

REFLECTIONS



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB

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June / July 2006

Howdy All

Seeing how this is my last President's newsletter, I thought I might look back at the season. There have been some things that stayed the same and others that have not. Hopefully, all changes have been for the better.

Communication was the important topic I had stressed for this past year, and we continued a great program of e-mail announcements started last year by Paul Burke. The name badges were totally re-printed and helped members introduce themselves to each other, especially the many new members who joined throughout the year. The newsletter has always been an important means to keep the membership informed, and Denise Maclachlan has continued to provide us with a superior publication. The car-pooling roster that was circulated during the winter gave members the ability to find other members who lived close by and car-pool to help alleviate the limited parking with snowstorms. In process right now is a review of the competition rules, which will be revised to make the rules clearer. The field trip schedule was another new program continued from last year and special thanks for that to Jessica & Jim Jones. The schedule of meetings created by Jim was another educational & entertaining set of programs. The Norfolk Library print exhibits that Bob Sheppard coordinates have introduced SBCC to the community and given the library visitors a chance to enjoy viewing our images. And for better or for worst, the coverage by Boston Channel 5 Chronicle Show & the Norfolk Cable Access coverage of the Slide Multi-Screen Competition made us all TV stars.

Some new means of keeping SBCC informed was the creation of the "new and improved" website. A great deal of work went into this project, and it shows by the fully loaded, well designed and still evolving www.stonybrookcc.com. We owe the architects many thanks: Shiv Verma, Jim Jones & Dick Shirley. My idea of the Mentor's List may have helped some in a more behind the scenes manner, and if not, well nothing ventured nothing gained.

A successful continuation of the ever popular Image Study night is certainly thanks to its moderator, Ray Guillette. Ray was also instrumental in the creation of the new competition schedule, which allowed for more judges' critiques without limiting member's entries or classes, and kept the judging from lasting too late into the night.

SBCC was quite successful in its participation in local competitions too. A first place in the Greater Lynn International for club entry, and the Digital Multi-Screen Competition. A good showing in the Glennie Memorial Nature Salon and Slide Multi-Screen. Look forward to SBCC hosting the PSA Digital Nature International Exhibition this summer by Dan Charbonnet.

I thank all volunteers who made this year run so smoothly, SBCC is truly one of the best camera clubs because of its activism within the club and outside the club. Overall, I think it was a quite interesting, enjoyable and progressive year. And I see it only getting better next year. So for now, enjoy the summer, shoot many images, and come back in September and let's do it all over again.

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Vicky Elliott

COMMITTEES:

Slide/Print study	Ray Guillette
Equipment	Dan Charbonnet
Field Trips	Jim & Jessica Jones
Reflections	Denise Maclachlan
Publicity	Billie Manning
Workshops	Mike Di Stefano, Jim Jones, Ray Guillette
Refreshments	TBA
Judges	John Fuller
Database	Dan Charbonnet
Nominations	Bob Doyle
Scholarship Fund	B. Manning, J. Cormier, V. Schepps, G. Browning
Digital	Bob Sheppard
Webmaster	Dick Shirley
PSA Representative	John Fuller
NECCC Representative	Ray Guillette

COMPETITIONS:

Color Slides	Vicky Elliott
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

I've Been Thinking

(With credits to any person who might have used this same title)

Great thinkers down through the ages have always pondered the imponderables. You know, such things as "if a tree falls in the forest and there is no one to hear, does it make a sound?" "Does the little light really go out when the refrigerator door is closed?" "How do spies actually know when they have run out of invisible ink?" Great philosophical questions all. And now there is a new question to ponder: "Will the tremendous advances in technology make us better photographers?" Hmm.

Now, I have never been accused of being one of the world's great thinkers or ponderers, but, since I have been involved somewhat with cameras and such for some time, I thought I would take a whack at this current great question of our time. So, for what it is worth, here are some thoughts.

My conclusion is – no, not really. (I feel I must hedge a little bit here).

There is absolutely no question that this is a very interesting time to be involved with photography. The great advances in image capture, image manipulation, printing, projection, etc., have been extremely exciting. The tools available today could not be imagined only a few short years ago. Image quality is getting to be equivalent, or perhaps even better, than in the past. The digital darkroom offers tools that greatly facilitate or surpass what could be accomplished in the wet darkroom. (What a relief not to be imprisoned in a dark, smelly closet. We are now out in the light and are near the bathroom – a big plus). Outstanding prints can be produced on our desktops, prints that rival in color, black-and-white tones, and quality any produced in the past. A click of the mouse and we can see images from about any place in the world. Yes, it is exciting.

But, how about the art of seeing? Technology cannot instill this in us. I read somewhere that "We do not see with our eyes. We look. We see with our souls." Think about that. Imagine you with your camera, a poet, and a composer of music, each viewing the same great scene. The poet expresses his feelings with a thoughtful selection of words. The composer arranges musical tones. Aren't you, in truth, doing the same thing – composing an image with your camera? Aren't you expressing your joy, your excitement, and your emotions just as those folks are? Fine photographs result when the answer to the last query is "yes".

