



# The Image

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COASTAL CAMERA CLUB

December 2010

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Coastal  
Camera  
Club



## VIEW FROM THE BOARDROOM

By Bill Boeckeler

About 4 years ago, CAP sponsored a day long program in North Haven with the afternoon session being a NECCC workshop and discussion on the latest version of Photoshop. At the beginning of the session the instructor asked us (about 200 people) how many of us would prefer to edit an image rather than actually doing the photography to get the image and of those people, how many were over the age of 40? The majority, which included me, raised their hands on both questions. If nothing else it could be a suggestion that although photography can be a passion, in varying degrees, some of us would prefer to edit rather than photograph and those preferences may change with age. Even though the importance of that tentative conclusion may be arguable, it is food for thought.

A few years ago, I got myself a book entitled High Dynamic Range Digital Photography. I had quickly flipped through the first few pages, didn't see anything particularly interesting so I put it in a bookcase for future reading and forgot about it. But, that wasn't the end of it. You can't read any recent articles about some aspect of photography or editing thereof without coming across the subject of High Definition. And, at CCC meetings Nick and Mark would talk about it. So, to see what all the excitement was about, I got the book I had dismissed a few years ago and started to read about High Definition Photography in detail. Well, what an eye opener! From what I have read it can effectively reduce contrast so such images are editable. And, it can also be used to do creative effects. To me, the contrast aspect is reason enough to be enthusiastic. From reading about it, I'm hooked. In practice, it's going to require 5 exposure bracketing and there is going to be steep learning curve regardless of which software I decide on. But, it's going to be a lot of fun.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year!!!

Bill Boeckeler

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*The Image* is published monthly by the Coastal Camera Club. We welcome all members to contribute to the newsletter. The deadline for submissions is the third Friday of the month. Please e-mail all submissions to Louis Secki at [lou.secki@gmail.com](mailto:lou.secki@gmail.com).

Membership dues for the Coastal Camera Club are:

- \$35.00 ..... Individual
- \$60.00 ..... Family
- \$5.00 ..... Student

## Happenings

### December 1

Scranton Library Exhibit Opening,  
7:00pm—9:00pm.

### December 31

Scranton Library Exhibit Take-Down,  
normal library hours.

### Remember

Check [www.coastalcameraclub.org](http://www.coastalcameraclub.org)  
for more updated information on all  
activities.

## November Meetings

### December 1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday)

Scranton Library Exhibit Opening

### December 15<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

Annual Holiday Party/ Pot Luck Dinner  
and the showing of the “Doggie Bag”  
project.

## Places to find out more.

There are a few places to find out more information about the club, rules, activities and anything else you were afraid to ask.

[www.coastalcameraclub.org](http://www.coastalcameraclub.org)—the official club website

[www.coastalcameraclub.wordpress.com](http://www.coastalcameraclub.wordpress.com)—Club Blog

[Public.me.com/lou.secki](http://Public.me.com/lou.secki)—site to download files relating to the club.

## Flickr Group Update—December 2010

The assignment for December is “Scratchy.” How do you photograph “scratchy?” Well, that is something you will just have to figure out. Take what ever you think fits this topic. All I ask is that you add the best three images to the Coastal Camera Club group pool on flickr.com.

Don’t forget about the critique thread on the Coastal Camera Club group.

The Coastal Camera Club meets at 7:00pm on the first Thursday and third Wednesdays of the month at The Meeting Room in the Madison Police Station located at 9 Campus Drive in Madison, Connecticut.

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## Tidbits 16—Working the Subject

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So what is “working the subject” and how do you go about doing it?

First, find an object or scene in which you have some interest. Trying to do this with a subject that does not grab you in any way will make it all the harder. And the interest may be “how do I get a good or great image out of that pile of @\$%^.” It does not need to be a “wow” subject as if you work it long enough and under different conditions you should be able to find at least 5 “wow” images. In fact once you select the subject just study it for a while. Rob is working on a one photo a day for a year project, so maybe after you find and study the subject you too could turn it into a photo or two or ten a day project.

The one thing I do know is, the more you photograph an object, scene or area, and then study the photographs the more familiar you will become with the subject and you will start to “see” more ways to capture it. This project is made easier, by digital as we are not waiting for the lab to process our images. Another suggestion would be to find something close to home so that you can visit at all times of the day and in all weather. Or do a still life or table top and do it in your home. If you start now you will have the winter and spring to work on it.

As I have already said earlier, “Working the subject” is a generic name for using different methods to capture the same object or scene. Simple changes can result in dramatically different images. Here is a list of some things to play with while “working the subject:”

### Lighting

Photography is basically about capturing light, so it only makes sense that changing how a scene or object is lit will result in different images. Here are a few of the things we change when it comes to the quality of light.

- The direction of light will affect what is brightly lit and what is in shadow and even what reflections are part of the scene
- How warm or cool the light is.

The source of light, are you using an artificial source or is it sunlight or even moonlight

### Time of day

I’m sure we have all heard about the “golden hour” when the light is especially nice around sunrise and sunset. Well this different quality of light can dramatically change the feel of your image, especially if your subject is outside. Try taking the same image early in the morning, around noon, late afternoon and in the evening.

### Weather

Weather is another one that will affect the all important quality of light.

