



Jacksonville Camera Club Monthly Newsletter www.Jaxcameracub.com

ACTIVITIES

(also check out the website)

Meetings:

Wednesday, May 18, 2011--7-)PM

Robert Clark will show pics from the Olustee Outing and Dirk Den Boef will show travel pictures.

Wednesday June 01, 2011 Bill

Coppedge will give results of the digital competition.

Wednesday June 15, 2011, Craig

Weeks will show the results of the print competition.

New Members:

Welcome to the club

Lucinde Halsema

Darrel McLeod

Stephen McDonough

Grik and Zoe Hokanssan

Karie Woodcock

Ken and Marla Pelfrey

Michael Royal

John Mullen

Thomas Loge

Melvyn Cooper

Louva Legge

See pg 7 for more names,
pictures, and details

President's Report

On My Mind

Jim Lowell

Having been president for a year, I've been thinking about what the purpose of the Jacksonville Camera Club actually is. At first, this seemed to be a straightforward question to answer: We exist to help our membership to improve their photographic skills. Some reflection, however, suggested this was both too narrow and too vague an answer—too narrow, because we also have social and service aspects to our club; too vague, because in this digital age, just what kind of photographic skills is it we want to help improve?

On my second try to define JCC's purpose, I came up with, "We exist to help our members to improve their photographic skills and to provide both fellowship and service opportunities." Definitely better, but that pesky question of photographic skills was still there. That's when it hit me; I was asking the wrong question. I shouldn't be asking "What kind of photographic skills is it we want to help improve"; instead, my question should be: "What reasons do our members have for wanting to improve their photographic skills?" This refocuses the question (and potential answers) from club-centric to member-centric.

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Our meetings are held at the....

The Shepard Of The Woods Outreach Center

6595 Columbia Park Ct. Jacksonville, Fla.

(see page 5 for directions)



Photographic Society of America

www.psa-photo.org



Editors Notes:

Putting this newsletter together has been enough to give an old brain a synaptic convulsion (I made that up). But it's been fun, and now that I have gotten some of the basics down and have sort of a template, it should take less time next time---but a year's worth is probably all the fun I'll need.

Teri Metz, Marianne Charm and all of the ones before me did such a great job. I hope that this will be close to the examples that they made in the past. You'll have to accept a style that's a little abrupt and not too flowery and a lot of typos and misspelled words—just take it in the right spirit and get a laugh out of it. I am a self taught typist. I got my roommate in college to show me where to put my fingers and just started. The motivation was a better grade in biology lab if the lab report was typed and of course over the years until e-mail etc, I never had to type at all.

I'll always need material for the next issue, so please sit down and give me a funny episode that happened preferably while taking a picture. Also there is a "pearl" section. This should be fairly short and about something that you learned that might not be so well known, and would be helpful to someone else. So far the response has been more than I expected and the first contributors are mostly represented in this issue. Don Fraser, John Reed, and Rick Hartman have sent in a bunch of good stuff. This is YOUR newsletter, so get in the act and be part of it!

The other new sections involve the new members. I would like to list everyone that joins and if possible, put their picture into the newsletter. Obviously I am starting behind with picture taking and it will be tough catching up, but I'd like to put every new member's picture in Clicks. This will give all of the existing members a chance to see who they are and get to know them. Soooo if you recently joined, say since January, send me a picture or grab me at a meeting and I'll snap one. Simple! If I can get it to work, click on their name on the front page and their picture should come up—I only have two so far, so help me out.

Eventually I'd like to have the pictures of all of the board members available with a click and also their e-mail address. Hyperlinks to websites should be available in this issue. Later I'd like to have a list of all of the member's websites, so somehow, let me know your web address and I'll get them in. Our club website is fantastic thanks to Richard Krenn, and has a lot of this type of information. Listing your websites in Clicks will give people a chance to see other work that you are doing. And it's never a bad idea to let more people see more examples of your artistic ability.

You will see pictures occasionally on the pages that are there because they're pretty. Jim Lowell spent a lot of time making a jpeg file for me of all of the winners that were presented at the annual meeting. I've got a lot of outstanding material to choose from for upcoming issues. The background picture on the cover was taken by Dirk.

