



Collins Photo Club

This Month

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From the President

The February meeting highlights are: SuAnn Tichy is giving us a presentation from her trip to the Eastern Sierras in October of 05; we will be sharing our prints from our trip to PhotoPro last month; and voting on replacing the umbrellas for the Novatron. Please bring your ideas for a photo shoot this month or next month on a Saturday.

Jessica has lined up Scarth Photo on High Country Photography and risks of Acute Altitude Sickness for our main event for March 16, 2006. Another "hands on" using a local photographer is planned for April. May's meeting will have a visit from Dave Johnson with his new toys! If there is an activity you would like to see us do during the next several months, tell us and we will have a special meeting for it. We are looking for presenters on special topics, if you are still interested in giving us a presentation, contact Jessica or myself. Would some one be interested in giving a presentation using the matt cutter on an evening or Saturday? A newsletter article on your specialty would also be welcome. Remember it is **our club** and it is as good as **we** make it, so **your input is important!**

David Detwiler,

2006 President

Our Next Meeting

NEWS FLASH

The February meeting is postponed until Feb 23, 2006

Collins Photo Club Meeting Minutes for January 19, 2006

Our meeting was held at PhotoPro at 5 o'clock. We had nineteen members present to learn how photos are processed in the lab. Members were separated into groups to have prints printed while they watched.

One often discussed topic among digital camera users was getting prints that match the colors seen on the monitors*.

Members were given a number of prints. There were panoramas, metallic paper and some special adjustments.

Please be sure to show your appreciation to PhotoPro by giving them your business!

**(This might make a good newsletter article! Hint Hint)*

Dave Johnson would like to meet with the club maybe in March or April to let us know about the new photography products that might catch our interest. That he was open to new ideas for their website. Also to let us know if we didn't already that PhotoPro has been running ad's in national magazine (Shutterbug and Outdoor Photographer) publications.

It was discussed that Nikon will be getting out of film cameras with only the F6; FM10 available. Minolta/Konica no longer sold to Sony.

Treasurer's Report

	Feb-06
INCOME	
January Ending Balance	\$755.05
New/Renewed Memberships	\$80.00
Total Income	\$835.05
EXPENSE	
Total Expenses	\$0.00
Balance as of 02/09/06	\$835.05

Dear "Doug the Answer Man,"

I just bought a new digital. What should I use for filters, to get the same results I got with my polarizer, red filter, yellow filter or my variable blue filter?

Chasing the Sun

For some reason I have a fascination with taking sunset photos. My personal lifestyle presents few opportunities for shooting sunRISE photos!

As with any photo, some preparation will take out elements of chance. In particular, you can determine when the sun will set at a particular time and azimuth. Knowing this allows you to position desired landscape features in the photo with the sun at a particular spot. For example, a heavily backlit church steeple or the sun coming in a particular window to illuminate a person or cast a bright highlight across a room.

There are several useful tools for determining sun azimuth and sunset times. Begin by determining the locations of both the photographer and the subject. The best tool for this is Google Earth. This is a VERY cool tool which allows you to zoom in or any spot in the world, rotate the image, and even tilt it down. It does require an "install", but that is relatively easy. Here's the link: <http://earth.google.com/>

Once installed, zoom to the site of interest. There is a small compass in the lower left of the screen. This will let you estimate the desired azimuth for your photo. While you think of many roads as N-S or E-W, you'll be surprised at how much variation there is.

After determining an angle, you need find the date when the sun will set at that angle. This requires a couple of steps and the U.S. Naval Observatory has them for you.

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On their main page, <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/> select Data Services, then Rise/Set/Transit Times... Using Form A, enter a location and set the Number of Days = 30 (or more). The following is an excerpt of the data for Cedar Rapids. Note the Set Az columns on the right. These are the local sunset times (24 hr format) and the azimuth (0—360 degrees). Now go back to Google Earth and see where that sunset will be located, relative to your shooting location. For long shadows the best time are PRIOR to sunset. For soft lighting and richer orange color, the best times are immediately AFTER sunset. By the End Civil Twilight (right column), its pretty dark.

