

The Cable Release

The Newsletter of the Virginia Beach Photography Club.

February 2004 Volume 1, Issue 2



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Mat Cutter Raffle
Tickets only \$3!

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Monthly Competition Critique Changes

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New Members

- **Danielle Leighton**
Chesapeake
- **Herbert Jemmott**
Virginia Beach
- **Melissa Newcomer**
Virginia Beach

2004 Competition Subjects

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|----------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| • January | Open | • May | Open | • September | Open |
| • February | Water | • June | Wildlife | • October | Lighthouses |
| • March | Open | • July | Open | • November | Open |
| • April | Macro | • August | Panning & Motion | • December | RED |

Monthly Competition Winners

January 2004 - Open

Black & White

- 1st - Adrian Felton
“Verizon”
- 2nd - Walter Demchuk
“Skyward Shadows”
- 3rd - Walter Demchuk
“Skateboard”
- HM - Pam Jenkins
“Ghost Town Window”

Digitally Manipulated

- 1st - Pam Jenkins
“Neon Gull”
- 2nd - Jim Writesel
“The Colonial Way”

Color Prints

- 1st - Rob Twine
“Hit Me”
- 2nd - Hal Ellis
“A Yellow Rose”
- 3rd - Rob Twine
“Margaritaville”
- 3rd - Pam Jenkins
“Sandbridge Afternoon”
- HM - Liz Liebrich
“Fendors”

Color Slides

- 1st - Walter Demchuk
“Under Ice”
- 2nd - Liz Liebrich
“Handsome”
- 3rd - Michael Epting
“Kissing Camels”
- HM - Walter Demchuk
“Bird in Paradise”

Competition Update

One of the goals of our monthly competition is to increase member involvement. Another is to teach members new techniques.

Starting at the February meeting we are changing the critique section of the monthly competition.

Our focus will shift to the winning shots, the photographer and how the photograph was created.

We will now have a “facilitated discussion” of the winning entries. Facilitators will rotate from month to month, increasing member involve-

ment and offering different perspectives.

The following are a few guidelines the facilitator will follow in the discussion. If you are the winning photographer, you are encouraged, but-

(Continued on page 3)

Captured - First Place Photographs

This column is dedicated to our monthly competition winners. The winning photographers are invited to submit a brief summary (120-150 words) about their photos. Technical details are encouraged.

Black & White

“Verizon”, by Adrian Felton.

This photo captured the reflection of clouds in the windows of the Verizon Building. The tones were very rich and the building really popped.

Adrian did an excellent job capturing the subject without taking a picture of the whole subject. His shot is only a portion of the building from a unique perspective. It was taken looking up and at an angle. The shot shows the Character of the building

Color Prints

“Hit Me”, by Rob Twine

Rob’s photograph reminded me of those late night card games in College. It is a scene of a partially full cocktail glass, poker chips and two playing cards seemingly suspended in

mid-air. It is an excellent example of an in camera multiple exposure.

Rob shot it using a large format camera in the studio. The first frame was a half full cocktail glass and some poker chips. Then three additional exposures were taken of playing cards.

Color Slides

"Under Ice", by Walter Demchuk

This photo was taken in a private nature park in New Jersey just north of the George Washington Bridge.

Icicles are usually formed when running and freezing water splashes on something hanging over the splashing water. This picture was an odd reaction. At first the snowfall formed a sheet of ice over the flowing brook. The water flowed under the ice sheet. As the water flowed, it's level dropped. As the water dropped, it splashed on the rough under side of the covering sheet. Conditions for making icicles have been met.

Our Helen Manzer's club arrived at the Nature Park and we scattered about the area. My finding was the

brook by stepping at one edge of the brook and exposing the underside of the ice formation. I mounted my camera on my tripod with a 90 mm lens on my camera.

I took a reading to see what stop it took with 1 second. Being an overcast day indicated more stops down to get greater depth of focus. In the end, the main exposure selected was 2 seconds at f22. With f22 fixed, I took several pictures with different times.

Digitally Manipulated

“Neon Gull” by Pam Jenkins

The altered image of a gull in flight was created using a PhotoShop filter. This converted the background and the gull to black and outlined key features. This outlined the bird in neon colors. It gives the photograph the look of a neon sign.

