

Polk County Camera Club

Newsletter

Jul-Aug



© Ralph Nichols

“Safe”

Ralph Nichols captured the action of the moment by using a fast shutter speed. Learn more about how to control motion inside this issue.

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Welcome to the Polk County Camera Club

Jul-Aug

Taking Your Digital Camera on Vacation *Text & Photos ©Bonnie Shedd*

Vacation time is here for many folks and of course taking pictures is part of the fun. Traveling with a digital camera is truly a joy, but there are some things to think about before leaving home.

Of course the first thing that goes into your camera bag is your OWNERS MANUAL. Don't leave home without it! Purchase another battery for your camera and be sure you take your charger. If your equipment uses AA size batteries, get a couple sets of rechargeable and the charger that goes along with them. If you are going "across the pond" you will need the adapter for the electrical outlets in the country you will be visiting. We purchased ours at the airport prior to departure for Europe after spending a lot of time looking for them locally.

When checking in for your flight, you will not have any worries about your "film" being damaged by airport security equipment. Your digital recording media is not affected! I prefer to carry my camera gear on, but will carefully wrap extra lenses in clothing and put them in my checked luggage.

Make sure that you have several memory or compact flash cards. Take your laptop computer if you have one, if not think about pur-



These statues are at the base of the largest seated figure of Buddha in the world. It is located at the Po-Lin Monastery on Lantau Island, near Hong Kong and can be seen for miles!
©Bonnie Shedd

chasing a storage device like Image Tank, Mind Store, or Flash Trax. You can then upload your images from your cards, reformat them and fill them up again!

There are some common courtesy things to think about when taking vacation photos. People can be the most difficult and rewarding subjects to photograph. Make them the focal point of the picture, with a minimum of background clutter. If possible, use your telephoto setting. Always ask if you are photographing a person -- if the

answer is no THE ANSWER IS NO, don't push it and become an "ugly American tourist". Language is not a barrier -- point to the person and point to your camera! You will be understood. If you get a negative response,

just smile and say "thank you". They will get your message.

Landscapes are another important element in your traveler's journal. Take both horizontal and vertical shots. Outdoors use your fill flash to enhance your images of people -- you will discover that your pictures are much improved when you add just a little more light! Fill flash is also wonderful for enhancing macro shots.



The entrance doors to Pak-Tai Temple a Buddhist place of worship which is in the middle of Hong Kong, China.
©Bonnie Shedd

Some museums, art galleries, and other buildings have a

No Cameras Allowed policy. Don't try to be sneaky -- you might lose your camera. Just put it away and enjoy the place. Buy postcards to document your visit.

Many public buildings are now very tight with security and will require you to check handbags or backpacks. I am really not comfortable checking a bag full of expensive photo gear so I get around this by wearing my photo vest. Mine has a bunch of



Interesting food items hang in a window of a "wet" market in Hong Kong.
©Bonnie Shedd

pockets, including an inside one with a zipper (where I keep my wallet). I always joke that I have so many pockets that a pickpocket does not know where to start!

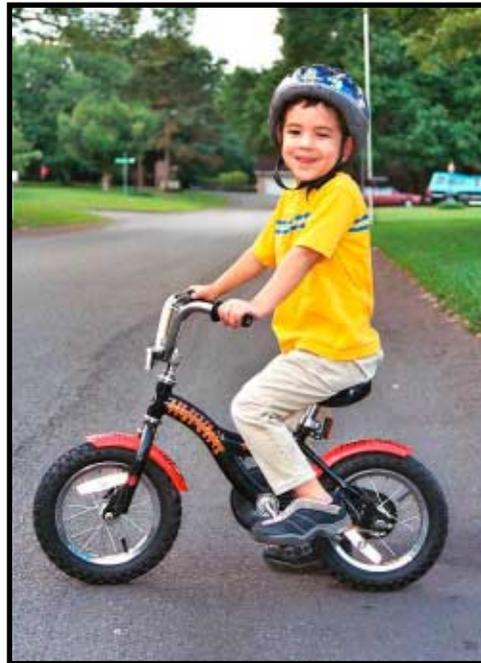
Finally, take lots and lots of pictures! Skimping on photos can mean the difference between having a once-in-a-lifetime collection of memories or one that just misses the mark.

Bonnie is already planning her next trip, this time Switzerland.

