

REFLECTIONS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB
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What Are Your Intentions?

By Glenn Browning

Each time a photographer captures an image, the resulting image may show the intention the photographer had in mind when setting out to take photograph. Of course, sometimes, the image does not represent the intention, but ends up meeting the needs of another intention. Thus, an image intended for competition may end up being a print for a wall. So how do we determine whether we have a competitive image, a wall print, a calendar or post card image, a gallery image, or an image for friends and family only? (I have purposefully left out the images that need deletion.)

Now that you have an image, its intention will become clear only if the photographer knows the differences between types of images. If your intent is to make a photograph for competition, there are specific criteria that have to be met. For more information, I refer you to John Fuller's article *Six Keys to Competition Photography* found at: <http://stonybrookccc.com/Articles/SixKeys-Competition.htm>. Here you will find the guidelines for impact, technical aspects, composition, color balance and viewer interest. If your intention was to make a competition photograph, these are the criteria that need to be met. Your intention may have been to make a wall print. There are some aspects of a competition image that change when making a wall print. A "hot spot" in a competition image may become a source of light for a wall print. Softened colors, approaching pastels, may enhance the feeling of the image and greater or less depth of field may change the emotion associated with the image. While the image may not do well in competition, it will clearly and vividly express the mood the photographer had in mind when making the image. The image could become a gallery best selling image.

When striving to photograph the calendar or post card image, your intention becomes differently focused. Your subject needs to be more general so people can easily identify the area the image represents. Technically, it still must be photographed well; however simplifying the image by getting closer and isolating a small part of the overall image may cause it to lose its impact as a statement about a place. For example, an image of a lighthouse and its surrounding environment will do better as a calendar image than a detailed close-up of the lighthouse lens. There may be more impact in competition, or more of a story for the wall print in the close-up, but visitors to the area will not recognize what they are seeing.

When a photographer takes out the camera at a family function, or a holiday gathering, the intention is to capture the event to share with the family and friends. It is highly unlikely you will end up with an image that meets competition standards, wall or gallery print standards, or even calendar standards. Hopefully, the image is technically accurate, but the most important feature of the image is telling the story of the function or gathering.

Now that you have your valuable images and know the intention of each image, they must somehow be shown. Luckily, Stony Brook provides different avenues for letting others see your images. If you want to see your image projected on the big screen and are looking for answers to questions you have about the image, image study night is your venue. If you believe your image is competition worthy, you can enter it in any competition for that category of image. If you have a wall or gallery print, you can display it through our public relations program with a library display. Our website is a venue for display of any image through our member galleries. The only venue lacking is the stock photography, but our forum has links to

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Field Trips	Philip Giordano
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Nominations	Bob Doyle
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Mentoring	Chuck Call
Competition	Mike DiStefano, Dan Charbonnet, Ray Guillette
PSA Rep.	John Fuller
NECCC Rep.	Ray Guillette

COMPETITIONS:

Color Slides	Jessica Jones
B&W Prints	Bob Doyle
Color Prints	Ray Guillette
Digital	Shiv Verma
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 the Wrentham Senior Center, 400 Taunton Street, Wrentham. Mailing address: Stony Brook Camera Club, P.O. Box 20, Wrentham, MA 02093-0020

DUES: Individuals: \$50.00, Families: \$75.00, and \$25.00 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, Wrentham, 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.

stock photography information and we have gallery owner GiGi Desaulniers as a presenter in March.

So, now the question is what type of intention is best for club members? The answer is all of them. Stony Brook has always had room and venues for any type of image to be viewed and displayed, and will continue to offer up venues for all types of images. The big step is for you to take advantage of our club offerings and show everyone what you can do. Make it your resolution for 2009 to showcase your images.

Stony Brook on the World Wide Web
By Rob DeRobertis

In the month of December our website was visited by 216 different people. On average the site is visited 15 times a day and over 1000 web pages are viewed over a month period. More interesting is that 25% of the visitors are non-club members visiting from places like Poland, UK, Canada, New York, PA and Florida. This certainly is not the busiest website on the internet but it serves an important purpose for our community where the most active parts are people viewing the new activity pages, the calendar on the home page and the winning image gallery (which is managed by Dick Shirley).

