



Paddle On Candlewood Lake – Dec 29th -Photographer Brian Wilcox

HOUSATONIC CAMERA CLUB Newsletter

JANUARY 2013

<http://www.housatoniccameraclub.org/>

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PSA COMPETITION CLUB RESULTS

Nine (9) club members submitted a total of 17 entries for the Winter 2012 PSA competition. Most photos received a total of 12 votes each. The photos below will represent the Housatonic Camera Club in the competition.



Vivian – Fred Orkin



Stars & Moon – Rick Pauline



Retired Dairy – Bill DeVoti



Balloon Reflections – Bert Schmitz



Sheri – Brian Wilcox



Housatonic River – Lazlo Gyorsok

Welcome to the January Issue of the Housatonic Camera Club Newsletter. The following is included in this month's issue:

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JANUARY 15 MEETING

At January's meeting, there will be no guest speaker. Instead, we will review the *Digital Circuit* DVD as well as review the club's entries to the Winter PSA and NECCC competitions.

WINTER NECCC NATURE CLUB RESULTS

Seven (7) club members submitted a total of 12 entries for Consideration in the Winter 2012 NECCC Nature category competition. Most photos received a total of 12 votes each. The photos below will represent the Housatonic Camera Club in the competition.



Kent Falls – Photographer: Lazlo Gyorsok



Seagull – Photographer: Dawn Dingee



Grand Teton Lake – Photographer: Bill DeVoti



Limestone Terraces – Photographer: Bert Schmitz



Winter Kayaking on Lake Candlewood – Photographer: Brian Wilcox

UPCOMING EVENTS**JANUARY****SALON SHOW AT NOBLE HORIZONS**

The Salon Show at Noble Horizons will open on **January 11, 2013**. Members are encouraged to submit up to 4 photos, suitably mounted for presentation and WIRED for hanging. Anything that hasn't appeared in past Noble shows is eligible for consideration. Drop off date is **January 5th and 7th 9:00 - 5:30 and January 6th 3:00 -5:30pm**. Submissions will be reviewed and selected by the Salon Committee.

Once your pictures for the show have been determined, please email a copy of each to Lazlo for the HCC website.



Guess Who. Hint: Who kayaks in December?



HOLIDAY DINNER AT THE COBBLE



WINTER NECCC PICTORIAL CLUB RESULTS

Seven (7) club members submitted a total of 16 entries for Consideration in the Winter 2012 NECCC Pictorial category competition. Most photos received a total of 11 votes each. The photos below will represent the Housatonic Camera Club in the competition.



All Aboard – Photographer: Rick Pauline



Vivian – Photographer: Fred Orkin



Geese On Parade – Photographer: Bert Schmitz



Abandoned – Photographer: Lazlo Gyorsok

Star Trail Photography

Article & photos submitted by: Rick Pauline

Night photography can yield some amazing results. Under the right conditions, long exposures (or multiple short exposures) can produce very interesting images.

Since the Earth rotates, the stars are not at fixed places in the sky but appear to move, more or less towards the west. To photograph the tracks the stars make across the sky, all you need is a camera that remains fixed to ground and have it expose for an appreciable amount of time. Such photos can be quite artistic.

The stars appear to rotate around both the north and south poles in the sky, of which you generally only see one. Stars very near the pole are almost stationary in the sky, while stars closer to the equatorial plane move quite fast. All move about 15 degrees per hour in right ascension ("horizontally"), but do not move in declination ("vertically").

Equipment

In order to take successful star trail photos, you will need a few items besides the obvious. The photographic equipment required includes the following:

- Camera capable of bulb mode and long exposure noise correction (also called dark frame subtraction).
- Freshly charged warm battery or an external power source – keep the battery in a warm pocket if the temperature is below 50 degrees Fahrenheit to maximize its power.
- A fast wide to normal zoom or prime lens (16-35mm f/2.8, 24-70mm f/2.8L, 24mm f/1.4, 35mm f/1.4, 50mm f/1.4).
- Locking cable release. Most cameras will only allow up to a 30-second exposure without either holding down the shutter

button or locking the shutter via a cable release.

- Sturdy tripod and tripod head.

