

EXPO NEW MEXICO'S

2009 PHOTO WORKSHOP

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SATURDAY, MAY 30 1pm to 3pm

INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING AN AWARD AT
THE 2009 NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR

ALL AMATEUR **PHOTOGRAPHERS**
INVITED TO ATTEND
A PHOTOGRAPHIC CRITIQUE & DISCUSSION

AFRICAN AMERICAN PAVILION

(Where The Photo Exhibit Was During NMSF 2008)

Three OF YOUR
BEST PHOTOS TO BE
CRITTIQUED BY OUR 2008 NMSF JUDGES
(PLEASE LIMIT TO THREE PHOTOS PER PERSON)

Bonus: Carol England, Of Hiland Framing, Will Give A Lecture On Proper Dry Mounting Techniques & Tips For Formal Presentation Including Matting And Framing.



This Will Be An Open Forum So You May Ask Questions And Receive Suggestions For Improvement On Your Images. Scores Will Not Be Assigned To Your Photos, As This Is An Informal Critique To Assist You In Improving Your Skills For Future Competitions.

FREE

PLEASE R.S.V.P BY FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009 CONTACT ERIC JONES AT EDJONES_NM@YAHOO.COM

FREE

Photography Workshop In April

HELD AT CLICK! PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY & SKY DOG GALLERY

Mastering Your SLR Digital Camera—Getting Pro Results

Offered on both April 11 and April 18 (Saturday mornings)

Time: 9 am – 12:15 pm; Sign-in, coffee, and muffins: 8:30 am

Place: 7103 - 4th Street NW, Bldg. M, Los Ranchos, NM 87107

Presented by Kim Ashley

\$39 (ELCC members--\$34)

Experience—Beginner-level workshop with no photography experience necessary.

Reservation Required: Space is limited! Please call 344-9438 or email info@skydogart.com.

Three-Hour Workshop. No Photography Experience Necessary.

This three-hour workshop is designed especially for individuals who own an SLR digital camera but who have minimal experience with digital photography. Taught by professional photographer, Kim Ashley, the workshop takes the mystery out of the camera's controls, settings, dials, and menus. Emphasis is placed on practical and creative application rather than theory. Through hands-on experience with your own equipment, you will learn how to master your camera. If you are looking for a way to get professional results from your digital camera—and have fun while you are doing it—then this workshop is for you.

Key Features

1. Interactive workshop with demonstrations, Q&A's, and goal-oriented practice. Low on technical jargon, high on creative results. Small class—capped at 10 students.
2. Learn basics of digital photography, including exposure, white balance, shooting modes, and file formats.
3. Learn dozens of professional tips to improve composition, color, and sharpness.
4. Learn professional techniques for taking high-quality portraits, landscapes, and action photographs

Equipment and Materials

1. Bring your SLR digital camera and lens, including memory card and charged battery.
2. Bring manuals for both camera and lens if available.

This workshop is being presented by a member of our ELCC club. Kim is an award-winning photographer with 40 years of photographic experience and 25 years as college instructor. Please attend or pass on this information to anyone you might think is interested.

Photography Workshop In April

HELD AT CLICK! PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY & SKY DOG GALLERY

High-Speed Photography

Date: Saturday, April 25th

Time: 10 am – 2 pm;

Place: 7103 - 4th Street NW, Bldg. M, Los Ranchos, NM 87107

Presented by Lorenzo Pasqualis

\$75 with refreshments/lunch

Reservation Required: Space is limited! Please call 344-9438 or email info@skydogart.com.

Lorenzo Pasqualis was born and raised in Florence, Italy, where he spent the first 26 years of his life. Lorenzo today lives in the Pacific Northwest. His high-speed photography is presented with no editing. With some very rare exceptions, his pictures are exactly how they came out of the camera.

Lorenzo's High Speed Photography workshop is a basic introduction to the art of capturing crisp images of very quick events, impossible to see with the human eye.

