

Iredell Photography Club



The Iredell Photography Club is, "Sponsored by Mitchell Community College and funded in part by the North Carolina Arts Council's Grassroots Art Program through the Iredell Arts Council" the link is:
<http://www.iredellphotoclub.blogspot.com>

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Contact me

photoman28147@yahoo.com

President's Notes

Is it just me, or does each month seem to pass more quickly than the previous one? Here it is August and our exhibit at the Depot in Mooresville begins in November. It's time to take those ideas that have been percolating in our heads and turn them into photographs that can be hung on gallery walls! As we have been doing for a few months now, be sure to bring your works-in-progress to the meeting Monday.

I certainly want to thank everyone for helping to make last month's club cookout a tremendous success. All the food was wonderful and the conversations and stories of photo adventures from "days gone by" made for a very enjoyable evening. Alice and I are already looking forward to the next one.

Our applications for Grassroots funds have been completed and turned in to the Arts Council, so we need to finish up our planning for the upcoming Children's Workshops and continue our discussions on future equipment purchases.

All this and more await you at the next Iredell Photography Club meeting on Monday night. See you there!

Chuck

This Space Reserved – for you!

Your newsletter needs contributions from members. Have you been to an exhibit or read a good photography book? Write a review! Learned a nifty new Photoshop or Elements trick? Share it with us. Anything you are doing or have done in the field of photography will make interesting reading for your fellow members. Email your items to Wayne Wrights. photoman28147@yahoo.com
Thanks, Chuck

IPC News

Minutes of 10 July 06 Mtg.

Attendance: 11 members and 4 visitors (Tammy Byers; Ethan, Jackson and Austin (Charles grandchildren)).

Recent Activities:

Rachel won 1st place in black and white at the Mooresville Arts Gallery (Depot). She, Wayne and Tom Klumb each submitted pictures for the event which will end 31 July 06.

Old Business:

Treasurer's report: Ted indicated that there was a club balance of \$1091 at the last meeting (June 06). Approximately \$171 was sent back to the Arts Council following purchase of cameras for the children's workshop. This brought the balance down to \$919.

Children's Workshop: It has been moved to Saturday 1 Oct 06, 2:00-4:00pm at the Iredell Museum's Heritage Center. The backup rain date is Saturday 8 Oct 06. The cost has been reduced from \$15 to \$10 for the event. An announcement for the children's event will be included in the August Arts Council Newsletter.

Grass Roots Funds: Chuck indicated that he has the forms to apply for the Grass Roots Funds. This money is forwarded from the NC legislature to the Arts Council. IPC received \$300 last year. In addition, an extra \$500 was provided as fall out funds and was used to purchase the cold press. Chuck will ask for \$400 for the upcoming period. They sent the money out at the end of December with the project to be completed by 15 June. Since this money was supposed to be used to fund the Children's Workshop, which didn't occur in May 06, the remainder of the money was rebated to the Arts Council.

Future Programs: Chuck indicated that he needed programs for the next several months and requested presenters.

August: It was suggested that we ask Don Cohen to present some pictures of his travels on landscapes, birds, etc. Ruth will contact him and see if he is available and determine his honorarium.

September: Charles and Diane will present a travel log of their recent trip to Colorado.

October: Jim Rossi volunteered to present a travel log of his trip to Italy.

Cookout at Chuck's: Chuck reminded people of the cookout scheduled for his home on Sat, 22 July at 6pm. He requested that everyone bring a side dish or a dessert. He'll provide the meat, drinks, etc. People should bring any alcoholic beverages that they want to drink. Chuck also passed around a sign-up sheet for everyone to list what dish they would like to bring.

IPC Building Space: Chuck and Jim will meet with Mitchell College in the next couple of days to discuss the storage area in the IPC meeting building. The building is presently used for painting classes, etc so IPC wants to make sure that their photography equipment (cold press, etc.) is secure.