To look at ways to make our site even better, a small committee was created to provide some guidance to the club on places to work on. The team members are: Ann Bertulli, Phil Giordano, Ray Gingras, Joe Kennedy, Chuck Noel, Randy Ranaudo and Rob DeRobertis. The team decided to issue a survey among the club community and to use the survey to drive the direction of places to improve on the website.

Thirty-four people took our website survey late last year which is about 15% of the people using the site. The survey results are posted on the site but I thought I would highlight a few interesting items. For the most part the club community is pretty happy with the information on the website. The most important purpose of the site is to provide information about the club competition and club news. Club news is provided on the website in the form of the calendar, field trip information and details about the next meeting. See results at <http://www.stonybrookcc.com/Survey.html>.

On places to improve, they are minimal. The home page was getting pretty complicated. It was full with information but some of it was pretty old. We've streamlined the home page a bit and moved some of the information "deeper" into the website. We've also added an interactive calendar which can be used to show the calendar in list or calendar view. If you use iGoogle, you can use this calendar on your own home page and have it notify you about future meetings. In addition, the activities page was updated and linked on the home page so it is now more obvious on where to find our images. (Remember to take a look at the new field trip galleries and submit new images to our webmaster at any time).

Through the rest of the year, we'll be making more changes like 1) updating the menu, 2) additional streamlining of the format 3) coming up with a plan on how to manage the forums and 4) continuing to keep the website up to date. Please email any suggestions you may have to sbcc@robde.com.

RI BARN FIELD TRIP

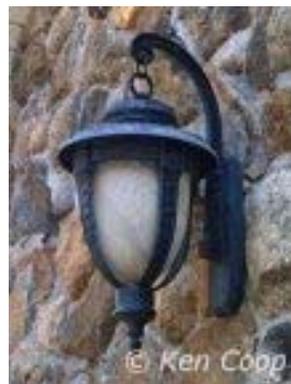
by Glenn Browning

A RI barn tour field trip was held on Oct 18th and members were welcomed at over a dozen barns in Glocester, RI, as a fund raiser for the Chepachet, RI, library. The owners of the barns were gracious in allowing people to tour the working barns, offering a history of their barn and land, insight into the workings of barns and farms, and even snacks and drinks. Club members who made the tour were Billi Manning, Kirsten Torkelson, Tony Mistretta, Ken and Eva Coop, Mel Korman, Ray Gingras, Philip Giordano, Rob DeRobertis, Joe Kennedy, Don Kirby and Glenn Browning. Images from the tour are located on a new web page devoted to field trip images at:

<http://www.stonybrookcc.com/fieldtrips/barns08/index.html>



Here are a few from our members:



"Eva Coop on assignment"

Meeting Minutes...by our members

October 16 – Rosemarie Marsh

We expected to have a great program when Onne van der Wal agreed to visit us at Stony Brook, but little could we expect such a night as he provided. Onne wanted to show us something different believing those who saw his presentation at NECCC might be disappointed to see it again. While that is hardly possible, his show turned out to be a treat. Onne's love of the sea and all things nautical came alive in his images and his discussion. Onne shared with us the photographs he took while he retraced the steps of Sir Ernest Shackleton on the Island of South Georgia in the Falkland Islands. He also shared images taken as far north as Spitsbergen in the Norwegian Arctic and as far South as Antarctica. His images are memorable and inspiring. The one of his yacht pressed against the ice, taken from atop the mast, would have been unbelievable if not for his feet being in the photograph. The long abandoned boat on the Russian Peninsula of Kamchatka was gorgeous and his story about his travel companions having seen it but needing to ask where he had taken the shot drives home what it means just to "see". A reminder to notice where we are. Onne drew a response with his wildlife images, and his peek under the wing of the wandering albatross, with its' 12 foot wingspan, was one he called "being in the right place at the right time"; Onne's lesson in humility. I would definitely see any of his shows again. We are all welcome to visit Onne at his gallery, on Bannister's Wharf, in Newport, RI. It sounds like a field trip to me.

