



Shutterbug Times

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OLYMPIA CAMERA



WWW.OLYMPIACAMERACLUB.ORG

January 2010 General Meeting— 4th Monday monthly Volume 77, Issue 1

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2010 Dues

If you would like to pay your dues at this meeting there will be a collection box available. Otherwise, you may pay by mail. Please Send your dues to the club's post office box at: PO Box 13333, Olympia, WA 98508-3333

The Relative Value of Critique and Competition

by John West

As photographers I think we are all interested in creating the very best work that we can all the time. We are all artists trying our best to create that “wow” image that we can share with others or just hang on our walls and enjoy just for it's beauty alone. But if you are like me, the number of “keepers” you produce are low in number to the many so-so photographs you might shoot on any given day. It's true that sometimes a little (or a lot) of post production can turn a so-so image into a winner. That is all part of the creative process and who is to say which process has more value than another.

Producing better and better images over time is definitely a learning process that we all must go through to become the better artists that we all strive to become. And while I am content with the work I do today, I know that from time to time, I do see another person's work and say to myself, “Gee I wish I could produce an image like that. What do I need to do to learn how to do that level of work myself”. And yet, breaking through to that next level can be an illusive, and even frustrating, process. Unfortunately, getting stuck in an artist's block can also be part of that process. But fortunately, I have learned that what I need to do when I do get stuck is to share my ideas and my images with other people and more often than not, it is their feedback that provides the insight I need to move beyond my obstructing dilemma.

So, at least for me, sharing my images with other supportive artists, is an essential part of my growth process. That which is a blind spot for one person, can easily be successfully evaluated by someone else intent on providing constructive criticism. So critique has a value, especially if it is provided by someone we respect as being an artist with the talent to provide valuable insight and feedback in a way that will help us grow and produce better and better images.

And yet, critique can be a scary and emotional process as well. Negative criticism, or that which we perceive to be mean or negative criticism, can be an emotionally hard thing with which to deal. And as humans, we all make mistakes from time to time and giving unwanted criticism of someone else's work can be one of those mistakes we later

When out in nature, take only photos and leave only footprints!!

wish we hadn't made. This kind of thing happens to everyone at one time or another and we simply have to develop the emotional maturity to deal with it constructively when it happens. We have to learn to forgive ourselves and others and have the ability to emotionally step outside the situation, and gain the perspective we need to deal with the situation constructively so that hard feelings and misinterpretations don't ruin the valuable process that having one's work critiqued can be. How we decide to deal with this kind of situation really is a choice for good or ill, and it is a wise person who chooses the good in any situation, no matter how it was originally intended or perceived. I hope we all choose wisely and make critique a valuable and wanted thing that helps us grow.

And what of competition? I know that I have been reluctant in the past to enter any of my photographs into competition for fear of having them be negatively received or just somehow fearing that they are not good enough to win any kind of recognition. In other words, I want all of the photographs I submit to competition to be winners. I admit it: I am greedy. I want all of my images to be perceived as brilliant and deserving of that first place ribbon if not, indeed, the best of show. Unfortunately, this is just a little bit delusional, at

best. It is a competition, after all, and the chances of winning are rare, as they should be. If everyone won, then no one would really win, if you know what I mean. And no one would become a better photographer in the process. And, admittedly, I have learned and been inspired by seeing someone else win with a better photograph than I know I could produce. I have had the joy of imagining how good that winner must feel to be chosen and recognized for the better work they have done. So if that is true, then there must be a value to not winning also. And maybe, just maybe, there is more value in being inspired and seeing a clear example of what it takes to make a better photograph than there is in actually winning. Maybe not winning, and just competing, is the more valuable process. Or at least as valuable a process. OK, let me win once in a while. I will still be happy just to compete whether I win or not. I think I will decide to be happy either way. I invite you to come join me and be eager to submit your photographs in the next available critique or competition.

Sincerely,
John M. West
Vice President
Olympia Camera Club

President's Corner

by Wes Kirkpatrick

New Year

Well another year is gone and a new one has just begun. The Olympia Camera Club has made great strides to function better as a club. We have overcome many obstacles together and we have many more to overcome. This past year has been a great learning experience for me as it also has been for the club. We found out a lot about what it is going to take to run this club well into the future. I would like to extend my gratitude to each and every member for everything you have contributed to the club. Just being a member and coming to the meetings is a huge contribution.

When you show up for a meeting you bring your experience or experiences to the table for everyone else to learn from. Even if you don't know everything there is to know about photography when you ask a question and someone answers, think

about all the other people that didn't know the answer to the question. Showing up for meetings is very important and I am trying very hard to have the meetings as exciting and informative for everyone that shows up. It takes a lot of work to prepare for each and every meeting.

I hope with the New Year you can join us for more meetings and help us spread the knowledge that we all share. I look forward to the New Year as it is on track to be a great year. Please if you can join us January 25th to start this year off.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy

New Year!

Olympia Camera Club Executive Board Minutes

by Chris Weinrich

Jan. 6, 2010, Mekong Restaurant

Meeting called to order by President Wes Kirkpatrick at 6:20 p.m.

Present were: President Wes Kirkpatrick, Vice President John West, Secretary Chris Weinreich, Treasurer Shauna Kerns, Frank & Terri Townsend, Marie Browning and Bonnie Liberty. Also present was a new club member, Colleen Easley and her grandson, Zack Vaughn.

