



From the President

Dear Focused Photographers,

Each year in late October, many of the camera do-dad (that's a technical term) manufacturers and users gather at PhotoPlus Expo in New York City, for an opportunity to show, sell, buy, and learn about all the newest gadgets. From backdrops to wedding albums, from digital storage and lighting equipment to tripods, printers and stock photography services: this show is the place to see all of the newest stuff and the famous photographers who have been hired to persuade you that it's essential.

Entrance to the Expo is free if you pre-register. Admission to specific lectures or workshops is costly but enticing. The booths offer show "deals" and informative handouts to potential customers. B&H and Adorama each have large booths where you can purchase anything you've seen at the show. B&H even has a free shuttle to take you from the show to their store (commonly called "Mecca" at our house).

Some of the newest products we saw this year were the KNOG which is an action light designed to bring high-powered illumination to GoPro videography; a Transcend 1TB portable SSD backup device that fits in a shirt pocket and weighs only 2 ounces; Pacsafe anti-theft camera bags; Slickrock Metallic Silver instant-dry inkjet paper by Moab; and an Epson SureColor P600, their newest desktop inkjet printer that can print cut-sheets to 13 x 19 inches, and roll-feed to 12 feet long!

The one gadget to which we lost our hearts was the Xume Quick Release Adaptor. You mount a non-harmful magnetic lens adapter to the end of your lens, and a magnetic filter holder to each of your filters, then just pop your filters on and off as you need them. No more fumbling around to screw a different filter on. For folks like me with "Butter Fingers," this is likely to be a real game-changer. Having once dumped my tripod with the camera attached on a Death Valley dune, I'm hoping that having things easily attached to each other will be beneficial to my uncoordinated nature!

I hope that all of your holidays will be happy and that 2015 will bring you a year of spectacular images!

Cindy

The FGCC Officers and Staff

Cindy Krumbein	President
Bev Nelson	VP and Programs
Stephen Retherford	Secretary
Sid Koerin	Treasurer
Bob Coles	Chief Editor
Frank Feigert	Copy Editor
Ron Ratcliffe	Publishing

Committees and Chairs

Debbie Roberts	Field Trips
Bill Billings	Website Coordinator
Al Warfield	Roundtable Org. Hal
Tyler	Exhibits
Cyane Lowden	Past President
Frank Feigert	Membership

Membership News

Please welcome our newest member, **Richard Schieken!** (NB: we are now at our limit of 35 regular members). Richard is a native Philadelphian who has lived in Richmond for the past 32 years. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine he was trained in Pediatrics and Pediatric Cardiology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Richard came to Richmond to be Chair of Pediatric Cardiology at MCV.

His interest in photography started in boyhood. His engagement present from his future in-laws



was a Polaroid camera. He and wife, **Barbara**, enjoy taking pictures while traveling. As he put it, “It beats shopping.” They lived in Iowa City for 9 years while he was on the faculty. They built a dark room in their house and belonged to a camera club there. Their house in Richmond has a dark room, now converted to a storage area, as their “darkroom is inside our computers.”

Richard is happy to be part of FGCC and looks “forward to learning and sharing photography with the members.” For the curious, Richard shoots a Nikon D3200. He uses both the Nikkor AF-S 18-55mm and the Nikkor AF-S 55-300mm, but, on balance, uses the 18-55mm somewhat more.

Linda and Al Warfield opened their exhibit of Richmond Landscapes in the parish hall of St. Paul's Episcopal Church (on Grace Street at 9th Street) on November 14. Consisting of 29 images, the exhibit is on 6 panels, each with a theme: Richmond Riverfront, Canal Walk, City Central, Christmas, and Richmond environs. The show will run through December. About 1/3 of the prints are reflection-free, and the rest have mats and acrylic.

Vicky Eicher had a solo exhibit, November 1 – 19, at Reston Corner One, reston, VA. She also showed in Group Exhibits, with League of Reston Artists: Aug. 7- Nov. 14: Reston Chamber of Commerce, Reston VA; and Sept. 6-Oct. 25: Ernst Center, Annandale VA.

