



Volume 3, Issue 11

November & December 2009



Special points of interest:

- * 2009 CICCA Fall Results
- * Decatur Camera Club Fall Salon
- * Decatur Obedience Fundraiser

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NOVEMBER 12, 2009 MEETING...

THIS MEETING IS THE ONLY ONE FOR NOVEMBER 2009:

2009 CICCA Fall Salon: Decatur Camera Club Results:

Photo Slides: Nature Category (47 entries).

ACCEPTED	"B.C."	BUD JACKSON
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Small Monochrome Prints (52 entries).

ACCEPTED	"INVITATION TO SIT A SPELL"	VIRGINIA KICKLE
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Large Monochrome Prints (21 entries).

ACCEPTED	"DEER SILHOUETTE"	NICK CRIM
ACCEPTED	"RIVER OF FOG"	NICK CRIM

Small Color Prints (140 entries)

HONORS	"CONTEMPLATION"	VIRGINIA KICKLE
HONORS	"STORM BREWING"	VIRGINIA KICKLE
ACCEPTED	"EMPTY ROOM"	NICK CRIM
ACCEPTED	"LEMHI OVERLOOK"	DON CHAMBERLAIN
ACCEPTED	"DOLLY AT DAWN"	VIRGINIA KICKLE
ACCEPTED	"SCOOTER AT DAWN"	VIRGINIA KICKLE

Large Color Prints (73 entries).

ACCEPTED	"CELEBRATING"	ELDON MUENCH
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Digital: Nature Category (120 entries)

HONORS	"FAWN"	VIRGINIA KICKLE
HONORS	"EGRET WITH CATFISH"	DON CHAMBERLAIN
HONORS	"SOARING EGRET"	DON CHAMBERLAIN
ACCEPTED	"GOLDFINCH"	VIRGINIA KICKLE
ACCEPTED	"HAZY MORNING"	SUZI MORROW
ACCEPTED	"OWL"	ELDON MUENCH

Digital: Pictorial Category (149 entries).

HONOR	"BIKE IN VIETNAM"	TOKS JOSEPH
ACCEPTED	"OBEY YOUR THIRST"	TOKS JOSEPH
ACCEPTED	"SPRAY"	BILL HOFFMAN

Ribbons will be awarded at the December 10th meeting.

DECEMBER 10, 2009 MEETING

PLEASE NOTE MEETING WILL START AT 6:30 P.M. AND WILL RUN UNTIL WE ARE DONE OR 9:30 P.M.

THIS MEETING IS THE ONLY ONE FOR DECEMBER 2009

CICCA INFORMATION - DON CHAMBERLAIN

1. Hand out ribbons to our members who had success at the CICCA Fall Salon
2. Ask for our club's input about possible changes in Judging procedures at future CICCA Salons. It is proposed that photo slides and digital slides be combined in the judging for the future rather than having separate session for each.
3. It is further suggested that we add an additional category to the Digital Slides and Photo Slide Divisions. Presently we have Nature, Pictorial, and Creative / Contemporary.

The suggestion is that we divide the Creative into an OPEN category where major adjustments can be made to entries, but in the end they would maintain most of their natural characteristics.

The Creative / Contemporary category would then be for altered reality or abstract types of images.

We will discuss those possible changes at our Dec. 10th meeting and vote whether Decatur Camera Club supports changing or not. I will then send our vote results to our leadership. In January the Salon Procedures Committee and Executive Committee will meet, review the opinions of the member clubs, and come up with a recommendation about whether or not we want to change (I am not a member of either of these committees). In March at the CICCA Mid-Winter meeting all CICCA Reps will vote on the recommendation.

DECEMBER 10, 2009 CAMERA CLUB FALL SALON

Guidelines for the December 10, 2009 Decatur CC Fall Salon:

Digital Slide Competition:

- a. For the digital slide division, each club member may enter slides in any of the following categories:

****Nature (no sign of man may appear).**

****General or Pictorial**

****Contemporary (these images can be highly manipulated)**

- b. You may enter as many slides in each category as you wish, but your total number of slides entered cannot exceed 10 (i.e. all 10 in Nature OR 5 in Nature and 5 in General, etc.....your choice.
- c. Digital images cannot be more that two years old. We will accept images taken in 2007, 2008, or 2009.
- d. For sizes, we will use the CICCA Digital image guidelines:
 - a. Format: JPEG
 - b. 1024 x 768 (Images are to be no larger than 1024 pixels horizontally and no larger than 768 pixels vertically. At least one of these sizes should be met).
 - c. No restriction on file size. For those using Photoshop, it is suggested you save at the highest quality: 12.

