



THE CABLE RELEASE

September 2007 ~Volume 4, Issue 9

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!

Dennis Best

Sandra Best

Arthur Guertin

Wilson Kwong

Billy Payne

President's Corner

The year has been quite a ride!

Ever since my installation as President of this fabulous Club, I have been constantly amazed at the quality of the members' photographic art, the friendliness of the members, and their willingness to step up to the plate.

Phyllis Grady has taken over the reigns of the Membership Committee (can you have a committee of one?) to allow the outgoing chairman, Michael Geller, some much needed time to pursue some career goals. Michael has been on the Board since 2005, and has served with distinction. While he will be missed, the Board has total confidence in Phyllis, and looks forward to her ideas and new perspective. Welcome aboard, Phyllis!

The Portrait & Wedding Photography Focus Group is another source of inspiration to me. The group has been growing, and at our last get together, we had the opportunity to take some outdoor portraits...and it was a blast! The new photo of me was taken at that session by Skip Morrow. Everyone has been very helpful, sharing ideas and suggestions. Check out the group in our Forum online. Maybe you will get the portrait bug!



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

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 4th, 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...

Finally, the new year is creeping up on us...which means election of officers. Several officers have expressed their desire to continue, but if the club members have other ideas, please, speak up and let us know! We want new blood, ideas, passions and concepts. In other words, we want YOU! If you get a chance, please speak with the board or committee members and let us know of your interest - we welcome everyone.

Until next month, HAPPY SHOOTING!

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

~MEMBER SPOTLIGHT~



Phyllis Grady ~ Member since April 2007

Since joining the club, Phyllis has been a very active member. Correction! Phyllis was a very active member BEFORE she joined the club. She sent e-mails to find out more about the club. She followed up by joining the forum and learning more about the club and its members. We felt we knew her before we actually met her. It is only fitting that she has now volunteered to be our Membership Chairperson.

We asked her some questions to help us become better acquainted with her.

- Where are you from (i.e. born/raised)?
Hampton/Suffolk, Va.
- What is your profession/real job?
Restaurant Manager, Black Angus Grille in Williamsburg. Aspiring wedding/portrait photographer.
- What do you like to do to relax or do you have any other hobbies?
I am totally addicted to Scrapbooking.
- Where in the world is your favorite spot?
DISNEYWORLD – there is no where else I would rather spend a week than Orlando!!
- What is your favorite location to shoot?
Norfolk Botanical Gardens
- What is your favorite breakfast cereal?
Fruity Pebbles
- Why does photography interest you so much?
I really enjoy photographing people, and I have a lot of fun while I am doing my thang.
- Who is your favorite photographer?
Monte Zucker

A few of Phyllis' favorite shots:



~SPECIAL EVENTS~

September 2007

*Mark Your
Calendar!*

**Tuesday, September 4th
Membership Meeting
7:30 pm**

Ken Brown will
talk about Exposure.

**Tuesday, September 11th
Wedding/Portrait Group
6:30 pm**

**Thursday, September 20th
VBPC Board meeting
6:30 pm**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 <i>Membership Meeting</i>	5	6	7	8
<i>PSA 2007 International Conference, Tucson AZ</i>						
9	10	11 <i>Wedding/ Portrait Group</i>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 <i>Board Meeting</i>	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 State Fair begins	28	29
30						

Upcoming Interests & Opportunities

Hampton Roads Digital Shutterbug Club Exhibit

The Club has a small rotating exhibit at
Prince Books, 109 Main St., Norfolk

Adobe Lightroom Seminar Tour

Sept. 10 ~ Washington, DC
www.photoshopseminars.com

Virginia State Fair

Sept. 27 - Oct. 7 ~ www.statefair.com

PSA Adventure Series Mexico Cruise

Oct. 11-21 ~ Departs San Diego, CA
Visit www.psa-photo.org about becoming a member.

Tribute to Monte Zucker Workshop

www.clayandjane.com

Washington School of Photography Workshops

www.wsp-photo.com

Richmond Camera Classes

www.richmondcamera.com

Virginia Outdoors Photo Contest

www.blueridgeoutdoors.com

Elizabeth River Photo Contest

www.elizabethriver.org

Top Photography Tips

From Digital Photography Magazine, Issue 58 (from the U.K.)

1. Turn Off the "Auto-Pilot"

Set the camera to MANUAL mode and you will quickly learn how to control the technical aspects of your photography.

2. Think Like A Photographer

You are not "just a camera operator or user;" rather you are a creative artist. Create the image first in your head, and THEN in your camera, but not on the computer!

3. Get It Right The First Time

It is too easy to say "I can fix it in Photoshop." Where does that stray beam of light come from? Where are the shadows? Frame your photo so it is a finished photograph that does not require cropping; you just need to print it. Once you have constructed that perfect picture, press the shutter and make the shot.

4. Love Yourself

We are not here to impress anyone. You should be making your photographs for yourself because they say what you want to say in an image. As long as YOU like your photograph, then it is a good one!

