



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

December 2008 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

January

Meeting: Jan. 6

Program: Joe McFarland

Featured Member: Dave Hammond

Contest: Outdoor Christmas lights
(60 day)

Outing: Alton, IL eagle watch, Jan. 17

Planning Meeting: Jan. 20

February

Meeting: Feb. 3

Program: Swap Meet

Featured Member: TBA

Contest: Sunsets (12 month)

Outing: TBA

Planning Meeting: Feb. 17

March

Meeting: Mar. 3

Program: Dan Overstreet

Featured Member: TBA

Contest: TBA

Outing: TBA

Planning Meeting: Mar. 17

Member News

Ray Brown won 3rd place in the Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest this past fall, with his photo "Turkey Tail Fungus." Congratulations, Ray!

Christmas Dinner

Our Christmas dinner and meeting was held at the SIU-Carbondale Student Center, with approximately 50 in attendance. Mike Jeffries and Susan Post gave a fascinating and varied program derived from 4700 images they took on a recent trip to Southern Africa. Several African animals were shown along with vast numbers of bird images, from mountains and deserts to ocean sands. They were both very gracious to answer the many questions from our membership.

Also at the Christmas party, the new officers and board were introduced. These are:

- Mike Hicks, President
- Jillian Choate, Vice President
- Dana Tetzlaff, Treasurer
- Jonathan Springer & Lu Horning, Secretaries

• Board Members: Dave Hammond, Jim Osborn, Nancy Smolak, Jane Morgan, Linda Bundren, Ray Brown, Joanna Gray

Outgoing president Dave thanked the many members who have helped out over the past year, and those who are stepping up for this next year. (See also his message in this newsletter.) One person he neglected to mention was Dave Hammond himself. We all owe a huge THANK YOU to Dave for all of his work leading the club to new heights over the past year!

From the President

by Dave Hammond

Call it a "Senior Moment," Senility, Old Age, or just plain old "Brain-Freeze," but for whatever the reason, at our Christmas banquet/meeting Tues. evening while I was thanking people for their help and assistance the past year I failed to mention a few people that needed to be recognized. First on the list is Nancy Smolak. Many of you know that she was our club secretary for several years. She stepped down last year and had hoped to take it easy. DIDN'T HAPPEN!!! Instead, she was called upon

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Contest Winners

At our dinner meeting, contest winners were announced for both the Calendar contest and the Mystery Tour, as well as the member and photographer of the year.

In the Calendar contest, there were two categories, "Nature" and "Other." In the Nature category, there was a tie for first place between Jan Sundberg and Virginia Stith. In the Other category, the winner was Dana Tetzlaff. The judge noted that he was very impressed with the quality of all the entries in the contest.

For the Mystery Tour, the winners were:

1st place: Linda Bundren

2nd place: Jim Osborn

3rd place: Lisa Milligan

At the end of the year, SIPS announces the member of the year and the photographer of the year. The member of the year is the one who has been most outstanding in participation in club events, including meetings and outings. The photographer of the year is the one who has been most outstanding in club contests. This year, for the first time, the winner of both member of the year and photographer of the year was the same person: Jim Osborn. Congratulations, Jim! Competition was reportedly very close, with only a single point distinguishing the winner in one case.

Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

Those of us who have a penchant for nature photography sometimes grouse about the coming of winter. We transition from the beautiful colors of autumn into the drab doldrums of winter. In southern Illinois, the occasional ice storm or snow storm may offer occasional unique photo opportunities, but the majority of winter is characterized by short days, overcast skies and brownish colors.

Yet, there can be a lot of photographic

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From the President

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on numerous occasions to pull our (my) fat out of the fire. From helping with contests, collecting dues and planning our Christmas party, she didn't turn us down. THANKS NANCY! Also, thanks to Susan Stearns for all her hard work designing, setting up, and getting our club website off the ground and on the internet.

I also failed to mention two members of the club that will be serving the club this coming year. One is Joanna Gray. While not as an official officer of the club, she has very graciously offered her time to assist in the writing of the club newsletter. I know this will be greatly appreciated by all in the club, especially our secretaries, Jonathan and Lu. Joanna, I'll bet your caller ID will be full. Last, but certainly not least, is our new Vice-President, Jillian Choate. Jillian is one of our newer members and has rapidly taken on a role of great responsibility in the club. Besides being a talented photographer that always has a smile on her face, she is always active in the club field trips, meetings, and contests. In fact, I think she has only missed one meeting and field trip in 2 years. I don't think anyone else comes close to matching that record of commitment to the club. Thank you Jillian!

