

# THE CABLE RELEASE

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Organized for the mutual  
advancement and enjoyment of  
photography .

## NJFCC Photo Exposition

Jordan Basem

The NJFCC First Photo Exposition was held on October 12th at the Somerset Environmental Center. There were participants from 19 different photography clubs (folks from member clubs from all over NJ, Staten Island and the Poconos) present and everyone seemed to both enjoy the presentations as well as leave with some new skills. The physical room was perfect and the venue allowed participants to do some nature photography after the formal presentations.

There were three different presentations the first was geared to methods of lighting still life images using inexpensive tools. **Clarke Warren** who has over 30 years of experience had numerous suggestions and demonstrations on how to light subjects to achieve your desired results.

**Jack Moskowitz** provided the ins and outs of using layers and masks. He also introduced the participants to luminosity masks and demonstrated the best methods of creating our masks.

**Jordan Basem** had a number of tips to enhance our photographing of Fall Colors, especially when Mother Nature is not cooperating.

Photo Exposition is different than Photorama in as much as it is a hands on method of teaching. Both are great presentations and NJFCC is planning to do both in an ongoing way for the future. Both presentations share the same goal which is to help us become better photographers by exposing us to methods, experience and concepts. If you haven't participated in these events you should consider doing so - you never know what will inspire you.

The next Photorama is scheduled for **March 21, 2020**. More information will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. Mark your calendars.

## Presidents/Delegates Meeting

The first Presidents/Delegates Meeting was held Saturday, October 19th at the Cranbury Methodist Church. Almost 20 representatives from about 10 clubs gathered to discuss the current "state" of NJFCC. The meeting was chaired by President **Roman Kurywczak**.

The "purpose" of the Federation was the general topic of the meeting. It was generally agreed that providing educational opportunities for members of the various clubs of the NJFCC is foremost goal. And, consistent with that objective, the successful NJFCC Photo Exhibition was reviewed.

The pro's and con's of establishing a Meetup Group were discussed and, in fact, there really are non con's. **Eric Mayr** agreed to take the lead in setting up a Meetup that can be used by all Member Clubs of the Federation. He'll be looking for assistance in drafting the general use opportunities that will be available.

The changes to Competition Rules was reviewed. It was agreed that the current rules are a significant improvement. However, it was generally felt that additional work will be needed. One of the areas to be considered is development of a wider spectrum of Categories for Pictorial Competitions. This will be a subject of future emails and small meetings.

It was agreed that a goal of the Federation is to provide such assistance to Member Clubs so as to help them to attract new members.

## WHAT'S HAPPENIN' AT NJFCC MEMBER CLUBS in November 2019?

Club	Location	Date	Topic	Judge or Speaker
Camera Naturalist	Somerset Env. Ctr. Basking Ridge, NJ.	11/7 11/21	Program: Astrophotography Competition: Black & White and Macro	Mike Ver Sprill Dave Mills
Cranbury "Digital"	Cranbury Methodist Church	11/13	Competition: Trash	
Cranford/Millburn	Cranford Millburn	11/4 11/18	Presentation: Confessions of A Wildlife Photographer Competition: Sports	Phil Witt AL Brown
Essex Photo	Caldwell United Methodist Church	11/7 11/21	EPC Workshops: Hands-On Activity Night Competition: Nature and Pictorial	Members Arik Gorban
4 Seasons@Manalapan	FSM Clubhouse	11/11	TBA Critique: Open	
Gateway	Sacred Heart School Staten Island, NY	11/6 11/20	Competition: Waterfront Presentation: Travel Photography	Phil Echo Felino Nebiar
Hillcrest	Pilgrim Presby. Ch. Phillipsburg 11/27	11/11 11/25	Competition: Fall Colors Presentation: Aperture/Shutter Speed	Joan Pasternak Jim Resnikoff
HUB	Parsippany-Troy Hills Public Library	11/12	Competition: Bad Weather P/Mtg. Store, Catalogue, Back-up your Photos	Arik Gorban Guy Palmiotto
Hunterdon	Hunterdon Co. Ed. Services Comm.	11/12	Discussion/Critique of Member Photos Up Close and Personal	Members Wayne Kliewer
Livingston	Livingston Comm. Senior Center	11/18 11/25	Competition: Cityscapes NJFCC Fall Print Competition	Jordan Basem J. Basem, S Candelario, V Kempf
Metedeconk Lakes	Jackson.	TBA	TBA	
Monmouth	Colt's Neck Reformed Church	11/7 11/21	Program: Light Painting Critique and discussion	Tricia Rhodes Members
Monroe	Monroe Township Comm. Center	11/6 11/20	Competition: Open Program: Photographing NJ Pinelands	Richard Lewis
Morris Photocolor	Morristown Town Hall, Room 304 Senior Ctr. Room	11/6 11/20	Program: How To do Night Photography Competition: Landscape, Open	Mike Ver Sprill Jackie Dickert
Ocean County	Eagle Ridge CC Lakewood	11/4 11/11 11/18 11/25	Program: B&W Photography Competition: Color Pictorial Program: Creativity Special Project	Arik Gorban Liam Alexander Jeff Swany
Photographers of Sussex Co.	Admin. Bldg., Sussex County Fairgrounds, Augusta.	TBA	TBA	
Photographic Society of Vineland	Newfield Senior CTR Newfield	TBA	TBA	
Pocono	NCC Monroe Tannersville	11/19	Monthly Meeting	
Princeton	D&R Greenway Land Trust	TBA	TBA	

