



Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

September 2012 Newsletter

Calendar of Events

September

Meeting: Sep. 4

Program: Wedding Photography,
Stephanie Milligan

15 Minutes of Fame: Linda Bundren,
Jo Dodd

Contest: Sunrise/Sunset (12 month)

Outing: Mermet Lake, Sept. 15

Planning Meeting: Sep. 18

October

Meeting: Oct. 2

Program: swap meet, vacation photos

15 Minutes of Fame: George Stone

Contest: Self Portrait (30 day)

Outing: New Harmony, IN, Oct. 20

Planning Meeting: Oct. 16

November

Meeting: Nov. 6

Program: Surprise topic, Jim Bornert

15 Minutes of Fame: Joanna Gray

Contest: Mystery Tour (2.5 month),
and Scavenger Hunt (12 month)

Outing: TBD

Planning Meeting: Nov. 20

Inside...

News and the latest from Jim
Osborn!

August Meeting

We had several new faces at our August meeting. Rob from Carterville wanted to "pick our brains" to learn about photography. Christina from Marion visited with her daughter, whom she likes to take pictures of. Linda Bundren's grandson Christian was there, coincidentally on his eighth birthday.

Our program this month was given by Paul Newton, who spoke about photography from a journalist's point of view. Paul is a photographer for The Southern Illinoian newspaper. He got his start as a young boy at the Galena Gazette. He has a degree in photojournalism.

Paul brought several photos to illustrate his descriptions of how he works. He typically spends his mornings shooting photos and puts the story together in the afternoon. Best are the photos that he brought, without needing a caption. He brought many examples of creative shots he has worked to get, such as: 30 up a rock face to shoot even with a rappeller, camera mounted on the front of a golf cart to shoot Safety Days with the state police, flooding viewed from an airplane, and lightning in Carbondale using a 30 second exposure with a fisheye lens.

Paul said he gets to meet a lot of people in his work, and meeting the people can be important to getting the shot, by establishing trust. His photographs of rebuilding at Olive Branch after last year's floods were a good example. Another was the high school graduation of an autistic man. Sometimes it can be very delicate, as with a funeral. In those cases he works to show the solemnity and the crowds that represent the importance of the event, rather than the more obvious subject. He spends a lot of time waiting, for example waiting outside a courthouse for a person of interest to appear. Waiting a couple hours just for one shot is not unusual in these situations.

At The Southern, Paul heads a staff of three photographers. Each is allocated a Nikon D300, plus there are some shared

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Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

The lack of rain this summer may result in more muted colors in the trees this fall.

None-the-less, fall is a great time to get out, explore and play with photography. There will undoubtedly be a long list of fall festivals, birds will start their migrations south, and the temperatures should be more accommodating (hopefully). In addition, you should give serious consideration to participating in the two longer term club photo contests—the year-long photo Scavenger Hunt and the 60-day Mystery Tour.

Categories for the Scavenger Hunt were announced months ago and have been repeated in the e-newsletters. I know that we all tend to procrastinate with projects, but fall would be a perfect time to take your photos for the Scavenger Hunt. If you have not yet started let me tell you how I approach the Scavenger Hunt. The first thing I do is write out the list of subjects in the "Hunt." Next I brainstorm ideas to come up with a short list of photographic opportunities that would suit each subject. I try to think "outside the box" because I want my images to stand out from the rest in the judging. For example, one of the subjects in this year's Scavenger Hunt is "Bridge(s)." Someone creative might come up with a photograph of a "dental" bridge rather than a highway bridge. That would be unique and different! Often I take several different images for the same contest subject and then pick the one I like best for my entry. Whatever your strategy is for finding good images for the Scavenger Hunt, get out, photograph, and participate!!

By the time you read this article, the Mystery Tour contest will be up and running. This year the Mystery Tour is not a set tour but rather a self-selected tour. The theme is "Ghost Towns in southern Illinois." A small group of club members



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August Meeting

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older bodies and a pool of lenses. He keeps one camera with him all the time. When on assignment, he will carry two bodies to have ready access to a couple of lens types. Paul uses long lenses more than wide ones, though he tries to get close where he can. He uses mostly fixed lenses; he is a fan of moving to the right spot. For sports shots, he uses remote triggers (the brand he uses is PocketWizard) for his camera. He will stash it in a key spot, prefocus (taping it down to prevent accidental movement), and retire to a safer or less conspicuous spot. Paul brought some very impressive sports shots he has been able to get with this technique.