(Continued on next page)

DECEMBER 10, 2009 MEETING...

Guidelines for the December 10, 2009 Decatur CC Fall Salon: (Cont.)

Prints Competition:

- a. For the print competition, each member may enter a maximum of 10 prints. Our print competition is not divided into separate subject categories.
- b. As is true in CICCA events, prints must be matted on a backing board which is 11"x 14" inches in size for small prints and/or 16" x 20" inches in size for large prints.
- c. Prints submitted cannot be more than two years old. We will accept images taken in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Film Slides Competition:

- a. All film slides will be in a GENERAL category; we will NOT have subcategories in this competition.
- b. Slides should not be OLDER than five years old from date taken no earlier than 2004). Each member can enter up to 10 slides.

Prints and film slides can be brought in the night of the contest (please bring them in by 6:30 so we can begin judging at 7:00).

For Digital images we will need more time to prepare them for presentation.

Please submit your digital images by Email (Send them to Nick - crimphotography@aol.com)

Absolute deadline for digital images is Thursday Dec. 3rd, no entries will be accepted after the deadline.

I am looking for volunteers to judge, do scorekeeping and for setting up the digital images. I have 2 judges and need 1 more. Nick will run the digital contest for us, so I will need help with the slide and print contest.

Curt Knapp

DECATUR CAMERA CLUB OFFICERS 2009-2010.....

President and Vice-President: Curt Knapp

Secretary: Phyllis Hunt

Treasurer: Suzi Morrow

Member at Large: David Staff

CICCA Representative: Don Chamberlain

Newsletter: Phyllis Hunt

Website Committee: Curt Knapp, David Staff

Program Committee: Kathy Bassette, Phyllis Hunt, Don Chamberlain

Publicity Committee: Suzi Morrow, David Staff, Bobbie Henneghan

DECATUR OBEDIENCE FUNDRAISER...

We have an opportunity to raise some money for the club by taking holiday pictures of some dogs for the members of Decatur Obedience. They are based in Warrensburg and we will be doing this on Sunday, November 22.

We need to know how many people would be available to:

Register and receive money from people

Edit the photos

Help with photography and pooch set up

Anyone that would be able to help, please send an email to Suzi Morrow (dance2morrow@comcast.net) as soon as possible.

Suzi Morrow

HOW TO BLUR THE BACKGROUND...

1. Turn your camera on after installing the lowest aperture lens on the camera body. Aperture is sometimes referred to as an f-number. The f-number of a lens is shown in ranges with some of the popular portrait lens apertures starting between f/1.2 and f/1.8.
2. Set your camera to the "Aperture Priority" mode. This mode allows you to select the aperture while the camera automatically selects the correct shutter speed for your selection. If you don't know which setting is Aperture Priority, consult your camera's manual. On Canon DSLR cameras the setting is AV on the dial; many other DSLR cameras use A to signify Aperture Priority mode.
3. Test your aperture by starting with a few high f-number settings, such as f/20, and take a picture. You can change the f-number using a dial that is located towards the shutter button on Canon DSLR camera or towards the viewfinder on other DSLR camera brands.
4. Step your f-number down and take another picture. f/10 shows a small difference when you compare it to f/20. Notice how the background is becoming more blurred as you widen the aperture of the lens. The lower the f-number the wider the aperture, so the more blurred the background becomes.
5. Set the aperture to an f-number just above the lowest setting. You can see a remarkable difference in the depth of field if you take a picture at f/1.4 and compare that to the first picture you took at f/20.
6. Decide how blurred you want the background. Practice and personal photography style can help you learn and decide what aperture you like for different photos.

NIGHT TRAILS PHOTOGRAPHY/CITYSCAPES AT NIGHT...

