

# **FOCUS!**

**Serious photographers sharing their knowledge and experiences**

## **From the President**

We begin a new year, ready to roll out new ideas, events and proposals, right? The Brown Bag always drives those who participate to think way outside the box. And we will have some of our own members, past and present, hosting programs from Lightroom, to books, to videos and member showcases. If you have ideas for future enterprises please let the board or the program committee know or just bring it up at our monthly meeting.

Winter is a season that can offer opportunities anywhere from sharp contrast to softly muted images. The mountains have had some gorgeous foggy days this winter that can make wonderfully mysterious photos. The trick is getting there before the fog lifts above your head or makes a right turn down some ridge. Even Richmond along the James provides good misty images. Now if we would only have some snow to give us the stark beauty of the land. I know, I know, some of you don't like the white stuff but I say bring it on!

Keep your lens cap off and be ready for the unexpected!

Cyane

## **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>
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<b>Open</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.**

## ***Relationship Between Time of Day and Image Characteristics Near Sunset***

*by Al Warfield*

In 2003 I made this image (Dogtown at Sunrise) of the Richmond skyline from the NE tip of Belle Isle on the James River, using transparency film. It was in December not long after sunrise one morning. After starting up our website in 2009, this image was added, and has received many hits.



I migrated to digital in 2004 but I am still trying to get good images of the Richmond skyline. This quest of mine started with an attempt to make a similar image with my digital equipment and several years experience working with digital images. So on December 27th 2013 I headed out to Belle Isle just before 4 PM. with my Canon 5D Mark III and a couple of lenses - the Canon 24-105mm f/4 IS, and Canon 24mm TS-E f/3.5 II. Another objective was to record the relationship between time of day and image characteristics as sunset approaches and night takes over. OK, I know that sunset is not sunrise, but the effect is really about the same for this shot.



The tree I got behind to take the 2003 image was still there. So I started with the 24mm tilt-shift lens, but not shifted or tilted. Sunrise that day was right about 5 PM. The first shot was taken at 3:50 PM (TS24-1). Actually 3 images were taken 2 stops apart and processed to HDR in Photomatix, using setting that look natural. The light on the buildings indicated that I needed to wait awhile to get an effect similar to the 2003 image. I made a few other images over the next half hour but they were not very different over that time range.

At 4:39 PM I tried a set of 6 vertical shots with the 24 mm TS-E lens and made a panorama out of that

(TS24-2), then cropped it to a 3:2 aspect ratio. At this time the sun was so low on the horizon that it was reflected from windows on the shoreline buildings into the lens. The effect is similar to the HDR image, but the sky is darker and the buildings have more color. It wasn't a bad image, but this was still not the best time to take this particular shot.



At 4:51, only 4 minutes before sunset, I took a single shot with the 24-105mm at a focal length of 45mm (24-105-1). The buildings are a little larger and the light was so red it made the whole skyline brick red. That was reflected in the water as well. Note that this shot was only 2 minutes after the one before. To get the best daylight color in the shot this is the best time - about 4-5 minutes before sunset. It only lasts a couple of minutes at most, maybe less. So during that time



period, take shot after shot!

So at that point my quest to make an image comparable to the 2003 image (or maybe better) was complete. But I became more interested in the effect of time of day than in my original objective, so I continued to shoot.

After that I moved away from the tree and took numerous single shots while the light was fading, but during that period the light from the sky made the buildings dull. It wasn't until 5:29 that the next good period began. For about 8-10 minutes, or between 5:29 and 5:36, the bright western sky lit up the buildings while the artificial lights became brighter relative to the light from the sky overhead. The next image (24-105-2) was made at 5:34 PM. This is a wide angle shot (24 mm) that captures the very long reflections in the more calm water at the very tip of the island. It's a nice image, and a good time for this kind of shot. Very different from the prime time shot just before sunset though.



The final shot (24-105-3), again with the 24-105mm lens, was made at 5:41 PM. The focal length was 40mm, which made the buildings large in the frame and really showed the colorful reflections well. As the sky deepens to a very dark blue, the colors get brighter. These are mostly due to the artificial Christmas lights, and there is very little color in the western sky to light up the building faces. Again, this type of light



*Con't Relationship of time of Day*

makes a very good image under these conditions. It's another good one for the collection.