The original was shot using a zoom lens at a fast shutter speed. Pam captured the gull as it hovered above people tossing out food.

Competition Update

(Continued from page 2)

not required to provide the information.

Discussion Guidelines

Why did you find this subject interesting?

Did you record any technical details?

Such as:

F/Stop and shutter speed?

Any filters used?

What lens was used?

What type of Lighting?

Film used (if applicable)?

Mode, aperture priority? Manual?

Details about the composition.

Why was it composed this way?

Even with these changes, there always will be the opportunity to discuss non-winning entries.

Presidents Corner

I am excited to share in announcing a new format for our photo competition critique beginning at our February meeting that you will not want miss, and can read more details about in the newsletter announcements.

Please join us at our February meeting for a mat cutting demo by Framed Expression's professional craftsman George East. Tickets will be on sale until our March meeting to allow all

our members an opportunity to win a free matt cutter.

Remember that entries will need to be logged in by the 7:15 PM deadline to be in our monthly photo competition. 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 and join us on February 3, 2004, as we continue an exciting year of photo related activities.

Thank You,

James F. Writesel, Jr.

** Special Thank You's **

A special thank you of appreciation to Betsy Davis for her thank you card, kind words and support.

Rob Twine and the Sunny Day Guide for spending a Saturday teaching club members about Studio Photography.

** Special Get Wells **

A special get well to Barbara Wool and Kathy Szilagyi for a speedy recovery from recent surgery as we hope to see them return soon as they are missed and in our prayers and thoughts.

Presidents Quote of the Month

"The camera is my tool. Through it, I give a reason to everything around me."

- Andre Kertesz

From the Classroom - Motion through Panning & Blurring

Using motion as an element of a photograph's composition can add many advantages to the overall beauty of your images, and lure the viewer into a whole new world of recording time in the artistically printed medium.

The two primary methods of recording time and showing motion in print form are by panning or blurring to show motion.

Recording motion is an opportunity for the artist to develop a style that sets them apart from other photographers, and like time exposure images, you are sharing in the experience of recording the passage of time.

Think of a photograph as taking a slice out of time. A fast shutter speed results in a narrow slice, where conversely, a slow shutter speed takes a wider slice. Within this slice of time, subjects are moving, and considering the shutter speed and direction of mo-

tion, you can blur parts or all of your composition for emphasis on the different subjects.

Panning is defined as moving the camera during exposure in the same direction as a moving subject. The effect is that the subject stays relatively sharp and the background becomes blurred. By panning, you create a visual interest with the comparison of a still subject and a blurred background.

When taking action shots with a telephoto lens, such as sports, it is best to use higher speed films to allow use of a smaller aperture for an improved depth of field.

With the use of a tripod to keep the background sharp while your subject is in motion, can be a graphic means of showing that the subject in your image is in motion or moving.

It is not typical to blur the entire im-

age by motion, but even a photograph that is entirely out of focus or blurred, can have its visual rewards. You as the artist have to decide what works best for your artistic visions.

For further detailed reading on this subject, I suggest any of the many books and videos available for check out in our local public libraries, in particular, Kodak Guide to 35mm Photography, Eastman Kodak Company.

You can give your future suggestions to the Club President at any monthly club meeting or email them to james-writesel@aol.com, or review past articles in the educational article section of our club website at <http://groups.hamptonroads.com/VBphotoclub>. In March's addition, we will discuss macro and abstract photography.

Educational Seminars

Learn to "Paint With Light" during a nature photography field workshop with award-winning nature photographer Bill Lane, and his wife Linda. These workshops are not just photography tours. They are field workshops, with hands-on instruction in the field, demonstrations, group discussions, question-and-answer sessions, and plenty of one-on-one assistance as you meet, share, and learn from fellow nature photographers. Bill and Linda invite you to explore

their site, to see how you can become a better nature photographer.

