

# FOCUS

## SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

### **January Print Night Speaker : David Jeffery, "Tools of the Trade"**

*by Robert Near*

Looking at the great prints that have been entered during the print night competitions they reveal the great talent that the SPS has within its membership. One such talented member is David Jeffery who will be the January presenter for Print Night. I first met David 6 years ago at the Greene County Camera Club and from seeing his first images I knew David was a very talented photographer. We have all heard the saying it is not the camera that makes the great image but the photographer behind the camera. When you see David's images it is clear he has the eye for great composition, and this is most likely developed by growing up with the arts in his home: his mother being a noted pianist and his father being an accomplished local artist.

David has embraced digital capture and darkroom to take his great

composed images to the next level. When you look at one of David's prints the care and craftsmanship clearly shows thru and it is clear why his prints are in the winner's circle many of the months. David will be bringing his darkroom, the 24" iMac to the



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### **January Projected Image Group speaker: Mark Perry, "Adirondack Scenic Images"**

*by Jeff Plant*

For January, 2009, the Projected Images Group will be treated to a multimedia presentation of Adirondack scenic images by Mark Perry of Bolton Landing.

Mr. Perry and his wife run an art gallery and sell perennial plants at the Sweet Pea Farm Perennials and Art Gallery on Federal Hill Road in Bolton Landing. In addition to photographing the Adirondacks, Mr. Perry and his wife have climbed the 46 high peaks (4,000 feet or higher) in both summer and winter. Those of you who hike the Adirondacks will recognize that as a most impressive feat. Mark is also in an excellent position for photography by living on the shore of beautiful Lake George.

The Gallery features painting by Adirondack artists and Mr. Perry's photog-

raphy. His other interests include running a personal training center in Queensbury and giving vocal performances.

We will look forward to this show about an area that is a favorite photographic locale of many SPS members, given by a photographer with a long involvement with the Adirondacks.



**Tools of the Trade, con't**

January meeting and demonstrating some of the tools he uses to create his great images. The tools that David uses are from the NIK software suite Color Efex Pro 3, Define, Silver Efex Pro, and Viveza and he will give us some insight to the use of these tools.

In closing we are lucky to have such great talent in our club, and I am not sure if you know of David's latest accomplishment. David has had two of his images chosen to be accepted into the Loan Collection of the 117th International Exhibition of Professional Photography.

His work will be on display at the Phoenix Convention Center, January 11-13, 2009, in Phoenix, Ariz. This exhibition is held in conjunction with Imaging USA, an annual convention of over 8,600 professional photographers and several photographic associations. Please join us for what should be a wonderful presentation for the January Print Night meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2009.

**David's Bio**

David Jeffery was born and raised in Woodstock, New York. He was surrounded by music from his mother, Lois Jeffery, a noted pianist and local piano teacher, and with art from his father, Richard Jeffery, a local artist specializing in oil paintings.

A graduate of Syracuse University, David applied art and design in his construction business, Apple Rock Construction. He has been actively involved in bonsai tree and forest design, one of his favorite hobbies.

As an avid Apple Macintosh computer user since 1990, he quickly embraced the digital camera revolution. He started with a Fuji 2800, moved on to the Olympus 740 and is currently using the Canon 5DMkII.

He continues to reside in his converted green barn in Woodstock and can be contacted at Spiritman@mac.com.

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**Digital Night:**  
**Robert Near, "Making HDR Images"**

*by Robert Near*

As most of you know I am an HDR junkie at this point in my photographic pursuits, but I'm not ready to go into rehab. There are two camps with HDR: the one looks at HDR as a digital gimmick and the second as a creative tool to produce photographic art. I am in the second camp.

HDR has been used in the movie industry since the 1980's and now with digital cameras, increased

computer power to the average person and easy-to-use software, HDR is the latest buzz in the world of photography today. High Dynamic Range Imaging is a technique that allows a greater range of light to be captured from the deepest shadows to the brightest high lights. Photographers have been looking for ways to capture greater dynamic range of light, such as the Zone system. HDR is not for all subjects and I will show you some on my HDR work that I feel the subject matter works with and others that it doesn't work with.