New Business:

Blog Website: Rachel has set up a blog website for IPC. People can put on photos, notes, etc. She'll send out an invitation for everyone to have access to the blog. She reminded the club

members that they should make the posted pictures low resolution when they put them on the blog. That should prevent other people from downloading their photos and selling them.

Piedmont Area: To date the club has received three different versions of identifying what counties are included on the Piedmont area. This is important since the show at the Mooresville Depot in November will focus on the Piedmont (Past and Present). Wayne reminded people that the pictures that they display at the Novembers show should not have been shown at a variety of other shows. They should be “fresh”.

Recent Photo Trips: Several members provided recent pictures that they’ve taken. Ted provided pictures of the great falls on the Potomac near Washington DC. He also showed pictures of the Pisgah covered bridge. Pictures were also shown of Richfield as well as Gold Hill.

Storage Solution:

Wayne provided a “how and tell” example of how he stores pictures. He brought a black simulated leather box which will hold up to 150 CDs/DVD sleeves for picture storage. He obtained these from Light Impressions for approximately \$30. The sleeves hang like hanging folders and are acid free. He lists his pictures on a spreadsheet and then puts them on a numbered CD which is then stored in the CD/DVD sleeves.

Charles brought in a small external hard drive which holds thousands of pictures to show as his method of storage. The \$300 hard drive attaches to the main hard drive by USB and is 300gig. It is very small and portable.

Specialized Pictures:

Fireworks: Ruth explained the manual settings (800 ISO, f14, and 10 sec shutter) that she used for her SLR for capturing fireworks and inquired if there were better settings that she could have used. Chuck indicated that she might have used an ISO of 400, f11 and leaves the “bulb” setting on the shutter. This means that the shutter stays open (longer than 30 seconds) until the photographer decides to press the button to move to the next picture. Chuck puts a card in front of the lens except when he wants to take it off for a picture and then covers up the lens again. This keeps ambient light from entering the pictures. He then puts 3-5 images on each picture. Chuck indicated that he has a handout that he passes out to his photography class which discusses special circumstances like this.

Waterfall: Ruth also inquired about taking pictures of waterfalls. The pictures that she had taken at DuPont Forest waterfalls were blurred. But were blurred too much to her liking. She used a shutter speed of 1/15 of a second. Chuck suggested that she bracket her shutter speed so that she gets a variety of shutter speeds for one picture. Then she can pick which one she likes.

Volcanoes in evening in Hawaii: Chuck will provide some suggestions for how to best photograph the Hawaiian volcanoes in the evening.

Storage of pictures for trip to Hawaii: Chuck suggested that for a trip to Hawaii, making two copies of each CD (which pictures will be loaded on from a camera) might be a good idea. This would ensure that the pictures arrived home safely. These CDs can be burned at Walgreen’s, Walmart, etc.

Love Valley field trip: The club members are going on a field trip to Love Valley this Sat (15 July). Cowboys and cowgirls will be available for pictures and paintings for the day starting at

9am. Jim certainly got everyone's attention when he indicated that if you brought a gun, it needed to be loaded. The members decided they weren't planning on bringing guns. Members are meeting at the normal place (city parking lot across from Mayo's restaurant) in Statesville at 9am to carpool.

Program: Cold Mount Press Practice

The new cold mount press for the Club arrived. It is supposed to be used to mount pictures permanently to a backer board. It arrived in a couple of boxes with about 4 pages of instructions. The men of the club put the cold mount press together in a short period of time and the experimentation began. Since no one had actually used a cold press there was a lot of discussion and trial and error learning involved.

