

FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 77

Summer 2008

Number 9

President's Message

Kevin Sarsfield

*Have a good summer
Take lots of images
See you back here
for the
Kick-off meeting
Wednesday
September 17*

As I reviewed the events of the past year, I now look upon them with a combined sense of fulfillment and anxiety; glad that we've accomplished so much – and concerned that so much remains to be done.

We had a great Kick-Off meeting with Dan Burkholder, who introduced HDR into the working vocabulary of many. Bob Near and Jeff Plant provided terrific programs and speakers for our meetings and the assigned topics for each of our competitions yielded a wide range of interesting, inventive and successful images. Competitions in both Print and Projected Imaging Groups were hard-fought and the judges had a difficult time selecting only a few for distinction. Speaking of Judges, Ray Henrikson found a number of new faces for our evaluative panels, and they've added to our collective understanding of the media. Digital group chairs, Jim Craner and Bob Near, broadened our understanding of this constantly changing landscape. Mentoring continued to draw larger crowds due to the useful presentations organized by Jeff Perkins and Frank Bumbaratore. Sukumar wowed us with the "Artsy" aspects of our hobby, and his fine work on our website has kept us well informed and entertained. None of us would be as content without the behind-the-scenes work of Judy Breslau and John Ogden of our Refreshments Committee. Our award-winning publication, *THE FOCUS*, so ably edited by the inimitable Ruby Gold, continued to be an excellent vehicle to broadcast our message to members and community alike. We will miss Ruby in this critical position, and she leaves a void that will be difficult to fill. Finally, my thanks go out to the entire Board Of Directors for their continued wisdom, advice and enthusiasm. We all endured long meetings to make this

organization run smoothly, and my hope is that it continues to do so.

I suppose that I view this from a unique perspective, as well. I don't think any other of our SPS Presidents have also served as President of the now-defunct Albany Camera Club. I remember that 25 years ago, a well-anticipated rivalry existed between our two groups, and was shared by four or five other local clubs. They have all fallen by the wayside and I'm sure the reasons for their demise were as different as the compositions of their clubs. However, I'm positive that there was one common component – each of these clubs had a membership that was willing to say: "Let Someone Else Do It". For many years – even decades – this worked until finally, there was "No One Else." I don't want that to happen to the SPS. We have survived – even flourished – because people have stepped-up and said: "I'll be willing to help with that." That attitude is the backbone of our organization. It works. However, if it is the same people who constantly say it, the organization becomes staid, repetitive and stagnant. We need the infusion of new blood, new ideas and new enthusiasm. That, combined with the institutional memory and wisdom of those who've been around for a while, will make the SPS a vibrant, progressive and growth-oriented club. We must look to the needs of our newer members while satisfying the expectations of our members of long standing. We must meld the collective wisdom of a half-century of photographic experience with the creativity and unique expression of digital imaging. We must get up off our best intentions and provide interesting experiences for all of our members. So, next time you see something that needs to be done, or someone who seems to need help with an activity, raise that hand, ask to

Please see President's message page 6



Year End Winners

Left: 1st place color print
©David Jeffery *Myrtle Beach*

Right: 1st place slide
©Connie Frisbee Houde
Rocks



Left: 1st place monochrome print ©David Jeffery
Grandpa Woodstock



Above: 1st place projected digital image
© N. Sukumar *Iona*

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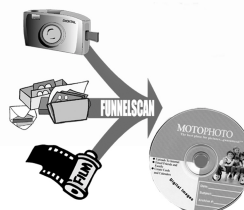
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*What I look for in a picture is
great simplicity. It should
present one idea with clarity and
should not be a confusion of so
many elements that the observer
cannot tell in a quick glance the
meaning of the picture.*

Alfred Eisenstaedt

Year End Competition Results

Color print of Year

1st	David Jeffery	Myrtle Beach
HM	Ken Deitcher	Face Boxes
HM	Barb Lawton	In the Good Old Days
HM	David Jeffery	Sunset Truck

Monochrome Print of Year

1st	David Jeffery	Grandpa Woodstock
HM	Ken Deitcher	The Sentinels
HM	Christine Ostling	Nova Scotia Beach
HM	Robert Near	Isier's Wharf

Judges: Curt Miller, Joe Schuyler, Marie Triller

Color Printmaker of the Year

1st	David Jeffery
2nd	Linda Buckman
3rd	Jane Riley

Monochrome Printmaker of the Year

1st	David Jeffery
2nd	Kevin Sarsfield
3rd	Robert Near

Assigned Topic Printmaker of the Year

1st	Luba Ricket
2nd	Colleen Magai
3rd	Robert Near

Print Photo Essay of the Year

1st	Robert Near	The Last Days of Wormuth Factory
2nd	Luba Ricket	Portrait in the Park
3rd	Jim Craner	At the Takeout Window

