Southern Exposure

Newsletter of the

CAMERA CLUB of RICHMOND

December 2015

President's Corner

This month we have our annual awards banquet which will be held at Tin Pan. Come see which photos won awards this year. There were a lot of great entries this year. The judging was held at the WCVE conference room on November 22.

The board has made a couple changes that will take effect in January. Evaluations in 2016 will have only two photo submissions per evaluation night. The assigned subject evaluation night will have one assigned subject submission and one of anything. On previous assigned subject evaluation nights we have allowed two of anything plus the assigned subject. Having three made the meetings run late and we had to rush the evaluator. Limiting to two will allow the evaluator to spend a little more time on each photograph. We will also increase the number of wild cards allowed to keep the end of year competition at 15 submissions.

We will also be adding a buy/sell area in the newsletter starting with the January newsletter. If you have something to sell (or looking to buy), you need to send the following information to the Publications Director (publications@cameraclubofrichmond.com): Item for sale (keep it brief), sales price, your name and contact information (telephone and/or email). If any of this information is missing, it won't be published. Submissions for a newsletter must be received by the Publications Director by the 20th of the previous month (by Dec 20 for January newsletter). The item will only remain for that month. If you need to post it again, you'll need to re-submit it.

Our new board will take office on January 1. We will have a joint board meeting on December 16 with both current and new board members to smooth the transition.
Hope to see everyone at the Banquet.

Harold Lanna
President, CCR
president@cameraclubofrichmond.com
804.363.3281

Camera Club of Richmond

Meets the second Wednesday of each month at:
Holiday Inn
2000 Staples Mill Rd.
Richmond, VA

Doors open at 6:00 PM for networking AND SOCIALIZING
Meeting begins at 7:00

Upcoming Meetings

December 9th
Awards Banquet

Upcoming Board Meetings

Members Welcome-
Locations TBD
December/December-
TBD

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Camera Club of Richmond
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VP Corner

December is the Awards Banquet.
January will be an evaluation night and Anthony Rumley will be the evaluator. There is no assigned subject for January.
Early this year, Toni Johnson and Donna Friend conducted a survey of the members to get input on how to improve the club. Mary-Jacque Mann followed this each quarter with a request for more ideas. The board has reviewed all the suggestions and has been able to implement a number of them. Here are some of some of your suggestions and the corresponding responses.

- Monthly meetings are too long, particularly on evaluation nights.
  - We keep the business part of the meeting as short as possible.
  - We have very brief introductions for speakers and evaluators.
  - We no longer request evaluators to give a short presentation of their work prior to beginning the evaluations.
  - Next year we will limit evaluations to two photographs per meeting, even at meetings with assigned subjects (will be able to submit one photograph for the assigned subject, and one of the member's choice). With this change, members will be allowed to submit 8 wildcards for the end-of-the-year competition (versus our current of 5 wildcards).
- Some members do not like to have the evaluator assign a numerical rating for a photograph.
  - We discontinued the numerical rating system.
  - A sub-committee was formed and they developed a set of criteria for evaluators to use. These criteria are provided to each evaluator several weeks before the meeting. The criteria have been published in the newsletter.
- Request speakers and evaluators to use the laser pointer and microphone
  - Some speakers and evaluators preferred not to use the pointer and microphone. We have become a bit more insistent on this request, but continue to respect the speaker's / evaluator's preference.
- Consider tying the club meeting / training / presenter to the next outing and even the assigned subject for evaluations, so it is a "whole agenda".
  - We were able to accomplish this when we had Bob Brown give a presentation on Story Telling and the following month the assigned subject was Story Telling.
  - Next year we will make a more concerted effort to select speakers or provide education or activities prior to evaluation night for assigned subjects.

Please continue to submit your ideas so the board can better meet your needs.

VP Corner
Billy Sinclair
Vice President

Activities – Future Events

Photoshoot: Christmas At Colonial Williamsburg - Sunday, December 13, 2015 8:45 AM
http://www.meetup.com/Camera-Club-Of-Richmond/events/221822952/
Assemble in front of the William and Mary Bookstore (Barnes & Noble) 345 W Duke of Gloucester St Williamsburg, VA 23185
The Camera Club of Richmond will be hosting a photo shoot in Colonial Williamsburg. We will meet in front of the William and Mary bookstore at 8:45 on Sunday December 13, 2015. Once the group is assembled, we will walk to some of the most photographed locations in the historic area. While en-route we will stop to photograph the many beautiful period Christmas Decorations that have made Colonial Williamsburg famous at this special time of year.