I would like to add that Jillian is a perfect example that you don't have to be a long standing member of the club to be active and involved in the inner workings of the club. I urge all members both new and old to get involved with the club and help it to continue to grow and improve. One of the common things I hear a new member say when they join the club is they want to improve their photography. Well, just coming to a meeting and listening to a speaker may help somewhat, but I really urge everyone to get involved with the contests and field trips and take a very active role in the club. While the club cannot promise that everyone who participates in our club activities will be the next Art Wolfe, Richard Avedon, or Dorothea Lange, I promise that the more you do, the more your photography will improve.

Thank you to all the club members for your support for me and the club this

past year. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meetings and in the field.

Photo Op

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opportunities if you just look for them. As winter approaches I create my own personal Winter Shot Wish List. This year my winter wish list includes an extended period of very cold weather in January or February cold enough to freeze the Mississippi River. That, my friends, is when the greatest number of bald eagles congregates near the open water below the locks and dams on the river. Two years ago, I witnessed approximately 300 bald eagles at Clarksville, Missouri about 70 miles north of St. Louis. Five years ago, the number was closer to 500. When the weather is very cold and the river freezes, the locks and dams guarantee open water for feeding. Thus, there can be eagles constantly circling above the river, occasionally dropping down to pluck small fish from the water. It is an incredible sight!

Another photo op, closer to home, involves the annual migration of the snow geese. Last winter for several weeks the Union County Conservation Area served as a stopover for more than 60,000 snow geese. I spent many hours over three Saturdays taking pictures of hundreds if not thousands of the geese in flight as they moved short distances from one cornfield to another. Even though I was never personally satisfied with the shots I got, it was a spectacular experience. And where there are geese, you will find eagles preying upon the sick and dying birds. Each of my visits to the Union County Conservation Area was rewarded with photo ops of bald eagles either in flight or feeding on carrion.

Don't sit home this winter with your camera waiting for spring to arrive. If you aren't a nature photographer, take pictures of the colorful lights, look for hidden treasures in the woods that wouldn't be visible other times of the year, try your hand at photographing the moon on a cloudless night, or hone up on your portraiture skills during family get-togethers. Photographers don't wait for photo ops, they make them!!

Around Town

with Ray Brown

This month, Ray chats with Jim Bornert.



Ray: Hello Jim, do you have time to do the interview?

Jim: Hi Ray, how are you doing? This would be a good time for me as I'm cleaning the refrigerator here in the garage.

Ray: Jim, when did you first become interested in photography?

Jim: When I was a little boy my mother had a little Brownie Camera.

Ray: What size film did it use?

Jim: It used 616 film.

Ray: I'm guessing it was black & white film?

Jim: Yes

Ray: How old were you at that time?

Jim: I was six or seven years old at that time. Later I joined the US Navy and went to Alaska for a year on Adak Island in the Aleutians

Ray: I'll bet this is when you bought a camera?

Jim: Yes, I had a Minolta Hi-Matic 7s. You could set it on automatic and it would set everything for you or you could put it on manual.

Ray: About what year would that have been?

Jim: Well let's see. That would have been 1968.

Ray: I believe that was one of the Islands the Japanese occupied for a short time during World War II. We quickly took it back.

Jim: Yes they were there. When I was there we were still 1300 miles from Anchorage.

Ray: I have heard stories that there weren't any trees on that island. I've heard that our troops have planted trees on the island.

Jim: Yes, there are no native trees on the island. They have planted some type of evergreen trees. It's funny they have been there for thirty years and they are only about five feet tall.

Ray: Well then you had a little forest.

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Around Town

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Jim: We had a forest; it was probably about 100 x 100 feet. They had a sign that said "Adak National Forest."

Ray: Do you consider yourself to be an amateur or a professional photographer?

Jim: Amateur working toward professional.

Ray: Have you sold any of your work?

Jim: I would like to sell some of my work but I'm not actively pursuing that. I'm working on some things I hope will be sellable in the future.