Preparation

Preparation can make the difference between a successful shot and a lot of wasted time and loss of sleep. Picking the spot for a star trail shot is best done during the day. The best star trail shots have an interesting foreground element and a view of the sky from the east towards the north or west in the northern hemisphere and from the east towards the south or west in the southern hemisphere. The location should also be away from artificial light.

High elevation areas will reveal more stars than low elevation areas. Nothing can ruin a star trail image faster than light pollution, so this means staying well away from any roadways or any other source of light. Human-made light is your enemy. Use your lens hood as an additional precaution. A clear night is best. You may also want to check the moon phase – if it is a full moon, you might want to wait a few days as the full moon provides too much illumination in most cases. The new moon phase is also not very conducive but is better than a full moon – it is easier to add light to your foreground than it is dealing with too much light.

Plan to shoot after 11:00PM to avoid airplanes, start at least 2 hours after sunset and finish 2 hours before sunrise.

Here are a few more preparation items that are important:

- Locate hyper-focal setting of lens at f/4 and note the setting on the lens' distance scale or

mark on the lens if the foreground object is relatively close. It is almost impossible to accurately determine the hyper-focal setting in the dark.

- Turn off image stabilization; not only will it drain the battery faster but it will cause some image drift if left on for really long exposures.
- Turn on long exposure noise reduction – this will eliminate most or all pixel problems due to the very long exposures.
- Remove camera straps or anything that can blow around or vibrate the camera/tripod set-up should a wind be present or come up.

Locating Polaris

There are two types of star trail shots. The first is the polar-aligned shot which results in a circular star trail pattern around the North Star, Polaris.



The second is a non-polar aligned shot which results in nice arcs but not complete circles. For non-polar shots, any alignment north of the east-west plane will give you these arcs in the northern hemisphere (or south of the east-west plane in the southern hemisphere).

Star Trail Photography

(continued)



For the polar-aligned shot, first locate Polaris in the northern hemisphere. Polaris is quite easy to find as you can extend a line from the outer edge of the pan on the Big Dipper (Ursa Major) to the next bright star. For a polar aligned shot in the northern hemisphere, making sure Polaris is at or near the horizontal center of the frame will yield circular star trails. The farther south you are in the northern hemisphere, the lower in the northern sky the circles will appear since Polaris will be closer to the north horizon. In the southern hemisphere, locating the Southern Cross will yield similar results, but you will not get the single stationary point that Polaris provides in the northern hemisphere.

Variations

You can enhance your star trail photos with some interesting things, once you have enough of the standard star trails:

- Seek other composition: trees, tall plants and rocks do great.
- Starting an exposure, have the aperture fully open for about a minute when using standard or wide-angle lens, or half a minute if using a telephoto lens. Then very carefully close down aperture of the lens during the exposure, taking care not to move the camera. This will create bright spots at the beginning of the trail, and the

constellations are easy to make out.

Do as above, but hold a black cardboard in front of the lens about 15 seconds after first opening the shutter, for a minute. The trails are then disconnected from the stars.

Periodically hold a black cardboard in front of the lens for a minute or so to create dashed or dotted trails. This may require a lot of devotion and patience though!

Bring a flashlight and "light-paint" the foreground in some color. For standard "white" flashlights, the foreground will become yellow-orange.

Taking the Shot

Finally, all of the preparations are complete. You have your equipment properly prepared, you have your locations selected, it is a clear night, the planes have stopped flying, and you are ready to shoot.

Set up your tripod, camera/lens, and cable release. Make sure the camera is in bulb mode. Set the lens to $f/4$. Use your flashlight if needed to illuminate the foreground and make sure the foreground object's distance is within the depth of field of the lens at the hyper-focal setting. If the foreground object is effectively at infinity for your lens, you can autofocus on the moon and then turn off autofocus. If you are planning on a polar-aligned shot, make sure that the center of rotation for the star trail (North Star Polaris in the northern hemisphere and Southern Cross in the southern hemisphere) is in the right place in the frame.

At this point you are ready to take the shot. There is just one thing left to be decided. What exposure time should I use? These values almost always work...

Using a $f/4$ f/stop and ISO 200:

Moon	Minutes
Half	15-25
Quarter	30-40
1/8	45-60
New	50-120

An alternative to taking one long exposure is to take multiple shorter exposures (i.e., 10 six minute exposures; 100 one minute exposures, etc.). This technique helps to reduce bright skies when ambient light is present.