How to use the cold press:

1. Put the picture on one side of the sticky paper.
2. Use an exacto knife to trim the double-sided sticky paper the same size as the picture.
3. Put the release paper on top of the picture.
4. Put the picture between the two sheets of the cold mount plastic.
5. Run the plastic through the roller by turning the crank
6. Take the picture out of the two sheets of plastic and tear off the release paper on the sticky paper on the back of the picture.
7. Cut the backer board the size that you want so that it will fit inside the frame. Mark the corners where the picture would be mounted on the backer board.
8. Very carefully stick the picture on the top of the backer board. Make sure that the picture is placed where you want it, because the sticky paper on the back of the picture is very sticky.
9. Put the release paper on top of the picture (to protect the picture print), put the backboard (with picture) between the two sheets of plastic and run it through the cold press again.
10. After removing the picture from between the two pieces of plastic, use a spatula type scraper to rub the top of the picture to make sure that the picture is mounted properly (without bubbles, etc). Make sure that the release paper is on top of the picture when you do this to ensure the picture print isn't damaged.

A cheaper version of a cold mount could be to buy the sticky paper and just use the spatula type scraper to adhere the picture to sticky paper and to the backer board.

Wayne suggested that the backer board should be 100% cotton rag and 4 ply.

The meeting adjourned at about 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Ruth Klumb, Secretary.

Those Wild Cowgirls from the 'Streets of LOVE VALLEY''

Hello IPC,

As most of you know the residents from the town of Love Valley were to dress up in their finest duds today so people could take their photographs. Many members of the Iredell Photography Club (IPC) turned out to take advantage of this seemly great opportunity.

Well partners I want you to know things were looking mighty grim for a while there as there was just no action at all.

However, just when I was about to give up and leave I saw a sight that I will remember for many a day. Coming right down the middle of the boardwalk came these two real live cowgirls riding on the same horse(y).

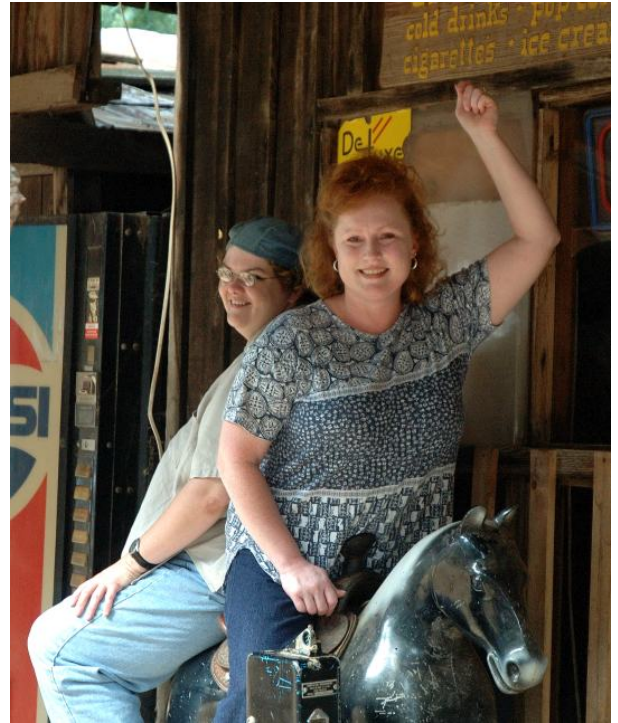
I could tell they were real cowgirls from their outfits.

The one in front was waving her arms and holding on with only one hand while the one in back was having trouble staying on and trying to ride the horse the other way, I think).

I must say neither of these two cowgirls knew too much about how to pick a good horse, as the one they had was kind of puny looking. Anyway they were having fun as we all did.

I haven't gone through all my photos yet but even with things being so slow I think I have a few good ones.