A polar bear image won an Honorable Mention at the latter. She is also in Group Exhibits, with the Photographic Exhibit Team, of the Charlottesville Camera Club in November at Westminster Canterbury, Charlottesville and December C'ville Coffee, Charlottesville VA.

Half the battle is getting there:

If you think you could have captured a better bald eagle photo in Alaska, well you've never been to Alaska, don't have any photos of bald eagles, and you didn't get the job in the first place!

Ralph Clevenger, Photographer & College Instructor

December Program

David Everette will critique 2-3 of each member's images for our December program.

He asks that we send them to him by December 1. Please use the same format that we use for roundtable. That is to say Pixel Dimensions: width: 1280 pixels and Height: 800 pixels.

Also, save them as: your name1,2, or 3.jpg. Send them to David.everette@verizon.net

Thanks, and have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Bev

My favorite Lens

by Cyane Lowden

My favorite lens is the Sigma 18-250 macro lens. Why? Because I can go big or small, all with the same lens. I have enough trouble just holding the Nikon D300 still and the optical stabilizer helps. I like to travel with as little equipment as possible so that I can climb over rocks or face an angry ocean without a bunch of stuff. A wild impatience has taken me this far and I don't want to be hindered by deciding what to put on the camera as I play with all the buttons on said camera. With the amount of manipulation I do in Photoshop I don't have to fixate on how precise I need the image. Some purists might say "heaven forbid!" but where I am now, this is the easiest way for me to snag the image I may be chasing.

by Cindy Krumbein

For many years, my favorite lens has been the ever-ready Tamron 18-270, f/3.5-6.3 Di II VC PZD AF lens. When we traveled to China in 1997 with National Geographic, all of the NG photographers who accompanied us were using Tamron lenses, both the 28-300 (for a full-frame sensor) and also longer Tamron zoom lenses like the outstanding 200-500. I decided that if that equipment were good enough for NG, then it would be great for me!

Charles and I both shoot Canon cameras, so it is helpful to find lenses and filters that fit both. (Tamron makes mounts for other brands as well.) This lens focuses quickly and accurately. The PZD ultrasonic autofocus motor helps make it lighter, shorter and slimmer than others in this category, and provides faster, quieter auto-focusing. The lens will focus down to 19.3" throughout the zoom range.

The lens is moderately priced (helpful if you're the type of person who tends to drop equipment!). Current price for a new lens at B&H is \$449 less a \$50 rebate. There are always photo show specials and used lenses available as well. While the lens is under warranty, Tamron will clean and return it to you for the cost of postage.

Through the years we've schlepped many miles, in rain, sleet and snow. Charles has changed lenses frequently during each day. Not I! I just zoom in or zoom out, and as a result, my camera equipment has needed fewer repairs and less internal cleaning. I need to carry less weight in my pack, and I struggle to keep track of do-dads and filters. The Tamron 18-270 meets the overwhelming majority of my requirements.

Durwood Felton

There are, of course, many reasons to choose a particular lens (and, with zooms, a specific focal length) when making an image. Among many other artistic considerations, the overall "look" of the image, and the desired degree of compression or expansion (wide angle through telephoto) come readily to mind. Like most photographers, I use a selection of lenses, which give me the flexibility to best match my images to the concepts I have in mind while shooting.