Post-Processing

If you're using only a single long exposure, you're almost done. Bring the image into your post-processing program and adjust as you would any other image.

If you're using multiple exposures, each image must be merged into a single frame. This can be done using the Stacking method in Photoshop, or by using the freeware package StarStaX (available here: <http://www.markus-enzweiler.de/software/software.html>). This program automatically merges and blends exposures into one image.



Above article includes content from the following authors who have contributed material on the web related to star trail photography: Harald Edens and E.J. Peiker.

Member Profile – Dawn Dingee

Equipment: Canon EOS 50D

Favorite lens: Canon EF 24-105mm

Current Focus: Nature & Landscape photography

Photography Education: I have no formal photography education. I only became interested in photography as a hobby about 2 years ago when I was introduced to it by Rick. I consider him my primary mentor (and best friend!). I have also learned a lot from photo outings with Lazlo and Brian.

About Me: I moved a lot when I was younger, moving 21 times by the time I was in my early 20s; however, I have always lived in a small radius of Dutchess and Putnam County NY. Since then, I have established roots at 11 Mayflower Avenue for 25+ years and I have no plans to move again. I am not married and I have no kids, but I have been very blessed in being able to participate actively in my nieces' and nephews' lives. I guess you could say my initial interest in photography began with them as I tried capturing all the major (and minor) happenings in their lives. I have only in the last few years been in the position to travel a little with my family, mainly traveling with my Mom and sister Debra. This past year, we visited Yellowstone and enjoyed it so much; we are planning another trip in 2014. I am disappointed in the pictures I got the first time so I am so happy I will get a second chance.

Travel (I have never been outside the US):

2009 – Alaska

2011 – Las Vegas, Grand Canyon

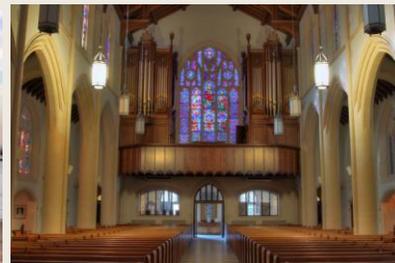
2012 – Yellowstone National Park

2013 – My first trip outside the US is planned for March 2013 with a “Cruise to the Edge” which is a “Progressive Rock” cruise with a stops in **Georgetown, Grand Cayman** and **Ocho, Rios, Jamaica** Rick and I are very excited!

2014 – Another trip to Yellowstone National Park is in the works...

I joined the HCC in April 2012. As a HCC member, I am learning a lot from the other members and the guest speakers.

My Photo Blog: <http://dawndphotos.blogspot.com/>



HOUSATONIC CAMERA CLUB MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE 2012 – 2013 SEASON

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the Month (Sept - June)
Where: Noble Horizons, 17 Cobble Rd, Salisbury, CT
Time: 7:00 pm (open to the public)

- January 15:** Digital Circuit DVD; Discussion of Competition Images for NECCC & PSA
- February 19:** Presentation by Brian Wilcox, Lighting Using One Flash; PSA Competition Discussion
- March 19:** Presentation by Stefanie Giglio, Subject T.B.A.
- April 16:** Presentation by Birgitt Pajarola, Sri Lanka; Discussion of Competition Images
- May 21:** Presentation by Joe Meehan, program T.B.A.
- June 18:** End of Year Dinner and Members Showcase.



Waterbury Junkyard - Photographer Lazlo Gyorsok

Housatonic Camera Club Membership Enrollment 2012—2013

I wish to enroll as a member for one year. Attached is the membership fee of \$25.00 (and \$10.00 for each additional family member).

Please hand or mail this form to the Treasurer, Judy Becker
432 Undermountain Road, Salisbury, CT 06068-1101; Email: judybecker40@att.net Ph: 860-435-2263

PLEASE PRINT ONLY ... AND CLEARLY!

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS(ES): _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

WE WILL SEND YOU OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS, SCHEDULES, AND CLUB INFO.

Interesting article(S) / Website(s) : <http://1x.com/photoawards/>

* PLEASE SEND LINKS TO INTERESTING ARTICLES TO SHARE TO D1295@AOL.COM FOR INCLUSION IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS.