

FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

February Print Night Critique & Competition Make-up

by Robert Near

February is slated to be for print critique and this will be the case but it will also be the competition from January's print night meeting which was canceled. Due to the weather forecast I canceled the January Print Night meeting and I apologize that weather turned out not that bad, but I felt it was better to cancel on Tuesday night and get the word out rather than to wait till midday on Wednesday. The missed competition from January will be held on the February print night. Because of an opening in the March calendar David Jeffrey will present his program at the March Print Night meeting.

I'm excited to announce that Neil McGreevy and Leif Zurmuhlen will constitute our critique panel for the critique session for the evening. Neil is an accomplished photographer who now

focuses on his business, McGreevy Pro Lab, which is Albany's true photographic lab offering photographers a full array of printing and processing services. Leif also is an accomplished photographer whose work can be found in the pages of Metro Land weekly paper or on the walls of many galleries throughout the capital district. A few years ago I took a portfolio review program from Leif which was an eye opener and I feel this review/critique improved my photography. Neil and Leif will be providing open and honest critiques on your works.

This night is the perfect time to bring that print project you may have been working on but feel there is just something not right or that print that may have not placed and you would like to know how make it a prize winner.

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February Projected Image Group speaker: Brian Plant

by Jeff Plant

Our speaker for the February Projected Images meeting will be Brian Plant of Hummelstown, PA. Brian previously gave a program at SPS about 3 years ago and spoke on one of his specialties – night photography.

Brian is a nationally known photographer of railroad subjects, and has had his work published in national railroad periodicals and in several books on the subject.

He got an early start as a photographer under the guidance of his father, Jeremy Plant, who gave a program at SPS last year. By the time he was a teenager, Brian had already had photos published in national railroad magazines.

Brian studied photography at Ithaca College and works largely in digital imaging. He travels extensively to document historic diesel locomotives, and oper-

ating preserved steam power. He attempts to give unique and artistic treatment to railroad subjects. Some of his most effective photos are of colored railroad signals at night. He is also fond of using fog and mist to give interesting effect often in combination with the lights and action of railroads.

Brian will present a program on using the digital camera to create artistic effect at night and under interesting atmosphere and light conditions. He will use both digitally projected images and prints to demonstrate his approach to his photography.

NOTE: February features a traditional slide competition. You may enter up to two slides in both the assigned and general categories – a total of four slides.



Print night critique con't

Members should bring one or two prints mounted in accordance with SPS print competition rules so they can be displayed on the print display unit. Keep in mind that a critique is a constructive judgment of one's work and although we all love hearing glowing words about how great our work is, but growth as photographers often comes from hearing the hard words on what needs to be improved. Even if you do not have a print you would like to have critiqued, this is an excellent time to see and hear the critiques of other's work. So please plan on joining us at Schenectady Photographic Society on February 4, 2009 for what should be a full night of wonderful photographic works.

In closing I would like to thank Neil McGreevy and McGreevy Pro Lab for all their support over the years to the Schenectady Photographic Society. Neil has been very generous in donating gift certificates to SPS for processing and printing services at the Pro Lab. These gift certificates are used as prizes at the end-of-the year annual dinner meeting. I feel we are truly blessed by having a great pro lab like McGreevy's here in our area. If you are in need of processing and printing services please give McGreevy a try. McGreevy Pro Lab is located at 376 Broadway, Albany NY, and phone (518) 426-1039.

Digital Night:

Jeff Perkins – Exploring Photoshop
Blend Modes

by Jim Craner

Blend Modes is one of the least understood, and most underutilized features in Adobe Photoshop. The eyes of even some well-known PS professionals glaze over when trying to explain their use in everyday image editing. Often the information is much too theoretical in nature. Lacking the inspiration of good examples, many image makers completely abandon blend modes as a tool.

Jeff Perkins has mastered blend modes, and has used them to good advantage restoring old photos, and creating new ones. Jeff's approach to teaching blend modes is to skip the theory and concentrate on good practical methodology. In past presentations, Jeff has shown us how to use blend modes to enhance color and tonality both locally and globally in an image. This year, Jeff is certain to reveal a few more of his secrets.

Here's a method of dodging and burning that is based on Jeff's techniques. It uses a blend mode, layer

opacity, and the paint brush tool to give you complete control over local tonal adjustments in an image.

First, make all other image adjustments necessary (crop, tone, color, etc.). Next, create an empty layer at the top of the layers stack, and change the blend mode of this newly created layer to 'Soft Light'. Select the 'Brush' tool, and create a soft-edge brush of appropriate size (this will be your dodge and burn tool). Using the brush, 'paint' on the newly created layer with 'white paint' to lighten the area of the image under the brush, and paint with 'black paint' to darken. You can reverse paint colors to undo/redo while you fine tune your work. When done the overall effect of the dodging and burning can be further adjusted by adjusting the opacity of the layer on which the dodging and burning was done.