Ray: What do you shoot and for whom?

Jim: I could go professional. I've had the training. I went to Photo School in 2007 - Rocky Mountain School of Photography.

Ray: That had to be quite an experience.

Jim: Oh it was great. I would like to do it all over again. It was like gold. It was great.

Ray: That's super. I have always found that you always learn something new even if you repeat the class. Did you shoot any film?

Jim: Yes we all had to shoot some black and white film. We learned how to develop the film and we had to print our own pictures. They taught us how to do that also. Our work was critiqued everyday. This school lasted 5 months. At the end our portfolio had to have ten pictures of 16 x20 that were critiqued by professional people from all different fields.

Ray: Do you like to take black & white or color?

Jim: I like both. What I like to do is take color and turn it into black and white. I shoot a lot of color with my Canon 40D; then I take them into Photoshop to modify them to what I want them to be. Then I change them to black and white. Sometimes I take a part of a photograph, enlarge it, and use it that way. I will use that to try to make a piece of art out of it. You can adjust your colors to fit your vision for what you want with your black and white in a range of different tones.

Ray: Before you got into digital what was your favorite film camera?

Jim: Well that would be my Minolta 7s. I still have it and it still works.

Ray: What was your favorite film?

Jim: My favorite film was Kodachrome.

Ray: Did you know there is only one place left in the country that still develops Kodachrome?

Jim: Yes, I think I did hear something about that.

Ray: Do you use Photoshop a lot?

Jim: Yes I use Photoshop all the time.

Ray: Have you ever worked in a traditional dark room (not counting what you did at the school)?

Jim: That was the last year (2007) they were going to teach traditional darkroom. They changed everything into a digital lab. They sold all their darkroom equipment to the students. So I bought a bunch of their darkroom equipment so I can set up a darkroom here at my house. One of the main things I got was a Saunders 4200 LPL enlarger.

Ray: How big a negative will it handle?

Jim: It can handle a 4x5 negative.

Ray: Does it have a color head?

Jim: Yes, it has a color head. It's diachronic and has all the filters in the head.

Ray: Have you ever taught photography?

Jim: No, never have taught photography - just casually but not formally.

Ray: Do you have a favorite photography web site?

Jim: That's a good question. There are a lot of them that I like. I go to a blog that's called persuasion digital negatives PDN. I also go to a blog that was started by one of the fellows from the class I took in 2007. We keep in touch with each other. We submit a photo every Friday for critique. It's a private blog on yahoo. I like that a lot. A lot of the popular blogs like photo bucket and some others I don't care for. I used to like photo-shelter because they had a nice stock program that you could participate in but they went out of business. They couldn't compete with the big guys like Getty.

Ray: Do you subscribe to any photo magazines?

Jim: Yes, I do. I get Outdoor Photography, Black & White Aperture, Popular Photography, and another one I really like is Photo Techniques.

Ray: Tell me the name of a couple

photographers that you admire.

Jim: I would have to say Alfred Stieglitz, Ansel Adams, mostly for his technique more than some of his pictures. He was a darkroom master, and just for art I really like Stieglitz's wife Georgia O'Keefe.

Ray: Do you have your own darkroom?

Jim: Yes I built one here at home. It's up and running. I'm working on changing digital color in the computer and printing that out with an overhead projector on plastic, and then using that as a contact sheet to make a contact negative. So you set up all your chemistry, and your lighting in the enlarger. Then you get everything set the way you want it. Then you have your calibration and can burn and dodge in photo shop digitally. So any way that's something I'm playing with.

Ray: Can you tell me anything about any other hobbies that you might have?

Jim: Well I do a little bit of woodworking. I do my own remodeling and help the church out that way. I do my own electrical and plumbing. I don't know if that's a hobby but I do it. Hobbies I have had in the past would include stained glass. I really like to travel with my camper and take pictures.

Ray: I do all my electrical work and plumbing work around the house and property. I have asked you a lot of questions today and now it's your turn to tell me anything you would like to have included in this interview.

Jim: I love photography and I love the artsy side of it. I'm also learning how to do digital painting. I've been borrowing some portraits to paint. I've done my granddaughter. There's a lot more to learn.

