

REFLECTIONS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB

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ALASKA, WILD AND WONDERFUL

There is something about Alaska. After three trips to the state, I am still unsure of just what the mysterious pull is all about. I have only experienced the wonders of this state in August, (prime tourist season) so my overall impression may be biased. However, it was certainly not the weather that was the draw. In total, the 25 or 30 days I have spent in Alaska were mostly cloudy, drizzly and certainly not summer-like. In all honesty, the weather didn't seem that bad, as, along with the previously mentioned conditions went some of the most dramatic skies I have ever seen. Dark clouds, light streaming through, ever changing skies, held a wonder all their own. Visualize a bald eagle in the top of an evergreen tree, emerging from swirling fog, and you have magic.

Maybe it was the glaciers, formed over centuries and massive, even now, as glacial warming dwindles them down in a sad commentary on the state of the universe, that produced such a sense of awe. Can you imagine what it is like to take a helicopter to the top of a glacier, step out, and be met with a guide who outfits you with crampons so that you can hike about and explore this unique environment? Crevices, deep and heavenly blue in color, seem to have no bottom, and melting ice flows in waterfalls to the very depth of this icy world. We actually had a sunny day for our "hike-about" and the top surface of the glacier reflected the warm, rosy tones of the day's end. From below in a tour boat, you could listen for the sounds of cracking ice, and experience the roar of a calving glacier and the ripple effect of the water as tons of ice plunged into the fjord.

What could be more exciting than seeing some of the magnificent wildlife that call Alaska home? We watched as a grizzly bear meandered along a stream bed, snagging salmon and dining on the shore. From our boat, the bear had been too far away for me to recognize, and I was convinced that it was a rock until

it started moving closer, finally providing us with an experience unlike any I had ever had. Imagine watching a bull moose contentedly browsing in the willows as we looked on, and giving us only a perfunctory once over. How exciting do you think it would be, to be walking on the tundra in Denali and have a handsome bull caribou with an impressive rack of antlers appear from over a rise about 30 feet away? He, too, looked us over, posed for some photographs, and ambled on his way.

Maybe you can imagine spending a night on a small island out of Resurrection Bay in Seward. There were only 8 little cabins, a lodge that provided a fresh salmon luncheon to day tourists arriving by boat, and a small, intimate lodge for overnight guests. Slate grey stones, smoothed and rounded into disks, lined the shore, providing a wonderful background for orange, green and gold "wash ups" from the sea. The hard "clack" of the stones as I walked along the shore was, again, a unique experience.

Maybe the wildness of Alaska is what makes it so special. Though there are major cities, bustling with tourists, fishermen, businesses and locals, there are also miles of open space. A train trip to Denali from Anchorage, spanning the better part of a day, had only a few small towns along its route. There are about 1200 miles of paved roads in the whole state, and the only way to get from city to city, in some cases, is to fly or go by boat.

One of my fondest impressions of this wonderful state is its people. Those I met who are residents, seem to love their lifestyle. They are, from my impression, friendly, hardworking, intelligent and independent. They live in this raw, wild land because they choose to do so, sharing their history and culture with those of us fortunate enough to have traveled to their piece of the world.

Diane Robertson

James Jones President
494 Newport Avenue
Attleboro, MA 02703
508-951-4961

Shiv Verma Vice-President
652 Dedham Street
Wrentham, MA 02093
508-384-9449

Brenda Cleveland Secretary
59 Whitewood Road
Milford, MA 01757
508-478-2669

Glenn Browning Treasurer
320 Newport Avenue
South Attleboro, MA 02703
508-878-2383

Mike Di Stefano Past Presidents
Paul Burke

COMMITTEES:

Slide/Print study	Ray Guillette
Equipment	Dan Charbonnet
Field Trips	Jim & Jessica Jones
Reflections	Denise Maclachlan
Publicity	Billie Manning
Workshops	Ken Wiedemann, Bob Sheppard, Ray Guillette, Harry Davis, Andre Bourque, Shiv Verma, Jim Jones
Refreshments	Melba Armour
Judges	John Fuller
Database	Dan Charbonnet
Nominations	Bob Doyle
Scholarship Fund	B. Manning, J. Cormier, V. Schepps, G. Browning
Digital	Bob Sheppard
Webmaster	Shiv Verma
PSA Representative	John Fuller
NECCC Representative	Ray Guillette

COMPETITIONS:

Color Slides	Jessica Jones
B&W Prints	Ken Wiedemann
Color Prints	Ray Guillette
Digital	Bob Sheppard
PSA/NECCC	Dan Charbonnet
Multi-screen	Jim Jones

STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB

PURPOSE: To promote enjoyment and proficiency in all aspects of photography through education by mutual exchange of knowledge and experience; and, to promote a broad appreciation of our environment.

