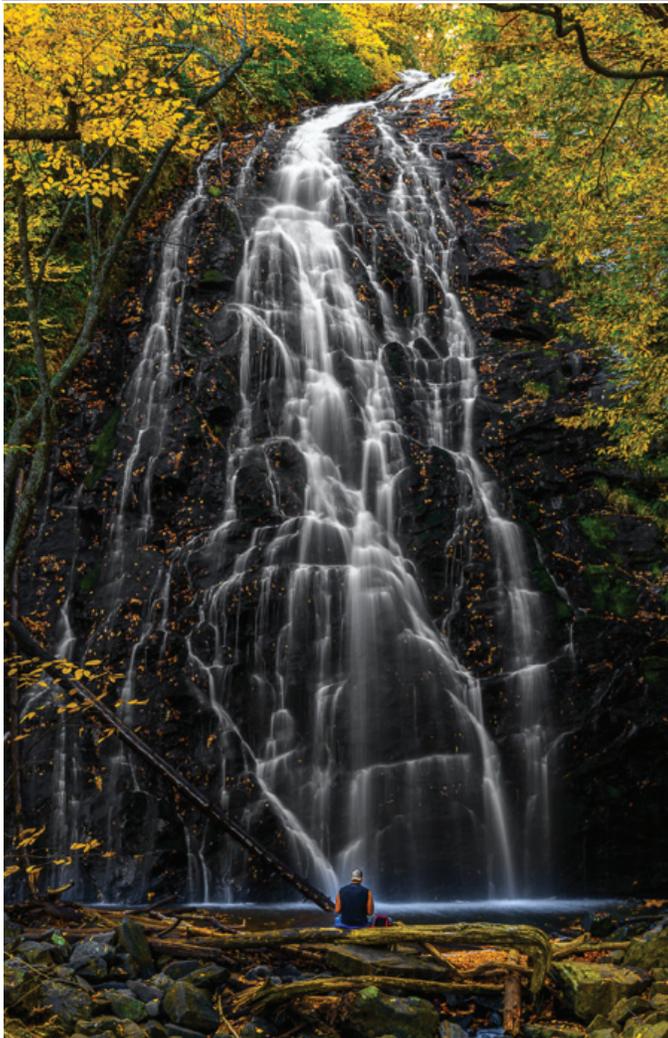


Year-End Competition

Among the award-winning photos from the Flatirons Photo Club December competition are, clockwise from top, "Christmas Camp," by John Kieffer; "Prairie Smoke Portrait," by Kent Copeland; "Rodeo Queens," by Bruce Henderson; and "Meditation," by Ilene Myers. Complete results can be viewed on the club website at <http://flatironsphotoclub.org>.



FLATIRONS PHOTO CLUB

Message from the new president

I'm John Kieffer, your new Flatirons Photo Club president. No one thought I had a chance of such a win, not even my mom. I've enjoyed the Club's meetings and my fellow members over the past 18 months. I'm very happy to help out. Contact: John@OutsideImagery.com

I'm looking forward to work with Ning (Vice President), someone totally excited about photography. Ning has the most important task of providing our monthly speaker. I invite everyone to keep their minds and eyes open to potential speakers and send her ideas. Bruce (the club sage) continues on as Secretary, Past President, and Developments newsletter editor to keep the Club on an even keel.

Here are a few ideas for Club meetings and activities:

1) Briefly. An informal "Whatever Night."

A couple programs a year where members submit three photos and they have the opportunity talk about their photos. The group can contribute. No judging. Maybe a way to get to know fellow members.

2) Use FaceBook. Log onto Facebook. Go to Flatirons Photo Club and become friends and post some photos. More later.

3) Try to have some Club field trips. Maybe a Chautauqua sunrise to night photography. Facebook can help communicate more spontaneous ideas.

4) Instead of our traditional speaker, have three or four of our club members give 10 to 15 minute presentations. Maybe a night when we can't get a speaker. So, think of what YOU might present to fellow members.