Paul said that the Eye-Fi has revolutionized his workflow. This device looks like a flash card, and is put in the camera the same way, but instead of just holding the photos, it transmits them over wi-fi to a nearby iPhone or iPad, from which they can be uploaded to the Internet. He has been able to get disaster photos back to the paper just minutes after they were shot.

Paul shoots in JPEG, for speed and capacity reasons. He will use RAW in certain situations, especially low light. Photo corrections are mainly color adjustment (using CMYK for print). He uses Photoshop only sparingly, favoring Bridge for editing and captioning. All photos are saved for 3 to 4 months, on a server (daily) and on DVD (monthly). After that, only ones that have been tagged to save are kept.

Our 15 Minutes of Fame this month was given by Carol Sluzevich, Jo Dodd, and Linda Bundren, who covered the Chinese Lantern Festival at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Carol showed us things like a dragon breathing smoke, a dragon made from dinnerware, and a duck in a reflecting pool. She shot almost all in manual mode, sometimes with fill flash and sometimes without. She recommends going one time to look around and see what to shoot, and then going back with those things in mind. Jo Dodd's shots included a dragon mural, a reflecting pool, a temple in multiple colors, and a garden walkway. She shot in the 24-105mm range. Linda Bundren's

shots included bamboo with pandas, walkways inside the gardens, a "wishing tree," the dragon breathing smoke, and temple and lantern displays.

We heard this month that Linda Bundren, having entered the Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers 2012 contest, won second in the Historical category, as well as Honorable Mentions in the Fauna, Cultural, and Image from Last Conference categories. Congratulations, Linda!

Our contest this month was titled "Portraits." The winners were:

1st place: Dave Horning, "Baby Bump"

2nd place (tie): Jim Osborn, "Emmy," and Dana Tetzlaff, "Love"

Next month, our contest is Self Portraits. Also, note that the mystery tour is underway now. Details can be found on our web site.

Outings and Announcements

Our August outing to the Centralia Balloon Fest was attended by Lynn Love, Teresa McIntosh, Diane Anderson, Mike Hicks, Christine Fisher, and Dave & Lu Horning. Please let Lu know if you went but were left off the list.

Our next outing is to Mermet Lake in Massac County on Saturday, Sept. 15. Some will be showing up by 7am or even earlier, but come whenever you like in the morning and you will surely find other members around.

Other announcements:

Donald McDonald has some Canon T1i equipment for sale. Contact him for details.

Carol Sluzevich let us know about photo classes starting at the Missouri Botanical Garden. In particular, check out "Seeing Nature Through the Lens," given at the Shaw Nature Center on Oct. 6-7. Check their web site (www.mobot.org) for details.

Mystery Tour Contest

Reminder: Our Mystery Tour contest "Ghost Towns" is now running and due in November. Details are at sipscameraclub.com; click the Club News link and you'll get the instructions and some fascinating background.

Photo Op

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worked together to write brief synopses of the history of some of the more interesting locations in the area. Directions are provided as well. Some of the ghost towns do still have a few residents, some have older structures or remnants of structures, some may just have a cemetery or a church left, and some may just be fields. The histories are very fascinating! Did you know that there are approximately 600 towns described Glenn Sneed's book *Ghost Towns of Southern Illinois?* Although the book is out of print, one member found two copies in her local library. I found the book available on Amazon.com, although the asking price was unbelievably high. The book was last printed in 1976 so the description of the remains of the towns is outdated, but the book provides detailed histories that are sure to pique your interest. The club's synopsis of a few of these towns is available to you on the SIPS website. Certainly, the list is not comprehensive and you may be aware of other locations not on the list that you want to visit. Go for it!....any "ghost town" will work. The rules for the contest are simple. Ultimately you will need 10 different 5X7" images. You can take all the images in one location or you can take them in different locations. You can take photographs of structural remains, current structures that have replaced the old, the wide open spaces, or the people that remain in these forgotten communities—it is entirely up to you. If you really want to explore southern Illinois and learn more about our heritage, participate in the Ghost Towns Mystery Tour photo contest.

Entries for both contests are due at the November meeting. Regardless, of what you do this fall, stay active and get out there, use your camera, and have fun!!

Scavenger Hunt Contest

Reminder: Our scavenger hunt photo contest is due in November. The hunt items are: Shot in the dark, Cereal, Reflections, Life is a stage, Country Roads, Vivid colors, Bridges, Tools, Make Believe, and Peace & Tranquility.