MEETINGS: Meetings will be held every Thursday of each month; no meetings in July and August. Consult the SBCC Calendar of Events. All meetings start at 7:30 P.M. The regular meeting place is Stony Brook Audubon Preserve, Norfolk, MA off Route 115. At other times activities are scheduled in other nearby locations.

DUES: Individuals: \$30.00, Families: \$40.00, and \$15.00 for students and members over 65 years of age. To be eligible for competitions, dues must be paid before the first competition.

NEWSLETTER: Published six times during the year for Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan, Feb/Mar, Apr/May, and Jun/Jul and solely for the information, guidance and enjoyment of the Stony Brook Camera Club, Norfolk, MA

OFFICERS: Elected annually and serve as the executive committee with two past presidents. The Stony Brook Camera Club is affiliated with the New England Camera Club Council and is a member of the Photographic Society of America

LIGHT VERSUS DARKNESS

The alarm woke us at 4:00 a.m. As we lay in the darkness, we ask ourselves, do we really want to do this? It's so hard to get up when it's dark outside. As we quietly move about the cottage trying not to wake anyone, we think of the adventure before us. So we dress and leave everyone behind - sleeping! Even Dunkin' Donuts is not open at this hour! Our destination, an hour away, soon finds us at a lovely pond. The fog is still heavy on the water and we can barely make out the shore line.

Do we really want to do this? It's chilly and damp. We put our kayaks on the edge of the water, and not for the first time we hope the weatherman is correct and it will be a beautiful day.

With our camera gear safely secured we slip the kayaks into the water and glide away. Soon we hear the call of a loon as the sky starts to lighten. We maneuver over near where the loons are. Just as the sun comes over the horizon we see them - a pair of loons with two chicks!!! It's 5:15 a.m. As the light hits them we start clicking away. We watch through our view finders and marvel at nature. Soon there's splashing off to our right; we turn -- there are four more loons coming in!!! As we watch the exchange between the loons and listen to their call to one another, we realize that it was photography that brought us to this moment. Whether our pictures come out good or not, we are just thankful for the chance to be here.



Soon the sun is too high and the light is harsh (the weatherman was right), so we head for shore. We have been in our kayaks for five hours and have gone through many rolls of film.

While we're loading up our gear, we ask ourselves if we'll do this again tomorrow - you bet, and we'll probably go through the same agony of getting out of bed in the damp and dark and finding ourselves in a glorious sunrise with nature all around us.

Brenda & Tom Cleveland



Dot Perron – In Memorium

We were saddened to learn of the passing of long time SBCC member and dear friend, Dorothy Perron on Sunday, January 14, 2007.

For many years of the Club's history, Dot, along with her husband Russ, were extremely important and influential in quietly leading the Club's direction as far as the quality of work submitted in competition, the officers elected to lead, and the social aspects of the club in general. The countless contributions she made to this organization truly made Stony Brook the Club it is today.

Dot was passionate about life, she truly appreciated the natural world, and loved the fact that through the art of photography she could retain and share the beauty of her vision. In addition to Stony Brook, she was a member of the Yankee Photographic Society and the Photographic Society of America where she earned a five star rating in the Nature Division and a four star rating in the Color Slide Division. Advancing years did not dim her love of the medium. A couple of years ago when the sunflowers were at their peak at Tangerini's Farm in Millis, we invited Dot on a mini field trip and she was in her glory traipsing through the rows of bright yellow blooms looking for the perfect specimen or the ideal angle. Then, just this past spring, when two swans produced eight signets in a pond in Norfolk, my wife, Carolyn, asked Dot if she would like to see them. She eagerly agreed. If you think Dot was content to watch them from the car, you didn't know Dot. She was out of the car, camera in hand, climbing over the guardrail and down the steep embankment of the pond just to get the best possible shot. Even at 90, age never slowed her down nor dimmed her passion of photography.

In addition to serving as the club co-president with Russ, for many years she was in charge of the nominating committee responsible for the leadership of the club. She organized the Annual Dinner (The Last Supper) by spending the day of the banquet, roasting a turkey, baking a ham, getting cold cuts on a platter, setting tables with tablecloths and placing fresh flowers from her extensive garden on every table. Her home was often a gathering place for friends and good conversation. Also on a regular basis a few of us would get together there to select Stony Brook's entries for the NECCC competitions. We would

spend hours finding the best possible slides to submit always trying to showcase some of the newer members' work in our selections. Stony Brook was a difficult club to beat in those days mostly because of those intensive slide sessions. Through her attention to detail, her eye for composition, and her understanding of the qualities of light she was always raising the bar of quality in her photography, and the other members of the club had to work just that much harder trying to stay close in competition. With Dot's influence, all our skills improved dramatically.



