



# Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

## February 2012 Newsletter

### January Meeting

We had a good turnout for our usually-chilly January meeting. We had two guests: Denise Zarro is getting into photography through classes, while Marty Will just likes to shoot photographs.

Our program for this month was a member holiday photo review. People brought in their best four or five shots from over the holidays.

**Myers Walker** showed us panoramic books with petroglyphs put together from 8 photos. These were published in "Best Photo Images from the Four Corners of the World."

**Jim and Esther Bornert** showed us the balloon festival in Albuquerque, NM. There were some striking balloons, including a shark, a haunted house, and an enormous Darth Vader helmet. 800 balloons took off each day, and they expected 800,000 people for the weekend.

**Linda Bundren** showed a holiday variety: grandkids in football gear at early Christmas, a family Christmas card portrait, birds around the window, pets and presents.

**Lorraine Highlander** showed a great granddaughter in a witch costume and a West Virginia trip to do stained glass. She had several evening photos of decorations getting set up for Christmas in the area.

Our 15 Minutes of Fame was Bill Randall. He's been taking photos for 25 years, and a member of SIPS for 1.5 years. He uses a Canon 20D, with several different lenses, but especially a Tamron 18-270 and a Canon 28-135. Some of the categories he showed were:

- Civil War Re-enactments: Wilson Creek, Lexington, MO; Huntington, WV. He used sepia and tintype digital postprocesses to make old-style portraits of family and other soldiers.
- Scenery: Trails and trees. He had some great B&W and high contrast shots using clouds and sun spots.
- Water: Cancun bay, with deep blues and greens; Lake Murphysboro from the foot bridge; Bell Smith Springs; Burden Falls;

### Photo Op

by *Jim Obsorn*

So it's winter?? As I write this article in early January the temps have been in the 40s, 50s and even higher. What happened to winter? Perhaps by the time this article is published we will have a real taste of cold weather. If not, either fly to Montana or just file away this information for next year.

If you want to shoot outdoors in the winter when it is very cold, here are a few tips to help.

1. Fog or frost on your lens—Generally, there is so little moisture in the air in winter that fog or frost is not a problem even when you take your camera from a warm environment into the cold. HOWEVER, it is easy to become temporarily "brain dead" and blow on your lens or filter to remove a piece of lint or snow. The moisture from your breath will create frost if the temperature is low enough. If that happens, unfortunately, your lens may not re-acclimate until it is taken into a warm environment again. If there is frost on your lens/filter, do not try to rub it off or you will risk scratching your lens and leaving streaks. Also, I do not recommend using anti-fog products you apply in advance. My experience with these products is that they leave a visible film on the lens/filter. Some less expensive brands of filters have coatings that make them difficult to clean. Don't compound the problem. If you need to remove specks of lint or snow from your lens/filter outdoors, use a bulb blower.

2. Power to your camera—If you haven't done much outdoor photography in cold weather, you might be surprised when you find your batteries are dead or when they lose power quickly. That is just physics. Here are some tips—don't leave your camera in your car overnight so that the batteries are already cold when you want to shoot. Also, take extra batteries with you and keep them close to your body for extra warmth. Finally, if you put the cold "dead" batteries next to your body after you swap



### Calendar of Events

#### February

Meeting: Feb. 7

Program: Critiquing (Jim Osborn)

15 Minutes of Fame: TBA

Contest: A face only a mother could LOVE (60 days)

Outing: Eagles, Alton IL, Feb. 18

Planning Meeting: Feb. 21

#### March

Meeting: Mar. 6

Program: Tom Ulrich

15 Minutes of Fame: Tom Ulrich

Contest: Black & white (1 year)

Outing: Butterfly House, St. Louis

Planning Meeting: Mar. 20

#### April

Meeting: Apr. 3

Program: TBA

15 Minutes of Fame: TBA

Contest: Pets (60 days)

Outing: Rattlesnake / Hutchins Rd.

Planning Meeting: Apr. 17

### Inside...

All the news and articles from Jim and Linda!

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Have something for the newsletter? Contact SIPS at [info@sipscameraclub.com](mailto:info@sipscameraclub.com).

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## Linda's Corner

by Linda Bundren

The first board meeting was dedicated to brainstorming to determine goals for 2012. I just want to start with a few goals and work toward completing them this year. The following are a few of the ideas that we had.

