

Jacksonville Camera Club Newsletter

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CLICKS



**Tribute to Jim Lowell
2nd Quarter Digital Winners
Masking by Rick Hartmann**

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Jim's Pictures from Vietnam

President's Report for July 2017

It's tough to get this President's Report started. Jim Lowell has retired to the real Creative Cloud, and there is so much that could be said about the influence that he had on the club and all of its members, but not enough space. I have just gone through dozens of articles that he has written for Clicks; along with all of the "On My Minds" that he wrote, and have pulled out a few that I will try to add to Clicks in the future (Check the "5th Position" article). Although it was clear all along that Jim was something special, re-reading some of his articles containing the down to earth and realistic philosophy he had makes it even sadder that he will no longer be with us.

JCC has had a website for the whole time that I have been a member. One year ago on **July 4th**, the most recent phase went on line....so it is now one year old. In my mind this is cause for significant recognition, not because of anything wrong with what we had before, but because now we are totally "in-house" and have a website that is conforming steadily to fit the needs of the club. In some ways it is hard for those of us who didn't grow up in the age of cyberspace to know the steps necessary to get the most out of a modern website. In order to help change our outlook, and make it all easier, **Rick Hartmann**, the new website editor, has taken on the job of getting our members knowledgeable about the workings of the website and making it more intuitive. He is giving a tutorial each meeting about some of the ways to access different portions of the site and how to use them. Of course our webmaster, **Young McQueen** has developed the site from his hard work and knowledge of WordPress, and continues to make his magic...like soon we will be able to pay for things on the site, like dues and outings, whatever. We may have to have a little celebration at the next meeting.

The regular business of the club still needs to get "airtime". Namely, we have had some interesting new members and **visitors** recently. Please look out for them and get to know them....so I can give them a job! The yearly **planning** session for next year is coming up, so if you have any ideas about **programs, outings**, or any ideas about anything, grab me or an officer and let us know. We'll have most of the year planned out this summer. The next meeting is the swap meet. **Julius** will be absent, but **Craig Shier** will be running the show. There will be no official business meeting, but I will send out an email covering routine things, plus anything that would normally be presented during the business part of the meeting. The "digital print" committee is still working on the easiest way to provide a digital copy of the print winners, for digital reproduction later on. Look for information, possibly before the next print competition.

For those who didn't get my email, Jennifer Lowell would be happy to hear from anyone that would like to talk to her - by phone or email.

Get out early when it's cool and get some good shots.

Gordon

Jim Lowell: A Personal Remembrance

A few times in life you meet those special people who change your life for the better. **Jim Lowell** was one of those people. Kris and I were his absentee neighbors in Deercreek. Whenever I came home from Dubai he would invite me into his office to talk about photography. That office was a magical place with pictures from his days in Vietnam, his trips abroad with Jennifer and many of his award winning pictures from JCC contests. I marveled at his ability to capture an emotional moment in someone's life, or find a humorous street scene. I thought that if I could just be 1/10 the photographer that Jim was, I would be happy.