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Editor's report continued from page 2

Outings will get special attention. Outings I think, as you all know, are the backbone of the club. Michael has a lot of fun trips planned and will get a lot of attention in Clicks, including a lot of YOUR pictures. See the list here and also on the website

Thanks again to Richard, I am going to be able to load Clicks directly to the website. I will send out and e-mail

that goes to the current issue. That is, this episode of Clicks should be in a file on our website-- if I've done them right.

Editor's notes won't be as long in the future, but initially I wanted to explain things and let you know what to expect. Let me know what you think and if you have any suggestions.

Gordon

President's Report continued from pg 1

Of course, the reasons vary; but, in general, there are two overlapping categories: wanting to improve photographic skills to help win more competitions, and wanting to improve skills just to take better pictures in general.

The competition group tends to focus on learning classical, traditional photographic rules and techniques to win the hearts and minds of judges. The general pictures group wants to create pleasing, appealing images, simply to win hearts and minds. And, although the two categories overlap, the needs of the two groups differ.

Going forward—and now having the right questions in mind—watch this space in future “Clicks” for more on how your board and chairs will be focusing, even more tightly than in the past, on developing the best programs, outings and events to meet the needs of our diverse JCC membership.

Jim



Rope

This picture was in the annual competition and was taken by our most seniorist member of the club,

Gerry Charm

The Great Camera Debate

John Reed

“I got a Canon camera. I love to take photographs. Mama, don’t take my Kodachrome away”. Yeah, that’s right. Not the way he wrote it but I always change Paul Simon’s words when I sing in the shower. Most of us are familiar with the poking that goes on between various brand owners. Brand loyalty runs high and it’s fun to jab one another, but I want to take a moment to set the record straight, as I see it anyway.

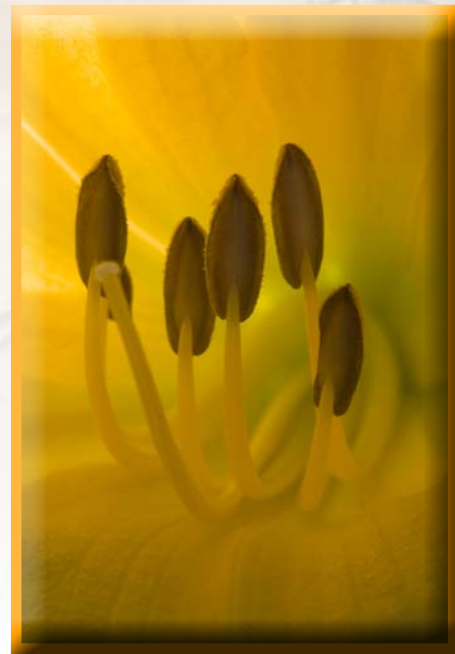
I make a point in all my workshops and photo classes to emphasize one key point and that’s this. It’s not the camera that really makes the picture. The camera is just a tool. The brand of hammer you use doesn’t matter as long as the nail goes in straight and the way you want it to go. The truth is, these days it’s hard to find a camera that will take a “bad” picture and it doesn’t matter what the brand. Sure Canon and Nikon are still the two big gorillas in the room but that doesn’t mean a thing. Olympus, Sony, Pentax, Fuji, Leica, and more, all now make terrific cameras that will make wonderful image captures.

There are a lot of photos, fine photos, made with less than the latest and greatest camera body and also ones without big name logos on the front. Don’t believe it? I have large size photos right now hanging in hospitals around town taken with my first Canon digital SLR, a D60. It was only 6 megapixels, very limited in functionality, and easily outperformed now by even the most basic entry level cameras. I’ve seen absolutely gorgeous photos made with “only” a modest point & shoot camera.

The best camera for anybody should not be a function of nameplate. Rather, choose based on the features it has that you want or need. Those features may not be all the things now being crammed into the latest models. It should also be the one that “feels” right to you. That is, are the controls easy for you to understand and use? Is it the right size? Can you understand all the menus? And so forth.

Too many folks fall victim to nameplate mystique or madness. A brand that was “THE” brand 20 years ago is not necessarily “THE” brand today. Choose wisely. Think. Get what’s best for you and once you have it, as long as it keeps serving you to your satisfaction, don’t feel you have to trade it in for the next big thing.

