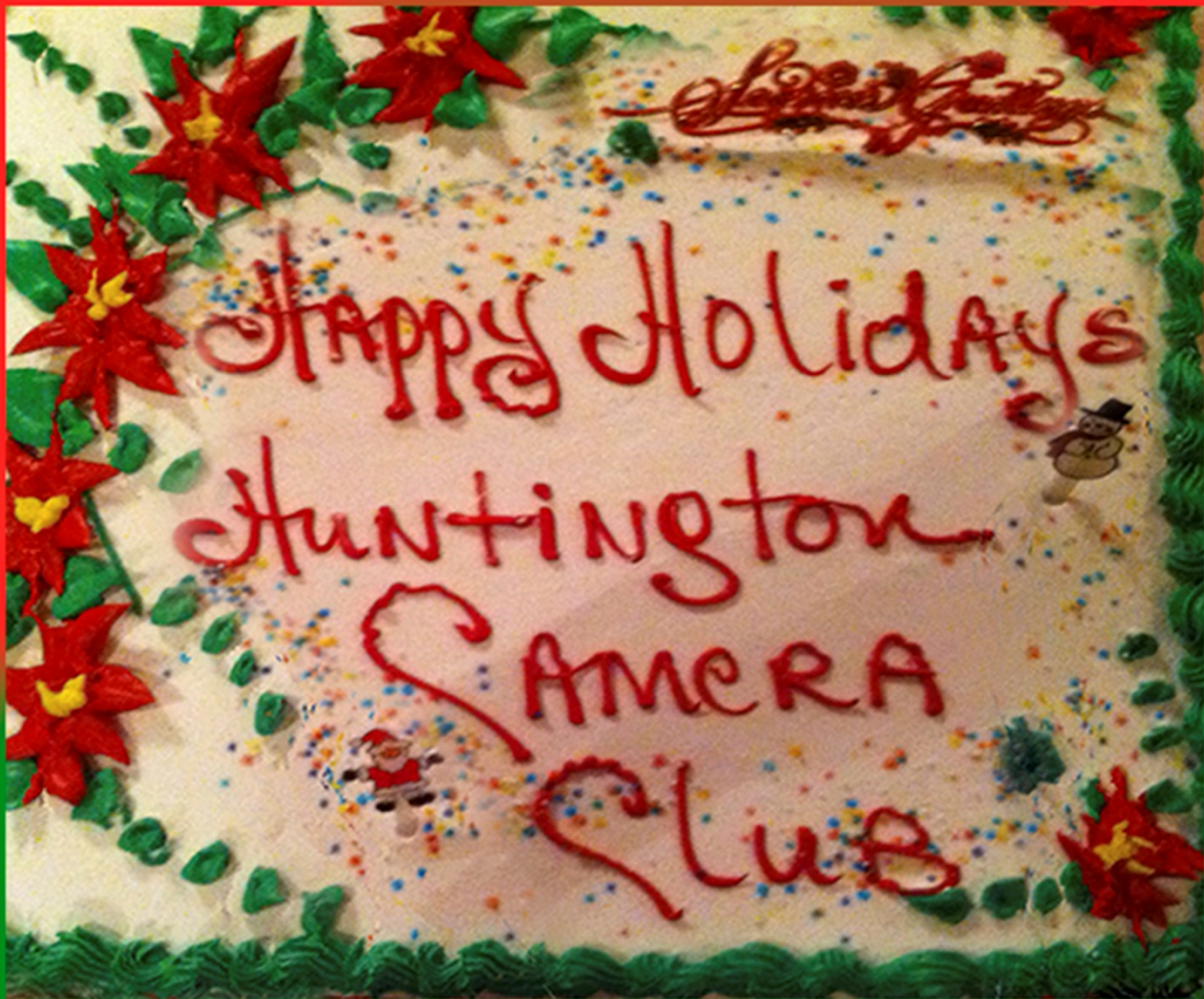


THE CONTACT SHEET

VOLUME 43 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2010

HUNTINGTON CAMERA CLUB'S MEMBERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT - MIKE DIRENZO
V.PRESIDENT - GEORGE FAVALE
SECRETARY - BOBBIE TURNER
TREASURER - HERB KNOPP

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - GEORGE FAVALE

Huntington Camera Club

Volume 43 Issue 4

www.huntingtoncameraclub.org

C
O
N
T
A
C
T
S
H
E
E
T



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Friends of the Lens,

Season's Greetings to one and all. What a wonderful time of year this is, and here's hoping that you receive everything that is on your wish list for this holiday season.