Night trails photography

1. Night trails photography has significantly increased in popularity since the introduction of digital cameras enabling longer exposures (slower shutter speeds).
2. This type of shot usually requires the use of the tripod. Typical exposure time for this kind of photos is between 1 min and 15 minutes. This can be achieved either by selecting a camera to as long exposure it will allow, or by using a so called bulb mode (B) on your camera (tip: don't forget to select low ISO - 100 or lower to avoid noise).
3. Since even the slightest shake can impact the image, I recommend using a remote release for the shutter (a remote control used to press the shutter without touching the camera).
4. In the winter months shooting car light trails could be a freezing process so dress for the job.

Photography tips for taking pictures of car light trails/Cityscapes at night

1. Set your digital SLR camera to shutter priority. This is important for all night photography. Shutter priority allows you to set a slow shutter speed so enough light is let in to the sensor. If you don't do this, you will end up with a black image or one that only displays circles of light.
2. Use a 30 second shutter speed or more. The slower the speed, the more light you'll see in your photograph.
3. Because you are taking the photograph with a slow shutter speed, you can now afford to use the lowest ISO setting possible. Therefore set your ISO to 100 (if your digital camera goes that low) to ensure the best quality photo with no grainy pixels or noise as it's also known.
4. Sit your digital camera on a tripod to minimize the effects of camera shake. The sturdier the tripod the better. If you don't have a tripod handy, then sitting the camera on a nearby object would also work. As long as your not hand holding the camera.
5. Use a camera remote to take the photograph. This stops blurred images that are usually a result of camera shake. Sometimes pressing your cameras shutter button can cause a small shift in the camera when you release it. In normal circumstances this isn't a problem. However, for night photography on slow shutter speed it can be the difference between a blurred photo or a sharp one.
6. Wait for a night where there is no wind. This is especially important if your tripod isn't very sturdy. The slightest shake in your tripod can cause motion blur.
7. Before you take the photograph, set your lens to automatic focus and focus on a far away object like the sky for example. You do this by pressing your shutter button half way down until you see a red dot flashing on the sky or far off object. Then turn off your automatic focus so it doesn't change from there on.

PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS FOR WATERFALL PHOTOGRAPHY...

1. **Shutter speed is important in waterfall photography!**

Tastes vary in how people like to see the water flowing over waterfalls presented in a photograph, but we prefer using a slower shutter speed for a motion effect to the water. A fast shutter speed will show individual waves and droplets in the water, but a slower shutter speed actually shows the path that the water travels – the slope of the water off the fall, the arcs of the water as it splashes off a rock on the way down the falls. For us, this makes a more interesting picture. Typically, we'll try for a shutter speed of ½ to 1 second if we can, but will try to at least keep the shutter slower than 1/15 of a second.

2. **ISO matters.**

To keep the shutter speed slow, we use a low ASA film (we often use 50 ASA) or set the ISO on the digital camera as low as it will go (usually 100).

3. **Use filters if you have them.**

If the light is bright enough, we may not be able use the shutter speed we want to. When this happens we use either a neutral density filter or a polarizing filter can be used to drop the shutter speed.

4. **Use a tripod.**

With slow shutter speeds, you will need a tripod to steady the camera. Also, remember that with a shutter speed this low, anything moving in the picture other than the water (e.g. people, foliage blowing in the wind) will also be blurred.

5. **Make sure the camera is level.**

A photograph of water that appears to be flowing uphill is very disturbing. I really try to remember to use my bubble level – and to make sure it is level for my waterfall photos.

6. **Direction matters.**

Remember to check the direction of the falls, to determine the best time of day for light hitting the falls to give the most dramatic photograph. Great Falls is best photographed in the morning.

7. **Seasons matter.**

Check out the falls in different seasons, e.g. does it look best with new spring foliage? Best in the fall with the leaves turning? Some other time? Since spring and fall tend to be the wettest times of the year, these are usually good times to catch falls at their peak levels.

8. **Research before you go.**

Learn what you can about the falls, and what you'll need photographically, before you get there.

9. **Takes lots of photos at various exposures.**

You may be surprised at what you discover what your preferences for waterfall photography are.

We are on the Web!
www.decaturncameraclub.net