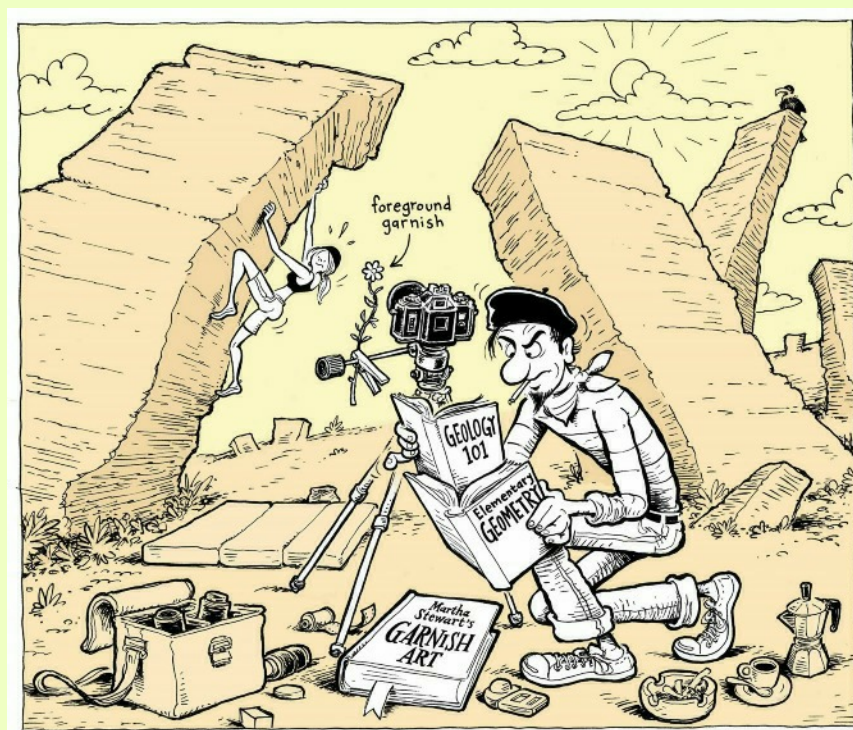
Overall, I maintain more or less continuous focal length coverage from 17mm to 400mm. However, there's one lens that I use more frequently than all the others: it's my venerable Canon 24-70mm f/2.8 L. When attached to a full frame DSLR body, it's a beautiful lens - fast, excellent contrast, beautiful color depth, accurate autofocus and sharpness. Solidly built, and water resistant when used with a filter to protect the front element. Most importantly, from wide angle to short telephoto, it matches the way I see much of the time. Of course, it's not perfect. The thing weighs a ton. Camera body and lens tip the scales at over 5 pounds which, after hours of walking around with a tripod, becomes, ah, *tiring*....

Al Warfield

I really don't have a favorite lens, but I use the Canon 24-105 f/4 more than any other. Depending on subject matter I also use these: for wide angle shots I use a Canon 17-40 f/4; for medium telephoto Canon 70-200 f/2.8 IS; for birds & wildlife, Canon 300 f/4 IS, and Canon 600 f/4 IS. Also 24 and 90 mm Tilt-shift for special purposes such as panoramas, correcting perspective, etc.

Ron Ratcliffe

I have over many years collected some nice prime lenses; the newer ones are even auto focus. Nikon is one of the few companies that have kept the mount and not obsolete some of that forty year old glass. But, there are always changes. My most active lens recently is the new Nikon 16-85mm with VR. This lens covers four of my primes and prevents lugging a tripod around most of the time.



Storage Update

We the continued interest in FX cameras with the 24MB sensors (RAW uncompressed + jpeg top quality and the files are about 75Mb), storage becomes even more important issue. I can remember not too many years ago, converting floppy based word processing systems to use a Seagate model ST125 HD with 10MB for \$750.00 each. Now we have a single FX RAW frame many times larger than those drives. The good news today, one can purchase a 3TB drive for just over \$100. That is a capacity of 3 million times the old ST125. Here is what is happening in the storage industry now:

WD leapfrogs Seagate today with world's highest capacity 10TB helium drive

Western Digital's (WD) HGST subsidiary on Tuesday announced it has added 8TB and 10TB hard drives to its HelioSeal product line, which hermetically seals in helium in order to reduce internal drive friction and power use.

WD also announced its first NVMe (non volatile memory express) product with a PCIe-attached flash drive; the company also announced a new 2.5-in solid-state drive (SSD).

