



THE VIEWFINDER

APRIL 2008

THE VALLEY VIEWFINDERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 13

LOOK!

It has finally arrived! It's the April 2008, Viewfinder.

Valley Viewfinder Camera Club members; welcome to the (LATE) April Viewfinder Newsletter. I am sorry it has taken so long to get this to you, but as you know "Life Happens" and sometimes we have no control what happens around us and we have to postpone events. I will do my best to make sure this does not happen again. Thank you for understanding!

On with the April Newsletter!

Our fearless leader, Tim "The President" Sperry says I should enter the newsletter into the PSA newsletter competition. I have until mid June to enter the competition but I am more interested in seeing what other club newsletters look like rather than entering the "Viewfinder" into the competition. I will submit our newsletter and see what happens. With that said if you have ideas to make the newsletter better in any way, be sure to pass them on to me!

Spring is finally here and summer is just around the corner. The weather is getting better and there will be plenty of photo opportunities to take advantage of. For example, some of the local groups I have talked with sounded excited about having someone attend the event and photograph the activity. That is only one of many ways to get interesting photos for next years photo competition.

As you may know by now, during the summer months we do not meet. We take July and August off and get back together the 2nd Thursday in September and start a new club year. Before we break for the summer we will have a list of competition themes ready for when we get back together in the fall. At our next meeting on May 8th we will have nominations for the competition themes for the New Year. At the June 12th meeting we will vote on the competition themes for 2007-2008.

In closing you will see the May newsletter on or before the 1st Saturday of the month. Winners from April competitions will be in that issue along with an interesting member article on the history of the club.

I hope you enjoy the content and information in the newsletter, please be sure to contact me with any comments or suggestions for the newsletter. I am always open to another person's perspective and ideas so be sure to let me know what you want to see!

Your 2008 newsletter editor
Kelly Carmichael



Organizations affiliated with Valley Viewfinders Camera Club

Columbia Council of Camera Clubs (4Cs) is an organization consisting of photography/camera clubs from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Northern California. You can view the latest competition results, club information and the 4Cs newsletter at <http://www.columbiacouncil.com/>

Photographic Society of America (PSA) is a worldwide interactive organization for anyone interested in photography, be they casual or serious amateurs or professional photographers. PSA offers their individual, camera club, and council members a wide variety of activities. Be sure to go to the PSA web site <http://www.psa-photo.org/> for the 2007 PSA International Exhibition of Photography award winners.



Fellow Members:

A few years ago while attending a night class on photography at the Corvallis High School, I met two nice ladies who brought to my attention that there was a camera club in Albany. The class itself did not meet my expectations. But, the acquaintance of those two club members proved to be the most significant event in my quest to produce better images. By this time I had spent a small fortune on magazines, books and unnecessary accessories for my camera and had seen little improvement. Then I attended my first meeting of the *Valley View Finders Camera Club*.

From the first meeting I felt welcomed and comfortable and the wealth of information provided by the competitions, programs and discussions with the members has proven to be priceless.

I do not possess the ability to properly express how impressed I have been with all the members. The veterans enjoy sharing their knowledge with the beginners. The beginners feel encouraged to participate in the competitions. And members continue step up, volunteer their efforts and provide us with quality programs which educate and inspire.

I would like to close by thanking you for the privilege of conduction your meetings.

Tim Sperry
President, Valley Viewfinders Camera Club



You don't take a photograph, you make it.
Ansel Adams

The artist's world is limitless. It can be found anywhere, far from where he lives or a few feet away. It is always on his doorstep.
Paul Strand

I found a site on the web on how to clean your Digital SLR and what to do with the cameras when they die.
The following photos explain it all!



March Print Competition Winners "Long Exposure"

Valley Viewfinders B&W Print

Large Open:

- | | | |
|-----|---------------|------------------------|
| 1st | Nelson Mills | "Long View" |
| 2nd | Jan O'Donnell | "Lunch with the Girls" |
| 3rd | Bob O'Donnell | "Crooked River Canyon" |

Small Theme (Long Exposure):

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1st | Harold Marx | "Eclipse of the Moon #2" |
|-----|-------------|--------------------------|

Small Open:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|---------------|
| 1st | Jan O'Donnell | "Lonely Tree" |
| 2nd | Bob O'Donnell | "Foamy" |
| 3rd | Kelly Carmichael | "Punched Out" |

