



March Meeting Recap

Our judge for March was Steve Roosa, a returning judge, back by popular demand, Steve was 2010 National Photographer-of-the-Year and one of California/Western States TOP 10 professional photographers. He is co-owner of Sandstone Photography at:

www.sandstonephoto.net.

Sandstone Photography specializing in capturing that special something in all of us.



<http://blog.sandstonephoto.net/>

In his critiques there were two common problems that he pointed out over and over; blown out highlights and T.O.D. (trime of day). There is an easy solution for the first, that being blown out highlights. When the scene is beyond the dynamic range of the sensor in your camera it's easy. Simply set your exposure compensation to -2 stops and lighten the image later using 'curves' in Adobe Photoshop. This allows you to retain two more stops of your highlights. I used Photoshop's Curves command and jiggled my mouse till it looked right. Start by creating a curve layer that you can adjust and edit. Begin with settings around 80 and 240. Then play with it until it looks right to you. Unlike film, digital cameras retain an amazing amount of detail in the darks. This technique is not for all conditions, just those that are out of the range of the ability of your sensor. And of course, the other solution is HDR (high dynamic range). As far as time of day is concerned, you don't have to press the shutter! When the sun is high, simply wait! Most images shot at mid-day are not

Reminders:

- *Members can only submit a total of three images per meeting for critique and a limit of two/category*
- *There are five categories*
Assigned Color
Assigned B&W
Open Color
Open B&W
Digital Art

****Members are encourages to bring guests, but you must be a member to submit***

Next Meeting:
May 12, 2011

Guest Judge:
Gary Moss

Theme:
Product photography

May Theme – Product Photography

Some pointers on how to get better product shots. Make sure you know how to focus your camera. Auto focus doesn't always focus precisely, especially when shooting small objects. Read your owner's manual and be sure you understand how your camera's auto focus operates. Most digital cameras focus easily on large objects but have difficulty on small subjects. I would use the spot focus mode. Spot focus will give you more control over what part of the subject the camera is actually focusing on. Use a tripod, even the slightest movement, when taking the picture, will cause motion blur. The closer you get to an object the more obvious the blur becomes. Even an inexpensive tripod will make a big difference in the sharpness of your images. Use a remote shutter release or the camera's built-in timer to minimize camera shake. You'll want to get the largest area of your subject in focus so use aperture priority mode (Av mode) and set the

aperture to for a large depth of field (the higher number). The closer you get to your subject the more important this becomes. And finally, use soft lighting. Your camera's built-in flash even off camera will rarely give good results for product photography. For soft lighting either shoot outside on an overcast day or use a diffuser, soft-box or shoot-through umbrella.

Here's a simple way to check to see if you have soft or hard lighting. This method works well both indoors or outdoors and all you need are your hands. Hold your left hand out flat and slightly in front of you. Now hold a finger from your right hand a few inches above it. Look at the shadow cast by your finger. A hard shadow indicates hard light, a soft shadow indicates soft light.



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THE ANNENBERG SPACE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY



Photographic Events

The Annenberg Space for Photography is a cultural destination dedicated to exhibiting both digital and print photography in an intimate setting. The space features state-of-the-art HD equipment as well as matted and framed prints by some of the world's most renowned photographers and a selection of emerging young photographers as well. The venue is the first solely photographic cultural destination in the Los Angeles area and represents a new paradigm in the world of photography. The Annenberg Space for Photography is truly the work of visionary where visitors can experience photography and be motivated to go out and create!

Iris Nights

The Annenberg Space for Photography offers a lecture series program every Thursday evening during the programming season called ***Iris Nights***. Iris Nights is open to the public and is free of charge! You can make reservations on line on a first- come, first- serve basis. The featured exhibit is presented by the featured photographer as well as notable experts and artists



This is truly an amazing place that only a few f/Stop members have visited. If you have not been to the Annenberg, you are missing out on an incredible evening.

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Assigned Subjects for 2011

Jan 13 Special Presentation
Feb 10 Theme – Texture
Mar 10 Theme – Abstract
Apr 14 Theme – Water
May 12 Theme – Product
 Photography
Jun 9 Theme - Humor
Jul 14 Technique - Silhouette
Aug 11 Technique – Digital Art
Sep 8 Technique – Hi-Key
Oct 13 Theme - Bridges
Nov 10 Theme - Abandoned
Dec 8 Special Presentation

Since we do not have a refreshment coordinator, beverages will no longer be served at the meetings.

We Still Need Volunteers

The club needs people to serve as chairpersons for various committees. Currently we need volunteers for:

Judge Coordinator:
Newsletter Editor:
Entry Coordinator:
Refreshment Coordinator:
Equipment Coordinator:
Membership:
Public Relations:
Field Trip Coordinator:
Workshop Coordinator:
Banquet Coordinator:
Refreshment Coordinator:
Assigned Category Developer:

All committee chairpersons are automatically members of the Board of Directors. Please consider helping out by volunteering as a committee chair. You will find it to be a rewarding experience. If members fail to step up to the plate, the future of the club could be limited.

The positions in “red” are the most critical at this time.

How to Submit Your Images

If your images scores an 8, 9, or 10 and you wish to have your image(s) published in the newsletter, here are instructions on how to submit images for the newsletter:

1. Resize images to no larger than 1024ppi on the longest side with a resolution of 72ppi.
2. Add the copyright symbol by holding the ALT key while typing 0169, the © will appear. Finish by typing your name and the year (optional), © John Smith 2011 or © John Smith.
3. Rename the file with your last name and category, i.e. **Smith_open.jpg**, **Smith_assignment.jpg**
4. Email the files to: fstopscameraclub@gmail.com within one week after the meeting with a subject line of “Newsletter Image”.



For more information go to:
www.hoopercamera.com

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Member Photos for the Month of April :







© Cindy Koller





© M. Silver 2011



© Herb Aist





© Curt Jones 2011



© Curt Jones 2011



© Curt Jones 2011



© Photography by Brent Brantley, "Valley of Fire" Open Category



DIGITAL ART – Watercolor



© M. Silver 2011