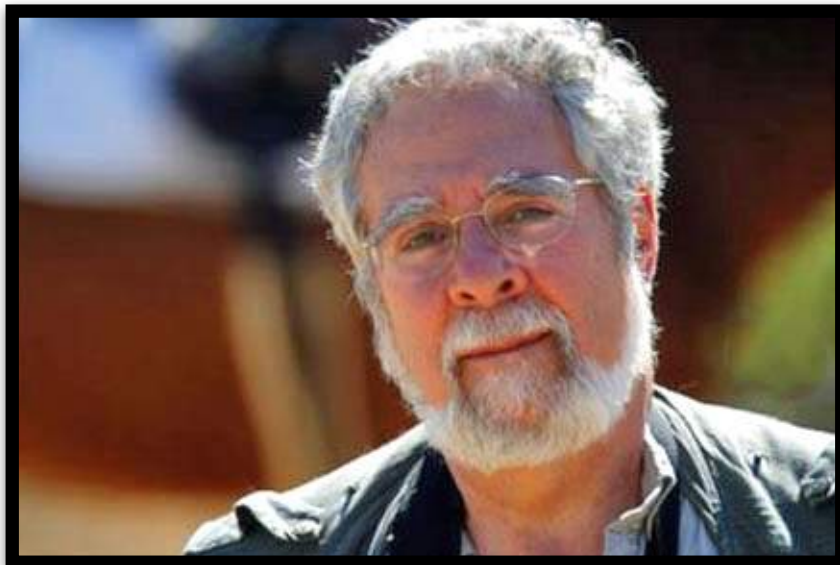
To this end, Jim encouraged me to join the Jacksonville Camera Club and helped me purchase my first DSLR camera, a Sony Alpha 100. When it arrived I was too embarrassed to tell him I had no idea how to use it. I was a point and shoot, instamatic kind of gal. With endless patience he got me off automatic and showed me how to shoot in manual. He explained raw versus jpeg. He talked about composition and white balance. He took me down to the Cummer Museum and showed me how to use all this information to take a good picture. He encouraged me to enter my first picture in People's Choice. When I took third place we celebrated and for the first time I thought that I could create some Jim Lowell-quality pictures. Up until a few months ago I would drag a stack of prints to his house for a critique. He always took the time (along with Jennifer) to help me understand what was good and what needed improvement.

As my mentor, Jim taught me much more than how to take a picture. He taught me how to see like a photographer. To this day, when I take a walk I wonder how to frame what I am seeing (I owe that to Jim). I look for the picture in the picture (I owe that to Jim). I have confidence in my work (I owe that to Jim). Maybe I'm a better person (I owe that to Jim).

It wasn't just me who benefited from Jim's vast knowledge and kind heart. He helped all who asked him. He was a kind and giving person. As **Paula Pradella** noted, "He brought out the best in everyone." I will miss him terribly.

The **Creative Interest Group** project on combining pictures will be presented in the next Clicks. This is a great opportunity for you to try your hand at adding different elements into a picture, elements that normally wouldn't go together. Give it a try!

James Russell Lowell



James Russell Lowell, 74, of Jacksonville, Florida has gone to sit under the great magnolia tree in the sky, surrounded by all the felines he loved to await reunion with his wife, Jennifer. He died on June 21st in her arms; 53 years to the day that he married her in Eugene, Oregon.

The two met at the University of Oregon in 1961 when Jim was pursuing his BA in General Science and Jennifer was working on her Journalism degree. Jim was the photographer for the university's newspaper, the Oregon Daily Emerald and Jennifer crafted its advertising, as well as writing for the Eugene Register Guard. During those early years, Jim earned his first Associated Press wire photo for a photograph he took whilst the two of them were out shooting pictures in a rare Oregon hurricane.

The two were married on June 21, 1964, just a week after Jennifer had the honor of pinning on Jim's Second Lieutenant bars; five days later, they began to tour the world as Army spouses.

Lt. Lowell served tours in Arizona, Hawaii, Japan, Thailand, and finally three tours of duty in Vietnam, where he was awarded a Bronze Star by Maj. Gen. K. B. McCutcheon and where he also earned the respect of the DASPO team (Department of the Army Special Photographic Office) that he led. Sadly, it was in Vietnam that he came into frequent physical contact with Agent Orange, the American military's carcinogenic defoliant chemical which eventually took his life.

In 1968, Jim was sent to the Army's military college in Monmouth Station, NJ. Graduating, after nine exhaustive months, as the top student in his class, he was assigned the position of Deputy Chief of Communications for the Military District of Washington, DC. While writing materials for the Pentagon, Jim won first place in the Pentagon Photography competition for one of his Vietnam photographs; he also won the Freedom Foundation Medal for an essay about why he was proud to be an American. After his service in the Pentagon, Capt. Lowell was assigned as the Communications Officer for the Chaparral Missile Battalion at Ft. Bliss, Texas. During these years, the Lowell's had two sons, Jeffery Douglas, born in 1965 and James Patrick, born in 1967.

