

January 2008
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N' FOCUS

Special Points of Interest:

- New Year! New Look! New Issue! New Editor!
- Check out the Tips & Tricks column on page 2!
- Shooting in Winter? Take care of your gear and you! See page 3.
- See back page for important contact information!

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Yamhill Valley Camera Club's Monthly Newsletter!

The Passion of Photography...

By Ed Eisenberger, YVCC President

First, thank you Scott.

Thank you for devoting the time and energy to publish this First Edition of our Newsletter.

Like most of us, I believe, Scott's motivation comes partially from his *passion* for photography. His passion is, in effect, why he does what he does. And the rest of us do what we do, either as a vocation or as a hobby.

Once, and not long ago, the passion for photography carried with it a much different connotation:

Long hours packing gear, setting up that same gear, studiously analyzing shooting conditions (lighting, film speed, f-stops and apertures, depth of field, and a host of other variables), in an attempt to capture one or two moments, a single image, on a sheet of film.

Smaller format cameras changed all that. When I hear people complain because their high capacity memory card only holds 400 or some other nonsensical number of exposures, I think back to the

more recent time when we all carried 24 and 36 exposure rolls of film, and lots of them, to satisfy our passion.

The challenge was the passion and vice versa.

Today we carry digital cameras with gazillions of exposures available at the push of a button. We upload them to our computer, edit them in our favorite digital editing program, and post them on web sites.

(see "Passion" on Back page)

Letter From Your New Editor

At the December Club meeting those in attendance had an interesting discussion regarding where the Club is now, and where it's heading. At that meeting, I made certain statements challenging the Club members to improve the condition of our organization.

Well, here I am putting my "money where my mouth is." Since our previous Newsletter Editor appears not to have continued their membership, I would like to assume that role.

And—although this may

be a bit presumptuous of me—knowing how our Club likes volunteers, I have gone ahead and started a new year of issues. I hope that this is OK with the members, and trust I will hear either way.

But understand that I will be putting more pressure on our members to submit articles! We have too much knowledge and experience in our Club to not tap into it.

Some ideas I have for more Newsletter content are the addition of a Tips

& Tricks column. Submit any tips and/or tricks you have for making our hobby easier, better, and more fun. We'll also have a Q&A column. Submit any questions you have regarding photography, digital photo editing, or any other photo related topic, and we'll see if we can't tap into our clubs knowledge base to get you an answer. I'll also continue the "interviews" of our members, too. It's a neat way to get to know our fellow photogs!

(See "Letter" on Page 2)

Your Questions Answered



While waiting for the new questions to start coming in, I figured it would be OK to borrow a great question from my buddy George Lepp:

Q: *Can you give me some advice on working with histograms? How do I know the image has detail in both the highlights and the shadows?* T. Caucutt, Twentynine Palms, CA

A: The histogram is one of the most important features at your disposal in digital imaging. Not only

at the time of digital capture, but also while you're editing your image later in Photoshop.

The histogram represents the tonal values in the subject you're photographing (and if there's more contrast than your sensor can handle, you can't get detail in both highlights and shadows). A photograph of a young gorilla will have most of the graph on the dark half because there will be few pixels in the white or gray area, unless there are

highlights on the fur. The same concept would hold true for a white swan in the snow. Nearly all of the pixels would be to the right in the histogram.

In any histogram, you need to be sure that you keep detail in the important dark and light areas. The left side shows the dark pixels and the right side shows the light pixels. Be certain that the pixels on the black end aren't abruptly chopped against the far left edge

(see "Questions" page4)

Tips & Tricks

Keep a white terry cloth towel in your camera bag. Not only can you use it to keep your knees clean by laying it down in the dirt, you can wipe your camera clean and/or dry, and it makes a great make-shift reflector!

The next time you go shooting at the coast, take a variety of sizes of zip-lock bags. Fill them 3/4

full of sand and place that bag inside another bag. Viola!, instant stabilization bags for using when a tripod is too bulky or heavy. Just place one under your camera and/or lens to provide support.

