



September 2020
Volume 18: Issue 9



IN FOCUS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Cub Members

I hope that all of you are well. I thoroughly enjoyed our program night via zoom last month. It was great to see some of your faces again. The plan is to continue some of these in the future. This month we will have our critique night on the 3rd Monday as is always the case in September because of Labor Day being on the first Monday. So I invite those of you who have not submitted images for September do do so. You still have time.

I for one enjoy your images so please submit. If you have never submitted an image for critique please try it. I was a member for several months before I ever submitted an image. Back then the images were being scored and I was very scared of putting an image on the screen that would get a low score. We don't do that any more. So there is no reason to be scared. Those of you who are regularly submitting images will agree with me that the critiques are very helpful in many cases.

Stay safe and keep the shutters clicking.
Jack



"I've Been Through the Desert"
©Robert Agli
Theme "Harsh"

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Welcome to **IN FOCUS**, newsletter of the Cascade Camera Club, located in Bend, Oregon.

Our meetings are usually held at the Bend Senior Center, 1600 SE Reed Market Rd, the First and Third Monday of each month (except September). Currently do to the Covid19 virus, the Senior Center is closed. Our monthly critiques are being held online. See website for instructions. We will resume our normal meeting routine when possible.

Website: cascadecameraclub.com
Email: cascadecameraclub.com/contact/

August Critiquer
Larry Teague
Theme Was "Harsh"

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
11:59 p.m. ON THE WEDNESDAY
PRIOR TO CRITIQUE NIGHT



AUGUST SUBMISSIONS

Theme:

Robert Agli	I've Been Through the Desert...
John Aylward	Attitude
Bob Bush	St Andrews Bay S. Georgis Is.
Ralph Delamarter	Badlands Perspective
James Dunn	Malheur Landscape April
Blanche Feekes	Angry Bird
Jeannine Florance	Don't Cage Me In!
Ted Forman	Freeze Frame
Ellen Golodner	Ruthless Winter
Joe Hudspeth	Unfiltered
Larry Hudspeth	Protest Against Conformity
Rich Marrocco	Cold Duck
Michael Rouse	Please Pet Me
Bev Murphy	Scrounging for Food
Steve Peters	Stark Stormy
Marty Rose	Empty Shoes
Brian Russell	Hard Start
Ken Sandine	Harsh Art on Harsh Canvas
Jack Schade	Harsh Times
Dan Schafer	Goodbye Cruel World
John Stewart	Ouch
Greg Waddell	Survivor
John Williams	Harsh Beauty
Jana Zvilbleman	Thirst

Open:

Kent Miller	Take Out
Shellie Littau	Cedar Waxwing

Thanks to John Williams for the banner image on 1st page. All images in this newsletter are copyright of the Maker and may not be reproduced without permission.



August Theme Images
"Harsh"





©Larry Hudspeth



©Ellen Golodner



©Marty Rose

August Theme Images
"Harsh"



