



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

October 2009 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

November

Meeting: Nov. 3

Program: Elections

Featured Member: Jillian Choate

Contest: Scavenger Hunt (2 month)
and Calendar (1 year)

Outing: Christmas Lights,

Dec. 5, DuQuoin fairgrounds

Planning Meeting: Nov. 17

December

Meeting: Dec. 1 (members dinner)

Note: no meeting at library

Program: Richard and Susan Day

Contest: none

Outing: none

Planning Meeting: none

January

Meeting: Jan. 5

Program: TBD

Contest: Holidays (2 month)

Outing (tentative): Alton, IL,
date TBD

Planning Meeting: Jan. 19

Inside...

Meeting and outing reports, Photo Op, Member News, and Things I Notice!

October Meeting

For our program this month, Tom Rabideau and Dave Hammond joined forces to discuss framing photographs. Tom gave us the professional perspective, as he is a professional framer working in Crab Orchard (near Marion), while Dave gave some tips from an advanced do-it-yourselfer, as he frames his own work. By the way, if you want some framing done, by all means avail yourself of Tom's services. Get in contact with him at a meeting or at Tom@ShawneeDreams.com.

They started off with some framing basics: why frame and/or mat? Framing is done both to protect and to enhance the picture. A mat separates the photo from the glass, and saves it from becoming stuck there. It also enhances the picture by focusing attention and making it stand out.

When deciding whether to do-it-yourself or to use a professional, a big factor is volume. The tools and supplies can be costly, so if you only frame a few pictures per year, a professional shop will save money and produce better results. If you do 300 to 500 frames per year, then you can save money by doing it yourself, though. Dave uses Frames USA; they offer a discount for orders over \$125. He gets glass at Menards, Lowes, or any similar place. If you do want to get your framing done by a professional, some options in this area are Tom in Crab Orchard, Art Services in Carbondale, Hobby Lobby, and Stevens in Marion.

Tom and Dave then went into the details of framing. First, cut your own mats; pre-cut ones are only available in certain sizes, and even then may not be exact. To mount photos, avoid simple scotch tape. As Tom said, the first rule is "do no harm" to the photo. Photo corners work well, up to 8x10 or so. Dave gets them from Light Impressions. When the photos get too large, corners fail due to the photo weight. Another option is double-sided Scotch framing tape, which requires a special tape gun. It's solvent free.

cont'd on page 3 - September Meeting

Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

Years ago I was a very avid racquetball player. I worked and worked to improve my game with physical conditioning and developing strategies, but there came a point when I could no longer improve my game. I was a good player, but I was not playing at the level I aspired to play at. One Christmas my wife bought a new expensive racquet for me—one that I had been coveting for months. The technology in that racquet did help me take my game to the next level, the level I was hoping I could achieve. I tell this story because I think there is a corollary in developing yourself as a photographer.

This is the season for photography "Buyer Guides" and as we put our holiday wish lists together we may want to ask for the equipment with all the bells and whistles—the equipment that carries the higher price tags. But the point of my analogy is that, before you invest a lot of money in equipment, you have to believe that your knowledge base and skill levels are at a point where an equipment upgrade will truly enhance your images. If you are someone who still shoots primarily in program mode (auto everything), then those costly little bells and whistles are of little value to you. If the largest print you will ever make and use is 13" X 19" then you don't really need 21 megapixels in your camera. If you don't shoot fast moving objects like race cars or birds then you probably don't need to be able to shoot at 5 frames per second in burst mode. If you don't shoot video, then you probably don't need the video capabilities that many of the new higher end cameras have. However, if you feel your skill level merits the investment in that high priced technology to take your game to the next level then, by all means, "go for it."

One other tip someone once gave me was that if I only had a limited amount of money to spend on camera equipment, I should



cont'd on page 2 - Photo Op



Members gather for a group picture in front of the Atheneum at New Harmony, IN on Oct. 24. Visible here are Steve Duncan, Jo Dodd, Linda Martin, Carol Sluzewich, Linda Bundren, Dave Hammond, Jim and Esther Bornert, and Jillian Choate. (photo: Linda Bundren)

October Outing

Our outing this month took us just across the border into Indiana, to the town of New Harmony. Members convened at the very nice (and rather modern-looking) visitor's center for this historic town on a Saturday morning before fanning out to take pictures in and around town. Members present included Linda Bundren, Dave Hammond, Jillian Choate, Linda Martin, Carol Sluzewich, Steve Duncan, Jo Dododd, Jim and Esther Bornert, and Dave and Lu Horning.

