

Through the Viewfinder

Ventura County Camera Club

The Ventura County Camera Club meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm at:
The Ventura Women's Center
3451 Foothill Rd.
Ventura, CA 93003
805/648-1143

Next Meeting: Wed. November 14th 2007, 7:00 pm
Chair: Roy Allen
Judge: Dan Holmes
Refreshments: Jan & Pam Breeding
Category: "Main Street Ventura"
Raffle: amount unknown




VCCC Officers

President	Roy Allen
1st V.P.	John Ferritto
Treasurer	Joyce LaMers
Workshop Coordinator	Allyson Barnes
Judge Locator	Pat Osborne
Digital Coordinator	Susannah Kramer
Entries/Announcing	Frank Naumann
~ and ~	Bob Murtha
Website	Bob Murtha
Newsletter	Matt Haines



Future Categories 2007

December	People at Work
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For a full listing of the VCCC rules, check the website at:
www.venturacountycameraclub.com

A happy hello to all VCCers. I hope the recent fires didn't cause anybody any hardship other than a few smoke filled days. This column will be my next to last because as of January 1st we will have a new President. Elections will be held at our November 14th meeting. We have someone running for President and someone running for Vice President, however, this is an election so if anybody would like to jump into the ring, great! On a similar note, the new President will need volunteers. Our club is growing and we want to include as many people as possible in the management process. We need your help, please volunteer.

PLEASE RESERVE THIS DATE: **Wednesday January 23rd, 2008** we will hold our annual awards banquet, which will be a catered dinner. The price is still to be determined. All the photos that have received a merit throughout the year will be judged and the winners will be presented at the dinner. It will be a great evening with great images and good fellowship.

The management committee has met and decided to have extra meetings for February, March and April 2008. While the format has not yet been set, these meetings will focus on photographic techniques including how to use your camera's multiple functions. If you have any ideas please let me know. My e-mail is roy@picturepro.com

To our new members, the club provides two super services that you should use: First, on our web site, each member can have his own page where you can display up to 15 of your images. If you want your images on the VCCC web site, first choose the 12 to 15 images you want. Then get in contact with our web master Bob Murtha. His e-mail:

runner.com and he will tell you how to send the images to him. There are no rules governing the images presented except they must be in good taste and images you feel would receive a merit award. Second, is for all members that have their own web site (as Anne & I do), we can list (and link) you web site with ours. Again just contact Bob Murtha for details.

When I was in school my professors always said, "You get out of something what you put into it." As I traveled through life I found out how true this was. Now with the digital age information and the ability to self educate is easier than ever. It's called "Google". In the old days you had to go to the library and spend hours researching the subject of your choice. Now we do it from the convenience of our own home. But has this ease and convenience caused us to be lazy and slack off? Possibly yes. When one shares a passion for a subject as I have for photography it makes me do what I have to do to get the results I want. There is information all around us. One of my favorite sites is <http://www.luminous-landscape.com> and click on their "Understanding" section. There is a ton of great info here as there are on many other web sites. At VCCC we are trying to offer programs that are informative as well as educational. BUT, the final element in the equation is how hard you try to assimilate and use the information presented. You need to put into it the effort necessary to produce the results you want. I have a good friend that works for Canon and he says a big reason that some of the higher end cameras are sent in for repair is because of the dreaded RTM syndrome. What is RTM you ask? It stands for "READ THE MANUAL." In other words people just don't know what they are using because they haven't taken the time or effort to learn what they are doing. So ask your self the next time a judge doesn't give you a merit, "Did I do my absolute best in capturing and presenting this image?"

—The Prez

News and Tips

Club Business

End of Year Dinner:

I'm looking forward to our 'end of the year' dinner meeting to be held Jan. 24th. If you've never come to one before, you'll find it a very pleasant experience a chance to socialize as we dine. One of the best features of the evening is a slide show of all the Merit award selections from each member. Susannah did such a great job last year. She created a lovely CD/DVD with our best work and some lovely music to show off our last year's endeavors. I'm hoping she'll be able to do this again this year.

I'm in charge of the Appetizers and Desserts. Since we're trying to arrange a lovely dinner at an affordable price, this will permit each of us to contribute in some small way. If you have a preference for bringing an appetizer or a dessert Please e-mail me at Ozpatborne@aol.com or speak to me at one of our meetings. If you act quickly, you can indicate your preference. The appetizers don't have to be elaborate ... just little tidbits to take care of our appetites until dinner is served. Cheese and crackers, apple slices or grapes, seasoned cream cheese or salsa or guacamole with crackers ... even a tray of fresh veggies are simple and appreciated. If you have a specialty, please feel free to share it with us. For desserts ... you might want to bring something YOU like ... (Pie, cake, cookies???) or someone could bring fruit, nuts or ??? for those who want to watch those yummy calories. You don't have to get fancy with this unless you enjoy doing that. Remember KISS (Keep It Simple Silly)! This is our most fun meeting of the year ... you won't want to miss it!

Thank you for helping with this celebration.

