



In Focus

April Program – Large Format Photography with Cara Fuller

Cara Fuller teaches photography at Alabama A&M University and works as a Digital Imaging Specialist for USA Sports Art, Inc. She received her Masters in Fine Art Photography from Savannah College of Art and Design and is originally from East Aurora, New York. Currently she resides in Huntsville, Alabama with her cat Deuce and 4x5 Tachihara large format camera, Woody.



Despite the onslaught of digital technology, large format cameras still have a secure place in today's photographic vernacular. Composed of front and rear standards that can be moved independently of one another to prevent angular distortion while also recording an extreme amount of fine detail, many pho-

tographers still consider this equipment worthy of the pack mule needed to carry it all around. I will be discussing a brief history of artists working with large format cameras and go into greater detail about how to use them.

April Mini Class

Getting an image sharp is an issue that involves just about every camera control and photographic technique. Join Walt Schumacher on April 25, 6:00 p.m., before the club competition meeting, for a discussion about the various factors that contribute to getting your image in (or creatively out) of focus. Topics: Focus, aperture, focal length, shutter speed, tripods, macro, shake vs. blur, foreground, background, bokeh, depth of focus, hyperfocal distance, safe hand-held speed and shake-reduction.

HPS Photo Book Update *by Tom Bryant*

Exciting times! I was given a great idea at the last meeting – combine the Huntsville Museum of Art exhibit project (and the Art Stroll project) with the photo book project. I know that this means a lot going on at the same time, but for the membership it won't be any more work since we are each selecting our 10 best images and submitting them by April 11 for the Museum exhibit and for the Art Stroll sales. We can exhibit 60 to 80 prints at the museum, so that would make a nice sized photo

book of the best of HPS photos. I've not talked to the board about this yet, but assuming they have no problem I would like to take the low-resolution digital images submitted to the board for judging and make a draft copy of a book. Then we would have something we could hold in our hands. I can either assemble this in an empty photo album that I have or in document protector sheets in a 3-ring notebook that I also have lots of. I'm assuming that the membership

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From The President

Is everyone enjoying the rain? Just remember April showers will bring May flowers. Of course if you have allergies this may not be a good thing! We started our month off with a great HDR presentation by our own Margaret Phillips and Diana Davidson. They walked us through the HDR process and gave lots of tips to get the most out of your HDR experience. Thank you ladies.

For the competition in March, we had modes of transportation. Our judge was Pamela Keller. Pamela had some very strong ideas about the topic which made her a very decisive judge. She also had a great sense of humor and indicated she would love to judge again or possibly

give a presentation sometime in the future. Thank you, Pamela.

Hopefully everyone knows by now about our two big events coming up in the next few months. We have the Art Stroll starting in May and the HPS exhibit that we also hope to open in May. If you have not received mail about these two events, please contact me for details. Let's make both of these a huge success!

-Rick (rgkress@knology.net / 256.890.0722)

Rick Kress

Anyone can pick up a fancy camera and call themselves a photographer but those who can take the cheapest gadget and the most menial subject and make something beautiful from it... are the true photographer.

- Abigail Marie

Calendar of Events

- April 9 – Panoramic Field Trip with Stan Prevost, see article, p. 3.
- April 11 – Program Meeting, 7.p.m., Huntsville Library
- April 11 - Submission Deadline for Art Stroll and Art Museum Exhibit
- April 13 – Photo Class with Robert Schuffert, 6:30 p.m., Trinity United Methodist Church on Airport Rd.
- April 25 – Competition Meeting, "Curves", 7 p.m., Huntsville Library

New nature photography show on the Weather Channel,
<http://www.weather.com/tv/tvshows/peter-lik>



Panoramic Photo Field Trip

by Stan Prevost

In follow-up to the February program on panoramic photography, I will lead an outing on Saturday, April 9, for those who would like to practice their panoramic technique while having some help and coaching available. This will be a "How-To" outing, rather than a search for prize-winning photos. Bring your camera and any other gear you have for panoramic work, plus a notebook and your camera instruction manual. If you want to bring a laptop with your panoramic stitching software, we can work with that also after the outdoor session.