- Bright Overcast
- Rain
- Snow
- Sunny
- Overcast
- Windy or calm

### Season

Most of the time this only comes into play with objects or scenes that are outside. Change in seasons can give you different colors, especially here in the northeast. If you are taking pictures of something inside near a window you will get a different direction of light as the sun will take a different path through the sky depending on the season. To see this in a really dramatic fashion try spending some time in a far northern latitude. In Iceland the “golden hour” will stretch into hours.

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
- Winter

### Lens Selection

For more information on how lens selection affects the image see the sections on Perspective, Depth of Field and Composition.

### Changes in Aperture and Shutter Speed

These are some of the easiest things to change and yet many of us fail to make these changes to see what effects they will have.

## Tidbits 16—Working the Subject, cont'd...

Take the same picture and simply change one setting. See where that takes you, if you like the change, change it more, if not, change something else.

- Depth of Field
- Blur
- Motion
- Stop action
- Point of Focus

### Point of view

where you stand and what you include in the image can be one of the most powerful tools when it comes to creating that “wow” image. Try a few or all of these when you “work the subject.” Take the image from:

- Straight on
- The Side
- Up High
- Down Low
- From the Rear
- Or Tilted

### Depth of Field

There are two primary camera functions that effect depth of field, camera to subject distance and aperture. There is a third factor, lens length, which will have some effect on Depth of Field. As the camera to subject distance gets shorter the Depth of Field will get shallower, think close up or macro/micro photography. The larger the aperture opening (smaller number f 2.8 for example) the shallower the depth of Field. As the diameter of the aperture decreases (the larger the f-stop number) the Depth of Field will increase. Most cameras have a Depth of Field preview button to let you see this effect. The third factor, lens focal length, has an effect on Depth of Field only if you are at the same camera to subject distance and change the lens focal length. Think Zooming the lens. The shorter the lens focal length, the greater the depth of field. As the lens focal length gets longer the depth of field gets more compressed.

There are also many factors which all fall under the topic of how you create your image. Things like where you stand, what you decide to include in the image and what you decide to exclude from the image all have an effect on the final image.

- Distance from subject The distance you are from your subject and the lens focal length you select will have a direct effect on what you capture and how the image looks.
- Perspective Perspective is an interesting animal, hard to understand much less describe, but it has a major impact on your image, the lens you use and the subject to camera distance you want to shoot at. We can see the change in perspective best when we look at an image taken with the widest lens you have (wide angle) and then from the same position taken with the longest lens you have (telephoto). Keep the aperture setting the same. In each of these images, the objects in the scenes relationship to each other are distorted. In the wide angle image the objects closest to the camera will be elongated and appear farther apart. In the telephoto image they will be compressed so that they look to be on top of each other. Only with a normal lens, normal is usually 40 to 60 mm depending on the camera manufacturer, will the perspective be what the eye sees. The compression or extension is from front to back not side to side. Interestingly if you take two photos from the same spot, one wide angle and the other telephoto and then

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## December Meeting—Refreshments

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Each meeting, one club member is responsible for bringing a snack and a cold beverage. Cups and paper goods are supplied by the club and brought each week by the hospitality chair.

December 1st    *Scranton Opening*

December 15th    *Pot Luck Christmas Party*



## Tidbits 16—Working the Subject, cont’d...

crop and enlarge the wide angle image to match the telephoto image they will have the same perspective (look the same). Perspective will only change if you physically change the camera to subject distance. Perspective can be used to create layers in the image, isolate and/or emphasis part of a scene or object, or change the scale near to far. It is a creative tool. On a recent trip to Washington DC, we watched a young couple play with perspective. They were taking pictures of the Washington Monument lying on the ground and shooting up the hill. They were taking turns standing part way up the hill from the camera position. We later ran into them at the Lincoln Memorial and they showed us the pictures, some where they were holding their hand on top of the monument and others where they were as tall as the monument.

- Composition If you have been with us in the club for a while you have heard us go on and on about composition. Composition actually involves quite a few things we have already talked about in the article and they are the things that can give an image power and that “wow” factor. Here are some things to look for what you think about composition:
  - Framing
  - Cropping
  - Viewpoint
  - Rule of thirds
  - Leading lines
  - Balance or unbalance
  - Odd or even
  - Symmetry or patterns
  - Background
  - ETC.

The working the subject project is to try and get the photographer to see, explore the subject in depth and to think and photograph out of the box. Good hunting and shooting.

I will leave you with a quote I found while doing my research.

“There are no rules for good photographs, there are only good photographs.” Ansel Adams

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## Working the Subject Program—May 18, 2011 Meeting

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“Working the Subject” Program Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Instead of our usual Scavenger Hunt we have come up with the “Working the Subject” project. What each club member is to do is to find one object or one scene and photograph it in as many ways as you can. We will then ask you to review all of the images you took, it should be in the hundreds if you really work at it, and then select the five best images. These images will be presented in a separate program on Wednesday, May 18, 2011.

Each maker, if they desire, may give a 3- 5 minute talk about the images, or how they went about the project or what they learned in doing it.

Please send your five (5) images to [ccc.images@gmail.com](mailto:ccc.images@gmail.com) no later than Thursday, May 5, 2011. Please make the subject line “Working the Subject.” Also let us know if you will be giving a talk about your images.

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## Coastal Camera Club Reminder

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Just as a reminder to everyone, Dues for the 2009-10 Club are as follows:

- \$35.00 ..... Individual
- \$60.00 ..... Family
- \$5.00 ..... Student

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