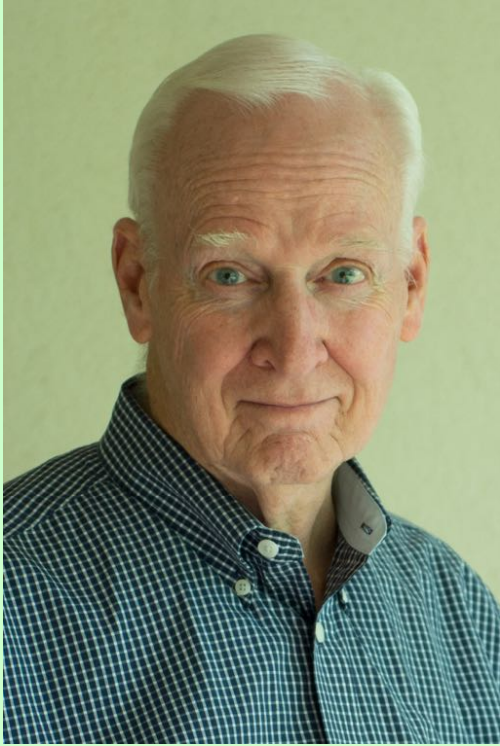


# Focus on the Foothills



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From the President...

Someone approached me during the social time before the meeting on January 20th: "I guess we needed a photo club in this area." She was referring to the fact that the meeting room was going to be a little tight. And it was tight. Seventy-two people were in a room that (with extra chairs) held exactly...seventy-two people.

Wow, what a turnout for our first club meeting! I don't know all the reasons but a few had to be these: The Board of Directors formulated a brilliant publicity campaign, the speaker (Jim Loring) was fantastic, and the

meeting place (North Georgia Technical College) was perfect for the group.

But this is just the beginning. We have already finalized plans for our first field trip -- to the Southeastern Railway Museum in February -- with another to Cades Cove, NC, in April. More about that on page 3. Additionally, the club is planning a Saturday workshop for club members aimed at the new and fairly new photographer. We'll call it "Basic Camera Skills".

So...to all of you who attended the first meeting: Thank you for being there. And, if you are reading this and have not joined the club, you are encouraged to join and to begin enjoying the member's benefits. We will do our best to make your membership in Foothills a very rewarding and fun experience.

John Martin

Cover photo: A slightly cropped segment of Sunrise at the Indian Mound just south of Helen, GA, by Barb Johns. Each edition of *Focus on the Foothills* will feature a different cover photo. If you would like yours to be considered, please send it to the newsletter editor, John Martin, [imartin@hemc.net](mailto:imartin@hemc.net)



This is the mail car on one of the trains at the Southeastern Railway Museum in Duluth. It is just one of thousands of photo opportunities you will see when you go on the field trip February 28. (Rain date: March 7.) Sign-up at the February 17 meeting. Contacts: Jim Johns ([jimjohns@windstream.net](mailto:jimjohns@windstream.net)) or Rich St. John ([rrstjohn@gmail.com](mailto:rrstjohn@gmail.com))

To get the group entrance rate (\$6.00 adult, \$4.00 seniors) we'll meet at the gate at 10:00 AM. Those wishing to carpool should be at North Georgia Tech at 8:30 AM the morning of the field trip. Be sure and pick up a flyer at the February 17 meeting for more details.

**Looking ahead...**

***We're planning an overnight trip (for members only) to the beautiful Cades Cove, NC, in April !!***

Many thanks go to Jim Loring for his presentation to the club at the January 20 meeting. Jim has been on sixty-five overseas assignments in support of charities and disaster relief organizations.



It is rare that one gets to hear the accounts of a photojournalist so widely traveled and so dedicated to using his photographic skills for good.

The audience are torn between admiration for the craft of the images and the heavy message of need. Jim shows disaster in a way that shows hope -- and demonstrates the positive results of relief efforts.

E. Lane Gresham's photo.

## The February 17th Meeting...

If you've seen and admired the impact of High Dynamic Range (HDR) photography you are in for a treat. Jeff Gulle -- instructor at the Photography School at North Georgia Technical -- will show you how it is done. Jeff has earned many awards for his photography. It will amaze!





This amazing photograph was made at the January 20th meeting by our youngest member: Liam. His mom and dad have a family membership. Liam was 2 years old (he's 3 now) when he made this photo with his Playskool camera.

His mom told us that he is very interested in making pictures and is looking forward to the Southeastern

Railway Museum field trip coming up on February 28th.

The pictures below are Liam and his kit.



# Announcing...

Foothills is planning a **workshop for inexperienced photographers**. We're calling it **Basic Camera Skills**.

If you are new to photography, just getting started in digital photography or have always wondered what those buttons do

then...**this workshop is for you.**

Date and time: Saturday, March 21, 9:00 AM thru 2:00 PM.  
Where: Meeting room in The Attic Restaurant,\* Clarkesville.  
Cost: \$10.00

The cost pays for a light lunch at The Attic.

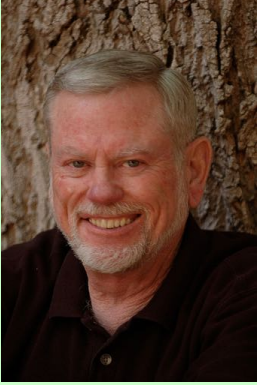
A recent survey by Sony shows "...that one in three photographers has no idea how to use their camera."

