

Tillicum Photography Club

Assignment #2 - Freeze the Action

Motivation

One of the first problems you will encounter as a photographer is that the world doesn't stand still and wait for you to take a photo. Many interesting compositions are fleeting, so the photographer has to be somewhat opportunistic. Sometimes you will take a hundred photos and only get a handful of good ones.

This week we'll be capturing moving things. There are tons of interesting moving things around school, home, and parks: cyclists, people playing ultimate frisbee, cars driving past, squirrels dashing from tree to tree. Animals in general are delightfully uncooperative, so if you have a dog or cat, this might be a good week to take a photo of them running or jumping or chasing a toy.

The key difficulty in capturing moving objects is getting enough light. The shutter speed needs to be short enough to prevent motion blur. You usually compensate for this by using a large aperture and increasing ISO. However, you quickly encounter trade-offs. For example, increasing the aperture shortens the depth of field and makes precise focus more important (and challenging). Autofocus takes time and a slow autofocus system may not be able to keep up with the action you are trying to capture with your fast shutter speed, resulting in a missed shot. If you're able to set up the shot, one good trick is to pre-focus at the depth you're expecting, so that the photograph can be captured at the instant the object moves through the point of focus. As you can see, capturing a unique photograph often involves manipulating several of the camera's control systems at once!

Instructions

- Take some photos **that meet the requirements listed below**, and email them to the club's gmail address and include the "**Assignment #2 - Sports and Action**" in the subject line, and add **comments** within the email explaining how you took the photo, what relevant **camera settings** you used and why, any **image processing** done to the photograph afterwards, and most importantly, which **requirements each photo covers**.

Now, for Assignment #2 specifically. Remember, even though the photos you take are supposed to be technically "bad" in some sense, we want you to create things that are interesting to look at. The "badness" should be intentional for an artistic purpose.

Goal 1: Freeze the action. Take at least one photo with a very short shutter speed to capture your subject during a split second in time. You'll need lots of light for this, so try this outdoors during the middle of the day. If you happen to have a very strong flash, you can also use it to freeze the action when there is less available light.