

REFLECTIONS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB

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DEPARTING WORDS...

Jim Jones, President

I sit here thinking what memorable quote or witty quip can I bestow upon you in my final remarks to you as President? I feel like the hundreds of valedictorians this week sitting down to write his or her final speech trying to find an original and memorable way to say "Go off and do well with your life". Alas that is not I. Gone will be the inspirational message. Lost will be the witty quip. But I will throw in a quote to set the tone for my final message.

Earlier this year my all time favorite movie character Rocky Balboa returned to the big screen with this all so cruel truth..."The world ain't all sunshine and rainbows."

On October 26th, this truth was painfully realized. With all the great programs scheduled and good people in place to move the club forward, I thought this year was going to be smooth sailing. Optimism suddenly changed to dread and horror because that evening we had 15 people standing in the back of the room without a chair. Embarrassment was the greatest emotion that I felt and it was then that I knew we couldn't talk about moving it had to be done. It was going to be a tough year, probably the toughest we have ever had.

As membership increased so did my worries. We starting looking at locations and we learned early on, we couldn't afford it. People around me said sure we could, look at all the money we have in the treasury. I shook my head and thought this is the same reasoning that has hundreds of thousands of people foreclosing on their home this year. If you make x, spend y, and have a savings of z...if y is greater than x, then z is decreased by the difference. Do this enough times and there is no more z. What happens if something major happens and there is no more z? I wasn't going to let this happen and I knew the only way out was to increase x.

A few weeks ago you all unanimously voted to increase x and this was the most significant decision you all could have made to keep our camera club vibrant and moving forward. I still have members questioning the decision, though. Calling it wrong but to those members, I was elected to be a leader and do what is best for the club. As Rocky Balboa said "The world ain't all sunshine

and rainbows". Some times tough decisions have to be made whether we like them or not.

I was told going into this year that by the end of my presidency I would be completely different. This is very true. While those who preceded me were happy that their year was over I look at mine with mixed feelings. I truly wish I had one more year. There are a lot of things I wanted to get done but because of October 26th, this was not the year. We laid a foundation this year though that will allow us to move forward and I have all the faith in the world that Shiv and Glenn can finish the work.

As I wrap up, I want to leave you with this though and challenge. I hear all the time from members that the club isn't as friendly and intimate as it used to be. I shake my head every time I hear this because it is so far from the truth.

Think back when you first joined the club. I am sure the first meeting was awkward. You probably didn't know anyone. But that all changed when an established member introduced his or herself, showed you the ropes, mentored you a little, and introduced you to others. This made you feel that you were part of the club and that you belonged. The difference now is that you **are** the established member and new members aren't going to go out of their way to become friendly with you because you don't share their awkwardness. They find solace with only new members because they share that same awkwardness that you had.

As a good steward to the club, the club that we all love so much, it is now your responsibility to introduce yourself, show someone else the ropes, mentor a little, and introduce someone to others. You may say but I don't know any of the new members...I say neither did the ones before you.

So my challenge for all of you next year is when it is announced that we have a new member, go out of your way to introduce yourself. Step out of your comfort zone and make an investment of your time with the new members. Do this and I will guarantee you will quickly find the friendliness and intimacy in the club that you thought was lost.

In closing, I have thoroughly enjoyed this year and look forward to many more wonderful years with the camera club.

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Mike Di Stefano Past Presidents
Paul Burke



STONY BROOK WINS NECCC COLOR PRINT COMPETITION

Congratulations to our color printers! Stony Brook placed first overall in the 07 NECCC Interclub Color Print Competition, tied with the Portland Camera Club. 34 clubs participated in the competition this year. Dick Shirley's print, "Fleeing the Storm" won first place in the Spring Competition, and is eligible for NECCC Color Print of the Year. Three prints won HM's this year: "Mama" by Donna Leonardo, "Heritage Flight" by Phil Giordano, and "Visiting Versailles" by Jean Schmidt. We placed third overall in 05 and second in 06. Thanks to all who contributed prints: Dan Charbonnet, John Fuller, Phil Giordano, Mark Higgins, Donna Leonardo, Don Plouffe, Jean Schmidt, Dick Shirley, Joan Shirley, and Shiv Verma.

