



THE CABLE RELEASE

November 2007 ~Volume 4, Issue 11
Monthly Newsletter of the Virginia Beach Photography Club

Virginia Beach
Photography Club

P.O. Box 68894

Virginia Beach, VA 23471

www.vbpc.org



**WELCOME
NEW
MEMBERS!**

Clyde Glasper

Darren Hall

Dorothy Holtz

Cameron Hovenga

Halie Hovenga

Belinda Traber

President's Corner

Welcome to November!

It is so hard to believe that another year has passed. And just when things were getting quiet in the photography world, Canon and Nikon make their big announcements of new cameras. And then, after all those announcements, we find more and more photo opportunities than ever before!

A few weekends ago, a number of members got together for two days of virtually non-stop shooting. First it was Back Bay. The photographers had a great time, and got to watch one of our members dance wildly when she saw a snake. The following day, the same bunch, as well as a number of others, made it to the India Festival at ODU. The day was filled with awesome clothing, jewelry, dancing, music and wonderful Indian food. The day was so good that one of our members shot over 1100 photos!

Now that cooler weather is settling in, we will probably all be indoors more, honing our skills, be it Photoshop or Studio Lighting. And this is a time for everyone to try and work together, to share their insight, and prepare for the new year of photography.

I hope that everyone will start thinking about photo opportunities for the new year, and will make suggestions to our Events

Continued on next page ⇒



**The Virginia Beach
Photography Club
is a member club of the
Photographic Society
of America**

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, November 6th, 7:30 pm

Competition begins at 7:15 pm at the
Community United Methodist Church

1072 Old Kempsville Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23464

President's Corner continued...

Coordinator, Joan Grippo. She has done an outstanding job in the past few years, and any assistance you can provide her will be appreciated.

Finally, don't forget that we have the elections coming up next meeting. Anyone running unopposed will be ushered in, so if you have an interest in helping the club grow and to help mold it for the future, now is the time to act. Just contact me as soon as possible, so we can get your name on the ballot!

The officers and I wish all of you a safe Thanksgiving and Holiday Season, and remember to keep those batteries charged, and enjoy yourself while taking those memorable holiday shots. We hope to see them on the forum soon!!

Please remember to update your e-mail address to Tom so you do not miss out on any important club announcements sent via e-mail!

Tom McElvy, VBPC President
757-498-9882 (home) • 757-286-6859 (cell)
tom@imagesbytom.com

COMPETITION WINNERS

OCTOBER 2007 MEETING

Color Prints

- 1st "Evidence of a Past Life" by Adrian Felton
- 2nd "Tangled" by Susan Clever
- 3rd "Descendants of Spanish Shipwreck" by Florence Womacks
- HM "One in a Billion" by Roy Wigeon

Black & White Prints

- 1st "Fixer-Upper" by Bert Jemmott
- 2nd "Silverton, Colorado Planter" by Linda Duchaine
- 3rd "Decades of Quiet Dignity" by Kevin McGloine
- HM "Posted" by Joe Bradley

Alternative/Digitally Altered

- 1st "Left Behind" by Florence Womacks
- 2nd "Chillin" by Tom McElvy
- 3rd "Ravages of Time" by Bert Jemmott
- HM "Stuck for the Last Time" by Judy Wymore

Slides

- 1st "Needs Lots of Work" by Jerry Wymore
- 2nd "Abandoned Cherub" by Linda Duchaine
- 3rd "Works No More" by Flo Judy Wymore

2007 Competition Categories

November's Category is Open

December ~ Autumn Glory

Competition rules are available on our web site at www.vbpc.org



"Left Behind"

© Flo Womacks

~SPECIAL EVENTS~

November 2007

*Mark Your
Calendar!*

Membership Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 6th ~ 7:30 pm
Ken Brown to discuss Basics of
Informal Portrait Principles.

