



Camera Club Newsletter

EASTMAN CHEMICAL COMPANY

Issue 39

March 2011

Monthly Challenge for March— 1.6 seconds

This month's challenge is to take photos with exposure times of 1.6 seconds or longer. You're going to have to go off automatic mode for this one and you'll probably want to steady your camera with a tripod, bean bag or some other way.

When would you use a shutter speed that slow? You might need that slow speed when there is very little light. You might use it to capture motion or blur the water in a waterfall or creek. You might have part of your photo sharp and other parts with motion blur. Get creative.

Don't forget to upload or bring your February challenge "opposite" photos to the meeting on March 10.

We use our Skydrive internet site to upload and share monthly challenge photos. Follow these steps to upload your photos prior to the meeting.

1. Go to <http://cid-a098ead7e0361037.skydrive.live.com/albums.aspx>
2. Log in using r.siggins@charter.net. The password is shutter.
3. Click on the appropriate theme album (Opposites)
4. Click Create Folder and give it a name so we know it's yours.
5. Click on Add Photos to upload your photos to your folder.

The photos should be in jpeg or tiff format. They will be scaled down to fit the display when we view them so there is no need to make them any larger and 1440 pixels wide and 900 pixels tall. Try to limit your photos to about a half dozen. Call Richard Siggins if you have questions.



Tail Lights on Blue Ridge Parkway at Dusk
4 second exposure.

Weekend Photo Trip to Charleston, SC

Note—the dates for this trip have changed.

The club is sponsoring a weekend photo trip to Charleston SC March 25—March 28. This will be a fun weekend outing with plenty of opportunities for photographing architecture, sunrises, landscapes, seascapes, flowers, people, and many many other subjects.

There will be no formal instruction on this trip. We will meet, hang out together and share tips. Lodging and food will be on your own. We have arranged for a discounted rate at a local hotel. This will be a great trip to bring a spouse.

An itinerary and more details is available on page 4. Contact Jim Rigsby at 423-863-6727 or jrigsby@eastman.com for more info.



McLeod Plantation
Charleston, SC

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BASIC PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS

Claude Kelly will be offering his Basic Photography Class March 29, 31; April 5, 7, 19 and 21. This course is designed to provide the beginning photographer with knowledge for taking advantage of the many features offered by the 35mm single-lens reflex (SLR) camera and/or digital camera.

Covered in six sessions are:

- Camera operation and adjustments
- Lens choice
- Filters
- Close-up equipment
- Film options and flash usage
- Care and maintenance
- Principles of composition
- Critique session

The cost for the class is \$20 for ERC Camera Club members and \$25 for non-members.

Limited to the first 30 paid participants.

Please sign up at the Toy F. Reid Employee Center (229-3771)

New Camera Toy Review

Last month my family bought me a new hot shoe flash for my birthday. I had one of those plastic diffusers to put on the front of my old flash, but of course it didn't fit the new flash. Instead of getting another diffuser I decided to try something new -- The Rogue Flash Bender. The old diffuser did fine for softening some of the harsh flash shadows but this neat little toy does a lot more.

The FlashBender, which comes in small, medium and large sizes, is made of an optically neutral reflective fabric backed by Cordura Nylon and a material that helps it keep whatever shape you manipulate it to take. It has an elastic strap that wraps around the top of the flash and attaches with Velcro.

A backing material allows you to mold and shape the light so you can have anything from a flat reflector to a snoot. You have many options for shaping the light from the flash. Once you've manipulated the material, it holds its place.

I've done a few test shots with it set up as a reflector and it does a great job on the shadows. Recently, I used it as a snoot outdoors on bright sunny days. The snoot shape focuses all the light from the flash into a narrower beam of light over a longer distance. It's not as effective as something like a Better Beamer, but it's much more "flexible" (pun intended). The first time I used it was at a Revolutionary War Reenactment. It was a bright sunny day, which put anyone with a hat on in dark shadows. (continued on page 3)



Rental Equipment

Soft Box Studio Lighting Kit
Flash Umbrella and Stand
Soft Box
Foldout Background
1 HD Digital Video Camera
3 Digital Video Cameras
1 Canon XTi Digital SLR with lenses
1 Nikon D40 Digital SLR with lenses
1 Canon Flash for DSLR
1 Nikon Flash for DSLR
3 Canon Compact Digital Cameras
1 Nikon 35mm Film Camera
3 Heavy Duty Tripods
1 X-Rite Monitor Calibration System

Details about this equipment is available on the club website under [Rental Equipment](#)

Library

[The Moment It Clicks – Photography secrets from one of the world's top shooters](#)
Focus: People and Event Photography, Non-technical

[The Photographer's Eye – Composition and Design for Better Digital Photos](#)
Focus: Composition, Advanced

[The Photoshop Elements 6 Book for Digital Photographers](#)
Focus: Digital Photo Editing, Beginning to Advanced

[The Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 2 book for digital photographers](#)
Focus: Digital Photo Editing, Beginning to Advanced

[Adobe Photoshop Lightroom 2 Essential Training](#)
Focus: Digital Photo Editing, Computer Based Training

[The Smoky Mountains Photographers Guide](#)
Focus: Travel Photography Guide

[Photography Outdoors A Field Guide For Travel and Adventure Photographers](#)
Focus: Outdoor and Travel Photography

[Jump Start Your Photography](#) by Manny Pontoriero (DVD)
Focus: Beginning Digital Photography

[Visual Artistry](#) by Tony Sweet (DVD)
Focus: Compositional techniques, tips and tricks

Details descriptions available on the club website under [Library](#)

**Have a suggestion for a meeting program, outing or other activity? Send it to us!
We're always looking for new ideas.**

With the snoot I was able to light people's faces under their hat, sometimes from 30 feet away or more.

