



FOCUS

Editor: Judy Edwards

February, 2014

MATTHEW SCHMIDT FEBRUARY SPEAKER

As an amateur photographer, Matt covers a wide variety of subjects. In colder months, he often shoots indoors, mostly macro and still life, while in the warmer seasons he shoots landscapes, action, and motor sports. Over the last several years, he's been developing his skills with more artistic photographic interpretations, incorporating panning, multiple exposures, and montages into his portfolio. He's also produced [Photoshop](#) actions and [Lightroom](#) presets to simplify what he calls "the tedious tasks" of post-processing.



Matthew Schmidt, self portrait

Even though Matt works in a technical field, he's taken quite an interest in art, studying the masters in both painting and photography. Now, he's begun to apply those interpretations

and compositional and lighting techniques to his photography.

AWARDS FOR COMPETITION: JANUARY, 2014

JUDGE: BRIAN ZWIT

ASSIGNED TOPIC: STILL LIFE

5 POINT WINNERS

ASSIGNED A

Jim Marshall

Jim Sullivan (Best)

OPEN A

Anne Scott

CREATIVE

Gerry Bishop (Best)

Jim Sullivan

NOTE: The FOCUS will no longer be publishing winning images. The names of the photographers who have earned a "5" will be listed; each image designated as "best" will also be noted. All of the "4" and "5" point images will be posted on the website.

Matt frequently judges and gives presentations for the [Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs](#) and its affiliates. His work as the NVACC webmaster means managing all the electronic entries and preparing images for the jurying process. His generosity with his time and enthusiasm is Matt's way of "giving back" to a community that, as he describes it, "has helped him without reservation." Matt's also a member of his local camera club, the [Northern Virginia Photographic Society](#), and has held a board position in NVPS for all but one year since 2006. He is currently one of its webmasters and has been the digital competition coordinator, [PSA](#)

rep, co-VP for competitions, and the coordinator of work- shops, education, and training. To hone his perceptions and abilities as a competition judge, Matt has attended the PSA Image Analysis course and gone through the extensive training in judging given by the Joseph Miller Center for the Photographic Arts.

Matt's presentation will be on Macro Photography. See his website at: loreleistudios.com

MEETING INFORMATION

CAMERA CLUB MEETINGS: 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Dinner at Appleby's with speaker/judge, 5:00 pm. Each month, all entries in the Creative category will be projected and all entries in the Open category will be displayed as prints. Assigned entries will alternate as noted below.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014

ASSIGNMENT: MUSIC

PROJECTED

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

ASSIGNMENT: NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

PRINT

You may submit only ONE (1) entry per category.

MUSIC: The opportunities are endless! Aim and focus your camera on capturing the conductor's downbeat, the flying fingers of the pianist over the keyboard, the tenor reaching for those high notes, the "rapper" on the downtown mall, the cherubic faces of the children's choir, drummers drumming on the street corner, dancers swaying to the beat of the music, the high school marching band, an old phonograph, a sheet of music, church bells peeling, artistic renderings of musical instruments – let your imagination and "eye" do the work! Music is everywhere—find it and capture it! (Generally "flash photography" is not allowed at professional events.)

NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY: While light is one of the key elements of photography, that doesn't mean there has to be a lot of it for an image to have an impact on those who view it. Night stories are different from day stories. There's something about the soft glowing lights, the reflections, and the mood. Night images can be anything from neon signs and city lights to friends huddled around a glowing campfire. But your photos must be taken at night. Try Googling "night photography." There are a lot of interesting and creative ways to go with this assignment.

BRIAN ZWIT JANUARY GUEST SPEAKER AND JUDGE

Photographer, Brian Zwit presented a very technical talk titled *Digital Tech, Concepts to know if you are a Digital Photographer*. He covered light, DSLRs and MILCs (mirrorless), lenses, sensors, jpg vs. raw, noise, and color models. It might have been difficult to totally understand the entire talk, but his presentation makes a wonderful resource of specific information. After every section, Brian included "takeaways," a short synopsis of what we should have come away knowing; the entire talk is also available to us on the internet.



