



F-Stops Camera Club Newsletter

August 2007

www.fstopscameraclub.com

The F-Stops Camera Club
 meets the 2nd Thursday of every
 month at 7pm at:
 The Balboa Sports Center
 17015 Burbank Blvd.
 Encino, CA



We are very saddened by the passing of Bob Becker. Bob passed away at 1:30 am on August 16th. after a difficult battle with Lymphoma. Here is an excerpt from an e-mail Jerry sent earlier;
"For those of us that knew Bob, we will miss him so much but he will always reside in our hearts and minds. For those newer members who didn't have that pleasure,.....you will meet him in the conversations that come up during meetings, social events and photo shoots with the older members. Bob, you have left a huge hole in our hearts but we are so much richer for having known you and having been touched by your talent, artfulness, kindness and love of people. Thank you Bob for sharing the time we were able to have together".

Upcoming Categories

Sept 13: *Night Photography*

Oct 11 : Out in the Rain
 Nov 8 : Holiday Cards
 Jan 10, 2008 : Vintage Photography

Drinks

Monthly Ken Jones

Food Duty

Sept-Jan '08 John Houseman

Equipment

July-Sept Bill Gass
 Oct-Jan'08 Ron Danzig

**Welcome to our new member:
Gwen Harwood**

As usual, Bill gave an outstanding lecture. He covered everything you always wanted to know about “Histograms” but were afraid to ask. The main thing in a nut shell, is that you pay attention to your exposures by looking at the histograms rather than the image on the screen. Don’t let the histogram curves hit the right or left wall as you lose details in the image that cannot be recovered. Right is toward the lightest pixels and left is toward the darkest. Correct your exposure in the camera accordingly. Thank you Bill. Here are a few sites that can shed some light (no pun intended) on the subject.

<http://www.luminous-landscape.com/tutorials/understanding-series/understanding-histograms.shtml>

<http://www.shortcourses.com/how/histograms/histograms.htm>

http://www.photoxels.com/tutorial_histogram.html

<http://home.surewest.net/frcn/Histograms.html>

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TIPS & TRICKS by Bill Debley

BUILD A FLASH FOCUSER

For those hard to get close to critters and subjects, e.g. a sea lion in the surf, a hummingbird, etc., build a flash focuser. This one is made out of a 9-inch Fresnel lens (\$4.00 at a Barnes and Noble bookstore - they can also be found in 8x10-inch sizes from scientific supply stores like Edmund Scientific), a small piece of foam board (\$1.50 a sheet at Wal-Mart - one sheet's enough to make ten of them), and a little tape for a total cost of about \$5.00 and 15 minutes to assemble. Specific plans aren't necessary, the picture tells you all you need to know to hammer one out for yourself.



This month's assignment was "Dragged Shutter Speed"

But first, I must make a correction in last month's scoring. I inadvertantly gave Jerry an 8 that should have gone to Peggy. My apologies.

The scores for August were as such:

10's

Anne Allen - 2
John Houseman -- 2
Paul Lefko -- 2
Audrey Mead -- 1
Jerry Sanders -- 1

8's

John Chase -- 4
Ron Danzig -- 2
Hal Endlich -- 1
Gwen Harwood -- 1
Suzanne Lombardo -- 1
Audrey Mead -- 1
Jerry Sanders -- 1
Armand Szolc -- 1

9's

Kurt Bronner -- 1
Audrey Mead -- 2
Jerry Sanders -- 2
Peggy Sanders -- 2
Armand Szolc -- 1
Al Sheppard -- 1

On The Funny Side

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



EDITORIAL

Pete's POV



Most of us are familiar with Shakespeare's phrase in Hamlet, "To thine own self be true". During our working careers we are often asked to do things that involve being less than truthful to ones own likes and dislikes. Because we are in search of the dollar and the boss signs our paycheck, we do compromise what we believe to be our own truths. This pressure however doesn't extend to our hobbies because with our hobbies we are our own boss and therefore can set our own rules. For most of us ,photography is the way we express our individual truths and creative thoughts without having to answer to THE BOSS. The camera and the ability to create images gives us this opportunity. It is a wonderful feeling to create an image that we truly love in spite of what some photo judge or critique may say. But, do we find ourselves saying, "The judge for next month is Joe (or Jane) Doe and if I want to get a high score I must show what they like". I know I have found myself saying that exact thing. But, is that being true to thine own self? No, it isn't.

