

# FOCUS!

[WWW.FOCUSGROUPCC.COM/](http://WWW.FOCUSGROUPCC.COM/)

**Serious photographers sharing their knowledge and experiences**

## From the President

*Cyane Lowden*

The James Center exhibition was a great success with some members making sales. And now the SunTrust exhibition is upon us. We have 21 members showing in this brand new space. Thank you each one for responding to the call to show your work. It should be a wonderful new space. We will be there again June 2014. And now you have an entire month to prepare images for the Richmond Public Library in December. These three months have been a very good opportunity to push image making to the max.

Don't forget Roundtable at our regular monthly meetings too. It is yet another way to show your photographs. This is an ideal place to show images you yourself may have questions about or perhaps they are from a recent travel, which can be the neighborhood or abroad. It is a great time to share.

Please remember that this is a club of contributing members. Without your involvement in exhibits, events, articles for the newsletter, or working on committees, the Focus Group would not be the vibrant camera club that it is. It all depends on our collective effort.

Happy Thanksgiving, everybody! I hope your cameras will be overflowing with festive photos.



*By Hyang Lee Yangki*

## The FGCC Officers and Staff

<b>Cyane Lowden</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Cindy Krumbein</b>	<b>VP and Programs</b>
<b>Stephen Retherford</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Gilpin Brown</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Bob Coles</b>	<b>Chief Editor</b>
<b>Frank Feigert</b>	<b>Copy Editor</b>
<b>Ron Ratcliffe</b>	<b>Publishing</b>

### Committees and Chairs:

<b>Frank Feigert</b>	<b>Membership</b>
<b>Debbie Roberts</b>	<b>Field Trips</b>
<b>Bill Billings</b>	<b>Website Coordinator</b>
<b>Al Warfield</b>	<b>Roundtable Org.</b>
<b>Hal Tyler</b>	<b>Exhibits</b>

**Club Meetings are held second Tuesday 7:30 PM**

**River Road Presbyterian Church**

**8960 River Road.**

**Richmond**

**Board Meetings are held at:**

**1650 Willow Lawn Drive, Suite 201.**

## ***Ireland Memories***

*By John Garofalo*

Our recent trip to Ireland was not intended to be a photographic odyssey. We were just a group of friends who motor coached across this beautifully verdant country taking in the sights, the people, the music, the allure of the countryside and the vitality of the cities of Ireland.

Our tour took us to and through Shannon, Killarney, Dingle Bay, Galway, Sligo, Donegal, Derry, Belfast and Dublin.

What a strikingly beautiful country. Time seems to have stood still in the rural farming areas. The big cities, in contrast, were vibrant and bustling with vitality. The history of the country is rather complex and the natives are quick to chronicle the trials and tribulations of Irish history. They're also quick to relate folklore tales, tell you a story, quote poetry or break out in song and join you in a "pint".

From a photographer's perspective, the weather was not the best, and most of the time I was shooting (on the go) at the least opportune times of the day. But the Ireland experience was indescribable and I managed to capture a few acceptable images.



