

Jacksonville Camera Club Newsletter
Established 1935 September 2017 Vol 22 No 9

CLICKS

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Total Eclipse of the Sun

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President's Report for August 2017

The third board meeting of the year was held on August 5th and a number of discussions occurred which may be of interest.

As the website has grown beyond its infancy, during which time it was not a completely reliable source for calendar information, there was some push to stop the monthly Clicks publication in order to force members to use the website more. This obviously was not done. Now that the website is quite reliable, maturing rapidly and being used by more members as the "go to" source for information about schedules, and etc.; the board has give the editor of Clicks the opportunity to end the monthly edition, but continuing with the weekly edition. **John Neel**, our Clicks Editor has decided to follow through with this suggestion. So, the monthly Clicks will end this year, with the last issue being in December. The weekly Clicks will continue every week and predictably will grow and have some more entertainment features. Good job **John** and good luck in the future.

As you all are aware, there is a by-laws change underway to stop the annual Vernon Nalley award. The reasons have been published and basically the original purpose for the award was to encourage newer members to enter competitions. Most agreed that this is now more than covered by the monthly People's Choice Competition, taken over by **Tina Jordan** this year, and given a new lease in popularity.

As part of the above discussion, the board did think that there should be an award recognizing members that have put a lot of time and energy in service to the club. This will be "The Service Award" given to one person each year. The details are still being determined, but in general, suggested recipients will be submitted to the president and he/she will determine the winner. The name of the award has "yet" to be decided and along with some other details, but this will be awarded for the year. This is a good year to start it, because your president has been blessed with so many people doing such fantastic jobs. The big problem will be choosing one person to receive the award.

As you know, one of my common themes is the encouragement and development of our new members. We have tried a lot of things in the past that have been successful, but we need to do more. **Jennifer Thompson**, our membership chair, has started putting a brief interview in the Clicks Weekly along with a picture of new members. We are also getting applications from the website now. Jennifer sends them a welcoming letter and invites them to come to the next club meeting and check us out in person. What we need now is good follow-up. It would be nice to know what the new members' expectations. This could lead to introductions to people in the club that excel in a particular area of the new member's interest...like a Canon 5D, or still life, or Lightroom, almost anything. It would then be beneficial to know their reaction and what their eventual participation in the club turns out to be. All this could be recorded somehow and given to the president/VP for personal follow-up.

This would be a part-time, fairly relaxed **job** for someone who likes to meet people and is good with follow-ups. Jennifer is going to help the outline started, but I'm looking for someone to develop a huge interest in getting new members excited about the club. Grab me if that's you.

Speaking of jobs, **Duffy McCoy** sent me a note about a Black and White Photography Exhibition at the Daytona State College presented by the Ormond Beach Camera Club. Our club has done similar things in the past led by folks like **Vernon Nalley, Marian Charm, Darrel Joseph, Bill Coppedge, and Dirk den Boef**. The most recent shows have been at the Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) and downtown during the First Wednesday Art Walk. These were all well received, sometimes profitable, and fun for the club. Why not Daytona? What is needed for something like this, is for someone to organize it and make it happen. Several people I have talked to say that it is time for JCC to have another show.

A constant problem in the past has been getting the digital images of the winning prints for publication in Clicks and for the annual awards banquet. Now we need the digital image for publication on the website. Numerous solutions have been suggested in the past, but none implemented. In the near future there may be a way to register your print for competition, print out a memo to put on the back of the print, and have the digital image in a place on the website that can be easily accessed. **Chuck Shealy**, our Print chairman, is working on this problem and shortly should have some information to give us.

Gordon

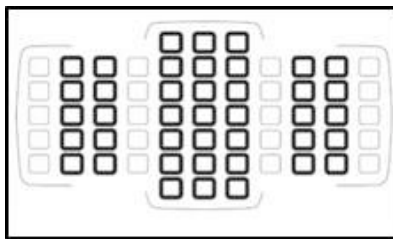
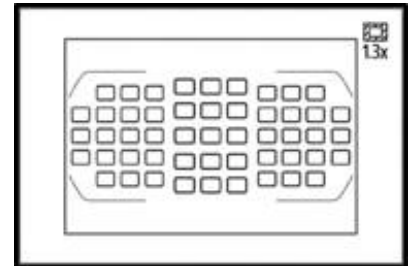
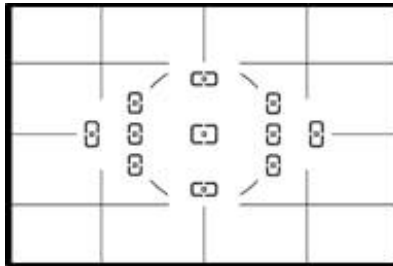
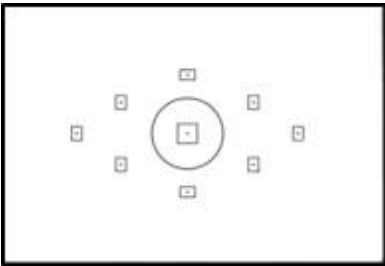