We'll also be voting on the
2008 Officers. Nominees are:
President ~ Tom McElvy
Vice President ~ Skip Morrow
Secretary ~ Open
Treasurer ~ Belinda Traber

Ansel Adams Exhibit

Saturday, Nov. 10th ~ 10:00 am
Elizabeth City, NC
Admission Free
<http://www.discoverec.org/pdf/PressRelease/ElizabethCitysMOAToHostAnselAdamsExhibition.pdf>Ansel Adams

Portrait Lighting Workshop with Rob Twine

Saturday, Nov. 17th
9:00-noon
Sunny Day Guide
800 Seahawk Circle, Va Bch
(Off International Pkwy, near
Lynnhaven Mall)
www.sunnydayguide.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 <i>Membership Meeting</i>	7	8	9	10 <i>Ansel Adams Exhibit</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 <i>Portrait Lighting Workshop</i>
18	19	20 <i>NO Educational Meeting</i>	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

HELP WANTED

Volunteers are needed for several positions in the club.

Newsletter Chair

We need someone to take over the duties of assembling the newsletter each month.

Competition Committee

We need extra people to help tally the votes during the meetings.

Picture Critiquing

Looking for people knowledgeable in color, BW photos or alternative photoshop. The sessions shouldn't take no more than 20 minutes and would be before the meeting starts.

We need YOU! These are great ways to get more involved in the club. Please contact Tom McElvy if interested.

TOWARD A COMMON LANGUAGE

By Don Maccubbin

Several times over the past year our club has broken into small groups during our meetings to review and discuss a few photographs made by the members or downloaded from the Internet. These have been worthwhile events, something we should do again from time to time in keeping with other activities. There has been one large stumbling block that, if removed, would go a long way to making these sessions more beneficial to all participants.

What has been lacking from these gatherings is a common language for discussing or analyzing a photograph. Yes, we all speak English pretty well but we haven't yet learned a language for discussing photographic images. We probably all don't even have the same understanding when we use the word "image" while discussing a shot. Good verbal communication must be founded on using words and phrases whose meanings are understood by all speakers and all listeners. Otherwise the communication is much less effective.

While participating in these review gatherings, I've heard too many members begin their sentences with, "I like the way this shot was..." Or something akin to, "How do you like the background in..." And even, "I don't like the depth of field" or "What do you think the photographer was trying to do..." When we display the competition prints/slides, the shooter talks about how early they got up to get on location for the sunrise shot or how long they waited for the butterfly to land on the flower. Often we only hear, "This is a good shot." There are only two things wrong with making these kinds of statements. First, these statements show we have not yet become familiar with a common language for discussing photographs. Far more importantly though, these statements don't help our fellow members better understand how the speaker went about setting up the shot from a photographic standpoint or what they were trying to accomplish with the photograph. These discussions are not the learning experience they could be if we

all spoke and understood a few terms unique to discussing photographic images. Without a commonly understood language, we resemble the United Nations trying to do business without using interpreters. The rest of this article will try to fix some of our print discussion communication problems.

First let's define the term **IMAGE ELEMENT** as it applies to discussing a photograph. An **IMAGE ELEMENT** is each distinct component of the image that is different from all the rest of the **IMAGE ELEMENTS** because of shape, size, color or what it actually is (if it is recognizable) compared to other **IMAGE ELEMENTS**. Each leaf that is large enough in the print to be distinguished from other leaves is an **IMAGE ELEMENT**. The mass of leaves on a distant tree at the foot of a mountain range in a long landscape shot is also an **IMAGE ELEMENT** but not each individual leaf on that tree, only the mass.

The next term we need to understand is what we mean by **IMAGE**. For our purposes, **IMAGE** is the assembly of **IMAGE ELEMENTS** contained within the boundaries of our print. Be careful because the word "image" is used for other meanings in photography beyond how we are using it to discuss our photographs.

