



APRIL 2022
Volume 20: Issue 4

IN FOCUS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My message this month is entirely a pitch for the April 18 in-person program meeting. Come! Be there for the historic resumption! Yes, it will be inconvenient to start at 6:30. Please tell your dinner companion(s) that it will only be this once and that the club president says it's your duty to attend. If necessary, I can send a personal plea/apology to your spouse on official Cascade Camera Club presidential stationery (aka email).

About the presentation...My wife Jeannie and I spent 17 months in Australia in 2020 and 2021. Five of those were in our "lock down" apartment in Denhams Beach, a suburb of Batemans Bay, New South Wales, about seven months we spent camping, and about five we spent as AirBnB vagabonds. Except for a tense March and April, 2020, it was absolutely fantastic, and I think my photos will convey that.

I just calculated that I averaged 310 shutter actuations per day for the 517 days we were there, so it was photo intensive. My presentation will include an overview of our trip, a brief section on "Australia for Americans," and two short videos; but mostly I will use my best Australian wildlife and landscape photos to present some favorite field and processing techniques, including Beyond Bird-On-A-Stick, the Gitzo Shuffle, the Respective Eye Angle, Get to Work on Time, Welcome to the Image, Find the Hero, and other tools with less clever names. (To be clear, I'm not a real photographer like others who present programs--like George, Ric, Robert, Bruce, and Cory--but I have a good feel for where we amateurs in the club are in our photography and will pass along some lessons I think might be helpful.)

Probably I don't need to say this, but just in case you've grown too accustomed to Zoom meetings, don't forget to wear pants.

Cheers,
Dan



"Indian Tear"
©Dan Schafer
Theme "As Close As You Can Go"

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

Currently we are resuming meeting in person. Our meetings will be held at Larkspur Community Center (formerly known as the Bend Senior Center), 1600 SE Reed Market Rd, the First and Third Monday of each month (except September) depending on COVID restrictions. We use the Multi-purpose Room. Check the Cascade Camera Club Website for meeting updates.

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

March Critiquer

George Lepp

Theme Was "As Close As You Can Get"

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
11:59 pm PDT ON THE WEDNESDAY
PRIOR TO CRITIQUE NIGHT

CRITIC'S CHOICES

Shireen Gastineau

Steve Peters

Brian Russell

Jack Schade

Dan Schafer

Todd Towell



MARCH SUBMISSIONS

Theme:

John Aylward	Alpine Bouquet
Bob Bush	Moonset, Smith Rock
James Dunn	A Close Shave
Blanche Feekes	Reflected Gerber Daisy
Jeannine Florance	You Got My Fish
Ted Forman	Busy Bee
Julie Furber	I Got This
Shireen Gastineau	Where Does This Lead
Bev Murphy	Face to Face
Judy Niell	Up Close and Personnel
Steve Peters	Darth Blackbird
Marty Rose	Sand Dunes in Training
Michael Rouse	Out of my Way
Barb Rumer	Dahlia Unfolding
Brian Russel	Raven's Eye
Ken Sandine	Go No Lower
Jack Schade	Inside a Grater
Dan Schafer	Indian Tear
Mark Shunk	Gold Card Stare
Todd Towell	Rusty Screw

Open:

Joyce Norman Just Around the Corner

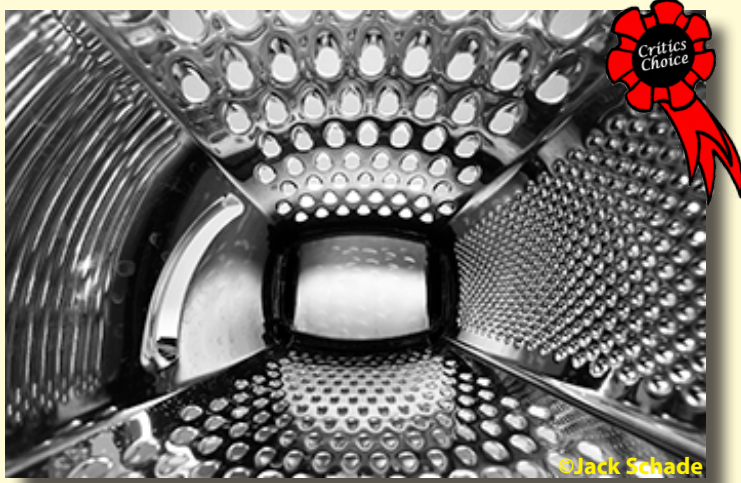
Critiquer for April
Rob Kerr

Marxh Images
"As Close As You Can Go"





