



## The Camera Club of Hendersonville

Steering Committee: Ron Anderson, Chair and Treasurer, Mitchell Randall,  
Bob Benedict, Secretary and Newsletter, Walt Chase, Bob Coffey

### January 2015

#### January Meeting

Our January meeting will be a forum. Our critic will be Kevin Adams. The special topic is vacation/travel.

Kevin has presented a program on night photography to the club and has been our critic twice previously. He has published several books of waterfall photos and appears on PBS photography programs from time to time.

Forum rules are available on our web site:

[www.cameraclubofhendersonville.com](http://www.cameraclubofhendersonville.com)

No changes have been made in the rules since the last few forums.

#### Dues

Dues for 2015 are due now. Entries for the January forum are contingent on dues being paid. The dues will be accepted at the January meeting for eligibility. Dues for one person \$20, for a couple, \$30 for the year.

#### Newsletter

This will be my last newsletter at least for a while. Bob Benedict will be doing the newsletter for the remainder of the year. Bob is recovering from some injuries in an automobile accident so I (Ron) thought I would do the January newsletter.

#### Steering Committee

We have found a willing 5<sup>th</sup> member of the committee and the four of us voted unanimously to have him

join us. Bob Coffey will be that 5<sup>th</sup> member.

We had our first committee meeting on January 12. Some of the duties will be rotated through the committee members. We are all anxious to put together interesting meetings for all of our members.

#### Refreshments

At our next meeting we will be passing around a sign-up sheet for bringing refreshments. Two people each month bringing refreshments would make the job a simple one. Walmart, supermarket or home made, having some sort of cookie, cake, veggie with dip, cheese and crackers or whatever, would help the club a great deal. Please consider helping in this area.

#### February Meeting

Our guest speaker will be Curtis G. Smalling, Director of Land Bird Conservation, *Audubon North Carolina*. He will be accompanied by a bird photographer. More details in next month's newsletter.

#### Tip of the Month

The following tip is the response that I sent to one of our members who said that her attempts to capture Christmas tree lights had not been satisfactory and asked for some guidance on how to do it better.

The biggest requirement for night shots is to keep the camera perfectly still while you shoot at a low shutter speed, preferably at a small aperture. After that, it is a question of getting the right exposure.

For this shot I grabbed my bean bag (from under my seat) and threw it on the top of the car for better stability fast rather than setting up my tripod as I was quite rushed at that point. The sky was changing very rapidly and I wasn't sure how long I could remain parked where we were.

The next big requirement is selecting the correct exposure. Bear in mind that shooting lots of little pin points of light against a dark background is going to fool the camera's exposure meter. There's just too much dark and too little light in the composition to make the correct reading for the desired image. In matrix mode the meter will read an overall exposure that will be adjusted to an 18% neutral density gray, meaning that all the dark shadows are going to look much lighter.

In this example, getting the right contrast in the dynamic clouds as well as the shadows in the illuminated Biltmore Estate further complicated the exposure. While all of that can be optimized with post capture processing it is best to get the best balance possible during the capture.

For this exposure, I put the camera in Manual mode (versus the usual Aperture Priority mode) so I could set the aperture at f/8 for the desired depth of field and then play with the shutter speed until I got what I wanted by adjusting the little bar indicators to the right or left of the 0 mark in the exposure meter. After several trial-and-error shots I settled for 1/4 second. Fortunately there was no wind blowing to rock the car.

The wonderful thing about digital cameras is the capability to utilize a trial and error approach because you can immediately review how well a setting worked. Once I select a subject that I feel is worth the effort, I experiment with different settings to see what works best. Back in the film days we called this bracketing and it was standard procedure for shooting slides since there was no altering them after processing; i.e., what you saw was what you got. We simply picked the best of the bunch and pitched the others. Now, the instant feedback with digital cameras allows for continual re-adjustment until you are pleased with the image.

For such low light shots, I usually use ISO 800,

which I've found to yield the best balance between high ISO speed and low noise for my camera, which is a Nikon D300. At that level I can clean up any noise to my satisfaction via post capture processing with software. When I'm desperate to get the shot no matter what, I'll notch the ISO up to 1600. My camera will expose up to 3200, but that gets pretty noisy. The newer cameras can go much higher with better results.

In my opinion being able to increase the ISO is one of the greatest advances made in photography. The introduction of this third variable (after shutter speed and aperture) to the photographer's control provides so much more flexibility. The next two greatest are instant feedback and digital data capture.

During this past year many of the Tips of the Month were generated by questions posed by members. Please continue the trend and send us your questions. Also, feel free to submit your own favorite tip(s) so we can share them with fellow members. The primary purposes of the CCoH are to motivate and to assist our members to become better photographers.



Bob Coffey

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### **Photographer of the Month**

Our photographer of the month is Jan Chase. Her bio follows:

I worked for many years in electronic sales as a manufacturer's representative. Later my husband, Walt, and I began an 18-year business in the manufacture of printed circuit boards. My second career, and the one of which I am most proud, was working as a Registered Nurse for Hospice of Palm Beach County.

After leaving Florida and moving to Hendersonville in 2006, I soon realized that WNC is blessed with a multitude of photographic opportunities. It was then that I became interested in photography, but I didn't actually know what I was doing. I took a few photography classes at BRCC, a four-month course in Photo Shop, joined the Camera Club of Hendersonville, attended two weekend photography seminars, and participated in photo field trips. I can truly say that photography soon became my passion.

As a former barn volunteer at the Carl Sandburg Home, I was given many opportunities to take photos of the beautiful goats. Now, every spring I am invited by the staff to take photos of the new baby goats. I am their designated goat photographer "no kidding."

For the past three years, Walt and I have taught a course in "The Basics of Photography" at the 4-H Club in Hendersonville. It's amazing how quickly children, with limited knowledge about photography, learn composition, lighting, rule of thirds and focus. If I had to choose one piece of advice for teaching children photography, it would be, "just have fun."



Highland Curly-Haired Cow



Pink Dahlia



Wedding Goats



Sandburg Toggenburg Goats



Tiger, Always Alert

### **Critique Group**

The critique group meets second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Kanuga, next traffic light South of Erkwood/State St. light. Head left from the parking lot up the walk to the basement doors. Bring your images on a thumb drive and take part in critiquing others' images too.



The Bee



Competing for Pollen

Thank you, Jan for your very nice images!