

Southern Exposure

Newsletter of the



CAMERA CLUB of RICHMOND

May 2016

President's Corner

This month we have EA Lee as our evaluator. It will be an assigned subject evaluation- "Transportation". You can submit one photo for the assigned subject and another of anything. See the VP report for EA's Biography. I think we'll see a lot of photos from the truck graveyard photo shoot.

For those that may have missed the last meeting, I indicated that Nik Software (owned by Google now) is now free to download for Mac and PC. The set includes seven modules which includes a sharpener, HDR pro, black & white converter and several others for enhancing your photos. You can download it at www.google.com/nikcollection/. I've used a couple of these and they do a good job. They work as plug-ins for Lightroom and Photoshop (not sure about elements). These apparently don't run as stand alone editors.

The board is busy looking at possible dates (around September/October) for a fall picnic. We didn't have it last year, but there has been some interest in having it this year. We will have more information when we have date and location options.

We have several photo shoots (Berkeley Plantation) and training classes (histograms, composition) coming up. Please check the Camera Club of Richmond Meetup Group. There is a link on the website on the education and activities page and also instructions if you are not signed up yet. These are available only to paid club members.

The board discussed utilizing a service like GoToMeeting for training classes (and possibly for board meetings). These services allow you to log in utilizing a specific code and being able to view a presenter's computer screen from your computer at home. I use this frequently at my day job and it works great. I can view the presentation on my computer (and newer TV's) and call in on my cell or landline phone for the audio. This might make it easier for people to attend. Of course, this won't work for some workshops which incorporate actual shooting time. More on this later.

The weather is slooowly warming up, so it's a great time to get out to the river and other great locations in the Richmond area.

Hope to see you all at the May meeting on the 11th.

Harold Lanna
President, CCR
president@cameraclubofrichmond.com

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.
Meeting begins at 7:00

Upcoming Club Meetings

May 11
June 8
July 13
August 10
September 14
October 12
November 9
December TBD

Upcoming Board Meetings

May 25
June 22
July 27
August 24
September 28
October 26
November 16
December- TBD

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VP Corner

EA Lee is a local Richmond photographer who specializes in Nature, Fine Art and Cultural photography. He started out with film and darkroom in his high school years for his school newspaper in the early 1980s. Ever since then, it became a passion for him and became hooked on photography. In the late 1990's he slowly transitioned into the digital photography scene. He has a love for finding beauty in all aspects of art. Challenging the status quo and finding a different perspective on his subjects. He appreciates simplicity, raw beauty, the unique, the obscure and the unrefined.

EA Lee will be our evaluator at the May CCR meeting.

Scott Pels
Vice President



Education

Look to this column next newsletter for updated education opportunities.

Donna J. Friend
instruction@cameraclubofrichmond.com
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Membership

Three new members joined at the April meeting. Please welcome Frank Erdt, Larry Jones, and Don Kinniburgh. Frank, Larry, and Don, we very much look forward to seeing your work and to sharing the fun of photography with you.

Excellent suggestions keep coming in. We had two more at the April meeting. Please keep them coming! And, as always, if you have any questions or observations that can't wait until the next general meeting, don't hesitate to contact me or any other Board member.

Keep on clickin'!

Mary-Jacque Mann
Membership Director

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Editor's Corner

These are wonderful pictures. Not only are they good in their own right, but they are pictures from our members and they are sharing both the photographs and the adventures that created these photo opportunities. It is my pleasure to put these in the newsletter for everyone to enjoy. Have something you would like to share? Send for inclusion in future newsletters.



I went on a photographic (people to people) tour to Cuba in early in January. It was a small group of 15 including 3 of our guides. The group was mostly from California. We did 6 days in Havana and 4 in Trinidad, a small UNESCO world heritage town 5 hours south east of Havana. On our last day in country our guides rented 1950's convertible taxis for a wild ride around town and landed at the best restaurant in Havana. This is a shot over the windshield of the 1957 Chevy I was in, flying down the Malecon, blowing our horns. It was shot with a Nikon D750 16-35mm at 16mm 1/25th of a sec f/4, ISO 1800. I was lucky with a steady hand and no bumps. A few Lightroom enhancements were done.