Marxh Images
"As Close As You Can Go"





©Bob Bush



©Jeannine Florance

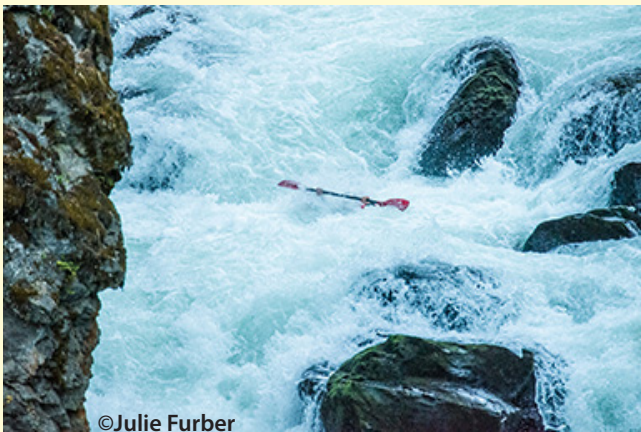
Marxh Images
"As Close As You Can Go"



©Steve Peters



©Bev Murphy



©Julie Furber



©Marty Rose



©Joyce Norman

Program Night - April 18th, 2022 6:30PM - 8PM

We are restarting our in person meetings with a special treat. Dan Schafer will present
SEVENTEEN MONTHS OF BLISSFUL PANDEMIC PHOTOGRAPHY IN AUSTRALIA

The meeting will be in our old room, but the name has changed to the **Multi-purpose room** at what we used to know as the Bend Senior Center, but which is now called the Larkspur Community Center, at 1600 SE Reed Market Rd. If you haven't attended before, the room won't be hard to find. Masks are not required, but are welcomed and encouraged. Because of temporary staff shortages at Larkspur, we have to vacate the building by 8:15, so **this meeting will start at 6:30pm.**

BOOK PROJECT UPDATE

Please continue to submit images for the Book project by using the Book Gallery upload form. Also please be sure to use the file name format listed on the website. As an example: Fall Colors by Bev Murphy 2022 04 Book. All 5 parts of the wording are important since there are thousands of images in the website media library. This naming format makes it much easier to find an image for placing in the appropriate gallery.

As a reminder, we've expanded the period during which your image could have been taken to include years previous to 2021, so check into your archives a bit for your favorites. We are currently asking that you still submit no more than 5 images per month, and our definition of "Central Oregon" remains roughly anything within 100 miles of Bend.

Even though we all love Central Oregon's outdoor landscapes, please consider submitting images depicting all aspects of life in Central Oregon: events, wildlife, rural life, life in the cities and towns around the area, etc.

Upcoming major events:

Pole Pedal Paddle - May 14 starting at 9:00am - 6:00pm

Balloons Over Bend 2022: Friday-July 22, Saturday-July 23rd, and Sunday-July 24th.

Balloons launch each morning at dawn. Night Glow-Bend is Friday night, Night Glow Redmond -TBA.