Brian Zwit

Photo by Dave Lyster

The new system of scoring was used officially for the first time last month, and Brian did an outstanding job of using the guidelines. The images that received a score of 5 easily stood out as being the best. The entries he chose as 4's were excellent photos, but often lacked the "wow" factor. He was a meticulous judge and gave specific suggestions on how to improve images, as well as very clear explanations of

why he scored as he did. There were 61 entries in the three categories. Congratulations to everyone who entered.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

By Jim Simmons

Greetings! Would someone please ask the weatherman to turn off his blasted "air conditioner"! WOW – what a cold winter we are having! In all of my 84 years living here I never have experienced such a long and sustained cold spell! With Valentine's Day coming, SPRING can't be too far behind?

Changes Coming????

Change is hard to accept and most of us likely resist same as long as we can. However, the reality is that it does come and we do adjust! The same may be said for our club. It is likely that we may experience some significant changes in the operation of our club during this and coming years. Several suggested changes have been offered by members, and those changes are being looked at very carefully by the Executive Committee. Some of those suggestions are set forth in this month's "Notes".

First, we have raised our dues for the first time in three years. This was not an easy decision, but one that had to be taken. I am pleased to inform you that the increase appears to have been accepted by the membership without adverse comment.

Second, our Rules of Competition are being revised in view of the use of our new "scoring system" voted for by our membership. A committee consisting of Gerry Bishop (chair), Judy Edwards, Jim Fergus, Ginger Ferrell, Anton Largiader and Jim Simmons has spent a month revising these rules and have passed their work on to the Executive Committee for its consideration and passage at its meeting on February 6. A complete revision will be emailed to you once passage has occurred.

Third, we are experiencing a large increase of entries in our monthly competitions, thereby requiring a time increase for our judges to fairly judge your entries. We are delighted that so many of you enter your images – and what outstanding work is revealed in them! It is possible that we may eliminate presentations by our judges following the judging portion of our meetings in order to allow them more time to really critique your entries and offer constructive comments on how images might be improved. Your Executive Committee is looking at this possibility and will keep you involved and informed.

Fourth, many camera clubs do not meet during the months of July and August for a variety of reasons. The Executive Committee is considering this possibility for our club. We typically see a drop in attendance at our July and August meetings. No firm decision has been made as of this writing, but we will keep you informed and seek your feelings on such a possible change before making a decision.

Finally, we will be considering offering special presentations, field trips, member presentations, etc. during the year – especially during the months of July and August should we decide to take a "Summer Break." Such activities could be organized and conducted by competent outside leaders. This concept is in the "embryonic" stage at this point and will require very careful consideration by our Executive Committee as well as input from the general membership.

Are these changes coming? Maybe – maybe not! As of this writing your President cannot answer that question. However, I can assure you that thoughts are around and being considered. I think the only thing I can say with any degree of certainty at this time is--**stay tuned!!!!**

NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP WELL ATTENDED

Many thanks to Gerry Bishop for putting together an excellent workshop on night photography. We have planned to offer workshops on some of the monthly themes that call for special expertise. The theme of night photography is coming up in March, and, as we all realized when it came time to try our own night photography, it might take a bit of practice!



Gerry begins his lecture. Photo by Judy Edwards



After hours press conference! Photo by Judy Edwards.

Although it's easy to understand the basic relationship of aperture, shutter speed, and ISO, it turned out to be a little more difficult to calculate exposure setting when you are forced to shoot in bulb (more than 30 seconds with the shutter open). In this case, the camera doesn't help you to figure out the exposure—

mathematics must be used! Or at least counting stops, which was also interesting.

Workshops which include a hands on practice session are great fun and easier to understand. We improvised inside with the lights off, as below zero wind chill did not make for comfortable practice outside. Twenty four CCC members braved the weather and brought cameras, tripods, and remotes. We look forward to the results of night photography at the March meeting.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE 2014

Save these dates! Topics will be announced closer to the events.

