



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

July 2008 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

August

Regular Meeting: Aug 5
Planning Meeting: Aug 19
Contest: Backlighting (60 day)
Featured Member: Brian Stearns
Program: Kieth Cotton
Outing: Aug 16 - Centralia Balloon Fest

September

Regular Meeting: Sept 2
Location: Rend Lake College
Planning Meeting: Sep 16
Contest: Garden (12 month)
Featured Member: Janet Sundberg
Program: Dave Cooper
Outing: Sept 27 - Paducah Barbecue Fest

October

Regular Meeting: Oct 7
Location TBA
Planning Meeting: Oct 21
Contest: TBA Aug 5
Featured Member: George Stone
Program: Dave Cooper
Outing: TBA

Upcoming 12 mo. SIPS Contests

Nov: Mystery Tour: Route 37 from
Effingham to Cairo.
Make Your Own Calendar (12 mo.)

2009 Contests are posted on the website.

July in Review

The July meeting took place Tuesday, June 1. Forty-four people were in attendance at the meeting and we had two people join as members. We are pleased to welcome Jim Young and Clyde Wills, both from Metropolis, as members.

The program was given by Dave Hammond. We viewed parts of the video *Genius of Photography* as shown on the Ovation Channel. The video can be seen online using the VeohTV streaming video software.

The July contest theme was Night Photos. There were 12 photos entered covering a variety of subjects including a luna moth, tent lights, skylines, fireworks, and a ferris wheel. First place went to Jonathan Springer with a photo of a street car in San Francisco. Second place went to Nancy Smolak with a photo of a dock in North Carolina and third place went to Dave Hammond with a photo of bridges crossing the St. John's River in Jacksonville, Florida. Congratulations to all three of you.

Our featured member for July was Jennifer Calvin. She shared numerous photos taken during her trip to China including photos of gardens, the Great Wall of China, and city pictures of Beijing.

During show and tell, Rene deGroof shared photos of a wildflower garden, Dave Morgan shared tarantula, scorpion and butterfly photos, and Bill Lipscomb shared photos of headstones at Boone Cemetery and a flower photo. David Brewer demonstrated the use of his macro setup with a ring light.

Around Town

with Ray Brown
Interview with Joan Levy

Ray: Joan, could we do an interview with you that will appear in a later edition of the newsletter?

Joan: Yes, that would be just fine. I must tell you I'm in a lot of pain right now. I have had surgery on my rotor cuff



Club Photo Exhibit

SIPS will have an exhibit. The exhibit will last for two weeks at Crossroads Coffee in Carterville, at the end of the strip mall on Rt 13 that houses both Fratelli's and Your Jeweler. The exhibit will run from August 15 through August 29. There will be a reception on Friday, August 15th from 5pm to 8pm at Crossroads Coffee to meet the photographers. Hors D'Oeuvres and coffee will be served---specialty coffee drinks will be available for purchase. For those not able to attend the reception, Crossroads Coffee is open from 6am to 3pm M-F and until 1pm on Saturday if they want to view the exhibit. Invitations for the exhibit will be given out at the August 5th meeting for participants and club members to distribute.

Annual Club Picnic

The annual club picnic was held June 21, 2008 at Giant City State Park. Dave Hammond guided everyone to a beautiful and peaceful little picnic spot. There were approximately 20 members who shared in fabulous food and fellowship.



New Website Design

We are proud to announce that the website has been redesigned and completely restructured. There are now three main sections to the website: club info, news, and links. Club Info contains the general information about the club, including the club calendar. The News section has announcements about upcoming events as well as lists of photo contests. Links has members' websites and resources mentioned in club meetings and newsletters. Take a look at www.sipscameraclub.com.

Photo Op

By Jim Osborn



Several years ago the membership of SIPS was surveyed and asked what they wanted to get from their membership in the organization. Numerous club members said they wanted to visit and explore new places in southern Illinois. From this request, the idea of having a monthly club outing was developed. Over time, the club has sponsored outings in southern Illinois as well as more distant locations like St. Louis (Butterfly House, Botanical Garden, etc.), Kentucky (Land Between the Lakes), and Indiana (New Harmony). In southern Illinois, the club has visited Fort Massac, Herrinfesta, LaRue Pine Hills, Fountain Bluff, Oakwood Bottoms, Horseshoe Lake,

Mermet Lake, Garden of the Gods, Ferne Clyffe State Park, Giant City State Park and many more locations. Generally, attendance is sparse. Outings do not intrude on anyone's ability to shoot independently. Usually, we meet together at the beginning, separate to do our photography and regroup for lunch. An outing is a great way to meet other members of the club, ask advice on equipment or photo strategies, explore, and, most importantly, be an ACTIVE photographer.

