

SHORES CAMERA CLUB **FOCUS**

December 2007

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

President's Message

I would like to thank all the new members
for choosing us as their camera club.

Last year was a good one. We had a large
increase in our membership and we had
great guest speakers:

Mike & Joyce Carley – Capturing
Light & Color
Creation to Delight & Inspire.

Jessica Webb Sibley of the News Journal
newspaper –Carrier in Journalism

Doc Harry Moulis M.D. – Nature &
Wildlife.

Brenda Cashen – Natures Scrapbook

Bob & Gwen Bills – presentation of their
Flight over Alaska & Denali National Park.

Jim Hughes – Natures Beauty

Joe Zaia – How to Use & Present Digital
Slides

David Dunlop – Wedding photography &
More



Reflections in Red

By

Stephanie Toups

**2nd place Advanced Assigned
November Competition**

**Harding Ballaugh – Black & white
Photography**

Here are some of the workshops we had:

Mastering Color by Ben Willmore

**Orientation on Photo Competition &
Critiquing by Jerry Stone**

The Art of Composing Pictures

**One Subject Pictures with critiquing – the
subject was:- The statue in front of the Port
Orange Library**

Action Photography by Lloyd Hampson

**One Subject Pictures with critiquing – the
subject was:- A building at 5111 Ridgewood
Ave, Port Orange**

Photoshop Subjects

One Subject Pictures with critiquing – the subject was :- Beach Street, Daytona

Mat Cutting by Bob Krakosky

Our Safaris last year were:

Lake Woodruff, Gamble Place, Lue House Gardens & Museum, St. Jude Bike Run, The Alligator Farm in St. Augustine, Fort Christmas, Halifax Rowing Regatta, Destination Daytona, Ponce Inlet Lighthouse, Volusia Farm Tour and Christmas Boat Parade

And last these were our assigned category subjects for our competitions.

Faces, Nature, Florida, Silhouettes, Animals, Statues, Beach, Boats, Landscapes, Vintage Cars and Night Scenes.

I know next year will bring us new programs, workshops and safaris that will excite you, we have many new committee members as well as some of our previous members to bring new ideas along with the suggestions you have given us. Have a very Happy Holiday and a Healthy New Year.
Bob Krakosky

Subject Themes for 2008

<u>January</u>	<u>No Competition</u>
<u>February</u>	<u>Shoes</u>
<u>March</u>	<u>Windows</u>
<u>April</u>	<u>Hands</u>
<u>May</u>	<u>Natures Patterns</u>
<u>June</u>	<u>The Color Yellow</u>
<u>July</u>	<u>Still Life</u>
<u>August</u>	<u>Food</u>
<u>September</u>	<u>Speed</u>
<u>October</u>	<u>Abstract</u>

<u>November</u>	<u>Florida History</u>
<u>December</u>	<u>Best of the Best (1st Place Winners)</u>

December Program

For the Program this month we will have a presentation by Forrest Egan.

Born in New Jersey, raised in Pennsylvania, Forrest moved to Florida in 1985 to attend college at the University of Tampa...re-locating to Daytona Beach in 1987 to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and has lived in the Daytona Beach area ever since.

Having been interested in photography since he was a youngster, frequently borrowing his parent's camera when he went on class trips to the museum or zoo, Forrest purchased his first SLR, a Minolta XG7, in 1978 and began documenting family vacations and other events. In 1997, he purchased his first digital camera, a Kodak DC120. Digital photography freed him from the photo lab, allowing him to experiment and learn without the high cost of developing film. After taking an interest in astrophotography, in 2003 he upgraded to his first digital SLR...a Canon EOS 10D...and currently uses the Canon EOS 1D Mark II N.

Forrest's subject matter ranges from Astrophotography to Wildlife. His photos have appeared on websites (of various professional organizations, colleges and clubs) and in a number of publications (including news papers, corporate news letters and magazines).