The workshop introduces the concept of high-speed photography and a brief overview of its history. Describes the equipment and tools necessary to obtain good results; where to purchase the tools already made, or how to find information to build them yourself. It guides participants through various methods of taking high-speed photos. From the simple "chance" method, to high-speed sound or light-activated triggers. It includes a description of the various methods; the setup of the space, the tools and the scene; positioning of the light sources; finding the correct focus and exposure; taking test shots, and taking the production shot; checking the results and adjusting the setup based on the results.

The workshop also guides participants through aesthetic considerations on possible subjects to explore, and how to obtain visually intriguing images, pleasant to see for the artistic mind and interesting to observe to the scientific mind. The workshop is meant to give participants enough information, tips and tricks necessary to go home and start taking beautiful high-speed shots.

For more information on the high-speed process, please go to www.pasqualis.com .

To register for either or both workshops, or for more information, call 505-344-9438, 505-385-8056, or email info@skydogart.com.

Lori Barrett, Sky Dog Gallery

Office: 505.344-9438

Cell: 505.385.8056

Kim Ashley, Click! Photography Gallery

Cell: 505-307-1808

Taking Panorama Images
ELCC Mentorship Seminar—March 19, 2009
Jeff Keck

I. Some terms

1. Stitching, overlaying images
2. Cylindrical rendering, horizontal or vertical stitching, single row (column)
3. Spherical rendering, multiple row and column stitching
4. Mosaic Image
5. QuickTime Virtual Reality Movie, QTVR
6. Lens Parallax, can create image alignment problems
7. Lens nodal or entry point, where light rays cross in the lens

II. Equipment

1. Any digital camera
2. Tripod
3. Pano head: Really Right Stuff, Manfrotto, Nodal Ninja
 - A. need to set vertical axis of rotation
 - B. mount camera so it rotates about the lens nodal point
4. Panoramic Software
 - A. Realviz Stitcher 5, cylindrical and spherical rendering, QTVR movies
 - B. Photoshop CS3 and CS4, cylindrical rendering

III. Find the lens nodal point, <http://reallyrightstuff.com/pano/05.html>

1. Find two vertical objects; one near, one far. Position your equipment so that these objects line up in the viewfinder.
2. Level your equipment.
3. Mount and center your camera on the MPR-CL II.
4. Start out by positioning the approximate center of your lens over the axis of rotation.
5. Now pan left.
6. If the rear object appears to shift to the left, then you are ahead of the nodal point. Slide the MPR-CL II forward and try again.
7. If the rear object appears to shift to the right, you are behind the nodal point. Slide the MPR-CL II back and try again.
8. When the optical center of the lens is directly over the axis of rotation, the rear object will not appear to move relative to the front object.
9. Repeat steps 5 to 8 except take snapshots of the two objects in the 4 corners of the viewfinder. Review on your computer and adjust the camera position. Repeat as necessary. This may appear to be overkill, but for critical work or with portions of the image close to the camera, parallax errors can be eliminated.
9. Record your results so that your setup can be re-created.

Time spent locating the position of the nodal point will save time during stitching and subsequent post processing. If you are using a zoom lens, the nodal point will usually move as the lens is zoomed. You may want to check a zoom lens at different focal lengths and record those settings.