*Killarney National Park, Ireland*

## ***Ireland Memories***

By John Garofalo



*Dunluce Castle, Derry, No. Ireland*



*Guinness Storehouse, Dublin, Ireland*



*By Cyane Lowden*



*By Al Warfield*



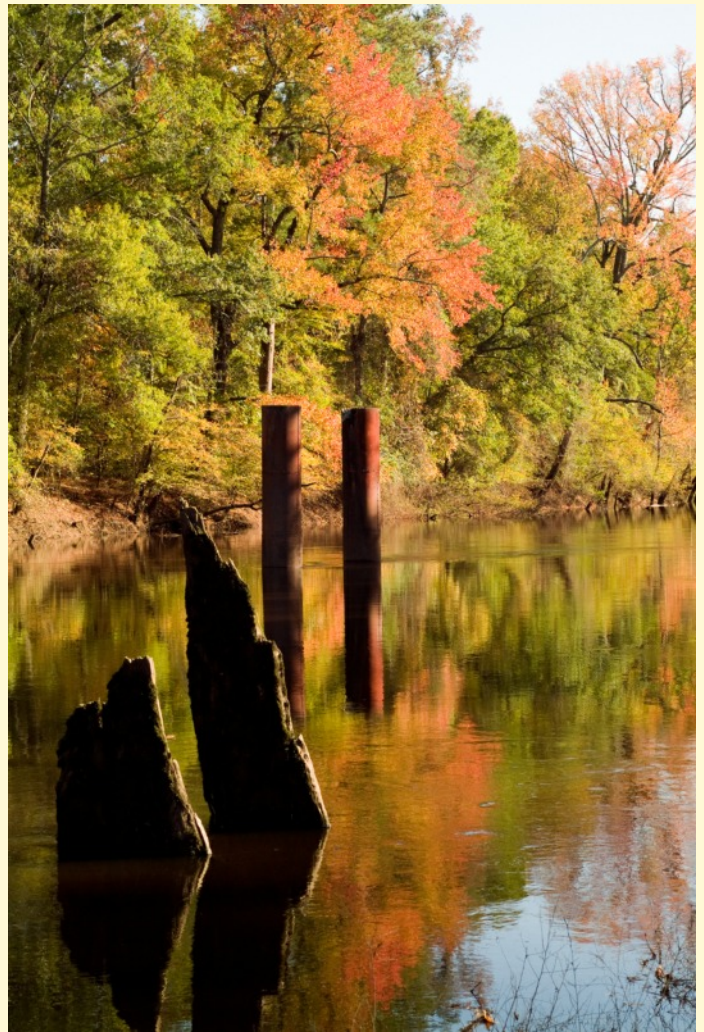
*By Bill Billings*

*Fall Shots Con't form page 4*



**South of the James**

*by Linda Warfield*



**The Nottaway River**

*By Ron Ratcliffe*



**Michigan Fall**

*By Robert Coles*

## How Planning FGCC Field Trips Jump-Started My New Career

*By Debra Roberts*

As some of you may know, when I organized FGCC last year for a field trip atop the downtown SunTrust building, it generated a new passion. Previously, I had been very afraid of heights; now I am actively pursuing opportunities to photograph very tall buildings, from their rooftops. I recently went to Charlotte, NC, as a contracted photographer for an “Over the Edge” event to benefit Special Olympics. While there I was allowed access to a number of tall buildings in addition to the site of the benefit. Interested members can see some of my images at [www.DebrakRoberts.com/Over-the-Edge-Events](http://www.DebrakRoberts.com/Over-the-Edge-Events).

I have found myself at a point where I had to plan how to make the most of the opportunities that I encountered, so I created “Debra K. Roberts Photography”, with insurance, a website, and social media to publicize my work. I am working daily to improve my business and photographic skills and my photographer’s eye. It has been a challenge, but the effort has been very satisfying. Pride in my work has not yet entered the equation, but photographic and financial success are my goals.

I’m thrilled and delighted that planning Field Trips for FGCC has taken me outside of my area of expertise or even my area of comfort. I hope that together we can continue to find and develop Field Trips for our members so that we can each explore new opportunities for creativity. Please let me know your suggestions and hopes for the coming months, and we can explore the world together. A special *Thank You* to Bob Coles for creating so many monthly meet-ups and for suggesting so many new photo-ops.



Charlotte NC



By Debbie Roberts

## Report on the James Center exhibit

By Vicky Eicher

Congratulations to Steve Baranoff, Ron Ratcliffe and Rob Sabatini who sold a total of four images at this year's James Center exhibit! They were among the 22 members who exhibited 54 images in this event.

And thanks go to Linda Warfield, Cindy Krumbein and Etti Baranoff who pulled together a wonderful opening reception enjoyed by all.

Plan ahead. We have reserved the James Center for next year, and will hang on October 4, 2014!