Subject Themes for 2007

Night Scenes- December

Monthly Competition Winners for November

ADVANCED:-

ASSIGNED:-

1st Joan Robinson
2nd Stephanie Toups
3rd Larry Crivelli
HM Marlene Daily

OPEN:-

1st Joan Robinson
2nd Marlene Daily
3rd Amy Miller
HM Claudia Kavanagh

SAFARI:-

1st Ann Dahm
2nd Larry Crivelli
3rd Ann Dahm
HM Stephanie Toups

BEGINNER:-

ASSIGNED:-

1st Beth Daugherty
2nd Lois Porter
3rd Kim Rinkinen
HM Bob Krakosky

OPEN:-

1st Betty Karl
2nd Kim Rinkinen
3rd Bob Krakosky
HM Thomas Porter

SAFARI:-

1st Lois Porter
2nd Thomas Porter
3rd Thomas Porter
HM Penny Sheffield

The Next Safari

December Safari.

Christmas Boat Parade
December 15/07 at 6:30 pm
Begins at the Seabreeze Bridge at 6:30
continues thru the downtown district and
ends at the North Basin at Halifax Harbor
Marina.

The numerous viewing areas along the parade
route are:-

The Wreck Bar, Caribbean Jack's, Manatee
Island, Main St Bridge, Library on City Island,
County Courthouse, Memorial Bridge, Halifax
Harbor an the Stock Exchange Restaurant and
Bar.

I would like to thank all the people who come to
the safaris, especially those who come from a
long ways away, like Debary.

Joan Robinson, Safari Committee

January Safari.

In a message dated 11/26/2007 7:08:55 P.M.
Pacific Standard Time, rbills@cfl.rr.com writes:

January Safari
January 12, 2008, meet at 8 a.m. in the
Publix outer parking lot nearer to
fast food restaurant (I think it's
McDonalds). The Publix is located just
west of I-95 on Dunlawton/Taylor Rd, on
the right hand side.

From there we'll turn right out of the
parking lot back onto Taylor Rd. and
continue to the light at Tomoka Farms
road where we turn right onto Tomoka
Farms Rd. We'll continue to the entrance
of the Tomoka Landfill, a left
turn.

After turning left, we'll take the first right
at the old weight station and
park and go into the building. After
opening the front door, go straight
ahead to the sign in book. It's very
important to sign in and SIGN OUT (so

when the landfill closes they don't go nuts looking for you - the place is huge).

After signing in, we'll continue on the TAR ROAD (very important because there are lots of dirt roads). We'll take the bypass to the right of the new weigh station. Looking to the left, you'll see a huge hill, often vultures will be sitting on it, but look carefully because a juvenile eagle may be there. Then continuing, we'll pass a left turn and a pond on the left. By then you'll spot the actual dump in the distance (left). We'll stop just ahead. There will be a field to the right. At the point where we stop there's a driveway between two ponds (on the left) that will give us a great line of sight to the area where, with any luck eagles, ibis, and wood storks are enjoying the ponds. To the right, there may be turkeys and eagles in the trees and possibly deer in the field.

After photographing there we'll proceed around the bend toward the left and get as close as we can to the actual dump area on the left. There'll be a pond on the right. On the road there we've seen great egrets, ibis, and on the hill nearer the dump, eagles.

After a time we'll continue along the road around a bend to the left and park, then walk up to the right where there's another retention pond and hopefully eagles in trees across from them.

At the end we'll follow the road and turn left again around the dump mountain and exit to the building where we sign out and leave.

Depending upon how many birds and photos we want to do, we may be there through the lunch hour, so bring a bag lunch and drink. There's nowhere, except where we sign in, to go to the bathroom (just thought you should know).

Once you've joined us for this safari, you'll know how to go there again on your own. We've always seen lots of birds, even later in the morning.