Sun

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA
 Location: W 91°40'12.0", N41°58'48.0", 0m
 (Longitude referred to Greenwich meridian)

Time Zone: 6h 00m west of Greenwich

Date (Zone)	Begin	Rise	Az.	Transit	Alt.	Set	Az.	End
	Civil Twilight							Civil Twilight
	h m	h m	°	h m	°	h m	°	h m
2006 Feb 06 (Mon)	06:45	07:14	110	12:21	33S	17:28	250	17:57
2006 Feb 07 (Tue)	06:44	07:13	110	12:21	34S	17:29	250	17:59
2006 Feb 08 (Wed)	06:43	07:12	109	12:21	34S	17:31	251	18:00
2006 Feb 09 (Thu)	06:41	07:10	109	12:21	34S	17:32	251	18:01
2006 Feb 10 (Fri)	06:40	07:09	109	12:21	35S	17:33	252	18:02
2006 Feb 11 (Sat)	06:39	07:08	108	12:21	35S	17:35	252	18:03
2006 Feb 12 (Sun)	06:38	07:07	108	12:21	35S	17:36	253	18:05
2006 Feb 13 (Mon)	06:37	07:05	107	12:21	36S	17:37	253	18:06
2006 Feb 14 (Tue)	06:35	07:04	107	12:21	36S	17:38	253	18:07
2006 Feb 15 (Wed)	06:34	07:03	106	12:21	36S	17:40	254	18:08
2006 Sep 06 (Wed)	06:09	06:37	81	13:05	55S	19:32	279	20:00
2006 Sep 07 (Thu)	06:10	06:38	81	13:05	55S	19:30	279	19:58
2006 Sep 08 (Fri)	06:11	06:40	82	13:04	54S	19:28	278	19:57
2006 Sep 09 (Sat)	06:12	06:41	82	13:04	54S	19:27	278	19:55
2006 Sep 10 (Sun)	06:13	06:42	83	13:04	54S	19:25	277	19:53
2006 Sep 11 (Mon)	06:14	06:43	83	13:03	53S	19:23	277	19:51
2006 Sep 12 (Tue)	06:15	06:44	84	13:03	53S	19:21	276	19:50

Around March 21 (and Sept 21), the sun sets straight west (270 degrees), but look at the time differences in the table for spring vs. fall! At this time of year (March 21), the sunset will move, in one day, almost the diameter of the sun disk.

Don't expect to shoot the perfect shot the first time. You'll end up looking at the sun just a little too often and that really makes it hard to read the little LCD on the camera or in the view finder. The deep colors and high contrast will drive you light meter crazy. Take lots of photos and bracket +/- several full stops. I suspect every digital camera will be different under these conditions.

Watch for lens flares and sun artifacts. I stopped my lens way down to F-28/32 and took a long exposure (2-4 seconds). This worked great, but short jet contrails in the sky now look like there was junk on the lens.

Good advice from a National Geographic's photography site: just keep shooting because the sun is moving very fast. You can easily see it moving as it touches the horizon.

If you're really adventurous, the same web page will let you check for moon positions. Good luck!

Barry Buelow

BLACK AND WHITE FILTERS

Taken from website -

http://www.mlkstudios.com/course/filters/filters_bw.html

Often when shooting outdoors the blue sky will appear white on black & white film. You can get the natural detail of the sky by using a yellow filter over the lens. An orange or red filter will enhance the sky even more, making it appear darker than it is.



Filters for black & white are used to enhance the opposite, or complimentary, color in the scene. The color blue is complimented by yellow, so a yellow filter will make blue appear darker. A filter will cut out some of the light, so when using a separate meter, the filter's density must be factored in. When you use the camera's built in meter, the light is cut before reaching the meter, so no compensation is necessary.

Ansel Adams often used a red filter in his landscapes to make the sky dark like night. He is considered the greatest landscape photographer in America. Anyone who is seriously interested in black & white photography, should read his books *The Negative, The Print and The Zone System*.

Medium Format Advice Centre

Taken from www.cameras.co.uk

General Medium Format cameras are often viewed as a big step up from 35mm format cameras. They are certainly the domain of the serious photographer, whether professional, aspiring professional or experienced amateur.

Price is often the most significant factor that stops people stepping up to this format, with fully featured, automatic cameras regularly coming in at well over \$3450.00. Before you are put off for life though, at the other end of the market, for around \$345.00, you can find an entry level camera. Obviously cameras in this price range will not be overloaded with all the latest state of the art features, but you will be able to explore the medium format world. For many former aspiring professionals the step up to this format has led to increases in income quickly offsetting the initial expenditure.

Benefits

If you wish to sell your photographs in the commercial world then you should seriously consider a medium format camera. Your chances of success are considerably higher when you are able to present to art directors and picture editors the larger slides and negatives produced by these cameras. It is easy to understand why when you consider the fact that the negative size is typically 350% larger than a 35mm negative. Not only do the images look more impressive, but because of the level of details that can be captured in a Medium Format image, enlargements are of a far greater quality. If you are a picture editor this is exactly the level of quality that you demand.

Components

Medium Format cameras have four major components. All components are interchangeable. Although it should be noted that components are not always compatible across different manufactures. There has been a move towards lighter components making Medium Format cameras easier to use for work out in the field. A number of the features now available also provide these cameras with some of the functionality you have come to expect from an SLR.