Minutes: John moved to approve the minutes and Frank seconded. Motion passed

Treasurer's report for December, per Shauna:

Beginning Balance \$273.68

Income:

Dues 340.00

Coffee kitty 5.00

Expenses:

Mailing Supplies 15.00

Ending Balance 603.68

Savings balance \$1369.46

Community Liaison -- Bonnie reported that the Olympia Capital Park Foundation wants pictures of the Olympia area for use in a calendar. Bonnie said that Terry will ask for a person to run a contest and send the 12 best photos on to the Foundation. They are especially interested in scenes from around Capital Lake and the harbor. Wes said that the Port of Olympia will be having a tour of the port facilities for club members and would like pictures also. The tour will include going on board a freighter while it's being loaded.

Monthly meetings. John brought up the question of having a second meeting each month for educational topics. A discussion ensued but no conclusions were reached. John also gave a rundown of the topics for the next six monthly meetings:
January -- members sharing
February -- Tom Blankenship

March -- a talk on framing

April -- Becci Crowe talking about her trip(s) to Africa

May -- Next Level group presentation
June -- Jeff Mitchell will talk on what he looks for when he judges photos at the Thurston Co. Fair.

John said that he may switch January and February programs to give members time to prepare their presentations.

Equipment -- John said that he will have to purchase MS Access for the club laptop at a cost of \$119. Terry needs it for updating the Fair Salon program.

Chris moved to purchase the Access program and Shauna seconded. Motion passed.

Field Trips: Frank said there will be a day trip to photograph Puget Sound lighthouses Feb. 13th, starting with the one at Boston Harbor and then continuing on to Seattle.

Newsletter: Marie will be taking over the newsletter from Wes in February. Wes, said he needs articles for this current issue by Jan. 11.

Photographic Society of America (PSA) contest -- Wes announced that PSA holding a contest and the club needs to name a coordinator quickly since the deadline for entries is Jan. 15. Wes will contact a couple of people.

Interclub/International photo competitions: A chairman is also needed for this five member committee.

Northwest Council of Camera Clubs (NWCCC) A person is need to coordinate the traveling prints for this next year.

Club emblems and badges: John reported that it would cost \$80 to do the set up for the machine embroidery for the club logo. Frank moved and Shauna seconded to spend the \$80 Members can then order shirt, vests, jackets, etc. with the club logo.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20
Chris Weinreich, Secretary



Jan & Feb 2010

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.OLYMPIACAMERACLUB.ORG

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Business Meeting 5:30-7:30	4	5	6
7	8	9 Digital Meeting 6:30-9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 General Meeting 5:30-7:30	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Business Meeting 5:30-7:30	8	9	10

Olympia Camera Club 2010 General Meetings

by John West, Vice President

This is the agenda as I have it for the upcoming year. I'll be updating it each month so that you can put the dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

Month	Topic	Presenter	Refreshments
January 26	Pro Show Gold	Tom Blankenship	
February 22	Member Theme Night	OCC Members (5)	Wes
March 22	Framing	Nate Naismith	Linda Foss
April 26			Lynnette
May 11			

Refreshments for 2010 Digital Meeting

Month	Member
January 12	Stacie
February 9	Gene & Linda
March 9	Linda Foss
April 13	Frank & Terri
May 11	Rich Busto
June 8	Linda Murphy

"Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever... it remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything."

— Aaron Siskind

Skagit River Eagles Redux

by Frank Townsend

Thirteen people including some of our newest members, some of our oldest members, and some yet to be members traveled to Marblemount looking for the promised iconic eagle photograph. As usual the peak occurred the week before we arrived. Be it lack of salmon, swift currents or Olympia Camera Club's presence the eagles did not cooperate. In spite of that the travelers broke out their cameras and oohed and aawed at every opportunity. Though the rains were heavy Friday night the skies cleared for the rest of the weekend and because the eagles were sparse we journeyed to LaConner where we saw a field of snow geese (and a plethora of hunters), just waiting for us to show up. On Sunday we found another couple of view points, revisited previous ones and went on up the road until it dead ended.

The Saturday night dinner was all it was advertised to be with more food than could possibly be consumed. After dinner everyone went outside to play with flashlights and a light painting that would make Allen proud. The success or failure of a trip like this lies not with the number of eagles spotted, rather it lies with the camaraderie of the group attending. This group certainly made the trip a success. Thanks to all who attended.



Puget Sound Lighthouses

by Frank Townsend

Everyone knows the east and west coasts of the United States are lined with majestic lighthouses serving to keep mariners from dangerous shoals and to bring them safely home. I'll bet nearly everyone reading this column has visited North Head and Cape Disappointment and probably others. But along the shores of Puget Sound a large number of smaller, lesser known, not nearly as majestic served those navigating those waters as well. On Saturday, February 20 I hope to visit as many of those lighthouses as I can. I'll begin at Dofflemeyer Point in Boston Harbor, continue to Browns Point in Tacoma, then Alki and West Point in Seattle. If time allows I will cross the Sound on the Kingston Edmonds Ferry then visit Point No Point and Skunk Bay on the Kitsap Peninsula.

If you choose to go with me, bring lunch, drinks and snacks; we'll find some place to eat dinner.

At present I don't have a place to meet and car pool, I'm leaning toward the Lottery Commission parking lot at the corner of State and Plum, and I plan on meeting at 7 AM and departing shortly thereafter. Plan on carpooling because of the distance involved and to cut down on ferry expenses. Call me at 705-1349 or email frank_townsend@q.com to let me know you plan on attending.

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◆ January 2010