Capturing the moment

Text & Photos ©Karen Ivankovich

Some of my most treasured pictures are the ones where that particular shot could not be repeated. I am sure you can relate. You see your pet or child doing something so adorable that your body races to your camera. Sometimes you are fast enough to freeze the moment forever. Even if you miss the "moment" itself, it is still a great idea to document the time

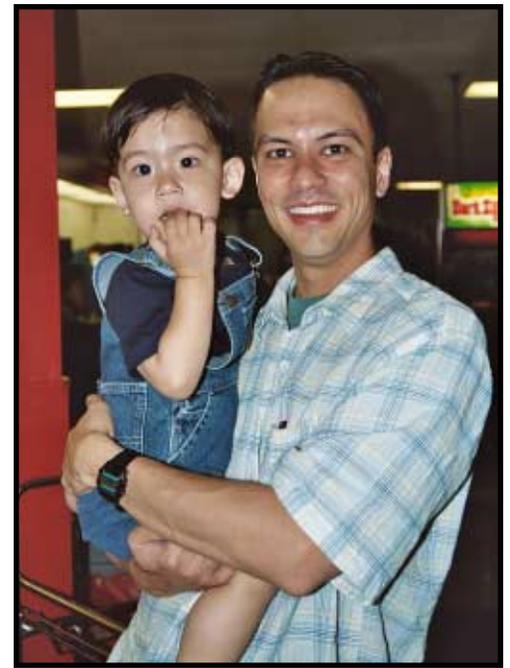


No more training wheels! The author captured her son expression on such an important day. ©Karen Ivankovich

close to the adorable action.

In the first picture, I missed capturing the first moments of my son riding his bike without training wheels. However, I got a picture of him on his bike half an hour later.

In the second picture, I saw my brother holding his son. The two of them looked so precious. I ran and got my camera without either one of them being aware. When they were headed towards me, I had them pose in a split second. I got it! I captured the essence of who my brother is. His vibrant personality shines through. I captured not only an image. I captured life.



Karen loves to capture those moments that reflect her subject's personality.
© Karen Ivankovich

Epson Photo 2200



Finally I got my hands on a new Epson Photo 2200. This amazing machine is capable of printing 13 in. wide by up to 44in. long. Better yet, it's archival. Meaning my prints will last up to 80 years with no signs of fading. All the inks are profiled to ensure the proper color output. Setup it's a breeze and withing minutes I was printing my first set of prints. The printing speed is more than reasonable, but the quality exceeded my expectations. The printer fits perfectly in my workflow without having to tweak images for color cast. With my calibrated monitor the printer is WYSIWYG! This printer can do better than any lab I have seen -RMC

Beverly Gustafson- A unique vision.

Text ©R.Munguia Photos by Beverly Gustafson

I have met many inspiring photographers throughout my years of teaching and while working in the photography industry. This is the case of Beverly Gustafson a photographer I met when I joined the club. She's the perfect example of a person with a vision, a vision that goes away from the common into the surreal.

Her photographic background goes back to about four years when she got her first digital camera - a 1MP Sony Mavica. Her interest in photography back then was merely a business venture on Ebay. She bought the camera to put some old china on the famous online auction;

soon after she found herself in a field full of flowers, trying her luck at some butterflies. That day she realized that there was a world to be discovered from behind the camera. Few months later she wasn't satisfied

with the Mavica anymore and upgraded to a Nikon CP800 with 2.5MP. At the time, she had no idea



When you first see this image, it takes your brain a little time to decide what you're eyes are seeing. The graphic quality of the petals on this Magnolia blossom makes the shot.
©Beverly Gustafson

what an f-stop was, but her interest in photography paid her well when she joined an online class. Everything started to make more sense and she started to gain control of her photography.

After a few camera upgrades, including the Nikon CP900 and the Minolta Dimage 7, she finally was ready for the professional camera of her dreams - the Canon 10D. This advanced camera gave her the full set of tools she needed to create even better images.

Working in the digital medium from the start, made her very skilled in photo manipulation. In no time she found herself upgrading from Picture-it! to Photoshop 5 and later to Photoshop 6. She's currently using Photoshop CS (Version 8).

Behind her 100mm macro she finds the hidden world of many flowers,

where lines and colors immerge to create an exceptional and graphic intensive image. The light and the color saturation that she captures on her digital makes her images look almost like paintings. Many of her images remind me of the talented and controversial Georgia O'Keeffe. She's really inspired me to go out in search of flowers this spring.

Her passion for photography keeps her learning and improving constantly. There are many things to learn still, she admits. But with practice and perseverance anything can be accomplished.

She was recently selected to lead our Club. We wish her the best in this coming season and hope to see more of her wonderful work.