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<b>Club</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Judge or Speaker</b>
Raritan Photographic Society	American Legion Hall - Milltown	1/14 11/21	Program: Cell Phone Photography Competition: Architecture	Jackie Dickert
Ridgewood	Franklin Lakes Meth. Church	11/6 11/13 11/20	Executive Committee Competition: Reflections Program: Lenses and Perspective	Brien Szabo
River Pointe	RP Clubhouse Manchester	TBA	TBA	
Rockland	Clarkstown Comm. Ctr New City, NY	11/14 11/21	Evaluation: Portraits Workshop	Jordan Basem
Somerset County	Manville Library	11/12 11/26	Presentation: Lighthouses Competition: B&W, Open	Gary Martin Nick Palmieri
Sparta	Sparta Amb. Squad	11/6 11/20	Competition Program: Compositing	Christy Graham
Staten Island	Snug Harbor Culture Ctr.	11/7 11/14	Image Critique Monthly Competition	
Stone Bridge	SB Clubhouse Monroe	TBA	TBA	
Teaneck	Rodda Rec Ctr Teaneck	11/5 11/12 11/19 11/26	Competition: Nature Program: On Tour with Moscow Ballet Competition: Pictorial Executive Board	Bob Thomas Ron Wyatt Dave Mills
Tri - County	Nutley Library	TBA	TBA	
Vailsburg	Bailey Civic Ctr.	TBA	TBA	

**Pushing Your ISO**  
**by Rick Berger**  
**Member: HUB Camera Club**  
**Livingston Camera Club**

I once had a photography teacher, Walt, whose mantra was, "Some call it 'pushing your ASA.' I call it pushing your luck." Are you confused by that statement? Okay, here's the deal. Way back in the days of film photography (which now seems like a million years ago) there was something called ASA. This was a number that signified how sensitive a particular film was to light as that light traveled through the lens and struck the film in a camera. In today's digital world we refer to it as ISO. This is a number which represents how sensitive your camera's image sensor is to light which strikes it as it comes through the lens. Same deal with only a slight variation. So in today's camera, the sensor has simply replaced the film and the designation ISO has replaced ASA.

Simply put, both ASA and ISO represent an amount of sensitivity to light. ASA stood for American Standards Association...a group of American photo geeks that got together and set up a scale rating different films according to how sensitive they were to light. A few years later a group of international photo gurus met and decided that the world should share the same ratings system so no matter where around the globe you bought film, the ratings would be standard...a film with the rating ASA 100 whether bought in the US or Japan, would have the same sensitivity to light.

Now, what was Walt talking about when he spoke of "pushing" your ASA?

Well, back then, if we needed our film to be more sensitive to light (say we were shooting in low light conditions such as a cathedral) we had a choice. We could either put a more light-sensitive roll of film in the camera (a pain in the neck constantly switching rolls of film) or "push" the ASA number up, effectively tricking our camera into thinking it had a higher rated film in it. For example, if we had a roll of film rated ASA 100 in our camera we could cheat and set the dial to ASA 200. This allowed us to shoot at other settings than we could have used with the lower rated film. We "pushed" the rating up higher. To compensate for pulling a "fast one" on our camera, back in the darkroom we had to develop the film a little differently to compensate for our cheating ways. Walt considered this "pushing our luck" because the end result could be a disaster...negatives loaded with that photo demon known as "grain!" This resulted in prints that sometimes looked like they had been dragged across a sandy beach. If the grain was really excessive, photographers sometimes referred to these prints as having "grain the size of basketballs."

So, what's the connection with photography today and does Walt's theory still apply? Well, sort of. We no longer worry about the inconvenience of having to switch rolls of film (with different ASA ratings) to accommodate various light conditions. We still "trick" our sensor by changing the ISO number on our camera to accommodate the light conditions under which we're shooting. However, we no longer have to compensate for this when we get back to the darkroom (known today as our computer.) Is there a downside as there used to be (remember the dreaded grain?) Yes there is...and it's still that hated villain, grain! Okay, so they've changed the name. It's now called "noise." The bottom line is that "pushing" your ISO to a higher number can result in your images having excessive noise, particularly in the shadow areas. The good news is that, to some extent, this can be corrected when editing your image on the computer. Today's software provides ways to do this, but beware that in this process those basketball sized pieces of noise may become slightly blurred, resulting in an image that may look a little soft (read, "out of focus") in the final result.

Is noise always a bad thing? No! It can be used creatively. It sometimes lends a documentary feel to a photo, making it look like it would in a newspaper...gritty and current. It can lend character to a portrait as opposed to the silky smooth look of skin in a studio shot of a model. It can endow a landscape with the look of a Neo-Impressionistic painting made of pinpoints such as the pointillism effect used by artist George Seurat in the 1800's.

Changes in photography today are moving at breakneck speed...so fast, in fact, that it's difficult to keep up with them. It's fun to experiment with the latest technology. The next time you're out there shooting, try setting your ISO as high as your camera will allow then take a look at the results when you get your shots onto the computer screen. You may be surprised at what you see. Break the rules! Push your ISO and see if you're really pushing your luck!