Massive hard drive upgrades

Last November, HGST announced its first helium-filled hard drive, the 6TB (He6) model that broke all previous records for hard drive areal density.

Today, HGST said that by 2017, it plans to end production of air-filled hard drives for use in corporate data centers, replacing all of its models with helium filled products.

Along with the thinner gas's ability to reduce power use, the helium-drives run four to five degrees cooler than today's 7200rpm drives, HGST stated. Sealing air out of the drive also keeps humidity and other contaminants from getting in.

HGST's announcement comes less than two weeks after Seagate announced its highest capacity enterprise

hard drive, an 8TB model that bypassed helium for air. The new hard drives also come with WD's "Instant Secure Erase" feature, which overwrites data multiple times to ensure deletion.

Instead of helium, Seagate uses a technology called shingled magnetic recording (SMR) to increase the capacity of its drives beyond 4TB. Seagate has said SMR holds the promise of creating 20TB drives by 2020.

With SMR technology, Seagate has been able to increase bit density on its platters by 25% or more. Unlike standard perpendicular magnetic recording (PMR), where data tracks rest side by side, SMR overlaps the tracks on a platter like shingles on a roof, thereby allowing Seagate to squeeze more tracks together on a hard drive platter.

Seagate Technology is boosting investments in laser-assisted hard disk drive technology that it projects will allow it to increase capacity five-fold.

The laser technology, known as heat-assisted magnetic recording (HAMR), is able to write smaller, more-stable bits onto the magnetic surface of a spinning disk. Today, Seagate's largest capacity drive using conventional recording is 6TB. Using HAMR, that capacity could theoretically increase to 30TB.

Seagate is planning to release its first HAMR-enabled drives in 2016. Seagate has used a marketing campaign "20TB by 2020.

Conventional recording technology, known as perpendicular magnetic recording (PMR), is able to lay down 750Gbits per square inch on a spinning platter. HAMR technology will increase it to 5Tbits per square inch.

WD-HGST's new 3.5-in 8TB drive uses traditional PMR technology, but the new 10TB hard drive marks WD's foray into SMR in conjunction with the helium gas. Both drives use a 12Gbps SAS* interface. By using helium instead of air, HGST said it was able to stack 7 platters and reduce power usage at idle by 23% and watts per terabyte of capacity by 44% over its 6TB drive.

The 8TB drive is being marketed as nearline storage for faster access. The 10TB helium-filled hard drive is being targeted at cloud and archive "cold storage" applications because there are performance hindering

Continued on page 5

implications related to the SMR technology, including file systems and software drivers**, according to Dave Tang, general manager of HGST's Elastic Storage Platforms Group.

Both new drives come with a 128MB cache buffer, a five year warranty and a two million hour meantime between failures (MTBF) rating.

* SAS is a Serial Attached SCSI interface.

** Before you can take advantage of this huge mountain of storage that is available, you will have to make sure you have the proper interface in the host computer and most important is the compatibility with your Operating System.

Ron

Guest and Program Calendar

December	David Everette
January	Gary Sargent
February	Deb Snelson
March	Mini Program
April	Gilpin Brown
May	Brown Bag

For Sale

Nikon AF Nikkor 75-300mm f/4.5-5.6 FX/DX lens

Used very little - Excellent shape.