COMPETITION WINNERS AUGUST 2007 MEETING

Color Prints

- 1st "Broadway Nashville Style" by Pam Jenkins
- 2nd "Bally's" by Bert Jemmott
- 3rd "Bravo" by Debbie Wesley

Alternative/Digitally Altered

- 1st "Senor Iguana" by Judy Wymore
- 2nd "Signs of Vegas" by Bert Jemmott
- 3rd "Neon Soup" by Jerry Wymore

Black & White Prints

- 1st "Flamingo Hotel" by Bert Jemmott
- 2nd "Hard Rock Cafe" by Pam Jenkins
- 3rd "Hong Kong Diner" by Judy Wymore

Slides

No slide competition this month

2007 Competition Categories

*September's
Category is
Open*

October ~ Abandoned
November ~ Open
December ~ Autumn Glory

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

PORTRAITS AND THEIR LEARNING CURVE

By Don Maccubbin

The learning curve for photographing people in a creative way is quite steep. Because of this steep slope, gaining strong people photography skills takes a lot of effort. This is much of the reason many folks who say they like to photograph only shoot images of animals, flowers, lighthouses, insects, birds, trees and places they visit while traveling. We all are concerned about what others think about us. By not photographing people though, we avoid the inner personal trauma of worrying about what our subject is thinking of us; worry that can keep us from concentrating on the photographic process. Good people photographers are good with people first; no other way produces a consistent, top quality result.

To become a skilled people photographer, you must learn to be thoroughly comfortable with total strangers. Then you must learn to outwardly show your comfort for the subject to see. This is a skill you can practice every day with every person you encounter. The first step along this path is to learn to put yourself and your feelings and judgments aside. BURY them totally when first meeting a stranger and keep them buried during every subsequent meeting. Realize there is something worthwhile about each of us even though some folks are so shy they try to keep their talents hidden. Look carefully at each person you meet and ask yourself what seems to be happening in his or her life at the moment. If you care about people, watching, listening and learning from the signals they send isn't a difficult skill to master. But don't fake your feelings. All of us, even a child, can spot phony behavior and feigned concern from a mile away. Notice we haven't picked up the camera yet?

After you hone your people skills, it is time to work on learning to operate your camera. You

need to know all the steps your chosen equipment requires so that operation becomes second nature. You should know how to set the camera controls and focus the camera without looking at it. Why go to this extreme you ask? So you won't distract your subject with your equipment fiddling; so you will look as if you know what you are doing not to mention easing any frustration factor using your gear may be bringing to your photography. Notice I haven't said a word about placing the subject, posing the subject, selecting wardrobe, image composition, viewpoint, location selection or a dozen other things that must be considered before you press the shutter.

Why is it so many of us continue to worry about image composition? It's because we haven't yet learned what is blocking our understanding and our ability to compose a photograph. It's not that we don't know the rules and that we can break them. The main reason most folks will never learn how to compose a photograph is their lack of mastery of all the tasks that precede any concern about composition, such as previsualizing an image before the butterfly lands on the flower or setting up a shot in your mind before your subject is even in front of you for example. And they don't have the motivation to master those tasks. Today so many folks think instant feedback is the path to success with their photography. Everyone wants to leap forward to the climax. This is why so many folks buy automatic cameras. They see the automatic camera as taking care of tasks they don't have the fortitude to learn.

Can you see there are three factors at work here? First, we let our laziness, our lack of self-confidence, or our arrogance tell us we don't need to change the way we relate to others, we are fine just the way we are. If any changes need to be

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made, we tell ourselves our subject should be the one to change. The second is again part laziness and a reluctance to accept that we need more practice, much more practice in spite of how long we have been photographing. The third seems, at first glance, to be grounded in laziness too. We are quick to rationalize our choices in photography in our eager search for instant achievement. We investigate what is easier, what appears to be cheaper and what it is that everyone else is doing, and we jump on that bandwagon. Laziness, lack of confidence, lack of motivation, lack of a developed photographic vision, laziness, and did I mention laziness?

Anyone with just a little maturity should know by now there are no free lunches in life's endeavors. Everything that is truly worthwhile requires concentrated long-term effort. Couple that with the prudent expenditure of money as well as allocation of time and, even then, success can be a long time coming. The shortcut for this process of photographing people is to get help from someone who has been there and can help you keep from stumbling so much that you get discouraged. Someone who can reduce your frustration factor as you work toward becoming a better people photographer. Someone who will provide you with constructive comments when reviewing your progress prints, comments you can understand and use.

So start working on your people skills. Choose one camera model/system/lens suitable for people photography and get to know it well. You must be able to preview depth of field with your camera to make learning to use your lens creatively less complicated regardless of your capture method. If you want to master measuring light, the best way

is to learn to take notes, shoot slide film and study your results on a light box along with those notes. Learn to set up and tear down your tripod with your eyes closed. Know how to set your camera by feel. Organize your gear and know where everything is located in your camera bag.

Why spend months doing all this stuff? Because when you are really READY to shoot and you have everything else thoroughly practiced, you will then be able to truly concentrate on your subject and you just might find that the arrangement of the image elements in your photograph will happen almost by magic! You may even get to the point where you can learn to let the camera find the composition for you. If you don't get excited when you first learn how to let the camera find the composition, then you might ought to sell your photography gear and take up the violin (which has its own learning curve).

When the person you are photographing sees your confidence, your demonstrated skill and your genuine concern for them, the effort and cooperation they bring to making the photograph just might skyrocket.

Treasurer's Report

July 31, 2007	Opening Balance	\$1,892.55
Deposits	Dues	\$ 24.00
	50/50 Raffle	<u>\$14.00</u>
	Total	\$38.00
Expenses	Lane Workshop (misc.)	\$ 18.10
Aug. 20, 2007	Balance	\$1,912.45

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	<i>None</i>
<i>September</i> <i>(Open)</i>	Who will it be?	Who will it be?	Who will it be?	Who will it be?
<i>October</i> <i>(Abandoned)</i>	Who will it be?	Who will it be?	Who will it be?	Who will it be?
<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?



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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.

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