Nature's Image
Bill and Linda Lane
15325 Mountain Road
Montpelier, Virginia 23192
Phone / Fax (804) 883-7740
www.lanephotoworkshops.com

Upcoming Lane seminars

Great Smoky Mountains - TN
April 13 - 17

Northern Neck, Potomac River, Westmoreland State Park, Montross, Virginia
April 30 - May 2

Blackwater Falls - Wild & Wonderful
West Virginia
May 14 - 16

Tangier & Smith Island: Accomack
County, Virginia
May 21 - 23

Eight Tips to Better Contest Entries

I've come across quite a few articles offering tips to help win photo contests. Here's a short list of 8 helpful tips compiled from various magazines and web pages.

- Submit as large a size print as allowed under the contest rules. Judges look at hundreds or even thousands of photos. Make it easy for them. Caveat, don't make your photo so large as to lose sharpness. If you can only get it to 5x7 then submit a 5x7.
- Make sure your subject is in focus and your print is sharp. This especially applies to digital and computer prints when trying to meet tip #1.

- Enter your photos in the correct category. Don't enter a picture of your brother in the "animals" category (even if he is!). Seems simple but I'm sure we would all be surprised about the number of times it happens.
- Follow the rules but not the norm. Try an unusual take on an ordinary subject. Don't follow, be BOLD!
- If your camera has a time & date stamp, turn it off. Yes, it has been known to happen.
- Only the strong survive. Send only your best work. Don't pad your entry with average photos. There is a

chance your whole body of work will get sent to the side. For example, if the contest rules allow three entries, send three strong entries, not one strong and two average ones just to get three photos in the contest.

- Read the fine print. Be aware of any rights to your photographs you may be signing away when you enter.
- Be wary of contests with entry fees. Not all contests with entry fees are filled with deception but be cautious of any contest with high entry fees. Read the fine print and use good judgment.

Good Luck! - *Michael Epting*

Field Trip Report - Studio Photo Shoot

First, let me thank Rob Twine for offering his time and knowledge on a Saturday afternoon to teach us a little about setting up and shooting in a studio.

Eight of us joined Rob at the Sunny Day Guide offices for an afternoon photo shoot. With the opportunity to learn so much and not too much time, we tried to focus on only couple of things. One of the things everyone wanted to know is why do you set up lights a certain way, and how get certain effects.

Rob spent some time showing us how to set up the lights and did a great job fielding questions. Rob also demon-

strated various effects achieved by setting the lights up slightly different. After Rob did a test shot on his laptop, yes laptop, it was time for the rest of us.

Unfortunately, no one had a PC sync on their camera (so we thought)! Good thing the mall is across the street. After a brief phone call, Pam & I went off to Ritz Camera. Once there, I learned that I actually have a PC sync on my camera. "Huh, you don't say", I told the salesperson. So Pam picked up a sync and back to the studio we go.

We had a great time shooting a set of Laurel & Hardy dolls Pam brought

with her. Everyone got a turn or two. I hope to see one or two of these show up in future competitions.

Rob then changed the set over to a beach scene. Sunny Day has everything that you would ever need for the beach in the studio. We even got to choose where we wanted the scene to be from by choosing sand from the area. We chose a Florida sand.

Overall it was an excellent afternoon. I think everyone left with some new knowledge. I even learned something about the camera I've been using for the last year and a half years!

- *Michael Epting*

Contest Watch

NYIP World Wide Photo Contest

Current Contest: Red

We're going to try something a bit different for this World-Wide Web photo contest which we hope will appeal to all you color junkies. Your assignment, should you choose to accept it to photograph the color "Red." As good color photographers know, specific colors invoke certain moods. Your mission is to surprise and delight us with a splash of color that emphasizes or illustrates the concept of "Red!"

Contest Period:

Entries must be submitted between January 1, 2004, through March 31, 2004. Winners will be announced May 2004.

Deadline for Current Contest:

All entries must be received by midnight, March 31, 2004.

Visit nyip.com for details.

Lost and Found Travel is pleased to announce its first online travel photography contest. The contest opens January 13, 2004, and is open to professional and amateur photographers. The theme of the contest is 'I Saw the Sign' and it provides photographers an opportunity to share their photos of amusing and visually appealing signs from around the globe.