By the way, let Lu know if you were present but we missed your name; she needs to give you points credit towards the member-of-the-year award. This is also true for last month's excursion to the Scott Air Show - let Lu know if you were there.

Our next outing will be to view Christmas lights, and we are making it a joint November/December trip by holding it on Saturday, Dec. 5. (Normally, we do not have a December outing due to the difficult holiday scheduling for most people.) For this, we will be traveling to the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds. (Please note that this replaces an earlier, tentative location idea.) Folks will be meeting at Alongi's restaurant (alongis.com) at 5pm for food, and then carpooling.

New Harmony

New Harmony was founded in 1848 by the Harmony Society, headed by German immigrant George Rapp. This was the second of three towns built by the Harmonists, a pietist communal German religious group founded by Rapp around the end of the 18th century. The Harmonists, led by Rapp, were driven from Germany in 1803, initially settling on land purchased in Pennsylvania in 1804 before moving to Indiana 10 years later, following economic difficulties and trouble with non-Harmonist neighbors.

The Harmonists in Indiana were able to engage in agriculture and manufacturing on a larger scale, eventually purchasing around 30,000 acres. Their town, New Harmony, was centrally planned, with all goods being placed in common. Eventually, distance from markets and continuing trouble with neighbors caused them to sell the town to the Welsh utopian Robert Owen and his partner William Maclure in 1824. Owen recruited residents for his model community, which banned money and made property communal. This experiment lasted four years, after which it dissolved due to constant quarrels. (Information courtesy of Wikipedia)

Member News and Announcements

Our annual Christmas dinner meeting is coming up on Dec. 1 this year. The dinner, which is only open to members and their guests, is taking place at SIU in the Old Main ballroom, from 6:30-9:00. Richard and Susan Day will be presenting. The fee is \$15 per person; please pay Dana at the November meeting if you can, or by Nov. 20 at latest.

Speaking of Dana, she had some pieces at Hair Pieces in Carbondale for the Art Around the Square event this last month.

Ray Brown reports that member Joan Levy has four paintings at the Artisan Center at Rend Lake.

A number of members were represented in the results of the Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest, given at a reception on Oct. 11. In the Scenic category, Jim Osborn took first place as well as an honorable mention, Linda Martin had second place, and Lynn Love had third place. In the Plants category, Lori Mascall took first place, and Jan Sundberg took second and third places. In the Wildlife category, Mary Jane Estrada took second place. In addition, Teresa McIntosh won Best in Show and Dave Hammond won Refuge Choice. This is quite a strong showing for the SIPS membership!

As mentioned in the meeting notes, Tom Rabideau has opened his framing store in Crab Orchard (just east of Marion). If you need framing done, look no farther.

Photo Op

cont'd from p. 1
invest in the highest quality lenses I could afford and forget about the fancy "boxes." I read somewhere that the average shelf-life of a new digital camera is only about 9 months. After that new technology allows companies to offer even more bells and whistles at affordable prices. I recall that my first digital camera was a Canon 3.1 MP point-and-shoot that cost almost \$1000—I know what they are talking about.

October Meeting

cont'd from p. 1

For larger pictures, some form of backing mount is needed. There are two kinds: cold and hot mount. For cold mounts, you lay the photo on, squeegee any the bubbles out, then peel off the backing, leaving the adhesive behind. framingsupplies.com is a good source for this (and other stuff too). Hot mount, such as KoolTak foam board, requires a special (and expensive) press, but is easier to work with and completely removable -- just reheat.

Backing boards are another important component in a well-framed photo. Dave prefers at least 4-ply board. Tom noted that while all board is advertised as acid-free, that's not enough: it needs to be lignin-free, since lignin breaks down over time and becomes acidic. Good board is strongly compressed in addition; otherwise cuts will show a ragged edge. Next, some framers use a moisture barrier in addition to the backing board, but it's not necessary if you're hanging it in a dry place. At the back, a dust cover (brown paper) is useful; trim it with an Exacto knife.