Parking is available at the Prince George Parking Garage at 230 North Henry Street, Williamsburg, VA. The three level Garage provides 362 public parking spaces for the area. The cost for parking is $1 an hour (first 30 minutes are free, maximum $12 a day) and credit cards are accepted. The Garage payment system is fully automated, and customers can use the payment stations near the pedestrian entrance on Prince George Street. The Garage is open daily from 6:00 a.m. to midnight.

Please use the Camera Club of Richmond Meetup Site to RSVP all activities. http://www.meetup.com/Camera-Club-Of-Richmond/
Questions Contact the Activities Director:

Donna Friend
email: activities@cameraclubofrichmond.com
Phone: 804-966-1961

End of Year Event

Camera's down and head's up FOR A FUN TIME!
The Board is proud to announce this year's EOY Competition and Awards Banquet on Wednesday, **December 9, 2015**. You should have received an invitation to this EOY banquet. If not, contact me.

We've secured a restaurant and listening room called Tin Pan RVA for our event. It's located at 8982 Quioccasin Road, Richmond VA 23229 in the Quioccasin Station Shopping Center.

Doors open with piano music, appetizers and a cash bar that serves classic and craft cocktails. The buffet delights with items such as Baja Chicken, Pan-Seared Fish, Flatiron Steak and Mushroom Ragu, each served with its own accompaniments such as baby potatoes, wilted spinach, local winter squash and a salad. The evening will wind down with coffee and desserts as we learn which of our fellow club members earn awards, a feast for our eyes!

The doors open at 5:30PM with cash bar, appetizers and music. The buffet will start at 6:30PM with the dessert & coffee served later. The music will stop and the EOY program is set for 8PM.

Webpage: http://www.tinpanrva.com/venue-tech/
Music provided by: http://www.fillmoreduo.com/

Please respond **… NOW…** to the invitation so we can gather a head count for our buffet that will be served.

Description of appetizer's and buffet menu:

Tin Pan Appetizer Sampler
jalapeno bacon quesadillas | pulled pork nachos | corn-sweet potato cakes
Buffet
Salad
kale, green apple, and walnut salad
with parmesan and lemon cream dressing
Main DishChoices
Pan-Seared Fish
with sausage gravy, baby potatoes, tomatoes, and wilted spinach
Flatiron Steak
served over roasted scallion risotto and local winter squash
Baja Chicken
served over cilantro lime rice, topped w/ crab, avocado, and roasted lemon vinaigrette
Mushroom Ragu
served over fresh pappardelle with parmesan and green peas
Dessert
Homemade Carrot Cake
with cream cheese drizzle
Coffee, Tea, assorted fruits

Come listen, socialize and enjoy our awards event in an atmosphere that matches our club ~ **artistic with flair of ambiance**. We are able to bring this event to you at a cost of $25 per member and $35 per guest.

http://www.tinpanrva.com/private-events/

Susan Snyder
Secretary
secretary@cameraclubofrichmond.com

Southern Exposure
Newsletter of the
Camera Club of Richmond
December 2015

An Interesting Article

About Art – Worth a Thousand Words

(Congratulations to John Schickler for his award and prizewinning photograph)

Published on November 09, 2015

Truro Daily - Truro, Nova Scotia

by Janice Guinan

Photographer wins local competition with photo from UN peacekeepers ceremony
"A picture is worth a thousand words" certainly comes to mind when viewing this photograph, as so much raw emotion is captured and conveyed through this single still image.

© John G. Schickler photo
Local photographer John G. Schickler captured Sgt. Rowland Lawless crouched in front of The Broken monument situated at the Veterans Memorial Park in Bass River. It was taken during a May 30, 2015, ceremony on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

This photograph, titled "The Broken," won first place in the 'people' category at the 35th Annual Harvestfest Photography Contest (http://imagemakerstruro.ca). The award-winning photographer is John G. Schickler of Debert Beach, N.S., and Midlothian, Virginia. He splits his time between the two locations since he and his wife Dee (the love of his life) bought a rustic cottage on Cobequid Bay.

"The scenery change of this magical place inspires much of my work," said John, who is primarily a self-trained artist and photographer. He holds a degree in Applied Design from the University of Maryland and spent the first 11 years of his career in advertising, graphic design and marketing. A career change followed, sending him into the world of Information Technology as a programmer, system designer, project manager, team leader, and business consultant for 29 years.

Retirement brought him back to his love of art and photography. He is a member of the Image Makers Photography Club of Truro and the Camera Club of Richmond, Virginia. Besides his photography, John works in acrylics, pencil, pastels and pen and ink.