Thanks,

-- John Kieffer



Russ Croop speaker for January 12

Russ Croop, an iPhone artist who has creatively advanced the art of the iPhone, will be the featured speaker at the Flatirons Photo Club monthly meeting and competition on Jan. 12.

Croop is a retired Boulder Valley English, theater and photography teacher who is well-known for his iPhone photo paintings of familiar Boulder scenes. He has been a presenter and judge for the club going back to 2011, and he will be updating us about his latest works.

Croop is a Lafayette resident. He also shoots weddings, portraits (including animals), real estate, products, architecture, landscapes and a variety of other specialties.

To view some of his images and get an idea of the types of images he makes using the iPhone, visit <http://www.rcroop.com>. You can also view his line of greeting cards at <http://www.cardgnome.com/shops/russ-croop-photoart>.

Annual competition results for 2016

Here are the results of the Flatirons Photo Club 2016 year-end competition.

The judges were: Julie Cardinal, owner of The Darkroom photography gallery in Longmont; Chelsea Farmer of Morrissey and Associates photography in Longmont; and Robert Castellino of Robert Castellino Photography in Boulder.

Russ Dohrmann Best of Show Award

goes to Ilene Meyers - for her photo "Meditation."

Digital Realism (RL)

- 1 - John Kieffer, "Missed The Sunrise."
- 2 - Peter Bandurian, "Abandoned Hope."
- 3 - Bruce Henderson, "South African Rhino."

Honorable Mention - "Ilene Meyers, Meditation."

Digital Special Effects (SE)

- 1 - John Kieffer, "Christmas Camp."
 - 2- Cary Wolfson, "The Portal."
 - 3 - John Kieffer, "Mesa Arch Starscape."
- Honorable Mention - Cary Wolfson, "Aspen Abstract."

Print Realism

1. "Rodeo Queens" - Bruce Henderson

2. "Inflation" - Cary Wolfson
 3. "Cuban Auto Shop" - Gail Dohrmann
- Honorable Mention - Looking Up - Peter Bandurian

Print Special Effects

1. Gail Dohrmann, "Dahlia Etched in Red."
 2. Bruce Henderson, "The Beginning of Time."
 3. Gail Dohrmann, "Dubrovnik in the Rain."
- Honorable Mention - Cary Wolfson, "Homestead."

B&W/Monochrome Print

1. Kent Copeland, "Prairie Smoke Portrait."
 2. Kent Copeland, "Crooked Door to the Past."
 3. Bruce Henderson, "Stairway in Iceland."
- Honorable Mention - Gail Dohrmann, "Russ at Boulder Valley Ranch."

New Officers Elected

During the meeting, new officers were elected by acclamation. They are:
President, John Kieffer
Vice President, Ning Mosberger-Tang
Secretary: Bruce Henderson

New submission rules for competitions

By Peter Bandurian

Bruce Henderson, former club president and benevolent dictator, has tapped me to be club projectionist. Below I describe how I would like to run club digital competitions. (The print competitions I would run more-or-less as they have in the past – basically pencil and paper based score keeping.) There are plenty of club members who are quite capable of running a projector and the competitions. But not many are willing. If upon review of the approach I propose, the club membership, who should choose how they want things run, not the former benevolent dictator, decide they want things run differently, I will happily step aside and let someone else take on the duties of projectionist. Are those crickets I hear?

My approach attempts to maximize projected image fidelity to what the maker created at home on their image processing system. Below I first describe how this is done, the image submission requirements, followed by some of the whys for doing what I propose. My headache is getting all this to work – which I am working on. I seem to have satisfactorily implemented this approach in another club and expect to be able to do so for the Flatirons club.

The How

Submitted image file requirements:

Image files must be in sRGB colorspace.

Image files must be sized no larger than 1080 x 1080 pixels for standard images. As panoramas are, by definition, at least twice as wide as tall, panoramas must be no larger than 1400 pixels wide by 700 pixels tall.

Filenames must be of the format:

CCC-SSSSX-YZ-Title.jpg

Note: there are dashes or minus signs between sections of the file name.

