



Twin City Camera Club

ViewFinder

Member: Photographic Society of America
and The Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs

February 2011 Roll 75, Exposure 2

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“There are always two people in every picture: the photographer and the viewer.”- Ansel Adams

Our Competition Season: continues on March 14th with the Select Subject of "Found Alphabet Vowels" (Please review the Select Subjects definitions)

Digital Entries: must be in by Monday, March 7th. (72 dpi, Not to Exceed 500 kb)

February 22nd Business Meeting: This is YOUR time to participate in open discussions on changes and/or improvements to the club. What are your thoughts and ideas on programs, equipment, workshops, fieldtrips or things you would like see TCCC doing. This is your opportunity to discuss what you would like the Membership and Board to know. Send an email to a Board Member with your thoughts and ideas if you are unable to attend. Remember, it's your club and all your ideas are appreciated. Besides open discussions, we will have Treasurer Ted Post presenting his Annual Report on the club's finances. Tom McCall will demonstrate and answer questions about the TCCC website. This is a Members Only meeting, No guests Please.

Report on the January Program Night: Pete and Susan Mathews presented a program about Yellowstone National Park from their trip in January 2008. Created in 1872 as the first national park in America, we think of Yellowstone with waterfalls and geothermal geysers, like Old Faithful, with Elk and Bison grazing on the grasses, but not in the middle of the winter all covered in snow. Pete and Susan provided us with a totally different view of this majestic park and its inhabitants. From staying in yurtlets, affectionately called "Dog Houses" (small canvas covered sleeping shelters with plywood ends) and traveling in "snow coaches", vans converted to tracks with skis, to the feeding habits of the wildlife. It was a very unique look into truly wonderful place. Many thanks go to Pete and Susan for sharing their insights and photography of the trip.

TCCC Newsletter "ViewFinder": We are looking for a new editor and assistant editor for the ViewFinder. Our current staff took it over nearly two (2) years ago on an interim basis and has other duties and responsibilities. It can be an enjoyable experience and you get all of the news first... If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Tom McCall at 983-5986.

Healing thoughts: go out to Mark Parren who is on the mend after open heart surgery. Mark made it to the Competition Meeting on the 14th and was looking good. He said he has to take it easy but everything is going well. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Mark for a complete and speedy recovery.

Healing thoughts go out to Justine Drake who is recovering from a mild stroke and is continuing aquatic therapy and rehabilitation in the Coloma area. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Justine for a complete and speedy recovery.

February Stats: are posted on the TCCC website.

February Honor Images: Some of the February Honor Images have been added to a new Album in the Honors for 2010 - 2011 Season Galleries on the TCCC website.

February Honors:

Class A Mono Prints

Curtis Drake – Anchors Away
Curtis Drake – Sweet Dreams
Curtis Drake – Those were the Days
Elaine Harju – Row, Row, Row your Boat
Elaine Harju – When Johnny comes Marching
Ralph Harju – Party Doll
Richard Lyon – Squirrel’s Crossing
Kristine Sims – Heading to the Top
Jim Thompson – Confederate Stair
Jim Thompson – St. Joe Ice Caps
Jacqualyn Volker – Faith Won’t Fail

Class A Color Prints

Curtis Drake – Home on the Range
Jim Lynch – I’ll Fly Away
Jim Thompson – Grand Haven Twilight
Jacqualyn Volker – Rider’s on the Storm

Class B Digital Slides

Rick Bauer – So Happy Together
Rick Bauer – The Wind beneath My Wings
Al Greer – Raylene
Randy Willis – Green Acres

Class A Digital Slides

Ron Bonczkowski – Old Man River
Dennis Hafer – I’ve Been Working on the Railroad
Jim Lynch – Autumn Leaves
Don Damron – Take me out to the Ball Game
Don Damron – No Particular Place to Go
Don VanderMolen – Poor Butterfly
Ken Mckeown – City A Whirl
Dave Wheeler – Tri Color Heron

Judges: Jack Chandler, Photographer, Jim Meister, Photographer, and TCCC Life Member Ken Zimmerman. We appreciate them taking the time to come and judge for us.

CONGRATULATIONS: to all of the competitors. Thanks for all of your effort in preparing your entries and submitting them into competition. We had a good turnout with 27 members submitting 151 entries, 104 in Select, 47 in Open, that received 97 Acceptances, 27 Honors and 27 Rejects. That's an acceptance/honor rate of 82% and a rejection rate of 18%.

Do It Yourself Flash Extender: Ted Post has come up with another Do It Yourself flash project and provided us with the instructions for a DIY Flash Extender. Ted built one and had it with him at the last TCCC competition meeting on the 14th. Looked pretty neat but I didn't get to see it in action. A web search on Flash Extenders revealed a lot of different ways and materials to make them, from foam core to plastic cutting boards, so you can modify the material used for the side braces to suit your needs.

How it works: It focuses and concentrates the output of the flash into a narrow beam via the Fresnel lens (pronounced fray-NELL) that is positioned in front of the flash. Thus allowing shooting at greater distances and shooting with smaller apertures because the light doesn't spread out as quickly over the distance. This then provides a fill flash for opening up darker areas and can give you a catch light in the subject's eyes. One review said although it is recommended for focal lengths of 300mm or greater, when used at close range it reduces flash recycle time enabling a rapid succession of shots to be taken.

One note of caution, since a Fresnel lens works as a magnifying lens, there have been reports of melted plastic and heated lenses when used in direct sunlight. There could be something to those reports; I have read where Fresnel lenses are being used in solar energy to concentrate sunlight (with a ratio of almost 500:1) onto solar cells. One reviewer said they keep a cloth over the Fresnel when not in use.

Ted's instructions and some additional links are included in the Tips & Techniques article on the TCCC website. Information and links for the commercial version "Better Beamer" Flash X-tender™ are included. See Tips & Techniques page 6.



Many thanks Ted for sharing another DIY Flash project with us.

Classifieds: we have plenty of room to list your FOR SALE and/or WANTED TO BUY items. Please review the Classifieds page for more information. Contact Tom McCall if you have questions.

Keep those shutters clicking...