October 23 – Image Study Night

Ray Guillette hosted our second image study night.

October 30 – Rosemarie Marsh

It is hard to believe you are in the right place when the presenter has set up his table to include trash cans and suitcases, but there were actually cameras and photographs there so it had to be right. And so it began: a quite unusual night at Stony Brook. The process, the art, and the messages David offered were substantial. The process: Pinhole cameras made out of nearly anything, video cameras, cell phones, anything to capture the image. The art: finished images, distorted, stained with coffee, the imperfections treated as valuable, and in the end something beautiful and haunting. The message: simplicity. The essence of photography. Create, Take it farther, fearlessly into the imperfection, photography as poetry; looking at the world in a different way. What I took from the night was David urging us to figure out who we are as photographers. Figure out what makes our vision unique, and have the courage to honor that vision. He cautioned us about rules saying the rules keep us in our heads and those images are stiff, they have no soul, no life at all. "The mind is a great servant but a lousy master, pursue it with your heart and follow your intuition. Use both, set an idea in your mind, but when you are photographing, stay in your heart". David was teaching about the essence of photography, the gift in it was the message about the essence of the photographer.

November 6 – Competition

Art Vaughn judged our third competition of the year consisting of A&B Digital General, A&B Slide General, and A&B Color Prints.

November 13 – Image Study Night

Ray Guillette hosted our third image study night.

November 20 – Art Wessel

This evening's meeting was a special treat. Our guest photographer, Jon Vaughan, a long time resident of Cape Cod, was introduced by Bob Yankee. Jon gave an introductory essay on photography and how it adds to his philosophy of life. He has published a book of photos and the slide show was based on the pictures in the book. With each slide, which was broken down to months of the year, Jon told a story. Many were funny as well as introspective. He also gave technical information on each photo, such as lens used, aperture, and shutter speed. Jon was assisted by his wife Sharon, who ran the projector. At the conclusion of the show there was a Q&A session,

after which he signed and sold copies of his book Coastal Effects, photos of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. I felt it was an outstanding presentation.

December 4 – Competition

Rick Cloran judged our fourth competition of the year consisting of A&B Digital Nature, A&B Slide Nature, Digital Creative, and Slide Creative.

December 11 – Rosemarie Marsh

Our own Bob Sheppard demystified the process of his slideshow artistry and walked us, step by step, through creating a slideshow using Pro Show Gold. What a great learning tool to have it on the screen as choices were made, images arranged, music added, and options explained. It is so helpful to hear what works and why, then to see it displayed to illustrate the point. Kudos to Bob for the hands on, careful and capable education. It is clear people are very interested in this topic; the questions from club members were great and even after going long the conversation continued afterward. No one wanted the class to end. We should have a lot of slideshows to see at our end of the year party.

December 18 – by Rosemarie Marsh

Holiday Party Haiku:

Cold and dark outside
Stony Brook holiday feast
Warm and bright within

Stony Brook Camera Club celebrated the holidays with a wonderful pot-luck banquet supplied by generous and creative members lead by Melba Armour and her refreshment team. Multiple slideshows highlighted the night and everyone enjoyed the beauty and diversity of the programs. Digital slideshow's were masterfully arranged by Tony Mistretta. What I want to know is where did Tony go to film Puffins in Santa hats?

January 8 – Ed Goltz

On January 8, 2009, Rick Nourse, an established wedding and portrait photographer from Canton, MA, came to Stony Brook to share some knowledge and interesting stories. Rick's easy going personality made it very simple for him to pass along knowledge of how to use window lighting, how to pose people for a more relaxing group portrait, and how to use flash to help rid our photos of those dreadful shadows. We all paid great attention to his tips on how to make your subjects look pounds thinner. Rick also brought some of his prize winning portraits and two sample wedding albums. A few of us went to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston the following week. There

was an exhibit of Karsh, the best portrait photographer of the 20th century. We saw how Karsh used the various techniques Rick explained to us at the meeting. Isn't knowledge wonderful? I think those who were in attendance walked away with the feeling they could improve their skills when taking portraits. Watch out Rick, here we come!