IV. Tips

<http://experience.manfrotto.com/how-to-build-panoramas-and-vr-objects>

<http://www.panoramas.dk/>

Max Lyons Panoramic Forum, <http://www.tawbaware.com/forum2/viewforum.php?f=2>

1. Use a remote shutter release.
2. If using a longer lens, 135mm or longer, use mirror lock-up.
3. If clouds are moving, pan in the direction they are moving. Shoot quickly
4. The best location for a 360(x360) pano may not be the best spot a smaller field of view. Try to picture that when picking your camera location.
5. Shoot full manual, if possible.
6. Use the camera's histogram to estimate exposure in addition to the meter. Use a spot meter if you have one.
7. Overlap images $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$.
8. Add image coverage over what you think you want, it is easy to crop out later.
9. Bright skies and clouds can be blown out and deep shadows under-exposed. Camera RAW can usually capture the complete exposure. You may have to process 2 or 3 exposure level and use different layers in PhotoShop. There will be occasions where 2 exposure levels will need to be shot.
10. Shoot camera RAW and as large an image as possible, gives the most flexibility.
 - A. Batch process all images - keep them the same.
 - B. Downsize if desired.
 - C. Store as 16 bit TIF files if software can handle TIF files.
11. Do not choose the sharpening option if the stitching software offers it.
12. If you are going to post process in Photoshop, save the rendered image as a TIF.
13. Banding in blue sky may be from optical vignetting. In Adobe Bridge, Lens Corrections, there is a lens vignetting correction factor. You can effectively lighten the edges and corners to correct for the light falloff, especially with wider angle lenses. This will trial and error.
13. If you have created a second exposure level, store the images in a separate folder with the same image names as the first. This will allow you to process the second image set exactly the same using the stitching working file. Copy the original work file to the second folder and it should use the second image set when opened. This will generate an exact duplicate image with a different exposure to add as a layer in PhotoShop.
14. In PhotoShop, save files as 16 bit TIF or PSD files to avoid image quality loss during saving. Only save as JPG when ready for printing.
15. Sharpen after you reduce to the desired image size. Watch for high contrast borders like a ridge-sky border, especially if there are clouds. A selective mask for the sharpening layer can be helpful.

Please call me if you have questions, 292-4601

For those that missed the pre-meeting mentorship workshop, the above text was a handout for that tutorial. The membership committee is always requesting topics and feedback about their efforts. Here's a comment from one member that was able to attend:

"I do not know if you are planning to write up comments on the panoramic workshop for the f'stop but would like to say I really enjoyed it and while one may not have his software I thought there was a lot of transferable and useful information and tips/technics so I just wanted to add that or at least emphasize that aspect of Jeff's presentation. The handouts were also very useful, too."

Volunteers Needed!

The AFRL (Air Force Research Laboratory) is looking for volunteers to photograph our annual Link-Up Day events. The first one will be held in Las Cruces, NM, at Dickerson's Barn, on Friday, April 24, from 9 am to 1pm. The second one will be held at the Albuquerque Convention Center on Friday, May 8, 2009, from 9 am to 1 pm. It's a great opportunity to photograph scores of fifth graders as they simulate going on a manned mission to Mars. Some ELCC members went last year, and they had a lot of fun and got some great shots.

Photographers may use their photos as they like afterwards, all I ask is that you try to avoid shooting or using students wearing a "no pictures please" badge, and you send me a copy of your photos so that I may use them in newsletters and other needs. Provide your name with your photos and I will put a byline on any photos I use. Invitations will be available soon.

The photo is by Tom Kilroy taken in 2008 Link Day.

For more information, contact Steve Burke, 453-0009, or Stephen.burke@kirtland.af.mil.



The f/Stop is your club newsletter!

The f/stop is a monthly newsletter published by the Enchanted Lens Camera Club. The publication is made available electronically via the Internet.

How to submit articles? On the archival f/Stop page on the ELCC website, there is a submit button. Since the medium is electronic, there is little or no limitation on length. The main guidelines are to make sure there are no copyright violations and the articles are educational. No commercial advertisements.

When is the deadline? In order to have the newsletter available by the first meeting of the month, the deadline for submitting articles will be the last Thursday of the previous month. Of course, the earlier the submission the better.

What format do the articles need to be? No real restrictions are in place. The f/Stop will be published using Adobe® InDesign which is very flexible in reading all data types. We will get back to you if we need any other information.

May I submit photographs? Attachments (again almost any format) are welcome especially color images. The printed version will still be in black and white. The on-line version will be in full 300 dpi color.

Should I sign up for refreshments? Oh, this has nothing to do with the newsletter. Since this frequently asked question section will be in every newsletter, I thought it would be nice to mention. The hospitality committee wants to keep the refreshment tradition going!

Disclaimer: The staff (sounds official, huh?) of the f/Stop has no obligations to use any photo or text submitted although we will make every effort to publish member contributions on a timely and professional manner. We do highly solicit input from the members.