

April 2011

Volume 3 No. 4

The FOCUS

A publication of the Klamath Camera Club



Message from the president . . .

It's hard to believe that it's already May and our year is half gone. This year I'm particularly proud of our accomplishments as photographic shepherds in our community. We awarded our first ever photography scholarship to Jillian Ferguson of Henley High School. She plans to attend Portland State University this fall and our scholarship will help pay her tuition. We helped teach kids and adults to take better pictures of birds at two Migratory Bird Festivals. We hosted a photography contest and helped facilitate 14 photography workshops and field trips at Winter Wings Festival 2011. Our members have received 11 awards for their prints at the *Columbia Council of Camera Clubs* competitions this year. We had great club meetings and presentations. The camera user's group has been making advances in their studies into what makes a print great. The Nikon group enjoys sharing technology and photo tips with each other. And the newly formed Photoshop Elements classes are very popular and educational. Our photography field trips

are well attended and everyone raves about the fun they are having. It's just awesome!

We have a busy summer scheduled. Continued and more often field trips. We'll be helping again at the Klamath County Fair, taking in entries, photography display layout and hosting a booth. Our member photography show will be in August during Third Thursday. September will be the first print competition and hopefully we will be selected as the judging club. All the groups are planning activities and educational opportunities.

I'm proud to be a part of the best photography club in the country. Thanks for your support and willingness to share your love of photography with our other members and the community. Give yourselves a pat on the back. You're the best!

Steve Spencer



2011 Club Officers

President - Steve Spencer

Vice President - Ron Leifeste

Secretary - Sherry Hall

Treasurer - Aurora Simpson

Board Members - Amber Cooper, Bob Morehead, Gregg Waterman, Jack Noller, and Richard Zbinden

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The Klamath Camera Club Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2011

Steve welcomes everyone and guest.

Old business: Scholarship application deadline is May 6th 2011. The application and information is available on the website www.klamathcameraclub.org

4Cs entries are due by April 18th at 5:00pm and judging will begin at 5:30pm. This is the last competition until Fall.

Nikon group will meet on the 3rd Monday of the month, April 18th at 6:00 pm at Leo's Camera shop.

Camera users group will meet on the 4th Tuesday on the month, April 26th at 6:30pm at the Assembly of God church. The photo assignment for April is "Ground level/ How low can you go?" The assignment for May is "Creative Lighting."

New Business: Its time for the Thornburg Photo exchange again. This is our slide show photo exchange with a fellow camera club in the United Kingdom. Please submit photos to Kathy Dynge by August. Subject matter is open, suggested subjects include: people, events, and our local area.

International Migratory Bird Day is May 14th, 2011 from 9 to 3 at Veterans Park. This is an event to educate kids on birds and birding. The club has been asked to host a booth and photo display. Volunteers need to help setup and answer photo related questions. Please contact Cindy Flackus.

PSA is having a newsletter contest for 2011 please email interesting articles, pictures, tips, etc. to Kathy Dynge at packdonkey@clearwire.net.

A hands on Photoshop Elements class to cover basic tools will be offered on April 19th at 6:30pm. This will hopefully be an ongoing class to build knowledge of photo editing software.

The U-pull It junk yard field trip is weather pending and forecasted for a Sunday in June and a Fort Rock camping trip is being discussed for May.

3rd Thursday events start up May 19th. We will be selling raffle tickets again as a fundraiser and are looking for framed photo donations size 11x14 and up for the raffle. Please contact Steve.

Presentation by Janell Cotterman featuring photography from her trip to Sedona, Arizona where it snowed during her visit.

Klamath Camera Club Users Group

Klamath Camera Club Users Group (formerly Photo Technique Group) is open to all members, **all cameras**, and has specific photo projects, field trips and critiques. The emphasis is on learning various techniques to create strong imagery by sharing pictures for critique. Those techniques are discussed during the critiques and by those with insight to them. Specific lessons are tied to them as needed as well as discussion of any camera specific features. Next month's assignment will be Low Key Lighting. See some samples in this issue page 6 & 8.

Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of the month at at 6:30 p.m. at the

Assembly of God Church

next to

Ponderosa Jr. High School.

**Please use the gym entrance which is on
the lower side of the church.**

Call Kathy at 541-591-9754 if you need directions to the meeting place.