Ray Guillette

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

MIKE O'CONNOR, MNEC

Mike O'Connor, long time Stony Brook member and mentor will be named a Master Member of NECCC at this July's conference. This honor recognizes Mike's "administrative skills and many years of service to Stony Brook Camera Club; for his presentation abilities and mentoring club members in producing programs, for his judging, lecturing, and writing expertise."

Congratulations, Mike! We are all proud of you!

Ray Guillette

Websites to check out:

It's not too late! Register Now! The 62nd Annual Conference of the New England Camera Club Council, July 13-15, 2007, at UMass/Amherst

Conference highlights: Expanded Digital programs; borrowing equipment from Canon and Nikon; pre-conference Photoshop Elements workshop; photo-opportunities with: birds of prey nature set-ups, models, and campus architecture; nature and digital mini-seminar series; vendors; conference competitions: slide, digital, and print; door prizes; new campus dorms. www.neccc.org

Register now! The PSA 2007 International Conference of Photography, September 2-8, 2007, in Tucson, Arizona. For more information, visit the website at: <http://www.psa-photo.org/conferences.asp?menuID=8&DivID=8>

See www.opalphotos.com for up-to-date photography news.

Meetings in Review...by our members

May 3 – Paul Burke

On Thursday, May 3rd, Stony Brook was honored to have Lou Jones deliver a magnificent presentation of what I would call "a portraiture of life". Lou is one of Boston's most diverse & inspiring commercial & fine art photographers, known for his courage, creative skill & humanity. He specializes in photoillustration & location photography. In the presentation, an overflowing audience of members and guests were treated to Lou's spectacular images of architecture, people, and places from around the world, the fascinating story behind each image, and the challenges he encountered in taking them. Interlaced throughout the presentation was a wonderful sense of Lou's philosophy of life. It was a truly uplifting experience for all.

*"We are all artists who speak a universal language."
Lou Jones*

May 10 – Joan Shirley

Ed McGuirk, a member of the fairly new (3 years old) Boston West Camera Club, offered excellent constructive criticism in addition to high praise as he judged the 9th Stony Brook Competition. Topics included AA slides General and Nature, Black and White Prints, Altered Reality, and Digital Nature. It's a pleasure to see the high quality of work produced by veteran as well as new members.

May 17 – Denise Maclachlan

Our annual business meeting began with the election of the new board. Congratulations to: Shiv Verma, President; Glenn Browning, Vice-President, Don Plouffe, Treasurer; and Brenda Cleveland, Secretary. Discussion ensued regarding bylaw amendments, club purchases, meeting space issues, and dues. A vote passed to increase dues for next year to help cover rental of a larger meeting facility to accommodate our growing membership. Roy Marshall followed the business meeting with the unenviable task of choosing the images of the year. Thanks, Roy, for a job well done!

May 24 – Shiv Verma

We had a lower than usual attendance for the showing of the 2006 PSA Nature – Electronic Imaging Exhibition and the 2007 Tropical Image International Exhibition. Dan Charbonnet showed the acceptances in both the Nature General and Wildlife of the 2006 Exhibition. Congratulations to all SBCC members who had acceptances and to Dan Charbonnet for winning the Diversity Award. This

showing was followed by Dick Shirley who showed the acceptances from the General Category of the 2007 Tropical Image International Exhibition that was held in March of this year. Once again, congratulations to all SBCC members who had acceptances and honorable mentions.

May 31 – Denise Maclachlan

This week's hands-on workshop offered members the opportunity to try portrait photography. Two sets were set up with preset lighting, background and triggered wireless flash. A few models graciously posed for each member as they rotated through the two sets: the full length and head shots. Thanks to Shiv Verma and Paul Smith for offering members this wonderful opportunity.

