



F o c a l P o i n t

October 2009

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FROM YOUR EDITOR:

This issue's "BCC Gets Out" shot is by your editor AGAIN. Why? Because, though there have been several BCC outings, no other member sent anything for this issue's spot and so I included one from an outing several members & I made to Soldiers Delight in Owings Mills.

I don't mind flaunting my work but, this is supposed to a member driven newsletter - for and **by** members. Please submit an article, a photo, member news, etc. It's not that difficult (people like Gordon submit articles every month! See the *Collector's Corner*). & check out Maria's beautiful balloon shots! Up, up and away till next month. Enjoy

Thanks to Maria Drumm and Gordon Risk for their contributions this month.

BCC Gets Out



After the Rain – Soldiers Delight

Photo by Steve Dembo



“Mass Ascension” How To

How to Make Great Images at a Hot Air Balloon Festival

The first week of October explodes with color and excitement when hundreds of hot air balloonists descend on Albuquerque, New Mexico for the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta.

The “Mass Ascension” held on the opening day is a photographers dream. The *Dawn Patrol* ascends. Watching these trial runs lets the photographer know in which direction the colorful pageantry will travel.

To photograph a balloon festival successfully, get to the event before sunrise. Look around and feel the energy! It is truly overwhelming.

Close up shots that fill the frame are breathtaking and set the stage for the ascent shots. As the balloons fill with air there are rows and rows of these colorful giant envelopes (the technical name for the cloth part) that are born in just a few minutes. In the beginning you may want to shoot in aperture priority ($f11-16$) because things are still but as soon as the balloons start to fill, switch to shutter priority and stay there for the rest of the action.

by **Maria Drumm**





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"Mass Ascension" How To (cont)



I kept my shutter speed between 1/200 and 1/250 while adjusting my ISO so that my f -stop stayed between 11 and 16. If the depth of field (the f stop)is too wide, the images will be flat. With digital photography, do not be afraid to move your ISO to 800. Unless you are making huge posters, grain is not a problem. I only have an 8-mega pixel Canon Rebel and have had no problem making 11x14 prints.

Once the balloons are in the air it is another story. If you turn one way the sun is right there and you have backlit conditions. Around again and there is front light. It is important to check your ISO to keep our depth of field tight. Try shooting as close to 100 ISO as possible but if the clouds roll in, make an adjustment.

I used two lenses. My 17-85mm was perfect for almost everything except the close up shots. For those I used my 70-300mm.

One problem I had with my telephoto was that *AF* would not focus all the time so I had to switch to *MF*.



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"Mass Ascension" How To (cont)

Do not bother to check your histogram more than once or twice or you will miss something. Try to get combinations of different sizes and shapes and do both vertical and horizontal shots.

I did use a tripod because it gave me space and allowed me to be able to hold my camera higher than usual and still be steady. I also used a remote. It may seem unnecessary with the short shutter speed but with the thousands of spectators the tripod does offer the photographer a protected area. In the early dawn before the balloons start arriving there are lots of wonderful people shots that will makeup an interesting part of a Travelette or digital slide show.



There are hot air balloon festivals all over the country. Just remember it is usually very cold when things get started so check your batteries and have several backups.

Have fun!



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"Mass Ascension" How To (cont)





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Collector's Corner

By Gordon Risk

Leica's long history began in 1923 when Oskar Barnack, working for the Leitz Optical Co., designed a small box to hold 35mm movie film with which he could test lenses. This working



tool was so successful, the company decided to produce this new "camera" and call it LEICA. This word comes from LEItz CAmera. These cameras quickly caught on because of their quality of lenses and portability. Interchangeable lenses screwed into the bodies, hence they are called screw mounts and were in production until 1960.

In 1954, Leica came out with a totally redesigned body with a new bayonet mount for the lenses. This was the beginning of the M Series cameras starting with the M3, through the current M7, first produced in 2002.