Projected Photo Essay of the Year

1st	Robert Near	Death of Wormuth Foundry
2nd	Diane Reiner	Images of Iran
3rd	H. Johannessen	Chicks for Free

Judges: Stan Blanchard, Dave Krause

Grab Bag Winners *Mailboxes*

Judges Choice	Robert Near
1st	Linda Wroble
2nd	N. Sukumar
3rd	Kevin Sarsfield

Judge: Jennifer Grainer

Slide of the Year

1st	Connie F. Houde	Rocks
HM	H. Johannessen	18th Century Laborer
HM	Robert Near	Falling Water
HM	Ken Deitcher	Endoskeleton

Projected Image of the Year

1st	N. Sukumar	Iona
HM	Luba Ricket	Manchester Moment
HM	Max Tiller	Grass Plum Island
HM	Susie Herndon	Chain

Judges: Tom Chesnut, Robert Gullie

Slidemaker of the Year

1st	Jeff Plant
2nd	Robert Near
3rd	Ken Deitcher

Assigned Topic Slidemaker of the Year

1st tie	Luba Ricket & Kevin Sarsfield
2nd	Jeff Plant
3rd	Tracy Rudin

Digital Projection-maker of the Year

1st	Bill Lanahan
2nd	Robert Near
3rd	Ken Deitcher

Assigned Digital Projection-maker of the Year

1st	Howie Johannessen
2nd	Robert Near
3rd	Ken Deitcher

Betty Barker Award:

Judy Breslau and John Ogden
Kevin Sarsfield



Schenectady Photographic Society
is a member of the
Photographic Society of America



Enjoying the festivities are: l to r: Above left: Bob Riccardo, corresponding secretary, and Bob Gough. Above: Art Smith and John Saville.

Left: Jim Craner, mentoring chair, Bob Heinerman, Ken Deitcher and Bob Friedlander.

The SPS Board 2008-09. Seated l to r: Luba Riccardo, Jim Craner, Judy Breslau. Standing l to r: N. Sullivan, Henrikson, Linda Wroble, Connie Frisbee Houder.



Above: Bernie Herman, Jeff Plant, slide chair with lot of Chance Auction tickets, Nick Argyros and Linda Buckman, annual report chair.



Left: Judy Breslau, enjoying the sumptuous meal.

Below: Barb...



Left: Hanging the SPS travelling show at the Normanside Country Club are left to right: Bob Riccardo, Bob Gough, Ray Hull, Ruby Gold, Kevin Sarsfield, Ray Henrikson





SPS Banquet Normanside Country Club June 2008

Right: Two presidents:
outgoing president Kevin
Sarsfield, and incoming
president Ray Henrikson



Right: Ray Hull and Jeff
Perkins, mentoring chair
and field trip coordinator
discuss future photo ops.



Below right: Dale Winsor,
recording secretary, Mrs.
Sukumar and N. Sukumar,
web master.

ket, Linda Buckman, Linda Heim, Howie Johannessen,
kumar, Bob Riccardo, Dale Winsor, Jeff Perkins, Ray
le, Jeff Plant, Robert Near, John Ogden, Frank Bumbardatore

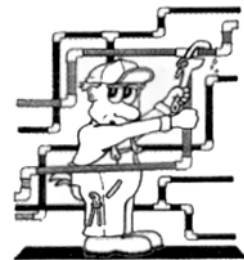
SPS members
aying the
ptious buffet

Receiving the Betty
Barker awards: Judy
Breslau and John
Ogden, refreshment
chairs and Kevin
Sarsfield, outgoing
president.



ow: Sharing a laugh are l to r: Robert Near,
o Lawton, David Jeffery and Luba Ricket.

Below: Linda Heim, treasurer and Saul
Aronson enjoying the delicious food



Frank Bumbardatore

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Flash Exposure Tips

John Saville

1. Most digital cameras use preflashes to calculate the proper flash exposure.
2. Avoid fancy flashes that feature pointless parlor tricks like repeating strobe lighting. Far more significant to your photo is how you choose to diffuse light and how to balance it with ambient light. You will seldom use stroboscopic or other oddball modes.
3. Oddly, you should turn on the flash any time you photograph people outdoors and turn it off (or use SLOW sync mode) indoors.
4. Use flash outdoors in harsh light to help light up peoples faces and dark portions of the image and to allow them to look natural on film. Do this even with disposable and point-and-shoot cameras.
5. Indoors, use the SLOW sync mode. It allows the background of the image to fill in with light and look natural. If you use flash indoors without SLOW sync your backgrounds will be dark and nasty, and if you shoot prints they probably will get printed too light and wash out your subjects.
6. In A and P exposure modes and normal flash sync mode, most cameras go to slower than 1/60th regardless of how dark things get. Selecting SLOW sync mode is the way to get the backgrounds to fill in with natural light.
7. Try REAR SYNC mode when photographing groups of people. The normal action in SLOW sync mode is for the flash to go off at the beginning of the exposure. When this happens, your subjects think the picture is done and start moving when in fact it is just starting. In REAR sync mode the flash comes at the end of the exposure, so the subjects tend to stay still for the duration of the photo.
8. Forget redeye reduction mode – the preflash associated with redeye reduction may annoy people and cause them to blink for the shot. Have them look somewhere other than directly at the camera, use a diffuser or an off-camera flash.
9. Get a more natural look by softening the shadows. This can be done by bouncing the flash off a wall or ceiling, and or, by using a diffuser on the flash head.
10. Be sure to get a catch-light in each eye of your subject when shooting portraits. This can be accomplished by putting a small white card vertically on the backside of the flash head when doing a bounce-light shot.

