

SHORES CAMERA CLUB **FOCUS**

January 2009

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SHORES
CAMERA CLUB WHICH MEETS IN DAYTONA
BEACH SHORES, FLORIDA.

Featured Picture of the Month



**Tri- Image
2nd Place Advanced Safari
by
Joan Robinson**



January Program

January 8th at 7 pm

The program for the next meeting is our annual awards banquet.

It is the time when the Photographer of the Year is selected.

The Beginner Photographer of the year, and certain others will be moved up to Advanced Rating.

These Photographers have been chosen by the scores they have made on their pictures for the year.

The business part of the meeting will install the new officers and committee chairmen. Then of course there is the pot luck dinner for the evening, and surely you already know what you are bringing. I hope Amy knows also, since she is in charge of the whole thing.

Special Notice

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Beth Daugherty for leaping into the breach, and taking the presidency last year. It saved us from a lot of embarrassment over the year. I don't think any of us realized till then how badly we needed to have a president for the club.

I really appreciate her doing it, and I think every one should give her a cheer for the effort.

Speaking for the members of the club,
your friendly editor, Ann Dahm

Subject Themes for 2009

2009 COMPETITIONS

February-----Neon

March-----Natural Frames { existing in nature, not artificial border to enclose a image }

April-----Transportation { a means of transporting, as a vehicle, etc. }

May-----Candles { an image with candles in it }

June-----Birds

July-----Flowers
 August-----Shadows { a comparative
 darkness within an illuminated area }
 September-----Soft Focus { a deliberate
 slight blurring giving a hazy appearance }
 October-----Action Shots
 November-----Geometric { a form of
 characteristic straight lines, bars, crosses,
 zigzags, etc. }
 December-----Texture { character of
 threads, fabric, structure of a surface, rough
 texture, etc. }

YTD Point Count December Points

Monthly Competition Winners For December

Advanced Assigned

1. Stephanie Toups
2. Amy Holley
3. Marlene Daily
4. Bob Krakosky

Advanced Open

1. Joan Robinson
2. Steven Underwood
3. Larry Crivelli
4. Amy Holley

Advanced Safari

1. Stephanie Toups
2. Joan Robinson
3. Joan Robinson
4. none

Beginner Assigned

1. Kyle Berris
2. Kyle Berris
3. Jason Holley
4. Jason Holley

Beginner Open

1. Ron Tucholski
2. Marsha Tucholski
3. Kyle Berris
4. Jason Holley

Beginner Safari

1. Jason Holley
2. Tom Porter
3. none

December Points

Advanced

Stephanie Toups	158
Amy Holley	103
Ann Dahm	45
Joan Robinson	135
Marlene Daily	103
Claudia Kavanagh	25
Bob Krakosky	73
Steve Underwood	34
Jim Doan	3
Larry Crivelli	84
Charlie Brockenbrough	67
Linda Harrington	6
Frank Castellano	25
Barbie Marland	26

Beginner

Jason Holley	86
Betty Karl	13
Brian Hammersley	53
Lillian Collella	35
Phil Carter	4
Kyle Berris	75
Kim Rinkenin	57
Andrew Makal	42
Sally Campagnone	58
Kristen Jorolemon	66
Lois Porter	40
Penny Sheffield	38
Beth Daugherty	13
Darrel Daily	50
Rich Tully	8
Marsha Tucholski	80
Kathleen Turley	8
Jan Letzring	21
Simon Davies	22
Jenifer Davies	10

Ron Tucholski	94
Kristi Hartley	25
Faye Sharp	1
Bob Bills	1
Kim Scaccia	1
Tom Porter	29
Bill Sacramone	6

January Workshop

January 22nd at 7 pm

Barbie Marland will be giving us a workshop on Pin Up Photography. This is an area of photography that will be completely new to most of us, so please mark it on your calendars so that you don't miss it!

The January Safari

Safari for January 10th, 2009

Time to be announced =close to dark

Will be full moon that night.

We will be taking night and neon photos on Main Street and Ocean Shoppes.

Conklin Center for The Blind

January 22

Conklin Center Open House

Celebrating 30 Years Serving the

Blind – Join us to celebrate 30 years

of service – from 12:00 pm to 5:00

pm. Tours, demonstrations, food and fun.

