

The Art of Photography

WE'RE BACK....

After an extended hiatus our newsletter is back. The plan is to distribute it via email and make it available to workshop participants and other folks who are interested in the art of photography. We will have timely articles about events in the photographic world, shows and exhibitions of participants work, workshops, photos expeditions, and special events. We will pursue the art of photography, with an emphasis on traditional photographic processes and large format work. However, in our search for art we will continue to explore new technologies and constantly expand our horizons.

An important function of the newsletter is to help us keep in touch and informed between workshops and to keep the creativity flowing when we return to our own realities. The creative process does not seem to function very well in a vacuum and the more we can share experiences, art, and enthusiasm the more we can grow.

I look forward to sharing tripod holes with everyone in the very near future.

SUBMIT YOUR WORK

As the newsletter evolves I will be soliciting input from workshop participants and friends. We are all in this photography thing together and I would like to showcase your images, thoughts, and information that you feel should be shared with our group. For this to work we will all need to submit items and participate. No fair sitting in the back of the room and waiting to be called on.



Trying to make sense of the digital 8x10 at Darwin

GROUNDGLASS

Larry Gustafson has created an exciting website encouraging the discussion of photographic art and creativity. Check it out to find a variety of images and thoughts. Click on Groundglass above and you should end up there.

VISUAL METAPHORS

Dick Garrod's new book VISUAL METAPHORS is coming out next Spring. This will be a sequel to his first book VISUAL PRAYERS. The book will have over 70 images and four essays relating to the theme. The forward has been written by Larry Gustafson.

OREGON COASTAL CREATIVE WORKSHOP, SEPTEMBER 17—22



Bandon, Oregon

We are off to Bandon, Oregon for the [Oregon Coastal Workshop](#) beginning on September 17. We still have a few openings, but time is of the essence if you want to attend. This part of the Oregon coast has amazing rock formations and breathtaking photographic opportunities. The weather adds to the variety and excitement. Deb Caldwell & Don Boyd will give a special presentation at our Bandon workshop concerning the Nature of Conflict, which highlights landscape images as visual metaphors for conflict themes.

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Whither Are We Drifting...

Last Saturday my wife and I were invited to Tom & Melinda Oldfield's home in Altadena for drinks, dinner and serious fun. It was time for us to get the hell out of Santa Barbara and see some dear friends and relax, so we happily accepted the invitation.

We ate snacks, listened to Jimmy Buffett tunes, drank lots of liquor and enjoyed great conversation as we waited to consume a massive quantity of pork ribs slowly simmering to perfection on Tom's new outdoor barbecue. I gave Tom hell for not using his new darkroom he worked so hard to complete a couple of years ago. Let me tell you folks, Tom has one of the finest facilities I have ever seen. He has somehow collected a bunch of fine darkroom equipment that any of us would envy. It seems that Tom's facility has also collected a bunch of crap that has absolutely nothing to do with image making...reminds me of my own darkroom.

We ate a huge amount of ribs, had more drinks and kept needling Tom about getting his darkroom in shape so he (or perhaps we) could use it. I don't remember who but one of us suggested we go to the darkroom and help Tom clean it up. All of a sudden we were there... Tom with his shop-vac, sucking up spiders and dust...Melinda, Marta and myself picking up stuff and throwing it in the trash or putting it on a shelf somewhere. Stuff was flying everywhere and today Tom most likely can't find anything except for what we believe should be in a darkroom... maybe.

The next morning we sat around the patio table in a stupor, we drank strong coffee and we did our best to be civil to one another. Tom broke the silence, "I had a horrible dream last night! I dreamed that we went to the darkroom and cleaned it up ...God!" We fell to the patio floor in a heap of laughter.

Then things got very serious. My wife looked at me straight in the eyes and said, "Can I ask you a question"? I immediately knew I needed to remove any smirk of silliness off of my face right then and there. Marta brought up the subject of "Charles P Farmer Photography". Where have we been? Where are we going? What we are doing? She

questioned me about a recent e-mail we received from our pal, Dick Garrod, in reference to a number of fresh business ideas and concerns for the future of our dreams for photography. This was all conspired...or should I say, perspired, by Dick and Tom at Dick's home in Monterey a few weeks earlier.