Contained somewhere within our print boundaries is our **PRINCIPAL SUBJECT**. Here is where things get more complicated. The **PRINCIPAL SUBJECT** is that which made the photographer want to take the photograph in the first place; why he/she raised the camera and snapped the shutter. As we look at shots made by someone else, we won't always have a clear idea what the **PRINCIPAL SUBJECT** actually is (based on our definition of the term). We are sometimes forced to try and guess. We may think we can pick out the **PRINCIPAL SUBJECT** in every shot but we can be very wrong. In order to do an intelligent job of reviewing a photograph, to determine how

Continued on next page ⇨

Don's Article continued...

close the shooter came to his/her objective, it becomes imperative we have a statement of intent from the photographer upon which to base our discussion; especially when we remember not all of us see the same IMAGE in the same way. When we are trying to find the PRINCIPAL SUBJECT, a statement of intent allows us to substitute a more objective evaluation for the subjective guessing we might be doing otherwise. A little bit of help from the shooter would make a big improvement in our discussion.

The next term is **CENTER OF INTEREST**. It is defined as that single IMAGE ELEMENT which most strongly draws our eye compared to all the other IMAGE ELEMENTS in the IMAGE. Wow, this far more complicated than learning Photoshop® isn't it? Be careful not to confuse PRINCIPAL SUBJECT with CENTER OF INTEREST. They can be one in the same or they can be very different. Picture a glass of red wine in a photograph where the glass is on a visually insignificant table and the background is also nondescript. In this example, the glass with wine is our PRINCIPAL SUBJECT; the shot contains no other significant or more dominating IMAGE ELEMENT; therefore the glass with wine is also our CENTER OF INTEREST. Here the PRINCIPAL SUBJECT and the CENTER OF INTEREST are the same IMAGE ELEMENT. Now let's modify this shot and imagine the wine glass has a bright highlight on part of the glass surface and this highlight is large enough to contain a recognizable, partial nude human form in silhouette. In this second version, the glass with wine is still our PRINCIPAL SUBJECT but the silhouette becomes our CENTER OF INTEREST, the IMAGE ELEMENT that draws our eye most strongly. Seems awfully complicated, doesn't it? Try to learn these terms and start to use them in your evaluation and discussion of photographs. Before you know it they will become as familiar and comfortable for you as the photography terminology you have already learned.

Some points to remember when using these new terms. PRINCIPAL SUBJECT determination is

something of a guess without a statement of intent provided by the photographer. If we know the intent, that knowledge gives us a much more solid foundation for discussion and evaluation. Knowing what the IMAGE is will be straightforward for all but the most weird of shots. Defining IMAGE ELEMENTS can be a little more confusing until we remember to compare the various IMAGE ELEMENTS with each other and the IMAGE as a whole. Now that we understand the meaning of CENTER OF INTEREST, we think we can decide what IMAGE ELEMENT draws our eye most strongly. Be sure to remember that each of us can view an IMAGE containing a variety of IMAGE ELEMENTS and have our eye drawn to a different IMAGE ELEMENT as our CENTER OF INTEREST. A different CENTER OF INTEREST than someone else might see or different than what the photographer intended. There is no right or wrong when determining the photograph's CENTER OF INTEREST.

Here's hoping you will all study the terms of this common language, learn them and start to use them whenever we discuss photographs again. Let me know if this confuses you, I am available to help.

Coming next month:

"The Importance of a Statement of Intent"

Treasurer's Report

Sept. 10, 2007	Opening Balance	\$2,101.20
Deposits	Dues	\$ 144.00
	50/50 Raffle	<u>\$21.00</u>
	Total	\$165.00
Expenses	Projector rental	<u>\$ 15.00</u>
	Total	\$15.00
	Correction to match the bank	+ \$105.53
Oct. 28, 2007	Balance	\$2,356.73

Eligible Photographs for Photography of the Year 2007

*All first place photographs in each category from January 2007 to December 2007
are eligible for the Photograph of the Year competition.*

The winning photographer will be honored at the Annual Banquet!

