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Rob Hedelt



Tuesday, July 19, 2016

**SERIOUS SHUTTERBUGS CLICK**



Mike Fleckenstein

Fredericksburg Photography Club member Mike Fleckenstein pointed his lens at the glittering bridges of the Big Apple.

# Photography club toasts 30 years of camaraderie

The Fredericksburg Photography Club got its start 30 years ago when several enthusiasts taking a photo class decided a club would be a good way to pool and expand their knowledge.

Since then, three decades worth of mostly amateur and sometimes professional photographers have gotten together most months here to learn, share and commiserate about their quest to capture that amazing image.

At some of those gatherings, professionals or photographers with particular specialties are brought in to speak about topics that can range from photographing large mammals of North America to using particular photo software.

At other times, photographers with particular experience are brought in to critique member photos, often from a topic or place specially chosen for the exercise.

According to current president Norma Woodward, "We're here to support each other, but also to push each other to always be reaching and learning. It helps that we can do that in a supportive way."

Woodward got in touch recently to mark the big anniversary of the club, which has spent three decades playing many different roles in local photography.

After spending many years assisting the city's recreation department with its annual photography show, this year the club flipped the script. It held the photo show, receiving help and a venue from Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation.

Club members have judged photographs over the years for groups as varied as Jamboree Boy Scouts at Fort A.P. Hill to the Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair.

Club members have provided shows and galleries for various offices, restaurants, offices, visitor centers and more throughout the region, with photographs of every type and from locations all over the globe.

But according to the half dozen or so members I spoke with about the anniversary, the thing they value most about the club is the way it helps them feel confident and knowledgeable enough in the push to take ever better photos.

Saeed Ordoubadi of King George County said fellow club members have helped him look differently at the images he's trying to capture, pushing him to find a different or unique perspective.

"I've also learned from this group that every very successful piece needs to have a little bit of mystery," he said.

Woodward notes that many of the members of the club fill not only their everyday lives but also their trips around the country and globe with the pursuit of unique and interesting images.

She, for instance, drives across the country often, planning her adventures along routes that will bring her interesting images and places.

Member Lee Cochrane of King George said a new camera and an impending trip to Scotland helped nudge him into joining the club years ago. He said it's helped him take his photography to new levels of interest and technique.

In addition to providing speakers and presentations on various topics, the club and the newsletter that Woodward distributes alerts members to upcoming contests, photography exhibits and presentations around the area and across the country.

It also details the accomplishments of members, something that can range from photographs being exhibited in a Stafford County restaurant to being accepted at a gallery in Los Angeles.

Member Cliff Dalseide of Stafford County said he appreciates the diversity of interest of the more than 60 photographers currently in the group.

As a photographer who enjoys capturing interesting patterns and perspectives, he notes that members are constantly there to help each other understand everything from new cameras and lenses to software and more.

Several of the members I chatted with say they get together in addition to the regular meetings for everything from socializing to heading to a unique spot for a day of shooting pictures.

Woodward said the club is always seeking out new members, and that the annual dues are \$30 for an individual or \$45 for a family.

She noted that the club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center, at 408 Canal Street in Fredericksburg.

The meetings alternate each month between a program and an assigned subject critique.

For more information on the club or how to join, go online to [fbgphotoclub.com](http://fbgphotoclub.com).



Saeed Ordoubadi

Fredericksburg Photography Club's Saeed Ordoubadi took this colorful image, which features old buildings in Cuba.



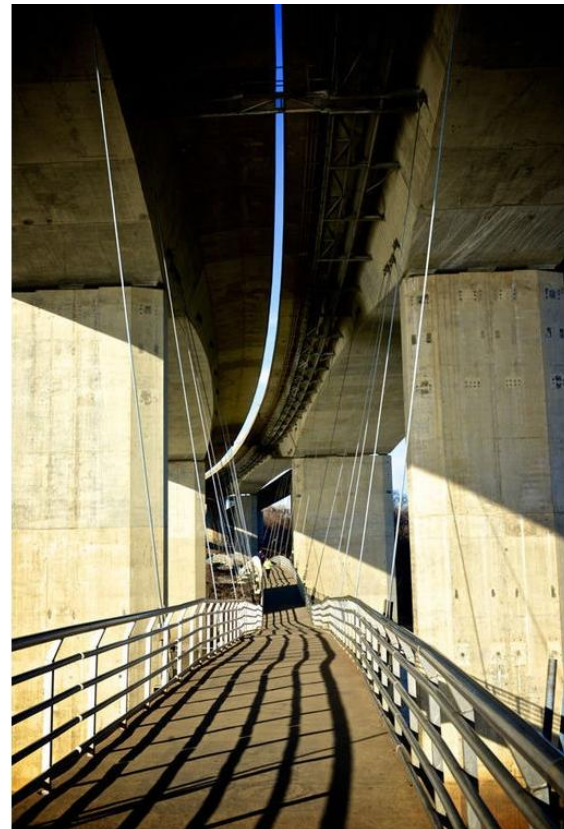
Helen Schwartz

Helen Schwartz captured this photo of a child watching the sun set on a relaxing day at Myrtle Beach, S.C.



Norma Woodward

The Fredericksburg Photography Club is celebrating its 30 year history. Its members include Lee Cochran, Saeed Ordoubadi, Cliff Dalseide, Paul McClain, Robert Williams, Norma Woodward and Helen Schwartz.



Lee CochranE

Is this a bridge for tolls or for trolls in this image captured by photo club member Lee Cochran?



Norma Woodward

Photography club member Norma Woodward saw something special in the tables and chairs at Goolrick's Pharmacy's soda shop in Fredericksburg.

**Rob Hedelt: 540/374-5415**  
rhedelt@freelancestar.com