## Nature Visions 2013 Photo Expo

Vicky Eicher had two images accepted into the juried Nature Visions 2013 Photo Expo, Manassas Va, Nov. 8-10, 2014. Vicky entered as a member of the Reston Photographic Society, and the three jury panel accepted only 17% of that group's submissions. For additional information about this expo, check [www.naturevisions.org](http://www.naturevisions.org).

## Photo Workshop Opportunities at FotoWeekDC Nov 2-7

Dear Photo Enthusiasts,  
November is an exciting month in Washington when it comes to photography, with the annual [FotoWeek-DC](#) festival taking place from November 1 through November 10. The event offers a full slate of activities from displays of amazing work and participation in wonderful learning opportunities.

Members of your camera club might be interested in a series of eight [half-day workshops](#), organized as part of FotoWeekDC and running from November 2 through November 7. The workshops are led by world renowned photographers and cover a wide range of topics, from photo editing and color use to photojournalism and mobile photography to fine art and marketing.

All workshops will be held at the Goethe Institute, 812 7th Street, NW.

We would appreciate your sharing this information with your club members and we hope many of them will take advantage of these opportunities next week!  
FotoWeekDC Team

[www.fotoweekdc.org](http://www.fotoweekdc.org)

## Archiving

By Ron Ratcliffe

**D**igital Photography requires a plan to maintain, backup and preserve the digital files. It is not uncommon for an amateur photographer today to have in excess of 20,000 pictures that he wants to continue to keep and have immediate access to. I will take a look at various techniques for storing the 20k pictures and the cost involved as well as availability,

First lets look at 20,000 pictures. Assuming the file type is JPG, a compressed lossy file, and the files would average 2,500,000 Bytes each - that is 50,000,000,000 or 50GB. Now if you shoot full frame, RAW or store the files as TIF, the storage requirements go up dramatically. As an example, using an average TIF file size of 65MB the same 20,000 pictures are using 1,300,000,000,000 Bytes equal to 1,300 GB or 1.3 TB. Therefore, some in the industry use a quick rule of thumb for sizing to allow 1 TB per mix of 20,000 pictures.

Now that you need that TB of storage, how is the best way to obtain at an affordable rate that has a high reliable probability.

**Tape:** Many commercial and Government sites use digital tape. Some of the largest tape media can store up to 80GB. The tapes can be expensive and always a delay problem finding your file because immediate access is slowed down by the linear search. Also, 80GB max would require off-line storage of multiple tapes and another filing system. Not a viable solution for the home system.

**CD:** Writable and erasable CDs are readily available at very low cost, but the very maximum storage even on multi-layer blu-ray is 10GB with DVD less than half the blu-ray. Access is fast, but the limited capacity creates a problem. Also, the home writable CD is composed of an organic material is susceptible to fungus after long term storage with

even the smallest amount making the disc unusable. Commercial disc are glass and sealed in a vacuum good for a hundred years but cost a few hundred dollars each.

**Rotating Magnetic:** The rotating magnetic disk remains the best media for storing large amounts of data and have it immediately accessible to the user. One has many options for adding disk storage to a system:

- Simply add an internal disk to your system. Relatively inexpensive up to 4 TB, but single point of failure. This is usually not possible on laptop.
- Easiest of all would be to add an external USB disk to your system and share to all on your local network. Not only easy but the least expensive and portable. Risk here is many of the external disk are the very inexpensive 2 ½ “ and not the most reliable. This is also known as JBOD (Just a Bunch of Drives) especially when more than one is used. JBOD means the individual disks are presented (to a server) with no merging, pooling or structure applied. Again, single point of failure.
- Icloud: There has been much publicity in recent months about getting your iCloud storage. All the major players, Google, Amazon, Norton and many not so major players are offering iCloud “free storage” to get you committed. The small amount of testing I have done shows that it seems to work well. Why not just jump on the icloud wagon and be done. Well, the cost is out of sight as your storage needs go up

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Trying to display a friends photo album - Oct 31, 2013