Please make a point to join the Digital Group in welcoming Jeff Perkins for his talk, ***'The Practical Applications of Blend Modes in Photoshop'*** on February 21, 2009.

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any of your contact information
changes during the club year.

briccard@verizon.net

January 09 Competition Results

PRINTS

January print night was cancelled due to inclement weather.

January Assigned Topic entries may be entered in the February print competition.



In light of the fact that our January print night was canceled due to inclement weather, here are a few sites you can go to for information about photographing in winter.

Many of the tips on these sites have made the rounds before, but it's worth the review to protect your gear and get the best possible images.

www.photo-seminars.com/Seminars/Winter/winter.htm

www.outdooreyes.com/photo18.php3

www.reflectiveimages.com/WinterPhotoTip.htm

www.photographyblog.com/index.php/weblog/comments/now_to_photograph_winter_landscapes/

www.carlheilman.com/winter/photography/workshop.html
(Carl is offering a Winter Photo workshop—info is on this site)

You can also google “winter photography workshops” if you’re interested in finding a workshop to attend.

BOOKS

“Silence and Solitude: Yellowstone Winter Wilderness”
by Tom Murphy

“How to Take Better Winter Photographs: Tips and Advice for Winter Photography”
by QuickEasyGuides

“Winter Photographs: A Postcard Folio Book”
by Ansel Adams

January 09 Competition Results

• SLIDES

Assigned "A New Look at Flowers" (17)

* Ken Deitcher	Glory	1
Rebekah Sokol	Melting Flower	2
Ruby Gold	Spoonful of Flower	3
Ken Deitcher	Trio	HM
Robert Near	Day Lily	HM

General (34)

** Jane Riley	Round Stone Barn	1
Ruby Gold	Seattle Through a Keyhole	2
Kevin Sarsfield	The Missing Button	3
Tom Miller	Pole Number Forty Five	4
Cynthia Placek	Childon Beach at Sunset	HM
Cynthia Placek	Mountain in the Clouds	HM
Robert Near	Bade Alley Passage	HM

• JUDGE: Harvey Mendelson

• PROGRAM: Mark Perry/Adirondack Scenic Images

• WINNER'S NOTES:

*Ken Deitcher's "**Glory**" was created with a Canon 20D. Exposure 125@f8. Ken used a 100mm lens at ISO 100 with available light. Morning Glory Hanging over Neighbor's Fence.

"The Round Stone Barn**"—Jane shot this image at the Hancock Shaker Village in MA one sunny morning two summers ago. She used a Nikon D200, handheld, at 1/6 sec. at f/5.6. with an 18-200 mm lens at 200 ISO. Jane says, "Somehow, I managed to get it sharp". The rest of the story is: "I sent it to the Orlando Club for their architectural detail competition on Monday of the SPS digital projection week...I got their message telling me that they had received my entry...but they never did...It was lost in cyberspace...For some reason, I decided to enter it also in the SPS digital competition...So all was definitely not lost..."



SLIDES



Assigned 1st place: "Glory"
by: Ken Deitcher



General 1st place: "The Round Stone Barn"
by: Jane Riley

***P*hotoCenter (Troy, NY) February Schedule**

Monday, February 9—Dinner Night—Dinner from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Come celebrate our TWO year Anniversary! We will be hosting dinner for a limited number of members by reservation but all members are invited from 8:00 p.m. on for cake! Email your RSVP for dinner.

Tuesday, February 10 —C.A.M.E.R.A CLUB MEETING
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Everyone is invited to participate in a discussion about classic and contemporary photo equipment.

Saturday, February 14— PIN it UP! 11 p.m. – 4 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to photograph the iconic ideals of Pin Up! First you'll receive a brief history lesson on the Classic Pin Up, then you'll move on to creating these timeless images yourself. You will be working with several talented models made up in the classic style of the era. You will also learn how to light for these situations!

Members \$85, NonMembers \$115.00 (inc. model fee)

Monday, February 16—Photo Council Night Q & A

Tuesday, February 17—Salon Night 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Bring 5-10 prints/digital files for peer critique.

Thursday Night Workshops:
member's fee \$35; non-member's \$55

Thursday, February 12—Film to Digital 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

This workshop is for you who have worked primarily only in film but have now made the conversion to digital. Learn terminology and the basic parts of the digital camera compared to film cameras. Also learn easy techniques for image management!