Oh, I’ll keep joking about it of course. Just don’t ever take it serious. YOU make the photo, not your camera and it doesn’t matter what nameplate it has. Have fun!



Lily Cathedral

Taken with a Canon

by John Reed

Pitfalls of the Baby Photographer

The Smiths had no children and decided to use a proxy father to start their family. On the day the proxy father was to arrive, Mr. Smith kissed his wife and said, "I'm off. The man should be here soon."

Half an hour later, just by chance, a door-to-door baby photographer rang the doorbell, hoping to make a sale. "Good morning madam. You don't know me but I've come to...."

"Oh, no need to explain. I've been expecting you," Mrs. Smith cut in.

"Really?" the photographer asked. "Well, good! I've made a specialty of babies."

"That's what my husband and I had hoped. Please come in and have a seat. Just where do we start?" asked Mrs. Smith, blushing.

"Leave everything to me. I usually try two in the bathtub, one on the couch and perhaps a couple on the bed. Sometimes the living room floor is fun too; you can really spread out."

"Bathtub, living room floor? No wonder it didn't work for Harry and me."

"Well, madam, none of us can guarantee a good one every time. But if we try several different positions and I shoot from six or seven angles, I'm sure you'll be pleased with the results."

"I hope we can get this over with quickly," gasped Mrs. Smith.

"Madam, in my line of work, a man must take his time. I'd love to be in and out in five minutes, but you'd be disappointed with that, I'm sure."

"Don't I know!!" Mrs. Smith exclaimed.

The photographer opened his briefcase and pulled out a portfolio of his baby pictures. "This was done on the top of a bus in downtown London."

"Oh my god!!" Mrs. Smith exclaimed, tugging at her handkerchief.

"And these twins turned out exceptionally well when you consider their mother was so difficult to work with." The photographer handed Mrs. Smith the picture.

"She was difficult?" asked Mrs. Smith.

"Yes, I'm afraid so. I finally had to take her to Hyde Park to get the job done right. People were crowding around four and five deep, pushing to get a good look."

"Four and five deep?" asked Mrs. Smith, eyes widened in amazement.

"Yes", the photographer said. "And for more than three hours too. The mother was constantly squealing and yelling. I could hardly concentrate. Then darkness approached and I began to rush my shots. Finally, when the squirrels began nibbling on my equipment, I just packed it all in."

Mrs. Smith leaned forward. "You mean they actually chewed on your, eh.....equipment?"

"That's right. Well madam, if you're ready, I'll set up my tripod so that we can get to work."

"Tripod??", Mrs. Smith looked extremely worried now.

"Oh yes, I have to use a tripod to rest my Canon on. It's much too big for me to hold while I'm getting ready for action. Madam? Madam?..... Good Lord, she's fainted!!"

I'll bet that you didn't know that this was a personal experience of Rick Hartmann!

Pearls

Select a Circle, Quick and Easy in Photoshop Elements

by Don Fraser

Here is a great tip if you have to select a circle while working in Photoshop Elements (and it works in regular Photoshop, too). You might already know how to make the **Elliptical Marquee tool** only select a circle by holding down the **shift key** while making a selection with your **mouse**. The hard part is getting the selection to be exactly the right size. You also have to get your selection in the right position in your image.

The trick to overcoming these obstacles is to hold down the **shift key** with one finger and hover your thumb over the **spacebar**. Begin making your selection with your **mouse**, and then without letting go of the **shift key** or the **mouse button**, press the **spacebar** down with your thumb.

This action will stop growing your selection and when you move the mouse, it will move your selection. You can then take your thumb off the **spacebar** to continue drawing your selection. Repeat as necessary to get your selection exactly where you want it.

This is way faster than guessing at your circle size and then dragging it into place.

The way I do it is I hold down the **shift key** with my middle finger and hover my thumb of the same hand over the **spacebar**. I use my opposite hand to operate the **mouse**. It's the fastest way I know to select a circle in Photoshop Elements.