Charles



Quick Tips for Avoiding Lost Digital Photos

- Reformat the memory card in your camera each time after downloading and saving the pictures on your computer. Don't use the computer to format the card
- Create a backup by saving your files from the memory card to your computer. You might also consider creating a second backup with a CD.
- Don't let a memory card get too full before downloading the pictures to your camera. Cards that become too full have been known to write over the card headers.
- Charge your batteries sufficiently before taking pictures. Keep a set of fully charged spare batteries just in case.
- Do not remove the card from the camera too quickly while the camera is still saving data to it. Wait a few moments until you're sure the picture is completely written to the card.
- Wait a few seconds before shutting the camera off for the pictures to be written to the memory card. With the power off, the camera may stop writing to the card causing a file corruption.
- Don't shoot pictures too closely together, exceeding the manufacture's recommendation interval. The camera will not be able to finish writing one picture before starting the next.
- Avoid large static charges, and be extra careful when handling cards in dry, low humidity.
- Keep cards away from strong magnetic sources and extreme heat and cold. Walk-through airport X-rays and scanners are safe, but be careful of the stronger X-ray equipment used to examine checked baggage.
- Don't remove a media storage card from a card reader too quickly. Wait until it has finished communicating with the hard drive and all files on that card are closed.
- Edit and delete pictures on the memory card with your computer, not with the camera. Too many file edits and picture deletes in the camera have been known to cause card problems.
- If a memory card problem occurs, stop using the card immediately. Do not reformat the card or delete pictures. Use an image recovery program or send the card to an image recovery lab to retrieve the files.
- Be careful with your camera's Delete All and Card Format options. These operations may be irreversible.
- Don't let anyone unfamiliar with your camera navigate the menus.

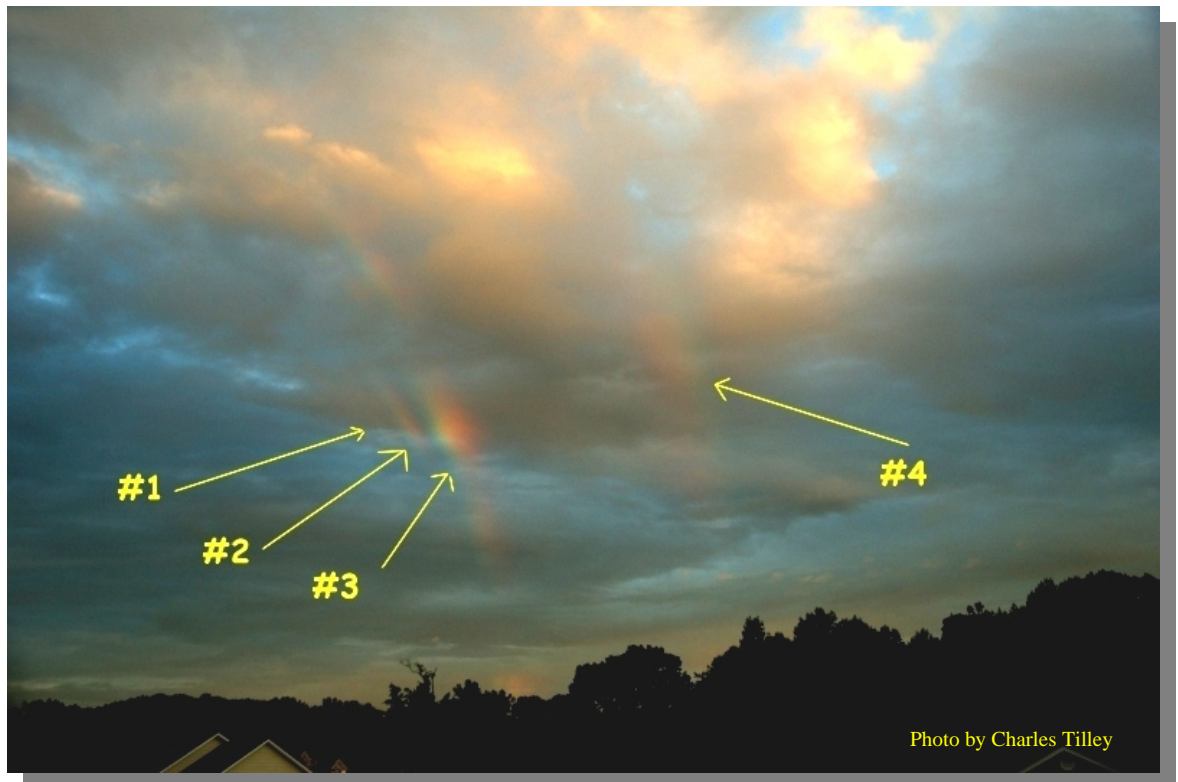
Courtesy of FlashFixers/Image Recall www.flashfixers.com