Shores Camera club Officers

President - Jason Holley

Vice President – Tom Porter

Treasurer – Ron Tucholski

Shores Camera club Committees

Publicity Representative – Claudia Kavanagh

Webmaster - _Stephanie Toup

Interclub Relations - Bob Krakosky

Programs –

Workshops - _Kim Rinkinen

Workshops - _Jan Letzring

Safaris (Field Trips) – Joan Robinson

Print Competition – Amy Miller

Print Competition – Steve Underwood

Print Competition - Marlene Daily

Focus Newsletter Editor - _Ann Dahm

Displays and Exhibits – Airport – Frank Castellano

Banquets / Parties – Amy Miller

PSA Representative - Stephanie Toup

Membership - Lois Porter

Handbook Editor – Claudia Kavanagh

Photo Tip

Submitted by Lloyd Hampson

“Sunrise doesn’t last all morning; a cloudburst doesn’t last all day.” But a photograph can capture them both.”

Photo Tip

Submitted by Joan Robinson

Secrets of the Night

But for a long time, night photography was also a good barometer of just how far digital cameras lagged behind old-fashioned film

cameras. The first few digital cameras were virtually useless for night shots. Early cameras freaked out when you left the shutter open too long, and the result was all sorts of digital noise that made your night pictures unusable.

We've come a long way in the last few years, though. While cameras certainly vary, I've found that recently models do a dramatically better job with long exposures than the first few generations of digital cameras. So take your digital so you can take some fun, creative, and unusual long-exposure night photos.

Set Exposure on Long

The heart and soul of night photography is the long exposure. When you take a picture at night, you'll usually measure your exposure in seconds, and that means a tripod is a must.

To avoid jostling the camera at the moment you start the exposure, I also suggest using the camera's self-timer. That way, you're not touching the camera at the moment the exposure starts. An even better solution is to use a remote trigger. Many digital cameras come with credit-card-size infrared remote controls, and they're ideal for starting an exposure without jiggling the camera.

Bracket Your Exposures

You'll find that night photography is addictive, because there's no such thing as a single correct exposure--it's all very subjective, and you're the boss. Consider this: When you shoot a picture in ordinary daylight, if you over- or underexpose your picture by very much, it's obviously "wrong." At night, though, you can take the same scene with two radically different exposures, and both may be perfectly acceptable. It's all a matter of how much light you want to let into the scene.

Try a simple cityscape, for instance. Take your camera outside and point it at a building that has some illuminated windows.

Shoot the picture twice--first with a one-second exposure, and again with a four-second exposure. Switch the camera to playback mode and compare the photos in the digital display. You should see that the longer exposure made the lights bigger and brighter, and gave the walls of the building more illumination from ambient lighting.

Capture Motion

Now for the fun part: Long exposures allow you to break away from freezing reality, and instead capture motion in your photos. Point the camera at a busy street and set the exposure for eight seconds. You should get a picture with long, multicolored trails of lights as car headlights move through the scene. Cool? I think so. You can get a million variations by tweaking the composition of the scene and the length of the exposure.

Tweaking the Aperture

So far, we've only messed with the shutter speed. What about the aperture? It can play an important role, too. A wide-open aperture, of course, can reduce the exposure time needed to get a picture. If you want to leave the shutter open for a very long time--say, 30 seconds to get long light trails--it's a good idea to shoot with a small aperture so you don't overexpose any stationary light sources in your scene. If you want to avoid motion in your scene, though, go for a short shutter speed and a big aperture.

Get Flashy

I've got one last trick for you. Suppose you want to freeze a picture of someone in the foreground while capturing motion trails of car lights in the background. You don't have to make your model stand motionless for 30 seconds. Even if you did, your subject would still be underexposed, because there isn't enough ambient light in the area to properly illuminate the person.

Instead, bring along an external flash unit from your old 35 mm camera. Position your

subject in the foreground, and start exposing the picture. Flash your subject manually, and have him or her continue to stand in place until the exposure ends.

Photo Tip

Submitted by Joan Robinson

Another night tips to help when we do Neon from Joan Robinson

Digital Night Photography

SUMMARY: A digital camera's self-timer mode can reduce some camera shake when taking night photos.

While most digital camera manuals describe the self-timer mode, where the camera takes a picture several seconds after the shutter speed is pressed, as "good for portraits", the self-timer mode can be very useful for night photos as well.

Most night photos, especially in situations where you cannot reliably use flash, require a shutter speed of half a second or longer else the subject will be too dark. This is to compensate for the lack of available light. Unfortunately, these situations, especially when you don't use a tripod, can result in camera shake.

However, if you use the self-timer mode, you might be able to get some acceptable shots just holding your camera very steady. Any shake caused by pressing the shutter button will be eliminated, as the camera will not take photos until several seconds after the button has been pressed

SUMMARY: Let your digital camera's presets help you take great night photos.

