



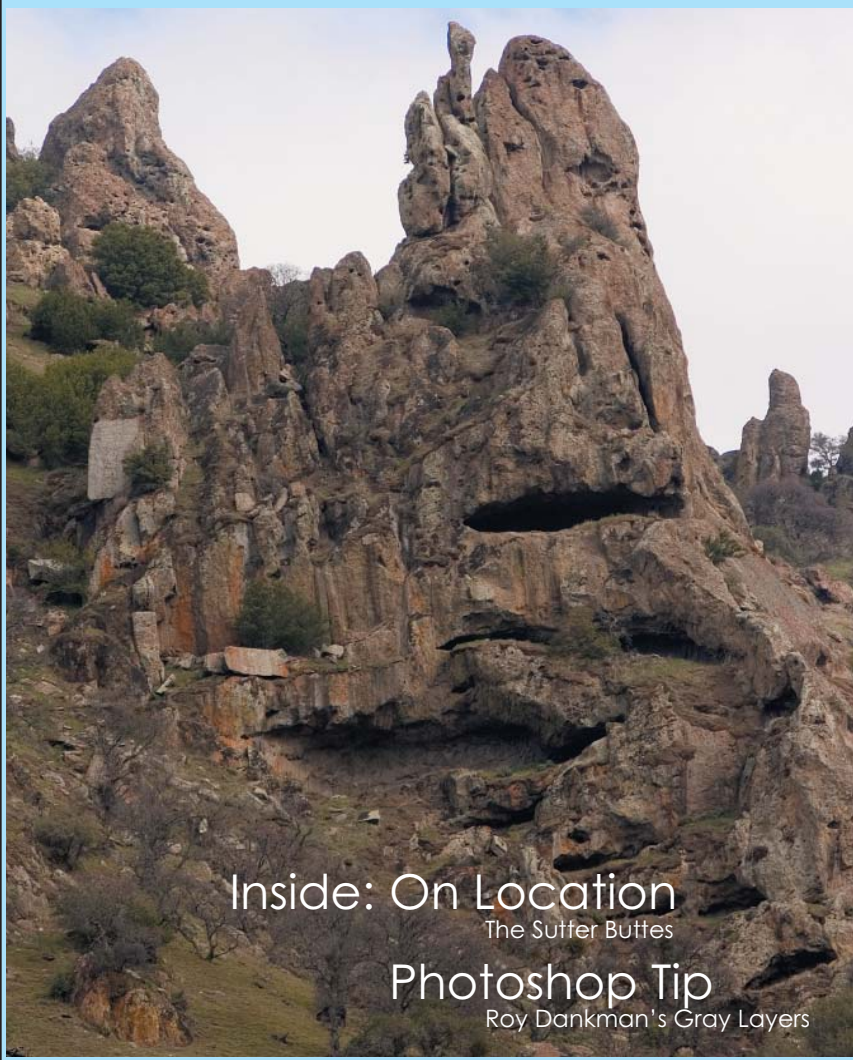
f-STOP

Focused on the Activities of
Hub Camera Club

Affiliated with Photographic Society of America



March 2006
Volume 47, Issue 7



Inside: On Location
The Sutter Buttes

Photoshop Tip
Roy Dankman's Gray Layers

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Editors Note

It's amazing how my photographic interests can change month to month.

At last month's meeting, I was telling everyone about how I was having a difficult time getting motivated, and that I hadn't picked up my camera very much at all since Christmas.

What a difference a month makes. I took a wonderful hike through the Sutter Buttes and took as many pictures as I could before my battery died - for some reason, even though the charger showed full, in the camera it only had half a charge. Perhaps it's time for a new battery.

My pastor has approached me with a daunting task: take a candid shot of every member of the church before our 15th Anniversary celebration in a month! Yikes!

See you at the meeting.

- Greg Chance, f-STOP Editor

All the images in this and future issues of f-Stop are in color. It's more cost effective to print in B&W, but how can you see them in color?

The website, of course! All issues of f-STOP are made available there. Just click on the Newsletters link at the top of any page. From there, you can select this or any other issue of f-STOP you wish to see. In color.

On The Cover

Rock Formation in Bragg Canyon by Greg Chance
Sutter Buttes, Sutter County, CA



f-STOP

A monthly publication of

Hub Camera Club
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<http://www.hubcameraclub.com/>

Copy Deadline

Send articles, letters, photos
and comments to the editor
by the 15th of the previous month

Hub Camera Club meets at 7:30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through May at the Yuba County Library, 303 2nd Street, Marysville, CA 95901.