Sharp Images - Focus Points

by John Reed

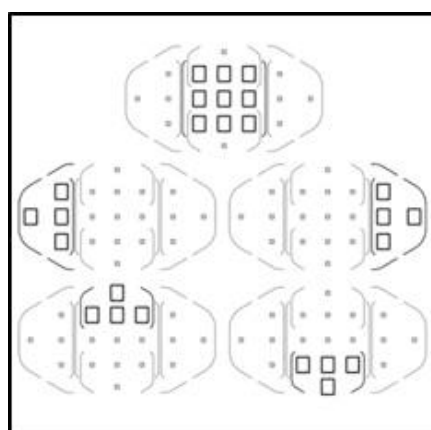
Sharp Images - Focus Points

This month let's talk about focus points and focus modes. There can be a lot of confusion on both of these. We've got to get focus points out of the way first to make the modes discussion clearer. Focus points are those squares, dots or rectangles in your viewfinder that light up, usually red, when you push the shutter button to initiate focus. (By the way, on some cameras you can turn this focus point illumination off and on so if yours don't light up, check your menus.) Depending on the model of your camera, you can have as few as 9 up to more than 60. Some examples:



The focus point selected by the camera or designated by you is where the camera will focus. Sounds basic but stick with me. If more than a single focus point turns red when you push the shutter, the odds are that you are allowing the camera to choose where to focus. This may or may not be where YOU want to focus because the camera will almost always focus on what is closest to you. If you're shooting someone through a doorway and some of your focus points are over the doorway, the camera will focus on the doorway. No problem if the person is IN the doorway but if the person is outside, i.e. farther away, then he or she will be out of focus unless you have lots of depth of field. This "auto focus point selection" mode is the default mode from the factory on most cameras. It is also the mode used for the "full auto" shooting mode. If you shoot in full auto, you cannot change this.

However, if you shoot in manual, program, aperture priority or shutter priority, YOU can now select the focus point. You can select the center or any one of the others you have. You can pick left, right, top, bottom or center. In addition, on many cameras you can choose an area or zone instead of a single point. The camera will then choose but only within this zone. Here are some Canon 7D zones:



Sharp Images - cont.

The newer your camera, the more focus points you have, AND, the more options you have, such as multiple area modes. I recommend designating the center focus point and leaving it there, period. The center focus point is always the most sensitive and fastest to focus. If you want to recompose, simply hold the shutter half way to lock focus and reframe. In addition, many advanced bodies have the ability to expand the focus beyond a single point. This is done with a custom function. Doing this for your particular camera is beyond the scope of this article due to so many different ways cameras do it. You'll just have to suffer the pain and read your manual.

So now let's talk "focus modes". Focus modes relate to how the camera focuses as you push and hold the shutter button halfway (or hold a back button - more on that next month). These days the majority of DSLR cameras and many point & shoot models offer at least two focus modes, some offer three. For the sake of the following descriptions, we'll assume we read the manual and set the camera to use the center focus point for all focusing.

The default and most common mode is "one shot". In this mode when you push the shutter half way, the camera focuses at the designated focus point and will remain "locked" at that distance as long as you continue to hold the shutter half way. If you change your aim to a different subject, you must let go and push the shutter button again to refocus. If instead you want to maintain focus but change your composition so the subject is not centered, you simply continue to hold the shutter half way as you change your aim. All is good.

The second mode is called either "servo" or "continuous" depending on your camera brand. In this mode the focus stays "active" as long as you hold the shutter half way. Active meaning that as you change your aim, the camera will continue to refocus on whatever is under the center point. So now if you focus on a subject in the middle and keep holding the button half way as you change your aim to put it off center, the camera will refocus on what is now in the middle. This mode is most useful when shooting fast moving subjects because the camera will continue to track focus as the subject moves.