DON FRASER

Tips From The Field – Sunrise/Sunset

John Reed

Ever get up early so you can be at the perfect spot for sunrise, it's beautiful but when you look at your photos they just don't seem to have the same "pop" as what you remember? It may be that you're not shooting with the best white balance setting. If you're shooting RAW, it really doesn't matter that much because you can adjust the white balance in the conversion with no harm done. But if you're shooting jpgs, you'll want to avoid "auto white balance" or **AWB**. Think about it. The camera is trying to take away the color cast that you got up to see! Instead, use **daylight** white balance setting. In fact, to be "safe", take some on the **cloudy** setting to add more yellow/orange and even some on the **shade** setting to add more orange. Those settings will make ho-hum sunrises and sunsets really blast off.



Great Blue Heron

John Reed

New Members

These are the new members that have joined the Club since January furnished by Jennifer Thompson, our membership chair. I would like to get pictures of all new members but I have taken only two so far, shown here. The reasons for the pictures are obvious, we welcome you to JCC and we want to get to know you and make you feel at home. Grab me at the meeting for a picture, or better, send me one that you like and I'll put it in--sound good? My E-mail address is Gordon@GordonIra.com.



Lucinda Halsema Joined 5/14/11
She is an illustrator interested in Historical Preservation, Has new Nikon SLR and wants to learn more.

Darrel McLeod Joined 5/4/11
Tech manager

Grik and Zee Hokanssan Joined 3/2/11
Father and daughter (15) want to take better pictures. Zee is a mortgage underwriter student.

Karie L. Woodcock Joined 2/16/11
An asset Receivables Claims Specialist, she wants to take better photos.



Stephen McDonough Joined 5/4/11
He wants to learn how to use his new DSLR

Ken and Marla Pelfrey Joined 2/16/11
They live in Green Cove Springs and want to learn better techniques. He is a retired RR Clerk.

Michael Royal Joined 2/2/11
He is an entrepreneur in internet setups who wants to hang out with great people- and learn techniques.

John Mullen Joined 1/19/11
He enjoys running, travel and guitar. He would like mentoring and more experience.

Thomas Lege Joined 1/19/11
He is a dental lab tech and wants more skills and ideas.

Melvin Cooper Joined 1/19/11
He is retired and wants to take better pictures.

Laura Legge Joined 1/5/11
Laura lives in Atlantic Beach and wants to connect with other photographers and improve skills.

Linda Lynn Joined 1/15/11
She is retired and wants to share knowledge.

Graham Martin Joined 1/15/11
Retired banker wanting to learn, share and travel.

CLUB POSITIONS

See the website for more information about each individual plus much more about the club.

- **President** James Lowell jlowell@att.net
- **Vice President** Lynda Smith
jo22smith@att.net
- **Treasurer** Dee Hartmann
dmh637@comcast.net
- **Secretary** Paula Pradella
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- **Elected Director1** Diane Cohen
udxtara@comcast.net
- **Elected Director2** Richard Krenn
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- **Elected Director3** John Reed
johnreed@johnreedphoto.com
- **Print Chair** Craig Weeks
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- **Digital Chair** Bill Coppedge
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- **Peoples Choice** Diane Cohen
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- **Properties Manager** George Hoskins
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- **Membership Chair** Jennifer Thompson
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- **Librarian** Marianne Pophal
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- **Mentor Chair** Robert Clark
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- **Outings Chair** Michael Butler
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- **Webmaster** Richard Krenn
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- **Clicks Editor** Gordon Ira
ghirajr@comcast.net
- **Historian** Debi Lander
debilander@gmail.com

DIRECTIONS TO GET TO THE CLUB MEETING

Google Map

Starting from the intersection of Phillips highway and Greenwood Rd. (this intersection is just south of 295 and US1-Phillips Highway--the road to St Augustine)

Go west on Greenwood Rd, for .3mi.

Take first left onto Fayal Dr.

Take immediate left onto Columbia Pkwy. which bends 90° to the right in 1/4 mi.

Stay straight about 1mi until the road bends to the left, At the apex of the bend turn right onto Columbia Park Ct.

At the end of Columbia Park Ct , (about300 yds) is your destination, 6505 Columbia Park Ct.



Guess who took this. Couldn't be Don Fraser!