NOTE new phone number

Klamath Camera Club Member of the Month

The Member of the Month is Ron Leifeste

How did you first get into photography?

Other than taking snapshots with my parents Ansco Panda when I was in grade school, my real start in photography began my senior year in high school at Sacred Heart Academy. I was taking a journalism class and was asked if I would take pictures for the school yearbook. When I said yes, I was handed a 2 1/4" format Yashica twin lens reflex camera. I also learned how to develop the film and make prints in the school dark room. I had to shoot everything from portraits to sports.

What do you know now that you wish you had known when you started?

I wish that I had thought of photography when I

started college and how much I would enjoy doing it. I just couldn't figure out what I wanted to do in life.

What type of camera do you use most?

Nikon D-80

What is your favorite lens?

70-200mm 2.8VR

Could you share a favorite recent image and tell us the story behind it?

Kimble Park. I love the fall color. Usually the water is very still and the sky is very blue. I was using a Nikon D-70 with the 18-70mm G kit lens. I was on my way up to Crater Lake that day.



Photo by Ron Leifeste



Nikon User's Group

Meets 6:00pm - 7:30 pm third Monday of each month.

Klamath Camera Club Nikon Users will meet to talk about Nikon technology and photography related issues about using Nikon cameras.

Bring your camera as we will experiment with different settings and accessories.

Location : 437 Main Street

Contact : Steve 541-882-3331

Here's What's Happening:

May 14 - 8:30am to 3:00pm at Vet's Park - Migratory Bird Day Booth - display bird photos, answer photo questions, sell raffle tickets, and guide tours with kids - Lunch Provided to event volunteers - Contact [Cindy Flackus](#) 541-810-4003

May 16 - 6:00pm to 7:30pm at Leo's Camera Shop - Nikon Users Group - Bring your Nikon for tips and tricks using your camera - [Steve Spencer](#) 541-882-3331

May 17 - 6:30pm to 8:00pm at Assembly of God Church - Photoshop Elements Training - Bring your computer and learn Photoshop tips - [Kathy Dyng](#) 541-591-9754

May 19 - 6:00pm to 9:00pm at Leo's Camera Shop - Third Thursday Raffle ticket sales

May 21 - 8:00am to 2:00pm at Tulelake Refuge Headquarters - Migratory Bird Day Booth - display bird photos, answer photo questions, sell raffle tickets, and guide tours with kids - Lunch provided to event volunteers - Contact [Cindy Flackus](#) 541-810-4003

May 24 - 6:30pm to 8:00pm at Assembly of God Church - Camera Users Group - Assignment is Creative Lighting. Bring an example images to share - [Kathy Dyng](#) 541-591-9754

June 13 - 6:30pm to 8:00pm at Klamath Co. Community Room 4th & Pine St. - Club Meeting - Photo Critique Session - [Steve Spencer](#) 541-882-3331

June 19 Afternoon - Field trip to the Junk Yard ([One Stop Auto Wreckers](#)) 247 Gage Road near UPS - [Robert Nixon](#) 541-887-0411

These events are also listed on our website for registered members - www.klamathcameraclub.org



Klamath Camera Club is a proud member of PSA

For information on joining, contact:
Photographic Society of America
3000 United Founders Blvd., Suite 103
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
405-843-1437 | toll-free (US): 855-772-4636
email: hq@psa-photo.org



We need your input in order to make this a successful newsletter.
Please send articles of interest and photos to:
Newsletter Editor Kathy Dyng
packdonkey@clearwire.net

Photo Critique Discussion

By Aurora Simpson

Place out all photos for critique up front. Everyone should get up and walk around to view photos and evaluate the image in regards to the 3 key areas below. After approx 5 minutes everyone should sit back down to start a group discussion and critique. Discussion comments should try to answer the following questions for each image.

- 1) Identify the strengths and weaknesses of image.
- 2) How could the image be improved?

Key areas for discussion:

Print Quality and Exposure quality

-Tonality

-Detail in shadows and highlights

-Contrast

Subject Matter

-How does the subject create interest?

-How is your eye drawn to the subject?

-What techniques are used to create interest in the image?

Artistic Intent

-Is it more than a snap shot? Why?

-What is the purpose of this image? What does it tell us about the subject?

