

February 2008
Volume 3, Issue 2



N' FOCUS

Special Points of Interest:

- New Year! New Look! New Issue! New Editor!
- Check out the Tips & Tricks column on page 2!
- New Monthly Column from our very own Marta Goertzen! See page 3.
- See back page for important contact information!

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Yamhill Valley Camera Club's Monthly Newsletter!

Sunshine, sunshine, where for art thou, Sunshine?

By Scott Carl, YVCC Newsletter Editor

Ah, February. The month for romance! Sweet lovers' embrace, intimate giggling from across the way, stolen glances among the sexes, heart shaped boxes full of chocolates...

BLECH!!

Who cares about all of that icky stuff? What I want to know is **when is the good weather coming back!** It's been about four months since we've seen the sun and been

warm outside! I'm tired of being locked up inside this dark, dank place I call home! OK, that may be a slight exaggeration, but it sure feels like it, doesn't it?

So, I guess we'll have to find ways of keeping our skills honed. Even if it's on the neighbors cats as they stare out of the windows across the street. We've already had our fill of snow shots, rain streaked windows, and

we're pretty darned fed up with the colors gray and brown!

But what about the things we can do inside? "Huh? **Indoor** photography?" I'm sure you're gasping at the very thought of shooting inside your own home. But give it a whirl. Try shooting something interesting that occupies some recess of your abode.

(see "Sunshine" on Back page)

Letter From The Editor

Wow! Yep, that's all I really have to say about it. Wow!

As some of you may recall, at the January meeting I mentioned that I would love to have some articles from our Club members. And, boy, did they ever step up!

This month we launch a new column by our very own Marta ("the Kiaser") Goertzen. She has agreed to share with us her ideas, reviews, opinions, and photographic secrets that she has amassed in her brain!

Thanks very much for stepping up to the plate, so to speak, Marta!

And another Club member has graced us with their writing skills. Larry Kurtz has generously written a wonderful story about his decision to "go digital." We've all been there (OK, most of us old-timers have) and it's interesting to read about Larry's struggle with the decision. Look for Part 1 in this issue, and finish with Part 2 next month. Thanks to you, too, Larry!

We've got some more

excellent Tips & Tricks this month, another fun Q&A column, the usual Club minutes, and another great letter from our Club President. I'm still looking for articles, so don't think I've got all I need – keep 'em coming!

We're also looking for questions for the Q&A column, Tips & Tricks are also greatly desired and appreciated. Don't worry if you think your idea isn't worthy of inclusion in these pages. Everyone

(See "Letter" on Page 2)

Your Questions Answered

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

Q: *I've been told that fixed-focal-length lenses are sharper than equivalent zoom lenses. Does this mean I have to buy and carry a lot of lenses to get the sharpest images?*
C. Crider, Detroit, Michigan

A: The potential of single-

focal-length lenses allows for some advantages in the area of edge-to-edge sharpness, but the disadvantage is that you have to change position or lenses to optimally frame your subject, and you have to carry a lot of lenses. Most pros rely on zooms for most focal lengths other than extreme telephotos and extreme wide-angles. Today's zooms are capable of performance very close to individual focal lengths within their range. The

limiting factor is photographer technique. By working smartly with a zoom, a photographer can get the best performance from it—use a tripod and an aperture that maximizes sharpness from that lens, usually $f/8$ to $f/16$. Keep in mind that zooms are weakest at their maximum aperture and extreme focal lengths.

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Tips & Tricks

Thanks to Mike Heath who forwarded this tip from Consumer Reports: 'Even though they cost a couple of dollars each, lithium AA cells like Energizer e2 are the best performers in digital cameras. They'll last up to 7 times longer than Duracell batteries and you can take 605 shots before replacing them. But don't waste these long-life batteries on hand-held music players or Game Boys, where nickel-metal hydride re-

chargables are a better value.'

Tom Catrell probably didn't realize it, but he provided a great tip during a recent photo excursion: When you're out on a hike making images, be sure to turn around every now and then to see "where you've been." Often, this differing view will present photo opportunities you might never have had if you just kept plodding along. Good advice, Tom!

When taking pictures of a sunset, an easy way to add interest to the photo is to incorporate a silhouette. Whether it's a mountain range, boat, or person, incorporating an object that is part of the environment will help make your picture more interesting.

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

"What kind of batteries are better for digital cameras? Why would you want to walk backwards while photographing? Want to take better sunset pics? Read this month's Tips & Tricks!"

"Letter" (cont. from Front Page)

has something they can contribute! I'll be looking for my first interview for the March issue, too. So be prepared! I might just call on you!

Thanks again to our two great members who have stepped up to the plate. It's just the kind of participation we've been longing to see in our Club!

And I hope to be able to include **your** article soon!

Keep shooting,

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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Just My 2 Cents

By Marta Goertzen

Okay so the challenge was issued to submit articles or a series of articles to Scott for the club newsletter. I am accepting that challenge so my series of articles will be called "Just My 2 cents". Things that I come across, books I review, some thoughts I have on photography, take it or leave it, comments are welcome! So here we go...

