

# The Cable Release

The Newsletter of the Virginia Beach Photography Club.

January 2004 Volume 1, Issue 1



**ALL NEW LOOK**

## **ANNUAL AWARDS ISSUE**

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**2004 COMPETITION SUBJECTS**

**From the Classroom "NIGHT-TIME and  
LOW LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY"**

**New Competition Category  
"DIGITALLY MANIPULATED"**

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# 2003 Annual Award Winners

## **The Eve Green Memorial Photographic Excellence Award**

Awarded to the photographer who earns the most points in monthly photography competitions.

***Pam Jenkins***

## **Charles “Tommy” Finch Memorial Award**

An annual President’s choice award given to the Photography Club Member of the Year, for representing the characteristics and values that Tommy Finch believed in as a member of The Virginia Beach Photography Club. These values include acts of assistance, kindness, contributions, sacrifices, and dedication to preserve and uphold the image of the Virginia Beach Photography Club.

***Liz Liebrich***

## **Annual Awards**

### *Open Category*

Color Slides	
1st Place	Pam Jenkins
2nd Place	Joan Grippo
3rd Place	Charlie Davis
Hon. Mention	Jim Writesel

Color Prints	
1st Place	Jim Writesel
2nd Place	Pam Jenkins
3rd Place	Hal Ellis
Hon. Mention	Charlie Davis

### **B&W Prints**

1st Place	Jim Writesel
2nd Place	Pam Jenkins
3rd Place	Greg Fortner
Hon. Mention	Walter Demchuk

### *Assigned Categories*

#### **Color Slides**

1st Place	Charlie Davis
2nd Place	Pam Jenkins
3rd Place	Joan Grippo
Hon. Mention	Jim Writesel

#### **Color Prints**

1st Place	Pam Jenkins
2nd Place (tie)	Liz Liebrich
	Jim Writesel
3rd Place	Debbie Wesley
Hon. Mention	Joan Grippo

#### **B&W Prints**

1st Place	Jim Writesel
2nd Place	Pam Jenkins
3rd Place	Walter Demchuk
Hon. Mention	Adrien Felton

### *Certificates of Appreciation*

Certificates were awarded to club officers and committee chairpersons.

## 2004 Competition Subjects

- |                  |             |          |                  |             |             |
|------------------|-------------|----------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| • <b>January</b> | <b>Open</b> | • 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

### December 2003 - Statues & Monuments

#### *Black & White*

1st - Michael Epting

“Untitled”

2nd - Jim Writesel

“Korean War Memorial”

2nd - Walter Demchuk

“Square Rigger”

2nd - Pam Jenkins

“King Neptune”

3rd - Walter Demchuk

“Travelers”

#### *Color Prints*

1st - Debbie Wesley

“Christ of the Mines”

2nd - Debbie Wesley

“Mount Rushmore”

2nd - Pam Jenkins

“Rowing for Freedom”

3rd - Liz Liebrich

“Looking to the Wall”

#### *Color Slides*

1st - Pam Jenkins

“Ben & Friends”

2nd - Joan Grippo

“Santa Fe Indian”

3rd - Jim Writisel

“Women in Vietnam”

## Captured - First Place Photographs

*Beginning in January '04, we will start a new feature to complement our Monthly Competition Winners column.*

*We will list a brief of the first place photographs in each category. The brief will give a short description of the photo, any technical details available and photographer comments.*

*Following is a sample brief of December's First Place slide by Pam Jenkins.*

*Ben and Friends, by Pam Jenkins*

This shot was taken in Downtown Smithfield. It is a shot of a Ben Franklin statue.

Ben is sitting on a bench reading the paper. Two birds (also part of the statue) are perched on the back of the bench. It was taken in the late afternoon to take full advantage of the sun shining on the front of the statue.

Three shots were taken bracketing the f-stop. This one was chosen

since it displayed the best depth of field by stopping down to a smaller aperture. By stopping down, the shutter speed was slow, necessitating the use of a tripod. This kept Ben and the birds in focus.

The shot was taken from a high angle to avoid any distracting background buildings.

## New Competition Category “Digitally Manipulated”

Digitally Manipulated will be defined as:

1. Photographs modified using techniques that are not possible in a conventional darkroom.

- Common examples are:
- Adding or removing items to/ from the original photograph
- “Stitching” several photographs to produce panoramas

- Changing the color of the sky or other items.
- Removing or changing the background
- Removing red eye or unwanted light reflection.

2. Includes works of art created digitally originating from one or more photographs.

Basic adjustments to color levels, contrast, brightness, gamma and “keystoning” do not qualify photographs for this category.

*“ Includes works of art created digitally originating from one or more photographs.”*

## Presidents Corner

I want to thank everyone for your support throughout a great year at the photo club and for your kind words at our Christmas party and awards banquet.

Thank you for participating in the special ceremony honoring our dearly departed friend, Charlie Davis, who we will always miss, but never forget.

Remember that entries will need to be logged in by the 7:15 PM deadline to be in our monthly photo competition, starting at our January meeting. 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 please join us at our January meeting as we start a new and exciting year of photo related activities.

Thank You,

James F. Writesel, Jr.