If you are just starting out taking photos at night, check to see if your digital camera has a special night program or scene mode - read your camera manual. This mode will adjust your camera settings, tuning it to low-

light conditions and possibly allowing you to take better night photos than if you were fumbling through other options. If you're not sure about adjusting exposure times and have no idea what ISO means, a one-touch setting may be all you need.

SUMMARY: Bridges can be great photo subjects at nighttime.

When taking digital photos at night, consider shooting some pictures of bridges. Though perhaps banal during the daytime, many longer bridges, especially those in populous cities, are brightly lit at nighttime. Taken from afar, these subjects can add to dramatic photos, and since the bridge is lit, you may not have to use as long of a shutter speed duration as first expected.

For example, during Super Bowl XXXIX, downtown Jacksonville's many bridges were lit up with a variety of colors. This lighting added much to the cityscape photos that were shot before the event to help advertise the town.

SUMMARY: Flash may not always help your nighttime digital photography.

While flash may be helpful in taking photos in low light conditions, there comes a point at night that flash may not help much anymore, especially onboard flash.

Flash requires light to bounce off a subject. If you are shooting dusk or late-night shots over huge expansive distances, such as a beach, cityscape, or mountain range, all flash may do is occasionally show a small annoying burst of light in your picture. If your subject is a long way away, your small flash unit will never reach your subject effectively. An expensive external flash may help some in these instances, but consider using other digital camera features when taking night photos, such as decreasing the

shutter speed, increasing the ISO settings, or using a preprogrammed night scene mode.

SUMMARY: Increase your digital camera's ISO setting to allow for less available light and introduce just a slight level of noise into your photos.

A higher ISO setting allows you to take digital photos with quicker exposures at the expense of overall image quality. This can be crucial when taking photos at night without a tripod. To get enough light for a decent photo, you may normally have to keep your digital camera still for 1/15th of a second or longer else blurred photos may result. This is extremely difficult to do if you are holding your camera; even if you brace yourself up against a wall some shake is bound to occur.

With a higher ISO setting, you could get away in the same situation with perhaps a 1/30th of a second exposure or faster. The higher the ISO number, the faster you can take the photo, but more grain (noise) will be introduced. You should be able to get by with an ISO of 200 with medium and high-end prosumer cameras. With a digital SLR, even an ISO of 400 or 800 might introduce just an acceptable level of noise into your photos.

SUMMARY: Try to add a full moon to your night photos for dramatic effect.

A full moon can be a welcome addition to any night photo, whether it is a picture of a beach, mountain range, or cityscape. It can add drama and suspense to a photograph. It can draw the viewer's eye to a particular area. And, it may make your night photo stand out from others.

To find out when a full moon is visible, you can check through almanacs, your television station's weather forecast, your local newspaper, or weather sites on the Internet

such as:

The Weather Channel -
<http://www.weather.com/>

SUMMARY: A long shutter exposure can aid in taking clear, crisp night photos with your digital camera.

One of the main tricks to taking good photos at night with your digital camera is taking long exposures of a subject. The long exposure time is needed to compensate for the low light; the longer the exposure, the longer your camera absorbs the scarcely available light. While a sunny day with plentiful illumination may only require a camera shutter to remain open for 1/250th or 1/125th of a second for clear, crisp photos, low-light conditions may require decreased shutter speeds of 1/15th of a second or longer.

Check your digital camera manual for instructions on changing the shutter speed - it is usually the "S" in the "PASM" or "ASM" camera setting modes

SUMMARY: Special lens may help you take better night photos by reducing 'camera-shake'.

One way to take better digital photos at night, especially if you do not have a tripod, is to either purchase a digital camera with vibration reduction technology (such as a Minolta DiMAGE A2), or to purchase a digital SLR camera that supports lens with anti-shake technology, such as:

- * Nikon with vibration reduction (VR)
- * Canon with image stabilization (IS)

These technologies help reduce "camera-shake" inherent when taking long exposures at night without a tripod or other camera stabilization device.

SUMMARY: Shooting photos at dusk may provide your digital camera with just enough light to take great cityscape photos.

If you are looking for a great nighttime cityscape picture, consider taking your photos at dusk instead of in the pitch black of night. The sky is dark at dusk, but not so dark to prevent some degree of sunlight entering your digital camera, making it easier to take hand-held photos that do not result all blurry due to 'camera-shake'. Dusk only lasts for a little while, so research your shot locations beforehand. Plus, check the local newspaper or visit a weather website for the sunset time, and be prepared to shoot photos around that timeframe.

