



February 2021
Volume 19: Issue 2

IN FOCUS



*“Unfurling Shadows” ©Larry Hudspeth
Theme “Shadows”*

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Happy February to all of you.

I want to express my thanks to Ralph Delamarter who with the help of Emil Teague, put together a synopsis of last year’s camera club activities.

For this article I will quote from Ralph’s narrative so all of you will know the accomplishments of our members, even though we carried on under some trying circumstances.

“We turned to technology to continue our more visible activities: We were able to continue critique of images.... It took us a bit longer to restore our monthly programs, but we have developed a plan to resume monthly programs through Zoom conferencing.”

Our membership levels dropped between 10% to 15% which was anticipated, because of dues increase. Critique images dropped nearly 10%. On the bright side, the new critique platform allowed members to become more involved by commenting on submitted images, than is possible with in-person meetings.

Nearly 70% (61) members submitted at least one image for critique during 2020. There were 304 images submitted for critique – an average of 25 images each month. 70 images (about 23%) were selected by our critics as favorites. Thirty-three of the sixty-one members who submit-

ted images received at least one Critic’s Choice Award. Fourteen members were awarded two or more Critic’s Choice Awards. Seven members submitted one image each month and 8 were awarded Critic’s Choice Awards for 50% or more of the images they submitted. It was interesting to note that 97% of the images submitted were on theme.”

I want to personally congratulate Dan Shaefer who received Photographer of the Year (12 theme images submitted, 7 (58%) Critic’s Choice Awards).

John Stewart - was Runner-up (12 theme images and 5 Critic’s Choice Awards).

John Aylward and Blanche Feekes were tied for Honorable Mention (12 theme images and 4 Critic’s Choice Awards each).

I also want to say a big thank you to all those who critiqued our images this past year. You did a masterful job and everyone benefitted from your comments. A big thank you also to Ralph Delamarter, who in his VP position, lined up all of those fine critiquers.

I wish you all a happy and safe February. Keep smiling and keep shooting.

Jack

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/programs are being held online. See website for instructions. We will resume our normal meeting routine when possible.

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

January Critiquer
Bob Bush
Theme Was "Shadows"

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

CRITIC'S CHOICES

Robert Agli
Ric Ergenbright
Julie Furber
Larry Hudspeth



JANUARY SUBMISSIONS

Theme:

Robert Agli	Redwoods Fog
John Aylward	Cycling Shadows
Bob Bush	Ponderosa Autumn
Ralph Delamarter	Photographers Summit Conference
Ric Ergenbright	Shadow Light
Blanche Feekes	Frosty Morning Sentinels
Jeannine Florance	Colorplay
Julie Furber	Camel Herder
Mike Gallagher	Fall Shadows
Joe Hudspeth	Shadow of a Legend
Larry Hudspeth	Unfurling Shadows
Norman Lareau	Shadowed Overhead Trellis
Bev Murphy	ET...Wait for Us
Joyce Norman	El bosque de Chile
Steve Peters	Palouse Sunrise Shadowplay
Michael Rouse	Umpqua Crossing
Brian Russell	A Coy Shadow
Jack Schade	Shadow on the Wall
Dan Schafer	Lurking
John Stewart	Structure
John Williams	Sinuous
Jana Zvibleman	First Ice

Critiquer for February
Abbott Schindler



©Robert Agli



©Jana Zvibleman



©Brian Russell

January Theme Images
"Shadows"



©John Stewart



©Mike Gallagher



January Theme Images
"Shadows"





©Dan Schafer



©Julie Furber

January Theme Images
"Shadows"



