

# Focus

## Camera Club of Richmond

This month the *Journal's* occasional feature entitled *Focus*, which showcases a member or member club, turns to a club that joined the Photographic Society of America (PSA) in 1937, the **Camera Club of Richmond (CCR)**. The club has 142 members who meet on the second Wednesday of every month at the Science Museum, in Richmond, Virginia.

Elena McTighe,  
APSA, PPSA  
Publications Vice  
President

Established in 1931 as the *Amateur Photographers Club*, the club quickly established a relationship with the Virginia Museum, which wished to start a permanent collection of photographic works. "After more than 75 years of service to the community, the Club's original aims continue to be dedicated to the furtherance of photographic knowledge and to the thesis that photography is indeed a fine art. The divisions of color slides, monochrome prints, color prints, and digital works, all enhance the joy of photography and embrace the changes in the photographic world." (*Taken from the CCR Website.*)

**Karen Molzhon**, Vice President of The Camera

Club of Richmond (Virginia) tells that, "CCR will proudly begin the celebration of its 80th year in the Spring of 2011. As a kickoff to this celebration, the Club was thrilled to bring Bryan Peterson to the historic Byrd Theater in Richmond on April 9, 2011, for a full day presentation entitled, *Understanding Exposure and Learning to See Creatively.*"

CCR has embarked on a new program with the *William Byrd Community House* ([www.wbch.org/](http://www.wbch.org/)), which provide services to children in need from the Richmond area. An after school photography program has been developed and taught by some club members. It began in March of 2011 and



**Carole L. Hagaman, FPSA  
PSA Representative**

*Members of the  
Camera Club of  
Richmond help  
Shutter Buddies  
learn photography.  
Photo © Karen  
Molzhon*





Club members with Shutter Buddies.  
Photo © Karen Molzhon

the club couldn't wait for the program to begin. Canon® donated cameras and members of CCR will donate their time and efforts to helping the children learn photography.

The club has a rich program for its members, which includes: Evaluations of members work performed every other month; periodic workshops; photo shoots to areas of interest; a mentoring program, and membership competitions.

In January 2011 the club conducted a 5-hour beginner Digital SLR workshop at the Tuckahoe Library. This was a free event where the public was invited to bring their camera and camera manual.

The club publishes a monthly newsletter entitled *Southern Exposure*, which is available on the club's website. <http://www.cameraclubofrichmond.com/newsletter.html> ■



Club members attend the Bryan Peterson workshop.  
Photo © Peter Kapasakis.

## The Benefits of a Camera Club

Carole L. Hagaman, FPSA, PSA Representative

The Camera Club of Richmond (CCR) has been an exciting part of my life for thirty years. Having joined in 1980, I was introduced to the Photographic Society of America as CCR was a member club and I joined right away. The camera club has increased my skill levels in all areas of photography as has the Society, and I have made lasting and life-long friendships. The club has always stressed photography as an art, and its goal is to promote the art of photography through education. Our goals have become more focused on teaching and holding informative seminars as our membership has increased over the past few years to the highest level ever. As more and more photographers have become digital, they are searching for answers to the new digital world and how to become better photographers. The Camera Club of Richmond is fulfilling that need by obtaining well-known instructors and lecturers, holding seminars and field trips related to instruction and learning by experience. A new project being instituted is teaching young children about photography and how to use a camera. These children do not otherwise have access to cameras or such instruction. Members are volunteering their time and expertise to help these youngsters be introduced to a world of seeing and enjoyment of photography. There have been many extraordinary experiences for me over the years. It has been such a part of my life that my license plate states: *CCR PSA!* I am proud to be the PSA Representative of such an outstanding club, celebrating 80 years this year!