Hub Camera Club Officers

- President**
Martha Green (530) 673-4319 lgreen@mako.com
- Vice President**
Greg Chance (530) 671-4592 greg@chancephotography.com
- Secretary**
Joann Nixon (530) 743-8026 leolasd@infostations.com
- Treasurer**
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- Print Chairman**
Ed Valusek (530) 673-9006 edvalusek@syix.com
- Slide Chairman**
Sarah Pryor (530) 755-0702 slettl@earthlink.net

Affiliations

Photographic Society of America (PSA) is the international organization promoting the art and science of photography, of which Hub Camera Club is an affiliate. There are many benefits to be gleaned from participation in the parent organization but membership is not an individual requirement. The PSA Journal is an informative monthly magazine provided for members.



FotoClave is an annual gathering of participants from four councils. Besides inter-council competition, instructional, inspirational, and entertaining programs are supplemented with social activities.

From the President

by Martha Green

The March meeting is changed to March 1st, at 7:30pm as previously announced. We will welcome Roy Dankman back to give us a workshop on Photoshop layers. I heard about the tips he gave at last month's meeting when he was critiquing for us, and asked him to please tell us more. Those who wish can join us for dinner before the meeting, 6:00pm at the Wonderful Restaurant next to Albertson's in Marysville.

The almonds and mustard are blooming now and the other flowers will

follow soon. It's time to get out and get some springtime photos! We've talked about some good places now it's time to make a decision. Another idea to pursue is of having small groups study Adobe PhotoShop. We can get started on that at anytime.



Have you visited our website?

...no???

Then here's what you're missing!

Discussion Forum

Member Gallery

Newsletter Back Issues

Hints & Tips

Image Sharing

Photography

Calendar of Events

Get the most out of Hub Camera Club!

<http://www.hubcameraclub.com/>

Meeting Minutes

by Laura Keber

Ed Valusek opened the meeting by introducing Roy Dankman, our evaluator for the evening. The club thanked Roy for filling in at the last minute for our scheduled evaluator who was unable to come to the meeting. Roy evaluated 17 digital photos and three prints.

We discussed the evaluation format and will continue to bring in outside judges.

Roy demonstrated how to utilize a gray layer in Photoshop to darken or lighten areas in a photo.

A member is needed to order the end-of-the-year award.

Sarah Pryor will again chair the Colusa County Fair photo exhibit and will be needing help.

Members were encouraged to enter the Colusa, Yuba-Sutter and Placer County Fairs. There was some concern by members regarding damage that had occurred to photos entered in the Butter Co. Fair.

Our next meeting will be on March 1st due to the library's book sale.

A change in meeting time to 7:00 PM was discussed but a decision was not made.

Hub members who attended the Nevada County Camera Club meeting talked about that meeting. Their club started a "Feature Photographer" exhibit where a member brings in some of their photos. These photos are not evaluated. Kathy Payne suggested that we could do that, but a CD of digital images could be shown, instead of prints. The digital

images could be shown while we set up for the meeting if time constraints did not allow the photos to be shown during the meeting.

The next Nevada County Camera Club meeting is February 27th at 6:30 PM, at the Nevada County Library, if anyone is interested in attending.

Diana Valusek reported that the next Gold Rush Meeting is Sunday, March 5th. It was explained that Gold Rush is the PSA chapter that covers Northern California and Western Nevada. Diana also had the Gold Rush Nugget newsletter available for members.

Ed announced that the digital meeting affiliated with Gold Rush would be Saturday, March 4th from 1-4 PM at American River College, Room 481.

2005-2006 Assigned Subjects

People in Everyday Activities
Trees
Joy
Time

September
November
February
April

On Location

by Greg Chance

Driving through the Sacramento Valley, there are plenty of landmarks to see. One of my favorite aspects of living here is being able to reach such varied locations with such short distances.

The ocean can be reached within hours. The mountains are the same way, with green hills, rocks, and plenty of things to photograph.

Rivers? We have rivers. Streams? Oh, yes. There are plenty of waterways to recreate at and photograph, and birds of all sorts along the way.

From all of the locations to visit within the Sacramento, there is still one formation that is constant. You can see it from atop Mount Shasta. In Sacramento, it can be seen while driving across Highway 50, around I-5, and up Highway 99 North.

