

FOOTHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Monthly Newsletter

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December 2016



Photo Provided by FPC Member, Tanya Smith

From our president....



Merry Christmas! Come help us celebrate and enjoy a wonderful party... with door prizes!! Our Christmas Party is December 20, at the First Presbyterian Church in Clarkesville, 6:00. See the info ad in this newsletter to see what food you should bring to compliment the meat dishes which will be provided by the Hospitality Committee.

Projector donations. Thanks to each of you who has been able to give to the purchase of the new projector for the jury room, our monthly meeting room. If you still want to donate, it is tax deductible. Be sure Wendy O'Connor, our Secretary/Treasurer has your name, amount, and mailing address so you can get the tax receipt.

Help Portrait. A big thanks to Laura Jenkins and Casey Bramlett for their great preparation and management of the Help Portrait event on November 5. I think I counted about a dozen and a half of our members there working, in addition to all the volunteers from the college, guided by Jim Loring. The picture at the right shows Matt King and Anne Jones creating a memorable image.



Welcome New Members. We're happy to have April Swing and Michael Short become members of FPG.

Happy Trails!

Danny

Quote(s) of the Month Provided by FPG member, Tom Sieswerda

“When you photograph people in color you photograph their clothes. When you photograph people in black and white, you photograph their soul!”

– *Ted Grant*

“Sometimes I do get to places just when God’s ready to have somebody click the shutter.”

– *Ansel Adams*

“Anything more than 500 yards from the car just isn’t photogenic.”

– *Edward Weston*

Article of the Month Provided by FPG member, John Martin

Five Ways To Mess Up A Landscape Photo Shoot

Good idea, poor execution.

Here’s the idea: Go to the tower on top of a very high mountain – Brasstown Bald -- and make a panorama of the sun rising in the east and panning around to the moon setting in the west. This actually happens once a month (or at least comes close) — and is coincident with the full moon. (Solar and lunar tables are available on line for a town near you.) If I could capture it I would have two events happening simultaneously on one panorama. I don’t know if this is an original idea but, to me, it seemed like a fun thing to try.

So, we (The Bride and I) awakened plenty early to make the trip from our home to the shuttle station in the parking lot below the peak. We knew the shuttle wouldn’t be running at that hour of the morning but thought we could drive up on the road the shuttle used. Wrong. The shuttle road was securely locked.

First mistake: Didn’t think through all the things that could go wrong. But... not to worry. There is a walking trail that goes to the top. So we broke out the flashlights and were able to make the one hour trek to the summit with plenty of time to spare. Things looked pretty good until I attempted to set up the tripod. On the tower there was no place to set up the tripod that didn’t include getting part of the structure in the frame.

Second mistake: Didn’t do a dry run. I finally managed to rig my tripod so that it cantilevered out into space a bit. Not the most stable but it would work. Before going, I read up on everything I could find on making panoramas. I knew that having the table of my tripod dead level would help

Sunrise — first frame of historic (?) panorama!



things considerably so I brought out my little level and set to work. Only problem was that in the almost-dark I couldn't hold the level, aim the flash light, and adjust all the little gizmos at the same time. The Bride tried to help but the aforementioned cantilevered tripod put both us in danger of plunging into the dark abyss. I should have brought my little headlamp. So...the third mistake was related to the first two: Didn't bring all I should have to work in the expected conditions.

OK, everything seemed ready. My intention was to make an exposure every 15 degrees or so. Allowing for some extra content at each extreme I figured I would make 14 or 15 images. And, since I had just become interested in HDR, I planned to make 5 exposures at each position for later incorporation into what would surely be the first ever HDR panorama including the sun rising and the moon setting.

The sun appeared right on schedule. Always comforting. I waited to make my first shots until the full ball was above the horizon and muted a bit by the fog in the valleys below. Perfect. Almost. Each set of exposures and the re-aiming of the camera took a long time. (Remember the cantilevered tripod.) By the time I had worked around to the moon the sky was so bright that the moon was washed out. Additionally, the extra time consumed made the exposures enough different that I couldn't stitch them together without unsightly variations. I guess you could say that mistake number four was simply not thinking. Next time I'll manually set the exposure, forget HDR and start at the moon end of the panorama.

Mistake number five was this: I told all my friends (ahead of the shoot) about what a great, innovative photographic production I would have to show them.

Tip of the Month Provided by FPG Member Nikki Pittman

Before you raise your camera, see where the light is coming from, and use it to your advantage. Whether it is natural light coming from the sun, or an artificial source like a lamp; how can you use it to make your photos better?

Building An Image

by Danny Young

Ansel Adams said we don't take a picture, but rather we "make a picture", meaning the photographer combines background and foreground and light, etc., along with work in the darkroom to create a new and special representation of the scene in front of the camera. My grandfather was a carpenter. He built houses and he taught my daddy how to build, and my daddy taught me. I enjoy connecting raw materials – boards, nails, concrete, etc. – together to form something new and pleasant to look at.

When I make an image, I often compare it to building a house. There are three basic components to an attractive house: 1. Neighborhood—who wants a beautiful house in an ugly neighborhood? 2. The property on which the house sits. It should be landscaped in such a way to amplify the beauty of the house. 3. The house. It should fit the neighborhood. A log cabin probably won't look as good by a golf course as it would by a mountain stream.

The three elements of my images that correspond to the house analogy are: background = neighborhood, foreground = the property, and primary subject = the house.

I recently returned to Brasstown Falls to see how I might improve on images I made earlier this year. I intentionally worked at combining all the raw material I could into building an attractive "house". Since I know that my first instinct is to make an "encyclopedia" image – one that gives you a view of a subject isolated from its surroundings, I worked at doing the opposite. I used my camera and tripod to gather all the raw materials I could, then in post processing I attempted to nail it all together. Here's how it turned out.

The foreground falls represent the house. The background falls and mist represent the neighborhood. The red and yellow leaves and stream and tree on the right represent the property or front yard. The best



part about this analogy is I don't have any smashed thumbs from missing the nail with my hammer!

Christmas Party INVITATION

WHEN: Tuesday, December 20th

**WHERE: First Presbyterian
Church Fellowship Hall**

TIME: 6:00 pm

**Foothills will supply the Turkey,
Ham and drinks**



You supply a side dish. Come on! Join us!

It's a Potluck Party! Bring your spouse, kids, significant other and come enjoy some great food and fellowship with us! This event is in lieu of our regular December meeting. There will be a raffle and free door prizes. It'll be \$5.00 for each raffle ticket. All monies collected will go to our community service account. Here is how the "side dish" works.

If your Last Name begins with:

A through L - please bring a side dish

M through R - please bring a dessert

S through Z - please bring a salad

When you RSVP let us know how many people will be in your group so we have enough ham and turkey and please let us know what you will be bringing so we can be sure we have a good selection. **Looking forward to seeing all of you on December 20th!**

**FOR RESERVATIONS : Tanya Smith at 706-839-6486
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