If you use a small point-and-shoot digicam, don't hesitate to come along and learn how to get

the best out of it for panoramic photography. Bring whatever tripod or monopod you have, even a gorillapod or similar small tripod, or walking/hiking stick with a camera mount (usually ¼" – 20 screw, sometimes underneath a screw-on wooden ball on top).

Meet at the Big Spring Park fountain near the courthouse at 9:30 a.m.

You can review the program material at <http://photo.sprevost.net/Downloads/HPS/HPS-Programs.htm>. Questions to stan@sprevost.net. If you will be using a panoramic head on a tripod, see if you can locate the no-parallax point for each of the lenses you intend to use. If you want help with



New Member

Dan Lighton

Visitors

Ronald Atchley

Rocky Baker

Jens Lambert

John Caissie

Charles Ferrera

Tonia Goodwin

that, we can do that during the outing.

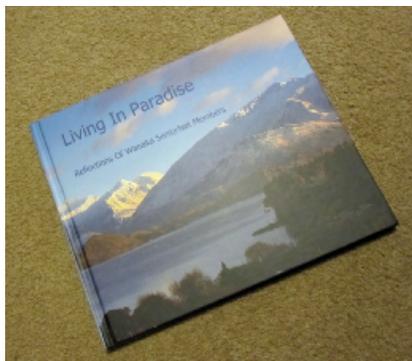
If you want to be contacted for alternate plans in case of inclement weather, please email me your contact info, email and phone.

Photo Book (continued from page 1)

would not mind their submittals being printed in small low-res prints for a draft book and, ultimately, in the final book.

Survey results – I collected survey results at two recent meetings. This was good news for the project. There were eight responses from people interested in working on the project including two interested in graphic design. (This might be our weakest area. We can all compose photographs but page layout is different.) The average price respondents were willing to pay for a book was \$39. This should purchase a good-quality book and I was especially

pleased since the survey asked what someone would be willing to pay without indicating what the book would be. It shows confidence in our board to supply a good product. There were five ideas for a book theme plus one write-in blank. By far, the most popular theme was the



Best of HPS with a sentence or two about the photo.

I've not approached the board about this either, but the club might want to fund a couple of copies of the book for use in advertising at the Art Stroll or the Art Museum exhibit or things like the Lawrenceburg Photo Extravaganza.

Since this will be a print-on-demand project, variations such as including poetry can easily be done. Having a draft copy might stimulate other ideas.



Competition Results
Subject - Modes of Transportation
Judge - Pamela Keller

	Digital (92)	Color (67)	Monochrome (27)
1st	Barbara Hitt	Virginia Gilbert	Barbara Hitt
2nd	Barbara Hitt	Emily Saile	Diana Davidson
3rd	Emily Saile	Robert Schuffert	Geri Reddy
HM	Barbara Hitt	Beverly Hughes	Don Wolfe
HM	Ben Evanko	Barbara Hitt	Ernie High
HM	Henry Smith	Barbara Staggs	Ernie High
HM	Barbara Montgomery	Ernie High	
HM	Geri Reddy	Joy Henderson	
HM	Henry Smith	Barbara Staggs	
HM	Mike Lyon	Robert Schuffert	
HM	Tim Solomon		
HM	Virginia Gilbert		

Costco Sponsorship

Thank you, Costco, for sponsoring HPS monthly competitions! Prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each category. Prizes must be redeemed within 30 days or before the next month's competition (whichever comes first). Members should come to Costco photo lab to claim the prize.

Websites for Digital Entries:

Website for Digital Competition results:
www.HPSPhotos.smugmug.com

Website for Novice Class is
www.HPSphotos.smugmug.com/NoviceCompetitions

For Sale

Sony DSLR A 300 K (excellent condition) \$350. 10.2 mp, 2.7 in. real time live view/preview, built in stabilization. Original box with battery charger, USB cable, video cable, CD_ROM, extra battery, remote camera release and instruction manual.

