hurricane Isabel, everyone has been affected by destruction and inconveniences left behind by this powerful display of Mother Nature. I hope that all of our members are recovering and will be able to attend this most important meeting of our club in October. Congratulations to all of last month's winners of our monthly photo competition, as there were many exceptional images entered by all of our participants. A new column to the newsletter entitled "From the Classroom" is a discussion about important issues that affect all of us as photographers and is based on the valued input of our members. This month's category is "Arachnids/Insects" so please remember to bring "titles" for your artwork in all categories for our monthly competition. Large pre-numbered post-its will be provided for you to write your "titles" on. Good Luck !, On all of your entries.

Thank You,
James F. Writesel, Jr.

IMPORTANT NOTICE !

It is paramount that all members concerned with upcoming changes to make our photography club more active and discuss many issues that need to be voted on by the membership body, attend the October meeting for an extended business meeting. Check the topics of discussion listed in the October business meeting section of the newsletter for more information. I cannot emphasize the importance, responsibility, and value of each members input and vote.

VBPC October Business Meeting (Topics of Discussion)

- 2004 Club Officer Elections
- Photography Assignments
- Group/Team Selections for Assignments
- Tommy Finch Memorial Award
- New "Digital" Competition Category
- Monthly Competition Categories
- Christmas Party Planning

"Analyzing & Criticizing Photographs"

Many club members have asked, how can I become a better judge when viewing and voting on the photographs at our monthly competition, and gain more insight to learn from our critiques? Before understanding how to make a judgment on a photograph, you need to define criticism, know the types of criticism, and the value of criticism. A much broader range of activities, and not just the act of judging, is the typical reference for criticism. Criticism is defined as the act of making discriminating (both positive & negative) judgments and evaluations of artistic works. To fully appreciate a photograph, you need to observe, think, and talk about it. One of four things happens when you criticize a photograph: You describe, interpret, evaluate, or theorize about the artwork, these four events are the types of criticism. Some people engage in single events, or use multiple events when criticizing. People should always describe the photograph, before moving on to the other three events. Quite simply put, an increased knowledge and appreciation of artwork, is the value of good criticism.

First in *describing* a photograph, one must tell about what they notice. This is the data collecting process, or the listing of facts. Descriptions answer the questions: "What is here? What am I looking at? What do I know with certainty about this photograph?" With

description, you are concerned with subject matter, medium, and form. Descriptions are supported by basic elements such as: arrangement of objects, colors or contrast, horizons, patterns, leading edges or lines, position of the main subject using the rule of thirds. Key elements the impact images are: Focus, Horizon, Positioning, Framing, Line, Perspective, Depth, Balance, Color, Contrast, Shape, Pattern, Texture, Exposure, Viewpoint, and Brightness. Descriptions are also supported by types of compositional lines such as: *Psychological* - implied lines of motion or emotion. *Upright* - Strength and balance. *Curved* - Peaceful movement, steeper curve gives more tension and force. *Diagonal* - Dynamic movement in direction of line. *Jagged* - Tension and anxiety. *Wavy* - Unhurried peaceful movement. *Horizontal* - neutrality of motion and tension. *Perspective* - converging lines, to a central point of interest.

Next is the event of *interpreting* the photograph. Interpretation is set into motion when attention or discussion move beyond the offering of information to matters of meaning. Interpreting is the telling of the point, the meaning, the sense, the tone, or the mood of the image. Interpretations go beyond the description of the photograph to build meaning. Interpretations offer new information to generate new meaning.

The next event is the *evaluating* process of the photograph. The terms evaluation and judgment are really one in the same. When evaluating a photograph, you state how good or not good it is. A judgment is the what, that demands a why. Without giving reasons to the why, or without the benefit of description or evaluation is irresponsible. Responsible judgments can and should be argued, not pronounced.

The final optional event is to *Theorize* about a photograph. This is about what someone believes what art is or should be. Theorizing photographs, results in conclusions that are more or less enlightening, informative, or helpful in making photography,