

Jacksonville Camera Club Newsletter

Established 1935

February 2016

Vol 21 No 2

CLICKS



Olustee and Orchids
The Help Corner
Don Fraser on February 3

*Click on line
to open*

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First let me tell you about the title for the President's Report. **Jim Lowell** used this title when he wrote his President's Reports a few years ago during his very successful years as president. I mentioned then, that this is the title that the editor of the PSA journal uses for his/her editorial. He told me that it didn't make any difference, a lot of people did this, and there would be no problem. Sooo, I liked it so much, that I'm going to keep up the tradition, because that's what this is all about....a lot on my mind.

My goal is to keep you all informed about what's going on in the club. The Editor's **Report** will now be about Clicks and the **President's Report** will be about whatever is going on at all levels in the club, so that you will know what's going on. I will report about the board's activities, where we stand on all the issues that are happening right now and about the status of the initiatives that we are planning...and actually have started on, beginning with the Help Corner on February 3rd (you heard about it last meeting, or can read about it in this issue of Clicks).

The annual banquet was a huge success. I hope that everyone had a good time and won all the ribbons that they could. We had handsome and beautiful members all decked out and festive, as well as a lot of guests, including **Mavis den Boef**, and their son and daughter representing **Dirk's** interest in his awards. She gave a moving tribute describing how much Dirk loved the club.

The String Trio was outstanding, the food was OK. Jim Jordan did a bang-up job of organization with Linda Carter, and all of the volunteers that make it come together.

The badge changeover will occur soon. **Jennifer Thompson** and I have gotten together and trimmed up the procedure, so that it will be less trouble for her now than it was and we will now have a more visible and effective recognition system. The badges will be colored so that the different levels of membership are obvious to everyone. In this

way, new members and guests will be able to pick out older members for help and advice. The whole point is to improve the recognition of new members and guests. Let's all help make it work. **Teri** had mentioned new badges for a long time, so now they're finally getting started.

Lotsa new learning experiences for both new and old members

The points system for the year-end points accumulation had to be done manually for 2015 by **Paula Pradella**, because our website points system failed. Luckily **Paula** had kept a manual backup all year so that she was able to retrieve all the points data needed to prepare the numbers for **George Hoskins** to get them ordered and distributed.

Until we can fix the website points system or start another, we are going to a modified system that will look similar to the "old" way that it was done. We will have a sign in sheet at the meetings and at the outings, but it will be a little more proactive, to make it more effective and also more palatable. The data recording will be modernized, so it will be easier on **George**. The competition point collection will be the same as it was with the website, so the only thing we'll notice will be the sign in sheets, which are historically the most accurate way to keep a record of the member's activities. You, for now, can still put your attendance in the website. Points will be assigned either way.

The outings planned by **Jan Vallely** for 2016 are outstanding, as you heard at the last meeting. I expect a large attendance this year, plus I expect more new members to attend because of the "Technical Advisor" role that she has added to each outing. The purpose here is like the Help Corner, to answer questions and help with problems that may be unique to that outing. For example, if we are at a racetrack, the shutter speed will need to be different than if we were trying to blur the water in a moving stream or waterfalls. Some of these things are really quite simple, but at first can appear very

Continued on page 13

The banquet is over....just barely, and it as is customary, was better than the year before. We have a few pictures in this issue, but there should be more details, and a lot more pictures next month. These winners were taken last night, brought home, put in Clicks Sunday morning, and sent out soon thereafter. How about that for a deadline! It is like the results of the late Carolina vs Pittsburgh game that was in the morning edition of the newspaper the next morning.

The Help Corner had a big kickoff at the meeting on the 20th, with an introduction of **Craig Shier**, who will be in charge of the program with the help of **Bronwyn Horvath**. The concept of the Help Corner is to have 30 minutes before each meeting for members to bring their questions in and get answers. It will be held in the back of the room and there will be a large sign that you can't miss. This is all covered in this issue and will start at the next meeting on February 3, 2016.

We have two world-class programs this month. **Don Fraser** will be on the 3rd and **Susan Michal** will be on the 17th. Both have little write ups in this issue. I know and love Don, and his talks are famous since he is so

funny, smart, and a born teacher. Susan has been around for a long time and knows a lot of people in the club and had a show of her flowers going on now at Thrasher Horne. Our 1st quarter JCC digital competition is just over, the Glennie will go on until February 7 (see email from **Young McQueen** on January 25), and F3C digital starts on March 1, and goes until the 31st. JCC prints will be collected the two meetings in April.