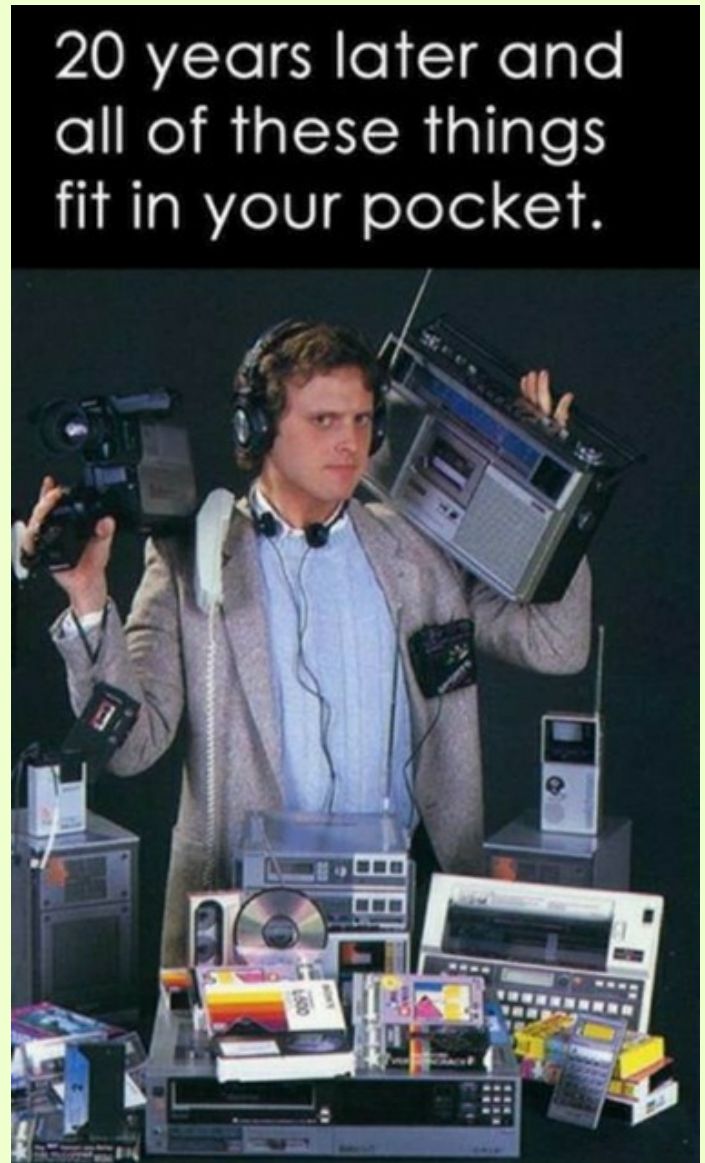
No shipping, No sales tax \$100.00

Sigma 18mm Prime AF F3.5 - Nikon mount

72mm filter, heavy duty

Excellent condition \$150.00

See Ron Ratcliffe



Seeing Red



Cindy Krumbein



Hal Tyler



Gilpin Brown

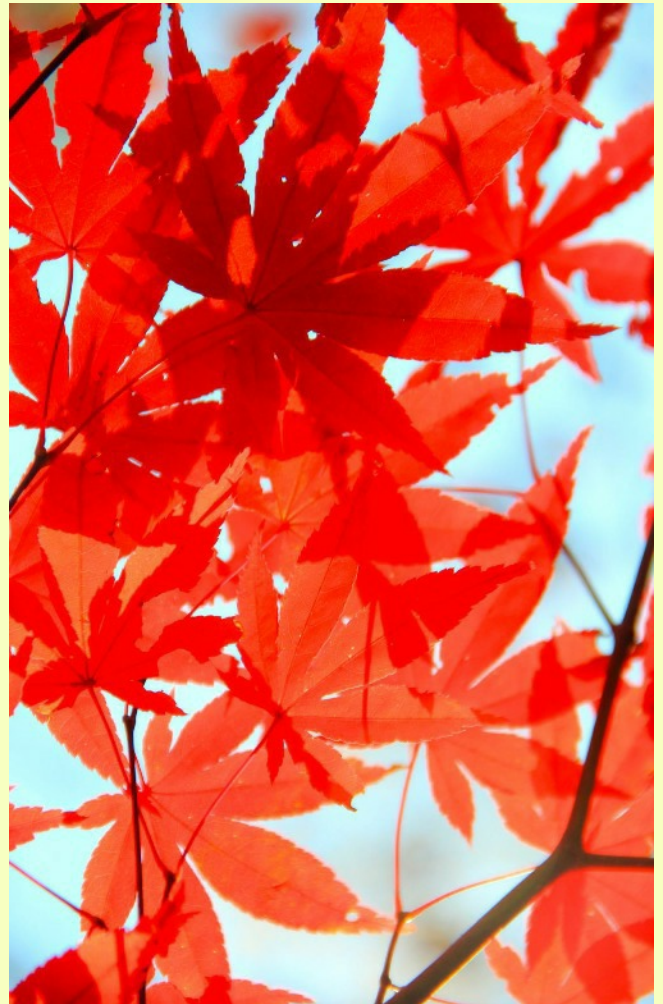


Gilpin Brown

Seeing Red Con't



Al Warfield



Gilpin Brown



Charles Krumbein



©Debra K Roberts Photography

Debra Roberts



Frank Feigert



Hibiscus *Linda Warfield*



Ron Ratcliffe



Chuck Spalding

Captured on South Georgia Island on a journey to Antarctica in 2001. My wife, Nancy, is on the right

Suggestions for Individual or Group Field Trips

By Debra Roberts

Leica Special Event

Dec. 6, 10-4PM
Richmond Camera Shop in Carytown

Christmas Parade

Sat., Dec. 6, 10AM
The 31st annual Dominion Christmas parade departs from the Science Museum on W. Broad Street and continues east to 7th Street.

This Richmond tradition attracts more than 100,000 spectators each year. parade features a special Grand Marshall, holiday floats, marching bands, huge helium balloons, and, of course, Santa himself!

Chesterfield Historical Society

Information: (804) 796-7121

www.chesterfieldhistory.com

Info about ongoing Exhibitions: (804) 768-7311
On Exhibit at the County Museum: "Finding your Family Story through Genealogy: A Chesterfield Perspective"

Hours: Tues.-Fri., 10AM-4PM; Sat., 10AM-2PM
\$2 suggested donation

Sat., Dec. 6, 1-4PM
Holiday Open House: "Christmas at Downton Abbey" (at Magnolia Grange), Free

Sat., Dec. 6, 8-10PM
Paranormal Investigation (at Historic Trinity Church), \$20/person,

Wed., Dec. 10th & Dec. 17, 1PM
Holiday Tea: "Christmas at Downton Abbey" (at Magnolia Grange), \$25/person