With photography, we are in control of our own destiny and can and should create images that represent our own individual passion and feelings. Shakespeare did that in his writings and we can do the same thing with our camera. After all, don't we do our best when we love what we are doing? Whether the subject is landscapes, portraits, flowers, action sports, or any of the other things to photograph, we always do the best job with the subject matter that really turns us on and lights our fire. So I say, put aside what other people think your images should look like and "to thine own self be true" and that should transpire in your images and in your feelings about those images.

DOCTOR DIGITAL

In a previous column we talked about how everything we do photographically and in life too, is tied to adhering to basic principles. Forget the excuses...yes, Jim just loves to hear them in case you haven't noticed...right? When you screw-up you either get lucky and have a picture or you violated the basics and you don't. Usually it is the latter. Normally we gush of things digital here but in the spirit of beginning at the beginning, let me tell you of a conversation I had with a member that has nothing to do with digitizing photons.

The member told me of a new lens he had purchased that he was unhappy with. "Why" I inquired as I knew Bill Debley had that lens and loved it. The answer was that "it was just not sharp"! I then asked what and how it was used. "Well, I wanted a landscape shot that was really sharp so I used a tripod". Good start...now what else? "I put it on f/32". What was your exposure time? "Oh about 1/15 sec." How did you trigger the shot? "With the 10 second self-timer". The lens by the way was a 12-24mm on a Canon 20D.

Well, to me, this was similar to an exercise we did for a topic at the club one time of "How many errors can you commit in one image?". Firstly, the lens chosen was an ultra-wide angle which is not really a landscape lens, it is for close ups! The images in the distance become so tiny with that lens that they may lose significance and detail, becoming like blobs in the sunset. If you want a large sweeping view I suggest you use a tripod and do a panorama with a more "normal" lens. The detail will be exquisite and the file size will be huge. When using the deeper f/stops like f/22, to f/32 with a 35mm system, we get into a diffraction problem from the tiny entrance pupil of the lens and the resulting degradation, destroys that which we were seeking...sharpness. Each lens has a sweet spot of sharpness dependent on it's optics and focal distance. Sometimes we indeed have to sacrifice the sharpness to achieve the depth of focus but I think, not that often.

Next issue is shooting at between 1 second and 1/25th of a second. Ever hear of mirror slap? It is the vibration created by the mirror opening and shaking the camera while the shutter is open. It is most prominent during the above noted exposure period. How do we avoid it? Best way is to use mirror lock up whenever doing macro or high telephoto shots and for sure when the exposure is slow as noted above. Yes it can also be treated with a faster ISO or faster f/stop but that again is another choice to make. A remote release will keep you from mashing the camera when triggering but it won't help mirror vibration.

What is it about sometimes being our own worst enemy?? Here are some websites that cover the topics we have been discussing in far more detail and accuracy. They were given to me by the member who was flushed with enthusiasm and new knowledge about this mistress called "Photography".

Jerry

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials/diffraction-photography.htm>

http://photo.net/bboard/q-and-a-fetch-msg?msg_id=003qSt

<http://www.largeformatphotography.info/fstop.html>

Some Photos shown at the August meeting



Jerry Sanders -Assigned



Audrey Mead - Open



Armand Szulc - Open



Jerry Sanders - Assigned



Hal Endlich - Open



Shirley Endlich - Painting



Anne Allen - Open



Audrey Mead - Open



Anne Allen - Open



Audrey Mead - Open



Jerry Sanders - Assigned



Peggy Sanders - Open



Peggy Sanders - Open