At the January Digital Night program I will walk you through my addiction, from how I shoot the bracketed exposures to the processing and final Photoshop work. The HDR process merges a series of bracketed exposures together into 32 bit HDR image file and then this file is tone mapped down to either an 8 bit or 16 bit file. One of the most popular HDR software packages is PhotoMatix by HDRSoft which is the software that I use and will demonstrate that night. Once the image has been tone mapped in PhotoMatix it most always need some additional refining and I will go over the tools within Photoshop to do the final work.

There are also times when the conditions or subject will not allow you to capture a multiple bracket exposures. For these times I will demonstrate how to process a single RAW file out to three bracketed files and then do HDR processing on these. Please join me January 21<sup>st</sup> as I walk you through process of creating high dynamic range images from photo realistic to the extreme pushed HDR.

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**Mentoring Night**  
**White Balance & Raw: How and Why**  
*by Jeff Perkins*

Do you understand and apply the principles of color temperature to your digital image making? Do you always shoot in AWB with JPEG settings for your files?

If so, than this talk is for you! We will explore how to maximize your image making using the proper white balance, techniques to achieve it and the advantages of RAW processing. You don't have to own a professional version of Photoshop to accomplish this. Learn a few simple techniques and you will see a vast improvement in your final work.



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**WANTED:** Used Kodak slide projector and homesized projection screen in good condition. Contact Jeff Plant at 518-452-1933.

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If you would be interested in helping with setting up the next display of the traveling SPS show on Sunday, Jan. 4, 09, please contact our president, Ray Henrikson at [rhenriks@nycap.rr.com](mailto:rhenriks@nycap.rr.com) for further details.

SPS would like to thank **Gary Farber**, of Hunts, for his generous donation in underwriting the expense involved in supporting our December speaker, Ron Rosenstock.

We also appreciate and thank him for donating two items for raffle at our meeting.

Please be sure to patronize Hunt's for your photographic needs and to visit Gary's booth next summer at NECCC at Amherst, NH.

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Please contact Bob Riccardi if  
any of your contact information  
changes during the club year.

[briccard@verizon.net](mailto:briccard@verizon.net)

## December 08 Competition Results

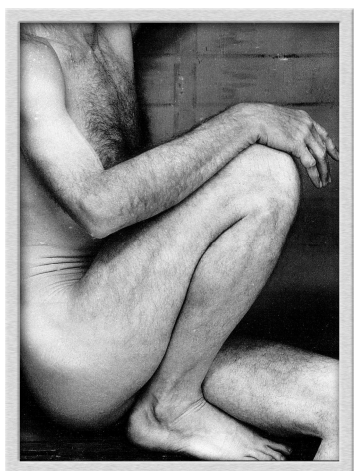
### PRINTS



Assigned 1st place: "What A Ride"  
by Jeff Perkins



Color: 1st place: "Winter Scene—Nutcracker"  
by John Sullivan



Monochrome 1st Place: "Figure Study #2"  
by Ken Deitcher

### • PRINTS

#### Assigned "Motion" (28)

* Jeff Perkins	What a Ride	1
Luba Ricket	Flipping Flying Pages	2
David Jeffery	Waterfall Waters	3
Doug Mitchell	Untitled	4
John Sullivan	Dance Flurry	5
John Sullivan	Lighter Than Air	HM
Ron Herndon	Coming Home	HM
Connie Bush	Jim Dandy	HM

#### Color (32)

** John Sullivan	Winter Scene-Nutcracker	1
David Jeffery	I Will Survive	2
Rob Near	Clearing Storm-Athens	3
Rebekah Sokol	Skyscraper	4
Sean Sullivan	Sun Worshipers	5
Max Tiller	Dried Flowers	HM
Suzy Herndon	Morning Run	HM
Bernie Herman	Fence & Sky	HM

#### Monochrome (22)

*** Ken Deitcher	Figure Study #2	1
Rob Near	Executive Seat	2
Linda Buckman	The Motorcycle Shop	3
Max Tiller	Image From the Past	4
David Jeffery	Wheatfield Textures	HM

### • JUDGE: David Brickman

### • PROGRAM: Vincent Bilotta/Multi-shot Acquisition

### • WINNER'S NOTES:

\*For "**What a Ride**" Jeff used a Konica Maxxum 7D, 11-18 Tamron Ultra Wide lens. ISO 400. Handheld at the Altamont Fair.