At the orchid shoot, **Rick Hartmann** was supposed to be the technical advisor and talk about focus stacking. He couldn't make it, but since this is a relatively new technique, I put together a short article to get people thinking. It won't be exactly like Rick would do, but there are numerous tutorials on the internet that you can look at if you want more details....or come to the Help Corner and bring your specific questions.

The outings are all updated now in Clicks, except the technical advisors aren't listed yet. **Jan Vallely**, by the way is still looking for volunteers to walk along and be available on the outings to answer questions. Points will be awarded to folks that volunteer to be the advisors.

Gordon

Cover Picture



Red Orchid taken with the focus stacking method described on page 6 by **Gordon Ira**

CLICKS

Clicks is published monthly by the Jacksonville Camera Club as a service to its members, providing information about club activities, entertaining articles by Clicks contributors, and educational articles about photography.

The club meets at 7:00 PM, the first and third Wednesday of each month at *The Shepherd of the Woods Outreach Center*, 6595 Columbia Park Ct, Jacksonville, Florida. [Link](#)

For more information check the website www.JaxCameraClub.com

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An Unexpected Photo Opportunity

June 2015: Jacksonville

“Why don’t we go to New York City,” said my husband, “We can see a few shows, hit a few museums and eat some interesting food.” He seemed to think that January would be a ‘great’ time to go because prices would be lower and crowds would be smaller.

January 23, 2016: New York City

Of course, he was right...prices are lower and crowds are smaller because WHO in their right mind comes to NYC in the middle of an extreme super storm. The plays are cancelled, many of the restaurants are closed and no vehicles are allowed into the city.

Well, New York...do your worst. We’ve got our Antarctica clothes...we are ready for you!!

But, I had come to take street shots and I was determined to get some.

I brought a small ‘point and shoot’ camera to NYC because I wanted a smaller camera that wasn’t too obvious, so that I could get some interesting people pictures. I have always been a bit uneasy about taking people’s pictures, but interestingly, during a snowstorm, no one looks up. That helps.

So with icicles hanging from my eyelashes and windburned cheeks I headed to Central Park and afterwards for a stroll around mid-town. I kept my eyes open for interesting sights and spent two hours capturing New York in the snow.

That’s the great thing about photography. You never know what you are going to get. Just get out there and see what happens.



Waling in the snow

But, of course, we weren’t ready. It was far colder than Antarctica. (Yes, really!) The snow fell furiously...but not straight down. It gusted and blew horizontally, knocking small dogs off their feet, while I trudged through 3 foot drifts at a 45 degree angle.



NYC Jogger 2



Central Park in the Snow



Bikes NYC



Cold Dog

Bronwyn

Getting everything in your picture in focus has always been a big topic in photography. Varying the depth of field by changing the f stop, focal length of your lens, or some complicated processing technique involving masks and layers were the only way to do it. Then came along Adobe's focus blending and focus stacking and the process got a lot easier. You would line up your picture on a sturdy tripod, put your lens on manual focus, and take a lot of pictures with different parts of the picture in focus. Post processing was easy and you got a great picture if you had it in focus in the first place...which I never did, because I can't really see well enough to tell if the subject was in focus or not, whether I used the eye level viewfinder or the Live View. Then I started experimenting with moving the focal point in the viewfinder around and making sure that I took a picture

of each depth level. In the past this didn't work, because the camera would always be jiggled a little and the picture would never focus. Also when the focus changes, the other parts of the picture move away or closer to each other. Then came along Focus aligning. This takes

Get in-focus gorgeous pictures

care of the movement problem and Photoshop does an almost perfect job of putting the picture back together again.

To get the different parts to look in focus on your final picture, put the layers in focus stacking and again, it comes out perfect and you have a sharp picture with everything in focus....provided that you remembered to take a picture of that last bud that was almost out of the picture.

To Demonstrate:



To use the auto focus, leave the lens on AF



This is the AF selection button on my Canon

The AF selection button puts this picture in your viewfinder or Live View and you can move it around using the toggle button (on my camera), to place it on the item that you want to be in focus.



Then load the series of pictures of your flower into Bridge, select them all, and then go to Tool/Photoshop/Load files into Photoshop Layers. If you don't have Bridge, get the layers loaded together somehow, select all layers, and go to Edit/auto align layers, and then Edit/auto blend layers. If you held your mouth just right, you've now got a well exposed, completely in focus gorgeous picture.

Go to the **Help Corner** if you have questions about your camera or how to do Focus Stacking.