Valley Viewfinders Color Print

Large Open:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| * 1 st | Hal Schalles | "Canary Springs" |
| * 2 nd | Jan O'Donnell | "On The Edge" |
| * 3 rd | Bob O'Donnell | "The Sisters" |

Small Theme (Long Exposure):

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| * 1 st | Harold Marx | "Eclipse of the Moon #1" |
| * 2 nd | Kelly Carmichael | "Alan @ Nite" |

Small Open:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| * 1 st | Bob O'Donnell | "Hayden Valley" |
| * 2 nd | Kelly Carmichael | "Wooden Duck" |
| * 3 rd | Nelson Mills | "Beep Beep" |

** Indicates print goes on to 4Cs for April*

Valley Viewfinders EID

Creative:

- | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|
| 1st | Chris Sinnett | "Dyablo" |
| 1st | Chris Sinnett | "One Too Many" |

Traditional Open:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|----------|
| 1st | Kelly Carmichael | "Pretty" |
|-----|------------------|----------|

Traditional Theme:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|--------------|
| 1st | Perry Carmichael | "Fake Falls" |
|-----|------------------|--------------|

Valley Viewfinder's Recall

Small

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Carmichael, K | Mantis at Home [Sep 07] |
| Young, S | Mike's Bench [Nov 07] |
| Young, S | Lower North Falls [Oct 07] |
| Young, S | Spider in Dew [Nov 07] |

Large

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| Hubbard, D | Sunset at Heceta Head [Sep 07] |
| Perigo, L | Toy Train [Nov 07] |
| Riehl, J | Twins [Nov 07] |

4C's Recall

Small

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Carmichael, K | Mantis at Home |
| Young, S | Drummer Boy |
| Young, S | Spider in Dew |

Large

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| Sinnett, C | Mickey Finn |
|------------|-------------|

VVCC Member Discounts

Oregon Camera, Corvallis

5% Discount, General Merchandise

Focal Point Photography, Dallas

10% Discount, General Merchandise

Al's Frameshop

Discount

Paid members of VVCC
show your membership card and
receive a discount.

**Is there something you would like
to see in the newsletter?
Let me know!**

Kelly Carmichael
fkellyc67@yahoo.com

A Photo Opportunity!

Leach Botanical Garden is a public garden dedicated to the study of botany and horticulture with an emphasis on plants of the Pacific Northwest and an ecologically sensitive approach to gardening. The Garden was acquired in 1973, it covers 15.63 acres and is committed to providing educational opportunities to members of the public and to maintaining and enhancing the legacy of the Garden's founders, John and Lilla Leach.

Visit www.leachgarden.org for more information

Leach Botanical Garden
6704 SE 122nd Ave
Portland, Oregon

Thank you everyone that provided electronic slideshows for the program.

Maybe we will have more for the next slide show presentation.

Thank you Evelyn and Jerry Smith for your slideshow and stories!

Photographer Quotes:

There are no rules for good photographs, there are only good photographs. Ansel Adams

If your pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough. Robert Capa

Time to select photo competition themes is approaching fast!

We need to come up with some great competition themes for next year!

Be sure to write them down so we have a good selection to choose from.

Check out the VVCC web page at www.valleyviewfinders.org

You might find some useful information about the camera club.

The web page lists field trips, events, a list of links relating to photography, places to visit and much more.

While browsing the VVCC page, you may notice the links to member web pages.

While you are browsing the web page don't forget to check out the Gallery to see winning competition photos.

**May 8, 2008
7:00-9:00 pm**

Albany Library Meeting Room

Food: Cheryl Brownell
Drinks: Diane Hubbard

**May 22nd, 2008
7:00-9:00 pm**

Albany Library Meeting Room

Program:

Scavenger Hunt, (details to be announced)
Nominate officers for 2007 - 2008

Food: No Volunteer
Drinks: No Volunteer

Events to check out!

May Competition... 4C's Invitational... Bring Your Best Shot – color and monochrome

That time is coming again. We need you to bring your best shot and enter it during the **May 8th** club meeting's special competition.
Note: This is a date change... it has been moved to one month earlier that previously announced.

Everyone may enter *one color and one monochrome* image that night, instead of our usual competition. Any image topic, old or new may be entered, subject to the rules below. The *top five color and the top five monochrome* will be the VV entry into the 4C's Invitational, held annually at the fall convention.

