

HORIZON NEWS #16

NEWS, THOUGHTS AND IMAGES FROM HORIZON PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps.
David Lloyd George

STUDENT PHOTOS: CLOSE-UP



We'd estimate that at least 75% of our students don't know the location of their camera's motor drive feature; as for the 25% who know where it is, few actually use it. Result: few amateurs get great shots like **George Van Dyke's** goose. George spotted several geese nibbling in a field behind the Priapi Gardens greenhouses where the class was photographing flowers. Being more of an animal guy than a flower guy, he was lured over to the field. He slowly approached the feeding geese, continually shooting as he moved ever-closer. When the geese took flight, he captured them in various stages of take-off. The time difference between his two best shots was just a fraction of a second (we saw his metadata), but notice that the bottom shot is clearly superior; the head is more visible and the right wing is more defined, plus it serves as a backdrop to one webbed foot.

The motor drive is most commonly used for moving animals, athletes, and vehicles, but don't forget to use it for anything that moves, including kids, whose expressions and body language can change dramatically in an instant. And don't forget a related feature: Auto Exposure Bracketing (AEB), which helps you take a quick succession of shots under tricky lighting, such as a moving boat at sunrise. Simply activate both your AEB and your motor drive; you'll get three different exposures in virtually instant succession.

So find that motor drive button...and use it!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We are pleased to announce that **Jim Clark**, one of the nation's most respected nature/wildlife photographers, has joined Horizon. Jim will be teaching our nature class (replacing Tony Sweet) and will also teach Horizon's first "off-site" workshop, a four-day affair in November at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge on Chesapeake Bay's Eastern Shore, about two hours south of Horizon headquarters. See our website for course descriptions, dates, and Jim's impressive bio and photos.

2. **Steve Gottlieb** lectures on architectural photography at the New England Camera Club Council's Annual Conference in Amherst, MA, on July 13, 14, 15. It's a big event, with attendance topping 1,000.

QUICK TIPS: FINDING HUMAN SUBJECTS

It's commonly said that a portrait is a collaboration between a photographer and his subject. Sometimes someone else is involved, without whose assistance there'd be no photo. For lack of a better word, we'll call that person the "procurer," the person who finds the person to pose. In a recent class, one of our students—**Jan Kravis**—had little experience taking pictures but world-class experience in connecting with people. Wherever we went, Jan made fast friends. The backroads couple who owned antique tractors, the Port Deposit family that owned a restaurant, the soldiers and their children and grandchildren at the Memorial Day celebration in Elkton, and the couple who stayed in the one room guest house in Chesapeake City. In just a single weekend, Jan got acquainted with a lot of people...and she got a lot of pictures. She didn't wait for something to happen in front of her camera, she made it happen. Jan seemed to find at least as much satisfaction in talking to people as photographing them.

If you like shooting portraits, it helps if you're like Jan: gregarious and interested in people. Usually, it's the photographer herself who must do the procuring and we're not all like Jan—self-confident and willing to face rejection. Most of us feel awkward approaching strangers and asking them to pose. To those who are shy and diffident, we offer this advice. Photography can be almost as good a conversational ice-breaker as traveling with a small dog. When approached graciously, most people are flattered to be asked to pose. For those who need a little persuasion, our favorite line: "I'm working on a "project" and your help will make a big difference." Occasionally, offering a few dollars or promising a print does the trick. (If you promise a print make sure you send it!) You may discover that the discussions you have with strangers are among your most important memories.

Still feeling bashful? If you want to get the shot, keep the words of Redmoon Ambrose in mind: "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear."

Oh yes, the photo on the right...Jan found this adorable cub scout and, with parental permission, stood him next to a decorated soldier. One of the other students, **Angela Giusto**, captured this tender, Norman Rockwell-like moment. Jan should get partial credit.



END FRAME



In late spring and early fall, the sun rises over the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal. The view from the bridge that goes over our town is especially beautiful. **Arnold Meshkov** captured this serene moment just as the sun came up. While Arnold was in a perfect spot, the perfect spot changes as the sun rises in the sky and as boats appear on the canal. As the scene changed, every student, most with their cameras on a tripod, held their position. To get the sun with a boat (and its wake) in the same photo may take some scampering. It's amazing how different the lineup of objects is just a hundred feet down the road.