

Focus Group Camera Club

Photographers sharing their knowledge and experiences

Focus Newsletter

September 2016

President's column

We will have our first meeting of the FGCC 2016-2017 program year in just a few weeks. At our last meeting in the spring we elected new officers to the Board and they have been busy. However, it takes a lot more work to make the club successful and useful to club members than what the officers alone can do. Certain members have volunteered their time and energy for various club projects this past year – some have been doing the same task(s) for several years for instance we need a new Membership Committee chair. Not everyone needs to be volunteering every year but if we want to remain a small club everyone needs to take their turn.

We need folks who will commit for a year or two coordinating field trips, the website, publicity, exhibits, and a social committee. Preferably, these coordinators will not have to work alone but have a small committee to assist them. I'm sure our newsletter volunteers would appreciate additional helping hands.

The bottom line is the club is what we make it. Your photographic needs and interests can be best served with your direct input.

If you are approached about volunteering for a particular position please consider saying "yes". Better yet, don't wait to be asked.

Let a member of the Board know that you have interest and willingness to take on a particular project for the club.

Stephen Retherford

FGCC Club Calendar

- TBA – Board meeting
- 9/7/16 – Deadline for James Center exhibit card(s) to Vicky – titles, names, sizes, prices, contact info, etc.
- 9/13/16 – Club meeting
- 10/1/16 – Deliver photos to the James Center
- 10/5/16 -- James Center reception
- TBA – Board meeting
- 10/11/16 – Club meeting
- 10/21-22/16 – James Center photo pick-up (between 2:00 p.m. on 10/21 until 10:00 a.m. on 10/22)
- 11/1/16 – Board meeting
- 11/8/16 – Club meeting (also Election Day)

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 VA

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

Program Schedule 2016-2017

JAMES CENTER EXHIBIT

September:	Members Summer Pix Al and Linda Warfield; Durwood and Lynn Felton and Bob Coles
October	Members Show and Tell (New gear software, tricks of the trade)
November	Open ? Patty Hankins (Ed) Expert Critique (Bill Lane; Scott Elmquist)?
January	VCU Photography Chair (documentary) Sasha Waters Freyer
February	VCU Faculty Member Paul Thulin

Traditionally we have held the reception for the James Center Exhibit on the second Tuesday of October in lieu of our regular club meeting. This year, however, since that Tuesday falls on the start of a major religious holiday (Yom Kippur), the exhibit committee decided to move the reception to October 5th. So mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 5.

The committee also needs someone to coordinate the reception. There are volunteers who have offered to bring refreshments. Someone needs to coordinate who brings what, the serving, and the setting up and the taking down of the serving equipment. It can be any club member whether or not he or she is showing at the exhibit or it could be a club member's spouse. If you would like to volunteer yourself or your spouse please contact Vicky.

The deadline for exhibit cards is September 7. Please send to Vicky your titles, names, sizes, prices, contact info, etc. no later than the 7th. Photographs are to be delivered to the James Center on October 1st. As noted above, the reception for the exhibit will be the evening of October 5th. Photographs are then to be picked up between 2:00 p.m. on the 21st and 10:00 a.m. on the 22nd.



"The sandcastle is crap, but we can fix it in post-production."

Recent Member Awards and Recognitions

Lynda Richardson is the new Art Director of the VA Wildlife Magazine.

Frank Feigert's "Blue Ridge Fog" was awarded an Honorable Mention in the Scenic Virginia Photo Contest.

Our webmaster, **Bob Schamerhorn**, had his front cover photo of a barred owl in the Pony Pasture in the VA Wildlife photo contest issue in July. He also has another image of a Cedar Waxwing inside.

Gilpin Brown, in the same issue, has one of a doe and a fawn nursing. Unfortunately, the magazine is not online, to our knowledge.

Bob Coles exhibited May - June at Westminster Canterbury Richmond.

Ron Ratcliffe was awarded Best in Show and a First Place for bird pictures at Southampton County Fair.