This is a club competition, and last year VV barely made it to the "middle of the pack." We did watch and learn from the judging however and perhaps that will result in our club doing better this year. For one thing... "Bigger is better." Although the rules actually allow a fairly small image, let there be no question – the clubs that did the best were, as a rule, submitting large, matted images. I would *recommend a large image in a 16x20 matte, and try to submit images with some form of viewer impact.*

Here are the rules:

1. No images that have already won a ribbon at the 4C's this season [Sept '07 – June '08] are eligible.
2. Prints must have a minimum *print* size of 35-square inches. The *maximum* print and/or mount size must not exceed 320-square inches (with the longest dimension not exceeding 20 inches).
3. The print's presentation *will* influence the score. Therefore, all entries need to be matted or they will not be considered for the 4C's Invitational.
4. As usual, signatures or titles on the front/face of the mat, image or mount will automatically be disqualified.

To select the VV entry, submissions will be judged and the top five color and top five monochrome prints will be sent to the 4C's convention for the Invitational event.

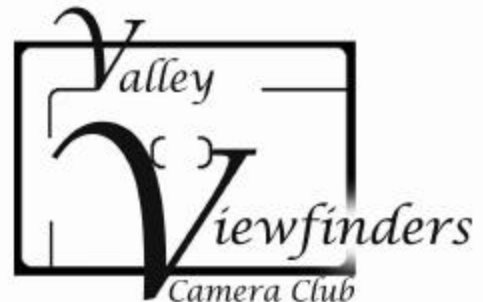
Good Luck and Happy Shooting.

On the tech side of things: If you like to watch to podcasts or listen to MP3 files, check this one out!

Learn as master digital artist Bert Monroy takes a stylus and a digital pad and treats it as Monet and Picasso do with oil and canvas. Learn the tips and tricks you need to whip those digital pictures into shape.

<http://revision3.com/pixelperfect/>

I hope the information provided in this months newsletter has been helpful for you!
If you have suggestions for future issues, please be sure to email me.
fkellyc67@yahoo.com
Enjoy!!



VVCC Photoshop Tips

This is a trick so we can use that little extra space in Photoshop.

All you have to do is press **Shift+Tab** and the side Palettes will disappear to the side, hover your cursor on the edge and they appear move the cursor and the hide again

This gives you a lot more working space.

If you want the Palettes fixed again just press **Shift+Tab** again.

Photoshop 101: Making an Action

By Perry Carmichael

Last month I talked about making an animated gif and that sizing all those images can be tedious. To remove the tedious steps, why not automate them! In Photoshop that is called making an action. In other software it would be called making a macro.

Creating an action is actually fairly simple. But you have to do some homework first. Homework? What do you want your action to do, exactly, and in the correct order. For last month I needed an action to re-size all images, clicking on **Image** then **Image size** and putting the correct size in the dialog box.

Now that we know what we want to do, we first have to make sure we can see the **Actions** tab visible, perhaps next to the **History** tab. If you do not see it, you will need to make it visible. Just click on **Window** and **Actions**. It should now be visible. You will want to keep it off to the side somewhere. I keep mine docked on the right.

Creating the action is a 3 step endeavor: Create a folder to keep the action in (a set), start the capture process (new action), use it (play). Below is the actions pallet and all the pertinent buttons.

Step 1: Create a new set to keep all of your actions. Push **New Set** and name it MyActions. (A good generic name.)

Step 2: Press **New Action** and name your action. Make sure it is being created in the MyActions set and you can ignore everything else.

Push **Record** and you are now recording your action. Select **Image** then **Image size** and type in the correct size for your image. If there are any other things you want your action to do, keep working and make them happen. When you are done, press the **Stop** button. Your action is recorded.

Step 3: Open another image, make sure the action you want to run is selected in the actions dialogue and press Play. Very quickly your action will perform your work for you.

If you have other things you do regularly make more actions. Put them in your MyActions set to keep things tidy.

If this tutorial is a little confusing, I have made up a tutorial video that will show you all the steps here and a few more to help you with Photoshop and taking care of your images. Just go to the web site, [www.valleyviewfinders.org](http://valleyviewfinders.org), and the Action video link is next to the April 2008 link in the Newsletter section. Good luck and if there is anything confusing, please let me know!

View the tutorial online at <http://valleyviewfinders.org/Video.htm>