But, following the birth of their adored daughter, Meg, in 1969, Capt. Lowell resigned his commission and began 30 years of service with various branches of AT&T Public Relations. Some of the highlights of Lowell's career in the Communications industry were creating and heading the Speakers' Bureau for AT&T, which introduced science to middle school systems in the San Francisco area and helping to bring such cultural luminaries as Joh Carlo Menotti, Yo Yo Ma, and August Wilson to St. Louis, Mo.

James Russell Lowell

While serving as the ghost writer for Bell Laboratories Nobel laureates, Jim also designed and created a traveling exhibit featuring the original version of Alexander Graham Bell's telephone, which Jim discovered one day in the bowels of the Smithsonian Institution.

While at Bell Laboratories, Jim earned his MA in Communications at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he again graduated first in his class; he later did his ABD work at New York University in New York City.

He would be proud to be remembered for some of the advertising campaigns he designed for AT&T during his years at the Bedminster facilities. One involved a slug which could manufacture static electricity. Jim served as what he termed the "slug wrangler" for the recalcitrant beast during photo shoots.

Jim retired as Vic President of Internal Communications for Citicorp here in Jacksonville. But, bored with retirement, he accepted the position of College Chair at the University of Phoenix, where he taught Communications classes.

After his second and final retirement, Jim became involved with the Jacksonville Camera Club, serving two years as Vice President and President. His photographs won countless prizes through the club and in the Photographic Society of America competitions.

Eventually, Jim put together a 40-picture exhibit of his earlier black and white photographic work from his years in Vietnam; this exhibit toured Florida Art Museums, was featured in international photography magazines and earned a place in the Pritzker Military Museum's Vietnam Memorial Gallery.

Jim was loved by all who met him for his intelligence, warmth, sense of humor and willingness to share his knowledge and talents. He was nursed through his final lengthy illness by his beloved wife, Dr. Jennifer Pearce Lowell, and the daughter of whom he was of incredibly proud, Meg Lowell Kimball of Denver, Colorado.

Mr. Lowell also leaves behind a son, James Patrick Lowell of Boston, MA, his son-in-law, James Thaddeus Kimball and his dear grandson, Seamus Patrick Kimball of Denver, CO.

Jim was grateful for the care given to him at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston, the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville and Jacksonville Community Hospice.

