



THE VIEWFINDER

MAY 2008

THE VALLEY VIEWFINDERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 14

Welcome to the May 2008 Viewfinder Newsletter. It is now Wednesday the 7th of May and a week later getting this out. The weather made me do it. I was enjoying the sunshine this weekend and did not spend much time indoors and I hope you had the same opportunity!

The weather has finally changed for the better and the spring snow is mostly gone. Maybe now we all can get some outside time to get some photos of what we like most. The days are still getting longer and summer is almost here believe it or not! Take time to get outdoors and shoot to your hearts desire when you have a chance.

Your 2008 newsletter editor
Kelly Carmichael



It is time to select competition themes for next year!

Be sure to bring your ideas with you so
we have a good selection to choose from!

Ask a National Geographic Photographer

National Geographic photographer Mark Thiessen answers photography questions, and tells the secrets to great shots. Widely published in books and magazines, Thiessen has been on staff at National Geographic since 1997. He's covered subjects from the discovery of the U.S.S. *Yorktown* to the search for other Earths.

<http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/photographers/ask-photographer-answers-april08.html>

Don't Forget to get your discounts at the following businesses when you show your VVCC Member card

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.

2008 Best of the Northwest Challenge Digital Competition

The Final Date for receiving Entries.. August 1, 2008

Best of the Northwest Judging Location and Date to be announced.

From all entries the top entries will be selected, awarding a 1st, 2nd, 3rd places and 8 honorable mentions.

All accepted images will be made available to the council websites if they choose to display them as well as scores. There will be a CD made of the accepted images. This CD will be made available for a fee of \$10 to cover expenses to any member club of the NWCC or CCCC, or member of those clubs.

Challenge Committee -- Tye Watts, Blue Mountain Photo Club, Chairman Columbia Council of Camera Clubs and Gary McMillan, Blue Mountain Photo Club, Vice Chairman Columbia Council of Camera Clubs.

Announcement of those accepted in the Best of the NW Challenge will be made shortly after judging is completed. Those images that have been selected for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and honorable mentions will be announced at the joint conference of the NWCC and CCCC in October with suitable recognition for their accomplishments.

Since this info is still preliminary, you may find it helpful to look at last year's information:

<http://www.columbiacouncil.com/Publications/BNWC/2007Rules/07BNWC-digital.pdf>

Remember... this is last year's link, and NOT this year's.



Are you in need of even more competition?

CALL TO ARTISTS:

The All-Oregon Art Annual, a juried exhibition which runs concurrently with the Oregon State Fair, is issuing a "call to artists" to all Oregon residents. Open to all media with the exception of video, performance. Submission by slides or CD. Entry fee \$15/2 images. Cash awards.

Prospectus available by mid-April at www.oregonstatefair.org.

Jurors: Charles Froelick, Lucinda Parker and Lee Imonen.

For more information, contact Eileen Cotter Howell at 503-362-5386.

Valley Viewfinders Color Print

Large Theme (Waterfalls):

- * 1st Cheryl Robbins "Multnomah Falls Winter"
- * 2nd Lee Perigo "Waterfall"
- * 3rd (t) Hal Schalles "Alsea Falls"
- * 3rd (t) Terry Tallis "Alsea River Cascades"

Large Open:

- * 1st Lee Perigo "McDowell Creek"
- * 2nd Hal Schalles "Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm"
- 3rd Larry Rosenkoetter "Regal"

Small Theme (Waterfalls):

- * 1st Bob O'Donnell "Moose Falls - YNP"
- * 1st Terry Tallis "Japanese Gardens"
- 3rd Cheryl Robbins "Iced Falls"

Small Open:

- * 1st Terry Tallis "Laysan Albatross"
- * 1st Lee Perigo "Dancer"
- * 3rd Bob O'Donnell "Cape Kiwanda"

* Indicates print goes on to 4Cs for May

**Let me know if there is something
you would like
to see in the newsletter?**

**Just send an email to:
fkellyc67@yahoo.com**

**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**

Thank you!

When good digital bodies go bad!

Digital SLR bodies and what to do with them when they break:

1. Tire Chock; throw that worn out digital body under a tire so the car won't roll over you when you change a flat.
2. Always carry a bad body with you to shield your eyes and good camera against foul balls while shooting a baseball game
3. Take out the mirror and make it into a pen/pencil holder
4. Seal the body with epoxy and make it into a planter for a Bonsai tree
5. They don't look too bad as bookends

On the lighter side of photography

A professional photographer, at a friend's house for dinner, was asked to show his portfolio from a recent overseas trip.