While in Nova Scotia, John volunteers with the Cobequid Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre and has also created posters for Gallery 215 and for Tim Bowers' benefit for the Truro Homeless Outreach Society at the Marigold Cultural Centre.

He believes words, like art, should come from the heart and seemingly puts both words and art into action.

John took this compelling picture on May 30, 2015, at the International Day of UN Peacekeepers at the Veterans Memorial Park in Bass River. This day pays tribute to those who have served as UN Peacekeepers and honours the memory of those who lost their lives while striving for peace. Astonishingly, Bass River is the only place in Canada to host this annual event, which also marked the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. The photo is of Sgt. Roland Lawless, Director of Outreach for The Foundation for Atlantic Heroes, an organization that provides financial and transitional support for homeless and at-risk veterans. It was taken at the dedication of "The Broken," a monument to soldiers who served and returned with injuries both visible and hidden, who suffer physically and emotionally, and those who have gone on to suicide.

The focus of the day, as captured in this photograph, impacted John as he shared the following: "The sergeant's eyes seemed to speak to me and express the pain of those being honoured. 'The Broken' has so much meaning. Canada now has lost more veterans to suicide than died in combat in Afghanistan. Looking into this beautiful memorial with its symbolic crack, you can almost see the pain that our veterans are in. We need to pay a lot of attention to those with post-traumatic stress disorder and those with physical injuries. We owe them so much."

John's poignant words and photograph should remind us of the aftermath of war and post-war sufferings as the battle continues for many of our peacekeepers. They deserve our respect and appreciation for their service. May we assist with support and compassion in hopes of seeing lives restored and may we never forget their sacrifice.

Special Opportunity to Help Yourself and Your Camera Club

Use the CCR B&H Logo to order your Holiday goodies!

The holidays are almost here and many of us are starting to make out our lists for new camera equipment, lenses and/or accessories.

Please use the B&H website link (click on the B&H Logo) and the Camera Club of Richmond will receive a 2% commission on all of your B&H purchases. Proceeds from these purchases go back to our membership through subsidized events, activities and/or education.

Here's the link to the CCR website: http://www.cameraclubofrichmond.com/links

Please help us help three charities

Please help this event raise money for three charities. Join us on **December 4th from 4-8 PM** for Santa, bands, food, and packet pickup for the runners or on **December 5th from 8-9:30 AM** for the race. This is the 4th annual Nutzy's Rotary Funn Run, a 5K race (walk, stroll, etc.) benefitting three local children's charities: UMFS, The Central Virginia Children's Book Bank and The Flying Squirrels Charities.

The Rotary Club of West Richmond and the Richmond Flying Squirrels have established what is sure to become a holiday tradition for competitive runners and families alike! Runners, walkers, kids and parents with strollers will take off from the Diamond at 8:30 a.m. to trek through Ginter Park. Funn Runners will return to the Diamond for the Finish Line Party and Funn Costume Awards.

PLEASE Help the charities and grow your photojournalism skills. The picture, above, if from their PR for this year and it is one of ours. Looking for some photographic fun? Kids, Santa, runners/walkers, lots of interesting people. Please come, enjoy, and take some fun pictures for the Rotary Funn Run. December 5th 4-8 with Santa and music. December 5th, 8-10 AM. Email me to let me know if you can come and shoot for charity. ALKlein65@gmail.com.

Andy Klein
Editor

Member's Corner

Do You Bracket?

More specifically I should ask, "Do you exposure bracket"? Exposure bracketing is a simple technique that can help you be sure that you have properly exposed a picture, particularly when the lighting conditions are difficult.

The light meter in the camera will select an exposure (aperture and shutter speed combination) that it calculates are the correct settings for a properly exposed picture. But we have learned that the camera alone isn't always the most reliable authority when it comes to handling extreme or challenging lighting conditions.

Extremely bright conditions, such as at the beach or in a sunny, snowy landscape might be one of those situations that tells the camera there is too much light. As a result, the camera may automatically compensate and underexpose the main subject in an image. The inverse can also be true. In a situation where the surrounding light might be insufficient, the camera may call for opening up the aperture or reducing the shutter speed or both. That can result in the in the main subject being overexposed.

You can compensate for this type of error by bracketing the exposure. That is by taking a series (normally three pictures) of the same scene. The first one will be at the camera's current setting. The second at an exposure value higher than that which the camera picked automatically, and the third at a value lower than the camera's automatic setting. This bracketing can be accomplished manually or automatically, and will help you come away with a properly exposed image. (Note that exposure bracketing is a necessity to create high dynamic range, HDR, images). Though HDR entails several exposures at varying increments above and below your primary exposure setting.