Photo by Ray Guillette

Dot was an extraordinary school teacher, and for 23 years she taught at Franklin's historic one room Red Brick schoolhouse. The town valued her services so much, they built a sidewalk from her home to the school and for decades it was the only sidewalk on Lincoln Street. Often while we were visiting, some of her students would drop by to visit their favorite teacher and they would often bring their spouses and children with them just to have the experience of meeting Dot.

In their retirement years Dot and Russ traveled extensively in a modified camping van with a pop up turtle top. They and their vehicle could always be found at the best birding spots in Florida, at PSA conventions, Yankee Photographic meetings, and of course the NECCC Annual Conference in Amherst. They were so identified with their vehicle that Henry Weisenberger of the Boston Camera Club dubbed them the "Pop-Up People."

Dot had a remarkable memory. She could recall with clarity most of her students, their families, and their history in Franklin. She served as the historian of her church and her recollections of town history were amazing. She could remember events of 60-70 years in the past as though they occurred last week. When we were selecting slides for a NECCC competition she would often remark "We used that slide three or four years ago" and when we checked the records we found she was almost always correct!

During one's lifetime the chances of knowing and sharing a friendship with a truly exceptional individual are rare. Dot was truly one of those people, and she will be deeply missed.

Ken Wiedemann

Meetings in Review...by our members

Jan 4 – Shiv Verma

The New Members Show was a special evening for the new members where they shared their prints, slides, and digital images with other members. The special Welcome cake was served. A good time was had by all!

Jan. 11 – Bethe Fisher Abbott

See of Creativity workshop: Ray Guillette. On Thursday the 11th, Ray Guillette presented a slide show titled "The See of Creativity." Every slide in the show was a beautiful representation of what can be done with photography. No pixels were harmed, mutated, or otherwise used in this wonderful exhibit of images. Shooting on slide film, yes film - it does exist - Ray uses a number of techniques to create stunning images. He also explained just how to use the same techniques, no matter what the camera. The building blocks of creativity are inspiration, time, and freedom. If you use your time and freedom to think and to be inspired, you can be creative. Take the time to look at other images. Try something different. You'll never know if it'll work if you don't try. These were just a few of the hints that Ray gave us during his wonderful talk.

For Ray's complete notes, see the "Articles" section at: www.stonybrookcc.com

Jan 18 – Glenn Browning

The multiscreen preliminaries were held tonight and Jim Jones was the moderator. Members who were present voted on the image which best fit each of the 24 categories for slides and digital images. Jim explained the categories for slides and digital images were different this year because the clubs that choose the categories are different for slides and for digital images. The 3 clubs who participate in the multiscreen for slides are not the same clubs Stony Brook competes with in the digital image multiscreen.

The number of slides entered into the preliminary judging was disappointing – only 41 slides for the 24 categories which left some categories without entries. Film people – shoot the categories and let's get some entries for the final multiscreen presentation in April.

The images chosen at the Jan meeting are not the "winners" yet. Now that members have seen the entries, they know where to improve our club entries for the categories. There is still plenty of time to get your images ready by April. The club web site has the categories for both slide and digital images, or they can be obtained at any club meeting.

Jan 25 – Glenn Browning

Ray Guillette led the critiques of images for the image study night held Jan 25th. Maybe Ray was able to get everyone to talk fast, or maybe there weren't quite as many images as usual, but we were able to critique both rounds of images fully. This is something that has not happened in a long time. Not only was there a lot of constructive criticism, but the makers of the images shared their intentions and had specific questions they wanted answered about improving the images. It was a fun-filled night that, as usual, because it was not all serious discussion. There were also many interesting images that were technically well done. It was another meeting where members were able to demonstrate why Stony Brook is among the top clubs in the area.

Feb 1 – Glenn Browning

Paul Smith had the unenviable job of judging images on Feb 1. The competition was for Class A and B slides, B&W prints, altered reality slides and creative digital images. As usual, club members did not make it easy for the judge and he commented repeatedly on the strong quality of the images. There were a high number of print entries to start the evening. There were great quality slides, but the number was low. The altered reality entries were stunning. However, it was the creative digital image category that proved Stony Brook members are very creative artists. There were five 15 point first place winners in the creative category. As always, winning images can be found on the club web page.