2022 THEMES

Apr Black & White
May Anything Railroad
Jun Feathers
Jul Isolated
Aug Abandoned buildings

Sep Night Life
Oct Barns
Nov..... Snow
DecThe Shape of Water

Another View By Robert Agli



The Great Unscientific Lens Shoot Out

I am often disappointed with online reviews and YouTube video shills that proclaim the superiority of one lens over another. I had my doubts and wanted to prove that the big three all make terrific lenses and that they would share the podium in any lens competition. I proposed to the photo geek squad, composed of Bev Murphy, Ralph Delamarter, John Williams and myself, to gather our respective lenses and perform an informal "field test". We tested 100-400/500mm lenses from the big three. We had the Canon RF 100-500mm f/4.5-7.1L IS USM, the Nikon Z 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6 VR S, and the Sony FE 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6 GM OSS. Canon wins the longest name contest but just barely. We also had representative, state of the art, cameras from each manufacturer, the Canon R5, Nikon Z9 and the Sony A1 that represented the very latest in autofocus technology.

As the biological clock continues to have an impact on our bodies our camera gear seems to get heavier. We wanted to know real weight of the lenses, balance points both retracted and extended, and real world minimum focus at both fully extended to 400mm and retracted to 100mm. Ralph only extended his lens to 400mm to keep things equal. Also, because all three manufacturers claim bragging rights for eye auto focus we put them to our very unscientific but totally verifiable test. More on that later. We also tested color rendition of each lens/camera combo.

Here is the spoiler alert for those folks who just read the Cliff Notes for their college classes. All three lenses performed extremely well and if it was a race, it would be a photo finish.

Our first test determined balance points both retracted and extended and real world weight of the lens. We used a gimbal tripod and measured from the balance point to the symbol on the camera that indicated the focal plane of the sensor. What this measurement tells you is how lens heavy or light the lens feels. This is a big deal if you are carrying it around all day. The Canon lens was 1/4" head heavy, the Sony was head heavy by a whopping 1 1/4" and the Nikon was evenly balanced. Keep in mind that Nikon has been bragging about this feature but also consider that the Z9 is a beast compared to it's chief rivals so the lens would no doubt feel lens heavy on a Z7 or Z6. We put

all the lenses on a postal scale sans lens caps but included lens shades and adapter plates or aftermarket lens shoes used to mount on Arca Swiss type tripod clamps because that's how we shoot. Naturally all of the lenses proved "porkier" than officially listed.

Camera	Spec sheet	Actual weight
Canon	3.01 lbs	3.12 lbs
Nikon	2.99 lbs	3.8 lbs
Sony	3.08 lbs	3.9 lbs
		with lens coat

Our second test was a side by side comparison of height with lens shades attached. Nikon was the shortest retracted and the Canon was the tallest. Not surprising consider it has a 500mm focal length. These measurements are important in terms of handling but there was not significant difference in all three either retracted or extended to say one had a real advantage. Also, the Canon lens, possibly due to its longer focal length, required 1/3 turn to full extension and the other two lens only required a 1/4 turn to go from retracted to fully extended.