Tamron Di II Af 18-250 mm F/3.5-6.3 LD aspherical (IF) macro Model A 18 S Filter size 62 mm with original box and documentation \$300.

Reason for selling: upgrading. The camera and lens were purchased in May 2008.

Contact Barbara Staggs 256-882-0933 or staggwh@hiwaay.net



First Place Winners



Monochrome Print by Barb Hitt



Digital by Barb Hitt



Color Print by Virginia Gilbert

Name	2011 points	2011 wins
Barbara Hitt	26	9
Barbara Staggs	17	9
Martha Teal	15	6
Diana Davidson	12	5
Emily Saile	12	7
Don Wolfe	12	4
Virginia Gilbert	11	4
Ernie High	8	5
Geri Reddy	8	3
Henry Smith	7	4
Carol Blue	6	3
Stan Prevost	6	2
Ben Evanko	4	4
Robert Schuffert	4	2
Robert Fox	3	3
Joy Henderson	3	3
Jerry Green	2	2
Doug Felton	1	1
Beverly Hughes	1	1
John Kirwin	1	1
Mike Lyon	1	1
Barbara Montgomery	1	1
Anthony Prince	1	1
Walt Schumacher	1	1
Liz Smith	1	1
Tim Solomon	1	1
Walt Tyszka	1	1



Cruelty To An Entry-level DSLR Camera by Tom Bryant

This article is not really about abusing a camera, but about protecting one. But I thought this title might attract more readers. I like outdoor activities and I like to take a camera with me, so this sometimes subjects a camera to a harsher environment than a studio. Here are some things I've learned. I have a Canon T1i DSLR bought in 2009. It does not have O-rings and seals around the buttons that more expensive cameras have. It has a plastic body – light weight but less damage resistant than a metal body.

Moisture – DSLRs seem more sensitive to moisture than other cameras. I like shooting in the fog and rain and have done so over the years with a variety of cameras. So I was surprised when I came in from a session and the camera would not turn on. I had protected the camera fairly well under an umbrella but obviously not perfectly. It happened again on a hot and dry June day last year, when I believe a bit of sweat somehow got into the camera around one of the buttons. The symptoms were exactly the same for both. The camera would not boot up when switched on. The first time it happened, I assumed that the battery had gone dead and I charged it. Then I hit the camera with the full voltage of a fresh battery, and it still wouldn't boot up. This was the wrong thing to do. If you suspect that a camera might have moisture in it, here are my suggested steps:

1) Remove the battery first. Don't try to turn it on.

2) Remove the memory card. Cards should never be removed with power on them, and with moisture in the camera anything could be happening. So remove the battery first.

3) Open up the camera completely and dry it with moving warm air. I have an old hair dryer that only puts out warm air. Modern hair dryers are probably too hot for this. Maybe an electric bathroom heater would provide warm air only. Placing it on top of a refrigerator should provide a warmer place and a small fan could be used to move air across it.

4) Be patient. After about 12 hours of drying, the camera would boot up and tell me I had to set the time and date. It had forgotten them. I did that but the camera would go no further. So I removed the battery and dried it for a few more hours. This time, it proceeded through setting the date and time and booted up completely.

The next time it happened was after shooting for the "shadows" competition on a hot day in June. No rain that day for sure. The symptoms and drying time were exactly the same. I believe it was a bit of sweat that got around a button.

Following is a link to an article I found while Googling to see what others have done. It reports several failures of Canon 5D MK IIs in Antarctica in 2009. Also some G9s, although the G10s all worked fine. Also, I've found it difficult to find

out exactly which cameras are well-sealed and which are not. Failures seem to have occurred all across the camera lines and the manufacturer's literature just says "improved weather sealing".