Unless you've been living under a rock, you know exactly the landmark I'm talking about: The Sutter Buttes.

I've lived in the Yuba-Sutter area my entire life. I moved for a short time to Chico for school, but you can see the Buttes from there as well. My father, who came here from Oklahoma in the 40s, loved the Buttes. In fact, as a teenager he hopped the fences and hiked through them, and of course, told me the story when I was a kid.

Because of my dad's stories, I've been fascinated by the Sutter Buttes. Actually it's been more than my dad's stories, it's been the fact that the Buttes stand there as the largest landmark in the Sacramento Valley, but most people have never seen them except from afar. That doesn't have to be.

The Middle Mountain Foundation has been leading, along with some of the landowners of the Buttes, hikes right to their heart.

There are different hikes, with different difficulty levels. On their website, each hike is rated by "boots", from 1 boot to 5 boots. The hike I took last Saturday was rated 4 boots: the Ridge Trek, leading through Bragg Canyon up to the top.

We met at Sutter High School at 7:30am, and left at 8. It was about 5 miles around and in before we even left our vehicles.

As we hiked, we learned about the Native Americans, who to this day hold the Buttes to be sacred. We were told personal accounts of playing, as children, in and around the Buttes. Stories about Native American women, who ground their corn on the volcanic rock.

We saw a small waterfall that I didn't even know existed. We saw a wild pig and deer, most memorably, an albino deer.

After a few hours of hiking through the canyon, we came to rest in an ancient lakebed right at the center of the Buttes. After a geological discussion, those of us who could handle the trek took the final ascent up a 700-foot peak at an average grade of 12%. On the way up, we were able to see the entire North Valley: the site where cold war missiles were stationed, the entirety of Grey Lodge, and beyond.

At the top, we had lunch in a cave. As a group, we got to know each other and bonded over each others' stories.

In short, it was an experience that I will never forget. In many ways it was a way to connect with my father, who would have appreciated the journey.

I'm signed up for a few more hikes in April: a moonlight hike and one oriented around wildflowers. I wouldn't miss either of them for the world.

Middle Mountain Foundation
<http://www.middlemountain.org/>

Karen Morrison, Hike Coordinator
(530) 671-6116
mmfhikes@yahoo.com

Formatting Digital Images for Critique

by Ed Valusek

These instructions do not address the specifics of each image manipulation program (e.g. Photoshop, Elements, Photo Deluxe, and others) but are detailed enough to allow you to submit a properly formatted image.

Once you have finished working your image and you are ready to submit it, you must format it for submittal.

Hopefully, you have worked your image in RGB Color Mode. This is the preferred Color Mode for all image submittals except B & W, which can be in Monochrome. If your image is not in RGB Color Mode, change it to RGB Color Mode now.

The next step is to size it.

Sizing

If you have a horizontal image, go to the image size adjustment and type in 1024 pixels in the "Width" box. Check the "Height" box to insure that it is not more than 768 pixels. If it is, then type 768 pixels in the "Height" box. The width will be less than 1024 pixels and that's okay.

If you have a vertical image, go to the image size adjustment and type 768 pixels in the "Height" box. Check the "width" box to insure that it is not more than 1024 pixels. If it is, type 1024 pixels in the "Width" box. The height will be less than 768 pixels and that's okay.

Now that you have set the mode to RGB Color Mode and have sized the image so that it is not greater than 1024 pixels in width or 768 pixels in height the next step is to do a "Save As".

After clicking on "Save As" in the Format box select .JPEG (.JPG, .JPE). Now you need to name your file.

The first letter will be the Category (see below). The second letter will be the Member ID (see below). Next enter in your seven-digit phone number (no dash). Now enter in your image title. Your file name will look something like this:

CA6732213Purple Nightshade.jpg

Now click "Save" or "Okay". This is the image you will submit.

Codes

Category Code:

A = Assigned Subject

B = B & W (Monochrome)

C = Color

N = Nature

Member ID Code: (the member code is to differentiate between members of the same family)

A = Mr. or Single

B = Mrs.

Uploading Digital Images for Submission

by Greg Chance

So now you've formatted your images properly. What next?