Where:

CCC = 3 character club code, for us I have chosen “FLA”

SSSS = first 4 characters of surname. If a surname has less than 4 characters, that is fine.

X = first character of given name

Y = Category: A=Realism, B=Special Effects

Z = Number of entry in the category. A1 would be the first entry, A2 would be the second entry, A3 would be the third, etc.

Title = Image title with 36 characters maximum. Note: some email systems remove spaces from filenames when they receive files. If your email system does this, use underscores (“_”) instead of

spaces. The program will replace them with spaces.

Example: John Smith, Flatirons Photo Club, Realism, Great Blue Heron would have a filename of:

fla-smitj-A1-Great Blue Heron.jpg

Submissions will continue to be collected at flatirons@flatironsphotoclub.org and should be submitted by midnight of the Monday before the competition. I will check image file names for correct syntax and correct them as appropriate. It sometimes happens that the file name does not come with the file. I will communicate with you if there is a filename problem that I cannot resolve myself. I will not correct any sizing problems I find but will inform the maker and ask that the maker correct the problem and resubmit. I will continue to monitor the submission site up until I run out of time up to the day of the competition. But I strongly recommend that you not take excessive advantage of that. If too many take advantage of my time I will have to get stricter. Besides, if you submit late and there is a problem, there won't be adequate time to fix things up.

Let me point out that image submission rules – image pixel size requirements and color space are what they have been since the days of Russ Dohrmann. But now they are strictly enforced. For example, if you submit an image that is 4000x2500 pixels, only a small central portion will be displayed – unlike Lightroom, Clubviewer does not resize images before display. Don't know what sRGB is or how to convert? Never fear. I suspect in that case you don't know how to change your image editor color settings. Your program almost certainly defaults to sRGB. You probably don't have a color calibrated and profiled photo work environment and are used to seeing projected images that don't match what you created at home as much as you might desire. So that won't change.

Some of the Why of My How

It is not possible to project images in club competitions with perfect fidelity to the maker's experience of those images as when making them at home. The goal then is understand and account for as best as possible everything that corrupts image fidelity and minimize each of them. I will describe two of many such issues and how we how we address them.

We will be using ClubViewer obtained from the Photographic Society of Amer-

ica (PSA) and used to run competitions among hundreds of participants from many clubs with perhaps thousands of entries in many categories. The design of this program's approach attempt's to address most if not all the issues of image fidelity in a critically competitive environment. It should be more than capable of addressing our needs.

All images submitted must be submitted in the sRGB colorspace. If one uses a color aware program, such as Lightroom, to display digital images, it will use the image-file-attached profile along with the projector's profile to accurately display the image file. ClubViewer is not color aware and will not make adjustments to properly display the image file. Sounds like a step backward! The approach is to calibrate and profile the projection system to a known standard colorspace, viz sRGB. An image file in sRGB will then display correctly. The justification for not using the more sophisticated color aware approach: different programs will use different color engines (programs for translating from one color space to another) and, while adhering to CIE standards, will none-the-less produce slightly different color renditions. Every time one translates an image file from one colorspace to another, the colors change perceptually slightly. These may be small differences but in a national competition where perfectionism runs rampant, it matters.

All image files must be submitted at a specific pixel size that reflects the projector's native display pixel size. Why? Every time an image file is resized, image quality is degraded slightly – in rare instances very noticeably. Moreover, after resizing an image, it must be “sharpened” to partially compensate for the degradation accompanying the resizing. The amount of sharpening to be applied will depend on the image itself, the sharpening algorithm used, and the taste of the maker. So a uniform but “arbitrary” sharpening amount is inappropriate. If the image is not resized this is no longer an issue. Again, these are minor differences, often barely noticeable, sometimes readily apparent.

In a highly competitive environment these image degradations, along with many other potential pitfalls that I don't mention, accumulate and become a major problem. We will take advantage of the PSA ClubViewer maker's experience implementing this path to better competition image display.