The Body

The body is the control centre and forms the hub of

the camera. Once the components are fitted to the body you are ready to start shooting. The body has a maximum format size that it is capable of producing, so when you see a camera quoted as a 6x6, then the camera can produce images up to 6 by 6cm. A 6x6cm image is 350% larger than a 35mm image, so you can begin to see the power of this type of camera and why they are the choice of professional photographers. The actual picture area is a shade under the format size, for example a 6x7cm format can give a 56x69.5mm picture.

The Back

The camera back holds the film. Different format sizes and film types can be used, with the interchangeable backs allowing for mid roll change. If you are using a camera body with a maximum format capability of 6x7cm, then you will normally be able to use backs with film sizes 35mm, 35mm panoramic, 6x4.5cm, 6x6cm, up to 6x7cm.

A popular additional back is the Polaroid instant film back. This back allows you to take a test picture and see an instant print. If you are satisfied with the instant print then you can reselect the back and shoot your image confident of the end result.

There is also an increasing range of digital backs available. These allow you to maximize your investment in Medium Format equipment by adding digital capabilities. The first Medium Format cameras built for digital photography are now becoming available.

Some cameras also offer a revolving film back making it possible to change from portrait to landscape shots without moving the camera.

The Lens

As with any camera the lens is a vital piece of equipment. A lens of inferior quality will lead to poor quality final results. The choice of available lenses is wide and varied, including fixed and zoom. Lenses can commonly be found in the range of 40mm to 500mm. At the lower end of the range tend to be a series of wide angle lenses, with the upper end providing telephoto effects. Also included in the range are a number of special application lenses, fish eye, macro and soft focus, being among those available.

There are also a number of further attachments

available, affording you total control over each different shot. These include fisheye lenses, auto extension tubes for close up photography, additional close up lenses, focusing levers for rapid focusing, tele-converters and bellows attachments for continuous variations in magnifications. For lenses if the standard range you are also likely to find matching lens hoods for removing stray rays.

The Finder

Cameras can come with a choice of finder. Waist and eye level finders are available. Prism finders are available for laterally correct, upright images. Top of the range finders provide additional functions such as, a choice of spot or average metering, exposure compensation, TTL automatic exposure systems and LCDs indicating the different modes currently selected, appropriate shutter speed and the exposure compensation setting condition.

The finders work in conjunction with focusing screens. There is also a wide choice of focusing screens. The screen for general purpose photography is the Matte screen. Others available include the Checker for close ups, copy work and architectural applications, Rangefinder Spot for rapid, accurate focusing and the Cross-Hair for close ups and astronomical work. A series of correction lenses are also available.

For precision focusing you can attach a magnifier to a eye level prism finder. These work by magnifying the centre of the focusing screen. Once focusing has been achieved they can be raised to check the overall composition.

Points to Remember

Image Size

The primary reason for stepping up to the Medium Format range is the size and therefore quality of the image produced by this type of camera.

Editing and Retouching

The large image size makes it easier to edit and retouch an image. Images are also perfect for cropping and enlarging.

Finders

Whatever type of camera you are buying the quality of the finder is always an important aspect to consider. Medium Format cameras offer larger

finders than their 35mm competitors, making it easier to see the exact image that you are about to capture.

Film

With typically 15 exposures or less per roll, film is also more expensive to buy and develop. The number of exposures per roll depends on the format of the pictures that you are planning to take. If you take 6x7cm pictures you will get less exposures per film than if you take 6x4.5cm pictures. Standard films are 120 and 220. A wide range of film speeds are available, similar to 35mm film and slide.

Multi Format

By using interchangeable backs, cameras will shoot different size images.

Mid Roll Change

It is possible to change film in the middle of a roll, returning to the original when required.

Flash Units

There are a wide range of flash units available for Medium Format cameras. Compatibility needs to be checked to ensure your chosen flash unit will work with your camera.

TTL Metering

Highly accurate exposures can be achieved through cameras offering Through The Lens (TTL) direct light measurements at the film plane.

Speed Grips

For hand held shots, out in the field, speed grips are available.

Lenses

A wide range of lenses and complementary attachments are available to suit every photographic opportunity.

Motor Drives

Motor Drives are available making continuous sequential shooting a possibility.

Bulb Shutter Mechanism

Some cameras now have a Bulb Shutter Mechanism for long exposure work.

Rental

Stepping up to Medium Format can feel like a leap in

the dark. So if you are not sure what to buy or uncertain about the merits of Medium Format photography, then try some cameras on rental. Rental rates can be very reasonable and this can help you decide which features you consider a must and which features you can add on later.

Second Hand Market

There is an active second hand market for Medium Format cameras and accessories, although you may not get all the latest features there are some very good deals to be found. Always ensure that you get a guarantee for any used equipment.