M-Disc a DVD made from Stone

By Ron Ratcliffe

How many have heard the Western Digital hard drive click and click and never read or DVD that just continues to seek or maybe had a CDR grow fungus in the dye? The telltale signs that make you cold sweat or maybe get sick to your stomach when you don't have backup.

So now we have a backup drive that is almost indestructible, immune to inclement conditions and made of stone. This is the new Millenniata M-Disc, which is a 4.7GB DVD with a layer made of out stone-like metals and metaloids. The current disc often used at home for back-up and movies etc. has a very soft recording/data layer that isn't very resistant to heat, humidity and sun light. M-Disc require a laser that is five times more powerful than a home drive, but it is backward compatible and can be read on a normal DVD drive. Test run by Federal Government at China Lake, CA where every other archival recordable DVD failed or had complete loss of data, while the M-Disc passed with full data integrity. The Dept. of Defense says the stone layer of M-Disc should maintain data for over 1,000 years, much better than the typical five year life of hard drives and current recordable media.

The Disc are about \$7.00 each for 4.7GB and to backup a terabyte you would need about 213 copies. Finally, if you want to read your disc at less say just 100 years out, you would need to find a working DVD player and something to connect it to. We have all seen what happened to floppy drives and how many laptops no longer have a CD-Reader included. But, if one wants to make sure his legacy is left, here is the media.

Computer Corner

By Ron Ratcliffe

The capturing of photos nowadays is getting to be more computer intensive than ever. The digital transfer from camera to computer, processing, post-processing, resizing, printing then archival storage and cataloging; therefore, I thought we should have regular column in the newsletter with computer hints and experiences to maybe help some others. Al Warfield has contributed excellent information in past issues and I hope others will volunteer their information both good and bad.

The most irritating and time consuming problems recently are network induced malware and ransomware. Interesting news recently, the anti-virus vendors are giving up on anti-virus applications, realizing that it is impossible to develop a signature for an attack that no one has seen before. In recent months, ransomware is becoming the new word for all to fear. Ransomware has attacked and anonymously extorted ransoms from consumers, business and the Government. In 2015, ransomware payments reported to FBI came to \$24M and the number jumped to over \$200M in the first quarter of 2016 alone*. Rob Cheng, CEO of PC Pitstop, said it is like giving a wild fire oxygen. The threats and sophistication continue to grow as long as money is paid.

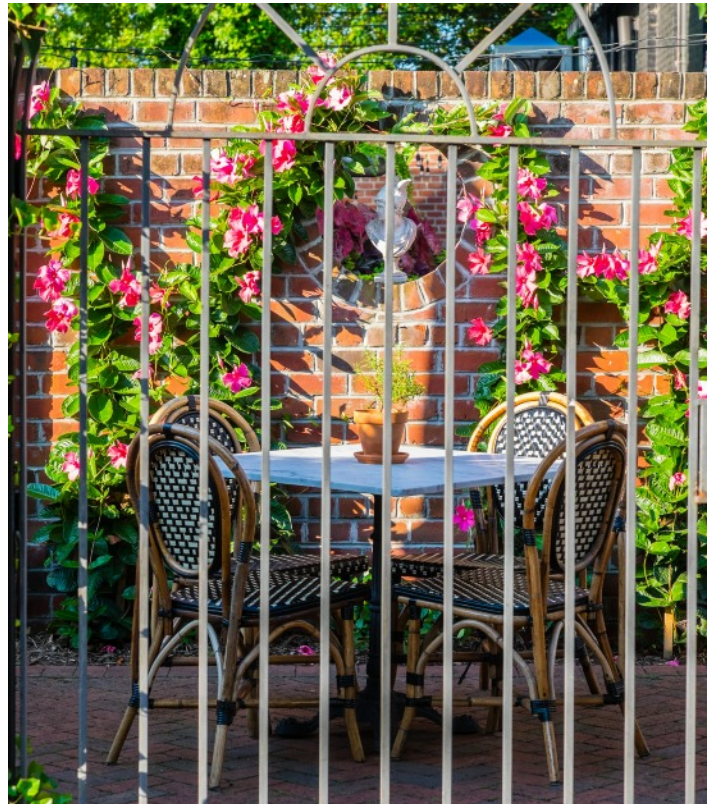
Ransomware is illegal and one of the most profitable businesses on earth. Other types of malware are disappearing as cyber terrorists flock to the new goldmine.