Feb. 8 – Denise Maclachlan

The "Studio lighting made easy" workshop, was presented this week by Shiv Verma and Paul Smith. The basics of studio lighting was covered, including the effects of each light (main, fill, hair and background). Live demon-

2007 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING THEME</u>
3/08/07-Library	PSA Inter Club Competition, Dan Charbonnet
3/15/07-Library	Workshop -- Adobe Lightroom - Tools beyond Photoshop, Shiv Verma
3/22/07	Image Study (moderator Ray Guillette)
3/29/07	Competition #7: B slides, B&W prints, Altered Reality, Digital Nature
4/05/07	Competition #8: A slides (General & Nature), Color Prints (A&B), Digital Creative, Digital Open
4/12/07	Multi-Screen Selections
4/19/07	Digital Slide Show, Andre Bourque
4/26/07	Image Study (moderator Ray Guillette)
5/03/07-Library	Fine Art and Commercial Photography, Lou Jones
5/10/07	Competition #9: AA slides (General & Nature), B&W prints, Altered Reality, Digital Nature
5/17/07	Business Meeting & Select Images of the Year
5/24/07	PSA Approved 2006 Suncoast Virtual Salon and the 2006 Tropical Image Exposition & PSA Nature Digital Imaging Exhibition, Richard Shirley
5/31/07	Workshop -- Hands on Portraiture and Lighting
6/07/07	Infrared and Black & White, Ken Wiedemann
6/14/07-Library	Annual Awards Banquet - Digital Slide Shows

strations were presented via digital camera and projector.

For a copy of the presentation "Studio Lighting Made Easy" and "Tips on Posing & Poor Man's Lighting Guide" notes, see the "Articles" section at www.stonybrookcc.com.

Feb. 15 – Vicki Schepps

Members were captivated by the images of international photographer, Ulrike Welsch, at the Norfolk Public library. The German born Ms. Welsch was the first woman photographer on staff at the Boston Herald Traveler (1966-1972) and Boston Globe (1972-1981). She contributed bold yet sensitive human interest images and was named New England Press Photographer of the Year in 1974. Ms. Welsch spoke candidly about her career as a freelance photographer, sharing images from her extensive travels in Latin America, Australia and beyond. Her subjects include people from all walks of life, scenic landscapes, nature, as well as bustling cities. She has authored several photography books and her images have been published in text books. This remarkable woman states "My purpose in photography is to capture beauty and a touch of humanity and to share my vision."

Feb. 22 – Shiv Verma

Despite the cold and bad weather we had a reasonably good turnout. There were 2 prints, courtesy of Donna Leonardo, three slides per round and the usual slew of digital images. For a change we had all the time to deal with, critique and enjoy the great works our members exhibit. The smaller crowd and the low overall count of images gave everyone an opportunity to "pull a few legs", joke and generally have a lot of fun. We even managed to wind down on time.

March 1 – Tony Mistretta

Competition #6 brought in another full house crowd with many new members as well as old taking home prizes. The competition categories were Color Prints A & B, Digital Open A and B, and AA Slides General and Nature. Rick Cloran, FPSA, MNEC from the Merrimac Valley Camera Club was our judge, and provided insightful comments on many competing images. Excitement filled the room as the club members' awesome and terrific images were displayed and judged. Club Treasurer Glen Browning won the 50/50 raffle, which was coincidentally \$50, thanks to President Jim Jones' aggressive selling on the tickets. And guess who won the triple 50? All time triple 50 champion Ed Arees, of course!

MULTISCREEN 2006-2007

All competition photographs must be taken May 1, 2006, or later.

DIGITAL

Abandoned	Dizzy	Moonlight	Time
Architecture	Fruit	Panoramic	Train
Bird	Fuzzy	Rain	Vibrant
Bottle	Hot	Shadow	Waterfall
Crystal	In the kitchen	Splash	Wheel
Discovery	It's a small world	Sport	Window

SLIDES

Bird(s)	Face(s)	Moonlight	Splash
Contrast	Farm Country	Muddy	Toy(s)
Crystal(s)	Fire	Old Glory	Twisted
Discovery	Friendship	Silhouette(s)	Two by Two
Dizzy	Glassware	Sleek	Uncomfortable
Environmental Portrait	Hot	Sparkle(s)	Vibrant



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A PSA Award-Winning Newsletter

DENISE MACLACHLAN, EDITOR
8 BARRETT LANE
BELLINGHAM, MA 02019
E-MAIL: sbcceditor@yahoo.com
<http://www.stonybrookcc.com>



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