1. Open your web browser and go to <http://www.hubcameraclub.com/>.

2. At the top of the page, click the **Gallery** link.

3. Find the gallery titled by the current month and click its name.

4. On the right side of the page, pull down the menu and select "add photos".

5. Click the first **Browse** button.

6. Browse to the image you want to submit and double-click it.

7. Enter the name of the image underneath the filename that has appeared.

8. You can upload all your images at once. Just follow steps 5-7 for each image.

9. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click **Upload Now**. You can close the upload window when finished.

I should take this opportunity to say that the internet is not the only way to submit your images. While that is the recommended way to submit images, this is not always possible. If you do not have an internet connection, or have a dialup connection and don't have the time it takes to upload images online there are other options.

CD: Put your images on CD and either send it to Greg Chance or come early to the meeting and bring it with you. This is the preferred method if you cannot upload to the web.

Memory Card: We also have a card reader, so you could put the images onto the card, come to early to the meeting, and bring it with you.

Gold Rush Chapter The Photographic Society of America

Date: Sunday, March 5, 2006
Location: Holiday Inn Northeast
5321 Delta Avenue
(I-80 at Madison Ave.)
Sacramento, CA



8:30
9:15
9:30

REGISTRATION OPENS
Meeting Begins
Alaska's Denali National Park,
Brown Bears of Katmai,
& Driving Through Autumn
Presented by Pauline Fredrickson,
Hon. PSA, FPSA
11:00 Hill Tribes of Northern Thailand
Presented by Jim & Linda Lenthall
12:00 LUNCH
1:15 Chicken Piccata - \$21.50
Antarctica - Part I
Presented by Jim & Linda Lenthall
2:45 2005 Chapters Showcase
Presented by Norma Mastin, FPSA

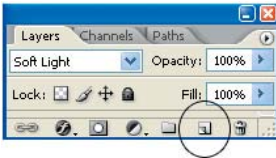
Visitors welcome/ \$5 for non-members/ \$3 for students. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED! Flyers/registrations may be available at the Hub Camera Club meeting.

From the Vice-President

by Greg Chance

In February, Roy Dankman was kind enough to not only critique our work, but give us some tremendous instruction on using Adobe Photoshop. Within that, he demonstrated a wonderful technique for burning & dodging... without using the burn/dodge tool!

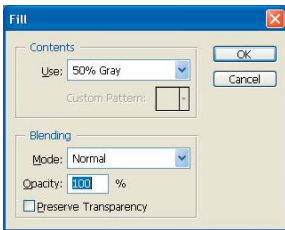
Create a layer by pressing the New Layer button in the Layer palette.



From the top of the main Photoshop window, select Edit, then Fill (or use the shortcut, SHIFT+F5).



Under Use, pull down 50% Gray. Click OK.



Since this layer is in the foreground, the image window will turn completely gray.

In the Layers window, directly underneath the word Layers, pull down the word Normal and change it to Soft Light.

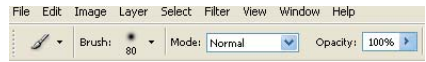


Sutter Buttes Ridge Trek

In the tools window, click the Brush tool.



In the brush palette, set brush size to around 80 pixels; you can adjust depending on how much of an area you wish to edit.



Set the opacity of the new layer to 20%.



To burn (darken), set the foreground color to black and the background color to white.



Burn by painting with the mouse.

To dodge (lighten), set the foreground color to white and the background color to white.

Dodge by painting with the mouse.



Thanks go out to Roy Dankman for this wonderful tip. It's things like this that make the Hub Camera Club worthwhile!

Hub Camera Club
Treasurer's Report

February 1, 2006 – March 1, 2006

Balance February 1, 2006	\$2070.30
Income	
Dues	45.00
Photo Entry Fees	11.00
Hub Patch Sale	2.00
Total Income	\$58.00
Expenditures	
P.O. Box Rental	72.00
PSA Dues	45.00
Stamps for Treasurer	7.80
Total Expenditures	\$124.80
Balance March 1, 2006	\$2003.35

Report compiled by Laura Keber

REMINDER: Club Dues

Single:	\$30
Junior:	\$15
Family:	\$45
New Single:	\$10
New Family:	\$15

Dues can either be paid at the meeting or mailed to:

Laura Keber
2450 Del Pero Street
Marysville CA 95901

or

Hub Camera Club
PO Box 1757
Yuba City, CA 95992-1757

Digitally Speaking

by Greg Chance

If you notice, I've changed the name of this column. There's good reason.

In the past few months, we've explored quite a few topics. In November, we defined a broad range of terms, while in December, we got a little more specific about file formats. In January, we delved into in-camera color balance. Last month, of course, we took some time off from the column for our yearly program.