©Bob Bush



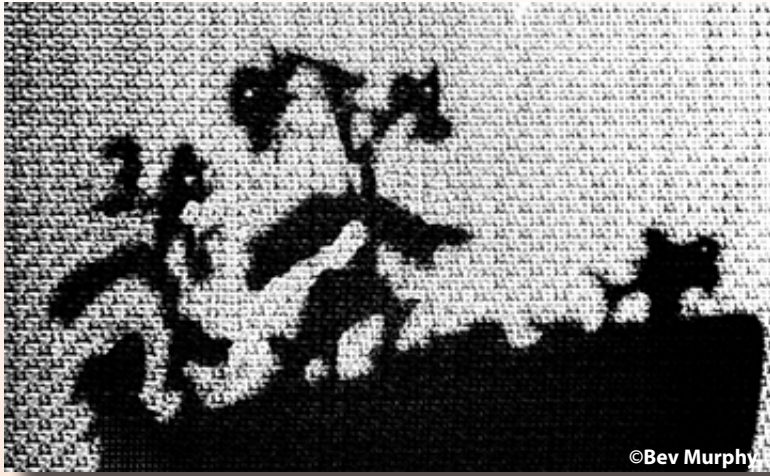
©John Williams



©Blanche Feekes



©Jeannine Florance



©Bev Murphy



©Steve Peters

January Theme Images
"Shadows"



©John Aylward



©Joe Hudspeth



©Michael Rouse

DAN AND JEANNIE'S AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURES

Ah, Travel Photography! by Dan Schafer

What a luxury it was, photographically speaking, to have five weeks in Port Macquarie. I had known that there were beautiful beaches, a scenic lighthouse, and a koala hospital. While on walks with Jeannie, I also learned about a bat colony, interesting crabs, a river-side carnival, and interesting rock formations on beaches. Although I wouldn't say I had "local knowledge," it helped to be there a while to learn and to be able to return to photo locations that I didn't get quite right the first time. It was also good to take advantage of rainy and overcast days to photograph the bats, koalas, and crabs; to spend partly clear mornings on the rocky beaches; and to use perfectly clear mornings to photograph the lighthouse under the Milky Way.



The Tacking Point Lighthouse at sunrise is an easy shoot once past the difficult get-out-of-bed stage. For sunrise photography, I've learned that the

time period of 60 to 30 minutes before sunrise and 0 to 30 minutes after sunrise are the most rewarding. In this case I'd gotten there even earlier to get Milky Way shots at the crack of dawn. Those worked, but I like this later image too.

Once people started congregating around the lighthouse a bit before sunrise waiting to get the cliché shot of the sun on their smart phones, I departed, heading down some stairs to a rock structure known as the pinnacle. This wasn't a great shooting location for capturing sunrise because it's facing the wrong direction at this time of year, but once the sun came up, the reflection off the nicely shaped pinnacle was stunning.



For wide angle seascapes like this, I've been trying to get closer and closer to the foreground, which can be tricky but very effective. For this one, I used a shutter speed that blurred the water just a bit to convey some energy and I released the shutter right as the wave came over the close rock. (My tripod and my sandals are both taking a lot of abuse these days.) This image was blended with a second one with a better exposure for the sky. Seascapes are hard to plan because the tide and weath-

er conditions are always different. I went to a place called Watanga Rock, trying to get dynamic pools of water around rocks at sunrise, but the lack of interesting clouds was a problem. I found a small cave in the rock with an opening that faced the rising sun and found a rear entrance so that I could squeeze in without getting footprints in the sand below the opening (photo 3). This result is an HDR blend of two exposures.



Early in our stay, on a walk in the Kooloonbung Reserve near our house, we came across a sign that mentioned



"resting bats, do not disturb" and "seek medical attention if you are bitten or scratched," then found ourselves under thousands

of bats hanging from the branches. They were mostly grey-headed flying foxes (as in photo 4), but also little red flying foxes and black flying foxes. I returned with my camera several times. Except for the difficult lighting and the creep factor, shooting was easy. There were always some bats that were awake and in interesting positions. Their anatomy is fascinating, as you can see on this one. The wingspan is about three feet.

We made an appointment to visit the famous Koala Hospital during a rainy spell. In general, I don't like to photograph captured animals, but these guys were under rehabilitation for release back into



the wild and...they're so darn cute. This one is named Jan (pronounced yarn), was found nearly dead on a highway as a young joey.

That's all for now. We hope to return in May and will try to enjoy life as best we can until then. Cheers.