Ray: Do you have any place where you have taken photos that you would like to share with the club members?

Jim: Oh, lots of places. I would say out west it would be Glacier National Park. It was beautiful.

Ray: Well as I said that was the last question and I want to thank you so much for your time. I'm sure you will be very interested in all your endeavors for many, many years to come.

Things I've Noticed

by Ray Brown

Just a reminder to everyone.

I write this column using things that I have read, heard, seen, things I remember from my childhood and my life experiences. I will write about things that are light and perhaps sometimes humorous and what ever strikes my fancy or my imagination Sometimes I might try to pull your leg just a bit. Pat brings things to my attention also.

Great minds discuss ideas;
Average minds discuss events;
Small minds discuss people;

God gives every bird its food, but He does not throw it into the nest. Anger is only one letter short of danger. An angel wrote: "Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave foot prints in your heart.

Beautiful young people are acts of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art. Learn from the mistakes of others. You cannot live long enough to make them all yourself.

The tongue weighs practically nothing, but so few people can hold it.

Have you hugged someone today?

When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.

Take a little time to do whatever makes you happy.

How about you? A 1200 pound horse eats about seven times its own weight each year.

Nicole Kidman has lepidopterophobia--a morbid fear of butterflies.

It is unusual: Tom Jones was on Charles Manson's hit list.

First western movie: Kit Carson (1903)

The ancient Sumerians were the first to record sightings of Mercury, in about 3000 B.C.

The state animal of Missouri is the mule.

Turkish proverb: Coffee should be black as hell, strong as death, and as sweet as love.

It's illegal to clean your car with used underwear in San Francisco.



From Cassell's Household Guide (1880):

Bathing: the vigorous and strong may bathe early in the morning on an empty stomach. The young and weak had better wait and bathe three hours after a meal.

Creative and Sexual Science (1876) - Another way to lose weight: [I couldn't believe what I was reading] Keep on bearing children as long and often as possible.

Percussive maintenance: Kicking a machine to get it to work.

Temporarily displaced inventory: Stolen goods

Realigned salaries: Pay cuts
Soft restructuring: Quietly selling off assets to raise cash, while publicly denying that any such action is going on

Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are fifty years of age or older. [I wonder if that applies to all species. I doubt that it does.]

Mosquito repellents don't repel. They hide you. The spray blocks the mosquito's sensors so they don't know you're there.

Only in America do we use the word "politics" to describe the process so well: "Pole" in Latin meaning "many" and "tics" meaning "bloodsucking creatures."

Only in America do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front of the store.

From the Secretary

by Jonathan Springer

I should call it, "From the Secretaries," since there are two of us (at least), but I'll go with what sounds good, expecting that we may trade off the byline from time to time. You may have noticed that there are some new people taking notes at meetings, helping run the contests, and (yes) writing this newsletter. Actually, we hope you have not noticed, since that would mean a seamless transition in the well-oiled machinery that is the office of the SIPS secretary. Ahem.

When I started putting together the December edition of the newsletter, I thought this would probably be a thin month; not much happened. But, it turns out to have been one of the longer ones. That's because so many people contributed to the content! I want to encourage everyone to submit ideas, notes, and (best of all) columns. I can be reached at info@sipscameraclub.com.

We do also need ideas and volunteers for the monthly programs and events. Lu reports that at the Christmas Party we got a few suggestions:

- Outing ideas: Horseshoe Lake, Cave-in-Rock
- Monthly program ideas: Photographing in the rain, How to market (sell) your photos
- Featured member volunteers: Dave Brewer, George Stone

This is a good start, but I think there are definitely more good ideas and volunteers out there, so do speak up!

This newsletter has been my introduction to desktop publishing, and it's been a real crash course. For one thing, I didn't have the same software Susan used (Adobe InDesign), so the layout is all from scratch in a new DTP package I've been trying called Scribus. It has some issues, but does seem to basically work. At any rate, I know there are some things I could be doing better and I hope I'll get better at polishing as I do it more.

I want to close by thanking once again someone who has been invaluable in getting the SIPS media conglomerate to where it is today: Susan. She designed and set up the web site, and continues to host it for us in her own web space. She designed the newsletter that I have merely copied. And, she has been gracious with my queries as I get up to speed. Thank you!