His friends were quite impressed.

"What wonderful photos!" said the host's wife. "You must have a very expensive camera."

The photographer just smiled and waited until after dinner, when he said, "Thank you for the delicious meal. You must have very expensive pans!"

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

Other Photo Opportunities

You can now use the photography blind on the EE Wilson Wildlife Area. Staff feed daily so there will be good photo opportunities for waterfowl including mallards, wood duck, hooded merganser, ring-necked duck, western Canada goose (goose eggs are hatching now) Broods are common. Snipe and other shorebirds are periodically seen. Call the office to make a reservation and get directions to blinds, (541) 745-5334.

Sauvie Island Wildlife Area

Anna's and Rufous hummingbirds are back in great numbers and the finches are arriving. The wood ducks are back and the great blue heron rookery is now visible from the Walton beach parking lot. Herons generally nest (roost) in colonies in large trees. Migratory sandhill cranes are starting to leave the area. Bald eagles and red-tailed hawks are very active on their nests in anticipation of their new arrivals. There are approximately 10 active eagle nests on the Wildlife Area. The great horned owls have chicks now.

Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

Look for waterfowl, shore birds, wading birds, songbirds, raptors, reptiles and amphibians. The Pacific tree frog chorus is raucous on warm spring nights. Eight hunting blinds located in the East and West Coyote units (located south of Hwy 126) are available for anyone to use for wildlife viewing throughout the summer and provide great photo opportunities.

Pelicans are back on the Oregon coast. Watch them soar with precision just inches above the wave tops.

Adult whales and calves are heading north for summer,

They are most often seen off the Oregon coast from late April through June.

Lincoln City, Summer Kite Festival, will be held June 28th & 29th at the D-River State Wayside

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

Albany Library Meeting Room

Thank You Ken Miller, and the O'Donnell's
for picking up the refreshments!

**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 than 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.

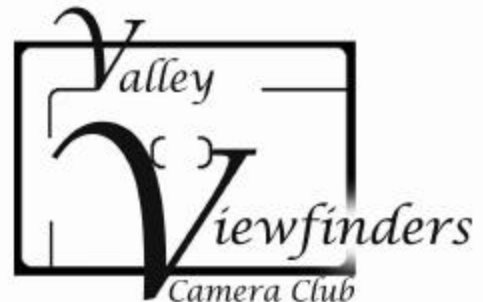
Good Luck and Happy Shooting.

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 this months newsletter has been useful!
If you have suggestions for future issues,
please email me.
fkellyc67@yahoo.com
Enjoy!!



If you use Photoshop, check this site out!

For Photoshop tips, tutorials and a free Photoshop E-Book with “25 ESSENTIAL Photoshop Moves” for subscribers of the EA newsletter, check out their site <http://www.theelectricartist.com/> you never know what you might learn.

To find some great online deals you might want to check out <http://www.cameratown.com/> Cameratown searches out deals on the internet and provide links for you!



THE OREGON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES 2008 GO CLICK! PHOTO CONTEST

Park Visitors Encouraged to Take a Camera When They Go Play in State Parks

The first days of spring mean flowers, the end of winter and longer days. This year it means the start of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's (OPRD) popular annual photo contest, Go Click! Amateur photographers who enjoy the great outdoors are invited to go play in Oregon's extensive system of state parks, take photos of their experiences and enter them in this year's contest.

The contest will run from March 25 to August 1, 2008. Images submitted may be from previous years, but must be taken on OPRD property. The contest is open to amateur photographers of all ages and from anywhere.

For complete contest rules and information about the Oregon Parks and Recreation Go Click! photo contest, including a list of OPRD properties, visit www.oregonstateparks.org/goclick, or call 800-551-6949.

In closing of this month's newsletter I want to share a web site I found through a podcast I listen to. The site address is <http://www.grc.com> they have tools to test that your internet connection is secure and also tests the security of your systems router/firewall.

I ran this test and I found that my work network is very volatile and not secure but my home wireless network is safe from most hacks and internet threats.

GRC.com also has software called Spinrite they sell. This program performs a hard disk recovery after major disk failure. I do not know exactly how it works but after reading customer reviews and doing other research, I was impressed! The rate of recovery for this program can be slow but is concise. It recovers lost data and allows the hard drive to be used again even after a major hard disk failure.

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.