1. Increase membership's participation in club events, i.e. contests, outings, 15 minutes of fame and presentations.

2. Improve communication by developing a new web site that is easier to update and makes access to membership information easier, publishes contest winners images, or simply displays members photos on the website. What a novel idea-photo images on a photo club web site!

3. Develop a new club informational flyer to distribute to area photo shops, colleges, and to have available for membership to hand out to perspective members. Once this is done, print new business cards to have available for the membership.

5. Develop an information packet for new members giving website address, meeting dates, contest rules and activities they can be involved in.

6. Change the format of the meetings to include more educational opportunities, i.e. postprocessing classes (Photoshop, Photoshop Elements, Lightroom, etc.)

4. Form committees to get ideas for contests, outings and programs. Committees can be made up of board members and members at large. JoAnna Gray will lead the committee to develop 2013 contest ideas. Jim Osborn will lead the committee for advertising (developing flier, new members packet). Jonathan Springer and Bill Thomas will lead activities to develop and design a new web site. Leaders are still needed for outings and presentation ideas.

I would like to see more people involved in improving what we do. If you are interested in helping with any of these goals contact one of the board members. We will be fine-tuning these goals in the near future and your input is desired.

## Meeting

*cont'd from p. 1*

falls in Yellowstone; spring 2011 flooding around Harrisburg.

• Sunsets and sunrises: from Crab Orchard NWR.

Linda Bundren had a number of announcements this month. Planning for new year is in full swing; see Linda's article in this newsletter for details. Feel free to attend the monthly planning meeting as well, the third Tuesday of each month, at 6:30pm at Grumpy's Smokehouse BBQ. Finally, with the beginning of the new year, member dues are, well, due. Please pay Dana at your earliest convenience; at the end of February, we will be culling the member lists. One member benefit to keep in mind is the ability to list an advertisement in this newsletter, once per quarter.

In other news, member Ray Brown has been out due to a broken back. He is recovering and now mobile, albeit with a brace. Tom Azarello is in a care facility in Chicago. Ruth Hilton had a fall and cracked her kneecaps. We hope everyone gets back up to speed soon.

Our photo contest this month was "Holidays." The winners were:

1st place: Carol Sluzevich,

"Reflection at Patti's"

2nd place: Jim Osborn, "Train"

3rd place: Mike Hicks, "Cathedral"

Congratulations to these winners. Note that the photo contest topics for the year have been set now; see box below for the list. Please do continue to observe the time limitations, 60 days or 1 year prior, as noted.

## Photo Op

*cont'd from p. 1*

them, you might find they will "rejuvenate."

3. Using a tripod—If your tripod is metal be careful of touching it with your bare hands—you can freeze your skin. Your hands definitely get much colder, faster from contact with metal in subfreezing weather. Even with thin mittens or gloves the cold can be dangerous. Consider jury-rigging insulation on the legs of your tripod such as taping washcloths.

4. Keeping warm—If you are not adequately protected from the cold, photographing in winter can be a real bummer. At a minimum you should consider long underwear, warm and waterproof coat and pants (wet snow is fun only for snowmen), a balaclava for your head that also covers your face and neck, a warm hat or stocking cap, wool socks, winter boots (again, waterproof), and layers of mittens or gloves. I tend to prefer thin microfiber hunting gloves (such as from RealTree) when I am photographing so that I have a "feel" for the buttons and dials on my camera. I also carry warmer mittens that I can slip on when I am not actively photographing. Since I high percentage of your body's head loss is through your head, make sure it is well protected. One more note about boots—if your foot is cramped inside the boot your toes and feet will get cold faster. Beware of frostbite and don't take risks!

Now—go out there and take some great photos!!

### SIPS Monthly Contests 2012

**February:** A Face only a Mother Can Love (60 day)

**March:** Black & White (1 year)

**April:** Pets (1 year)

**May:** Macro (1 year)

**June:** Mystery Tour (60 day)

**July:** Sports or Children's Sports (1 year)

**August:** Portraits (60 day)

**September:** Sunrise/Sunsets (1 year)

**October:** Clowning Around/Laugh Out Loud (60 day)

**November:** To be determined (1 year)

**December:** none