After wiping the elements of your lens with a lens cleaning tissue, get in the habit of using it to do a quick wipe

down of your LCD panels and then the rest of your camera.

Got any tips and tricks for making our hobby better, easier, and more fun? Submit them to your Newsletter Editor!

scott@mainstphotoevents.com

"Why would you carry a terry cloth towel in your camera bag? Put sand in a zip-lock bag? Use a lens tissue on your camera? Read this month's Tips & Tricks!"

"Letter" (cont. from Front Page)

OK, there you have it. I've stepped up. What about you? How are you going to help make our Club experience the best it can be?

SCOTT CARL

Submit your articles, ideas, tips & tricks, etc. to scott@mainstphotoevents.com. Some submissions may be edited for content, space, etc.



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There's nothing to shoot!

Winter gear care tips

By Scott Carl

Winter is upon us!! Oh, I know what you're thinking: "Yay. All of the flowers are gone, most of the trees are nude, and there's nothing to shoot. Nothing, nothing, nothing!"

OK, I have a confession to make. I LOVE shooting in the winter months! Being a big fan of black and white images, I feel that nothing provides for more mood in this type of photography than the sparseness and desolation of winter scenes.

Now, I have yet to capture a great winter image, but I keep trying! And I'm sure that even after I bring home a few images that satisfy me, I'll be back out there when the leaves are gone and the temperatures plummet.

Speaking of plummeting temperatures, it's important to remember a few things when going out during the colder months.

Batteries. Always start your trip with new or freshly charged batteries. Your batteries are really going to take a beating from the cold, so the stronger they are the better they will fare. Try to keep them—and any spares—close to your body when in extremely cold conditions. However, DO NOT put any batteries in a pocket that you carry any metallic items (change, pocket knife, nail clippers, etc.) in. Better yet, keep your spares in plastic "sandwich" bags. This should help avoid embarrassing "Hey, your pocket's on fire!" comments produced from accidental short circuits.

Camera. Not only will keep-

ing your camera tucked inside your coat keep the rain and/or snow at bay, it also helps keep the batteries and circuitry warm. And for non-digital shooters, it'll also keep your film warm and pliable. Yes, if it gets cold enough film can freeze and break inside your camera! Not only can this put a cramp in your day, it could put a halt to your photographic outing altogether!

Lenses. Lenses also benefit from the protection of your coat. But at the end of your shooting day, place any lenses that you've had out in the cold in plastic bags. This allows the entire lens to warm up at the same pace, thus reducing the chance of condensation forming on the inside elements. And condensation is moisture, and moisture is the breeding ground for fungus! And fungus on the inside of a lens is a very expensive repair at the least. Most likely, you'll be shopping for a replacement lens.

Tripod. An often overlooked piece of gear at the end of every photo excursion is our trusty ole tripod. How often do we return home, lean our tripod into the corner, and pay attention only to our camera and lenses? Take a moment to wipe down your tripod, too. Sure, most are made of aluminum and won't rust, but that doesn't mean that they won't corrode! And especially if you've had the legs in salt water. If you have, be sure to rinse them with fresh water and wipe them dry. Dry is the key! Don't spray them with WD-40 or oil. That just attracts and

holds dirt, sand, etc., and that will wear them out sooner. Wipe your tripod with a clean cloth before storage.

Taking care of your gear is always essential, but especially so during harsher weather shooting. The longevity of your investment will increase with your attention.

But make sure you take care of yourself, too. If you plan on hiking out into the snow, take lots of water. It doesn't matter if it's cold outside, you still need to make sure that you're properly hydrated. And wear comfortable gloves. The glove/mitten combos are really good for photography. Also, be sure to wear a good hat or cap that covers your head well. We all know that more heat is lost through the top of your noggin than anywhere else.

Just don't overdo it. Hypothermia slows down our reactions and disguises the feelings of tiredness. Take it slow and easy.

