

Focus Group Camera Club

Photographers sharing their knowledge and experiences

Focus Newsletter

February 2016 Vol 3 #1

President's column

There are many educational resources available to photographers on the Internet. There are instructional videos on YouTube, online photography courses, camera manuals, and photography blogs to name just a few.

All of that is fine but can be time consuming. Sometimes keeping in mind some very simple principles can take you a long way. Where else to learn those principles than from the great masters of photography?

After a quick search on the Internet I found a list of the "10 Photography Quotes You Should Know" compiled by Hákon Ágústsson. I think they are worth sharing with you. So with all credit to Mr. Ágústsson here are the quotes you should. Enjoy

1. " You don't take a photograph, you make it. – Ansel Adams
2. " Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst. – Henri Cartier-Bresson
3. " Beauty can be seen in all things, seeing and composing the beauty is what separates the snapshot from the photograph. – Matt Hardy
4. " Nothing happens when you sit at home. I always make it a point to carry a camera with me at all times...I just shoot at what interests me at that moment. – Elliott Erwitt
5. " Which of my photographs is my favorite? The one I'm going to take tomorrow. – Imogen Cunningham
6. " You've got to push yourself harder. You've got to start looking for pictures nobody else could take. You've got to take the tools you have and probe deeper. – William Albert Allard
7. " If I saw something in my viewfinder that looked familiar to me, I would do something to shake it up. – Garry Winogrand

8. " I always thought good photos were like good jokes. If you have to explain it, it just isn't that good. – Anonymous

9. " Twelve significant photographs in any one year is a good crop. – Ansel Adams

10. "It can be a trap of the photographer to think that his or her best pictures were the ones that were hardest to get. – Timothy Allen – On editing photos

Stephen Retherford

Focus is published bi-monthly by the Focus Group Camera Club of Richmond

Club Meetings are held::
Second Tuesday 7:30 PM
River Road Presbyterian Church
8960 River Road.
Richmond

Stephen Retherford	President
Cindy Krumbein	Past President
Ed Fuhr	Vice President
Durwood Felton	Secretary
Gilpin Brown	Treasurer
Bob Coles	Chief Editor.
Frank Feigert	Copy Editor
Ron Ratcliffe	Publishing

Winter Scenes



Gilpin Brown



Lynn Felton



Two dozen geese huddle in a shrinking open hole of water as Janus arrives
Ed Furr



Bill Billings

More Winter Scenes



Bev Nelson



Bob Coles



Debbie Roberts



Bob Coles



Meanwhile in Charleston, SC, Ron Ratcliffe



Bob Coles



Hot Springs, VA

Bev Nelson



On Guard

Frank Feigert

FGCC June 2016 Exhibition at SunTrust

by Linda Warfield & Debra Roberts

Exhibiting at the SunTrust Building in beautiful downtown Richmond for the past three years has been wonderful.

The Gallery is beautiful, well lit, and easily seen and enjoyed by everyone who walks into the bank building. (In addition, it uses the traditional nail-&-hook hangers, making it simple and quick to achieve dramatic results.) Each year we have chosen a slightly different way to group the photographs. In 2015, we chose to hang them by artist, rather than by subject matter. The reactions of visitors showed us that we should continue that practice.



Hanging several pieces of one photographer together, separated slightly from those of other photographers, allowed each of us to explore and demonstrate our vision and our style. We noticed that visitors spent more time in the gallery, and stayed to visit with us and talk about our work. It was a particularly satisfying opening, for both photographers and visitors.



As many of you know, SunTrust has hopes and plans for the future of this high-traffic first-floor location. We are likely to have only one more year to exhibit in this beautiful gallery. We encourage everyone to seize the opportunity to participate.

Linda and Debbie are co-chairing the exhibit, so if you have any questions please contact either one of them.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing your Fine Art Photography in June.



Field Trips

By Debbie Roberts

I have talked with Skibo Adams of "Skibo Adams Photography" and he has graciously agreed to do a "Lighting Workshop" in his studio in Plant Zero, which is next door to Art-Works.



We are discussing dates but I believe we agreed it will be on a Sunday afternoon from 2-5PM during the month of March. I will send out an email with a specific date soon. If you really want to attend and know you will be unavailable on a certain date please let me know ASAP so I can take it into consideration. The purpose of this workshop will be to provide a framework for how to think about lighting

portraits and to give you the tools to actively decide how you want to light your subject. The workshop will take place at Skibo's studio which has a wide range of lights and light modifiers. He will discuss and demonstrate various lighting scenarios and will open the floor to questions which may be important to you.