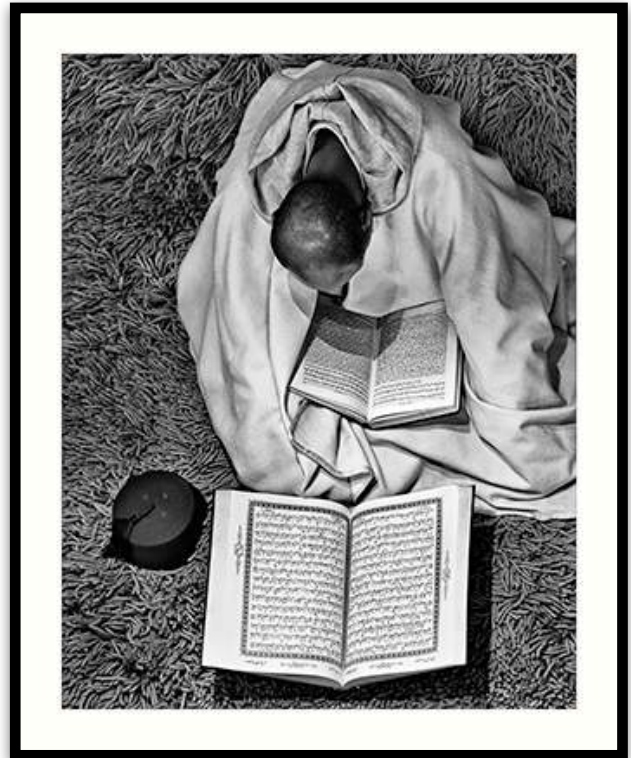
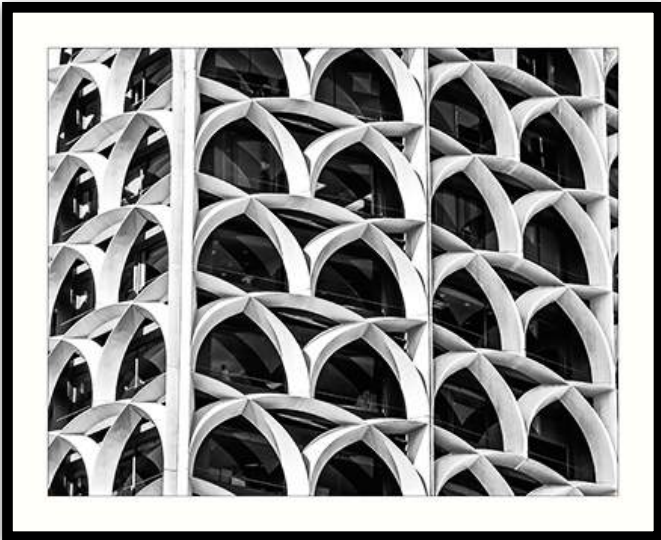
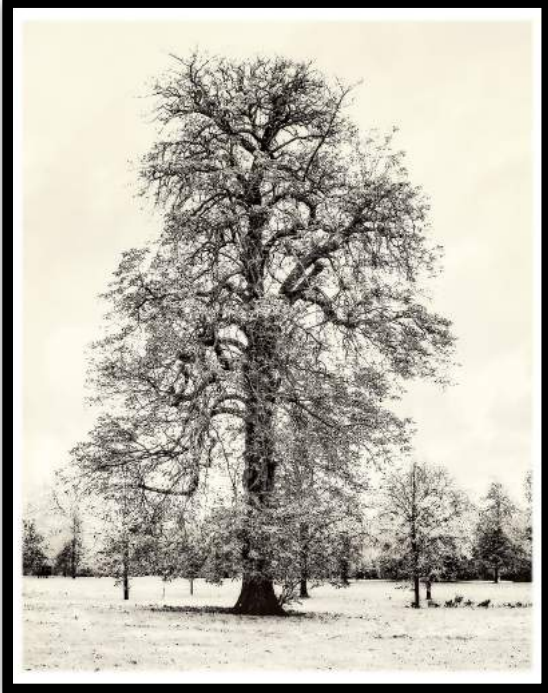
His funeral will be private with Rabbi Goodman officiating, but a Celebration Life will be scheduled at some time in the future. In lieu of flowers, Jim would have wanted donations to be made to the Sulzbacher Center, an institution which was dear to his heart.

He will be sorely missed by his family and all his friends in America and overseas. As one close friend noted yesterday, Jim brought out the best in all who knew him.

Published in The Times-Union on Sunday, June 25, 2017.

On the next couple of pages you will find some of Jim's photographs as well as an article that was published by PSA in 2009. To see more photos, log in on the website, go to Nexus, Directory, Jim.

Jim's Pictures



Jim's Pictures



PSA Article by Jim Lowell

Why Compete?

By Jim Lowell, Jacksonville Camera Club

(article published in the May, 2009, issue of *PSA Journal*)

“Competition.” As a long-time photographer and camera club member, I’m always surprised that a single word engenders so many strong and varied feelings.

Of course, competition has always been a main-stay of camera club life; but, below the surface, the rationale for competition seems to be far from universally accepted. I know many club members who say they simply want to improve their photographic skills and find competition to be, on the one hand unnecessary, and on the other actually detrimental to becoming a better photographer.

The arguments against competing go something like this. Competition is inherently stressful and detracts from the learning atmosphere of the club. Competition is dominated by the more experienced photographers and beginners don’t have a fair chance to win. Competition takes the focus off of creativity and puts it on conforming to photographic rules and contest criteria. Competition can’t really teach much about photography best practices, since each judge has his or her subjective standards. So, with all these negatives stacked against competition, the obvious question is, “Why compete?”