Folks this is real. I have been hit three times in the past month. The most recent was a real eye opener. I was perusing the Internet when a Claxon horn sounded something like a submarine getting ready to dive, then a voice identified himself as a worker with my local cable company told me to stop everything and call the toll-free number on the screen. My browser was then frozen. This one was easy, I just ran CCleaner, a free application and caught it before any damage was done. Others were more difficult and required a complete rebuild of my primary hard drive.

I can not stress enough the importance of having an image backup. With the system completely locked I was able to boot from a CD-ROM and restore the latest image from a USB hard drive and was back on-the-air in less than fifteen minutes without calling India or Russia or any other 800 numbers. Make sure you have an image backup and not a file by file backup. Norton's Ghost is a good example of imaging. I now use NovaBACKUP that can give both file and images for Windows 10.

Industry response so far is saying the same as above, backup, detect, rebuild, and pray.

* IDG Connect Aug 2016



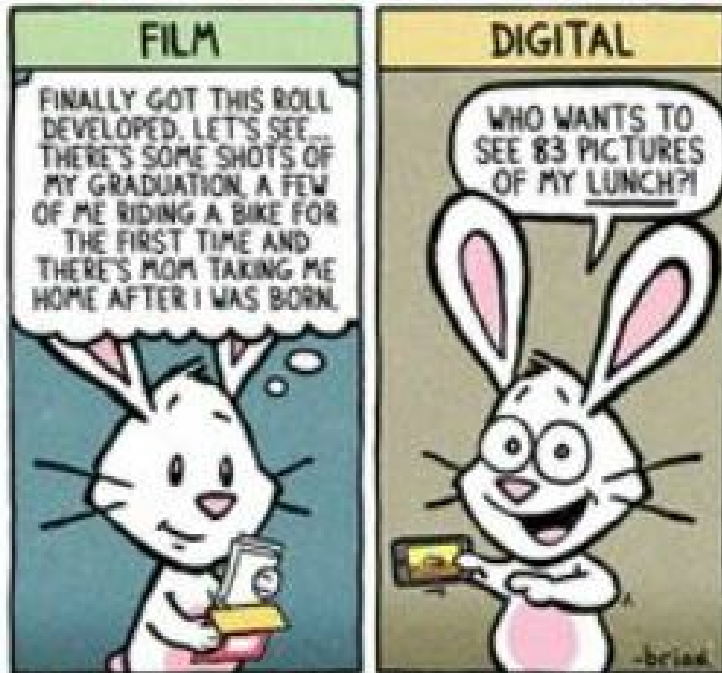
These images were contributed by Bob Coles





Frank Feigert

TAKING PICTURES: FILM VS DIGITAL



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Last fall I realized I did not take a single picture during the summer. Not a one. Long story. So this summer I resolved to do better. But I was kind of determined NOT to do any landscapes. To concentrate on the "small stuff." These images represent that lack of effort. I worked on trying to figure out studio lighting and still life's. To capture the small beauties of the flowers in my wife's garden, and the critters that visited. Goofing in the yard included trying to capture water drops in mid drop. And finally, a quick look around Scott's Addition and an exceedingly warm trip to a pelican rookery at Smith Island Md kept me from getting shut out this summer. And no landscapes.