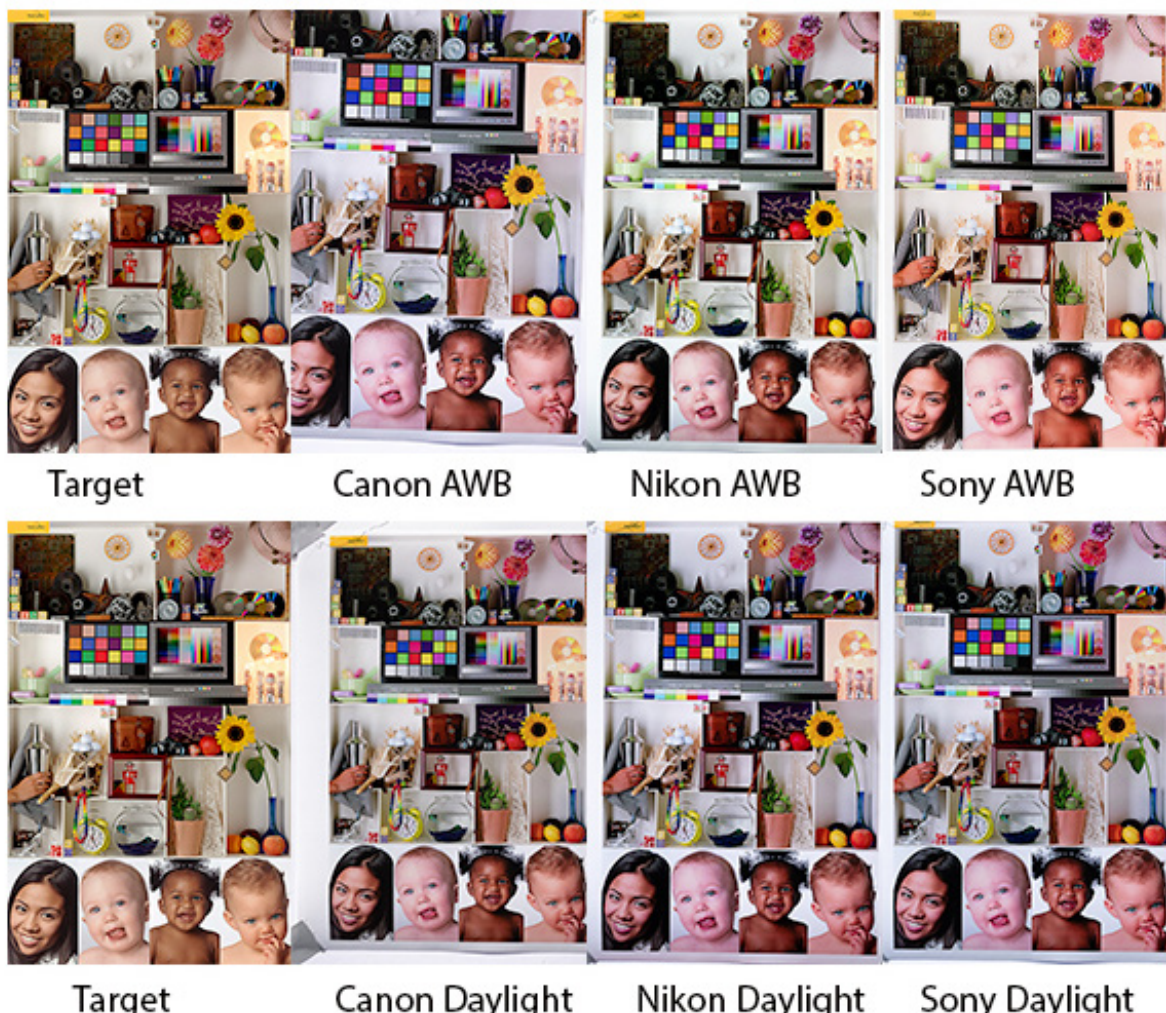
Our minimum focusing distance was a real surprise. Most spec sheets do not clarify where this is measured from. We measured from the focal plane symbol to the target. In all cases our lenses performed better than the published specifications.

Camera	Spec sheet	Actual @ 100mm	Actual @ 400mm
Canon	35.43"	34.5"	41.25"
Nikon	29.53"	27.9"	38.13"
Sony	38.58"	37.13"	39.00"

The Nikon minimum focusing at 100mm had us joking that it qualified as a Macro lens. The Sony while it had the longest minimum focusing distance also has the least difference between 100mm and 400mm and that would mean less tripod jockeying when you wanted to reframe at a different focal length.

Our next test was color rendition. There is lots of talk about how one camera/lens renders colors “better”. That has a lot to do with your own color perception. We shot the same color target on both Auto White Balance and Daylight White Balance. The techies out there are asking why didn’t you use Kelvin temperature? The reason is that in the real world most photographers leave the “little thingy” on Auto White Balance. All images were transferred directly to my computer from the respective media cards to eliminate variables from computer to computer. What is important to compare is the difference in the way each manufacturer interprets color relative to a known

target. It’s embarrassing to admit but all of us neglected to take into account the giant white board holding the target. We were all using evaluative metering so the cameras meter see that great big mass of white as the predominant part of the picture and compensates by underexposing our target by at least 1 stop (think skier in snow). I have taken the liberty to more closely match exposures with the original target so you can more accurately compare color rendition. I was particularly disappointed in the Sony and plan to do further tests, I may have screwed up the settings. The lesson here is that if you want accurate colors you better use custom white balance.