June 7 – Glenn Browning

If the little things count, then they also photograph well. That was the premise of the season's last workshop presented by Mike O'Connor. Mike demonstrated the art of taking close up photographs - in his case, flowers. Mike explained the inexpensive equipment needed to get close up – the close up filters that screw onto a lens; and, the expensive equipment – the macro lens. In between, expense wise, is the extension tube. Mike demonstrated the difference each piece of equipment makes by showing the image results of the same flowers. Mike also explained selective focus, soft focus and depth of field. As usual, all of Mike's images were perfectly exposed. We at the club thank Carol O'Connor for letting Mike take the flowers he gives her to his garage workshop so he can capture the beauty of the flowers. And, Happy Anniversary to Mike and Carol.

Addendum: A PDF document is available on the website (under Article section) in follow up to this workshop. It was prepared by Dan Charbonnet and will help in your use of extension tubes.

June14 – Denise Maclachlan

The annual banquet began with a wonderful pot luck buffet for its hungry members. Thank you, Melba, for organizing it! Awards were then presented to the top three winners in each competition level (see below), the winning images of the year, and the Locke Award. Scholarships were also awarded (see separate article). Jim Jones expressed his heartfelt thanks and departing words as president. Bob Sheppard (thanks Bob!) presented the annual members' digital shows – an incredible showcase! What a great way to culminate a great year!

Scholarship Winners

Scholarships of \$500 each were awarded to two high school students this year. The scholarships were given in memory of Dot Perron this year. Congratulations to Meredith Tierney of Walpole, who will be attending the University of Richmond and Matthew Whalen of Medfield who will attend the University of Colorado.

Vicki Schepps



Photo by Meredith Tierney



Photo by Matthew Whalen



John Locke Award
Randy Ranaudo

2006-07 Final Competition Results

Class B Digital Open

1. Monica Verma
2. Glenn Browning
3. Mark Higgins & Don Plouffe

Class B Digital Nature

1. Monica Verma
2. Mark Higgins & Don Plouffe
3. Glenn Browning

Class A Digital Open

1. Donna Parker & Diane Robertson
2. Donna Leonardo, Henny Smith & Shiv Verma
3. Wendy McIntosh

Class A Digital Nature

1. Shiv Verma
2. Donna Leonardo
3. Diane Robertson & Richard Shirley

Digital Creative

1. Jim Barbieri
2. Tony Mistretta, Diane Robertson, Richard Shirley
3. Donna Parker, Jean Schmidt, Shiv Verma

Class B Slides

1. Paul Burke
2. Tom Cleveland
3. Denise Maclachlan

Class A Slides Open

1. Glenn Browning
2. Don Plouffe
3. Brenda Cleveland & Joan Shirley

Class A Slides Nature

1. Joan Shirley
2. Don Plouffe
3. Glenn Browning

Class AA Slides Open

1. Robert Doyle
2. John Fuller, Donna Parker, Diane Robertson
3. Michael DiStefano, Ray Guillette

Class AA Slides Nature

1. Richard Shirley
2. Ray Guillette
3. Diane Robertson

Altered Reality Slides

1. Ray Guillette
2. Henny Smith
3. Diane Robertson

Class B Color Prints

1. Don Plouffe
2. Marshall Schmidt
3. Mark Higgins

Class A Color Prints

1. Richard Shirley
2. Shiv Verma
3. Joan Shirley

Black & White Prints

1. Andre Bourque
2. Tony Mistretta & Jean Schmidt
3. Michael DiStefano

Touring China

Harry Davis

On a recent visit to China, I was amazed by the modernization and growth in the cities. In the hour long drive to the city from the Beijing Airport, there were skyscrapers, high rise apartments, and construction cranes as far as the eye could see. Beijing is a city of thirteen million people with three million cars. Traffic is at a virtual stand still. The auto emissions, coal burning power plants, and soft coal home furnaces create air pollution that rivals that seen in the Los Angeles basin years ago. In the cities that we visited, the mornings started out with a thick haze that eventually burned off leaving gray to yellowish skies. Bright blue skies with fluffy white clouds were not found anywhere and this was quite a disappointment for photographers, though the created soft light was beneficial for photographing people.

