

FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 80

Summer 2011

Number 10

Jeff Altman and Heidi Ricks win big in Photo Regional

SPS members Jeff Altman and Heidi Ricks were among a handful of photographs who shared first place in the 33rd Photo Regional. Theirs and all selected images by 35 photographers from the region are on exhibit **through July 16th** at the Albany Center Gallery, 39 Columbia St., in Albany. *Check them out if you haven't done so already!*

"Crime Scene" by Jeff Altman is shown at right. **"Mixed Emotions"** (below) by Heidi Ricks was shot in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco. This was taken the day after a local festival. All the local kids were playing with their new toys, including plastic cell phones, guns and dolls. All these toys looked so incongruous with the otherwise simple lifestyle here. These two were happy to show off their tough guy act, but the smiling one gives away what's truly under the mask.



Summer-Fall Preview

Date	Program
July 15-17 (Fri.-Sun)	NECCC (New England Camera Club Council) Photography Conference: U-Mass, Amherst, MA.
Sat. Sept. 17	Mentoring Field trip: Saratoga Civil War Encampment
Wed. Sept. 21	2011-2012 Kick-off meeting with renowned Adirondack photographer Carl Heilman II www.carlheilman.com www.naturepanoramas.com
Wed. Sept. 28	New members Orientation meeting
Sun. Oct. 2	Field trip to Salem, MA
Wed. Oct. 5	Print Group meeting & competition - Regular programming resumes
Wed. Nov. 16	SPS 80th Anniversary celebration

In Memoriam - Lauren R. Basch, 1941-2011

It is with great sadness that we mourn the demise of long-time SPS member Larry (Lauren R.) Basch, who died suddenly on the evening of Thursday, April 21, 2011, of an apparent heart attack. Born in Albany, NY, on September 5, 1941, he was the son of Alfred Basch and Louise Warner Basch.

Larry was a retired mechanical engineer with 13 patents to his credit. He worked for Ruprecht and Patashnick, who made and sold worldwide, scientific air measuring devices, such as used in mines, in smoke stacks, and in the space program to make measurements from very great distances.

Larry was an award-winning photographer and member of the Schenectady Photographic Society, serving as Print Group Chair in 1995-96. He headed the Great Magazine Shoot-Out held by SPS in March 1995, in conjunction with the Photo Essay. Each entry therein consisted of a five page (11"x14") spread of photos and text.

Larry also excelled in his many other avocations. He was a gifted playwright, winning first prize in last year's TANSY competition. Larry was also a lover of music, adept at many instruments as well as singing in several choirs. He was a lover of animals, especially his dogs, Oscar and Ollie. Larry was a wonderful and caring father and husband, having cared for his late wife Shirley through her long illness with cancer. Larry is the beloved father of Amy LeFevre; brother of Judy Basch Stamwitz and husband Dale Stamwitz. Larry also left two nieces, Marta Stamwitz and Amity Stamwitz Good. Grandchildren include, Derek Hoffman, Rebecca Goyeau, Rachel Goyeau-McCay, Nick Goyeau, Jessica LeFevre and Casey Jo LeFevre. Larry's wife, Shirley Basch, predeceased him on March 15, 2011. A joint memorial service was held on April 30, 2011 in St. Andrew's Church, Albany.

Larry loved cameras and photography, and was a regular at SPS and NECCC meetings. He will be missed by all who came in contact with him.

Below: **Dance Lesson** © Larry Basch, 1999



Larry (standing, back row, center) with his SPS friends.

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Member Exhibit

Bob Riccardo and Carol Donato will have their display of new images of "Dirt Track Racing at Fonda Speedway, Fonda, NY." on display at the Niskayuna Library for the month of July and at the Guilderland Library for the month of August. The Niskayuna Library is at 2400 Nott Street East, Niskayuna, NY 12309. Hours are Monday-Thursday 10:00 am - 8:30 PM, Friday-Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 PM, Sunday closed.

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Datacolor Spyder Lenscal

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If you own a modern digital SLR, chances are that you have become quite dependant on its quick and accurate auto focus system. The majority of the time, your camera body and lenses work perfectly in sync to give you razor sharp focus right where you demand it. But what if you find that a certain lens seems to be focusing in front or behind your intended target? Normally that means you would have to send your camera and lens to the manufacture to have them professionally calibrated; a costly and time consuming process. Luckily, Datacolor has released a new product designed to allow the consumer to do the very same lens calibration process on their own.