\*\* "**Winter Scene-Nutcracker**" John's Camera: Canon 40D Lens: Canon 50mm f/1.4 Exposure: f/2.0, 1/500 sec., ISO 1600, RAW format edited in CS3 and converted to JPEG. Print: Canon i9900 wide format printer, semi-gloss paper. Comments: Ballet photography is demanding due to three factors - stage lighting, no flash allowed, moving dancers. Sharp photos demand fast lenses and high ISO settings. This photo was taken during the Saratoga City Ballet's performance of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker at Skidmore's Dance Theater.

\*\*\* "**Figure Study #2**"—This image was taken with a Canon 20 D and a 28-135mm lens at a model 'shoot' 2 years ago.

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## December 08 Competition Results

### print winner's notes con't

The image was given the orotone treatment similar to that used by Edward Curtis in the late 1800's. This was modified for digital use. Ken says "I plan to give a talk and a demonstration of this technique at one of the digital meetings next year".

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### • SLIDES

#### Assigned "Yellow Gold" (14)

* Jeff Plant	Blinds on Lake Champlain	1
Jeff Plant	Yellow Pool	2
Karl Becker	Gold Infrared Lake View	3
Luba Ricket	Lemon Light	HM

#### General (17)

** Kevin Sarsfield	Cracking Under Pressure	1
Luba Ricket	Neuschwanstein	2
N. Sukumar	Convention Center Walkway	3
Connie Frisbee Houde	Fabulous Light	4
Linda Wroble	Old Town Warsaw Poland	HM

### • JUDGE: Peter Barber

### • PROGRAM: Ron Rosenstock/Travel Photography

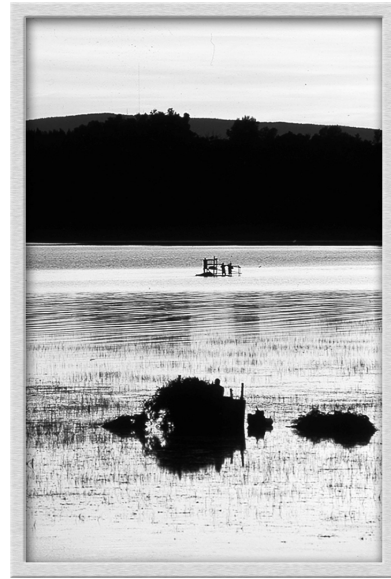
### • WINNER'S NOTES:

\*Not available

\*\*"Cracking Under Pressure" was a constructed transparency that I made a few years ago. The image of the mustachioed cart-driver was taken in Spain, and the resulting slide was projected onto an empty egg shell that I had cracked and placed within the jaws of the C-clamp. A little balanced highlighting, a 55mm Nikkor Macro lens, Nikon SLR and a little bracketing yielded a fun image that seemed easy to understand and appreciate. 125th @f11 worked best. I'm thinking of re-doing it with a self-portrait !



### SLIDES



Assigned 1st place: Blends on Lake Champlain  
by: Jeff Plant



General 1st place: Cracking Under Pressure  
by: Kevin Sarsfield

## ***P*rint - Projection Competition Rules**

During take-in for print and projection competitions it can be very hectic getting all the entries logged in and making sure entries meet the club's competition rules. You can help out this process by becoming familiar with the competition rules; you can find a copy of these rules from links on competitions page from the SPS web site, address is below.

<http://www.schenectadyphotographicsociety.com/competitions.html>

During the December Print Night competition I missed a mistake in one competitor's submission. Later, after judging and presentation, I noticed the violation and had to disqualify one of the entries. I feel bad when I have to do this and feel I failed somewhat by not catching this prior to start of judging. The Chairpersons and take-in volunteers would appreciate your help. During take-in please make sure that your submissions meet the rules. If you have questions or need clarifications as to any rule feel free to contact the print or projection chair person for clarification.

Thanks, Robert Near, Print Chair

## ***B*ooks of Interest**

by Linda Buckman

I've always been addicted to books. I'm trying to clean out the clutter in my house instead of add to it now, but I still like to give books as gifts. While I was browsing through the selection of books on amazon.com, I came across these titles. They sounded interesting, so I thought I'd share the list with you.

