

Foothills Photography Group's Monthly Newsletter

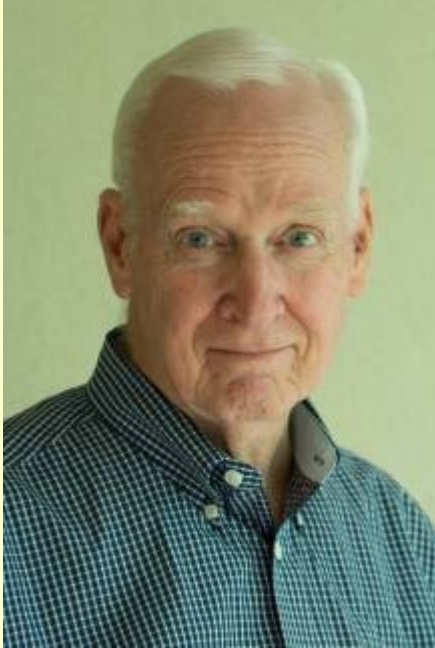
Volume 2, Number 1

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Focus on the Foothills

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From the president...

Last night the Officer Nominating Committee met to prepare a slate of officers for the coming year. They also considered names of members we would ask to join the club's board of directors as chair persons of the various committees.

That meeting was the last step of a process that went something like this.

First, we reviewed all the membership applications and determined those people who had checked the box indicating that they would be interested in "...becoming an activities leader or other supporting role..." in the club.

We then re-contacted those persons to see if they still were willing.

Then, at last night's meeting, we considered, discussed, debated and finally matched up the names with officer and committee chair-person openings.

The next step will be to contact each of them to get an official acceptance of the position. The board will then vote to put the new committee chair persons on the board and to present a slate of officer nominees to the club membership for a vote at the February meeting.

It has been a satisfying process. We have so many talented photographers who are willing to go one step beyond: To support the club that promotes their craft.

John Martin

Cover Photo: This evocative image is a crop from a photo submitted by Barb Johns. If you have an image you think would make a good cover for the newsletter send it to the newsletter editor. jmartin@hemc.net

Photo Ideas for the Winter Months...

On many winter days (like today as I write this) it just seems too cold to venture outside to make photos. After all, the trees are leafless and the whole world seems to be painted in a light grey. And, you might say, there is nothing interesting to photograph.

You could be wrong! Check out these ideas:



Here's a pretty dramatic presentation of a leafless tree on a cold winter day. Had the sky been a pretty blue the mage might not have captured that feeling of cold and miserable.

And speaking of cold and miserable, many photographers make a personal point of asking themselves, "What am I feeling?" And then they will attempt to capture that feeling or emotion in the photograph.



Keith Nelms posted a photo (above) recently on the club's Facebook page that demonstrates this perfectly. He entitled it "Hosannas".

But (getting back to the subject) what else can you do with winter days? Of course, there is always snow.

This photo, presented in black and white, shows a dramatic pattern with snow against the black limbs of a holly tree. It's worth noting that it took only a dusting of snow to give that amount of contrast.





It isn't necessary to have snow to show the effect of cold. This early frost in this photo of a fern was gone ten minutes later when the sun struck it.

Here a few things to keep in mind when making outdoor photographs in cold weather.

1. Over expose snow scenes by about one f stop. If not your camera will be fooled into thinking white should be grey and will give it to you that way.
2. A cold camera brought indoors will sweat just like a can of Coke taken from the refrigerator. Not at all good for the workings of your camera.
3. Batteries will deplete faster in cold weather. Bring spares in your warm pocket.

The January Meeting...

This month's program is a topic we all are concerned about but seldom do anything about: Camera care and maintenance. The camera might have cost thousands so we are really careful not to drop it. But what about carrying, packing, using in the dust, rain & cold, cleaning and storing?

Colby Moore - who has ruined his share of cameras - will give a talk about these subjects. This meeting will likely involve a lot of questions and answers.

BRING YOUR CAMERA. BRING YOUR CAMERA.

**DSLR Sensor
Cleaning Special**

only
\$30

Foothills Photography Group Meeting



January 19th 6:30PM

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Berrie Smith Camera Repair
770.312.0719 | bbmw@bellsouth.net

If you're like most photographers, you clean the front element in your main lens. Everything else, well, "...it stays pretty clean." Wrong.

Berrie Smith will set up shop in the meeting room and clean cameras during the meeting. He has 25 years experience and is certified in both Cannon and Nikon cameras.

This is an excellent opportunity to have your camera serviced professionally without making the trip to Atlanta.



25 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Digital Camera
Repair Specialist
770.312.0719
bbmw@bellsouth.net

**Berrie
Smith**

CERTIFIED IN CANON AND NIKON CAMERAS

Opportunities for Members...