Another View By Robert Agli

THE REAL SWAMP IS HIGH TECH

I'm passionate about technology. By the age of 10 I was reading science fiction and by the time I was 12 I had rebuilt the family lawnmower. I wanted it to start faster! That need for speed has never diminished. Naturally I'm a full-fledged, card-carrying early adopter. My best friends chide me that I want the best of everything. That's not quite true. I seek the most efficient, highest quality for products that matter, and I go absolutely ballistic and can rant for hours about products that fail through poor design or quality build. All of this preamble sets the stage for that arena most likely to light my fuse, the so-called high-tech industry.

Software engineers have learned that they simply do not have the manpower to properly test their tweaks in programs. Beta testing is a joke. The real testers are their customers. They simply launch the product and wait for John Q public to uncover errors. It costs them nothing and they suffer little consequence for the millions of man hours and possible disasters they cause, (i.e. the Boeing 737 Max).

Also consider the minimum of technical support provided by these companies. For example, how many of you have been able to find a contact number for Adobe? Once you find one, how long do you wait on hold? Once you get someone on the line can you understand what they are saying? I could care less about country of origin, but I do expect that a communication level that could be understood by middle America is appropriate.

A significant number of these companies offer even less vapor support. They direct you to a "knowledge base". This is truly the great digital swamp. A knowledge base assumes you know specifically what the problem is and can accurately type in the specifics of the problem in a manner that can be understood by the database. What a joke!

Unequivocally the best tech service I have experienced is Apple. You pay through the nose for their products but at least you get something for it. They are far from perfect, but it is also the only extended warranty, Apple Care, that Consumer Reports endorses. Calling their easy to find phone number results in almost immediate response from someone who speaks English as a first language. My aforementioned best friends say that I pay way too much for my Apple gear but I have had very few product failures. I had a motherboard short out 15 years ago on my desktop MacPro and Apple had a technician at my house the next day with a new motherboard. I had a port on a laptop fail on a Monday, shipped the laptop the same day to Apple and was using it Thursday morning. I have had Apple tech support spend days with me un-snarling software problems. On occasion they have shared their frustration on what is obviously a glaring software glitch that will eventually be fixed. So even with Apple I have once again become an unwitting software tester but at least they stepped up to fix the problem.

I have no plans to pull the plug on technology and move to a South Sea island nor do I think there is a simple resolution to this problem. On the contrary, it's going to get worse. Not everyone has the time nor the inclination to become even more tech savvy. The industry is so vast and complex it's hopeless anyway. Your best bet is to develop a support team. This starts with family, friends, clubs and associations that you can use as resources. It also includes technical experts both local and worldwide. Tim Grey and Victoria Bampton (the Lightroom Queen) are examples of world-renowned experts. And most importantly patronize only those companies that provide a level of customer support commensurate with the value of the product. In other words if it cost a bunch I expect the customer service to match.

FEBRUARY 15TH PROGRAM

ANNOUNCING THE GREAT PHOTO EDITING CHALLENGE

This month it's your opportunity to go nuts with all your favorite editing tools and techniques. Here is how it will work...

First email me and request that I share our Editing Challenge Dropbox Folder. This folder will have a number of raw images. You can select one or more of these images to "build" your own final images. You can combine the images or work with only one. It's your choice. You will need to send your final image to me no later than Saturday February 14th. Size the final image you will submit as you would for any CCC critique night. Any questions contact me at aglr9391@gmail.com Robert

POINT TO PONDER

Photography is the simplest thing in the world,
but it is incredibly complicated to make it really work.



CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

**Dell Monitor 27" - Model #S2719DM
About a year old**

My wife decided she doesn't want a second monitor.

**This is an excellent all purpose monitor
Not a high end photo editing monitor.**

Cost \$400 new, asking \$225.

Contact Robert at aglr9391@gmail.com

FOR SALE

HP LAPTOP - \$325.00

HP Notebook, 15" Screen

8 GB RAM, 1 TB Hard Drive

It has had very minimal use

The Battery is in excellent condition

For additional details, call Jim Sellers

541-771-9770

Email: jj sellers@bendbroadband.com

CASCADE CAMERA CLUB

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cascadecameraclub.com

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THEMES FOR 2021

Jan Shadows

Feb Rugged

Mar Broken

Apr Abstract

May Doors

Jun Curves

Jul B/W

Aug Paint w. Light

Sep Insects

Oct Reflections

Nov Weather

Dec Solitude