SUMMARY: Use your digital camera's noise-reduction technology to clean up noisy night photographs.

When purchasing a digital camera that you plan on using for night photography, see if the camera comes built-in with a noise-reduction mode. This feature may help in taking RAW or JPG photos in the dark of night.

When you have to increase your ISO settings to compensate for long shutter speeds, noise will be introduced in the photo. Rather than trying to remove it with digital photo editing software, if your digital camera has a noise reduction feature, you can help eliminate this post-processing step.

SUMMARY: Artistic use of blur can aid your digital camera night photography.

While you should always try to take digital photos at nighttime that avoid the blurred results of 'camera-shake' due to long exposures with an unstable digital camera, realize that blur is not always undesirable. Some blurring can be used creatively, such as that created by cars driving on an interstate at nighttime. This effect is best

performed if the roadway is next to a lit skyscraper or cityscape. Frame a photo containing the cityscape and roadway, and take an exposure of half a second or longer as necessary (use a tripod!). The skyscrapers should look clear and crisp, and the roadways will turn into streams of light

SUMMARY: Use a tripod to steady your camera when taking long exposures for night photography.

If you plan on taking digital photos at night, a tripod is practically essential. It is extremely hard to hold a camera still for the length of time needed for a good night exposure, and any shaking can result in blurred photos or completely blacked out subjects.

With a tripod, you can set your digital camera to use a long exposure time, snap a photo, and not worry so much about 'camera-shake'. However, to remove any chance of camera movement, either purchase and use an external shutter release (if your camera supports such an accessory), or keep the shutter button held down during the entire exposure. Even the simplest motion of releasing the camera shutter button during a photo shoot can cause the camera to shake, rendering a beautiful photo almost worthless with blurriness.

SUMMARY: Compensate for 'camera shake' by taking many photos at nighttime.

There may be times where you want to take photos in difficult lighting situations and you don't have a tripod or other stabilizing device handy.

If so, don't give up! Remember, you have a digital camera, so bad photos can be erased. Once you have followed the other tips on MalekTips and set your ISO, shutter speed, etc., start taking photos! Take plenty of photographs of each subject in the hope that

one or two photos may be usable. Due partly to luck, I have taken incredible photos in the dark of night just by being extremely still and shooting multiple photos of a subject. I've taken 15 photos of a city skyline at one time and only had one turn out, but the one photo turned out really well. Practice.

SUMMARY: Using your digital camera's optical zoom may increase 'camera-shake'. If you can, avoid using your digital camera's optical zoom when taking night photos, especially if you lack access to a tripod or other stabilization device. The higher the optical zoom magnification, the longer the lens has to extend to shoot a photograph. This also causes the digital camera to become especially sensitive to movement. With an extended lens, even on sunny days, the results of 'camera-shake' may be evident in blurry photos; at night, this effect is magnified even more.

FYI

If anyone needs the projector for a Workshop or for a Speaker please call me at 767-4053 so I can bring it to that meeting. Marlene Daily

FYI

Daytona Beach Shores Shores Councilman Don Large is setting up a room for pictures/memorabilia of Daytona Beach Shores. He asked me to pass this along to you/members. I'd like to have pictures only of Daytona Beach Shores. The size has to be greater than 11 x 17. The picture to be in a frame. You can have a beginner and expert category. They would change out every few months depending on how you run your contest. I'll leave that up to you for now. I

definitely would want then changed out every so often. please pass this along and maybe put it in the focus.

More FYI

Ann - Could you please remind the people who have borrowed PSA Journals to bring them back so that they may be read by other members. Currently all issues are out and I do need them returned so they can be available to members who have not read them yet. thanks, Stephanie.

Beach Photo

At 604 Main St, Daytona Beach
Is offering a 10 - 15% discount to our club members on certain items to be determined by them.
They do handle used equipment also.

KNL Custom Framing

At 567 Beville Road
Golfview Plaza
Is offering a 50 % discount to our club members on mats and matting. You must have Id and membership card with you.

The Shores Camera Club is a member in good standing of the:



The Shores Camera Club **Focus** Newsletter is an online publication of the Shores Camera Club which meets in Daytona Beach Shores, FL. Any comments, suggestions or inputs should be directed to Ann Dahm (Editor) at ailliki@earthlink.net

Special Notice A message from your friendly Focus editor. I would really appreciate it, if everyone who has to/wants to put something in the newsletter would get it to me by the 28th of the month. Thank you kindly,

Ann Dahm

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