Quote of the month

The photographer must be a part of the picture. -Arnold Newman

Rainbows in the Sky

By Charles and Diane Tilley



While attending a party on the 29th of July 2006 members of our astronomy club noticed these rainbows in the southern sky. What we thought was just another rainbow photo turned out to be something else altogether.

We have since learned this rainbow photo is very unusual. If you will look at the angle of rainbow #1 and #2 compared to the angle of rainbow #3 you will see that they are not parallel to each other as they should be.

At the time we thought it was just a neat photo so we sent it to SpaceWeather.com hoping they would display it on their web site. Some of the astronomy guys do this with their photos from time to time.

Instead of displaying the photo SpaceWeather.com forwarded it on to Atmospheric Optics located in England. They in turn notified us of the unusual features of these rainbows while naming a few other features about #4 that I do not see.

Atmospheric Optics does extensive studies on atmospheric abnormalities from all around the world so we are all very excited about this. We are still waiting the final word on this photograph but we did find out we were very lucky to see (and in their words) **“one of the most unusual rainbows they (AO) have yet to see.”**

So always keep those cameras handy. You never know what will pop up. (cT)

Note: I had to reduce the size of this file by reducing the DPI's in the photograph. Therefore the rainbows and especially rainbow #1 does not show very well. However, they all show very well in the larger TIF file. (cT)

Old Photographs -- New Technology

How many times have you looked at a photograph and said, "That photo is not real", or "That has to be a fake". You might even wonder, "How did he/she do that"? I personally enjoy looking at a photograph that makes me say, "Now that it a great photograph, I wish I had taken that". They are the ones I strive to take and are the most rewarding.

Sometimes a so-so photograph is OK but still lacks something. So what to do?

With the power of today's computers you can do a lot. This power also proves the point that you really cannot trust what you see in photography.

In this hot, dry weather even bugs have enough sense to stay inside. Thinking I am at least as smart as a bug, I also chose to stay inside. I decided instead to look through some old photos I had taken and play around a bit. I even went back into some old film negatives -- did I really ever use film?

A few months back I took a photo of the Full Moon that came out pretty nice and I wanted to use it somehow in this experiment. The Moon photo was taken with my Nikon Digital D70 shooting through my 127mm Maksutov telescope. This telescope also acts as a very nice compact, high power telephoto lens. It is great for wild life shots.

Finally after picking through several pages of old negatives I found one I had taken some 25 years ago. At that time I was stationed at **Dougway Proving Grounds**, located about 70 miles from Salt Lake City, Utah. It was so far out in the desert it was considered isolated duty. This turned out to be one of the best assignments of my military career and it was here I fell in love with the desert and its abundant wild life.

The negative I chose was one of an owl sitting on a post, holding a mouse as the sun set. It was taken while we were even further out in the desert at

the **Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge**. Here the animals and birds were use to people being around so it was not uncommon to see these owls, coyotes and other critters running around at dusk.

Now I wanted to use only part of this photo, the owl. Using the computer I removed the owl and pasted it over the Moon shot.

Using the **'cloning tool'** to remove some of the old photo from around the owl and post I then --merged the two together-- change it to a black and white photo -- hit the save button and ended up with an owl sitting on a post in front of the Full Moon. I think this is much more dramatic than the sunset photo.

Now, when you find yourself sitting inside due to the heat, rain or whatever, get out some old photos and see what you can come up with. It is a lot of fun.

Would you like to see a photo of Diane with a mustache? cT)