These early cameras were rangefinders but to keep up with the growing trend of single lens reflexes (SLR), in 1964 Leica produced their first SLR. Their first models were called Leicaflex. In 1976, the company changed the SLR name to the simpler R for reflex. They started with R3 and now have an R9, all film cameras.

The M8 is a digital camera and now there is now an M9, both being in the classic rangefinder design. Leica's current effort in digital SLRs is their S2 model which is a large bodied camera with 37.5 megapixel sensor.

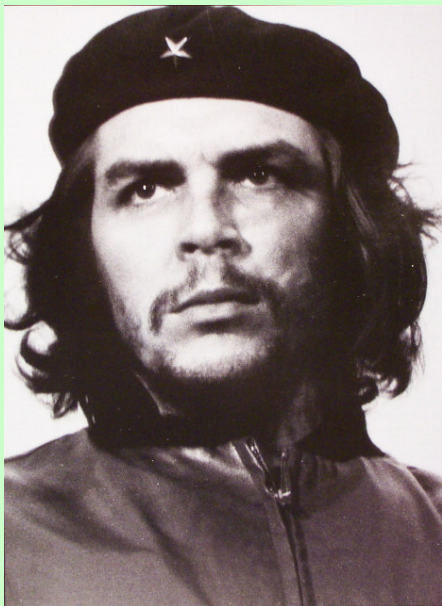




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Collector's Corner

Pictured above are: a 1951 Leica IIIIf with 50mm on camera, a 35, 90 and 135mm lenses; 1954 Leica M3 Double Stroke; Oskar Barnack in 30's with a new car; famous Leica photographer, Henri Cartier-Bresson's image "On the Banks of the Marne," 1938; Che Guevara, photographed in 1960 by Alberto Diaz Gutierrez





F o c a l P o i n t

The Baltimore Camera Club Presents

The Baltimore Camera Club Presents a Photography Seminar by Brenda Tharp

“The Art in Photography”

The Art in Photography – Seeing and Creating the Expressive Image

Photographers want to create images that have impact – whether it’s to win awards, be remembered, or purely for the personal satisfaction of having created an artistic photograph. In this inspirational and information-packed one day seminar, Brenda will discuss the elements that can make a picture more expressive, and how to incorporate them in any image you are creating. Topics of this full day seminar will include:

Seeing the potential in a scene · Working with available light · Creating visual depth · Composing for impact · Capturing the moment · Incorporating motion · Beyond the postcard: apply artistic interpretations using in-camera & in-computer techniques · Managing workflow & digital files at home and on the road · Equipment essentials: what's in the bag and why.

Saturday March 6, 2010 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Kelley Hall on the Goucher College Campus, Towson, MD www.goucher.edu

[PDF Flyer - Further details](#) ◀ [This link will take you to the flyer]

<http://www.baltimorecameraclub.org/PDF/Brenda%20Tharp%20Announcement.pdf>



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Member News

Annapolis, Md. (October 13, 2009) - The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2009 Maryland Natural Resource Magazine Photo Contest. More than 300 photographers entered nearly 1,500 photographs this year.

“We are very happy with the volume and quality of this year’s submissions,” said DNR Secretary John Griffin. “The photographers did an amazing job capturing the natural beauty of the state.”

Steven Dembo won First Place in the State Parks category for "Fisherman in Red Shirt"



Karen Messick won First Place in the Mountains to the Bay category for "Governor’s Cup Setting Sail"

Karen also won Second Place in the Wild Plant category for "Trillium"

The winning photos will appear in the winter issue of the Maryland Natural Resource Magazine, as well as the 2009 DNR calendar. The Maryland Natural Resource magazine is published quarterly by DNR. Subscriptions are available at www.dnr.maryland.gov/naturalresource/.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To see more winning entries please go to

www.dnr.state.md.us/dnrnews/pressrelease2009/101309.asp

Steve Dembo will be exhibiting his work at the Easton Waterfowl Festival Nov 13-15. A percent of sale proceeds goes to Waterfowl Conservation efforts.



F o c a l P o i n t

Parting Shot



Balloons in the Sky

Photo by Maria Drumm