Volunteers and ideas are welcome.

FEBRUARY 22, Saturday, 2-4: Peer Review

FEBRUARY 26, Wednesday, 6-9: Workshop TBA

MARCH 22, Saturday, 2-4: Peer Review

MARCH 29, Saturday, 2-5: Workshop TBA

APRIL 19, Saturday, 2-4: Peer Review

APRIL 23, Wednesday, 6-9, Workshop TBA

MAY 24, Saturday, 2-4, Peer Review

MAY 28, Wednesday, 6-9, Workshop TBA

CCC MINUTES

January, 2014

President Jim Simmons called the large crowd to order at 6.30 pm. Treasurer, John Hulburt, stated we have \$1,448 in the bank as of 1 January, 2014. Currently we have 90 members which is an increase of 4 over this time last year. The bank had \$984 more at this time last year.

- Seven guests were introduced, one of whom was joining tonight.
- Increase of dues was introduced to the membership. The 25% increase in our

costs was explained, including rent charges, and judges' honorarium, travel expenses, meals and hotel accommodations.

- Jim Simmons made an appeal to the members to consider venues that may be suitable as the Senior Center will be moving at some time in the future. He also asked if anyone can suggest sponsors for our web site. Suggestions welcome.
- Anton Largiader reported on improvements to the web site with ways to track numbers, and the setting up of a member's directory, including photos. You will be able to log on to access it.
- Gerry Bishop announced a peer review session at Northside Library 29 Jan at 6.30 – 8.45.
- End of Year Awards were given out (*see December 2013*).
- Jim Fergus introduced Brian Zwit as our judge and explained the new 5 point rating system. He asked for some low numbers to keep the system viable.
- Brian Zwit explained his philosophy of having this as a learning experience as opposed to being just critical. Also it is one person's opinion and not to let this interfere with what is important to you. There were 17 assigned A's. He explained he was asked to judge by technical aspects, composition and a wow factor. He was extremely thorough and detailed in his analysis of each image. He complimented the entire group on their standards. He was just as detailed with each of the remaining categories. None of the "B" categories got a 5.

After judging Brian gave a presentation, a very technical presentation, with excellent moving graphics, on light, color temperature, DSLR focal plane shutters, sensors, focal length, elements in lenses, ratios of focal length in relation to

depth of field, and limitations on lens capabilities. He used binary numbers to prove the advantages of shooting RAW images over JPG. New mantra: EXPOSE TO THE RIGHT ON THE HISTOGRAM FOR THE MAXIMUM DETAIL. We can see 16 million colors and so can a JPG. So more is better. He urged us to keep trying until 9:25 pm. We stacked chairs.

Submitted by Ginger Ferrell, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

CCC's PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION TEAM has opened their first photo exhibit at Green House Coffee in Crozet. Fourteen members of the team have twenty-eight images on display that range from still life to panoramic and creative. All the images are priced for sale. The exhibit will run through February 22. Further exhibits, at other venues, are planned throughout 2014. This exhibition team leader is David Lyster, and you should contact him if you are interested in joining the team.



Photographic Exhibition Team members Rick Seaman and Anne Scott celebrate the opening of the Crozet show.
Photo by Dave Lyster

HELLO FELLOW PHOTOGRAPHERS: Joe Miller has been following [my daily photography blog](#) where I've been posting a series of abstract related pieces over the past month or two. He asked me to do two things for him: 1) Put in a

plug for his annual exhibit, and 2) let you know about this web based exhibit which will be a companion to Joe's 4th annual exhibit.

Best regards,
Ed Knepley

CCC MEMBERS: If you would be interested in providing volunteer help photographing terminal babies for their parents' memories at our local hospitals, please click below to learn about this fine organization.

<https://www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org/>



CCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS:

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CCC Website: www.cvillecameraclub.org

(The Charlottesville Camera Club is an organization that fosters photography as an art, a hobby, or a vocation, by instruction and by sharing of knowledge and experience. Membership is open to anyone interested in photography. The club is not associated with any other organization or venue.)