First, I would like to thank everyone who made our holiday party a great success. What a wonderful night it was and the food and the company were great. Special thanks go out to Marsha and Herb Knopp for making the arrangements to secure the Crab Meadow Country Club venue for our wonderful get together.

I would like to also thank Carole Witkover for her hard work in running the raffle for the All-In-One Epson printer that Frank Silverman so graciously donated. We collected over \$230 to donate to a local food bank. I am sure that this money will help make a needy family's holiday a little brighter than it otherwise would have been.

Next, we finally have a PFLI representative or should I say a pair of PFLI representatives. Stan Mehlman and Rafi Weiss have stepped-up and taken over this important club function and with the help of Ellen Gallagher and Kathy Hinkaty they will be selecting and entering our entries into this monthly competition.

Our new PSA groups are finally in action and so far we are doing very nicely. We recently received the scores from the "Travel" division and out of 35 clubs World Wide, we placed 4th...WOW! We are still waiting for the results from the Photo Journalism, Creative Image, and Electronic Divisions. We have entered images from 21 different photographers into these International Competitions. Yes, there have been a couple of members with multiple entries, however we are still in the early rounds of these exciting competition opportunities. Have you entered your images yet? If not, what are you waiting for? Come on enter and join the fun.

Here are some upcoming activities for the New Year. Tuesday February, 1st our first of two Round Robin Tutorial evenings. Several stations will be set-up around the room with members offering tutorials and advice on "How To" photography and photo editing techniques. Photoshop tips, photo post processing tips, camera usage instruction, questions asked-questions answered...you won't want to miss these two exciting evenings the 2nd of which is scheduled for Tuesday April, 5th.

Tuesday February 22nd, we will have a Creative Image Inner Club Competition. Show off your Photo Shop skills and compete against members of your own club. There will be two separate divisions A and B with prizes for our winners. Tuesday, April 26th will be the night of our 2nd inner club competition this time the theme will be "Nature" and again two divisions A and B with prizes. We will be following PSA guidelines for this competition, which state that images may not have anything man-made or any humans in the image, NATURE ONLY. No lighthouses, darn it! Birds, monkeys, trees, etc. only.

Tuesday April 19th we will be judging the PSA competition for that month. Three of our club's Master photographers will be judging one of the Electronic Images Divisions for the PSA. This will be a fine opportunity to enjoy some photos from around the world, but also get an idea who and what we are competing against in our PSA competitions.

Tuesday May 22nd will be the evening of our Annual High School Competition. Over the years this competition has grown and with the coming of the digital age these young people with their creativity have never disappointed or ceased to amaze us with the caliber of their work.

The schedule also includes some "Meet the Artist" evenings that are always well received and an opportunity for our members to showcase their hard work and expertise in photography and post-processing.

One glitch in the scheduling is that the Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for January 4th, will have to be moved to the Commack Library, due to a scheduling conflict with our own Huntington Library. Hey, the Huntington Library has been wonderful to us and once in a while they have to accommodate other functions. Commack, however, can only give us a small room with limited hours of availability, 7-9pm. The room can only accommodate 30 people, therefore unfortunately we will not be able to open this meeting to the entire club, there just won't be enough room. This meeting will be for Board of Directors and possibly 10 other members. If you are not a member of the Board of Directors, speak-up to reserve a seat for yourself before they are all taken. Enjoy your Holidays. Mike DiRenzo – President



Notes from the Editor...December 2010

Happy Holiday...

This Month's Contact Sheet

For those who were at the holiday party, and did not get an opportunity to see the holiday dinner cake, or for those who were not able to attend the dinner, Herb Knopp sent in this picture... Thanks (oh, and remember whoever got the Betty Boop whatever it was, must re-gift it for next year...)

Letters to Fannie Foto

Fannie continues to get letters! Read her column, and remember email her if you have a question... she can be reached at fanniefoto@gmail.com.