Thursday, February 19— Alternatives to Photoshop, Part 1 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Demonstrations of basic techniques with Lightroom, Aperture and Elements; learn the extensive capabilities of these software programs.

Thursday, February 26— Alternatives to Photoshop Part 2 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Demonstrations of basic techniques with Corel Paint Shop and Photo X2, Picassa, and GIMP Learn the powerful capabilities of these inexpensive or free software programs.

Friday, February 27—Reception for "The Best of 2008"
Troy Night Out 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

***F*ine Arts Night by N. Sukumar**

Where Art Meets Science - The Illuminated Veil

On February 25, the Fine Arts Group will present Chris Bjornsson, Microscopy Core Director of the Biotechnology Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy. Chris's "Illuminated Veil" is a series of large-scale microscopic images portraying the raw imagery of his research and was exhibited as part of the BioArt Program at RPI, in an effort to create mutually supportive and critically engaged dialog between art, engineering and science. Chris received his Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of Manitoba studying insect oogenesis, then moved to the Wadsworth Center in Albany before coming to RPI. His research has always been geared towards creating images as an end product, a habit which has necessitated collaborating with image analysis experts to derive quantitative information for a community in which qualitative observations are increasingly undervalued.

During his postdoctoral work Chris began to explore the brain, and to develop ways to image thick slabs of tissue labeled to reveal as many cells as possible. Using spectral confocal microscopy, images can be obtained that uncover the complex 3-dimensional associations of neurons, glia and vasculature. When these images are analyzed by his colleagues at RPI, transforming the raw images into digitized representations of the cells and vessels that comprise the brain, the complex interactions among these cells can begin to be untangled, generating comprehensive, quantitative maps of brain architecture.

Chris' images demonstrate the power of fluorescent labeling and confocal microscopy, and hint at the future potential for whole-brain mapping in an effort to lift the veil that obscures our understanding of brain structure and function. This presentation will discuss the process involved in generating multidimensional images using advanced microscopy techniques and their value in art and science. Chris comes from an artistic family; his brother Geoff is a sculpture and ceramic artist, while his sister Birgitta works with different mediums: photography, film, sculpture, installation, drawing and architecture.

Zooming in on Items of Interest

Check out the Shows

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

You can contact the Chapel & Cultural center for further information at 518-274-7793 or www.chapelandculturalcenter.org.

Bob Near will have two photographic works displayed in the upcoming Best of 2008 exhibit at the PhotoCenter of the Capital District. The exhibit will run from January 23rd thru to March 8th 2009 with an opening reception on Friday January 30th 2009, 5 to 9 pm. The PhotoCenter of the Capital District is located in Troy NY at 404 River Street. I am sure you will also find that other SPS members have work hanging in this show as well.

2009 PhotoCenter Gallery Exhibition Schedule

The Best of 2008

Show Opens	January 23
Reception	January 30
Show Closes	March 8

Doug Mitchell's work will be on display at Hamel Reality from 8:30 am-4:30 pm daily, M-F during the month of February.

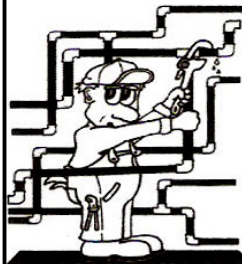
The opening reception will be held on Albany's First Friday, February 6th from 6-9 pm. Hamel Reality is located at 291 Hudson Ave. at the corner of Hudson and Dove St.

You can contact Doug at 518-346-8124 or dougmitchellphotos@nycap.rr.com, and you can see more of his work on his website at www.dougmitchellphotos.com

One of SPS younger members, **Drue Sokol**, has had an article published in the March 2009 issue of " Reptiles " magazine. This is accompanied by several photos of her pet iguana, Zelda. In her article, Drue describes her experiences raising a green iguana, from infancy until fully grown at 8 years of age and over 5 feet in length.

Welcome to our Newest Members

Cresswell, Anthony	Piroha, Pete
Hoose, Guy	Piroha, Dottie
Krein, Michael	Rahn-Erickson, Marianne
Lockrow, Debra	Regimbald, Deborah
Magee, Anne	Relyea, Larry
Manuel, Jim	Relyea, Linda
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February 2009 Calendar

Wed, Feb. 4 Print Night: "Critique Night" with Leif Zummuhlen & Neil McGreevy.
Assigned topic from January, "Rain".

Wed, Feb. 11 Projected Image Night: "Railroad & Night Photography" presented by Brian Plant
Assigned topic, "Water".

Wed, Feb. 18* Digital Night: "Practical Applications of Blend Modes", presented by Jeff Perkins

Wed, Feb 25 Fine Arts: "The Illuminated Veil",
presented by Chris Bjomsson

*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.