Gordon

Awards Banquet



Check In



Digital Winners



Print Winners, General



Print Winners, Nature



Print Winners, People



Vernan Nalley Award



Shutterbug Award



Mavis den Boef



Fellowship Awards



Racking Crew

More Next Month

Jan Vallely's Outing Program

On January 20th, Jan showed us all of the upcoming outings for 2016 and some for 2017. She did this in splendid form by having the leaders talk about what to expect during the outing that they will lead, and show pictures usually that they had taken on that particular trip or demonstrating a technique that they were going to present. It went very well and I have heard nothing but raves about how they enjoyed the evening.

One of the unique variations this year will be the "Technical Advisor". This will be in line with the effort the club is making to provide more

on-site training in photographic techniques this year. The Advisor will be available to answer any questions that come up. Questions about

Leaders and Advisors Needed

the venue, for example, exposure, fast motion capture, etc., or questions about camera operation.

She has given me a list of the slots that still need to be filled for the leader position and the technical advisor. Get in touch with her if you are interested.

Ed.

WANTED! LEADERS AND TECHNICAL ADVISORS

February 27	Scottish Games	LEADER & ADVISOR
March 19	Jacksonville Zoo	ADVISOR
April 3	Clay County Fair	LEADER & ADVISOR
May 21	Okefenokee Swamp	ADVISOR
October 15	Cracker Day St. Augustine	LEADER & ADVISOR

F3C Reminder

If you plan on entering a print into the 1st Triannual F3C competition, bring your prints to the meeting on Wednesday. **Julius Dean** is

going to send in all of the prints from the club in one package per the 2016 instructions. Be prepared to give Julius \$3/print, for postage.

Don Fraser is Back

My subject will be **Glamour Photography**. I will start with a quick overview of some glamour photos from the worlds of Hollywood, music, sport, and fashion - not just cheesecake, some beefcake for the ladies as well. Some are my photos, others are not. All images may be shown in church. Then a brief power point presentation on the History of Glamour - with some humor to keep us all awake. Then a

February 3

brief screen show (with music) of a few of just my glamour shots to lead into the final segment. Finally, another power point presentation where I will review working with models, lighting setups for portrait photography, and other hints and tips.



Young and Handsome Naval Pilot

Don

Susan Michal's Program

Learn how creativity, passion and a can do attitude can transform your life.

Focus on your creative self and work through the inevitable roadblocks that threaten to derail your path to success. We will also discuss cam-

February 17

era room tips and techniques for creating images from Susan's book, *Flowers in Transition*



This article is for those folks that weren't at the last meeting on January 20th. At that meeting we introduced the concept of the Help Corner and Craig Shier, who will be running it with Bronwyn Horvath. To make sure that everyone knows about it, let me go over it once more.

We have had "Mentor" programs for years, and even a position on the board for the mentor. These programs were hard to administer and met with varying degrees of success. Basically it is a hard job teaching such a huge variety of subjects mainly to folks that are just starting out and learning about photography.

After the January 6th program where we talked about a "Boot Camp" concept of having a monthly, full night session to teach basic lessons in photography, Craig wrote me about an idea he had about having a session before each meeting where members could ask questions. It didn't matter what the question was, it would get answered, by him or someone else at the meeting.

Since this fit in perfectly with the teaching and learning concept, we have immediately adopted it and it will start on February 3rd, the

first meeting in February.

Craig has just joined us after being in a Camera Club in Virginia for 20 years,

Got a Question? Bring it to the Help Corner

where he was very active, even judging a few competitions. He will be able to answer most questions; for other questions, he or Bronwyn will find someone at the meeting that can help.

The Help Corner will start at least by 6:30 on the nights of the meetings. Look for the sign.



Craig's View of the Help Corner

- Help Corner is a new effort to see if we can help new and old members:
 - find answers to questions they have about photography
 - connect with other members
- We'll be available 30 minutes before each regular meeting
- What kind of questions? No limits.
 - using your camera
 - capturing the image
 - processing
 - preparation for digital or print presentation
- What to bring? Anything that may help
 - camera, manual
 - laptop, phone, tablet
 - an image
 - or, just your question
- Who will be there?
 - one or more experienced club members
 - volunteers needed and welcome
- If we don't have the answer we will find it

Craig

Olustee Reenactment

February 13-14

Keith Garrett

There are many civil war reenactments to attend if you want to travel several hundred miles to see them. But we have one of them in our own back yard that others travel several hundred miles to see. The battle of Olustee (or Ocean Pond) is right here in Lake City and is only an hour drive from Jacksonville.