President's message

continued from page 1

assist and help to make changes that will make the SPS better than it ever has been. It has been a pleasure to serve as your President this year and I look forward to continued involvement and interaction with each of you. You folks are the ones who make the club worthwhile, and to each of you, I say: "Thanks."

Obituary Someone Else

Our club was saddened to learn last month of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work.

Whenever there was a job to do, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it."

Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; "Someone Else can work with them." It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our club. Whenever there was a need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person; sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone!

We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help this year, remember - we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

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News You Can Use

Robert Near wins 1st in Photo Regional

SPS member Robert Near took first place in the annual Photo Regional. Congratulations Bob.

Ken Deitcher wins honors

Ken Deitcher was named as one of the top EID-Still exhibitors in North America in the *PSA Journal*

He also won medals in a French Salon - **Photoclub Gacilly** and two in a Spanish Salon - *Aqueduct* - a Medal of Honor in black and white and in color.

With these acceptances he will have earned enough points to get the PSA's Electronic Imaging Award of 4 Stars.

Plus in a Salon called *Digital Master Circuit* in Austria he won the Best of Show in Color Creativity with his photo *Floral Squares*.

Summer photo ops in this area

Here is a list of summertime places within one hour of the Capital District that are favorites of some of our members.

Hollyhock Hollow - Selkirk

Five Rivers - Delmar

Rensselaerville

Empire State Plaza

Saratoga

The Crossings - Colonie

Ann Lee Pond

The Lake George area is a great summer time destination. The village and the lake itself are good places to shoot. There are also some small mountains surrounding the lake that are an easy hike to get some nice vistas. If you are not up to hiking you can drive up Prospect Mountain. Thacher Park in Voorheesville is nice and there is a nature trail called Indian Ladder trail that offers some good photo opportunities. Central Park in Schenectady has a beautiful rose garden for flower shots.

For Waterfalls

- Platte Clove (West Saugerties, parking very limited)
- Kaaterskill Clove (along the main road running from Palenville up to Hunter)

Scenic Views

- North Lake (Tannersville, great views on clear day of Hudson

River Valley)

- Mohonk Mountain House (New Paltz, longer drive but well worth it)

City Buildings and People

- Downtown Albany
- Schenectady Stockade
- Downtown Troy
- NYC (drive to Poughkeepsie, park car, and jump on Metro North train direct to Grand Central)

Macro

- Just outside your front door, amazing what jewels lay just outside your door for macro subjects

Adirondack Light

A photo workshop series presented by The Saratoga County Art Council

The **Saratoga County Art Council** announces a summer photo workshop series with photographer **Lawrence White** focusing on the natural environment of the Adirondack Mountain Range. The sessions run from mid June to early July. Day shoots and night shoots are scheduled so that all lighting situations, including sunsets and moonrises, will be subject matter for the photographers. Some shoots are geared towards those with walking difficulties and some are geared towards those who wish more robust outings and rustic settings. Photographers only pay for the sessions they attend but everyone who participates is eligible for a juried exhibition in the Art Council Member's Hall in their main gallery space in downtown Saratoga Springs during August. Inquiries: Tanya Tobias at [518-584-4132](tel:518-584-4132) or email ttobias@saratoga-arts.org Space is limited - take action soon.

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Summer Calendar

Wednesday, June 11 Joint Board Meeting - outgoing and incoming boards

Wednesday, July 9 Board Meeting

Fri - Sun July 11-13 NECCC Conference in Amherst, MA

Wednesday, August 6 Board Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 3 Board Meeting

Wednesday Sept 17 Kick-Off Meeting

Meetings 7:30 p.m.

Summer Board Meetings 7:00p.m.



The *Focus* is published nine times a year by the Schenectady Photographic Society. The organization meets each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. from October through May to promote and present informative programs, activities and competitions in the photographic arts for photographers throughout the Capital District. Members range from novice to expert. Annual dues are \$40.00 for individuals and families. The *Focus* newsletter is included in the membership dues. SPS meets at the First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, New York. Parking and entrances are on Chapel Street, a one way street off Nott Terrace. Guests are welcome at all regular meetings.