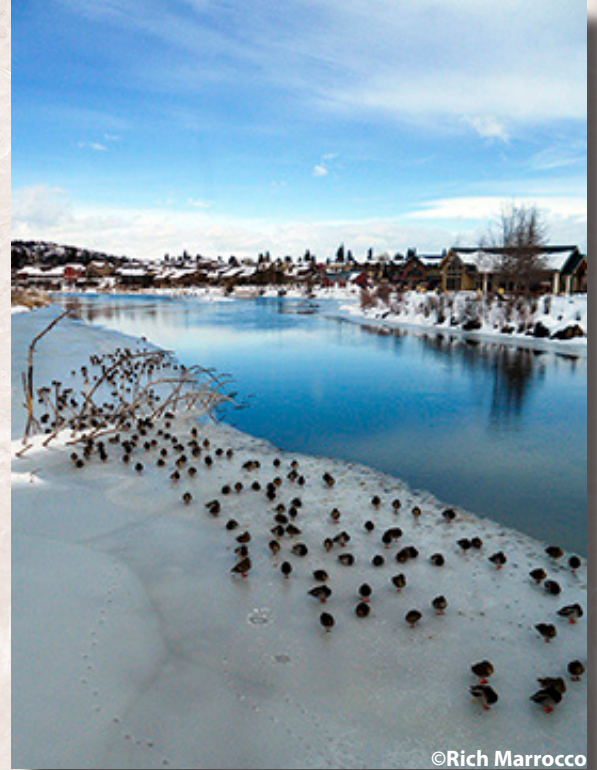
©Ken Sandine



©Jeannine Florance



©Ted Forman



©Rich Marrocco



©Brian Russell

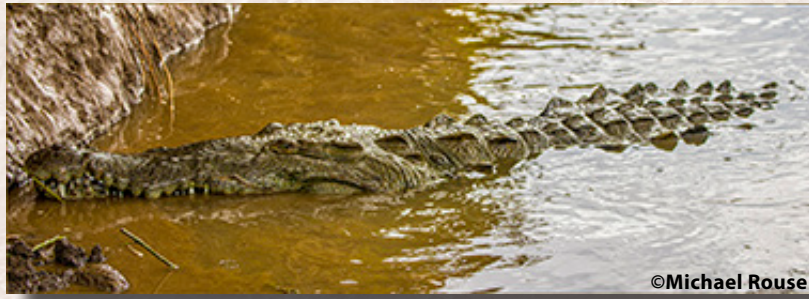
August Theme Images
"Harsh"



©Jana Zvibleman



©Jim Dunn



©Michael Rouse

August Theme Images
"Harsh"



©Joe Hudspeth



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©Dan Schafer



©Blanche Feekas

August Theme Images
"Harsh"



©Jack Schade



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©Kent Miller

August Open Images

DAN AND JEANNIE'S AUSTRALIA JOURNEY

On the Road Again

I apologize that I get to keep having fun while so many people have no vacation options. In case it helps you to know, we have had some less-than-great experiences while camping due to major wind and rainstorms, cold nights, spiders, venomous snakes, and ticks. But, really, life is pretty good. Coronavirus is a big deal here and taken seriously in shops and restaurants, but the numbers are quite small and still confined to just a few hotspots in major cities.

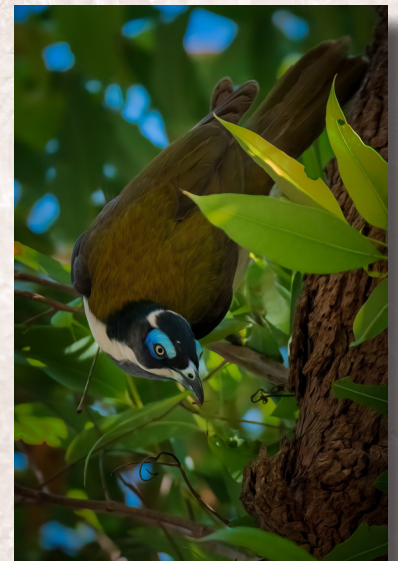
We're tourists for a few days, staying in a cabin in the rich hippie, surfing town of Byron Bay. We took a marvelous walk by a lighthouse yesterday with nearly constant views of humpback whales and/or dolphins, and ended with a swim in the ocean as a tribute to the last weekend of winter. (High temperatures are about 70 these days.) We will go on a bird-watching river cruise this afternoon and a whale watching cruise in Byron Bay tomorrow.

Our new plan is to leave here in 2 days for a 6-week camping trip to the outback of New South Wales. There's an Australian expression "Beyond Bourke" for being nowhere, because the town of Bourke, New South Wales itself is nowhere. Well, we'll be going to Bourke and beyond. It's a safe trip with several really interesting looking national parks and a few quirky outback towns.

We've camped at some very nice national parks on the way north since departing Denhams Beach on August 14. Here are a couple bird photos taken at camp sites. The



first is a spangled drongo. It usually eats insects so I'm not sure why it seems to be sucking nectar from this banksia flower. The second is a blue-faced honeyeater, which does eat nectar but seems to have an insect here. It was busy feeding its two chicks in a tree at our campsite.



It was great to see so many of you in the zoom meeting and to get inspiration from your photographs.

Cheers!

Dan

What's In The Bag

ANOTHER VIEW by ROBERT AGLI

I have a book festering in my brain that will probably never be written. The title would be "The Lazy Photographer". It would address all the issues where you could save time, energy and money. One huge chapter would be on camera bag selection and packing.

Unfortunately purchasing a new camera bag is much like an arranged marriage. Sometimes it works and often it doesn't. I have also mentioned several times that camera bags are like purses. You need different ones for different occasions. My airline bag is significantly different than my "mother ship" used to store the majority of my lenses. Some are used all the time and others are special occasions like my waterproof kayak bag. (See photo)

Keep in mind there is no perfect bag. I prefer the backpack style bag for serious gear carry but I have a multitude of other types. I learned the hard way that many so called backpacks were ill fitting and totally useless for long hikes. Field test before committing to a serious trip.