Before I give my answer to that question, it’s time for some full disclosure: First, I’ve voiced every one of the bad raps assigned to competition and, second, I’ve had to get through each one of them to become a better photographer.

Now that the truth is out there, let’s examine, one argument at a time, the pros and cons of competition. “*Competition is inherently stressful and detracts from the learning atmosphere of the club.*” It’s hard to disagree that competition is stressful; after all, we’re sending our creative offspring out there into the cruel world to be subjected to other people’s judgment. And, yes, if our baby isn’t a winner it’s a reflection on our skills and a blow to our egos. Indeed, if that’s all we get out of competition, the experience is pretty much a bummer. But, aren’t all those other winning images—and the judge’s comments about them—the very learning experience club competitions were created for?

Jim's PSA Article - cont.

“Competition is dominated by the more experienced photographers and beginners don't have a fair chance to win.” Although everyone who competes has an equal chance; logically, experience is often-though certainly not always-an advantage. But if experience is a factor in winning, doesn't that suggest that at one time the winners were also aspirants, and it was the new learning from each competition that helped them improve?

“Competition takes the focus off of creativity and puts it on conforming to photographic rules and contest criteria.” This is a tough one, since it's true that photography does have its rules that—more often than not—if followed lead to success. And, it would be fair to say that learning the technicalities can, initially, lead to about the same level of creativity as practicing musical scales. One has to, however, learn the rules before one can break them. Otherwise, how does a burgeoning photographer understand what he or she did that was new and creative that worked? If you will, what was it that made his or her work, not only different from, but better than the competition? As to individual contest criteria, they are only guidelines that define the minimum category parameters for what is acceptable in any competition.

“Competition can't really teach much about photography best practices, since each judge has his or her subjective standards.” Oddly enough, I actually find this the most compelling argument for competition. It is true that judges have their own standards that supplement those established by PSA and other photographic organizations. But, in the long-run, all our lovingly crafted images will also be viewed by friends, relatives, potential clients and complete strangers; every one of whom will bring his or her own objective and subjective views to bear on our work. What better way than competition to learn how well our growing photographic talent plays in a world of widely varying opinion?

In the beginning I asked, “Why compete?” Now I'll end with a better question, “Why not?” If the goal is to learn and grow, I don't know a better way to meet that goal than to compete.