The instructor for the day is Colby Moore. Colby owns his own photography business and teaches Continuing Education at North Georgia Technical College (photography).

A number of more experienced photographers will be on hand to offer some one-on-one, hands-on help.

You must sign up and pay your \$10 in advance -- so we'll know how many donuts to buy 😊. You can reserve your place at the February 17th club meeting. See Wendy at the check-in desk.

\* Note: The Attic is owned by Jay Kim, a member of our club. The restaurant is not open (normally) until 11:00 AM on Saturdays but Jay is opening up at 9:00 AM for our workshop. (Thank you, Jay!)



**Richard's Rants**\_VP Rich St. John writes this column every month. No telling what you will find here.

We had a fine turnout January 20<sup>th</sup>, lots of excitement and a passel of new members. It is our goal to offer something for every member. Many of you are new to photography or are taking it up again.

We are in the process of building a mentor program to address many of the issues and questions that all photographers have whether they are newbies or old hands.

Jim & Barb Johns and I are working on Photo Shoots providing you with opportunities that are fun, educational, and challenging. Some of you have expressed interest in becoming Activity Leaders. We welcome you with open arms. This is where you, as a Leader, have the opportunity to provide your fellow members a safe and well-managed activity that you plan and execute.

Some activities are suitable for everyone; some are not as they may involve physical stamina, and competent risk assessment such as hiking to remote waterfalls and/or overlooks. All outdoor activities will be rated as to difficulty and age suitability. Signups will be on a 'first come first signed-up' basis.

In this column, I plan to mention tips and recommendations that you may find enlightening, or at least helpful. Your suggestions and comments are most welcome.

Tip of the Month:

Shooting digital is so different than shooting film. For those of you who made the transition, you will remember these 'necessities':

1. Remember what film you've loaded, i.e. B&W? Color (transparency or negative)?
2. If color, is it daylight or tungsten?

3. Is it 12, 20 or 36 exposure?
4. Do I have the filters I (think) I (maybe) need?
5. Is the film still good?
6. And, of course the biggie, have I set the correct ASA rating?

We've gotten so lazy in the digital age! Slam the uber Megapixel memory card in the camera, check the battery and off we go.

We frantically shoot everything that looks remotely interesting. Hey, exposures are now 'free', right? We remembered to leave the white balance set to auto (or have never changed it). Right! Don't worry, be happy, the camera is set to auto-everything. Besides we can fix it in Photoshop or Lightroom, or, or, or...WRONG! I admit it. I've lulled myself into the above traps, and then have tried to fix poorly made exposures as a result.

So, finally, here is the tip: Unless for some justifiable reason you have to use auto white balance; DON'T! Why not? Simple, there are so many variables that come into play; you will not have consistent color balanced shots. Therefore, you will likely be forced to white balance every shot in post process—a major drag and time waste.

Here is the solution. If you are outside, then set white balance for daylight. If you are shooting in shade, set it to shade. For sunrise or sunsets leave it in shade; you will have richer colors. If you are shooting indoors, try to match the type of the prevailing light. Tungsten is (still) the norm for most situations. If under fluorescent lighting, set accordingly—and pray. If flash is your main light source; pick that. – Simple. Your camera isn't having to guess what you want. So now you get consistent color balanced exposures.

More on ISO (ASA) settings next month.

Outdoor Photographer Magazine – highly recommended! I've been a faithful subscriber for the last ten years or more. Check it out: <http://www.outdoor-photographer.com>

## Some other items...

**Mentor Program** Read about the Mentoring Program on the club's site: <http://www.foothillsphotogroup.com> Steve, the WebMaster, has put in a form that makes finding a mentor a cinch.

**Classifieds** Send me yours and I'll publish it! [jmartin@hemc.net](mailto:jmartin@hemc.net)

Tanya Smith has a Panasonic Lumix ZS9 complete with manual, CD, battery and charger, all cords and small case in original box. This is a great little camera in 'like new' condition. \$150.00. [tanya1951@live.com](mailto:tanya1951@live.com)

Also, she has a Canon Elan 7 body for sale if anyone is looking for a good film camera. It is in original box, and comes with manual. \$50 or best offer. [tanya1951@live.com](mailto:tanya1951@live.com)

Colby Moore has a large photo backpack. Tenba Shootout large -- It will carry a 17in laptop, 2-3 bodies, 5-7 lenses, full size tripod and more. It has waterproof zippers and cover, full suspension harness, card wallet. ONLY \$125 [colby@colbymoorephotography.com](mailto:colby@colbymoorephotography.com)

**Member's Web Sites** Future editions of the newsletter will carry a page listing member's web sites. Send yours to John Martin [jmartin@hemc.net](mailto:jmartin@hemc.net)

**Facebook** Click here: [Foothills Photography Group's Facebook](#) to access the club's Facebook page. The page is "closed" but you can join by hitting the JOIN button. It's a good way to keep up on club announcements, coming events, and what the other members are up to.

**Send me your photos** for the "Critique" section of club meetings. Your photo is projected on the screen and the attendees offer compliments, suggestions for improvement, etc. It is painless. No one knows who's photo it is. And all of us will learn something. Send photos to me (John Martin) at [jmartin@hemc.net](mailto:jmartin@hemc.net)

This is Foothill's first newsletter.

If you have comments, please send them to me [jmartin@hemc.net](mailto:jmartin@hemc.net)

If you like the newsletter, forward it to a photographer you know -- and send me their email address and I'll send them their own copy each month.