The fine art Nature photographer, Robert Glenn Ketchum, was once asked "How do you make such wonderful things happen in your photographs?" His reply was that one cannot make anything happen. One must react to what is there. It is said "We do not see things as they are. We see things as we are." To really see outward, we must look inward. Are we as shallow as a pond, or as deep as a pool? Are we merely making images, or are we glad and excited to be there, absorbing and reflecting on what we experience? Do we really want to tell how wonderful a subject truly is and can be? Or, do we transform the subject into an object – just something to be photographed? Do we really care about our subject, and do we really know our subject? Our choice!

It must be said here that photographing just for fun is no sin. Not every image has to be fine art. Family events, kids, parties, parents, vacations – whatever – should never be ignored and perhaps we don't do enough of that. We sometimes tend to take ourselves too seriously.

I believe, however, that it is as important to the creation of fine photographs that the photographer spend as much, if not more, time in self-reflection as he, or she, does with learning the tools. We truly ought to know who we are, what we react to, and how. It would also be helpful to truly understand why we photograph. Do we have something to say or are we just having fun? Wouldn't it be wonderful if it were both?

Yes, the tools are important. Yet, given access to all the tools in the New Yankee Workshop (no relation), I still could not achieve the craftsmanship of Norm Abrams. Tools will not and cannot make one a craftsman. The craftsman uses the necessary tools. Not merely the latest, but rather the right one for the job. He doesn't find it necessary to upgrade each time a new version appears. He masters the tools he needs. The acquisition of craftsmanship (artistry?) requires a lot of hard work and self-examination. (A modicum of talent couldn't hurt). There are no shortcuts.

No doubt what is happening today and what may be coming down the pike is exciting. But, fine photography is not, and never has been about cameras, film, megapixels, PhotoShop, calibration programs, etc. They are all valuable implements in a kit but they cannot see, they cannot feel, and they cannot express the emotion needed for a fine photographic essay. (After all, isn't each photo an essay about how we react to our subject?) It is, and always has been, about vision – our vision. Only we, ourselves, can provide the insight and the emotion to translate that vision to the photograph – our own statement of that vision. In the final analysis, we and the viewfinder are the most important implements of all. It all begins in the camera. Mastering the camera makes it happen.

In the words of poet, John Keats: "Beauty is truth and truth, beauty. That is all there is to know in the world. That is all you need to know." We all have a symbiotic relationship with our world. Our photographs should be in celebration of that.

Bob Yankee, HonNEC

MULTI-SCREEN REFLECTIONS

I sit back reflecting on this year's Multi-screen events and what a year it has been. We tried new approaches, saved some time, and ultimately emerged a better club for it.

This year we introduced some new aspects of Multi-screen. The first was the introduction of Digital Multi-screen. Around April of last year Andre Bourque contacted arguable some of the best camera clubs in New England and asked if they were interested in participating in a Digital Multi-screen. There were responses from Gateway, Greater Lynn, and Merrimack Valley. We meet at Gateway a few weeks later to discuss the particulars. After the meeting was over everyone was excited and ready to give it a try.

What is amazing about this is that it has never been done. We are the first group in the whole United States, maybe even the world, that have tried this with four different clubs at the same exact time in the same exact venue, digitally. The pressure was on and I would be lying to you if I said I wasn't a bit nervous. More on this in a bit...

I added to the calendar this year a Multi-screen Preliminary. And on all accounts it was a complete success. On the film side it allowed us to see where we were lacking in submissions and on the digital side it prevented us from having 500+ image on selection night. But the main goal of the preliminary was to give each member an opportunity to see how his or her image might fair on selection night. If your image wasn't selected in the preliminary, chances are it wasn't going win the final selection. This allowed you to see what your competition was and strive to try for something better. I know a number of members used this opportunity, some with good success.

The other thing I added that night was a new tabulation system. I was laying in bed two nights prior to the preliminary trying to find a way speed up the counting of ballots. After about 10 minutes I experienced an epiphany.....not so spiritual, but miraculous none the same. I tried it for the first time two nights later with great success.

There was one downfall to this new system though. During the old tabulation process it was customary for Paul Burke to entertain the troops for the 30+ minutes it took us to count. During this time he was able to elicit topics for

next year, do a little dance, tell a few jokes... Alas, you did not have the opportunity to experience this natural talent...maybe next year ☺.

Three weeks prior to Multi-screen we were informed by Fall River Camera Club that they were pulling out of the competition citing lack of participation. This was a huge blow and ultimately hurt the competition. With four clubs there are almost infinite possibilities for winning, with three it is just a numbers game. Who ever gets more 1st place finishers, wins.

We walked into the Norfolk library with a strong set of images. Unfortunately, PSRI just had stronger images. They also had a silver bullet called Gerry Tucker who just dominated the judge's fancy. At the end of the night we did not emerge victorious but we did tie for second place. We finished the competition with 7 first place finishers to PSRI's 11. Not too shabby and no reason for disappointment.

Two weeks prior to the Multi-screen selection night I was really starting to get nervous about Digital Multi-screen. For months Andre and I were trying to contact the other clubs to find out their status, with no answer. It wasn't until April 3rd when people started responding. Mind you this was 11 months after our first meeting with no responses from anyone. After a few conversations my fears were put to rest and I could focus on the logistics.