2nd Quarter Digital Winners

General/Open



First Place
“Washington Farm”
by Jan Gemeinhardt



Second Place
“Just Looking”
by Marek Pawlowicz



Third Place
“Nest at Sunrise”
by Jack Stephens



Fourth Place
“Morning Thoughts”
by John Neel

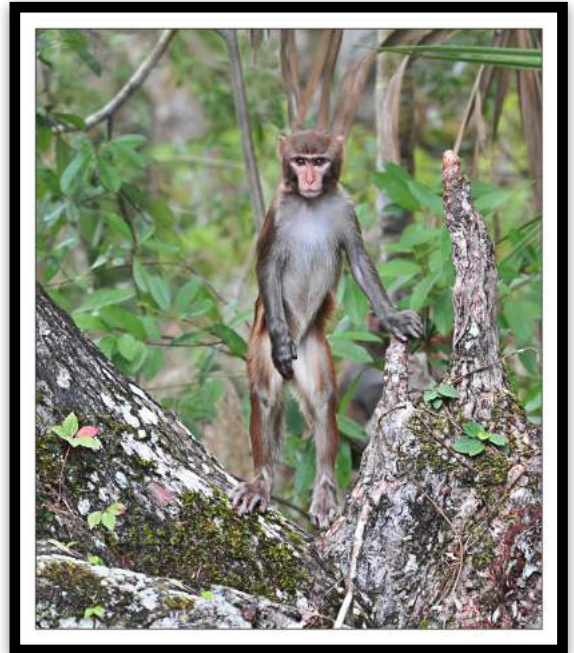


Honorable Mention
“Dash of the Mountain Lion”
by Celia Carson

General/Open



Honorable Mention
“Far East Pavilion”
by Caroline Peppiatt



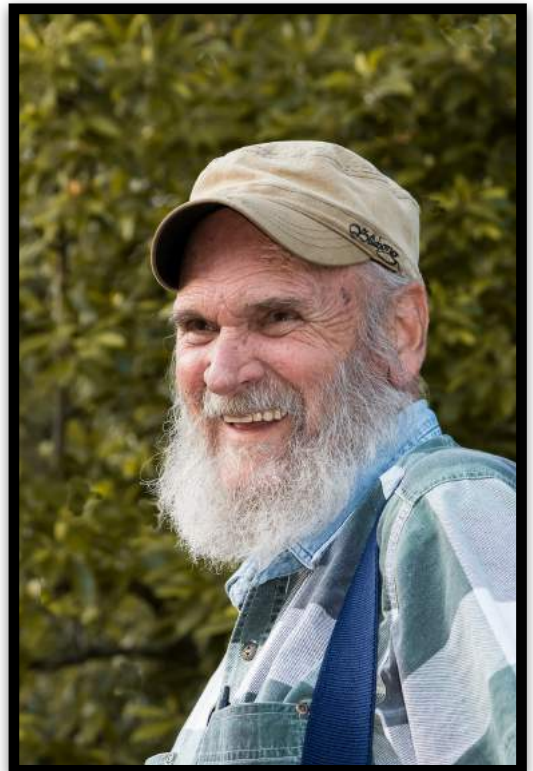
Honorable Mention
“Scout”
by Paula Griffin



Honorable Mention
“Morning at the Beach”
by Jim Gutru



Honorable Mention
“Winnie in Motion”
by Gordon Ira



Honorable Mention
“Joe”
by Irene Ward

HDR



First Place
“Out of Tune”
by Craig Shier



Second Place
“Eilean Donan Castle”
by Jim Hunt



Third Place
“Glades Creek Gristmill”
by Charise Tanner



Fourth Place
“Sunrise in the Smokies”
by Joy Ruble



Honorable Mention
“Winter Stream”
by Bronwyn Horvath



Honorable Mention
“Water Lily Times 2”
by Jan Gemeinhardt

Mono Landscapes/Seascapes



First Place
“Sunrise on Roan Bald”
by Caroline Peppiatt



Second Place
“Dancing on the Waves”
by Duffy McCoy



Third Place
“Bent, but not Broken”
by Brian Leonard



Fourth Place
“Cumberland Island Scenery”
by Bronwyn Horvath



Honorable Mention
“Swamp”
by Marek Pawlowicz



Honorable Mention
“Ross Sea Antiquity”
by Don Dyer

Mono Landscapes/Seascapes



Honorable Mention
 “Time and Tide”
 by Craig Shier



Honorable Mention
 “Tranquility Lake”
 by Dan Robusto



General Category

John Neel, Jack Stevens, Irene Ward,
 Celia Carson, Paula Griffin, Marek
 Pawlowicz, Caroline Peppiatt, Gordon
 Ira, Judge Craig Monroe



HDR Category

Charise Tanner, Craig Shier,
 Joy Ruble, Judge Craig Monroe



Mono - Landscapes/Seascapes
 Brian Leonard, Craig Shier, Don Dymmer,
 Marek Pawlowicz, Judge Craig Monroe

People's Choice is a monthly contest that allows members to bring in a print and the members vote on the entries without knowing who took the picture. Only the top three are awarded. None of the pictures are critiqued, so this is a great way to have your pictures compared to others without anyone knowing whose picture it is.