Bill Piper

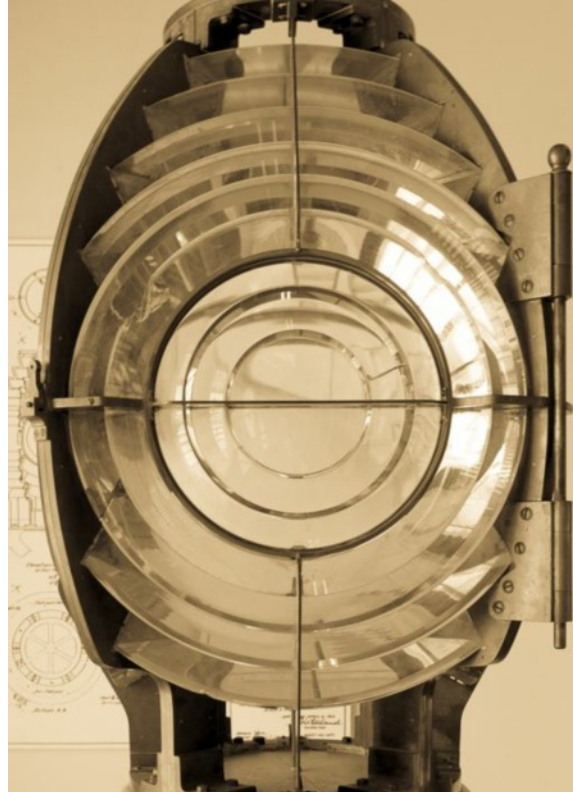




By

Lynn Felton

Durwood and I visited the Calvert Marine Museum recently to see and photograph an annual gathering of historic Chesapeake Bay buyboats. Attached is a summary shot of all the visiting boats. The second image, "Fresnel," is a study I made inside the museum. I wanted to capture an antique look with Silver Efex Pro and used this subject to do so.



The Cambodia Tales

Cindy & Charles Krumbein

Occasionally we decide that there hasn't been enough "excitement" or "diversity" in our lives, and look for a way to rectify that situation. Charles found an advertisement for a trip to Cambodia with Jim Cline Photo Tours, and decided that would give us a new look at a place we had not previously seen.

Noted photographer Karl Grobl led the trip. Karl is originally from Chicago, now living with his Khmer wife & 2 children in Siem Reap, very near Angkor Wat. Karl is famous because of his exceptional and persuasive photography on behalf of NGOs around the world. (www.KarlGrobl.com)



As the time approached, we realized that there would be just 3 participants with Karl: Charles, Cindy, and a film teacher at a British boarding school who has volunteered for NGOs around the world. She was just finishing up a project in Dhaka, Bangladesh when she joined us in Siem Reap.



Our trip would encompass 3 cities in Cambodia: Siem Reap, famous for the Temples of Angkor Wat; Cambodia's capitol city, Phnom Penh; and an earlier capitol, Battambang, home of the Bamboo Railway. We would photograph in each of these cities, but in Siem Reap we would also



choose a project and create a 3-minute video to benefit an organization or person.

In Siem Reap, Charles chose to work with Artisans of Angkor, an organization that works with disabled people (usually land mine victims) to train them in the Arts to earn a living. Cindy met Sohakk the tuk-tuk driver, 25 years old, who needed some help to get his business jump-started. Jane, our 3rd participant, chose to work with the Lady-Boy performers in Siem Reap and in Phnom Penh. Each of us learned how to mix stills, video, and sound to tell a persuasive story. Each of us learned, by making the videos, much more about Cambodia and the Khmer population than we could have otherwise.

Along with the photography, we saw personally where & how people live today, what they eat, & of the effect of the Pol Pot regime of the 1970's on today's life. We visited the Killing Fields, learned about the capture of Phnom Penh and the dispersal of

all of its residents in a 3-day period, the starvation deaths of over half of the population of the country, and of the take-over by the Vietnamese and reinstatement of a stable government in the 1980s.



At no point before our departure did anyone mention that the temperatures and humidity in Cambodia can be so high that photography (or our desire to take any photographs) might be compromised! I'm sure that it was an "oversight."

Of special note to photographers was the effect of the very effective air conditioning in the hotel on our cameras and lenses when we wanted to make images: it took quite a while for our equipment to "defrost" before it could be used at all. We discovered that by stowing our cameras in the warm cabinet next to the



in-room refrigerator, that the recovery time was much reduced.