Unless you arrive soon after the sun rises, don't expect to find a parking spot near the entrance to the Park. The main gate is even closed to reenactor traffic from 7:00 am, Saturday morning to after 5:00 pm on Sunday. You can park further along State Route 90 in both directions, but mid-morning arrivals can expect to walk a mile or more to reach the park entrance. The best place to park is at the Baker County Correctional Facility (CCF) to the east of Olustee. There is plenty of parking at this site and, for only \$2 for adults and \$1.00 for students (pre-school children are free), a bus will take you to the main gate and deliver you



back to your car after you leave the event.

The re-enactment takes place on Saturday, February 13, and Sunday, February 14- from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on both days. The actual re-enactment of the battle occurs on Sunday at 1:30 pm and there is also a battle that occurs on Saturday at 3:30 pm that could go either way for the North or South.

Throughout the day on Saturday you can walk through the camping areas and photograph the participants and the period equipment that was used during the actual battle. It is very interesting to talk with the re-enactors about their knowledge of the civil war period and the battle of Olustee.

There are a myriad of different photographs that can be found from action to still life to portraits. Nobody in the camps will object to you taking their pictures, in fact it is encouraged by them. If you see something that you liked but missed the chance to take the picture all you have to do is ask the reenactor to do it again and they will be more than happy



to (except during the battle).

During the battle reenactments there is a grandstand area that you can sit in if you are just interested in watching or getting long wide angle shots of the battle but if you want an up close and personal perspective there is a rope that runs along the battle field and you can get right up to the rope to get those kind of photographs. If you want those images it is important to get there at least one hour before the battle starts



especially on Sunday.

The equipment needed is a camera of course, and a zoom lens would be nice. Something like a 70-200mm.

Keith

EFG Orchid Outing

Jan Gemeinhardt, leader

On Friday, January 15, 2016, we went down to Deland to the EFG Orchid Nursery. This is a huge operation with millions of tropical plants including every kind of orchid imaginable. And the nicest part is that the owner is very kind to photographers and gave us a lot of leeway in setting up little places to take our pictures. The light inside was not the best, because it rained most of the time, but some folks had lights, and the rest including me, just made a longer exposure and the pictures came out amazingly well.

Because of the rain, the owners set up a table for us in the nursery and we sat around and had a quite pleasant time chatting and eating.

Jan Vallely is collecting pictures that she will send to George, the owner, who will judge them and give the winner free orchid.



Gordon

Dudley Farms Out-Outing

Jan Vallely has been negotiating with the head lady at Dudley Farms to try and find a day that they were open, that she (Sandra) was there, and there weren't bus-loads of schoolchildren also there. February 11 is the day. The place opens at 9:00 AM, but she will be there at 8:00. Several of us are going back down there and try our luck in some of the areas that were closed off the last time we were there. It'll be a good warm-up for Olustee next weekend.



Thursday February 11
We're leaving the Winn-Dixie parking lot in Orange Park on Hwy 17 and Kingsley at 7:00 AM and plan on being there at 8:30 AM. We will take a lunch and have a picnic.

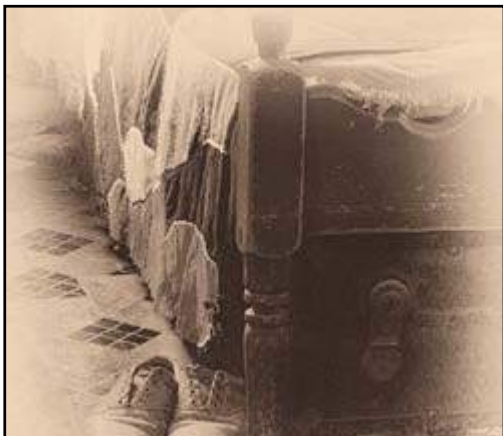
This is an "Out" outing. Not a regular outing with advisors, or a Mini-Outing, but a spur of the moment outing that eventually we'll have a blog type system where we can find out

easily about the Out-Outings that must occur all the time in the club.



Ed.

These are some pictures that were taken by several different members.



Officers and Volunteers for 2016

The Board members, which are the seven elected officers and directors, and the six appointed by the president and the approved by the board, are on the Board Page. This last group will usually be the competition chairs, the webmaster, membership chair and the Clicks editor. There is room for one more that will be appointed at the next board meeting. The Clicks editor and president are the same, so that leaves the question as to whether there should be another person to take the editor's place until he is no longer president or director.

The members that aren't so conspicuous, are the volunteers that are also hard workers and need to be recognized.