Addendum, by Dick Shirley:

I have struggled with portraits outside of the studio for eight years, and have never been able to take good ones. Rick showed us how to take a photo using just light from a window, and how to take a photo with flash aimed not at the subject, but bounced off of a wall. Joan and I tried his techniques at home and had excellent results. Two weeks later we were asked to do a bunch of indoor photographs of people; we used his techniques and we obtained far better results than we have previously. Thank you Rick!

January 15 – Competition

Ed McGuirk judged our fifth competition of the year consisting of A&B Digital Nature, A&B Slide Nature, A&B Color Prints, and B&W Prints.

January 22 – Dick Shirley

Jim provided an excellent program, one which will be of use even to someone who has been printing their own images for years. He compared the advantages of doing your own printing versus using a lab, then gave many tips on printing with an inkjet printer. He passed around samples in groups of three, one his on Ilford paper, one from Target, and one from Bay Photo; I was able to pick out his print every time! Jim also covered some points on Qimage, color management, Foto Fusion, and ROES (used to order prints from labs from your own home computer). Finally, he listed criteria to consider when buying an inkjet printer. Thank you Jim for an excellent program!

2008-2009 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

1/29/09	All SBCC Members	Image Study Night (moderator Ray Guillette)
2/05/09	Competition	Digital Creative, A&B Slide General, Slide Creative, B&W Prints
2/12/09	Arthur Pollock, Boston Herald Staff Photographer	Photojournalism
2/19/09	Bob Sheppard, Ken Wiedemann	Blurb Book Workshop
2/26/09	All SBCC Members	Image Study Night (moderator Ray Guillette)
3/05/09	Competition	A&B Digital General, B Slide General, A&B Color Prints
3/12/09	GiGi Desaulniers, Artist, Photographer, Gallery Owner, GiGi's Global Specialty Art and Gifts	Selling Your Work
3/19/09	Ken Wiedemann, Ray Guillette, Bob Yankee	Member Showcase
3/26/09	All SBCC Members	Image Study Night (moderator Ray Guillette)
4/02/09	Competition	A&B Digital General, Digital Creative, A&B Slide General, Slide Creative
4/09/09		Multiscreen Selection
4/16/09	All SBCC Members	Voice of the Photographer
4/23/09	All SBCC Members	Image Study Night (moderator Ray Guillette)
4/30/09	Ron Rosenstock, National Geographic Photographer	TBA
5/07/09	Competition	A&B Digital Nature, A&B Slide Nature, B&W Prints
5/14/09	Robert Rosenthal, Professor of Economics, Stonehill College	Travel Photography
5/21/09	All SBCC Members	Annual Business Meeting/Image of the Year
5/28/09	All SBCC Members	Image Study Night (moderator Ray Guillette)
6/04/09	TBA	Lighting Tutorial
6/11/09		Lighting Workshop (aka members tailgate party)
6/18/09	All SBCC Members	Awards Dinner and Members' Show

MULTISCREEN 2008-2009

All competition photographs must be taken May 1, 2008, or later.

Digital

Apples	Dancing	Glass	Rock(s)	Trains
Bad	Down home	Happy	Shadow	Upside down
Bell(s)	Fire	Ice	Shore bird	View from below
Bright light	Food	Musical Instrument	Silhouette(s)	Waterfall(s)
Construction	Fun	Purple	Slice	

Slides

Abandoned	Feather(s)	Lighthouse(s)	Seascape	Tree(s)
Bell(s)	Framed	Moss	Shell(s)	Upside down
Butterfly(ies)	Glass	Patriotic	Silhouette(s)	Waterfall(s)
Chair(s)	Goody	Reflection(s)	Spiral	Wave(s)
Curve(s)	Hand(s)	Rock(s)	Sweet(s)	



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A PSA Award-Winning Newsletter

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