



The Viewfinder

March 2008

The Valley Viewfinders Newsletter

Issue 12

Happy March everyone! I am spending more time outside now, it might be spring fever or cabin fever. I find that as it gets warmer I certainly notice that spring is in the air! The colors of spring are popping up everywhere and the birds are singing. This is my favorite time of year because of all the animals being born, the new growth on the trees and the plants coming up through the dirt. This time of year is a rebuilding time for mother nature that I have the opportunity to watch happen each and every year!

With that said, now that spring is right around the corner don't forget your back yard and local parks for photo opportunities. You might find that there is a higher concentration of small animals in local parks and communities than in the wild. In most cases you can easily set out food and attract a wide variety of birds and small animals to photograph. I have noticed that large birds are back in the area and are getting more active as we get closer to spring. In the last week I have seen Bald eagles, hawks, blue heron and white egret. They were all waiting to be photographed.

To get "the perfect shot" of the birds, having a small blind could make all the difference in getting that GREAT PHOTO! Lightweight collapsible blinds are available online and at your outdoor supply stores. You can usually find them at Bi-Mart and my favorite store, Sportsman's Warehouse. Good luck, stay safe and most of all have fun!

Your 2008 newsletter editor
Kelly Carmichael



REMINDER

Print Chair Volunteers Needed!

Becky is resigning from the Monochrome/B&W print chair position in just over a month. We need someone to step up NOW so you can learn the duties and to take ownership of the position.

We will be voting for new officers in June, you may want to think of nominations or take the lead and put your own name in the hat.



Fellow Viewfinders:

At our March 27th meeting we will be viewing submissions of photo essays from our members. This is a great creative outlet with endless possibilities. The popularity has been growing and I hope this meeting will prove to be another hit. I would also like to encourage those who participate, to submit their creations to the 4-C's competition.

It will be interesting to watch the evolution of this activity. When opportunity presents itself, I would like to propose the creation of our own DVD to be produced and sent to other clubs. Who knows, it could be the start of something big!

Since I am not a politician I am allowed to make my correspondence brief. So, I will leave it at that for now.

Until we meet again!

Tim Sperry
President, Valley Viewfinders Camera Club

We need volunteers!
Sign up to bring refreshments.
Many dates still open!

March 13, 2008 7:00--9:00

Albany Library Meeting Room

Program:

Judging 4C's Electronic Images

Competition:

Time Lapse Photography

Now includes Monthly EID

Food: Chris Sinnett

Drinks: The O'Donnell's

March 27, 2008 7:00--9:00

Albany Library Meeting Room

Program:

An exhibition of photo essays by members, both in traditional slide show and digital slide show formats.

Thank you Steve Young
for your presentation on
Photo Essays and
how they are created

If you have something
you would like to see
in a future newsletter
please let me know!

Kelly Carmichael
fkellyc67@yahoo.com

Don't Forget!
April 10th
Competition Theme
Waterfall(s)

February Print Competition Winners

Valley Viewfinders B&W Print

February 2008

Large Theme

- 1st - Bob O'Donnell - Islands in the Sky
2nd - Lee Perigo - Into the Woods

Small Theme

- 1st - Kelly Carmichael - Fishing in the Fog
2nd - Perry Carmichael - Walk the Dock
3rd - Lee Perigo - Over the River

Large Open

- 1st - Perry Carmichael - Snow on the Farm
2nd - Bob O'Donnell - Surf and Sandstone
3rd - Terry Tallis - Oregon Coast #1

Small Open

- 1st - Harold Marx - A Bend in the River
Tie for 2nd - Perry Carmichael - Portland Dock
Perry Carmichael - Night Court

Valley Viewfinders Color Print

February 2008

Large Theme (Fog):

- * 1st Terry Tallis "Morning Glow"
* 2nd Perry Carmichael "Above the Fog"
3rd Bob O'Donnell "Frosty Morning"

Small Theme (Fog):

- * 1st Lee Perigo "November Morning"
* 2nd (t) Cheryl Robbins "Train Trestle in Fog"
* 2nd (t) Bob O'Donnell "Here and There"

Large Open:

- * 1st Larry Rosenkoetter "Duck Pretty"
* 2nd Bob O'Donnell "Hot Spot"
* 3rd (t) Lee Perigo "Orchids"
* 3rd (t) Ken Miller "Stone Forrest"