- "The Moment It Clicks" by Joe McNally
- "The Magic of Digital Nature Photography" by Rob Sheppard
- "In Focus: National Geographic Greatest Portraits" by National Geographic Society Leah Bendavid, Sam Abell & Chris Johns
- "One Hundred Photographs That Changed the World" Editors of Life Magazine
- "The Beginner's Guide to Pinhole Photography" by Jim Shull
- "The Complete Guide to Night & Lowlight Photography" by Michael Freeman
- "Photography & the Art of Seeing" by Freeman Patterson
- "The Photography Workshop" by Adam Jones
- "Chiosstro—Photographs of Italy" by Ron Rosenstock

## ***C*heck out the Shows**

**Bob Riccardo** will have a showing of his images from Fonda Speedway at the Harnel Reality Building in Albany for the month of January.

The Harnel Building is located at the corner of Hudson Avenue and Dove Street. Opening will be on Jan 2, 09 from 5:30 to 8:00.

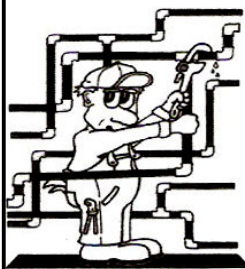


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**Connie Frisbee Houde's** images will be on display at the Chapel & Cultural Center at 2125 Burdett Ave, Troy, NY. "The Forgotten: Images of Afghanistan & New Orleans" can be viewed from Jan 12-Feb 25, 2009.

The opening reception is Thurs, Jan 15 from 6-8 pm and is free and open to the public.

You can contact the Chapel & Cultural center for further information at 518-274-7793 or [www.chapelandculturalcenter.org](http://www.chapelandculturalcenter.org).



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## Zooming In On Items of Interest

### **F**ree 2009 Calendar Now Available

The 2009 Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor calendar will be available after December 1, 2008 at libraries and visitor centers throughout the Corridor. "The free calendar features winning images from our 2008 photo contest that capture the beauty, history, people, and character of New York's canals and canal communities. Calendars are available on a first come-first serve basis."

Watch for announcements about the 2009 Photo Contest in May. **They will be looking for images that convey the beauty, history, people, and character of the Erie Canalway throughout the year.**

This would be a great opportunity for you to photograph with a goal in mind, or to go through your archives for photos of the Erie Canalway. You can go to [www.eriecanalway.org](http://www.eriecanalway.org) for more information.

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### **P**lease Note:

Schenectady Photographic receives a 5% rebate from **American Frames** on every purchase our members make. If you need a frame for any purpose, please consider purchasing one from them. When ordering by phone, if you're a first time customer, please let them know you're an SPS member so they can code your name for the discount. If you're a repeat customer, mention it to them as a reminder.

If you order over the net, write a note in the "comment" section that you're an SPS member. Our organization received a nice rebate over the year last year, and it definitely helps our budget.

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### **V**ictorian Stroll—Troy

On Sunday, Dec. 7, several SPS members braved the cold, and ignored the projected weather forecast of even colder temps and winds, in order to participate in the Fieldtrip organized by Jeff Perkins, to photograph the sights of the Victorian Stroll in Troy, NY. The event featured vendors, "strollers" dressed in Victorian garb, street performances, pub performances and several concerts at the Troy Music Hall. Following are some of the images that were generated that day.



White Mane, Red Bows  
by Linda Buckman



Victorian Man  
by Jeff Perkins



Reindog  
by Tom Miller



Through the Window  
by Connie Bush



Couple  
by Robert Near



Secrets  
by Sean Sullivan



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## January 2009 Calendar



- Wed, Jan. 7 Print Night: "Tools of the Trade" presented by David Jeffery  
Wed, Jan. 14 Projected Image Night: "Adirondack Scenic Photography" presented by Mark Perry  
Wed, Jan. 21\* Digital Night: "Making HDR Images", presented by Bob Near  
Wed, Jan. 28 Mentoring: "White Balance & Raw: How & Why", presented by Jeff Perkins

\*Board meeting 6:30 p.m.

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.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. for individuals/families. The FOCUS newsletter is included in the membership dues. SPS meets at the 1st United Methodist Church, 603 State St., Schenectady, NY. Parking and entrances are on Chapel Street, a one way street off Nott Terrace. Guests are welcome at all regular meetings.