Let's concentrate on Automatic Exposure Bracketing or AEB for now.

AEB simplifies the task of making the same shot using several exposure settings. The function must ,be enabled in your camera's menu. And, it is there that you also select the difference you want between the exposed images. Say, a half stop each above and below the current camera setting. Commonly, the ISO and f-stop remain constant and the shutter speed will vary automatically to accomplish your selected exposure variances.

On Canon bodies, look in the menu for Exposure Compensation/AEB. They work in conjunction with each other. Set the exposure compensation at any point along the scale, then you can select the bracketing limits above and below that point at whatever increment you specify. Other camera makes will provide something similar. In any case, your camera user's guide/manual is the authority on how to set up automatic bracketing.

How you actually record the three exposures depends on how you set the drive mode. The drive mode determines whether the camera records a single image or multiple images with each press of the shutter release. If you choose single exposure, you must release the shutter three separate times to effectively bracket the exposure setting. With continuous mode selected, one press of the shutter button will capture all three exposures within the range selected for bracketing in the same sequence each time you use it.

A note to remember. If you power down the camera, intentionally or automatically, the AEB will also turn off, and must be reset to continue bracketing.

Bracketing can be helpful when you feel that “must have” shot is getting away from you. It could enhance your probability of making the shot because you are getting three pictures. One which the camera “thinks” is properly exposed, another that is slightly under exposed and a third that is a bit over exposed. You then get to choose the one you feel most satisfying, the one that meets your standards. You can also use those multiple exposures to combine two or more in post processing to achieve the best of each in a single image.

Any bracketing technique may seem inefficient and wasteful, and when shooting film, quite expensive. Not so in digital, there really are no wasted shots. Pixels are cheap, but the technique does take more media and buffer space as well as more time to capture the images and later evaluate them.

Some photography enthusiasts are not even aware that the AEB function is available on most digital cameras, nor do they understand its utility. Others who are aware have never tried it out. Realize that AEB is not for every situation, but might help resolve some uncertainty under difficult lighting conditions.

We have concentrated on AEB, but if you decide to try manual bracketing, all of this and more is available to you. Bracketing in manual just means taking two extra photos at different brightness levels for each one photo that you shoot. The simplest way to do this is to vary the shutter speed. Move it up one increment (faster) and you have will have taken the image at -1/3 of the chosen exposure evaluation. Then, move the speed down (slower) one increment from your original setting to get the +1/3 shot.

In manual, you can also adjust the aperture and ISO to change exposure value, but understand that adjusting these will have a much more profound effect on your image. Working the shutter speed is probably the safest way to learn manual bracketing.

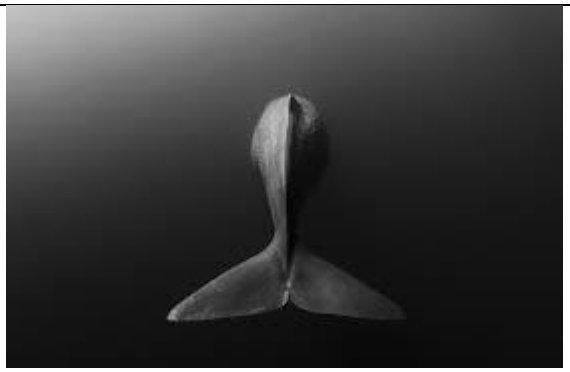
Experiment with some of this and have fun with your camera.

Don Hanna
Member

December 2015

Editor's Picks

The end of year newsletter was too devoid of pictures, but full of good information. But, as a photo club publication I wanted to add some color. So I reached out to National Geographic and chose some pictures that made me smile or wonder. I share these with you hoping that they make you smile, or make you wonder, and inspire you to take great pictures. Happy Holidays and a wonderful new year.
Andy Klein
Editor



The photos, above, are all from this publication and all copyrights are retained by the National Geographic Society

Now this is photography at its closeup best!

Southern Exposure
Newsletter of the
Camera Club of Richmond
December 2015

The Camera Club of Richmond is proud to be a charter member of the Photographic Society of America
Visit PSA online:
www.psa-photo.org

For a PSA membership application see Carole Hagaman, CCR's PSA representative

PSA Mission Statement

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) promotes the art and science of photography as a means of communication, image appreciation, and cultural exchange.

PSA provides education, inspiration, and opportunity for all persons interested in photography

The Society fosters personal growth and expression, creativity, excellence, and ethical conduct in all aspects of photographic endeavor

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Southern Exposure
Newsletter of the
Camera Club of Richmond
December 2014

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