I did exactly what I said I would not do. I let my job, as well as other crap, take over my life and get in the way of everything having to do with Charles P Farmer Photography.

We spent a lot of time talking about the revival of this newsletter among many other ideas for the business. Tom (and Melinda) has offered a great deal of help to accomplish our goals. Many of you folks have also offered your help. I have always been afraid to ask for help but we will need your assistance in order to succeed. We must build our family of photographers, implement fresh ideas, open up new venues, etc and get this going again.

This very afternoon Tom was in his darkroom making 11X14 prints. I saw him and that's the truth. Maybe I should clean my darkroom up next...

Thank you everyone.

Chuck

"Let no man's art be judged on the use of his chosen tools."

OREGON COASTAL CREATIVE WORKSHOP, CONT'D

This should spark up some interesting discussion.

Remember—Spouses and significant others may attend no additional cost.

[Click here for more information](#)

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News and Items of Interest

Mark Dubovoy will be giving a workshop at Samy's Camera in Santa Barbara, 614 Chapala St. (call: Julia Dean Photo Workshops, 310-821-0909 to sign up) Saturday, September 30, 2006, concerning workflow & print methodologies. Topics will be dark-room printing, carbon printing, pigment prints and ink jet prints. Many other topics will be discussed that Mark uses to produce an exquisite image of unsurpassed (oh wouldn't he like to think so, right Dick?) quality. Let's support Mark and sign up!

Speaking of Digital...

Leica is producing and introducing, this fall, a digital M series camera, about ten megs, $\frac{3}{4}$ sensor and I'm sure it will be one hell of a piece of equipment. If you buy one for around \$5000.00 or so, you can have three of your lenses matched to the serial number of the camera to insure exact focus. New Leica lenses bought for the camera will be matched when you purchase.

Zion Workshop 2006

The Zion National Park Workshop is scheduled for November 5 through 10. Rumor has it that the Driftwood Lodge has been sold. We are in contact with the new owners and making sure that our previous arrangements will still be honored. Watch this space, or check the website, for updates.

Available equipment

This seems like a good place for us to tell each other about equipment that we want to sell/trade or otherwise move around. It is not a place for classified ads but for workshop participants to swap, trade or sell. Drop us a note and we will include your stuff in the next issue.

- Wisner 5x7 Technical Field Camera in extra fine condition with bag bellows and groundglass protector. Comes with an F-64 bag. \$2,250 for the whole setup. You would pay over \$3,500 if you could buy a new one. Call Chuck
- Darkroom Equipment—Tom Oldfield has a large collection of enlargers, color light sources, paper safes, stainless steel tanks, and more. The enlargers are Besler 45 MX's and some late model Durst's. This equipment is available to any workshop participants for the cost of shipping. Contact Tom at toldfield@earthlink.net and see if he has what you need.

More to Come

The newsletter will be coming out at least on a quarterly basis. We will be putting together special editions after each workshop, expedition, or gathering to brag about our collective exploits and encourage more folks to come to the next one.

Among the new events we are planning will be some shorter, three day, trips to some interesting areas. This may include the San Francisco Bay area with time spent in Alcatraz (to turn a phrase), Fort Point, a restored WW-II Liberty Ship, and the Marin Headlands. We are also working on permission to spend a few days at military aircraft boneyard in Arizona

Upcoming editions will have articles by some of our workshop speakers, information on traveling with your equipment, product and equipment information, and more. It should be entertaining and informative.

Newsletter Smoke and Mirrors

Chuck has insisted that Tom Oldfield admit that he is helping with the newsletter. Since Tom is the shy retiring type he wants no credit. But if you have any suggestions don't hesitate to email Tom and let him know. toldfield@earthlink.net

Charles P Farmer Photography

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Your Large Format Photographic Consultant