-What does this image tell us about the photographer?

*Limit discussion of each image to a max of 5 minutes.

Shooting the Subject

By Dave Allgeier

I personally don't think about my subject any more as like a car or tree ect...

What I do think about is:

1. Attention on subject.
2. Does my subject stand out?
3. Simplify
 1. Where is the sun, what are the shadows doing ect.
 2. The most important part for *me* is the background. (What is going on back there?)
 3. Do you need everything in the photo or can you crop.

Not every photo is a great or even a good photo, but the ones that do turn out are better than a snapshot.

There is only one reason that I will take a photo

I JUST HAVE FUN DOING IT.



Photo by Robert Nixon

We had a large turnout at a recent User's Group meeting. All members of the Klamath Camera Club are encouraged to attend these monthly meetings. If you have any expertise or background on photography topics will you please share? Maybe conduct one of the meetings on your topic. Anyone have any suggestions for field trips? Lots of us are ready to go at the drop of a hat. If you have any special places in mind, let's discuss them.

Basic Photographic Lighting Theory

By Aurora Simpson

As I see it (no pun intended), we can break down the discussion of photographic lighting into two elements, the “quantity” of light and the “quality” of light. Or in other words, “how much” and “what kind.” There is a huge difference between the quality of light and the quantity of light. It’s all about the “photographic light quality,” “photographic light direction,” and the “quantity of the photographic light,” (only in relation to other lights).



Photo by Aurora Simpson

Brightness (Quantity): How many times have you heard the phrase “we need more light”? If you’re shooting with a tripod and you’re shooting something that doesn’t move, you really don’t need more light. You may prefer that the light be coming from a different direction, but chances are if you can see it, you can shoot it. If the shutter speed is so slow that either you or the subject will move, you will need a tripod to create a “sharp” image on film. As for a properly exposed piece of film, the amount of light needed isn’t a big deal, that’s what aperture and shutter speeds are for. Whether you stick the light right next to the subject or move it 100 feet away, you can produce a properly exposed image on film by compensating with those buttons on your camera. If you want to become a good photographer, you must understand this concept. It’s not the amount of light, it’s how you use it. (concept sound familiar?)

Main Light: What is the Main Light? The main light is the light that creates form (highlight and shadow). The sun is a great example of a main light. The main light in a picture can also be an umbrella or a Vivitar 283. Probably the most important decision you will make when creating a photograph is, where will the main light be? Should the sun be over my shoulder, or the subject’s shoulder? Should I put the subject beside the window, or in front of the window? Should I keep the flash “on camera” or should I get an extension and place the flash off to the side? Where is the best place to put the main light? The answer is... It depends. Every case is different, there is no right or wrong. If you like the final result, then you’ve made the right decision, if not, call it art. The real key is to SEE the light. See what’s being lit and not being lit. If you don’t like the results, move the light! (or the subject in reference to the light). Do you want the side of the face black? Do you want Rembrandt lighting (one side of face lit and a triangle of light on the other cheek)? Do you want those eyes in shadow? If not, move the light! See what the light is doing and then adjust. Forget about all those buttons on the camera for a minute. See what the light is lighting and what it’s not lighting. It’s very important. Where you put the main light will create smoothness (light near camera) or texture (light skimming across the subject). Light is the main tool of the photographic artist. Paint texture and darkness where you want it.



Photo by Aurora Simpson

Continued on Page 7

Basic Lighting continued from page 6

Fill Light: The light that makes the “shadow side” of things visible, we call FILL light. In photography we define the fill light as one not creating any (as few as possible) visible shadows. The best way to achieve this effect in photography is to place the fill light as close as possible to the camera’s axis. All lights, no matter where they are or how big they are, create shadows. But... by placing the fill light as near the camera as possible (and above), all the shadows that are created by that light are cast behind the subject and are therefore less visible to the camera.

Another way to create fill light is to use a “fill card.” Some photographers use large white cards, foam core or flexfills. The idea is to place the fill device on the opposite side of the subject as the “main” light, so light is back into the subject to lighten the shadows. How much light do you want to bounce back or add as fill? How close to the subject do we put the fill card? Depends...