Our tour started in Beijing visiting the Summer Palace on Kunming Lake (built in 1750), Tiananmen Square (the world's largest square), and the Forbidden City that served emperors from 1420 to 1911. The next day featured a trip to the Great Wall and the Temple of Heaven. In Beijing, there are a few remaining ancient residential areas that have not been torn down for urban development. These Hutongs, as they are known, are now protected residential areas. A tour by rickshaw through these narrow alleyways plus a visit to a quadrangle home, gave us a glimpse of how many people live in Beijing.

A one and a half hour flight took us to Xi'an, the first official capitol of China. There, and called the greatest archeological find of the twentieth century, are the eight-thousand terra cotta warriors, horses, and chariots buried in trenches guarding the emperor Qin's tomb. No two warriors are alike. It is estimated that it took one-hundred thousand workers ten years to complete the task of molding and firing these statues in 220 B.C. The Old City of Xi'an is surrounded by an 8.5 mile wall that, once on top, you can traverse by rental bikes or rickshaws (or jog if you are the athletic type).

A short flight south to Guilin took us to the beginning of a scenic cruise down the Li River. The river winds its way through surreal mountains of limestone and past farmers tending their fields with buffalo. Through the centuries, these scenes have been portrayed in Chinese paintings and tapestries. At the terminus of the cruise, in Yangzhou, we enjoyed a visit to the surrounding rice patties and

farms. Also included in this side trip was a visit to a farm family's home. Other than electricity and a TV, they lived sparsely. After a short return ride to Guilin, we were off to Hong Kong.

A tram took us to the top of Victoria Peak where, from an observation platform there was a spectacular view of Hong Kong Island with its high rise buildings in the financial district. Across the bay, on the mainland, is the bustling Kowloon. In the evenings at eight o'clock, looking across the bay from the Kowloon waterfront, there is a spectacular light and laser show from the Hong Kong skyscrapers. This twenty minute show is accompanied by music.

After ten days of Chinese food for lunch and dinner, we craved for a western meal. At a western style pub, a steak and baked potato never tasted better.

A two-hour ferry from Kowloon took us to Canton province and after a city tour of Guangzhou, we flew to Hangzhou. This is a beautiful city with tree lined boulevards and many well manicured parks. Hangzhou is best known for its scenic West Lake and its willow draped islands. There are many ornate boats that take hundreds of tourist on lake cruises.

A three-hour bus ride took us to the megalopolis of Shanghai. Sixteen million people and what seems like an equal number of vehicles cram this city. One of the highlights of Shanghai was a promenade along the Bund, a river front of early twentieth century British architecture. Across the river from the Bund, the Pudong is the ultra modern area of new businesses, factories, and housing. There are many fascinating designs in the buildings.

In the afternoon, we spent a few hours in the Yu Gardens, an extensive complex of ornately decorated wooden structures designed and built by a Ming Dynasty architect in the latter half of the 16th century. Yu Gardens is now a market place of many fascinating shops and restaurants. In the evening, we were thoroughly entertained by the amazing Shanghai Acrobat show.

While on a long sixteen hour flight to San Francisco, Ginny and I reminisced about our wonderful experience in China. All the sites that we saw were too numerous to mention in this article. For those who may be interested in visiting China, go to the web site: www.chinafocustravel.com. and explore their many itineraries. Their tours are quite a bargain.

MULTISCREEN 2007-2008

All competition photographs must be taken May 1, 2007, or later.

DIGITAL

Animals	Elderly	Lucky	Tangled
Black & White	Emotion	Mysterious	Teeth
Blue	Fashion	Numbers	Texture
Broken	Friends	Scary	The End
Child Under 12	Lace	Storm	Weathered
Creative	Liquid	Speed	Wrecked

SLIDES

Broken	Failure	Peaceful	Square(s)
Celebration	Glowing	Pets & Their People	Stormy
City Lights	Graffiti	Relaxing	Teeth
Cracked	Hat(s)	Rustic New England	The End
Crowd	Lace	Scary	Wall
Downtown	Orange	Skimpy	Wildlife



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A PSA Award-Winning Newsletter

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