In front, you need glass or acrylic. Acrylic can actually be just as good as glass; it comes in many grades and qualities. Museum quality is about \$45 for 16x20. Always use cotton gloves when working with it (and the photo itself) to avoid smudges.

The picture is almost done now, and just needs a way to hang it. Wire is best, but pay attention to the way it is attached to the frame. The best hangers are the "D" hooks, which pull in the direction of the wire. "I" hooks, by contrast, pull in a perpendicular direction and tend to crack the wood over time if the picture is heavy.

Final words of wisdom: "If you're not OCD, don't frame." (Tom) "Always wear shoes" (Dave).

Our featured member this month was Nancy Smolak, who showed us pictures from her July trip out West. She toured Colorado, Nevada, and Utah. Pictures included: Silverton, CO, the Silverton Durango Railroad (one way trip was 4 hours), Yankee Girl Mine (a silver mine), Red Rock outside Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Zion National Park (especially the waterfall), Bryce Canyon (looking

very atmospheric with a storm coming), Capital Reef UT, Indian art on private property, Canyonlands UT (with the Green and Colorado rivers cutting through the rocks), Dead Horse State Park, Goblin Valley State Park (with its "hobbit town" formations), a Colorado River canoe trip, Arches National Park (with a double rainbow at Park Avenue), and lots of chipmunks near Ft. Collins CO. One especially memorable part of her trip was a rather scary Jeep ride, in which the clutch went out in mountainous terrain.

Our contest for October was "Sports". The winners were:

1st place: Jo Dodd, "You're Safe"

2nd place: Christine Keeney
"Determined...Strike"

3rd place: Dana Tetzlaff, "In Sync"
Other entrants were Joe Hall, Lorraine Highlander, Lynn Love, Teresa McIntosh, Lori Mascal, and Carol Sluzevich.

Next month, we have two contests due: the scavenger hunt and the calendar. For the scavenger hunt, the pictures must have been taken in the past two months and have one each of the following subjects: old tractors, animals, butterflies, birds, nautical, old barns, snakes, light, church, and wine press. Pictures can be up to 5x7, and placed in a portfolio. Captions are allowed. For the calendar contest, the pictures must be from the past year (since Nov. 2008) and be in a 12-month calendar, with 8x12 maximum picture size. There are two categories for this contest: "nature" and "other".

From the Secretary

by Jonathan Springer

For most of us, travel photography is something we do once or twice a year when we go on a summer vacation or visit relatives during holidays. However, travel brings its own logistical challenges to photography. I travel probably a bit more than average, and have evolved my own system, so this month I'll share what I've learned in the hopes it may help others when they do leave town.

For me, travel falls into two categories, business and pleasure, and they are pretty different from a photography perspective. Business travel tends to be the more restrictive, so I'll spend more time talking about that.

For business travel, the work is paramount. I never want to compromise my reason for going in the first place, which is to get a business goal accomplished, but if I have time, I like to take advantage of the fact that I am far from home to do a little exploring. There are two main issues to consider: equipment and schedule.

The first challenge is equipment. If I'm driving, I can throw everything I want into the car, but usually for me, business travel means flying. I like to fly with only carry-ons when I can, since it avoids both time spent waiting for baggage and the small but very real risk of loss. (I've had bags delayed a few times, and once lost one entirely. Your mileage may vary.)

The general airline rule for carry-ons is that you are allowed one small suitcase and one smaller personal bag. The TSA guidelines actually allow for one bag of photo equipment in addition to these two items, however this addition is not in the policy of many airlines, so check them as well. I generally pack my SLR, one or two additional lenses, and a small ziploc bag of stuff like memory cards, filters, and a battery charger. Note that lens cleaner, if you carry it on, must be in a labeled 3 oz. (or less) bottle. The X-ray machine will not harm your digital camera or flash cards. I don't use film myself, but my understanding is that while the X-ray shouldn't harm most low-ISO film, for high-speed film (800 and above) most sources advise hand-scanning at the checkpoint.