Just my 2 cents...What is the subject of this photo?

How many of you have developed that roll of film or downloaded your pics to your computer and wonder, what in the world was I thinking??? What was I trying to accomplish with that one? Oh the lament of every photographer. One thing I have noticed in our club and in the multitude of useless pictures that sit on my hard drive is that a good 50-60% of the time there is no strong subject in the image. Many newbies (and oldies) may wonder why a picture does not do well in competition. Technically it is beautiful, great depth of field, it is sharp where it needs to be, colors are not blown out but still it does not do well. Many times it is because there is no focal point, nothing

that says "This is why I took the photo!"

This is a part of my own photography that I struggle with all the time. With the advent of affordable digital cameras there is a huge discrepancy between how many pictures are taken and how many of those are okay, good or even excellent. Digital cameras are awesome tools and I have learned so much since I got mine but....I have also gotten lazy, sometimes forgetting the foundation of photography. Are my camera settings correct? How is the lighting? Is my horizon straight (thanks to Gene I'll never forget that one!!!)? How is the rule of thirds? ...and just as important, what is the subject of this photo?

When on a fieldtrip it can be so easy to be on a mission to see how many memory cards can I fill up? How many pictures can I take in this short amount of time? Instead it is time to change my focus and maybe even say how few pictures can I take? It is time for me to go for quality not quantity.

Is subject matter subjective? Absolutely, but think about those images that move you,

the images in competition where everyone goes wow! What is it about those images that stop you in your tracks? Usually the images that grab you have a simple theme and one incredible subject for you to focus on; you know immediately the purpose of the picture.

For me photography is a chance to get outside, to be in the moment and hopefully to relax and enjoy the beauty all around me. Photography can be a frustrating and yes an expensive hobby but it also can be oh so rewarding. There is that magic moment, that moment of anticipation when you download those images and you say wow! I remember taking that picture! I remember how it felt to be there! The subject is strong and memorable and when others look at it hopefully they will feel it too....but only if your image says yes! This is why I took the photo!

That is "Just my 2 cents"!
Marta Goertzen
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Marta Goertzen

"When on a fieldtrip it can be so easy to be on a mission to see how many memory cards can I fill up?"

BONUS TIP! "Home-made" Incident Light Meter *by Glenn Zander*

Before they started putting light meters into cameras, photographers could use two different kinds of light meters: reflected light meters and incident light meters. The reflected light meter measured the light coming off of the subject. The incident light meter measured

the light that was falling on the subject *i.e.*, the strength of the light source. A suggestion I learned about some years ago was to make your camera with its built in light meter into an incident light meter by sticking a styrofoam cup over the lens of the camera,

standing or sitting in the place where your subject is going to be, aiming the camera and the cup at the light source and taking a reading of that light with the camera. You can spend money to get disks that fit over the front of your lens, but I've

found that this system gives me a good starting point for measuring the exposure.

That's it....

- Glenn Zander
YVCC Member and all around good guy!

January Club Meeting Minutes

Dear Club Members,

Following is the January Meeting Minutes

January 2008 YVCC Meeting

Attendance: 22 people

New newsletter premiers tonight:

- Newsletter editor is Scott Carl.
- Scott is looking for articles, tips n' techniques
- Can be put on website, be snail mailed, or emailed
- If you are not comfortable speaking in front of group but would like to share, the newsletter is a great alternative.
- Scott will be pushing for ideas to write about or for you to write!

Welcome back our VP Daniel Hurst

New Business

Treasurer Report

Still have money in bank! \$2156.93 balance beginning of January 2008

Thanks Gary !

Ideas for meetings

Not many ideas have been put forth – Our Pres. Ed needs and wants ideas!

Ed would like to have a gadget bag night – bring your photo gadget bag show and tell what is used and how it is used.

February Meeting: What's in Your Gadget Bag???

Club Report Competition Results :

November Standings – 3rd place with 291 total points

HM-Surreal-Marilyn Affolter

December

HM – Winged Wonders – Sorry Didn't Get the Name!

HM – Ron Enoch - Ramona Falls

Award of Merit – Watching Eyes - Sandi Colvin

Judging:

If you have any questions guidelines are posted on the website, review these as a reminder if you are a judge be familiar with these guidelines. It is always a good idea to review these rules and guidelines on a regular basis.

Stuart & Ed both suggest that we may want to consider interclub scoring – joining up with different clubs to score each others competition night.

February Meeting: Practice judging for all attendees.

If we all practice and start to feel comfortable the bigger judging pool we have to draw from and gives everyone a chance to participate in club activities!

Sincerely,

Marta Goertzen
Secretary
Yamhill Camera Club

"If you are not comfortable speaking in front of group but would like to share, the newsletter is a great alternative!"