June Winners - Flowers, Grasses or Weeds



Brian Walsh, John Neel and George Hoskins



1st Place
"Lunchtime"
by Brian Walsh



2nd Place
"Red Amaryllis"
by John Neel



3rd Place
"Water Lilies and Raindrops"
by George Hoskins

Mark Pariani Workshop

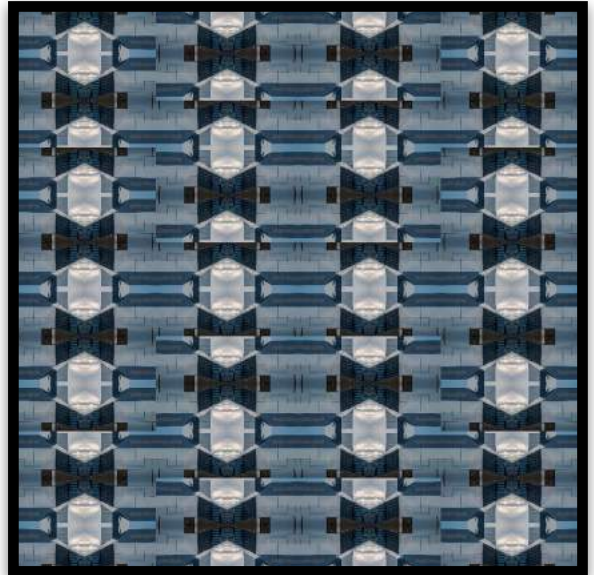
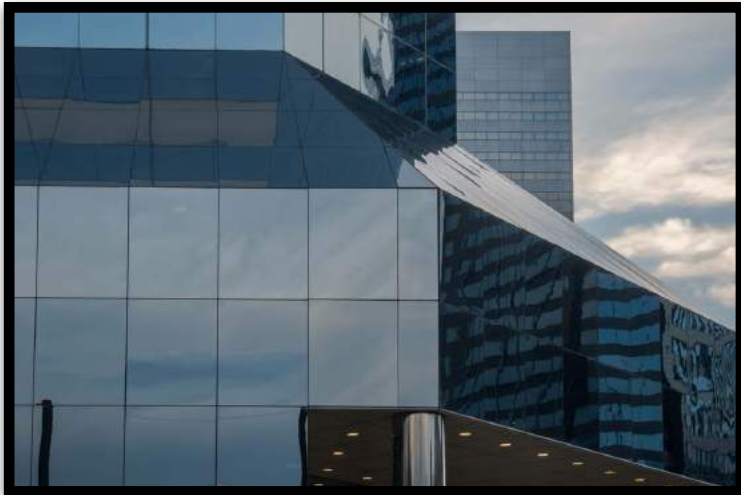
Mirrored Images

On June 17th, Mark Pariani introduced the club to Architectural photography from capture to an abstract finish, incorporating tips for both. Participants of the workshop learn how to create mirror images and hopefully have images to be submitted in the current digital contest. Below are some images from the workshop and Mark's finished images.



Mark Pariani Workshop

Brian Leonard went downtown Jacksonville and sent this picture of a building and the abstract of that from the workshop that he attended on Saturday. The picture on the left is the original and the one on the right is the abstract. Good job Brian.



Announcements

The July 5th meeting of the Jacksonville Camera Club will feature a Buy-Sell-Swap meet.

Last year's event was well attended and a variety of cameras, camera accessories, equipment and supplies were available.

Participants at last year's event included JCC members as well as several people from other camera clubs who responded to our invitation to participate.

Come on out this year to see if you might find that perfect photography-related item to buy items at a fraction of retail price.

For those of us with equipment that we no longer use, this event is the perfect outlet to pass in on and make some money in the process.

FACEBOOK Page for Jacksonville Camera Club

JCC members may place event pictures on the JCC Facebook page. If you want any of your pictures to be posted either send them to me at nuroad@aol.com or drop them into the Facebook page and then I will post them for you.

We are getting quite a following on our page and I would like to continue building the following so that we may get people to come and check out the club.

Thanks to those of you that have submitted pictures and those that have liked and are following the page.

