

Contact Sheet

Journal of the Eastern Idaho Photographic Society
Vol. 19, No. 3 March 2007

Snow and the 18% Gray Card

Winter time photography! It gives you the best of all images and yet can give you the worst possible scenarios! Snow on the ground really hides a lot of defects. The beer cans are hidden; the McDonald's wrappers are no longer seen; the scene is very simplified. Even with color film in our camera, many times we end up with a pure B&W image. But why does the snow come out so funny when I press the shutter? Why does my digital camera show so many blown out areas on the viewfinder?

Cameras - - and light meters - - will always have problems with images that are pure white or pure black. The light meter takes what light is reflected off the subject and processes it. It **assumes** that we are taking a scenic photo, or a portrait, or a sports event depending on what we have chosen on our program selector. Even if we are on manual setting it **assumes** we will be taking a picture with an average amount of light coming from the objects. That average amount of light is equivalent to an 18% gray card. Therefore, it is telling your camera that all of that white snow is gray and you will have to override your program and open up the aperture to let more light into the camera.

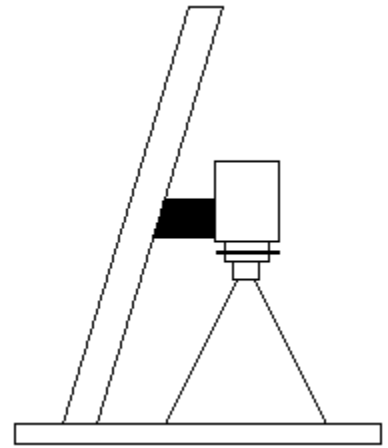
Rodney Jack also went over some other things that we can do to get the proper light onto our film - - or CCD chip. One of the best tools that we have

is a polarizer filter. This will

help enhance the sky as well as give more depth and a feeling of texture to the snow. Just be careful that you don't go too far or you will get a very dark surreal sky for your efforts. Many winter skies just don't have those nice puffy cumulonimbus clouds that we love in our summer scenic images. Another trick is to use split neutral density filter to give a better balance between the ground and the sky.

If we have the luxury of a digital image, we can allow the computer to aid us in printing the shot. You can adjust the curves component to get a better contrast level in your image. Also, the reflected light into the shadows will appear to be too cyan. Adding just a touch of red may make the shadows a little whiter appearing. Sometimes a little yellow will help also, but everyone's mom has told you to avoid "yellow snow"!

One of the curses of winter photography is trying to take a picture of a very dark subject in the snow. How many good winter buffalo pictures have you seen? Rodney stated that you just have to meter for the dark subject and let the snow be blown out - and bracket, bracket, and bracket, if you are with slide film. Our eyes have incredible ranges in the brightness and darkness latitudes we experience. Our films, computer chips, photo papers can not make those adjustments. So it is up the photographer to know his film/computer



chip well enough to be able to get the image onto film. Sure, it is cold outside and the wind is whipping up the snow; but we photographers are a hardy group - - well, a couple are - - and this is the year we are going to master winter photography. Thanks, Rodney, for sharing you knowledge about winter shots. Now if my fingers will finally start to warm up, I'll get out there again.

(Thanks, Shannon, for your notes about the lecture. I found them very easy to read, maybe even easier than my own notes when I show up!)

Club Notes

Special thanks to Farr's Jewelry for the use of the digital projector at the last Advancement Program. We learned a lot!

Roger is in the process of completely redoing our web site. He needs some pictures from each member to include – and these can be any type of image you might want. If you really like still life, odd stuff, this is where you can post your images for visitors to our site to see. Also, if you have some images of the various National Wildlife refuges, different ghost towns, Yellowstone Park, the Tetons, please share these with Roger. He is trying to set the site up so that a visitor to our region would know what to take some good images of. In this way they will continue to visit our site when they might be planning a trip, trying to decide what time of the year to visit, etc. If we have this much information on the web site, he feels that the web visitor will want to visit and join our club on a permanent basis. (He especially needs shots of our various National Wildlife Refuges. In this way,

he can tie our images to their sites - - and vice versa.)

We are back at EITC for the month of March. This has always been a good way to showcase the type of photography that each of us can do. This is not a juried show, but the administration of EITC does have final say about what is shown. We should have enough room available so that each member could hang five pictures of your choosing. Show Idaho Falls what you like to photograph. These can be for sale so that you can put your business card on each print with information about the image. Remember that these are being hung in a busy hallway so there must be a good hanging device in place on your print.

Congratulations to the winners of the High Desert Photographer's Juried Show at EITC. John Beach took Best of Show, Shannon Bowen took first place in Color, and Bob Seidel took first place in B&W.

There is a new newspaper in town, the *River City Weekly* that is asking us for images and free lance photographers to help get their images. Most of you have probably received their inaugural issue by now in the mail. It would be a good opportunity for your images to be shown. For further information, please look at their posting on our web site.

We may be back on for the *Post-Register* Gallery. At present time it looks like we may have the month of May. We'll keep you "posted".

Field Trips

Sorry, guys, but the eagles forgot to come to their annual feeding frenzy on time this year in northern Utah. Some members that stayed through Sunday said that they started to come late that afternoon. Apparently, these eagles aren't as reliable as the swallows coming back to Capistrano. Tim, we want you to train these eagles a little better for next year, ok?

At the last Advancement Program, we started to see some of the images that were taken on the still life studio shoot in January. We saw some really fun shots. So thanks to all who brought equipment as well as those who brought items to photograph. We will make sure that we have at least one of these workshops each year in view of the turnout and the excellent images that were created. Thanks, Cathy, for getting this experiment set up. We learned a lot!

We hope that our club field trip to the Dog Races in Ashton comes off since we have had such a warm spell in the past week. Our internet site, www.eips.net will have any of the corrections listed for you. However, it did not have the fact that Tim forgot to tell the eagles to come on time this year.

Advancement Program

The theme for March's Advancement Program will be: **Photographer's Choice**. Please bring three slides, computer images, or prints and join us on 15 March at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at 1900 Grandview Road. You will improve

your skills as a photographer as you learn from each other.

Remaining themes for the year are as follows:

April – Monochrome

May – Photographer's Choice

June – Fog

July – Photographer's Choice

August – The Past

September – Photographer's Choice

October – Critters

November – Photographer's Choice

December – Color Explosion

From the Optics Lecture

Normal lens

- A "normal" lens is the focal length that is the same as the diagonal of the film.
- For 35 mm film, the diagonal is 43 mm.
- By convention, we use 40 to 55 mm as a normal lens.
- Below 40 mm are wide angle lenses.
- Above 55 mm are classified as long or telephoto lenses.

Normal lens

- A normal lens collects about 50 degrees of view which is about the same as the human eye.
- We may think we have 180 degrees of view, but much of our side vision is used to catch motion of large objects and is not capable of seeing any color, or any better than about 20/200 (large print or large objects) vision.

Dues are due! \$25/yr.

Monthly Meeting

Date: March 1, 2007

Time: 7:30 p.m.

**Location: 1900 Grandview
in the Conference Room**

Program:

Steve Smede does a lot of the photography for the Idaho Falls Magazine. He will be showing us some of his work as well as showing us what type of images they want to showcase in their publication. Come and learn.

Graffiti

EIPS is a group of amateur and professional photographers who meet on the first Thursday of each month for our educational lecture. Then the third Thursday is our Advancement Program where we share some of the images we have done. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in the 1900 Grandview Ave conference room. We all become better photographers!



Sue Heng – President
1501 Lowell Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
Membership Info:
Web address: www.eips.net