Through this contest, and future contests focused on travel writing and photography, Lost and Found Travel aims to gather and share the works of both experienced and newbie writers and photographers while promoting the shared human experience of travel. Electronic entries for the 'I Saw the Sign' contest can be submitted via www.lostandfoundtravel.com between January 13 and February 29, 2004. Photos can be black and white or color but should include only minor digital editing and enhancement. Selection of the winners will be made

on or before March 31, 2004. The names of prize winners along with their winning photography will be published on Lost and Found Travel's website no later than April 15, 2004. Full contest and prize details are available online.

NorthernExposureGetaway.com Nature Photo Contest

All winning Photos will be displayed with a copyright and/or visible 'watermark' (to prevent others from using your images).

None of the photo entries will be published in print without written consent from the photographer, with the exception of using the image to print on background of the Winner's Award Certificates (see sample at website).

In the event that we should decide to print a calendar or other print project, for promotional use, we will not print your image without your written consent and recognition will always be given to the photographers.

Each Winner will be 'featured' on several pages, and winners will be given the option to link to their own website (if applicable) and post their name/contact/link information with their winning photograph, giving them a unique opportunity for 'exposure'!

For complete details, visit the NorthernExposureGetaway.com web site.

Digital Photo Contest

No matter what your level of expertise, DigitalPhotoContest.com allows you to experiment, learn and grow from entering your digital photos in competitions. And best of all, you can WIN. 10 Daily Contests - Enter photos into 10 different contests with 10 daily winners.

Must be a member to enter contests. Basic Membership is **free**. Premium

Membership **\$20** per year. For complete details, visit digitalphotocontest.com.

Baby Zone Baby and Toddler Photo Contest

Each week Baby Zone hosts three contests, one for babies, one for toddlers and one for preschoolers. Each contest will feature 8 to 12 candidates, and the weekly winners will go to the final "grand finale" round at the end of the month. The three monthly grand finale winners will each receive a \$25 gift certificate from The Amazing Toy Store (U.S. Residents Only unless you have a U.S. shipping address) as well as eligibility to participate in our year-end Grand Finale.

Entries for the baby contest must be between 0 - 12 months of age, entries for the toddler contest must be 13 months to 3 years old and entries for the preschooler contest must be 3 - 5 years old.

The parent or guardian of the child must be the person submitting the photo/JPEG. Photograph must be scanned and sent in JPEG format only. All winning photos become the property of BabyZone, Inc. For complete details, visit the Baby Zone Photo Contest web site.

Popular Photography Magazines - "Your Best Shot" Contest

Send up to 20 of your best shots (prints no larger than 8x12 or transparencies), a daytime phone number and any pertinent technical data to: "Your Best Shot"

Popular Photography

PO Box 1247

Teaneck, NJ 07666

Enter as often as you like. For more info, call 201-836-0024 or e-mail RLazaroff@aol.com.

February Activity - Mat Cutting Basics

Please join us at the February meeting for an informative mat cutting "how-to" by George East. George is the owner of Framed Expressions in Virginia Beach.

George will demonstrate some mat cutting basics and help club members to cut their first mat. You will have

the opportunity to try it yourself and see how easy it is.

This will be a hands on session with several mat cutters available for use.

A club member will have the opportunity to win their own mat cutter. We will be selling raffle tickets for the cutter and drawing a winner at the

March Meeting. Tickets will be only \$3! You need not be present to win.

MAT CUTTER RAFFLE.

Tickets only \$3

Winner drawn at the March meeting.

Educational Opportunity

John and Barbara Gerlach's one day seminar, "How to shoot beautiful nature photographs for fun and profit" is coming to our area.

On Sunday March 28th, they will hold the one day seminar at the Sheraton Park South Hotel in Richmond, Virginia.

This seminar emphasizes how to use natural light to photograph birds, mammals, reptiles, wildflowers, but-

terflies, wildlife, landscapes, wildflowers, waterfalls and other subjects found in nature. All instruction is directed toward people who wish to learn how to shoot outstanding nature photographs in the wild with 35 mm cameras.

The Gerlach's have been published in major national magazines such as: *Sierra*, *National Wildlife* and *Outdoor Photographer*.

The cost is \$75 per person. For more information on this and other Gerlach Photography seminars, contact:

Gerlach Nature Photography

www.gerlachnaturephotography.com

Phone: Gina 906-439-5991

gina@gerlachnaturephotography.com

Applications available at club meetings from Michael Epting.