Price Comparison for 1TB

Amazon	Google	Apple	MS Skydrive
\$80/64/m	\$49.00	\$2,000/yr	\$500/m

Because of an influx of pads, chromebook and Windows tablets, the trend is to use the device as a thin client and require some type of remote cloud storage. Also, an upcoming price war will probably close many of the smaller companies. Cheaper plans with storage adjustments like Amazon with it's split pricing whether you want redundant storage or not. Microsoft's Skydrive not only offers storage but applications such as Office to your laptop

Therefore, remote storage is expensive and the user has no control over his data. Historically, storage firms have closed and given two weeks notice to unload your data if you still need it. Not a very viable option for the long term.

*The better alternative*

- “**Network-attached storage (NAS)** is file-level (one picture = one file) computer data storage connected to a computer network providing data access to a heterogeneous group of clients. NAS not only operates as a file server, but is specialized for this task either by its hardware, software, or configuration of those elements. NAS is often manufactured as a computer appliance – a specialized computer built from the ground up for storing and serving files.”

“NAS systems are networked appliances which contain one or more hard drives, often arranged into logical, redundant storage containers. Network-attached storage removes the responsibility of file serving from other servers on the network”.

The NAS box as stated above is an appliance. It is designed much like your other home appliances i.e. the plug and play refrigerator. The NAS has no monitor or keyboard since communications is done through a browser. Most NAS units have more than one disk unit and the disk are configured in one of the available RAIDs. (RAID is Redundant Array of Independent Disks). Most RAID systems store the same data redundantly on multiple disks that nevertheless appear to the operating system as a single disk. RAID version one for example used to be considered just a carbon copy, but now Hybrid RAID one has built in scalable hot swap to larger drives with auto build with no single point of failure. In a RAID one, two (2) 2TB disk will still appear as 2TB to the system because of the redundancy.

As previously stated, the appliance can act as a file server. We photographers are interested in storing pictures and then recalling. How can a photographer benefit from the NAS box? (There are many NAS type boxes on the market, but Synology has the most comprehensive and the following capabilities are all Synology. The following also assumes you have a router with Wi-Fi)

- The NAS media server will let you show your albums on your TV when a Wi-Fi receiver is attached. Many new TVs have this built in or I use a Sony Blu-Ray player with Wi-Fi.
- The Synology NAS has a built in Photo Server for on-line, that manages your albums, displays slide shows with geo reference maps when data available and time lines.
- The Synology NAS has an iCloud application that can automatically keep a copy of saved files from the computer. It

*Continued on Page 10*

also keeps all revisions of saved files. This is like your own auto drop box.

- The unit will let you build your own no cost web site and private URL. Now you can review and show your pictures anywhere in the world where Internet is available. I have tested on Windows, Linux and iPhone without any glitches.
- Built-in security system that can attach up to 16 wireless IP cameras and using motion detection, can interrupt your slide show with intruder information.
- All files can be shared between Windows, Mac and Linux.
- Unit includes a system backup capability
- System includes a virus application at no charge.

**For a live demo:**

<http://demo.synology.com:5000/>



User: Admin Password: Synology

**Cost:** The one-time cost is contingent on how big and how fast. For home use, the model DS 212 is adequate ( up to 8TB ) and Amazon has used Diskless DS 212 for \$150 and new for \$193. Two (1)TB disk about \$150 and you are done. Other models are available with dual processors and up to 12 disks.

**Size:** 4w x 6h x 9d Inches. Runs cool and silent.

**Reliability:** The unit's operating system is stored in ROM and if you configure a hybrid RAID disk set, you would have two copies of everything. If you are really paranoid about your files, you can buy an identical unit, put it at your sister's house in Denver, and the software will keep both in sync (now four copies). All at no further monthly charge. - only 18w of power. The little guy also is designed to run off an UPS if you need battery backup.

Next Month: What is backup, imaging and archiving.