Reservations required: (804) 796-1479
Register online @ www.chesterfieldhistory.com



Dominion GardenFest of Light

Nov. 28, 2014 - Jan. 12, 2015 (closed Dec. 24 & 25) 5-10PM nightly

GardenFest is a holiday tradition featuring more than a half-million twinkling lights, hand-crafted decorations, model trains, holiday dinners, firepit with s'mores and hot chocolate, nightly family activities & more.

This year's theme: "A Legacy in Lights: 120 Years from Bicycle Club to Botanical Garden"

1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond

This is a "rain or shine" event, closed only for extreme inclement weather.

<http://www.lewisginter.org/news/media-room/DominionGardenFestofLights2012.php>

Richmond History Tours

Dec. 26 & Dec. 27, 6-7:30PM

"Holiday Glitter: Monument Avenue After Dark." Monument Avenue in its holiday finery on a walking tour of Richmond's most famous street. comfortably and bring a flashlight.

Visit the [schedule online](#) for a complete list of tours and fees. Or, contact [Dean Knight](#), Director of Tours, (804) 649-0711, x319.

<http://www.richmondhistorycenter.com/programs-tours/group-tours>

James Center Events

Dec. 1-22 Holiday Music in the Atrium, 12 -1PM
Program varies daily.

Dec. 5 The Grand Illumination of James Center Complex, 5:45-7PM

Dec. 5-26 Train Exhibit in One James Center, 2-8 PM

Dec. 8 Richmond Philharmonic FREE Concert in the Atrium, 7-8:15PM

Tacky Light Tour, Richmond

<http://www.richmond.com/holiday/tacky-lights/>
FGCC members may want to car pool so that those unfamiliar with photographing twinkling lights at night can learn new techniques. Dress warmly and plan your route.