I distribute these parts - camera, lenses, and accessories - among my suitcase and personal bag, so I don't need to carry a separate bag for camera stuff. The personal bag doubles as a day pack for photo excursions. Of course, if you have a lot of stuff or you need to check a bag anyway, just go ahead and check a bag - the small extra cost is certainly worth it if it allows you to do some interesting shooting.

Scheduling is the other big challenge. Most of my day is usually taken by work. Even if I arrive the day before a meeting, usually I'm busy preparing, so I find that the best time for getting in some photography is at the end of the trip.

cont'd on page 4 - From the Secretary

Things I Notice

by Ray Brown

It was W. C. Fields who made the following observation: "Women are like elephants to me - I love to look at them, but I wouldn't want to own one." Perhaps Mae West said the same thing about old W.C. Fields.

Those who play the word game Scrabble (and some others) may realize that the most frequently used letter in the English language is "E" and a few may be aware that No. 2 and No. 3 are "T" and "A", respectively. Hardly anyone knows the full ranking though, so for your enlightenment, here is the entire alphabet in order of how often each letter is used in English:

E, T, A, D, I, N, S, H, O, R, L, U, C, M, P, F, Y, W, G, B, V, K, J, X, Z, Q

This next fact is for Joanna Gray!!

Experts on feline anatomy say that a normal cat has 230 bones in its body, but it doesn't have a collarbone!

The longest regularly scheduled, non-stop commercial airline flight in the world is 18 hours long - from Newark, NJ to the island nation of Singapore in Southeast Asia.

To date, no President of the United States has been an only child.

Visiting the Grand Canyon is something every American can and should do at least once in his or her life, but there are a couple of things that should be kept in mind when making the trip. If you go hiking and get in dire straits, an emergency rescue will cost in the neighborhood of \$2,000. Also, an average of five people fall to their deaths in the Grand Canyon every year.

Pretty much everyone has wisdom teeth - at least until some dentist removes them! But those teeth are called "mind teeth" in Romania. In Turkey, they're known as "20-year teeth". In Korea, they're called "love teeth" and in Japan they're referred to as "unknown-to-parent- teeth".

"The hardest thing to understand is why we can understand anything at all" - Albert Einstein.

Your neighbor will seem like a better man when you judge him as you would judge yourself.

Now-a-days, whatever is not worth talking about is sung.

A stroll down memory lane would be most pleasant if we could detour around a few "rough spots".

The most wonderful thing ever made by man is a living for his family.

Ideas are funny things - they don't work unless you do.

People who say that you can't fool nature have never watched a beauty shop operator work.

Peace is a thing you can't have by throwing rocks at a hornet's nest.

For young people - check this out: A good scar is something you get when you don't listen to someone who has been there. They were young before you!

Modern bowling comes from the German game of keidenwerfen, which translates to "strike down the heathens".

The combined area of the United Kingdom is smaller than the state of Oregon.

Let it be: One of every three insects in the world is a beetle.



From the Secretary

cont'd from p. 3

Another tactic is to take advantage of the fact that some of the best light is usually in the early morning or late in the day. Sometimes this works well with a time zone change: if traveling to the west coast, you can get up two hours earlier and just have it be the normal time back home. At the other end of the day, business travel can be a good opportunity for night photography - just be sure to bring a small tripod.

On any travel, but especially work-related, it's very important to plan ahead. I like to know where I'm going to shoot before I ever leave home. I might have just a couple hours, and if I have to leaf through a guidebook looking for something to do, I'll just miss it. I scope out two or three alternatives, depending on how much time I end up having, keeping in mind I need to choose something that will be open early or late.

For vacation travel, things are a little easier. I'm more likely to check a bag and not be so concerned about the extra time. Obviously, I have a lot more latitude in arranging my schedule. Still, I'm usually traveling with non-photographers, so I have coordinate among other planned events. For this reason, many of the same ideas apply as with business travel, e.g. getting up early. It can be very satisfying to go down to the beach very early, watch the sun rise, and be back before everyone else has gotten up for breakfast.

Finally, even if you can't bring your SLR and gear or plan a real excursion, consider just bringing a point-and-shoot. A well-known SIPS member once observed that his favorite camera was the one he was holding in his hands, and that applies especially to travel photography. You never know what might appear in front of you on your trip, and a decent point-and-shoot is great to have for just that reason.



Photo: Jonathan Springer