Of special note was the recent outing to Alma, Illinois to the property of Richard and Susan Day. I would bet that everyone who participated in the outing would say the trip was well worth their time and the cost of gas. Richard and Susan, well-respected professional nature

photographers, were available to answer technical questions and demonstrate photo strategies—they even provided ice cream during a respite from the afternoon heat. We got to see what equipment different members of the club were using to shoot essentially the same types of images. We got to see one of the most beautiful butterfly gardens in the state, explore the two wetland areas, and photograph birds, butterflies, dragonflies and flowers to our heart's content. Most of all we enjoyed the comradery.

Don't take the monthly photo outings for granted. A lot of planning goes into every event, and they are well worth your time to get great local images that you might not get on your own, and they afford an even better opportunity to get to know folks who share the same passion for photography!!

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but I will do the best I can.

Ray: When did you first become interested in photography?

Joan: About twenty years ago; there was a woman that worked at K-Mart in Harrisburg in the photo department. I said, "It would be nice if you would teach a photography class at SIC."

She said, "They have a photography class already."

I replied, "I mean more about how to use your camera; a 'quickie' course." So she did a six week course. She would give us 4 an assignment, and she insisted that we shoot everything with 35mm slide film.

She explained, "You can't cheat with a slide. With slides you know exactly what you did or didn't do and that way you can correct your errors." So that's how I started.

I did an assignment and had a couple of shots left. I had the camera on a tripod. I said to my husband, "Let me take your picture."

He said, "I don't want to have my picture taken."

I said, "Oh come on!"

He said, "Well, ok." Well I took the picture with incandescent light. The teacher said this will be the best that will come from this class from anyone. She had me send it to Kodak. They used the correct filters to get it back to the true colors. I entered the picture in the state

fair at DuQuoin. It won best of show.

Then it went to Disney Land for a special exhibition.

Then several years ago I entered a Christmas contest. As you know I like to paint different versions of fruits and vegetables. I can only do things that excite me or motivate me. I was in Kroger one night late and they had some kohlrabi that was first sprayed. It was beautiful with the water droplets. I took a picture of the kohlrabi. I painted it and won the contest.

Ray: When you were shooting slides what film speed did you use?

Joan: I don't know; that was 20 years ago.

Ray: Did you ever shoot any black & white?

Joan: No.

Ray: What kind of digital camera do you have now?

Joan: I have a point & shoot Fuji.

Ray: Have you ever done any work in a traditional darkroom?

Joan: No, but I would like to try it.

Ray: Do you use any Photoshop for your pictures?

Joan: I might lighten or darken some but no Photoshop.

Ray: You shoot mostly fruits and vegetables right?

Joan: Well, not exactly. I was in Chicago and I did Chicago traffic. I found it interesting – the angles and such. I repeat I only like things that excite me.

Ray: Do you have any favorite web

sites that you use?

Joan: I'm looking at the Parade web site today. They have a lot of real nice photos on this site. They have about 400 pictures on there every time I go on.

Ray: Do you subscribe to any photo magazines?

Joan: No not at this time. I did some years back.

Ray: Tell me a couple of your favorite photographers.

Joan: I don't know. I have a lot that I look at their photos. So many but I can't name a favorite. I do look at Rene de Groof's website quite a lot. He seems to have a lot of knowledge.

Ray: Tell me about any other hobbies that you enjoy.

Joan: I think creativity lends itself to other things. I don't think you are creative in one thing without being creative in other aspects of your life. I like to do photography; I do painting; I sing; I sew; I do some creative cooking; and I dance.

Ray: When did you become interested in painting?

Joan: I was watching the PBS station when I lived up north (Chicago area). Someone was doing a painting show on channel 11. I decided I would like to try painting just to see if I could do it. I found out I could, and that's how I got started.