Shores Camera club Officers

President - Robert Krakosky

Vice President – Lois Porter

2nd Vice President -

Treasurer – Ralph Jennings

Secretary -

Shores Camera club Committees

Publicity Representative – Claudia Kavanagh

Webmaster - Stephanie Toup

Programs – Lois Porter

Programs - Joan Robinson

Programs – Lillian Colella

Workshops - Kim Rinkinen

Workshops - Jan Letzring

Safaris (Field Trips) – Joan Robinson

Safaris (Field Trips) – Beth Daugherty

Print Competition – Amy Miller

Print Competition – Ann Dahm

Print Competition - Marlene Daily

Focus Newsletter Editor - Ann Dahm

Displays and Exhibits – Airport – Larry Crivelli

Displays and Exhibits –

Banquets / Parties – Amy Miller

Banquets / Parties -

PSA Representative - Stephanie Toup

Interclub Relations and membership -

Handbook Editor – Beth Daugherty

FYI

We just saw something in the Sunday paper: CVS Pharmacy Photo Centers are having Digital Sundays in 2007. From 12-2PM every Sunday they will have free digital workshops.

Photo Tips

Submitted by Joan Robinson

Perhaps before we start exploring how to improve sharpness it would be good to talk about the main causes for lack of sharpness:

- Poor Focus - the most obvious way to get images that are 'un-sharp' is through having them out of focus. This might be a result of focusing upon the wrong part of the image, being too close to your subject for the camera to focus, selecting an aperture that generates a very narrow depth of field or taking an image too quickly without checking it is in focus.
- Subject Movement - another type of 'blur' in shots is the result of your subject moving - this is generally related to shutter speed being too slow.
- Camera Shake - similarly you can get blur if you as the photographer generate movement while taking the image - this often relates to either shutter speed and/or the stillness of your camera.
- Noise - 'noisy' shots are ones that are pixilated and look like they have lots of little dots over them (get up close to your TV and you get the same impact).

Here's a list of 10 basic things to think about when shooting to get sharp images (note - there's also a lot you can do in photoshop after taking you images

1. Hold Your Camera Well

A lot of blur in the photos that I see is a direct result of camera shake (the movement of your camera for that split second when your shutter is open). While the best way to tackle camera shake is to use a Tripod (see below) there are many times when using one is impractical and you'd need to shoot while holding your camera. I've written a tutorial previously on [how to hold a digital camera](#) but in brief - use both

hands, keep the camera close to your body, support yourself with a wall, tree or some other solid object etc.

2. Tripods

[Regular readers](#) of this site will have seen my recent series on tripods and know that I am a big fan of them as a way to reduce (and even eliminate) camera shake. While not always practical, the result you'd get when you do go to the effort of hauling one around can be well worth it.

3. Shutter Speed

Perhaps one of the first things to think about in your quest for sharp images is the shutter speed that you select. Obviously - the faster your shutter speed the less impact camera shake will have and the more you freeze any movement in your shots. As a result you reduce the likelihood of two of the main types of blur in one go (subject movement and camera movement). Remember the 'rule' for handheld shutter speeds:

Choose a [shutter speed](#) with a denominator that is larger than the focal length of the lens.

So:

- if you have a lens that is 50 mm in length don't shoot any slower than 1/60 th of a second
- if you have a lens with a 100 mm focal length shoot at 1/125 th of a second or faster
- if you are shooting with a lens of 200 mm shoot at 1/250 th of a second or faster

Keep in mind that the faster your shutter speed is the larger you need to make your Aperture to compensate - this will mean you have a smaller depth of field which makes focusing more of a challenge .

4. Aperture

Aperture impacts the depth of field (the zone that is in focus) in your images. Decreasing your aperture (increasing the number - say up to f/20) will increase the depth of field meaning that the zone

that is in focus will include both close and distant objects. Do the opposite (for example moving to f/4) and the foreground and background of your images will be more out of focus and you need to be more exact with what you focus your camera upon. Keep in mind that the smaller your aperture the longer your shutter speed will need to be - which of course makes moving subjects more difficult to keep sharp (.

5. ISO

The third element of the exposure triangle is ISO which has a direct impact upon the noisiness of your shots. Choose a larger ISO and you will be able to use faster shutter speed and smaller aperture (which as we've seen help with sharpness) but you suffer by increasing the noise of your shots. Depending upon your camera (and how large you want to enlarge your images) you can probably get away with using ISO of up to 400 (or even 800 on some cameras) without too much noise but for pin sharp images keep it as low as possible).