Selecting a bag manufacturer may be your first important decision. There are certainly enough choices. In my opinion, you want someone who stands behind what could be a purchase of several hundred dollars. I'm a big fan of ThinkTank and their sister company Mind-Shift. You can actually call them and ask whether your gear will fit in a certain bag and whether a certain bag is appropriate for the use intended. Try that with your Amazon bargain bag. By the way, if you want to save 30%, on anything they make, use this code – 324869.b6e78. Full disclosure, I get a piece of the action but I would use them with or without any perks. I also have a high regard for Lowepro bags which are field tested before being put in production. Last week I dropped my Lowepro bag containing the Nikon Z7 w/80-400 attached on a rock outcropping. No damage, whew!

One of Agli's laws is that no matter how much equipment you bring, the lens you left at home is the one you think you really needed. My standard practice would be to carry my "mother ship" on all my money shoots. I soon realized this was an absolute waste of energy. Once I went mirrorless, I trimmed down to 2 lenses for real estate and sometimes a single lens for other work. Are there some shots I may have missed because of my limited arsenal? Perhaps, but I also found I spent more

time on composition and less time on deciding what lens to use. Therefore, before you pack for any shoot whether a day trip to the park or 3 weeks out of country consider your number one shooting priority and your numbers 2 and 3. Plan your shoot and shoot your plan.

I went to Alaska with 3 lenses – 14-30mm, 24-70mm and 200-500mm and a 2X teleconverter. I confess my wife was carrying a second body and an 80-400mm and 105mm Macro lens but if I was traveling alone I would only have included the extra body.

I have never found carrying a tripod attached to a camera bag had any advantage and a ton of disadvantages. Brent McGregor showed me a little trick for hiking with a tripod. I stuff one leg of the tripod through my belt and carry it like a sword. Much easier than tying down a tripod on your bag and then untying it for every use. Makes me wonder if there might be a market for a tripod belt holster...

Pack a bunch of batteries and memory cards. Your memory cards belong in a digital wallet not loosely stuffed in a bag pocket. Lens cleaner and cloth are essential as well as any specialty tools. Really Right Stuff now includes an Allen wrench magnetically attached to the newest L brackets. My first mirrorless bracket had the magnet fall out of the bracket (adhesive was defective). Needless to say, I now have spare wrenches of various sizes in my bag. I also carry a Leatherman. Funny thing is I have never needed it, but I lost count of the times one of my companions used it. I usually have my circular polarizer and variable neutral density filters with me in their own padded cases. I also have at least one cable release. I no longer use any battery operated shutter releases as weight and reliability are issues. The exception is the wi-fi Camranger for special projects but note previous sentence.

For any overnight or longer adventure my media card reader and laptop go in the bag, along with a power cord for the laptop. I also carry 2 external hard drives and download all files to both drives daily. The hard drives are packed in separate bags. Paranoia is an attribute in photography.



Continued on following page

Another Agli law, airlines lie. They don't exactly lie, they just don't tell you the restrictions for their smaller feeder carriers. You absolutely want to carry-on your camera bag but make certain it complies with and is perhaps a bit smaller than airline regulations. Check all of your carriers as size and weight restrictions vary by carrier. Having to relinquish your precious camera gear into the great black hole baggage compartment can result in absolute tragedy. And be aware that weight restrictions can be particularly sticky in foreign countries.

Also purchase very bright, preferably DayGlo, zipper pulls. Commit to visual memory what closed looks like with these pulls. If you or a well-meaning person lifts your opened bag it could mean disaster. It has cost me thousands in repairs... Enough said.

You should also be mindful that excursions into the boonies should include the 10 essentials and your bag should have sufficient compartments to carry this stuff.

Photo Inset (on previous page): Obstructed from view, from L to R, are a Pelican case, Lowepro roller bag and the "Mother Ship". In the foreground, the Nikon bag, black Lowepro bag and the green MindShift are my everyday go to bags and the same Lowepro or Mindshift bags have been all over the world with me.

NO CRITIQUE ON SEPTEMBER 7TH DUE TO LABOR DAY

September critique night will be on Sept. 21st in lieu of program night.

Deadline for submission will be Wednesday Sept. 16th. I'll send out a reminder. The theme is "Under".

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale, 2 of Nikon's premier lenses.

I am parting with 2 of my absolutely favorite lenses. Sadly, they are now redundant with my move to Z cameras. They work great with the Z cameras and adapter but I have comparable Z lenses.

Nikon 24-70mm f/2.8 - \$850 firm, with original box, manual and goodies
Nikon 14-24mm f/2.8 - \$995 firm, also with all original materials

These are, of course, in pristine condition.
Call or email Robert Agli,
541-408-3772 or robert@robertaglyphotography.com.

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MONTHLY THEMES

Sep	Under
Oct	Odd Couple
Nov	This Changing Planet
Dec	Joy