Ray: We had a very nice conversation. We talked about creativity in a lot of different aspects and about the fact that if

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THINGS I NOTICE

by Ray Brown

- American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first class.
- Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.
- The first owner of the Marlboro Company died of lung cancer.
- Walt Disney was afraid of mice
- Thirty-five per cent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married. (Does that tell us something about our social fabric?)
- The liquid inside a young coconut can be used as a substitute for blood plasma. (I wonder about that.)
- No piece of paper can be folded in half more than seven times.
- The reason fire houses have circular stairways is from the days when the pumpers were pulled by horses. The horses figured out how to walk up the stairs. They also would get in the right spot assigned to them when the alarm would sound the harnesses were on pulleys attached to the ceiling and would drop down on the horse to be buckled in. I heard this from my grandfather when I was quite small. My grandfather was a fireman around the turn of the century.
- Turtles can breathe through their butts.
- Richard Milhous Nixon was the first US President whose name contains all the letters from the word criminal. The second was William Jefferson Clinton. (The typist can certainly believe the second one!)
- On average, 100 people choke to death on ball point pens every year.
- In ten minutes a hurricane releases more energy than all of the world's nuclear weapons combined.
- A snail can sleep for three years.
- The electric chair was invented by a dentist.
- All polar bears are left handed.
- In ancient Egypt, priests plucked every hair from their bodies, including their eyebrows and eyelashes.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- Typewriter is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard. Without looking what row is it?
- If Barbie were life size, her measure-

July Outing - the Day's

The July 19, 2008 outing was a day of photography on the property of Richard and Susan Day [www.daybreakimagery.com]. just south of Alma, IL The day started off hazy with some clouds and a few drops of rain but, after lunch, the sun came out bringing out more butterflies and hummingbirds than were seen earlier in the day. You can see Richard with his butterfly net in this photo with Jillian Choate and Dave Horning (and yes, Dave was purposefully hiding behind his camera for this photo).



Nov. Mystery Tour

Turn in a portfolio of 10 photos with captions. Maximum size is 5x7. The route is along Route 37 from Effingham to Cairo. You may take photos within 1/2 mile from the road or anywhere in cities and parks along the route. \$5/entry.

ments would be 39-23-33. She would stand seven feet, two inches tall. Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.

- A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.

Here's a news note from your humble writer. I had the pleasure of leading Bill Lipscomb, David Morgan, Mike Hicks, and Jim Osborn on a hike up to the Boone Cemetery on the east side of Fountain Bluff. Dave had a GPS and used it to determine that the elevation increases 168 feet, almost 17 stories, on the 259 foot trail. That figures out to be a 30° climb. We all made it to the top. We were five really sweaty guys. I think we all had a nice time. One fellow fell down. I won't tell who it was as he recovered quickly and wasn't injured at all. It's a hike secret (Ask the typist.). No amount of D-Q sun-daes can make me talk.

Note: Ray announced at the July meeting that he would be glad to lead any group of club members on this same hike.

Where is room C138?

The August 2008 meeting will be our last meeting in room C138 until next year as JALC has an evening class scheduled in the room for fall semester.

However, if you need to know where C138 is for the August meeting, it is located on the East side of the campus. Enter the campus by the East Entrance. Follow the winding street into campus. The "E Building" and the "Receiving Dock" are on the left. Parking Lot C is on the right. Go to the far end (north end) of the C Lot and park there. Across the street from the parking lot is the "C Building" (which looks like an extension of the "E building"). There is an outside entrance to C138. The room can also be located from inside the C Building. Enter the C Building on the north end by going under the walkway and entering the ground level doors on the left. About halfway down that hallway and on the left is C 138.

Calendar Contest

We are having a calendar contest in November.

You create your own 12-month calendar. There are no restrictions as to how you put together or create your calendar except that there is a size limitation of 8½ by 12 inches when closed. You pick the theme for your calendar. There will be two categories available to enter: a) Nature, and b) Everything Else. The entry fee is \$5 per calendar. First place will be awarded for each category; there will be no second or third place awards. Each first place winner will receive 50% of the entry fees collected. The entries will be judged by an outside judge and winners will be announced at the December meeting.



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you don't try and sometimes make a fool of yourself you don't learn about yourself and your strengths and weaknesses. We all have both.

I want to thank Joan for a nice interview and a very stimulating conversation. I wish you the best with all of your hobbies. I'm sure you will never be bored and that is a super thing for you. Just keep on keeping on. By the time this goes to print I hope you're feeling much, much better.