City of Clarkesville is seeking an event photographer for their annual Mardi Gras Gala on Saturday, February 6. In exchange for event photos, they will give two complimentary tickets (\$60 value) and all acknowledgements to photographer on website and in event program. Also, the photographer will have the opportunity to set up a table with business information, if desired.

Anyone (or team) interested should contact Mary Beth Horton for details.
mbhorton@clarkesvillega.com

Habersham Little League is currently accepting bids for Photography for the 2016 Spring Season. Anyone interested in submitting a bid for photography should mail his/her bid along with a sample of work to:

Habersham Little League
PO Box 2241 Clarkesville, Georgia 30523.

All Bids are due by January 31st, 2016.

Requirements:

Photographer will schedule photo times with the Team Coach or the Team Mom The Best Location in Which to do Team Pictures is at Diamond Memorial Fields.

Must include:

Team and Individual Pictures

Package options at set price

Option of additional items such as Buttons, and additional wallets or pictures Include the Coach and Team Sponsor photo for free with 10% Return to Habersham Little League on all photo packages purchased.

Any questions, please email info@hcll.org.

Just for Beginners...

Carole Kropscot writes this column for the *PSA Journal*. She has given our club permission to include her articles in *Focus on the Foothills*.

Candid Portraits

The concept of candid portraits has many definitions. This article is about taking portraits that are less formal than studio portraits and more specialized than snapshots. The goal is a person's face with an unposed, natural expression. For example, an unreserved laugh, a look of surprise, utter sadness, an emotional look between two people, and other human emotions expressed spontaneously.

Candid portraits are moments in time which are captured thanks to the quick response of the photographer. This is in contrast to formal portraits where that "moment in time" is posed and held until the photographer presses the shutter button.

But there is more to showing an emotion than taking a picture of a facial expression. There is the tilt of the head. The interaction of the hands to the face. Bodily mannerisms, such as hunched over shoulders. Furthermore, the addition of another person or relevant items (like a broken toy or a dropped ice cream cone) can help communicate how a person is feeling.

Photographing family or friends without posing them involves giving as few instructions as possible. The subject(s) is allowed to continue whatever he or she is doing, thereby acting naturally in the presence of a clicking camera.

When photographing strangers, some photographers hide behind the camera and take pictures secretly. This method of stealing someone's portrait is frowned upon by some people. The choice of camera lens depends on how far away the subject is. A long focal length has shallower depth of field and therefore a blurrier background. A wide open aperture produces the same result. This portrait style emphasizes the subject without calling much attention to the background.

Hand holding the lens is preferable to using a tripod. The photographer wants to be as unobtrusive as possible. A popular rule of thumb for a

reasonably sharp image with a steady hand is to use a shutter speed which is 1 over the focal length. For example, 1/125 for a 100 mm lens, 1/250 for a 200 mm lens, and 1/500 with a 400 mm lens.

A higher ISO can be chosen to compensate for not using a flash. A flash of light would be a disruption to the subject.

Using the camera's continuous shooting mode is a valuable method to increase the chances of capturing a brief facial expression.

The photographer's challenge is to be unobtrusive, patient, attentive, and technically ready to take a picture of any spontaneous, interesting expression.

The February Meeting...

Check out this web site and you will see why we are excited about having Tom Vadnais speak to our club: www.tomvadnais.com



Tom leads the Fall Workshops at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. He is in his fourth year on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Nature Photographers Association. He has been President of the Roswell Photography Society and is a founding board member of the North Georgia Camera Club Council.

Tom's talk to our club is entitled "Photo Gear for Nature Photography."

Hint: There is a lot more to nature photography than lenses as long as your leg.

Some Snapshots...



Get the Oct/Nov/Dec issue of Smoky Mountain Journal of Photography here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/n5tywphrlt9g2ce/Issue%204%20Winter%202015.pdf?dl=0>

There's a really cool article there titled Basic Survival for Winter Photography and another about how to get the most from a Gibbs Gardens experience.

If you don't subscribe to this free e magazine you are missing out on a lot of information about outdoor photography in our area. When you open (see above link) go to page 5 and click on "Click to Subscribe"



Kudos to Marie Nease for starting and maintaining the "theme of the week" on the club's Facebook page. It presents a place where members can easily show their photography - and see others' take on the same theme.



There is some talk about forming a Special Interest Group (SIG) pertaining to UrBex. For the uninitiated, UrBex (as far as photographers are concerned) is the practice of making images of abandoned buildings and other structures. It often involves trespassing onto private property but, of course, we wouldn't do that. For a good example see Tanya Jacobson-Smith's recent series posted on the Foothills Facebook page. UrBex photos can be quite dramatic and thought provoking. Drop Tanya an email if you are interested. tanya1951@live.com