The Spyder Lenscal is a test target that provides you a fast and reliable way to measure and calibrate your camera and lenses' autofocus performance. The device itself is quite simple. It is a black plastic test target that you set up in front of your camera and lens. The left side of the Lenscal features a 12 inch indexed ruler that lies at a 45 degree angle. The front of the target is covered in a white and black "checker-board" to help the camera's autofocus easily lock on.

To start the calibration process, place the Lenscal on a flat and level surface. Set up your camera and lens so that it is aligned with the middle of the Lenscal test target. It is best to mount your camera to a tripod so you can make sure the front of your lens is perpendicular to the test target. Next, set your camera to Aperture Priority mode and take a picture with the lowest "f/ number" possible. Be sure to review your image on the back of your camera at full magnification. Carefully look at the "0" mark on the ruler, it should be in sharp focus. If so, your lens and camera are correctly calibrated. If the sharp area is either in front of or

behind the "0" mark, you need to adjust your camera's micro AF adjustment to calibrate your lens to the camera. Currently there are about 20 digital SLR (DSLR) on the market that supports micro AF adjustment. If available on your camera, the micro AF adjustment can be found in your custom functions menu.

The simplicity of the Spyder Lenscal makes it quick and easy to view and calibrate your camera and lenses' autofocus accuracy. In little over a half hour, I was able to verify the accuracy of five of my lens and determine two required slight adjustments. The Spyder Lenscal can save you a lot of time and money allowing you to personally calibrating your lenses. The Spyder Lenscal sells for \$59.99.

Jon Lawton is a sales associate at Hunt's Photo and Video in Melrose, MA. If you have any questions on the Datacolor Spyder Lenscal or any other photo related topic, feel free to contact him at jlawton@wbhunt.com or at the store at 1-800-221-1830. Jon is a 2003 graduate from the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he studied photojournalism. He operates a photography business, specializing in wedding and portrait photography. www.jonathanlawton.com

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Images I see

by **Linda Buckman**

Monday, July 04, 2011

It's a holiday and I didn't have any deadlines to meet. But this afternoon I began getting a little restless. As the sun was getting lower in the sky, the light was getting more and more beautiful and I wanted to get out and do some photography. Desperation was setting in though. Where to go and what to photograph? That was the predicament.

So I headed over to Riverlink Park in Amsterdam. I didn't really expect much, but it's someplace I haven't been in a long time. Reality met my expectations. Although it was still a beautiful day, and it was a nice place to spend a little time, I was not at all inspired – except... on the bridge crossing the railroad tracks. A little HDR:



And a little shooting through chain link.

[Adapted & excerpted from Linda's daily blog at imagesisee.blogspot.com] (This column covers interesting posts from blogs by our members and friends).



Osteria Ai Carmini © Kim Koza

Inter-Club competition News

Congratulations to **Linda Wroble** 1st HM Human Interest category for "**Where's The IV?**" (below right) in the Photo-Journalism Inter-club and to **Kim Koza** HM for "**Adirondack Barn**" (below left) and "**Osteria Ai Carmini**" (Award of Merit, bottom left) in the Creative Inter-club competitions.



Congratulations also to **Jim Craner** for bagging **Nature Interclub Honors** for "**Begging a Meal**" (below) and for "**Gotcha Now!**"




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2011-2012 Print Assigned topicsOctober:

Chocolat - images of anything pertaining to chocolate...chocolate candy, chocolate cake, chocolate ice cream, white chocolate, dark chocolate, or any other type of chocolate.

November:

American Graffiti - shoot an image where graffiti plays a prominent role.

December:

It's A Wonderful Life - images depicting life's little joys, moments of happiness, celebrations of life, or just plain contentment.

January:

The Sound of Music - an image depicting some aspect of musical talent or focus (instruments, people, musical groups, etc.).

February:

A Christmas Story - share a holiday season story with us...

March:

A Touch of Class - Back to basics, shoot a classic portrait of someone or something.

April:

Giant - Think BIG....find something that is oddly oversized, but be sure to put it into perspective to show its size.

2011-2012 Projected Assigned topicsOctober:

Faceless Portraits - portrait where the face is not shown (silhouette, body part, etc.).

November:

Feathers - tickle us with feather images.

December:

Alphabet A-Z - find letters in signs or natural objects that take the shape of a letter of the alphabet.

January:

KISS (Keep it Simple St___d) - Zen of sparse elegance.

February:

Wind - illustrate movement.

March:

Peace/Serenity - grant us your feeling of peace/serenity.

April:

Portrait of a Tree - show the personality of a tree.



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