

N' Focus

Yamhill Valley Camera Club Newsletter

www.yamhillcameraclub.org

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Letter from the Editor

With the start of a new competition year and the arrival of new members, the thought of intimidation comes to mind. Not that the club is going to be intimidating, but the thought of entering images and prints into competition.

Everyone has their favorite subjects, and their least favorite, the key is to remember that images are judged on their individual merit.

You may have images that you think are a little "off", but they may follow the rule of thirds, or have great technical detail. The point is that you don't know unless you put it out on display. If you are not sure, and want a "pre-trial" opinion, critique night is great for that!

Ask yourself this. What makes you say **WOW!** In a picture?

To sum it up, simply this. Don't be afraid to enter an image, be open minded, and remember we are all here to learn, and teach.

Your Editor

Shannon Trunde

Letter from the President

Have you ever been in the presence of a great photographer? I'm sure that some of us will say, "Yes, every month at the club meeting." Last year Sandi Colvin shared with us the experience of having John Shaw come into her gallery. How many times do we get to rub elbows with the really great photographers of this world? Can we recognize photographic greatness in ourselves, as well as in others? I certainly hope so.

On the Wednesday following our September competition meeting I had a gentleman walk into The Shutterbug. Nothing out of the ordinary of course. He was carrying with him a couple of books, and around his neck was a Leica M7, 35mm range finder.

Still, nothing out of the ordinary, but the he produced a copy of the August 2005 Harpers magazine. Turning to somewhere near the middle, he showed me a set of photographs taken by Jacko Vassilev, a Bulgarian photographer. Before me stood Jacko Vassilev.

He also produced a book published with his work and allowed me to look through two books of his prints. The images this man has produced are nothing short of outstanding. All black and white images, primarily portraits, and the quality of the prints are all top notch. I was blown away by the imagery produced by this great photographer.

One extraordinary image sticks in my

mind. Jacko had a portrait of a photographer in his collection. This man's face was not shown, but simply a close-up of him holding his camera (an old Zenit-all manual). What makes this remarkable is that this man had tragically lost his hands. He made a "belt" to enable him to hold his camera, and was able to adjust his camera as needed. Amazingly though, this photographer was not just a hobbyist, but rather is a wedding and portrait photographer.

Why do I bring this up? Because, the short visit from Jacko left a huge impression in my mind. If a handless photographer can shoot weddings and portraits, what excuse do we have to not continue to strive to be great photographers? Use this as inspiration to go out, take some photos, have fun, and learn every chance you get.

On another note, I will be gone during the first couple of weeks in October. I will miss our regular meeting, but I have confidence in Michelle that she will do a great job. Let us all remember when we come together for our meetings, field trips, or other activities, to be respectful and considerate of each other. We are all at different levels, photographically speaking, and need to exercise a bit of patience with each other.

Have a great month and happy shooting.

Craig



GIVE IT A SHOT

We all know what an essay is, it's something that for the most part we hated doing in school. But do you know what a photo essay is?

By definition a photo essay is... a series of photographs that are intended to tell a story or evoke a series of emotions.

Here is how to create one.

First: You need a topic. Some passion or perspective on that topic wouldn't hurt too!

Second: Once you have picked your topic you should gather a bunch of images, at least four.

Third: Take a look at your images and tell your story. If you are adding writing to your essay the best advice would be to write as though you are writing your story to a friend.

Fourth: Show it to someone!

A good place to see some basic essay's is www.tightcircle.com

DON'T BE AFRAID...GIVE IT A SHOT!

Letter from the outgoing president

A Big Congrats' and a Personal Thank You

First, I want to congratulate all the new officers and most especially, those of you who have stepped up to populate the committees for the 2006-07 season.

It takes a lot of time and effort to organize a growing organization. I know that Craig, Michelle, and Julie will do a great job. What can I say about Treasurer Gary- other than way to go buddy. If there is anyone who has a handle on how the club is doing financially, it is he. I am so glad that Gary to my pleas to heart and decided to stay for another term.

A BIG thanks to Debbie V., Shannon T., Gary W., Sandy C., and all the others who helped me during the 2005-06

season. It would have been impossible without them. Let's not forget Jeremy who was our FIRST Newsletter Editor. Way to go Jeremy.