The time constraints placed by the government when visitors can photograph Angkor Wat created large crowds at the most photogenic sites. There are hundreds of sites besides the most well-known temples where the numbers of umbrella-carrying tourists are a bit smaller.

We discovered interesting dietary choices available in Cambodia, developed during the starvation time of Pol Pot, and still in use: deep fried tarantulas, rat on the barbecue grill, fried waterbugs with hot peppers. (And you ask why we always travel as vegetarians?) It was an eye-opener and a mouth-closer.



The effect of Buddhism and a stable constitutional monarchy in Cambodia has been to make the population look forward to a peaceful life with their families. Temples and shrines are everywhere, and people drop by during the day for a quick prayer, to light a candle, and to make a gift of food or money to the monks.

There are visitors and Cambodians drinking coffee in the cafes, shopping in the markets, enjoying the parks and the temples. Hotels and hostels are clean and plentiful, and the people of Cambodia want to practice their English skills on visitors.

Put Cambodia on your Bucket List!

What I did this summer was observe the more or less hidden wildlife in my hideaway in the mountains.

Cyane Lowden

Mouse lives in the rafters of the cabin. She ate the sleeve off of my favorite Tshirt for a nest. So the sleeve nest was up in the rafters.

Slug was dangling by his/her slimy thread as if it had all the time in the world to make landfall. It is about 3 inches long.

Nest was made by a pair of Carolina wrens taking up not one but two lawn chairs on the porch. It made the porch off limits for a couple of weeks.





Ron Ratcliffe



Signs of The Times





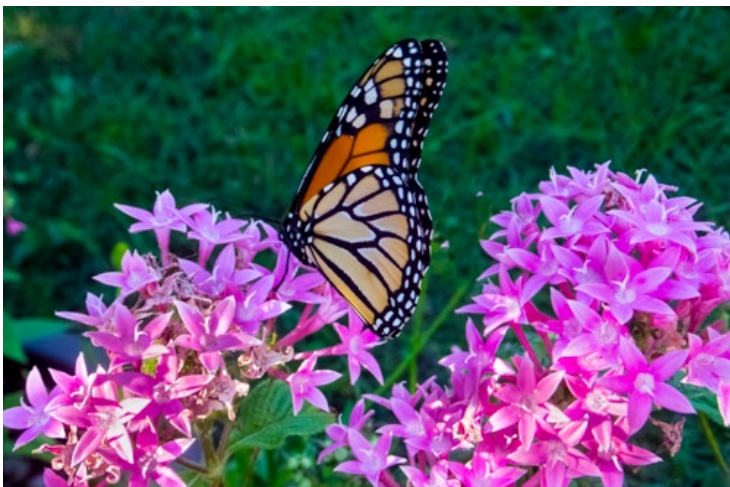
More Signs for Frank





Sweet Grass vendor in Charleston SC

Ron Ratcliffe



Another butterfly

For Sale

Lenovo (IBM) X220 Thinkpad. for the traveler, student or home body.

The "X" series is their business class, built to Mil Spec and one of the best laptops made by any company.

Has 12.5" glare proof IPC screen that is rear lit, wonderful std. size keyboard with real keys. Skins are carbon fiber. Looks very nice - close to new. Has clean copy of Windows 10 Pro installed and authenticated. Also, a copy of Lightroom 5.7.1 installed with license, an Intel I7 CPU running at 2.7-3.2 Ghz, 8 GB memory and a new 500GB HDD. **Unit weighs less than 3lbs and is 1" thick.** A real delight to use and can replace the old desktop.

(Current software replacement cost: \$199 for Win 10 Pro, LR \$149.)

Built-in Wi-Fi, Ethernet, HDML out, also SD card slot, USB 3.0 and 2, and a camera and mic for collaboration.

Other Thinkpads and configurations available as well as docking stations.

Sell for \$375.00 and no sales tax

Ron Ratcliffe 757 793-0444 Cell