What it's all been leading up to is an overview of the entire digital photographic process. It wasn't originally intended that way, but that's what it's become.

So what now? Let's put some of those terms to use and take a picture!

Each camera's different, but what we want to do now is turn off the automatic modes it may have. If your camera doesn't have those options, that's fine.

Since this is a digital-centric article, we'll skip over the basics of photography itself. One thing you may not realize is that the methods used in analog (film) photography also apply with digital. Since we've already defined our terms, I'll leave it to you to check the back issues for definitions. Let's go!

Resolution

The first thing we want to do is make sure the resolution is high enough so our image can be printed at something larger than 3x5. Even if you aren't printing, you may want to print later, or even project at one of our meetings. With digital you can always reduce the

image; what you can't do is take a 1 megapixel image, print at 11x14, and expect it to look as good as the same image shot at 35mm! This is why in the early days of digital, die-hard film fans would see digital prints and immediately decide the format was bad.

File Format

Next, we want to make sure we're not saving in low-quality jpeg mode. Remember, jpegs are compressed, which is what makes them so much smaller than TIFF. The downside is that detail is then lost, and the image will print or project poorly.

White Balance

Now the camera needs to know what white looks like illuminated by the light source. Typically, you'll use a white card, or white reflector, but you could even use a white wall, or piece of paper. While not recommended by manufacturers, some (including myself) will face the camera towards the light source and use a coffee filter or Pringle's lid!

Shoot the Picture

Once we've set everything up, we can shoot the picture! We look through the viewfinder and... wait, you're not looking through the viewfinder?

What's happened to us with digital photography, anyway? For as long as photography has been around, we've used viewfinders, but now suddenly you see everyone holding their cameras in front of them, looking at the LCD. While it

may work, all our techniques for keeping the camera stable have now gone out the window. Our hands can shake, we're not composing as well, and when we push the shutter button, we shake the camera, and why? No stability!

So put that camera in front of your eye, look through the viewfinder (yes, it still exists), compose, and shoot!

The image we just shot shows up in the LCD display, and we marvel. There's only one problem: that tiny display isn't calibrated. We might see that image on the back and think it's perfect, only to get it home and find out that maybe it wasn't in focus. Since we weren't looking through the viewfinder and holding it close to our body for stability (caught ya), we shook the camera ever so slightly. Perhaps our white balance wasn't quite perfect because we used a brown coffee filter instead of white. Whatever the case may be, we really can't rely on the LCD on the back of the camera to see the picture was perfect.

As we've always done with photography, we take multiple pictures of the same subject. This is one of the greatest advantages of digital photography. The memory may be limited, but you can always put it on the computer and shoot more without any additional cost.

Move to the Computer

While many people move their images to the computer using a cable plugged into their camera, I prefer using a card reader. You can even buy readers that will read multiple card formats, so if you have more than one camera with more than one type of memory, you only need one device. They can also be

much faster.

Digital cameras connect to the computer using an interface called USB, which stands for Universal Serial Bus. There are also two versions of USB in use today: v1.1 and v2.0. USB 2.0 can be twice as fast as USB 1.1. Most digital cameras use USB 1.1, so when transferring your images, a USB 2.0 card reader will cut the transfer time in half!

Post-Processing

In the old days it was called a darkroom; in fact, you'll find that magazines will call digital post-processing the "digital darkroom".

For you and me, this means a piece of software that does the same job with your digital files. Popular software includes Adobe Photoshop & Photoshop Elements, and JASC Paintshop Pro.

One other piece of software that warrants mention is The Gimp. It's an Open Source project that's the greatest price in the world: free! While you won't find as many tutorials for it as for Photoshop, it can be every bit as useful. If you're on a tight budget, this is a wonderful alternative to commercial software.

The Future of This Column

All this brings us back to where this month's column began: the name change. Since most of the most important terms were defined in previous articles, I'm changing its focus.

In the future I'll discuss both digital camera topics and post-processing topics. Photoshop and Photoshop Elements are extremely powerful, but are also difficult to use if you've never used them before. I look forward to the journey. Come along with me.



Hub Camera Club
PO Box 1757
Yuba City, CA 95992-1757

Upcoming Meetings:

Mar 1 – Not the usual meeting date due to
Library book sale

Apr 12

May 10

Next Meeting: March 1, 2006