Gail Means
Facebook Manager

Masking by Rick Hatmann

With the Blueridge Sunrise image active go to the channels panel. Compare the 3 different channels to determine which offers the greatest contrast. In this case it will be the red channel.

Hold down your alt key and drag the red channel down to the icon that looks like a dog eared page. This will create a copy of the channel and at the same time present a dialog box for naming this new channel. Name the channel sky mask.

After having named the new channel press control L to bring up the levels command. Move the black slider to the right to intensify the black in the mountain and in the tree. Move the white slider left to whiten the sky. Be careful that you do not wipe out the smaller branches.

Select the brush tool and set the blend mode to overlay. Press the D key to set foreground and background to black and white. Using an appropriate size brush paint over the black areas of the mountain and any vegetation on the top edge of the mountain with black.

Switch to white set the size to very large (approx 500-600 pixels. Change the opacity to 50% and click with minimum overlap to intensify the white in the sky.

Now go to the layer panel. Next switch to the Sunrise Day 4 image. With the rectangular marquee tool select all of the sky you can with out including anything other than sky.

Press control C to copy the sky selection to your clipboard.

Switchback to the Blueridge Sunrise image and press control V to past the sky from the clipboard into the image as a new layer.

The pasted sky is to small. Go to edit menu>free transform. While holding down the shift alt keys drag on the lower right hand control square until this layer covers all of the sky in the image below. Once it does click on the check mark in the option bar to accept this transformation.

Next go to the channel panel and control click on the thumbnail of the sky mask. This will create a selection outline of the sky area represented by the white area of the mask.

Return to the layer panel and note the selection outline stays with you. The transformed sky layer should be active. Go to the bottom of the layer panel and click on the create mask icon that looks like a rectangle with a hole in the middle.

Once you have created the mask your resulting image should look much like the one I sent to you. However, it may be that the smaller branches look pale and fragile. If so, control click on the layer mask that you just created. Once again the sky will be selected. Now go to the select menu and choose inverse. You now will have selected the non-sky areas of the image. Create a levels adjustment layer and slide the black slider to the right to strengthen the smaller branches.

Congratulations, you are done.



A Laugh is Good Medicine

Reasons Why You Might Be A Photographer

1. 30,000 family photos neatly categorized in Lightroom. Zero photos of you,
2. You are frequently greeted with "What are you taking a picture of?!" instead of "hello"
3. You'd rather buy the t-shirt that more closely resembles 18% gray
4. Your carry-on is heavier than your checked bags
5. You describe disgusting old dilapidated barns as "beautiful"
6. Number of lenses is greater than the pairs of shoes you own

Schedules

Program Schedule - click for [website post](#)

Outings Schedule - click for [website post](#)

Print Schedule for 2017 - click for [website post](#)

Digital Schedule for 2017 - click for [website post](#)

**Digital Schedule for 2018 - click for [website post](#) -
members only**

Monochrome Yearly Contest - click for [website post](#)

People's Choice - click for [website post](#)

F3C Schedule - click for [website post](#) - members only

Club Calendar - click for [website post](#)

Cover Picture



Four in a Cyclo
by
Jim Lowell

CLICKS

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

John Neel - Editor
bluehouse80@comcast.net

Charise Tanner - Copy Editor

Directions to the Club Meetings

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

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Gordon Ira**



**Vice President
Craig Shier**



**Treasurer
Jim Jordan**



**Secretary
Bronwyn Horvath**



**Digital Chair
Charise Tanner**



**Print/Glennie Chair
Chuck Shealy**



**Outings Chair
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**Librarian
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Board and Chairpersons for 2017

**LPIG Chair
Brian Leonard**



**F3C/Mono Chair
Julius Dean**



**Fifty-Fifty Manager
Linda Lynn**



**Webmaster
Young McQueen**



**Facebook Manager
Gail Means**



**SOTW Liaison
Lynda Smith**



**People's Choice
Tina Jordan**



**Clicks Editor,
Property Manager
John Neel**