For all this work I used PhotoshopCC, 64 bit, which I recently installed at home. For the HDR work I used Photomatix 4.2.7, 64 bit, and Adobe BridgeCC, 64 bit. This version of Photomatix is different from previous versions, and easier to use. For the panoramas I used PhotoshopCC and Photomerge. I am rapidly getting used to PhotoshopCC, and think it's the wave of the future for photographers. All the images were initially processed in Camera Raw 8. I have a plugin called Metaraw 3 from The Plugin Site, which allows Camera Raw to be run as a Photoshop filter after other work is done. That enabled me to bring out the texture and details in the tree bark instead of having it appear only as a silhouette. I recommend this software, even though there are other ways to do this kind of thing in PhotoshopCC. It's the easiest way, and it's not very expensive.

## FOCUS GROUP PROGRAMS: JANUARY – JUNE 2014

**January 14:** The Club's annual Brown Bag Project will begin. You've already received your bag at the December meeting so take a photo of your object, and get ready to pass your bag along to the next person.

Our distinguished member Tim Wright will speak about how he made an award-winning video with a DSLR camera.

**January 26:** Our annual Sunday afternoon Pizza Party features Tim Wright. Don't miss this opportunity to watch his award-winning video, "Out of Order" on a big-screen TV with hors d'oeuvres, wine, pizza, and fellowship. Be sure to RSVP to Cindy Krumbein for event planning: [Cindy@Krumbein.com](mailto:Cindy@Krumbein.com)  
Address for this event: 9701 Old Dell Trace, Richmond 23238

**February 11:** Ralph Sell, Ron Ratcliffe, & Tim Slavin present "Using LightRoom."

**March 11:** John Garofalo will host a series of mini-showcases with members presenting for 7-10 minutes each. (There will probably be no Roundtable at this meeting.) If John hasn't already called you, please call John and tell him you are excited about sharing a group of your images with your fellow FGCC members!

**April 8:** Former FGCC member Ben Greenberg, now of Charlottesville, will show us images from his new book to be released in February by UVA Press. He'll bring plenty of books to sell & autograph, so bring your checkbook to get your own copy.

**May 13:** Brown Bag Grande Finale! A chance to see just how creative we have been this spring with the items found in the shared bags.

**June 10:** In honor of our Opening at SunTrust Gallery, we'll have a gala there, to celebrate our photography and our new show. Start assembling your list of invitees and the images you will show in this attractive Gallery!

The Annual Critique that usually takes place in June, will be moved to November 2014, a month when there will be no gallery show.

## The Thoughts of Bill Jay

For reasons of no consequence, I pulled from their boxes my most successful (satisfying) fifty prints. The first lesson I learned was that most of the prints had one thing in common: at the time of shooting or when first examining the contacts, I would have never have imagined they would later become "selected" images. It often took years before their value, to me, became apparent.

This worries me. I now shoot exclusively with a digital camera, which necessitates rigorous editing either in the camera or at the downloading stage. If this selection process had been necessary with film, most of the fifty prints would not have existed.

To make it to the FGCC Committee Meeting Tuesday. I left home at 6:30 AM and drove an hour to Portsmouth. There I met members of the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club's Tuesday Group. It was a beautiful day for picture taking! I paddled with the Tuesday Group for 11 miles on the Elizabeth River to downtown Norfolk and back. I loaded my kayak and drove 101 miles to the meeting on Willow Lawn Drive in Richmond. After the meeting it was only 89 miles home. See attached photos. The FGCC always conflicts with the Tuesday Group's paddling, hiking, and biking but I can't give either one up.

Bill Billings



I know where one can get t-shirts cheap.



## Selling Photos 101

By Vicky Eicher

This is a true story.

Last September a Northern Virginia charity we support requested one of my images for their November silent auction/fund raiser, and we agreed to provide one. We turned over "Strolling Lovers" two weeks before the silent auction and the chairperson of the event absolutely loved it,

The mounted, matted and framed image was promptly put in a safe place, but was missing from the silent auction! You guessed it, the place was so safe that the image was forgotten when donated items were moved to the event!



But, the bid sheet was there, on the table.

So the chairperson went around, telling attendees about the image, and folks started bidding.

My "valued at \$120.00" image sold for \$160.00, sight unseen!!

Could this be a new way to sell photographs?

## Brown Bag Update

By John Garofalo

The format for the Brown Bag this year will require participants to take 2 shots of their entry. - one a documentary shot and the other a creative entry. In late April they will submit a total of 5 images. - one documentary and one creative of their submission and 3 creative images of the exchange items.