Small Open:

- * 1st Kelly Carmichael "City Lights"
* 2nd Bob O'Donnell "Blue and Proud of It"
3rd Kelly Carmichael "Wooden Duck #1"

* Indicates print goes on to 4Cs for March

Under the current 4Cs rules we will submit 6 large prints (because we had 11 different photographers entering large images); and we will submit 5 small prints (because we had 9 different photographers entering small images). Current rules are: Divide the number of photographers by 2 to get allowable submissions; with a max of 10 and a

Time to step up and fill
openings on the
refreshment sign up sheet

Refreshments are needed for the
following meetings:

March 27
April 10
April 24
May 8
May 22
June 12

call or email Tim Sperry with the
date and specify food or drinks

Hey everyone!

Have you been thinking Competition Themes for
next year?

Have your thinking caps on while pressing the
shutter release and come up with new themes!

A Photo Opportunity!



StateParks.com is looking for volunteers that would like to have their State Park related photographs displayed on the Stateparks.com web site.

They will place your name and a link to your web site (and a copyright notice if you wish) next to each of your photographs that they display, if you wish, you can simply remain anonymous. For more details and to sign up go to the following web page;

<http://www.stateparks.com/photoshop/>

“FOR SALE”

Canon EF by Phoenix,
100mm f3.5 macro lens

\$65.00 for club members

Call Perry at
503-394-4289 or 541-974-3261

Or email to
perry@pccaprice.com

Check out the VVCC web page

www.valleyviewfinders.org

You will find information about the camera club on the web. The web page lists field trips, events from the past and a long list of links relating to photography and places to visit.

While you are browsing the web page be sure to check out the gallery.

Who knows...

You might see your own work!

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.

Do you have a favorite place you like to go and shoot photos? Share them with the club here.

Send your emails to:
fkellyc67@yahoo.com
I will try to have it in the next newsletter.

Thank you!

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.

Here are a few events you might want to check out!

Butterfly Bonanza

Where spring is really in the air, the spring schedule begins - March 15th, 2008

Open to the public once again March 15th, Betty and Robert Heriford of Independence, have a greenhouse full of adult insects and a lab for hatching young butterflies.

They are recognized breeders of endangered species for release to the wild.

You can call or email them to arrange viewing and photographing these colorful insects.

Evening Tours by Appointment Only

Adults \$8.50

Seniors 65+ \$8.00

4 to 10 year old \$6.00

10% discount for groups of 8 or more

Phone: 503-838-0976

E-mail: betty@wingsofwonder.us

Web Page: www.wingsofwonder.us

Photo and Volunteer Opportunity at the ocean!

It is time again for the annual Great Oregon Spring Beach Cleanup

Saturday, March 29, 2008 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

http://www.solv.org/programs/pring_beach_cleanup.asp

The Inland Empire Chapter of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) Annual Spring Photo Seminar presents:

MARC MUENCH

March 29-30, 2008 –In Spokane

MARC MUENCH - Professional landscape & sports photographer for 19 years. "Kodak Photo Icon", 2003. Covers or inside articles in Time, National Geographic, Traveler, Arizona Highways, Ski, Skiing and 9 books published.

Curriculum Vitae for Marc Muench: www.muenchphotography.com

Seminar Details & Registration: www.spokanecameraclub.org/ie-psa/seminar

E-mail questions to Seminar Chair, Carlos Delgadillo: svcc4c@yahoo.com

BONUS: *Two free Field Trips, limited to the first 25 registrants from outside Spokane and Whitman Counties who request each Field Trip:

1) "**Metropolitan Spokane**" 2 + hours, Saturday evening & night, March 29, around Riverfront Park, led by Rosemarie Bisiar and Harvey Brown.

2) "**Palouse Sampler**" All Day, Monday, March 31, led by Otto Stevens

Includes free "Photographer's Guide to the Palouse."

Send E-mail to Gerald Biggs gbiggs@turbonet.com to request one of the Field Trips.

***Cancelable in case of significant rain.**

VVCC Photo Tips

By Art Burkhalter

Many camera meters get fooled when the subject matter is very bright, e.g. snow, clouds, beach sand. The result is often a loss of detail.