<u>2007</u>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Black & White</i>	<i>Alternative</i>	<i>Slides</i>
<i>January</i> <i>(Open)</i>	"Lobster Gear" Chuck Schlichter	"The Couples" Adrian Felton	"Mother & Daughter" Tom McElvy	"Colorful Plumage" Tom Jenson
<i>February</i> <i>(Night Photography)</i>	"Tower" Skip Morrow	"Gotham" Skip Morrow	"Norfolk Sunrise" Skip Morrow	"Repairing Our Government" Pam Jenkins
<i>March</i> <i>(Open)</i>	"Graceful" Flo Womacks	"Water's Edge" Chuck Schlichter	"Gina" Bridgette Lee	"Ghost Town Saloon" Pam Jenkins
<i>April</i> <i>(From a Different Point of View)</i>	"Yum!" Joan Grippo	"Tea for Two" Michael Geller	"Spiral Staircase" Jennifer Wheeler	"Hide and Seek" Pam Jenkins
<i>May</i> <i>(Open)</i>	"Oak Globe" Linda Duchaine	"Untitled #1" Morgan Smith	"Sunset Silhouette" Stephen Kinstler	"Preening Parrot" Tom Jenson
<i>June</i> <i>(Motion)</i>	"Splash Landing" Herman Ratcliffe	"Dancer" Judy Wymore	"Star Gazing" Flo Womacks	"AMWAY on the Go" Calvin Taylor
<i>July</i> <i>(Open)</i>	"Female Ruby Throated Hummingbird" Robin Stamper	"Victoria" Bert Jemmott	"Pigeon Point Lighthouse, CA" Bert Jemmott	"Winter Sunrise" Pam Jenkins
<i>August</i> <i>(Neon Signs)</i>	"Broadway Nashville Style" Pam Jenkins	"Flamingo Hotel" Bert Jemmott	"Senor Iguana" Judy Wymore	None
<i>September</i> <i>(Open)</i>	"Da Face" Michael Graham	"Innocence... Personified" Kevin MaGloine	"Out of Bounds" Flo Womacks	"One of God's Gifts" Calvin Taylor
<i>October</i> <i>(Abandoned)</i>	"Evidence of a Past Life" Adrian Felton	"Fixer-Upper" Bert Jemmott	"Left Behind" Flo Womacks	"Needs Lots of Work" Jerry Wymore
<i>November</i> <i>(Open)</i>	Who will it be?	Who will it be?	Who will it be?	Who will it be?
<i>December</i> <i>(Autumn Glory)</i>	Who will it be?	Who will it be?	Who will it be?	Who will it be?



Virginia Beach Photography Club
P.O. Box 68894 • Virginia Beach, VA 23471
Visit our web site at www.vbpc.org

Virginia Beach Photography Club Mission Statement

2007 Club Officers

President

Tom McElvy (757) 498-9882

Vice President & Secretary

Linda Duchaine (757) 408-0303

Treasurer

Pam Jenkins (757) 583-4113

Committee Chairpersons

Competition

Flo Womacks

Membership

Phyllis Grady

Newsletter

Jennifer Wheeler (757) 217-7179

Special Events

Joan Grippo (757) 721-6132

Webmaster

Michael Epting (757) 337-0504

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 promotes photography through its meetings, educational activities, 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.

**All members are encouraged to submit
articles or photographs for the newsletters.**

It's a great way to show off your work!

Please send your submissions via e-mail to artistjen@cox.net or submit at a club meeting. Electronic submissions should be in plain text format, Word document or in the body of the e-mail. Photographs can be sent as jpg at 150 dpi or less. Please include the title of the photograph as well. Please submit all items by the 15th of each month.

The Cable Release is published monthly by the Virginia Beach Photography Club (VBPC). All text and images are the copyright of the VBPC and its contributors, all rights reserved. For usage rights of articles and photographs, please contact info@vbpc.org or the author to obtain written permission.