- Pat Osborne

VCCC would like to welcome new members:

Sejal Gandhi
Bob Pedersen
Millie Briddle
Roger Briddle
Darrel Priebe

Thank you for joining and remember this is your club now, If you have any questions please ask and please volunteer if you have the time. Thanks for joining.

WOW what a workshop:

A Super thanks goes to Frank Naumann for opening his house and grounds for us. Thank You. Saturday Oct. 27 about 8 VCCers gathered at Frank's house to photograph old farm equipment and as a bonus, photograph a very old cemetery in Oxnard. This old cemetery is very unique and different. It's old state of repairs made it a real joy to Photograph. Thanks again Frank.

For Sale:

Item 1:

Canon 20D SLR
Canon 28-135 mm Stabilized Lens with UV Filter & Circular Polarizer
2GB of Flash Memory/Battery/Charger/Manual/Software/Cable/Box
\$695

Item 2:

Lens Baby 2.0-\$75

Les Ammann
805 320-3037
lammann@msn.com

Pinhole Camera Class:

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of teaching a group of kindergartners about the joys of pinhole cameras. It was also a little stressful; the kids really didn't do a significant amount of the construction. I had to prepare all of this beforehand, and then come up with ways to create 20 pinhole cameras out of oatmeal canisters, load the film, and take the pictures, all in the space of an hour or so. It worked for all but two cameras, which was a pretty good success ratio.

The pictures were shot using either 4x5 or 2x3 sheet film, placed in film holders. The size depended on which size oatmeal canister the child had brought in (I had forgotten to specify the large size, causing a last minute adjustment to my plan). I used black and white film because I've got it lying around in the fridge, it had a faster ASA than the chrome film I had, and I could develop it at home rather than pay a lab to develop it.

A pinhole camera is a camera that makes an image without a lens. If you use a small hole instead of a lens, an image can be formed on film or even on a dSLR. You have to get the hole size right, which is not hard but it helps to have a scanner to check the size. I was looking for pinholes that were 0.3 mm in diameter for example. I simply used a needle to poke a hole through a piece of pie-tin foil. Some tape, cardboard and film, and that was it!

Pinholes suffer from diffraction, so the image is always going to be a little fuzzy compared to what a lens can do. However there's an upside: pinholes have **infinite depth of field!** Four inches, four hundred feet, it's all equally sharp. No focusing required.

You can see the results here:

http://www.matthainesphotography.com/clients/mound_pinhole/

Many of the children appear blurry. That's because of a long exposure and the inability of a kindergartner to stand still for even a second. Literally, a second, because that's what the exposure time was, in broad daylight. Pinhole cameras let in so little light, that they require very long exposures. My pinhole cameras had an effective aperture of about f/200 (that's not a typo).

The last image on my site is that of a test shot, which I did before the event. It's really very sharp, especially for a pinhole. But the 'subjects' were kind enough to sit still for the camera!

Now here's the important part. This would be an even more interesting class to teach to older children, say fourth to sixth grade. If you know of either a school class, or a kids' group that this might appeal to, can you please send me an email? I'd love to do this again, but this time have the kids make the cameras virtually from scratch. Email me at matt@complicatedinc.com if you have some suggestions. Thanks!

- Matt Haines

News and Tips

• You Don't Have To Say Cheese

The Photography Branch of the Art Center is proud to announce "You Don't Have To Say Cheese", a new group photography exhibit in the Hummingbird Nest Gallery at the Hummingbird Inn in Ojai. The exhibit runs from October 8th to December 4th, 2007.

You are cordially invited to attend an artists' reception from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on Saturday October 13th. Come and meet the artists and enjoy mouth-watering refreshments. The event is free and open to all.

The Inn is under new ownership and the new owner has plans to remodel the gallery area, so this may be our last full exhibit in this space. Please come out and support the Photographic Arts in Ojai. We are looking forward to seeing you at the show.

courtesy Fred Magness, Exhibit Committee Member

• The Village People

The Art Center's drawing workshop is doing a series called "The Village People." Each month a local citizen is asked to pose for the group in working attire. The resulting drawings and paintings are then exhibited in the entry hall of the Art Center.

This month the exhibit is featuring a post mistress of Ojai, Reba Seba. The opening reception is this Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. and the exhibit will continue until November 30th.

Leo was asked to take a few pictures for the artists to refer to. His photograph in a creative montage will be included in the exhibit.

courtesy Myrna Cambianica

• Online Tips from Digital-Photography-School.com

Environmental Portrait Tips

<http://digital-photography-school.com/blog/environmental-portraits/>

Zoo Photography Tips

<http://digital-photography-school.com/blog/zoo-photography/>

courtesy Pat Osborne

• **Dry-Mounting Photos Without a Mounting Press**

I've heard trying this with a clothes iron was a bad idea, but then again, I've never tried it with anything but a mounting press in school. Perhaps worth a shot?

http://www.inficad.com/~gstewart/photo_mounting_101.htm

• **Essay: What is the purpose of a camera club????**

by Pat Osborne

When a photographer comes to club meetings, what are they thinking?

