



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

January 2010 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

January

Meeting: Jan. 5

Program: Wildlife Photography, Dave Brewer

15 Minutes of Fame: Mary Jane Estrada

Contest: Holidays (2 month)

Outing: Eagles at Alton, IL, Jan. 30

Planning Meeting: Jan. 19

February

Meeting: Feb. 2

Program: Underwater Photography

15 Minutes of Fame: Linda Bundren

Contest: "Red" (12 month)

Outing: Union County Conservation

Area / Horseshoe Lake, date TBD

Planning Meeting: Feb. 16

March

Meeting: Mar. 2

Program: TBD

15 Minutes of Fame: TBD

Contest: TBD

Outing: TBD

Planning Meeting: Mar. 16

Inside...

A brief holiday edition: Christmas Party news and notes, plus a New Year's Photo Op.

Christmas Party

As is the custom, the SIPS membership convened for its annual holiday dinner. We met at the Old Main room in the SIU student center; thanks to Dana Tetzlaff for making the arrangements again this year, and Lu Horning for the nice table decorations. We had 60 people present, which is a very healthy majority of our membership. Mike Hicks manned the podium one more time to close out his 2009 term leading SIPS meetings.

Dave Hammond introduced our guest speakers for the evening, Richard and Susan Day. Richard and Susan are old friends of SIPS, but for those new to SIPS, they are longtime and very active nature photographers and writers, and charter members of NANPA. (In fact, Richard let on that Susan was recently elected president of NANPA.) Their presentation was on the polar bears of Churchill, Manitoba. Churchill, on the Hudson Bay, is well known for its polar bear population, which is the largest in Canada. Richard has been there 9 years, leading photography tours. The tours go out to the bears in large "tundra buggies," oversize trucks that are high enough to be safe from the bears. Each buggy holds 40, but Richard's groups are typically around 18, leaving plenty of room to move around inside. In the evening, the group stays at a rather unorthodox but nevertheless cozy lodge made of several old buggies stuck together.

Richard had some spectacular pictures of the bears, playing, swimming, and even being airlifted out of town by the Churchill polar bear relocation program. Bears that wander into town are a hazard, and so are picked up and kept in the "bear jail" for a few days until they can be taken far out of town to be released. About 80% of the local bears are tagged, using a quarter-sized in-ear tag to preserve photographability. The population is about 1000, and actually increasing. Richard also had many terrific pictures of other tundra sights, including ptarmigans, hard-to-spot arctic hares, and the

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Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

In December I urged everyone to make photo-related New Year's resolutions for 2010. Here are mine:



#1—*Shoot more images in RAW format and learn better workflow.* Until now I have not felt that I needed to shoot in RAW because, for the most part, I have been happy with my jpeg images. However, in the spirit of expanding my skills and knowledge-base in photography I feel I need to know if I am missing something by NOT shooting in RAW.

#2—*Experiment more with different types of imaging.* I recently purchased the Nik Software-Silver Efex Pro plug-in that converts color images to black and white with 1000 times more flexibility than simply desaturating color images in Elements. I am having a blast with it! This year, I want to try more things with low-light photography, high dynamic range, architecture and macro. In other words, I want to do more work outside of my comfort zone.

#3—*Go on at least one trip where the primary purpose is photography.* I am already half-way there in completing this resolution. I have registered for North American Nature Photography Association's regional event in the Smokey Mountains April 28 through May 2. Our friend Richard Day is one of the nature photographers who will be on hand at that get-together to lead small groups on day trips into the Smokey Mountains. I can already envision the wildflowers now!!

#4—*Get one image published.* I have urged everyone to participate in the SIPS monthly photo contests. I know many of you have had a hard time in "pulling the trigger" and finally entering a contest for the first time. Once you do it, it's a lot easier to do it again. I guess I feel the same is true about submitting images for a magazine contest or for publication. I may never get anything in print, but I vow to go

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SIPS Christmas Party 2009 (photo: Jonathan Springer)

Christmas Party

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northern lights.

The tour season is short, only 6 weeks long. Each tour takes a week overall, with four full days on the tundra. Tours are run by Tundra Buggy Tours / Frontiers North, and cost \$7000, leaving from Winnipeg.

We had the results of two contests this month, entries for which were turned in at our November meeting and given to an outside judge. The first was the scavenger hunt, for which the winners were:

- 1st: Virginia Stith
- 2nd: Lori Mascal
- 3rd: Linda Martin

Our other contest was the calendar, which had two categories, "nature" and "other":

- 1st place, Nature: Jan Sundberg
- 1st place, Other: Jim Osborn

Our member of the year and photographer of the year were announced at the dinner as well. These awards are made based on points for participation in club activities and performance in club contests. (Please see the SIPS web site for details.)

Member of the year: Jonathan Springer

Photographer of the year: Jim Osborn
Each received a plaque as well as a \$100 gift certificate to B&L Camera in Carbondale.

Incoming 2010 president Jillian Choate got up to introduce the new board, which is Nancy Smolak (Vice President), Jonathan Springer (Secretary-Technology), Linda Bundren (Secretary-Minutes), Lynn Love (Secretary-Contests), Dana Tetzlaff (Treasurer), Jim Osborn, Ray Brown, Dave Hammond, Jane Morgan, Linda Martin, and Mike Hicks.

Some upcoming events were announced at the party.

- The Rocky Mountain School of Photography will host a workshop in St. Louis, January 30-31. This is a great opportunity to take a weekend and learn from some expert instructors. For details, visit www.rmisp.com/weekends. SIPS members also get a discount to the event (please ask a secretary for the group code).

- The annual NANPA summit will be held Feb. 16-17 in Reno, NV. There will also be some NANPA guided tours in the Smoky Mountains in North Carolina Apr. 30 to May 2. Details are at www.nanpa.org.

- Tom Ulrich will give a presentation of his recent work on Feb. 22 at SIU.

- Jim Osborn says that Photo Rap will reconvene in January; look for more details at our next regular meeting on Jan. 5.

Photo Op

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the extra mile this year in preparing submissions.

#5—*Do a 365 project.* This resolution may turn out to be my equivalent of going on a diet. You know what I mean—you have good intentions, but you usually fall off the wagon within a month....I want to try to take a photo every day of 2010 and create a photographic journal like "A Year in the Life of...." I am already anticipating how difficult this might be, but I am going to go for it. I'll let you know in February if I am still sticking with the program!!

Happy New Year to everyone!

Got Content?

The SIPS newsletter runs on content provided by its readers. Whether it's a brief news item, a featured article, or a regular column, the newsletter is better off with your contribution. With the new year, it's a great time to try something new, so if you've got something photography-related to write, the SIPS newsletter may be just the place to print it.

For more information, please contact Jonathan at info@sipscameraclub.com. Thanks!



photo: J. Springer