The night of the completion arrived and if the start was to predict the outcome we were in for a long night. The evening started out with Andre and I taking a wrong turn on I-95, which after the traffic subsided, cost us 30 minutes. When we arrive at Greater Lynn all was normal until we tried to load the images. One club rep brought his club's images on a DVD-R. The problem was that nobody else had a DVD reader on his or her computer. We then tried to load the images onto a thumb drive, which worked on all but one of the computers. After transferring the images onto another thumb drive we had success.

When the scoring was over, I didn't have a good feeling. I knew we only received four first place finishers but did receive a lot of 2nd and 3rd. So it came as a complete shock when they announced Stony Brook victorious. What was even more amazing was that even though Gateway received nine first place finishers, they

finished second. Which only goes to prove my point that with four clubs participating, anything can happen.

What I love most about Multi-screen competitions is that we are truly competing for the good of the club. All of our other competitions are for individual merit. But with Multi-screen, every image is entered in the hope that it will represent our club during the big night.

I want to thank all of you who participated in this year's Multi-screen events. It is through your participation that helps us to continually prove that we are one of the best camera clubs in New England. And that is something to be proud of!

Jim Jones

Boston Marathon Field Trip April 17, 2006

Dan Charbonnet, Jim Jones and Tony Mistretta met up with Andre Bourque, Ray Guillette and Bud Morton at the top of Heartbreak Hill (approx. mile 20) in Newton to watch and photograph the race. The conditions were near-perfect for both the runners and for photography: mostly overcast sky, temps in the 50s, just a slight wind. A great day and an exciting race.

Tony Mistretta



Photo by Tony Mistretta

SBCC FIELD TRIPS

June 3rd Heritage Museum and Gardens
June 10th Tour of Providence and Water Fire

In Memory of Dom Macadino

Many of us who knew Dom probably had some light conversation with him while at the club. During these discussions you might have realized that he was a quiet and kind person, possibly even had the perception that he was considerate, ethical, frugal, fun loving and competitive. I'm attempting to add more facts and insights about him that you may not know. Dom was born April 9, 1948, and brought up in Winchester. He attended Boston College and earned a BS. He was currently working at Applied Insurance Research as their Director of IT and planned on retiring in two years. Dom's first wife Carla passed away in 1982, who, like himself, succumbed to cancer. Sue & Dom were married in 2001. Dom lived in the house that he & Carla built.

Woodworking and photography were his main hobbies. Coupling Dom's practical nature, frugality and woodworking talents produced kitchen cabinets, a kitchen table, desk, end tables & bookcases. He also made, out of wood, a unique model T, with movable turning wheels, pens and a clock. Above all, he needed to accomplish and was given a great drive and motivation. Visiting him in early April we went to his basement where I saw he was staining a replacement window. I commented that he shouldn't be wasting his energy on these kinds of things to which he replied "They'll be throwing dirt on me before I stop."

The following is a chronological history of the awards he earned:

Joined SBCC in 2001 & awarded Slide of the Year for Class B General.

January '03 Popular Photography awarded him the Rhino Tech Honorable Mention.

'03 – SBCC awarded him 2nd place in the Class B General Slide category.

'04 – SBCC awarded him 2nd place in the Class B General Slide category & moved up to Class A.

'05 – SBCC awarded him 2nd place in the Class A General Slide category & Image of the Year for Class A General Slides.

'06 – SBCC awarded him 3rd place in Class A General Slides, 1st place in Digital Open, & Image of the Year for Class A General Slides.

Knowing how competitive he was, it would have been interesting to follow his photographic development.

During this year's NECCC get together in July, I particularly will miss Dom eating ice

cream. The UMass cafeteria, during the '05 NECCC, provided him with a never ending supply of ice cream which he loved as much as a good hot apple pie. To justify his past nickname "Smiley" Diane remembers him with a contented smile eating his ice cream, as if to say "life doesn't get much better than this."

Sue will have Dom over her shoulder from now on, as her alter ego, questioning decisions she makes for the rest of her life. That's not necessarily a bad thing. To have someone with his abilities help me make decisions, such as "straighten out your horizon stupid" would be priceless.

After the completion of any milestone in your life, it's healthy to contemplate potential lessons learned from the experience. Relative to our exposure from Dom, the lessons we should extract are: always be a quiet, kind, considerate, ethical and fun loving person, who will not hesitate to eat ice cream, and who will be frugal and tenacious with life. Immerse yourself with your passion for photography and don't be surprised if Dom acts as your alter ego from time to time. You will be missed.

Don Plouffe

**"Storm Over the Smokies"
Image of the Year – Class A General Slides
by Dom Macadino**



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

6/1/06 "World in my Eyes" – Slide Presentation – Mike Di Stefano
6/8/06 Annual Awards Banquet / Traditional Slide Shows

MULTISCREEN 2006-2007

All competition photographs are to be taken beginning May 1, 2006.

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	Hot	Sparkle(s)	Vibrant
Portrait			



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A PSA Award-Winning Newsletter

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