Our final test examined auto eye focus. All three manufacturers claim to be the best. There was a clear winner but only by about 4 feet. Using ourselves as targets we approached the camera from about 60 away in deep shade and then zigzagged back and forth into bright sunshine right up to the camera. We could not identify an eye nor see detail at that distance we started in the dark either with naked eye or at 400mm through the viewfinder. The Sony instantly locked on the eye and continued to do so for the duration of the test. The Nikon instantly detected a face but did not lock on an eye until there was more light (about 4 feet closer). The Canon behaved in a similar manner and was just a bit later than the Nikon. These results are not a surprise to us. Sony clearly has their act together when it comes to eye autofocus but quite frankly Mr. “C” and Mr. “N” are nipping at Sony’s heels. When Ralph returned home

after our shoot he had an email from Canon that they had a firmware update to improve autofocus. We ran the test again with the firmware update and according to Ralph the results were a significant improvement thus putting all three cameras in a much tighter comparison.

All in all we were quite happy with our respective gear. Quite frankly the gear selections offered by every manufacturer make the person behind the camera the weak link. Only commitment and practice can change that.

All of us walked away from the experience realizing that switching camera brands makes no sense based on real world performance and should only be considered if someone makes you an offer you can’t refuse...

TWO APRIL MEETUP GROUP EVENTS

"We have two Photog outings scheduled for April so come and join me and several great photographers to hone those skills and make a new friend!"

April 2nd 10 AM-?: Railroad pics and Hike

Here's your chance for up close and personal tracks that lead away through the trees.

After getting some pics there, we have the chance to hike along the Deschutes toward Sunriver. Hike is optional, rated easy in my opinion with only your stamina as your guide. I will likely do 2-5 miles. Dogs on leashes welcome.

April 10th 1-3PM: Studio & Natural Light Photography

We have a fellow CCC member opening his studio to learn this technical skill.

We will also cover basics of using natural lighting.

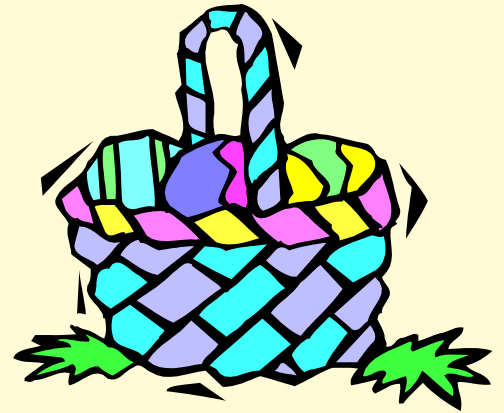
There is limited space/sign up available,

1-2 spots open at the time of this writing so sign up ASAP.

More details if you sign up by email to our Member at Large:

Shireen, 'Reenie' at iamphotoartist@yahoo.com

Or sign up through the Meetup.com



CASCADE CAMERA CLUB

2022 OFFICERS

cascadecameraclub.com

Dan Schafer
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Bob Bush
Vice President

Julie Furber
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Todd Towell
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Ruth Baker - Membership
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Ralph Delamarter
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Bev Murphy
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Jim Sellers
Audio Chairman

Nature Photographers of the Pacific Northwest

SPRING MEETING 2022 **April 2, 2022 - 9:00am - 12:00 pm**

We decided the spring 2022 meeting will also be a Zoom meeting. Our invited speaker will be Joe McDonald.

Joe has been photographing wildlife and nature since 1966, starting with images of his pet turtles, lizards, and snakes. He's since been published in every natural history publication in the U.S. and is the author of 7 wildlife photography books.

Joe's presentation will be
"Close Up and Macro Photography
Fundamentals every nature photographer should know"

You must register online to attend this Zoom meeting.

Please click this link to reach the registration page:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BAM9l_gaQ6ilDg55Y2S_Vg