To retain the detail one should reduce the metered exposure by a stop or two.

Do this by switching to manual shooting mode or using "exposure compensation" (-1 or -2 EV).

VVCC Tech Tips

Photoshop 101: Animated GIF's

By Perry Carmichael

If you have surfed the web you know what they are. Those little pictures that sit in place and move: spinning dice, dog panting, and so on. You can see my most recent on my blog, <http://perry-myworld.blogspot.com/2008/02/william-discovers-down-hill-on-his-bike.html>. They are fairly easy to create if you have any version of Photoshop 5.5 and newer. (As far as I know, that is.)

Before we get started on the tutorial you first you need a set of images. This is best done with your camera following a moving object or just a couple versions of your favorite subject. Next you need to consider image size. A typical icon, or avatar, for your favorite forum is 100X100 pixels. For your own web site or gallery, you can have any size you want. But remember, if you have a 25 image gif, the computer looking at your image has to load 25 images. My blog's animated gif is 300 pixels across.

On with the tutorial.....

1. Start Photoshop and load in all your images and set them to the desired size. Do this by selecting **Image** from the menu then **Image Size...** This can be tedious but must be done. ***Tuck your first image off to the side for easy access.***
2. Click on your second image to make it active. Press "**Ctrl A**" (control-a and sorry I don't know the Mac equivalent) on your keyboard to select all. This can also be accomplished through the menus. Press "**Ctrl C**" to copy the image.
3. Click on the first image and press "**Ctrl V**" to paste the second image into the first. This will create a new layer behind the background layer. Each layer will become a frame in your animation.
4. Repeat steps 2 & 3 until you have pasted all of your images as layers into your first image.
5. Save our file with the PSD extension. You don't want to do this all over again do you?
6. Click on **File** and **Edit in ImageReady**. Your first image with all the layers will open in ImageReady.
7. In ImageReady click on the **Window** menu then **Animation**. A dialog will open with your first image in it.
8. Click on the Animation dialog's submenu arrow (upper right corner) and select Make Frames from Layers. All your layers will show up as frames in your animation.
9. Set the time(s) for each frame to display. You can select them all and set the same time for all or what ever you prefer. Play with it and tweak it.
10. Click on **File** and then **Save Optimized As...** to save our file as the animated gif. You can now view your gif in a web browser, attach and display in an email, use as an avatar or show on your web page!

Remember the tedious part in step #1, sizing all those images? For a 2 or 3 image gif, no big deal. But for something larger like my 15 image gif, that would be well done in a Photoshop action. I'll walk you through making an action next month.

Enjoy and happy Photoshopping!

Columbia Council of Camera Clubs

Electronic Imaging Division Monthly Competition

This is a Club Competition. Member Clubs will adhere to the General Entry Requirements and follow the guidelines for Transparency Category, Monthly Slide Division. Competing 4Cs Member Clubs may be divided into groups in the future if the number of participating clubs exceeds eleven (11).

Rules Specific to the new Electronic Images Monthly Competition

Entry is not limited to images created and/or modified digitally. Images may also be acquired and/or modified traditionally and then scanned (for example: your slide or print may be created traditionally and then scanned and entered). The images must be sent on-line by email.

Your club EID chairman will submit club entries to the Electronic Imaging Division email address. He must attach only ONE image per email. A maximum of 5 images may be submitted per club, per competition, each separately. In the subject line of each email put only the complete filename of each image. Send emails with images attached to the specified email address for EID monthly competition.

Image File Specifics

The images must be in jpg format.

The maximum dimension is 1024 pixels on the long side and 768 pixels on the short side.

Resolution set at 72 dpi.

Images may not be larger than 350 kb; a jpeg compression of 9 or 10 works best.

Image File Naming Conventions

FirstnameLastname_YourClubsInitials_Title.jpg

(example: JohnDoe_VVCC_PrettyFlower.jpg)

Members should resize and rename their entries before submitting them to their club chairman. However, it is the chairman's responsibility to ensure that the entries comply before sending. The club EID chairman must number each image 1 to 5. This will require renaming each image to add a 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Entry Deadlines

Entries must be emailed to the 4Cs EID email address by midnight on the 1st day of the month. Entries received after the deadline will not be judged unless the webmaster and the judging club is willing and/or able to accommodate them..

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!!