Following these simple steps will make cold weather photography a pleasant experience. It's up to you to find good subjects, though!

Oh, and if you want to get together sometime to do some shooting, feel free to call or email me.

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"OK, I have a confession to make. I LOVE shooting in the winter months!"

December Club Meeting Minutes

Dear Club Members,

Following are the minutes from the December club meeting.

Attendance: 17

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE:

December's Clinic Night is on Thursday, December 27th at 7:00pm

The location has not changed it is still at Main Street Photography & Events
(203 W Main St, Carlton, OR 97111 (503) 852-0092)

The website is being updated please remember to check for any updates or special information. www.yamhillcameraclub.org

REMINDER: 2008 Yamhill Camera Club Calendars are now on sale for \$15.00 each. These will be available again at the January meeting plus they can also be picked up at

Hidden Treasures Gallery, 540 Ne 3rd St, McMinnville, OR 97128 (503) 883-0353
Shutterbug – 323 Ne Davis St, McMinnville, OR 97128 (503) 434-2777

We will be having a special election at the January meeting for the position of Vice President and Field Trip Committee. Julie Carl and Marta Goertzen will be meeting on the 27th to pull together a list of nominees and to contact them to see if they would be interested. If you have any interest in either one please contact Marta at mdg1735@msn.com.

Short sweet and to the point this month!

We look forward to seeing you on January 8th.

Sincerely,

Marta Goertzen
Secretary
Yamhill Camera Club

"Questions" (cont. from page 2)

because this would signify that there isn't any detail in the image of the dark areas of the gorilla, for example. Conversely, be sure that the pixels aren't chopped at the right edge because that would signify that the contained no detail in the brighter white areas of the swan.

If you clip detail at either side and have a gap at the other, you're wasting your sensor's capabilities. Change exposure to move pixels, from the clipped

side into the gap.

The histogram is a tool to help you judge where the tones in an image will reside in the digital form, compared to where they are in real life. It will save you from overexposed and underexposed images, and give you a capture in the field that you know can be optimized to its highest potential in the final digital file or print.

For information on upcoming seminars and digital imaging workshops, visit www.geolepp.com or www.leppphoto.com.

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"The histogram is a tool to help you judge where the tones in an image will reside in digital form, compared to where they are in real life."

New Year, Old Traditions, Space Goal...

By Scott Carl

Happy New Year, one and all! Wow, here we are in 2008. Where did good ole 2007 go, eh? I miss it already – especially when writing out checks. Rats! Wrote the wrong date again....

Now, I don't know about you, but I stopped making resolutions a couple of decades ago. Spending energies fretting over inevitable failure seemed rather ridiculous. So, I became a quitter, instead. Yep, quit making 'em.

But if you are inclined to make resolutions, I have a few that I might suggest:

- Strive to improve at least one area of your photography. Whether it is understanding Bokeh, or just improving your panning skills, take on this easy goal and make **some** improvement.

- Pass on your knowledge to others. This could be as simple as helping a child understand how to use a disposable camera, or as weighty as teaching a class in Photoshop. But do the world of photography a favor and pass along the aspects of the craft you feel confident in. It's a great "hobby," so why not share it?

- Vow to take better care of your equipment. C'mon, you know what I'm talking about. Try putting that lens away with both caps **firmly** in place. Do a regular check on your sensor to make sure those little splotches don't ruin one more image. Try not to just toss the ole, reliable Point & Shoot in the passenger seat when returning to your car after that long, tiring hike. Just be sure to treat your gear with the proper respect, and it will last many, many years.

- Give \$5 to the Club Newsletter Editor. No, you shouldn't know why. It's a fine resolution, nonetheless.

- Find someplace you've never photographed before and photograph it as completely as you can. Start with your own back yard. Seriously, how have you captured your own surroundings? A great

"shooter's block" assignment I give myself is to capture the wonderful things that I have right out my own back yard. Try to do so in a way that someone from the Gobi desert would say "Wow!"