<http://www.luminous-landscape.com/essays/antarctica-2009-worked.shtml>

Camera Skin -- The T1i body is plastic so if struck will crack rather than dent like the metal-bodied cameras. Delkin makes a custom rubber camera cover called the Snug It Pro Skin. It is custom built for each model camera and costs \$30 to \$40. Mine weighs only 1 ¾ ounces, much less than the 14 ounces reported by B&H. I like mine very much. It provides shock protection against bumps and also seals some of the buttons against moisture and dirt. I've found that it adds some size to the camera making it easier to grip, and does not decrease the feel of the buttons at all. All controls operate well. The downside is that the labeling for the controls is pressed into the black rubber and is not easily readable under all light conditions. I'd suggest getting familiar with the camera before installing the cover. The skin comes with two LCD screen covers – one with an adhesive layer that installs over the LCD and one that is loose and held in place by the cover only. The latter is useless because it won't stay in place (See Figure 1).

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2011 HPS Meeting Info
April 11 - Large Format Cameras by Cara Fuller
April 25- Curves Competition
May 9- Photo Potpourri
May 23- Pairs Competition
May 30—Members Forum
June 13 - Program TBD
June 27 - Musicians Competition
July 11 – Members Forum
July 25- City Scape Competition
Aug 8- Program TBD
Aug 22- Night or Low Light Competition
Aug 29—Members Forum
Sep 12 – Program TBD
Sep 26 – Open Competition
Oct 10 - Program TBD
Oct 24 – Scenic N. AL/Southern TN Competition
Oct 31 – Members Forum
Nov 14- Program TBD
Nov 28 - In The Woods Competition
Dec 13- Best Of Year Dinner



Figure 3. Front of Camera Skin with Tulip Lens Hood and Glue Strips

Camera Cruelty (continued from page 6)

UV Filter -- Digital cameras don't need a UV filter (built into the sensor) but my kit lens is all plastic including the threads on the filter attachment. Extra glass surfaces degrade an image so there is a trade-off for using one, but they provide a lot of protection for the lens and for the filter threads. My lens hood with plastic threads won't stay in place on the bare plastic lens threads, but will stay on the metal UV filter threads. The UV filter protects both the glass and filter attachment.



Figure 1. Rear of Camera Skin with Useless LCD Screen Cover

Lens Cap Keeper -- This costs about \$2.75 at Southerland's Photo and is well worth it. I'm bad about laying mine down and leaving it. Having the lens cap in place protects the glass and the filter threads (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Front of Camera Skin with Lens Cap Keeper

Lens Hood -- Some people like lens flare and find it artistic. It is an effect in Photoshop, but I don't like it. The kit lens with the T1i is of very good quality and with good Image Stabilization and fast and reliable autofocus. It is amazing for the price but has flare probably because some of the internal parts aren't coated to reduce reflection. So I use a lens hood and like the tulip design. This kit lens also has a rotating forward element common in cheaper lenses, so the tulip petals turn as the camera focuses and must be aligned after the camera is focused. I put some hot glue on the longer petals to allow lining up by feel after the image is focused (Figure 3).

No cameras were harmed in the writing of this article.

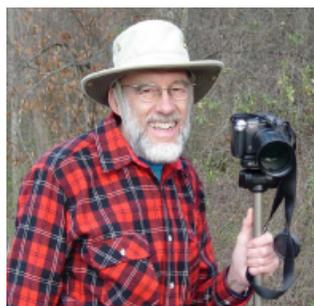
HUNTSVILLE
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
Von Braun Civic Center
700 Monroe St
Huntsville AL 35801

HPS website:

www.huntsvillephotographicsociety.org



A member organization of PSA and The Arts Council



HPS Member Tom Brady.
See Tom's articles on HPS
Photo Book, p.1, and Cam-
era Cruelty, p. 6.

2010 Officers of Huntsville Photographic Society

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Webmaster	Walt Schumacher	(256) 536-1284	waltshoe@comcast.net

Website for Digital Competition results: www.HSPPhotos.smugmug.com

Meeting Information:

HPS meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library-Main Branch, 915 Monroe St.

Annual Membership Dues: \$20.00 due Jan 1st (\$18.00 if renewal paid before start of the Calendar year).

Membership required to submit entries in monthly competitions.