Please bring your camera, but there may not be time for you to shoot.

Photography is, in my mind, all about the light, and I hope this workshop will help you to see it just a little bit better. Even though we will be in a studio the concepts you will learn will apply equally to location and natural light shooting.

If the weather is cooperating, we can plan on hitting the river somewhere for a sunset shoot. If you have any places in mind let's talk!!

Calendar

The next meeting is 7:30

March 2

Giles Church

- o 3/2/16 – Board Meeting
- o 3/2/16 – Tim Grey presentation
- o 3/16/16 – Pickup photographs from VA General Assembly until April 22.
- o 4/5/16 – Board Meeting
- o 4/12/16 – Club Meeting – Mini Showcase & Roundtable
- o 5/3/16 – Board Meeting
- o 5/10/16 – Club Meeting – Patty Hankins, Annual Meeting & Roundtable
- o 6/7/16 – Board Meeting
- o 6/14/16 –Suntrust Reception

Signs



More Signs



Board Report

Stephen Retherford

The following is a summary of the discussions and actions taken by the Board during the last two months. The official Minutes of the meetings can be found on the FGCC web page.

Programs

Professional photographer and educator Tim Grey had let it be known to readers of his newsletter a few months ago that he would be taking a trip that included passage through Virginia and asked for suggestions for presentations along the way. We notified him of our interest but had heard nothing until very recently. He was available to come to Richmond on March 2nd. We decided this was a worthwhile educational project for the club membership and agreed to host him. The program will take place at 7:30 on March 2 at St. Giles Church.

The member Mini Showcase, which was scheduled for March, was moved back to April. In May, our last club meeting of the year, the program presenter will be Patty Hankins who specializes in photography of flowers.

Treasurer's Report

As of the February meeting the club account had a balance of \$3341.61. Most recent expenditures were \$25 to Infinity for maintenance of our web site and \$200 to the River Road Presbyterian Church for rent for the remainder of the club year.

Membership

The Board discussed membership issues, including the current procedure for admission of new members, and ways to improve the participation of inactive members. The Board determined that it will make final decisions on the admission of new members per the By-Laws, and that, in order to increase camaraderie among the membership, new members may be asked to make short introductory presentations to the Club concerning their photographic skills and interests.

Exhibits

Many of the photographs from the Richmond Public Library exhibit were moved to the Virginia General

Assembly building for an exhibit through the G.A. session. The take-down date has still not been made clear to us other than it will be sometime in mid-March. [Ed. Note; See Calendar) In the meantime, we have confirmed we will have an exhibit at the Suntrust building in June. The reception for the Suntrust exhibit will be June 14th in lieu of a June club meeting.

Meetings

We have changed the agenda for club meetings this year so that we start the meetings with the program. The programs last approximately an hour. The last thing on the agenda has been Round Table and the time between the end of the program and the start of Round Table is Share & Tell – a revival of something the club did years ago which includes announcements as well as sharing and telling of upcoming photographic events, experiences with photographic equipment, etc. Club business has been addressed by the Board with the exception of action by the membership as required by the By-laws such as election of officers and adoption of a budget. The agenda is timed in order to conclude the meeting as close to 9:00 as possible partly because of the agreement about the space we are renting but also because the club has a number of members who live out of town and have a long commute home. The feedback so far has been positive.

Following the very recent confirmation of the Tim Grey program on March 2nd, the Board was concerned this was less than a week before the club meeting and we didn't want to be competing against ourselves for members who could attend only one of the two. So we decided, as we do for receptions for exhibit openings, to have the Tim Grey program on March 2nd in lieu of the March 8th club meeting.

Survey

A number of issues have come up over the months including suggestions on the format for Round Table, suggestions for reviving Slide Nights, interest in the newsletter, and members' interests in programs and trips. Surveys of the membership have been done before and the results of two from a few years ago are currently on the club website. The Board decided to survey the membership, somewhat overlapping previous surveys but including inquiries specific to recent issues. A draft of the survey is in the works and hopefully will be sent to the membership soon.

Report from Oaxaca

Cindy Krumbein

These are cell phone photos taken while visiting Ralph & Sally Sell on Saturday evening in Oaxaca at their lovely apartment. The Sells are positively thriving: they have friends, are involved in the community, and Ralph is still making photographs. We went with them to an art opening in the historic area of Oaxaca where they knew many of the people attending as well as the artist. We also went gallivanting with them thru the countryside & then out to dinner. They send their regards to FGCC,