The third mode goes by various names and varies widely in what it attempts to do, also depending on brand. Here again, that must be left up to you. For what it's worth, my experience has been that the two modes described cover all the shooting situations I encounter. But study up. If you have a third option and it works for you, go for it.

Total Eclipse of the Sun



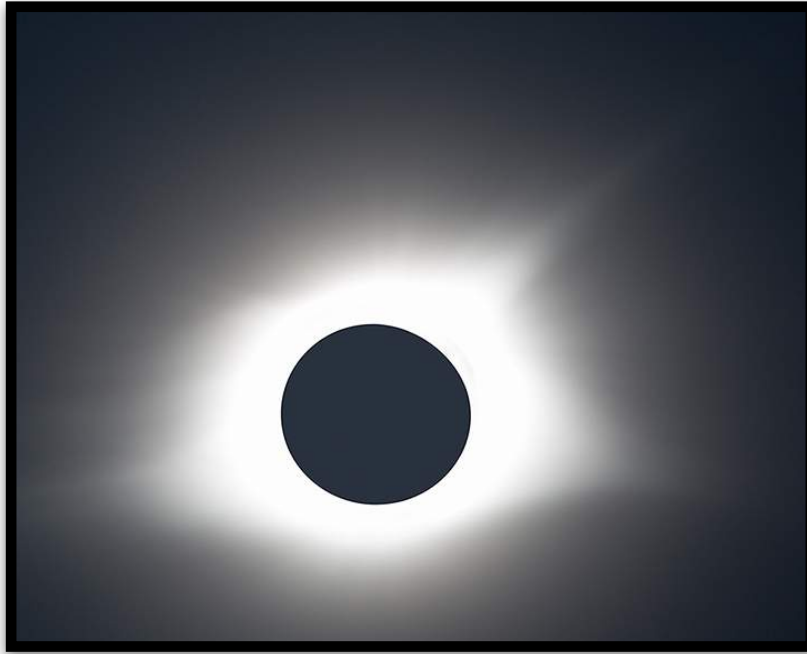
It was raining and the sky was covered over with clouds. I was determined to do the outing though and was going to take pictures of the eclipse no matter what. I wasn't sure if there were any in the club that would be so die-hard. I shouldn't have worried. There were ten members and two guests, Linda McQueen and my daughter's husband's brother, Jamie Reynolds. Silvia Agreba, a new member was also there and took some professional looking candid photos that are in the blog section of the website.

We sat around while it rained under a covered picnic plaza that Mike Rexroad had reserved. It was dry and comfortable and right next to the restrooms. Mike furnished the drinks while we waited for the maximum eclipse, which was around 2:47. So we had an hour to wait. About 2:30 the rain slowed and there were some breaks in the clouds.

We started watching and during some of the breaks you could see the sun, but only once...that I saw, you could actually see the eclipse. Luckily I had my camera ready and set correctly. I got a shot through some filmy clouds of a crescent eclipse of the sun. I really mean "luckily" because I was using my variable neutral density filter and was adjusting while changing the manual setting on my camera. The worst part was trying to look through the eyepiece or live view while standing on your head looking straight up. A recliner would have been perfect. I got on my knees and shortened the tripod which helped a little. When the action stopped, I could barely get up. After that, the clouds quickly got very dark and solid again and that was it. It was time to quit. I couldn't be sure that the eclipse even caused it to get even a "little" dark. Since we were not in an area where there was totality, the whole world did not go black and the cows didn't lay down and go to sleep. Gordon



Eclipse - cont.



Dee and I (Rick) were invited by long time friends to visit them at their home in the mountains of Franklin, NC. Many of you know our friends as well as friends of the club, Bill and Jeanne Vaughters. Franklin fell in the path of the total eclipse and the event was photographed in the Vaughters' backyard.

I found shooting the eclipse physically difficult because the camera was mounted on a tripod and the sun was almost straight up. As a result, I only managed to capture one decent image and that is the one featured above.

by Rick Hartmann



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.

August Winners - Patriotic



- 1st - Brian Leonard - "4th of July Patriot"
- 2nd - Phil Cope - "Patriotic Reflections"
- 3rd - Kathy Jaworski - "Windows"



"4th of July Patriot"



"Patriotic Reflections"



"Windows"

Announcements

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

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



**“Ft. Caroline Oak”
by Mike Rexroad
Mirror Image**

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 are 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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Board and Chairpersons for 2017

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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
Jan Vallely**



**Membership Chair
Jennifer Thompson**



**Librarian
Kathy Jaworski**



Board and Chairpersons for 2017

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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**