Announcements

Check out the great books available in the Charlie Davis Memorial Library.

FOR SALE:

Mamiya RB67 body with film back and 90 mm lens. Contact Rob Twine 463-5244

DUES. If you have not yet paid, please bring your dues to the February meeting or contact Ken Riedel, 499-3379. Membership dues are \$24 annually.

Congratulations to Pam Jenkins our January 50-50 winner.

WANTED! Contributions to the Newsletter. If you have any articles, want ads or items for sale, please contact Michael Epting for details.

WANTED! New members. Help the club increase its membership. Get the word out about the benefits of being a member of VBPC.

February 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Board Meeting 9:00 am
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

February Events

- **3rd** - 7:30 p.m. Monthly Meeting
- **14th** - 9:00 a.m. Board Meeting at Pam Jenkins home.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **TBD** - Photohunt
- **TBD** - Maymont Field Trip
- **March 28th** - "How to shoot beautiful nature photographs", 1 day seminar. Richmond, VA.

Photography Films at the Chrysler Museum

Saturday, 02/07/04, 1PM

The Eyes of The Empire

Documentary, 26 minutes. Draws on collections of several British Museums, explores the photograph as documentation.

The Real Thing

Documentary, 26 minutes. What happens when photographers are required to play the role of documentarians? Photographs commissioned by the Farm Security Administration in America during the 1930's.

The Magic Mirror

Documentary, 26 minutes. Great photographers discuss their favorite photographs from 1839 - present. Traces the lineage of photography as art.

An Enduring Interest: The Photographs of Alexander Gardner

Documentary, 30 minutes. Civil War era photographs & more!

Saturday 02/21/04, 1PM

America & Lewis Hine

Documentary, 56 minutes. The life & times of America's pioneer social photographer. Works from 1902 - 1926. Outstanding collection of photos from Ellis Island immigrants.

Uncommon Images: James Van Der Zee

Documentary, 22 minutes. The work of renowned Harlem photographer James Van Der Zee. Harlem through

the 20th century. People, places & memories.

Changing New York & Douglas Levere: Changing New York

Documentary, time unknown. Bernice Abbott was active in New York in the 30's & beyond. Douglas Levere revisits the scene of her most famous photos & shoots what is at the locations today. All photos shot at the same time of day & year with the same camera. See New York change over a 65 year period!

All films are free with museum admission. For Info call the Chrysler at 664-6200 or visit www.chrysler.org



Newsletter Chair
Michael Epting
5793 Magnolia Chase Way #304
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
Email: mepting@cox.net

VBPC Mission Statement

The Virginia Beach Photography Club explores the connection between the eye, the camera, and the spirit, by fostering and encouraging growth of artistic vision and technical knowledge.

The Club provides an informal, friendly, and supportive environment for photographers at all levels and with interest in all types of photographic imagery.

The Club offers a means for members to share ideas and knowledge with each other and to promote an interest in photography throughout the community, through exhibitions and public events.

The club activities offer a means to share ideas and knowledge through monthly meetings, guest speakers, member participation, monthly competition, critiquing of work and technique, field trips, and public photographic activities and projects that kindle growth and friendships through artistic vision of photographic imagery.

Visit our website at <http://groups.hamptonroads.com/vbphotoclub>

Next Meeting, Tuesday, February 3, 7:30 p.m. Competition begins at 7:15 p.m.
Community United Methodist Church
1072 Old Kempsville Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Club Officers and Committee Chairs

Club Officers

President
Jim Writesel (757) 679-8737

Vice-President
Pam Jenkins (757) 583-4113

Secretary/Treasurer
Ken Riedel (757) 499-3379

Committee Chairpersons

Competition Chairperson
Pam Jenkins (757) 583-4113

Field Trip Coordinator
Joe Lowery (757) 622-7187

Special Activities Coordinator
Joan Grippo

Exhibit Coordinator
Kathy Szilagyi (757) 481-1403

Raffle Coordinator
Leon Holley (757) 270-7030

Newsletter
Michael Epting (757) 222-0403

Club Website
Connie Carey (757) 431-8556