The time limit restrictions for the Mini Showcase will be 12 to 15 minutes

## Sell and Swap

\$30:

Canon AE-1 camera

Tokina RMC 35-105 mm 1:3.5~4.3 lens

\$15

Promaster Spectrum 7 autotele converter  
MC 2X for CF

Velbon TG-3 tripod

Vivitar 283 flash

\$5

Promaster spectrum 7 polarizer 55mm lens

Hoya 55mm skylighted (1B)

Canon 55mm haze lens

Canon 55mm SKY 1A lens

Please let me know if you are interested by January 13.

**Cyane Lowden**

**clowden@fastmail.fm**

**Members Christmas Pictures**



***My wife is reading a Christmas story to Abraxas, my grandson  
by Wade Emmet***



***Surprise  
By Al Warfield***



***Zombie Shirt  
By Al Warfield***





*Grand Illumination from atop SunTrust*

*By Debbie Roberts*



*Richmond Light tour*



*By Debbie Roberts*



- The top of the Crabtree Falls this past weekend Jan. 4th, to capture the the frozen waterfalls. Wow was it splendid! The conditions were very dangerous, the path was covered with ice in many places along the 1.7 mile hike to the top.

*Debbie Roberts*

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"I've just got a digital camera – would you like to see 14,000 pictures of my kids?"



Must be Good

By Al Warfield

KEEPING THE FAMILY PEACE...  
(-OR- the digital plastic surgeon)



FGCC 2014 Club Calendar				
Month	Day	Activity	What	Contact
January	7	Board Meeting	All are welcome 5:15PM	Cyane
	14	Club Meeting	<b>Tim Wright</b> will discuss his vision for and the making of his award-winning video with a DSLR and the start of the " <b>2014 Brown Bag Project</b> "	Cindy
	26	Pizza Party	Our annual <b>Sunday afternoon Pizza Party</b> at the <b>Krumbeins</b> & screening of <b>Tim's</b> award winning Video	Cindy
	27	Deadline	For February Newsletter	Ron
February	6	Board Meeting	All are welcome 5:15PM	Cyane
	11	Club Meeting	<b>Ralph Sell, Ron Ratcliffe, &amp; Tim Slavin</b> present " <b>Using LightRoom.</b> "	Cindy
	24	Deadline	For March Newsletter	Ron
March	6	Board Meeting	All are welcome 5:15PM	Cyane
	11	Club Meeting	<b>John Garofalo</b> will host a series of mini-showcases with members presenting for 7-10 minutes each.	Cindy
	24	Deadline	For April Newsletter	Ron
April	3	Board Meeting	All are welcome 5:15PM	Cyane
	8	Club Meeting	Former FGCC member <b>Ben Greenberg</b> , now of Charlottesville, will show us images from his new book	Cindy
	28	Deadline	For May Newsletter	Ron
May	8	Board Meeting	All are welcome 5:15PM	Cyane
	13	Club Meeting	<b>Brown Bag Finale!</b>	Cindy
	26	Deadline	For June Newsletter	Ron
June	5	Board Meeting	All are welcome 5:15PM	Cyane
	10	Club Meeting	In honor of our Opening at <b>SunTrust Gallery</b> , we'll have a gala there, to celebrate our photography and our new show.	Cindy
		<b>Suntrust Exhibit</b>	Coming in June; dates not available for the newsletter	
July		<b>No Meeting</b>		
August		<b>No Meeting</b>		
	25	Deadline	For September Newsletter	Ron
September	4	Board Meeting	All are welcome 5:15PM	Cyane
	9	Club Meeting	TBA	
	29	Deadline	For November Newsletter	Ron
October	9	Board Meeting	All are welcome 5:15PM	Cyane
	4	Show	Deliver work to James Center 9-10AM	Vicky
	5	Show	James Center (10/5 to 10/26)	Vicky/Peggy
	14	Meeting/Reception	James Center Reception 6PM to 7:30PM	Vicky/Peggy
	25	Show	Pick up James Center work after 2PM or on 26th before 10AM	Members
	27	Deadline	For November Newsletter	Ron
November	6	Board Meeting	All are welcome 5:15PM	Cyane
	11	Club Meeting	<b>The Annual Critique</b>	Cindy
	24	Deadline	For December Newsletter	Ron
December	4	Board Meeting	All are welcome 5:15PM	Cyane
	9	Club Meeting	TBA	Cindy
	29	Deadline	For January Newsletter	Ron

5:15PM Board Meetings are held at 1650 Willow Lawn Drive, Suite 201.

7:30PM Club Meetings are held at River Road Presbyterian Church, 8960 River Road.