1. I'm going to be told I'm the BEST tonight.
2. I hope the judge likes what I did ... if I enter this photo several times, perhaps I'll find a judge who gives it an award.
3. Can't wait to get better comments than _____ (fill in the blank) and show them I'm better than they are.
4. I know this judge likes animal photos - landscape - floral - people - Architecture - car - blurry - abstract - etc. photos, so I'll submit one for this judge ... so he'll give me a better score.
5. Surely the judge will see how good I am at Photoshop.
6. Can't wait to see _____ ... don't want to talk to any of those other people ... strangers to me.

Or is the photographer thinking:

1. I'm looking forward to learning more about photography tonight
2. The judge will be able to give me pointers with my work
3. I'll be able to see how much I'm improving
4. I want to share what I'm doing with club members
5. This club will help me improve my photography
6. I look forward to talking with a lot of people who share my interest in photography

I think there is great value in pursuing these questions.

The answers to these questions could help formulate the activities of this special interest club we have joined.

As we have seen, especially this year, the judges we have had are all top notch photographers. They have given us valuable information and help . Our club benefits from the participation of all members. We have a talented group of photographers. Our club continues to grow, attracting more fine photographers thanks to Roy Allen, John Ferrito and others (including some excellent judges) who have put forth some effort to increase participation in the Ventura Camera Club.

In the past, we've had to caution members to submit current work, instead of riffling through files for something to fit the month's category. When the category suits the time of year or season, it acts as a stimulus for members to be active and continue to shoot for a monthly goal. Otherwise, it's not a growth experience. just another effort to wow the judge with past work. (Valid, but what about using all the ongoing tips to improve our work?) If our work doesn't need any improvement then why is it being shown??? Ah, yes we all look for more compliments about our work.

Selecting flowers for a category in a winter month does not promote current shooting practices. Having a judge skilled in food photography as a judge for the food category is wonderful but how much more helpful it would have been to have his knowledge BEFORE we began shooting for the food category. Are we just so darn good that we don't need any more tips? If so, then why ask the judge for comments.

Selecting a beach category for any time other than summer (in California we are blessed with a year round beach which is available all the time . Yet, the warmer months are more inviting for photographers.) [Moody, stormy beach shots also work for the open category] Selecting a Christmas or holiday category 6 months after the holiday does not encourage our members to actively shoot every month. Ideally, any category would be selected for the best time to shoot it. If we are a learning club, then it behooves us to devote a few minutes to discussion one month in advance of the category month. Just a little information given at a meeting or in the newsletter would be great. If we are a hobby club alone, then sorting through our old memories, scrapbooks etc. is just fine. Show and tell is valid. The question is: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS CAMERA CLUB ?

There are many questions we could ask which would give us insight and guidance for this passion we share. As they say inquiring minds want to know.

Now ... is the angle ... the light ... the exposure ... the focus on target ? Must be talking about photography!?!

- Pat Osborne

October Competition Winners

**October's Judge:
Gary Moss**

**Assigned Category:
"Food"**

Digital Winners: Assigned

Roy Allen
Les Ammann
Allyson Barnes
Don Hoffman
Henrik Lehnerer
Ron Matson
Arthur Preston

Garlic Swirl
First Ice Cream
The Eyes Have It
A Big Job
Eggs
Ice Cream Cone
Pumpkin Patch

Digital Winners: Open

Roy Allen
John Ferritto
John Ferritto
Henrik Lehnerer
Henrik Lehnerer
Patricia Marroquin
Ron Matson
Arthur Preston
Arthur Preston
Gina Ramsay

Coming Home
Mission
Tank #5
Falcon
Planet Harbor Houses
The Old in The New
Firewood
Carnival Rides
Coastal Scenic
Hot Rod

Print Winners: Black and White

Les Ammann
Hutch Hutchison
Faite Millines

untitled
Vagabond
Just Looking

Print Winners: Color

Roy Allen
Les Ammann
Norman Coats
Hutch Hutchison
Faite Millines

Reflection in a Ford
Concert Hall Shapes
Bourbon Street
Mission Window
On the Beach at Sunset



John Ferritto • Tank #5



Don Hoffman • A Big Job



Henrik Lehnerer • Falcon



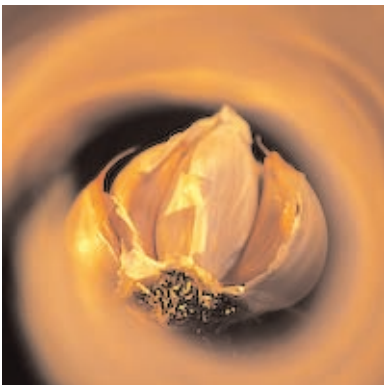
Les Ammann • First Ice Cream



Arthur Preston • Coastal Scenic



Ron Matson • Firewood



Roy Allen • Garlic Swirl



Ron Matson • Ice Cream Cone



Henrik Lehnerer • Planet Harbor Houses



Allyson Barnes • The Eyes Have It



Roy Allen • Coming Home



John Ferritto • Mission



Henrik Lehnerer • Eggs



Patricia Marroquin • The Old in The New



Arthur Preston • Carnival Rides



Arthur Preston • Pumpkin Patch



Gina Ramsay • Hot Rod