

December 2011

**SNAP SHOTS
NEWSLETTER**

Meetings: 7:00 pm

2nd and 4th Thursdays

at: [Perfect Light Camera & Supply](#)

Located: next to Verizon in the Teton
Village Mall

2169 E 17th St. in Idaho Falls



PRESIDENTS CORNER:

Debby Tate says welcome to the revived and refreshed HDP Newsletter! As you will see, we have plenty of things happening and we are excited for the year ahead. Whether you are an amateur, advanced amateur or professional photographer, we hope you will learn from, contribute to and share with the club.



***Night Falls, Celestial Glory,
Moon Light***

By: Barbara Phillips

Taken during October's shoot night. We learned about the BULB setting, how bright the moon really is, how to get a star burst, car trails, and zooming when the shutter is open for strange effects. More important we had a lot of fun!

PHOTO TIPS FOR HOLIDAY HITS!

Don't forget the details! Small scenes and close-up images can help round out any holiday photo essay. Zero in on a festive dinner table or a vase of flowers, a seasonal still-life arrangement, a display of gifts, a holiday window display, or seasonal decorations. The long list goes on. Such images will add some awesome visual variety to your photography.

-by Kerry Drager

The best subject placement - The more that the subject is NOT placed in the center or the "bull's eye" area of the photo, the stronger the image will be. It is really easy to have the subject in the center because most of the cameras have the focus sensor in the center. But if you press your shutter button halfway down to focus on your subject and then WITHOUT releasing the shutter button, move your composition to have your subject out of the center and then complete the pressing of the shutter, your subject will be focused and out of the center.

Placing your subject off-center adds more energy and dynamics to a photo. This is not to say that it should always be this way; there are times when having the subject in the center works the best. But to help liven up your images and create some diversity and energy, then it's usually best to go off-center.

-by Susan and Neil Silverman

A shooting strategy for sharper images - When photographing candid, portraits, or action, set your camera for continuous mode. This lets you take a rapid-fire series of images for as long as you press the shutter button. Firing off several shots right around the time you see an expression about to occur – or just before the critical point or the peak of action - increases your chance of getting the shot.

-by Jim Miotke and Kerry Drager, from their new book, *The BetterPhoto Guide to Creative Digital Photography*

How to get sharper pictures - When you are forced to shoot in a low-light situation without a tripod, hold your breath as you very gently push the shutter button. Don't pounce on the shutter with enthusiasm and end up with a blurred image. Lean against a wall or brace yourself against a rock – anything you can find – for stability. That will help you get sharp images.

Don't use an ISO that is inappropriately reduced for low lighting situations. We all should be shooting at 100 or 200 ISO to minimize digital noise. But there is no point in going this low if your pictures won't be sharp. If you are not using a tripod, you have to adjust your ISO until your shutter speed is fast enough to hand hold the camera. Making your pictures noise-free is irrelevant if they will be blurred.

-Jim Zuckerman

UPCOMING EVENTS:

8th Dec – Annual Potluck &
Photo Critique – best of 2011!
7:00 Perfect Light on 17th Street

CLUB NEWS:

Don't forget our December 8th potluck. The location is at the Perfect Light Store next to Verizon in the Teton Village Mall, 2169 E 17th St. in Idaho Falls. Time is 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Debbie Crawford or Shannon Bowen by Dec 1. (dcrawford08@gmail.com or

<p>12th Jan – Chris Balmer on Lighting and Uses – Experiment! 26th Jan – Photo Critique</p>	<p>Llorekeeper@gmail.com)</p> <p>In January - whether you have a point and shoot camera or DSLR, would you like to learn more about lighting? Bring your camera and attend our January 12th Club meeting to hear from Chris Balmer, owner of the Perfect Light store in Idaho Falls. There will be four different tables set up with different lighting to experiment with. Chris will help demonstrate and explain what is possible. This should be a fun meeting.</p> <p>Did you or a family member get a new camera for Christmas? The Perfect Light store offers great courses for beginning and advanced photographers. Check out their website. http://www.perfectlightstore.com. I personally recommend the Beginning and Intermediate DSLR course. We have attended both this one, and the one offered by Farris. The DSLR course is by far the best and will really get you jazzed about photography.</p> <p>Our 2012 Calendar will be out soon and we are still in need of volunteers!</p>
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WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

High Desert Photographers
<http://www.highdesertphotographers.com/>
<http://www.flickr.com/groups/highdesertphotographers/>
 We are on facebook!

Local Camera Stores
<http://www.perfectlightstore.com>

Online Printing (highly recommended)
<http://www.mckennapro.com/>

Photographic Society of America
<http://psa-photo.org/>

James Neeley (good stuff!)
<http://jamesneeley.blogspot.com/2011/08/multiply-through-mask-and-more-tutorial.html>

Birding (Want to find that Great Grey?)
<http://www.reportband.gov/>
<http://birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/IBLE.html>
<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>



HDP CLUB OFFICERS 2011-2012:

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Contact Debbie Crawford:
 \$30 - Person
 \$40 - Family

Financial reports will be available on a quarterly basis. Dues are used for the annual Potluck, Club photo show and possibly for special invitees

SNAP SHOTS FROM THE WEST SIDE OF THE DESERT!

Welcome to the first writing of “Snap Shots”. I am honored to be allowed to help produce the monthly newsletter for the High Desert Photographers club. By nature I am an opinionated person and have never been shy about expressing my personal views. It will be my goal to share opinions of my own and from club members which will serve to benefit the club and its entire membership in a positive forum. Please feel free to forward your thoughts and constructive suggestions for inclusion in the monthly newsletter. In the spirit of helping to continue keeping ours a truly successful photography club which strives to benefit each and every club member for the reason he or she chose to join the club, anonymous opinions will not be included.

My name is Ernie Tate. My wife Deborah and I reside in Arco and have only been members of HDP for less than a year. For both of

us photography has been a lifelong passion. I consider myself as no more than an amateur photographer with a strong desire to continue learning ways to improve my ability to capture the visual moments in time I choose to create my photographs. My purpose in clicking the shutter on my camera is to selfishly preserve a specific image in time and know that no one else has ever, or will ever again have the opportunity to exactly repeat the photo I have just taken. More simply said I serve my own interests first as a photographer, and secondly hope that others may also enjoy my efforts. Let's face it, taking pictures is fun. It's even more fun to take better photos. Involving yourself with others who are as passionate as you allows for the opportunity to learn ways to take better photos we all desire in the future. I feel that as a club member it is my responsibility to respect, and applaud the creative efforts of fellow club members. Knowing that each and every photographer regardless of skill level or available equipment takes the very same pride in their own photographic creations as I do allows me to appreciate diversity in individual photographic paths.

I believe that for me personally the biggest turning point in my photographic career was in reading "Understanding Exposure" by Bryan Peterson. This book gave me the knowledge to get out of "auto" mode with a camera and actually take control of how my photos come out of the camera. It does not matter what kind of a camera you are using, the lessons gained from reading and understanding this book will make you a better photographer almost overnight.

May your shutter continue to click!

Ernie Tate

YOUR INPUT.....

We hope you have found our newsletter provides information of interest. We welcome your views, comments and suggestions for articles that would interest other members. Our goal is to produce and deliver a newsletter at the end of every month. To submit articles or suggestions, please send to: **Ernie Tate**, tcs@atcnet.net.