6. Image Sterilization

Many [cameras and lenses](#) are now being released with different forms of image stabilization (IS) which won't eliminate camera shake - but can definitely help reduce its impact. I find that using IS lenses that it will give me an extra two or three stops (i.e. I can use slower shutter speeds but 2-3 stops) when hand holding my camera. Keep in mind that IS helps with camera movement but not subject movement as it allows you to use slower shutter speeds (not good for moving subjects).

7. Focus

Perhaps the most obvious technique to work on when aiming for sharp lenses is focusing. Most of us use 'Auto Focusing' with our cameras but won't assume that the camera will always get it right. Always visually check what part of the image is in focus before hitting the shutter and if it's not right try again or switch to manual focus mode. This is particularly important if your shooting with a large aperture (small depth of

field) where even being slightly out can result in your subject being noticeably out of focus.

8. Good lenses

This one is for DSLR owners - if you have the budget for it invest in good quality lenses as they can have a major impact upon the sharpness of your images. For example shortly after buying my DSLR I was in the market for a everyday zoom lens that would give me the ability to have both wide (ish) and telephoto zoom capabilities. I bought a [Canon EF 28-135 mm](#) lens. It was a good lens (and reasonably priced) but it won't as sharp as some of my other lenses. A few months later I borrowed a [Canon EF 24-105 mm 'L series'](#) (the professional series of lenses from Canon) lens from a friend and was amazed by the difference in sharpness between the lenses. While the first lens was good for what I paid for it I ended up going for an upgrade and the new lens is now almost permanently attached to my camera.

9. Get your Eyes Checked

Since I was young I worn glasses but in recent years I been a little slack in getting my eyes checked. Recently I got them tested for the first time in a number of years and was surprised to find that they deteriorated significantly. Getting new glasses improved a number of areas of my life, one of which was my photography. Also connected with this is checking the 'diopter' on your camera (if it has one. The diopter is a little adjustment that you can make to how your viewfinder works - it's particularly useful for people with poor eye sight - it's usually a little wheel next to your viewfinder.

10. Clean equipment

Recently my wife and I went on a window cleaning frenzy at our place. Over the previous months the grime on our windows had gradually built up without us really noticing it. When we did clean them though we were amazed at how much light got through and how much better the view outside was. The same can be true for your camera's lens. Keep it clean and you eliminate the smudges, dust and grime that can impact your shots. Similarly - a clean image sensor is a wonderful thing if you have a DSLR as getting dust on it can produce noticeable blotches in your end images.

11. Lens Sweet Spot

Lenses have spots in their aperture ranges that are sharper than others. In many cases this '[sweet spot](#)' is one or two stops from the maximum aperture. So instead of shooting with your lens wide open (i.e. where the numbers are smallest) pull it back a stop or two and you might find you get a little more clarity in your shots.

More FYI

Would you like to display your photos on the web, but don't want to pay for a website? Do you worry about storing your photos? I have two solutions!

1 – Weebly.com, a website featured on *Time* magazine's 50 top websites of the year, will let you set up your own site for no charge – and they don't add advertising! It's easy to do and they offer many design elements. Check out my site – [ckphoto.weebly.com](#) to see how it looks. (Oh, and send me a comment from the site if you'd like.)

2 – Winkflash.com is a company I use to make all of my prints. They do an excellent job and print just exactly what you send them (no surprising adjustments). Prices are great, although shipping is a bit slow occasionally. One great option they offer is unlimited storage space! That's right, if you have just 1 photo to store or a 1,000, they'll do it for free! They will also let you use the high-resolution option for no extra charge. Other storage websites charge a fee, plus and extra fee for high resolution.

I travel a lot and now I can open any of my photos in Photoshop, Elements or whatever and work on them wherever I may be. I don't have to worry about computer crashes, memory usage, or carrying around CDs/DVDs, memory sticks, hard drives, etc.

(although I always backup my pics on memory sticks).

If you have any questions about either of these websites, let me know at ckhs@clearwire.net

KNL Custom Framing

At 567 Beville Road

Golfview Plaza

Is offering a 50 % discount to our club members on matts and matting. You must have Id and membership card with you.

Personals

None this month.

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 ailiki@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
Ailiki@earthlink.net