Picture of the Month winners

See the winning pictures from this month's competition. The winning members for this month are:

DPI.. Michael Azzato - "look what I can do"

B & W: Stan Melhman - "Laurel"

Color Print: Stuart Singer - "Shop Window"

How Do I get my pictures to show in the sequence I want? (Again)

So I tried last month to explain how to sequence your pictures if you are going to present them, and you want to make sure they are in the correct order. I tried to keep it simple but left out an important point. So for those who have finished all their holiday shopping and still can't sleep read the next installment of how to sequence your images, which has been added at the end of the original document.

The Orton Effect

A very nice by product of the "meet the artist night" is you never know what a member will present. This past month, Brian Smith gave a very interesting presentation. Part of it went into the "Orton Effect", and many of you asked Brian to publish his notes on it. Brian has graciously taken time and created a very instructional article which you can read in this issue.

Closing Notes

Remember anyone who has any interesting information on photography that you think the club may be interested in please send it in to me.

2010 is coming to an end... wow, can you believe we start a new decade? But before we get there, let's take a moment to enjoy the last few days of this year...

Happy Holiday...

George

gfavchi@ameritech.net



IN FOCUS.....with Fannie Foto

Well the weather outside is frightful....so I don't imagine I will see many of you braving the cold unless we get a beautiful blanket of snow and 40 degrees. However, that doesn't mean you should put your camera away for the winter. There is still plenty to shoot. Go to a museum, the mall or an indoor skating rink and there's always a football game or a trip to a ski slope. You'll get lots of action shots, hopefully with no signs of frostbite. Keep the questions coming, email me at fanniefoto@gmail.com.

Until next year enjoy your holidays and remember **smile...either behind the camera or in front...you choose.**

Dear Aunt Fannie,

I see a lot of action shots that I'd love to be able to capture. Are there any real tips to get those great shots.

Thanks, Bob

Well Bob,

The best photos are usually the ones you don't plan for. Be ready, and you can get some amazing shots. **Camera up:** Point your camera where action is likely to happen. Keep your viewfinder near your eye and your finger over the shutter button so you'll be ready for the moment.

Take lots of pictures: The pros know how hard it is to capture great action. That's why they take hundreds of shots to get one great one. Use your camera's burst mode to get a series of pictures within seconds of each other.

Get close: Zoom in on faces. Don't always focus on the action. You can capture some great expressions that way. Step in close or use your camera's zoom to emphasize what is important. Be invisible. Try to fit into the environment, so that your subjects don't get self-conscious or distracted. Try shooting some images with your camera at waist level to avoid drawing attention to it.

Freeze the action: Set your shutter speed priority to a high setting to freeze the action.

Blur the background: Decrease the camera's depth of field by decreasing the f-stop. The lower the f-stop the more background blur.

Avoid the Shakes: Use the image stabilization feature on your camera to correct for an unsteady hand. This is especially helpful when using the zoom lens. Use a tripod if handy or rest the camera against a steady object like a wall or railing.

Follow the action. Pan with your camera and press the shutter button while still moving the camera.

Tell a story: Look for shots that tell a story.

You want people that see your pictures to say, "Wow, I wish I'd been there" or better yet, "I wish I'd taken that".

Dear Aunt Fannie,

Now that winter is right around the corner I would like to know what the best way to take photos in the snow without them coming out gray.

Mike

Dear Mike,

The “gray snow problem” is very common, and happens because your camera’s light meter sees everything as neutral gray. When it looks at the bright white snow, it just thinks you’re trying to photograph a gray subject in brighter light, so it underexposes your shot.

The easiest way to get a proper exposure for your snow photos is to use exposure compensation. If you’re in aperture priority mode, you should have an option to increase or decrease the camera’s recommended exposure. Usually, setting the exposure compensation between +1 and +2 will give you a good exposure for snow covered scenes.

For those of you who are planning to spend the winter outdoors and are determined to get those winter wonderlands you can use an [18% gray card](#). Here’s how to use them:

1. Switch to aperture priority mode, so you get an automatic exposure.
2. Hold the gray card in front of your lens, so the gray covers the entire frame (make sure the light on the card is just like the light on your subject).
3. Snap a photo, and take note of the exposure.
4. Switch to full manual mode, and use the exposure from above (even though your camera will say it’s too high).
5. Compose your snowy landscape, and press the shutter. Viola!