- Become more active in the Camera Club. OK, OK, this smacks of blatant promotion. But consider why you joined. Was it just to sit back and "phone it in?" Whether you'd like to think so, or not, you are a valuable member. Even if to simply volunteer to judge at competition, or to put together a presentation on your last vacation that filled 16 gigabytes of cards. Become an active participant. Like all things, the more you put in, the more you get out!

- Realize that it's OK not to completely understand Photoshop. Seriously. How many names can you count while the program is starting up? Too many. There is no one person who understands every aspect of the program. Just learn those parts that are important to you right now. When you're comfortable with those skills, seek out new techniques and continue building your knowledge base. You will never master the entire program, so stop thinking about it!

- Seriously, give that \$5 resolution some thought...

Well, there you have it. Even though I have the tendency to blather on, it's really a short list. I'm sure you'll come up with plenty of other ideas on your own. Just make them obtainable. Don't set yourself up for failure before you even start.

Now, I've got to go start my first training session towards becoming a Cosmonaut. Yep, I'm gonna be in space by the end of October. Wish me luck...

"Spending energies fretting over inevitable failure seemed rather ridiculous. So, I became a quitter, instead."

Yamhill Valley Camera Club

Current Officers

President

Ed Eisenberger
president@yamhillcameraclub.org

Vice President

To be name later
vicepresident@yamhillcameraclub.org

Secretary

Marta Goertzen
secretary@yamhillcameraclub.org

Treasurer

Gary Werner
treasurer@yamhillcameraclub.org

Newsletter Editor

Scott Carl
newslettereditor@yamhillcameraclub.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.yamhillcameraclub.org

"Passion" (cont. from Front Page)

Does any of this fuel the passion?

Maybe the web doesn't help? Posting a photograph there usually gets a comment or two from someone who obviously has no idea what you are trying to do because they haven't seen your work in context. But the heart isn't in it.

The problem here might be the lack of collaboration, *stimulation* really, that is lacking on our ubiquitous computers. Part of the passion is the showing of our photographs, the discussion of and about them, and sometimes the defense of them. To discuss photography is exciting, remarkable, extraordinary. Images are powerful.

But they have also become easy to do, and the fact that everyone has the ability to take a picture - *even with their phone* -

has made too many lazy.

Intellectual laziness leads to stunted growth and loss of imagination, a loss of *passion* and no simple way to define anything. Weston's daybooks were fascinating to me; I read them time and time again. Ansel Adams' print journals were (are) fascinating and filled with passion for his craft. No, you don't have to agree with him or his approach, but you need to see and hear what he had to say so you know whether or not you agree. That means taking the time to learn the craft, and the heart of photography.

Anyone can push a button. It takes no decision making skills. Just hold it up and 'push.' But the heart of photography is what the exposure is of.

Why that image? Why that light? Why that angle? Why that time of

day? Why that film. Why b&w, why not color? Why?

Every one of those and dozens more can be asked. Can they be answered by someone who doesn't have their heart in the game? Their passion? Passion is the reason for photography. It is the thing that drives people to spend a lifetime to capture a few minutes of their life in a still image. Passion is what makes us say in effect... "Hey, look and see what I saw." Passion is what makes so many keep doing it long after the money stops coming in or age slows the process.

And it is the collaboration of ideas, the stimulation of thought, and exchange of ideas through clubs and organizations and meetings like ours that feeds and fuels our motivation for our craft and our passions for the photographs we make.

About Our Organization...

The **Yamhill Valley Camera Club** provides excellent opportunities for local photographers through monthly meetings, competitions, workshops and field trips. We welcome

photographers of all levels of expertise, from the beginner to the seasoned professional.

Our members are friends and we have a great time

when together. Of course, we all have the common interest of photography and learn a great deal.

Consider becoming a member **today!**

**YAMHILL VALLEY
CAMERA CLUB**
McMinnville, OR 97128



**YOUR NAME
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CITY, ST 12345**