Phear of Photoshop, Part 1

By Larry Kurtz

Was it fear? Was it stubbornness? Was it age? I don't know, but I resisted switching from film to digital for years. Oh, we had a point-and-shoot 3.2 megapixel (mpx) digital camera we used to take photos at family gatherings, and, yes, I dabbled in Photoshop on occasion, experimenting with b&w, etc., but I just never felt comfortable, even with help from a daughter in law studying graphic design at Portland State. And, I really like the darkroom experience. So what happened?

As a brief introduction, I have been dabbling in photography for some 35 years, took a b&w darkroom class my last term in college, had a darkroom in our home for many years and loved shooting b&w film, which I did almost exclusively for the past 20 years. When we moved to this area from Northeast Oregon 7+ years ago, I sold all my darkroom equipment because I assumed I'd be able to rent darkroom space and/or use a college darkroom in the area. This proved to be partially true. I was able to take a photography class at Chemeketa in Salem three times and had lots of fun and learned a lot in their darkroom. Then, through attrition due to the increasing popularity of digital photography, the b&w class was cancelled. I was, however, able to find rented darkroom space in Portland at two different places and enjoyed that experience, but then something hit me and I decided to switch to digital.

During March of most years, our family has vacationed in Death Valley over the past 30 years. Obviously, if you've been there, you know it's a photographer's paradise; and, if you haven't been there, you probably still know. In March of 2007, I took a couple of guided tours, one dealing with photographing the desert and one a lecture on the sand dunes. I was there with my 40-year-old Minolta film camera with only b&w film. I was the only one in both sessions shooting film and/or b&w. Then, on the way back from

the sand dunes lecture, I saw people taking pictures in the hills, so I stopped. The Beavertail Cacti were in bloom. Yes, you can get a great b&w image from a blooming Beavertail Cacti, but I also wanted to have some color shots to show people – tough luck, huh? Yep, I just had to deal with it! I now had to make some decisions. Do I also carry the little point-and-shoot in my camera bag? Good option. Do I carry a second film body with color that I already own and uses all the same lenses? Good option. Do I buy a better digital camera and make the switch completely and give up film? Good option.

It's a long drive home from Death Valley and gave me plenty of time as I was driving to cogitate my choices.

Option 1: Carry the point-and-shoot, too. Works, but I wanted better quality than I could get with 3.2 mpx.

Option 2: The second film body. I had done this in the past and didn't like carrying extra stuff all the time. I so seldom took a color shot I had already given up this option.

Option 3: Buy a better digital camera and make the switch. This seemed to be the logical choice. Darkroom space was an hour away, but I could make the dreadful commute down the hall at home and use Photoshop in seconds. We had Photoshop Elements 3.0 already on our computer. We have a good quality printer. Also, high quality print options are available in McMinnville.

After a lot of thought, Option 3 became, as they say, a no-brainer. Yep, I was going to make the switch.

Editor's note: This is Part 1 of a 2 part article from our Club member Larry Kurtz. Look for Part 2 in our March newsletter!

"I was there with my 40-year-old Minolta film camera with only b&w film. I was the only one in both sessions shooting film and/or b&w."

Yamhill Valley Camera Club

Current Officers

President

Ed Eisenberger
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Vice President

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Secretary

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Newsletter Editor

Scott Carl
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.yamhillcameraclub.org

"Sunshine" (cont. from Front Page)

And here's where the fun comes in: don't make the adjustment for tungsten lighting. That's right, let the yellow light fall where it will! I think you'll find it very pleasing to most compositions. It adds a bit of warmth. Of course, you can boost the saturation a wee bit in an editing program for even more warmth.

Have you ever shot at a party? Plan one! And then shoot it! Not only will this give you some experience with people shots, but it could lead to great gifts to share with the revelers. Try to organize a themed party for even more interest. We love those "Murder Mystery Dinner" parties. Man, I sure do love to laugh at my family when they're wearing those kooky get-ups. HA!

About Our Organization...

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

Anyway, the idea is to find ways to keep your "photographer's eye" working during these long, bleak months leading up to frolicking in the fields again. You've got to keep your skills exercised. Like they say, "use 'em, or lose 'em." And it's fairly accurate. Nothing feels worse than having an opportunity to make a great shot, only to miss it because of the cobwebs of winter.

And, even simple set-up shots taken within your own personal space can keep the rust from grabbing hold. Try shooting small items on top of a piece of black Plexiglas, or a mirror. If, by some strange chance, some sunlight befalls your windows, quickly throw together some items and capture the wonderful light that comes in at such ex-

treme angles this time of year. But whatever you do, don't put the camera down for too long! You must keep going!

So keep those shutters snapping away. And don't let winter win; stay photographically limber!

Oh, and I must say "I Love You" to my favorite sweetheart, my wonderful wife Julie.

Keep shooting,

SCOTT CARL

Ed. note: yes, there are a lot of articles by me this issue. I would gladly publish your article here. Just send it to me before Clinic Night for inclusion in the next issue!

scott@mainstphotoevents.com

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



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