I have discovered photography. Now I can kill myself.....Pablo Picasso



The Winners – December Competition 2010

Look What I can do – Mike Azzato - Digital Projected Image of the Month



It felt good to win Print of the Month. So many times I had photos in the running, but never won. In fact, one time there were 3 photos up for POM, and I had two them, and didn't get it. So this was totally unexpected and gratifying.

The photo was taken this summer at MOMA, in Manhattan. I had just bought the Panasonic Lumix, and was anxious to try it out. I was with Bob Yaccarino, from the club, and we went to the outside courtyard looking for interesting subjects. There was a young couple from

Germany, with their baby. Bob and I asked if we could take some photos and they agreed. Bob took several from a different angle and entered it in competition and did well.

I decided to shoot a different angle with my Lumix and was pleased with the results. I was amazed at how nimble the baby was in supporting himself. The position of his hands, and feet along with his expression made it an irresistible shot. That was it. I was pleased with the days shooting and the Lumix.

Shop Window – Stuart Singer – Color Print of the Month



I shot this picture in November 2010 in Bad Kreuznach, Germany on a small side street. The day was very overcast. I used my Canon 50D with my Canon zoom lens 18-200mm. No flash was used just some coping - that's all. I could have used my polarizing filter to help reduce the reflection on the glass but I like the reflection and did not try to remove it.

Details:

Focal Length = 35mm
Shutter Speed = 1/60 sec.
ISO = 150
F-Number = 4.5

Laura - Stan Mehlman – Black & White Print of the Month

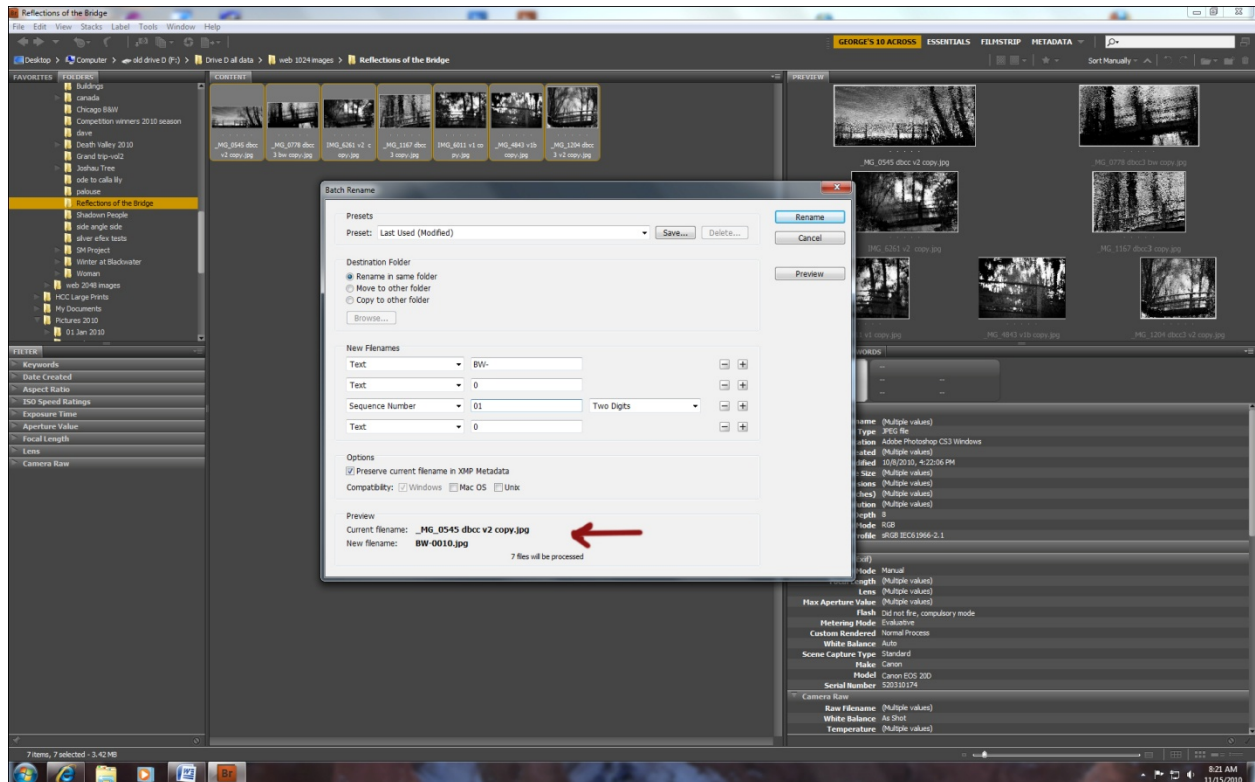


"Laura" was shot in available light outside at the NECCC in July of this year. I was taken with the natural beauty of my model, but only managed to shoot about 6 frames. There were lots of leaves in the background which was a distraction; so I cropped and cloned and vignetted to remove most of it. I tried to bring focus to her eyes by darkening them a bit and lightened the face. But it's always easier to get a good photo when you start with such an attractive subject.

How do I sequence my pictures so they come out in the order I want and not all jumbled up!

Something I have noticed is when our “meet the artist” member shows his or her pictures they are not in the sequence that the person thought they would be. Basically the issue is what is called the collating sequence of the file names. Regardless of how you order your pictures, when you put them on a DVD or memory stick they will be placed in the sequence of the name and number of the files.

One simple way to ensure the sequence of your photos is to first move the images around on your computer until they are in the sequence you want. Highlight all of them and right click, then select “batch rename”. A window will appear as shown below.



Then it is a simple process of re-naming all your images with a common file naming structure. In the above example, I have highlighted 7 images and right clicked on one. The batch rename window then appeared. I then selected “rename in same folder” and checked “preserve current filename in XMP Metadata”. Then I created my new filename. I wanted a text prefix of “BW- “ followed by a “0” (as a place holder), then a “sequence number” of two digits starting with “01”, followed by “0” as another place holder. (The place holders are needed in case in the future I want to add another image in between two already existing images). If I am not sure I have the name I want I can look (by the red arrow) and see what the new name will be. Once it is what I want, I click on “rename” in the upper right hand corner and all my files are now renamed and in the order I want...

ok... so now you are ready to show your work in the sequence you want... have fun...I know we will enjoy seeing your work.

More tech stuff on how to sequence your images....(this is the addition to the original document)

So I don't think I explained something clearly enough....and that is how you number your images...so I will try again...

First ask yourself how many images you will be displaying. (Let's assume 20)

You must provide a place holder for the two digit numbers, which is done by simply naming your images 01, 02, etc instead of 1, 2, etc.

That is really all you need to know... but if you still can't sleep read this next section.

The computer sorts by what is known as a collating sequence... and what it does is take each position and determines what has the lowest to highest values...

For my example, let's say we have 20 flower images that I want to copy to a flash drive and then load on another computer to show.

A file that is called "flower 1.jpg" vs "flower 2.jpg" will cause the computer to put "flower 1.jpg" first (assuming an ascending sort sequence) and "flower 2.jpg" second.

Now when we get to "flower 10.jpg" where will the computer put that file?

ok... let's make believe we are the computer...Remember I am a computer and do not understand anything, except the rules that have been programmed into me...

hmmm, "flower 10.jpg" is longer than "flower 1.jpg, so I better add some spaces to make them the same size (b = one space)... which means I am going to make "flower 1.jpg" look like "flower 1.jpgb" or depending on what computer I am I may also make it look like "bflower 1.jpg"

flower 1.jpgb..... bflower 1.jpg

flower 10.jpg..... flower 10.jpg

The computer will force the compare to be the same size and fill in blanks where needed.... and that will cause it not to sort the way your brain thought it would...

So how do you avoid this? USE PLACE HOLDERS! in the above example, I know I have 20 files so I should name everything with a two position number, so "flower 1.jpg" now becomes "flower 01.jpg"; "flower 2.jpg becomes "flower 02.jpg"; etc...

The computer now sees all the files the same length and will correctly sort them, your viewer will now see the images in the sequence you want, and of course the person showing your images will be happy since they won't have to jump around as you say "no! That is not the next image!"....