For more of her work visit her gallery at <http://www.polkcounty-cameraclub.com/galleries>



This colorful Iris becomes a painting-like photo where guiding lines takes you into the yellow center of the flower.
©Beverly Gustafson



Warm colors are blended seamlessly with curves to create harmony on this photo.
©Beverly Gustafson

Dynamic Photography-controlling the action

Text & Photos ©R.Munguia

The right use of the shutter speed is one of the most creative aspects of photography. Moving objects or water can be captured with a little "flow" to enhance their moving nature. On the other hand, extremely fast objects can be frozen in time by using a high shutter speed. Maintaining the correct exposure by compensating with the aperture will give you a properly exposed image.

With this in mind let's see a few examples of what can be done. On the cover of this issue, Ralph Nichols has captured the action by means of a fast shutter speed. The speed fast enough to freeze the subject will depend on the nature and speed of the subject. Also the direction in which the subject moves has a lot to do with how frozen the subject will appear on film. A subject that moves across the frame requires a faster shutter speed than the same subject



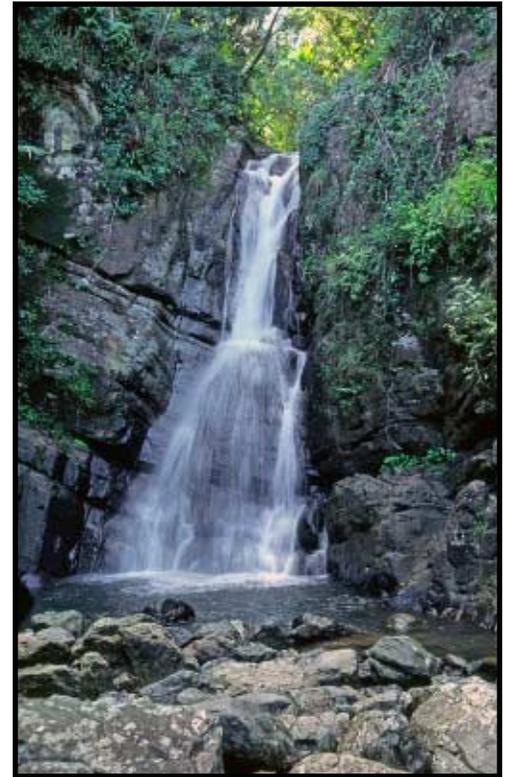
This image of a landing egret was taken at 1/1000 sec. The fast shutter speed allowed me to freeze this relatively slow bird.

©Reinier Munguía

moving towards the camera. The speed of the subject is probably the most important factor. While running water from a river can be stopped with 1/500 sec, the same water coming out of a high pressure hose will require up to 1/2000 sec, freezing the action. Just for reference: a hummingbird's wings can be stopped with speeds in the 1/15,000 range. Most cameras are limited to 1/8000 sec for the fastest shutter speed they can provide, leaving you short from freezing their wings. That's when flash comes into play with flashing speeds of up to 1/25,000 sec. But that's a whole different article for the future.

Using slow shutter speeds on moving subjects will render them blurred as if they were moving. This is a magnificent way to add a little motion to an otherwise boring and static shot. Take for example the waterfall on the top right corner. The slow shutter used in this photo added a little "flow" to the moving water giving a sense of motion and power as the water crashes on the rocks.

Remember that whenever using slow shutter speeds, it is recommended to use a tripod to avoid camera shake. Even if you use a panning technique to follow a moving subject, it's always better to have the camera mounted on a tripod that allows you to pan the camera easily. Tripods with large ball-heads are best for this type of technique. Also take in consideration that if you try to use a really slow shutter speed in the middle of the day, you won't be able to compensate with a small enough aperture to obtain a properly exposed image. Most lenses minimal aperture is f22 rendering useless for slow shutter speeds when the ambient light is too strong. Most slow shutter speed images are taken early in the morn-



I took this image on a recent trip to the Caribbean Rain Forest "El Yunque". A slow shutter speed of 1/15sec was used with the lens stopped down on f22 and the camera on a tripod.

©Reinier Munguía

ing, late in the afternoon or during an overcast day that reduces the intensity of light.

Our November competition is all about shutter speeds, the more you practice the better you'll get at it. So next time you go out shooting, try some of these techniques and bring those good motion blurred images to our November competition. Good Luck!

Thanks so much!

Thank you all for the articles and support. Our newsletter will continue to grow thanks to your help. Special thanks goes to Paulette Dalton, who recently joined the club and is currently helping in the production of this newsletter. She's our official proof-reader!