	Standard Storage	Reduced Redundancy Storage	Glacier Storage
First 1 TB / month	\$0.095 per GB	\$0.076 per GB	\$0.010 per GB
Next 49 TB / month	\$0.080 per GB	\$0.064 per GB	\$0.010 per GB
Next 450 TB / month	\$0.070 per GB	\$0.056 per GB	\$0.010 per GB
Next 500 TB / month	\$0.065 per GB	\$0.052 per GB	\$0.010 per GB
Next 4000 TB / month	\$0.060 per GB	\$0.048 per GB	\$0.010 per GB
Over 5000 TB / month	\$0.055 per GB	\$0.037 per GB	\$0.010 per GB

### Request Pricing

Region: US Standard	
Pricing	
PUT, COPY, POST, or LIST Requests	\$0.005 per 1,000 requests
Glacier Archive and Restore Requests	\$0.05 per 1,000 requests
Delete Requests	Free †
GET and all other Requests	\$0.004 per 10,000 requests
Glacier Data Restores	Free ††

† No charge for delete requests of Standard or RRS objects. For objects that are archived to Glacier, there is a pro-rated

### Amazon Icloud pricing table

Free quota per app per day	Price
28 free instance hours	\$0.08 / hour
	\$0.05 / hour
1G	\$0.18 / GB / month
1G	\$0.12 / GB
1G	Free
50k free read/write/small	\$0.09/100k write ops \$0.06/100k read ops \$0.01/100k small ops
1000 basic operations	\$0.10/10k basic operations

### Google pricing table



## What's in my camera bag?

By Bob Coles

Does anyone care? Well maybe, since there are so many good options today we like to know what others use and why.

So, here is what I use, not everything I own, but what I carry on a typical photo outing when various types of subjects might be worked.

**Bag:** Pacsafe shoulder bag. This bag and strap are reinforced and can be completely locked and even locked to secure items in you hotel room or anywhere you take the bag.

**Camera:** Leica M (240) (full frame 24mp) with Leica EVF and RRS L-bracket and grip.

**Lenses:** I always carry the Leica 35 f/2 and 50 f/2. When needed I will add the Zeiss 21 f/2.8 and/or the Leica 90 f/2.8. Each lens has a lens cap and hood.

**Filters:** B+W 46mm ND (2, 6 & 10 Stops) and Polarizer. Plus a 46 to 39 step-down ring

**Meter:** In camera plus the very small Gossen Digisix handheld meter for both reflective and incident readings

**Flash:** None, often use reflectors

**Tripod:** Manfrotto 055CXPro Carbon fiber 3-section and a very small tabletop tripod.

**Tripod Head:** RRS BH-55 or RRS BH-30 depending the type of subjects and amount of walking.

**Cable Release or remote:** Cable release, I normally use the self-timer

**Other:** Cleaning cloths, extra battery and extra memory cards, Colorchecker Passport, Lowepro memory card case, Hoodman viewer, OP/Tech Rainsleeve and the Op/Tech Leica M lens coupler (allows 2 lenses to be connected back to back to save space in the bag).



By Bill Billings

## FGCC Calendar 2013-2014

Month	Day	Activity	What	Contact
<b>November</b>	1	Show	SunTrust Gallery (11/1 to 11/30)	TBD
	5	Board Meeting	All are welcome 6:30PM	Cyane
	12	Club Meeting	Jeff Glotzl, Image Maker	Cindy
	25	Deadline	For December Newsletter	Ron
<b>December</b>	3	Board Meeting	All are welcome 6:30PM	Cyane
	6	Show	Richmond Public Library (12-6 to 12/31)	TBD
	6	Reception	Richmond Public Library Show	TBD
	10	Club Meeting	Photographers' Wish-List	Cindy
	30	Deadline	For January Newsletter	Ron
<b>January</b>	9	Board Meeting	All are welcome 6:30PM	Cyane
	14	Club Meeting	Tim Wright will discuss his vision for and the making of his award-winning video & Start of Brown Bag	Cindy
	26	Pizza Party	At the Krumbains & screening of Tim's Video	
	27	Deadline	For Febuary Newsletter	Ron