## Presidents Quote of the Month

*“Life itself is not the reality. We are the ones who put life into stones and pebbles. ”*

- Frederick Sommer

# From the Classroom

## *“Night-time & Low Light Photography”*

When taking photographs at night or in low light situations, you need to first have a sense of adventure, be prepared for some educated guessing, visualize the results you are seeking, and know your equipment, in particular, film and lenses.

Since you are dealing with longer time exposures than normal day light photography, you are sharing in the experience of recording the passage of time, which will include cloud formations, stars, and moving objects.

You will be faced with a wide variety of types of lighting. You will also need to be aware of the possibility of reciprocity failure when dealing with long time exposures.

To be successful at low light photography you can follow the three easy steps of shooting a lot of film, taking notes, and reviewing the results, you have recorded on both film and in your notes.

To predetermine and visualize star trails as part of your composition, locate the North Star in the sky and then compose according to its location. Stars rotate counter-clockwise around the North Star and can be composed to enter, circumference, or exit your composition based on

where you place the North Star in your composition.

To achieve a star point at night, using 400-speed film and a 2.8 f-stop, the following formula will determine your exposure time.  $600 / \text{focal length} = \text{max exposure time}$ . If using a 350mm lens,  $600 / 350 = 1.7$  seconds, not enough time to expose your film. A 50mm lens,  $600 / 50 = 12$  seconds, a better exposure time. A 28mm lens,  $600 / 28 = 21$  seconds, an even better exposure time. This means when selecting your lens for your equipment, a lens with a shorter focal length is the better choice when doing low light and night photography.

With longer time exposures, you will need to experiment, take notes, and review your results, to create different length star trails and to increase the exposure of light in your composition.

You will need to make careful choices in the film you use. Faster speed films will allow for longer time exposures, but with extreme time exposures may appear grainy in their results. The best film type to use is transparency for better saturation and to avoid color shifts. Exposure in this type of photography is additive, meaning you will need to increase time or aperture size to obtain sufficient light for a properly exposed negative. Light intensity and exposure time are reciprocal. A decrease

in one will be balanced by an increase in the other.

Some films are less prone to reciprocity failure than others, but it can happen to them all. Reciprocity failure occurs when an imbalanced long time exposure and light intensity cause a shift in color balance, or darkness of an image.

Suggested equipment and supplies include: sturdy tri-pod, short focal length lens or aperture as low as 2.8 (wide angle is best), flashlight, spare batteries for flashlight and camera, and a release cable.

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.

You can give your future suggestions to the Club President at any monthly club meeting or email them to [jameswritesel@aol.com](mailto:jameswritesel@aol.com), or review past articles in the educational article section of our club website at <http://groups.hamptonroads.com/VBphotoclub/>.

In February's edition, we will discuss using motion as a creative element when composing your images using techniques such as panning.

***With longer time exposures, you will need to experiment, take notes, and review your results, to create different length star trails...***

Check out these websites on low light photography.

<http://www.lostamerica.com/lostframe.html>

<http://www.gorillasites.com/nightphotos/>

[http://www.apogeephoto.com/dec2000/night\\_trick.shtml](http://www.apogeephoto.com/dec2000/night_trick.shtml)

<http://www.ephotozine.com/techniques/viewtechnique.cfm?recid=216>

# Guest Speakers and Activities

*January* - No speaker or activity scheduled

*February* - Mat cutting “how to”

This activity will cover how to cut your own mats. There will be several mat cutters on hand to allow some hands on training.

A club member will have the oppor-

tunity to win their own mat cutter.

We are working on several speakers for future meetings. Including:

- Presentation on Digital SLR Camera's.
- Presentation on commercial film process and printing.
- Either a Art Director or Owner of

a local marketing agency to discuss what they look for when selecting and working with photographers.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for future speakers or activities, please contact Jim Writesel.

## 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](http://www.gerlachnaturephotography.com)

Phone: Gina 906-439-5991

[gina@gerlachnaturephotography.com](mailto:gina@gerlachnaturephotography.com)

Applications available at club meetings from Michael Epting.

## Announcements

**FIELD TRIP**, January 10th, 1-5p.m.

Rob Twine will host a studio photo shoot for club members at the Sunny Day Guide Studios.

**NEW** additions to the Charlie Davis Memorial Library:

Digital Photography Sourcebook,  
B&H Photo

**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 January meeting or contact Ken Riedel, 499-3379. Membership dues are \$24 annually.

**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.

# January 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year	2	3
4	5	6 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	7	8	9	10 Photo Shoot 1-5pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Board Meet- ing 9:00am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## January Events

- **1st** - Happy New Year!
- **6th** - 7:30 p.m. Monthly Meeting
- **10th** - 1 p.m. Studio shoot with Rob Twine at Sunny Day Guide
- **17th** - 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

## New Meeting Format

We've changed the way we do things. Starting with the December 2003 meeting, all entries for the monthly competition must be submitted by 7:15 p.m.

At 7:25 p.m. we will vote on the Color Slide entries.

The meeting will then begin at 7:30 p.m. It will consist of three one-half hour segments.

1. Announcements and business meeting
2. Guest Presentation
3. Competition critique and awards

The January meeting will be the first opportunity to enter the new "Digitally Altered" category.



Don't forget to have your entries in by 7:15 p.m.



Newsletter Chair  
Michael Epting  
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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, January 6, 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