Joe Ring



These photos are of Mysore Palace in Mysore (the city), Karnataka (the state), India. This palace used to be the royal residence of the Wodeyars, the Maharajas of Mysore, who ruled the princely state from 1399 to 1950. The palace now belongs to the state government and is open to the public. It is the most visited tourist attraction in India after the Taj Mahal and has more than 6 million visitors annually.

Narmadha Somasundaram

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Do It Anyway

by Barbara Bender



© Barbara Bender

In spite of the growing wealth of material to suggest ways to improve photographic creativity, some people have difficulties in this area. While they may be excellent technical photographers, they often claim that they just aren't very creative.

All of us have the potential to be creative but for many, creativity can be hampered by the fear of disapproval or the fear of failure. Creativity can only flourish in an atmosphere of experimentation, risk taking, playfulness, curiosity and a sense of adventure. It is only possible when the excellence of the final product is irrelevant. Making our photographs in this way is almost impossible if we have these fears and allow them to get in our way.

Often we are unaware that we even have these fears. Becoming aware of them, and acknowledging them is the first step in working with them. Then, in spite of the fears, do it anyway. Take the risk.

A photograph is a visual expression of ourselves and how we feel about the things we see. What and how we photograph can say a lot about who we are. Exposing ourselves in such a way can make us feel vulnerable, and this can be scary. We fear feeling foolish or being perceived in a negative way.

Make the photograph you are inspired to make even if you feel intimidated by the judgments of others. It is difficult to freely play and indulge your curiosity if you feel self-conscious and inhibited. Don't let the fear of feeling foolish stop you from exploring a creative idea. Lie down on the busy sidewalk in order to get an unusual angle for photographing your subject. You might get looks from passersby, but you also might end up with a fabulous image with a different, creative point of view.

Shoot what interests and attracts you, even if you fear that others will disapprove. Don't let this stop you from photographing items that are not considered traditionally photogenic. Instead, find interesting ways to

photograph the really common, mundane things that most people never notice. Why restrict your still life subject matter to vases of flowers or bowls of fruit when the light falling on the roll of toilet paper in a captivating way beckons? Follow your own interests and instincts, even if they are very different than what others are doing. Your vision can be fresh and unique ... creative.



© Barbara Bender

Many of us are afraid to fail, and as a result, play it safe. We continue to “see” and capture our images in ways that have been successful in the past. We use the same techniques that we feel competent and comfortable with when we process our work. We often create excellent images, but after a while, these images no longer show photographic creativity, for us, even though others might praise them. Experimenting with new ideas and techniques when there is little or no certainty about the quality of the outcome can be very scary for some of us. The fear of failing holds us back.

Explore your photographic creativity...

"Make the photograph you are inspired to make even if you feel intimidated by the judgments of others."

Recognize this fear and do it anyway. Photograph subject matter you've never worked with before. Get out of your comfort zone. Even if you have no idea how to approach photographing the unknown, experiment with it anyway. Try different lenses and use camera motion techniques that you usually avoid because you don't feel competent in their use. Play with different shutter speeds and apertures even if you think they may be inappropriate. Shoot in “bad” light and try to figure out how to work with it. Be curious about tools in Photoshop that you've never used, and play with them. Use familiar tools in the opposite way to what you normally do, or exaggerate their effects enormously.



© Barbara Bender

Chances are you will make lots of mistakes and create some really horrid photographs. So what! You will learn, and chances are you may also make some really outstanding ones too. You will never have the opportunity to realize your potential for photographic creativity if your fear of failing and making a fool of yourself prevents you from trying.

You can't be creative and cautious at the same time. So, feel the fear, and then *do it anyway*

Barbara Bender is a freelance professional photographer and writer who uses various creative techniques, emphasis on design, and simple, often graphic composition to make photographs which are frequently expressive in nature. Her photographs have been featured in such publications as Nature's Best Awards Issue, Black and White Magazine, and Color Magazine. A series of articles on photographic Creativity and Playfulness was featured in PhotoLife Magazine in 2010. Over forty-five of her images have been used as book covers for Guernica Editions. As an active member of the Greater Toronto Council of Camera Clubs, she gives presentations and workshops on various photographic topics



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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2016 CCR Officers and Board of Directors

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Friends of CCR

These are firms that have provided exceptional services to the Camera Club of Richmond and its members. We show their logos as a way of saying thank you. This list is updated as appropriate



James River Photography
By Peter Kapasakis