The past year saw many changes. We moved from a private residence to a great meeting room at Chuck Colvin's Auto-then on to a conference room at the McMinnville Community Center. We added a "Clinic Night" to our monthly agenda. We saw membership climb from about 12 to close to 30. We had a couple of fund raisers which enabled us to purchase a digital projector (we are one of the few clubs, large or small, which has a digital projector). We had several winners at the Yamhill County Fair and Rodeo and the Oregon State Fair. WOW! What a year.

What didn't we accomplish and what would I, as you immediate Past President like to see accomplished this year? The answer is simple. More attendance at field trips. These outings offer the opportunity for each of us to share our experiences and expertise with each other. One field trip could, no WOULD pay for your entire years dues. Let's try to make a concentrated effort to attend at least ONE field trip each quarter.

Finally, remember that the YVCC is an organization that will ONLY thrive if YOU participate. It is easy to sit back and let others compete, attend field trips, and offer to share his/her expertise by volunteering to make a presentation. Yep, you will learn something. No doubt about that. But, and isn't there always a "but" <grin>, if YOU volunteer to make a presentation or lead or co-lead a field trip, just think how much more you will learn about you passion- photography! Think about it.

I personally look forward to an exciting year.

Take good care,
Past President – Stuie



INTERVIEW WITH A PHOTOGRAPHER

This month I had the opportunity to talk with our newest published photographer, Krista Beckner.

NF: How did you find out about the article being written?

KB: My sister-in-law was writing the article and asked if I would submit some photos for it. They still had to be approved for publication. She wanted me to have a chance to be published, and keep it in the family.

NF: What type of media did you use? Film or digital?

KB: Film, I used consumer slide film and was not getting the quality, so I switched to a warmer pro-slide film, E100 GX-Kodak.

NF: How long did it take you to get all of them?

KB: Over the course of a month and a half I took 5 trips, lengthening from 1 hour to 5 hours away.

NF: Approximately how many images did you take?

KB: I took around seven or eight rolls of slide film.

NF: What were some of your obstacles?

KB: My children screaming in the car, weather to cold for the pictures to come out right. Using the wrong film. Having a bad roll of film, probably old or damaged.

NF: Is there anything that you would do differently?

KB: Use digital (laughs) and get a babysitter (laughs again), other than that...no.

NF: Are you happy with the way they turned out? Would you do it again?

KB: (laughs) on a scale of 1-10...7, 10 being the best. I personally would have printed them differently in the magazine, and submitted less options. Yes, I would.

The magazine...[Oregon Coast](#)

Here Krista smiles with the camera she used and the magazine published. She has the front cover and all but one image are her's.



Highlights

September's competition results are

1st place
Oregon Storm
Maryilyn Affolter

2nd place
Wind Farm
Sandi Colvin

3rd place
Lunch Break
Krista Beckner

Buzzing Around
Craig Pifer

Sno Cones
Krista Beckner

POTY results are :

Krista Beckner 12
Maryilyn Affolter 10
Sandi Colvin 8
Craig Pifer 6

Seminars

Outdoor Photographer has several Seminar dates. Register online before 11-12-06 and your entered into a drawing.

To find out more go to www.outdoorphotographer.com

George Lepp and Rick Sammon are going to be in Portland, OR October 28-29

Thanks to Larry for the Information

Field Trips

There was a field trip to Willamete Valley Winery for their annual Grape Stomp.

There was a small turn out, but two new possible members came. We ate grapes, drank grapes, and a few stomped grapes. It was a great trip and a definite return for next year's schedule.

The images throughout the newsletter are from that trip.

Last Note:

Clinic Night has a new destination. It is **NO LONGER** at Chuck Colvin Ford, Thank you Sandy Colvin for opening your doors to us.

For the month of October the Clinic Night will be held at Stuart's home. Thank you Stuart for opening your home.

Please check the website on Tuesday evenings for Clinic Night up-dates. The location will be changing every month for a while.

There are no collaborations on articles submitted. Although some may run a long similar lines, it is by pure coincidence.



Congratulations Krista! Good Job!