So here they are:

Volunteers not on the board

JoAnn Devine Librarian
John Neel Properties Manager
Craig Shier Help Corner
Julius Dean Monochrome Chair
Linda Lynn Raffle

Paula Pradella Asst Secretary (Points) ; Clicks Copy Editor

Robert Clark PSA Representative

Jim Lowell F3C Representative

Andrea Wilsie 2017 Banquet Chair

Jan Vallely Outings Chair

Board members with other jobs

Jim Jordan 2016 banquet chair; helps set up each meeting for presentations

Lynda Smith Church Activity Coordinator

Young McQueen Glennie coordinator

Scottish Games

On February 27, join Jan Vallely at the Scottish Games in Green Cove Springs at the Clay County Fairgrounds, for a day of contests, rides, food and fun. [Map](#)



President's Report *continued*

mysterious and, therefore, perfect fodder for the new Technical Advisor.

Finally a report on a few of our friends at home. Dirk is feeling better and is able to get up by himself and go into the living room, and I'm sure to his computer room. He sent a message

to say hello to everyone last night. Jim Lowell is looking and felling good and still keeping up with the F3C job this year. Both would probably enjoy an note with well wishes.

Gordon

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Programs Dennis Adams, VP

Feb 3 Don Fraser Our own favorite "program presenter" back to talk about taking portraits of models.

Feb 17 Susan Michals will discuss creativity and passion, plus tips for creating her flower images. Page 8.

April 6 Dan Robusto Been to Africa lately? Come and hear about Dan's trip.

April 20 Mary Atwood

May 4 Doug Griffin Doug is a professional videographer and has a lot of technical and practical experience that he is going to share with us

May 18 Bronwyn Horvath
Bronwyn went to the Antarctica, had a great trip and will present a great show.

People's Choice

February - That's Love

March - Dutch Angle (I recommend Google search. I thought this was cool)

April - Anything Music Related

May - Weather

June - Peaceful

July - Motion

August - Letters of the Alphabet

September - Parallel Lines

October - That's Creepy

November - Harvest

December - Food

Kim Pitcock, Chairman

Outings

February 13 Olustee Civil War Reenactment **Robert Clark** and **Keith Garret**

February 27 Scottish Games, Green Cove Springs **Jan Vallely**

March 19 Jacksonville Zoo **Richard Bryce**

April 3 Clay County Fair **Jan Vallely**

April 15-17 Callaway Gardens, Stay in Cabins at FDR State Park **Jim Niss**

May 7 St Augustine Alligator Farm **Bill Coppedge**

May 20-21 Okefenokee Fargo entrance, boat trip **Caroline Peppiatt** and **Jack Stephens**

June 25 Beach Portraits **Craig Monroe**

July 23 The DEAN Editing Technique **Julius Dean**

August 20 Still Life Workshop **Darrel Joseph**

September 17 CLARK Photo Specifics **Robert Clark**

October 15 St. Johns County Cracker Day Celebration **Jan Gemeinhardt**

October 14-18 Shenandoah Valley **Rebecca Janssen** and **Linda Carter**

Jan Vallely, Chairman

Directions to the Club Meeting

Our meetings are held at The Shepherd of the Woods Outreach Center located at 6595 Columbia Park Court, Jacksonville, Florida. Come visit us at 7:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Guests are always welcome. Check out the website for more information. www.jaxcameraclub.com For directions, check out the

Digital Contest Schedule

Charise Tanner

Quarter	Themes	Submit Dates	Result Date
1Q16	Old Florida Silhouettes or Sunsets Open / General	January 1 January 30	March 2
2Q16	Bokeh Outings/Events Two + Up	March 1 March 31	June 1
3Q16	Backyard Birds Composite Open / General	June 1 June 30	September 7
4Q16	Night Photography Houses Inside or Out JCC Outings / Events	September 1 September 30	November 2

Guideline for Entering the Contest

Limit three images per quarter Limit two images per theme Capture date current year + prior two
Please direct information request or comments to: Charise Tanner, digital competition coordinator, 904-210-6811 dcharisetanner@bellsouth.net

Print Contest Schedule

Stephen Smith

Quarter	Themes	Submit Dates	Result Date
1Q16	General, Nature, People	January 6 and 20	March 16
2Q16	General, Nature, People	April 6 and 20	June 15
3Q16	General, Nature, People	July 6 and 20	September 21
4Q16	General, Nature, People	September 7 and 21	November 7

Annual Print Competition 2016 Collection dates will be announced later. Results will be announced at the annual banquet, in January 2017

Monochrome competition Submit Dates August 3 and 17, Results October 5, 2016,
Julius Dean, monochrome coordinator

Board Members

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