Photo by Aurora Simpson

Light Ratio: How much fill light should I use? In other words, what should the exposure ratio of the main light to the fill light be? Should the fill be the same brightness as the main light (1:1) or should the main light be twice as bright as the fill (2:1) Again, it’s very subjective, with no right or wrong answer. Some people refer to low light ratios as “soft” light because the shadows are light and refer to high light ratios as harsh light. The basic rule of thumb is... The higher

the ratio (the less fill), the more “dramatic” the shot. If you want to create drama, use less fill light. I’ve seen some really nice pictures with very low main to fill ratios (fashion magazine covers come to mind), and I’ve seen some super shots where the sides of faces have gone completely black. Let me make a suggestion. If you can’t decide what ratio you want to use on your next portrait, try looking through magazines for pictures you really like. Are the light ratios high or low? Was the camera near the camera or far to one side? Are the eye sockets lit? Are both sides of the face lit, or just one? See what it is about other people’s photos that you like. Use that information next time you shoot. Experiment and keep notes. See what the light is doing, and adjust!

Other lights: Yes there are other lights. There are hair lights, background lights, rim lights, and god knows what other kind of lights. Don’t worry about those, that’s more advanced stuff. You can take great people pictures if you just worry about the two lights mentioned above.

Just a note of

Thanks

Thanks to several of the club’s members for contributing to this issue of *The Focus*. With your help, this has become one of our best newsletters to date. Every article was written by club members. Keep up the good work and I look forward to more of you getting involved.

Newsletter Editor
Kathy Dyng

Less is more...

By Robert Nixon

I am a firm believer in the idea of less is more. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in the idea of getting that one great image that we fail to see all the clutter around that makes the shot mediocre.

Take a look at the first shot here and you can see everything here and while it is a neat shot I wasn't happy with that look. You can see the price tags on things, you see a lot of yellow tinting of the wood. I just didn't care for this shot that much. I could see potential here and so I kept playing with my exposure and light. I took three or four more shots till I got what I wanted.



Photo by Robert Nixon

Now look at the picture to the right and you can see shadows and light interacting. I used a flash off camera to fire light in from the side and create the light and shadow you see. In this shot you can still see enough of the tools to get an idea that they are hand cranked tools.

In the computer I cropped the photo to an eight by ten aspect ratio to remove some black at the bottom and dead space at the top. Don't be afraid to work on your photos in the computer. You will often be able to take a good photo and make something great out of it with some careful developing of your image.

By shooting this shot with a shallow depth of field, underexposing it and cropping, I created an isolating effect on the tools and removed distractions from the photo. You can't see quite as much of the tools but in the end I think that the image is much more dramatic and interesting to look at.



Photo by Robert Nixon

Check out this and other images I shot on our field trip to the antique shop ...

<http://phoc.us/93164e>

Go Shoot Something!

Pet Photography

By Robert Nixon

Getting great pet photos can be a hard and very frustrating task. There are some secrets to getting the most out of your photo shoots with your pets.

- Get down on their level
- Shoot in burst mode
- Make it a game with them
- Pay attention to the light

Getting down on their level can require flexibility or a camera that can help. Sometimes you can just hold your camera low and hope for a good shot but you will get so many bad ones this is not the best technique. I use a right angle eyepiece on my DSLR so I look down into the camera. Many new cameras are coming with a flip-out screen that can help with this as well. This idea of shooting low gives you a perspective that you rarely see unless you make it a habit of laying on the ground.

Shooting in burst mode is a good idea because pets are fast and you never know what you might be able to get if you fire several shots off at once as they are moving. Trying to get the perfect moment can be tricky and this can help.

Make your photography a game to them. Throw a ball or get them to “Stay” and then call them to you as you take your photos while they are running. If you get frustrated your pet will most likely get frustrated as well so keep it fun.

Paying attention to the light is important because you want to have them lit well but still have their eyes open and not squinting closed. The darker color your pet is the more important this little technique is.

The photo below was part of a series of shots I took in burst mode. I was holding the camera near the ground and it helped to make him look bigger. Get out there and shoot some great photos of your pets.



Photo by Robert Nixon

**The Klamath Camera Club meets each second Monday of the month at
The Klamath Community Room, 133 North 4th Street,
Klamath Falls, Oregon.
Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.**

**Club dues are \$25 a year
Visit our website at:
klamathcameraclub.org**

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