Compare this man's face with that of the man on the right side. The man's face on the right is completely black but the man in the center is well lit. I think this was taken about from about 20 feet away.

The second time I used the snoot arrangement was taking bird pictures. This woodpecker would land on the same branch, which was probably 30 feet away but in the shadows. The first shot was without a flash.



In the second shot I used the snoot to focus the light on the bird. Both shots were taken with a 400mm telephoto lens on a Canon 7D camera, which gave it an effective focal length of 640mm. Instead of using the flash I could have bumped up the exposure compensation, but that would have showed my shutter speed, changed the depth of field, or if I increased the ISO introduced more noise in the picture.

The Flash Bender folds up flat and fits easily in my camera bag. It's versatile and effective. It's now one of my favorite "Camera Toys".

I bought mine from [Adorama](#) but they are carried by a number of different places.

This and other articles are available at [The Siggins Photography Blog](#)

The Charleston Photography Adventure Tentative Agenda

March 25 through March 28

The Eastman Camera Club is sponsoring a weekend photo outing to Charleston, SC. Charleston is a wonderful old historic city with many opportunities for photography. This is also the peak season for azaleas and other spring flowers. The itinerary below is designed to get to the key places at good times for sunlight. You don't have to go to all these places and we will probably adjust the schedule based on weather and people's interest.

We have blocked a group of rooms at The Inn at River Crossing in Mt. Pleasant at a discounted rate of \$65.66 per night.

The Inn at River Crossing (Roadway Inn)

310 Highway 17 Bypass
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina 29464
Phone: 843-884-5853
Fax: 843-881-6279

When you call mention you are with the Eastman Camera Club to get the discounted rate.

Friday March 25

Very informal afternoon....be careful driving and arrive safely.
Plan on a 5.5 hour drive from Tri Cities.

For those arriving late you can contact Jim Rigsby on his cell
423-863-6727 and to arrange a place and time to meet.

4:00pm to Dark

We'll start at the hotel and head towards Sullivan's Island. We'll grab a bite to eat and photograph everything on the way
We'll start at the **USS Yorktown**....we won't go inside but we can photograph it from the parking lot.

Arthur Ravenal Bridge

The Cove

Sunset at Ft Moultrie

Lots of culture, beach life, and history to shoot.....keeps your eyes open!!!
May be able to get some night photography from Ft Moultrie.

Saturday March 26

5:30 am to 11:00 am

Sunrise at Morris Lighthouse.....Folley Beach (we need to be there by 6:30am)
Hang out on the Beach
See the Angel Oak....Don't forget your wide angle lens!!!! It's a must have for this tree.
Caw Caw Interpretive Center
St Luke Church
McLeod Plantation, Charleston

11:00am to 3:00pm

Back to rest and relaxation!!!!
Grab a bite to eat, share photos, **BLACK BEARDS AMUSEMENT PARK!!!**

3:00pm to Dark

Go into Charleston
3:00 PM Scheduled....Mark Plemmons was gracious enough to get us in the historic First- Scots Church.

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Sunday March 27

5:30 AM to ?

Sunrise at Capers Island (Be at the IOP Marina at 5:30 am) This is a custom cruise just for us that will take us through the marshes and drop us off at the Boneyard on Capers. Cost has not been verified but some where around \$40 a person.

12:00pm? Lunch and head to the room to share pics and relax

2:00pm till we can't stand it no more!!!

Meet at the Roadway Inn we'll go into the City and park in a parking garage. (Can't remember the name)

More Charleston!!!!

Rainbow Row

Battery

Chewing gum Utility poles at East Bay and Market

City Market and Straw Market

Pineapple fountain and Patriot Park

The architecture is gorgeous....a lot of French influence!!

I love to eat at California Dreaming.....Great photo op as the ships come into the bay.

Another opportunity for night photography.....

Monday March 28

Check out and home!

We can stop in Beaufort, SC and photograph the Old Sheldon Church ruins.

Be careful Driving home.

This will be a very busy week but please keep in mind you don't have to attend everything. Actually, we may not get to hit all these places but I wanted them on the agenda so we can stay focused.

For those who want to go on their own, there are carriage rides, dinner Cruises, ghost and history tours, shopping out the wazoo, and wonderful dining!

The main thing is to enjoy the city and have mega tons of fun!!!!