



# Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

## February 2013 Newsletter

---

### Calendar of Events

#### February

Meeting: Feb. 5

Program: Frost Flowers, Karen Carlton

15 Minutes of Fame: Dave Hammond

Contest: Birds (1 year)

Outing: CONWR, Feb. 3

Planning Meeting: Feb. 19

#### March

Meeting: Mar. 5

Program: Tom Ulrich

15 Minutes of Fame: Linda Bundren

Contest: Abstract (60 day),  
no editing restrictions

Outing: Panther Den, Mar. 2

Planning Meeting: Mar. 19

#### April

Meeting: Apr. 2

Program: iPhone Apps and  
Accessories, Jim Osborn

15 Minutes of Fame: Bill Thomas

Contest: Someone You Don't Know  
(1 year)

Outing: A Town in Southern Illinois

Planning Meeting: Apr. 16

---

### Inside...

News and the latest from Jim Osborn!

### January Meeting

Our meeting this month focused on new members, and we were glad to be joined by several new people. Visitors included Bill Serchiam, who likes to photograph his grandkids; Bill Phemister, who is into landscapes; Angie Oetjen, who likes grandkids, scenery & nightscapes; Ron Hertter, who shoots landscapes, trains, etc.; Jamie Hertter, Children & Landscapes; Mary Jo Evans; Jim Haynie, ballgames, dogs, etc.; and Trish Curry, portraits. We also introduced the current members who were attending.

We spend a little time at the beginning of the meeting going over the functions of the club, such as club history, the monthly photo contests, yearly points, dues, bylaws, and the web site (www.sipscameraclub.com), where much of this information can be accessed.

Our program for the month was given by George Stone, who discussed photographing WWII historical sites in Belgium and France. George began with a visit to the 101st Airborne Museum in Bastogne, Belgium, site of the famous Battle of the Bulge, the last major German offensive on the western front. He shot pictures of the monument there, the surrounding woods with foxholes from the war, and cemeteries from both sides.

George next showed us photos of art from the battle at Dunkirk, which was a key action protecting an allied retreat across the English Channel early in the war. Moving further south into Normandy, George visited the beaches of the D-Day invasion, focusing on the American areas of Omaha Beach and Utah Beach. He showed photos from the American Cemetery, located above Omaha Beach with a wonderful view of the ocean. We also saw photos from Pointe du Hoc, a German defensive emplacement that was captured by Army Rangers scaling a tall cliff. He showed pictures of various German defenses including a pitted pillbox and a "hedghog" landing craft barrier.

Jim Osborn announced that Crossroads

*cont'd on page 2 - January Meeting*

### Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

I am back from my 3 month respite to have my knees replaced and I am more than ready to get out and take lots and lots of photographs. The fact that I can now stand for more than 5 minutes and walk more than a hundred yards without significant knee pain is a blessing. I have been given a new lease on life and I am ready to take advantage of it. So...as I start thinking about photographic opportunities over the next couple of months I am, first and foremost, thinking about another snow storm. Despite Dave Horning's expressed hatred of snow, I missed the big storm that came through after Christmas. I was in Springfield where it was bone dry. The pictures that some of you posted on Facebook were wonderful, and it really irritated me that I did not get one single picture of snow. So, here's hoping we have one more decent snow event (sorry Dave). Having said that, if we stay in the deep freeze long enough such that the Mississippi River freezes, you will likely find bald eagles congregating below the locks and dams where there is open water in which to fish. Clarksville Missouri is a fabulous location to see and photograph scores of eagles pulling fish right out of the water....IF the eagles are present. Wildlife photography always seems to come with an "if." Another event, the annual orchid show at the Missouri Botanical Gardens starts February 2 and runs for approximately 6 weeks. The orchid show provides a great opportunity to practice your macro photography since the orchids are so close you could reach out and touch them....and it is warm indoors. The only caveat is that the Gardens does not allow tripods in the orchid show, so plan to use a flash unit on your camera. The orchids are a "sure thing" for a photographer, but if you are interested in gambling again on wildlife, check out the Union County Conservation Area west of



*cont'd on page 2 - Photo Op*

---

## Tech Savvy

by Jim Osborn

One of the club's Scavenger Hunt Photo Contest subjects this year is "Silhouettes." Here are a few suggestions for "nailing" a great silhouette:



1. Silhouettes are achieved when your subject is backlit, so make sure you have the light coming toward you from behind your subject.

2. Silhouettes look best if they can be isolated in the image, such as having them appear with a colorful setting sun and sky behind them.

3. Make sure your subject is distinct from both the background and from other objects that appear in silhouette. In other words, a group of people photographed in silhouette, may come across looking as a black "blob" rather than a group of people.

4. Shoot the image as if you were shooting a landscape. If you focus on the subject, your camera will try to lighten the image appropriately thus negating the silhouette effect. Focus or meter on something lighter such as the sunset. As your camera adjusts to accommodate the light of the sky, it will darken the subject.

## January Meeting

*cont'd from p. 1*

Coffee of Carterville will be hosting a Photographer of the Month exhibit. We will be developing a selection process, and exhibitors will be able to rent frames from the club.

Our contest this month was on "Families." Our winners were:

1st place: Joanna Gray, "White Egrets Brother/Sister"

2nd place: Myers Walker, "The Hart Family"

3rd place (tie): Jim Osborn, "Christmas Morning" and Myers Walker, "Action Shot of the Hart Family"

Our contest next month is Birds, and this has a 1 year eligibility.

## Photo Op

*cont'd from p. 1*

Jonesboro along Route 3. I was down there before Christmas and there were thousands of snow geese feeding in the fields. Snow geese provide an incredible sight when they explode into the air all at once to relocate to a feeding area that might be only a few hundred yards away. Incidentally, since geese contribute to the diet of bald eagles, it is not unusual to see eagles at locations where geese congregate in large numbers. Perhaps you'll get lucky and see both snow geese and eagles! In early March, if you drive through Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge you are likely to see wild turkeys in their mating rituals. This is the time of year when the jakes (males) fully display their plumage in hopes of attracting willing females. If all of these opportunities aren't enough for you, catch up with Bill Thomas in March when he leads the photo club's monthly outing to Panther's Den. More information will be forthcoming about this photo op. All of this really starts getting my photographic juices flowing!! Just an FYI—if we are lucky enough (cough, cough) to get another snowstorm in our area be sure you set your exposure compensation to approximately +1 or even +2. Remember, cameras are designed to shift blacks and whites to a more neutral gray color. If you do not adjust the exposure compensation to overexpose the whites you will get gray snow rather than white snow. This same fact is true for photographing the white snow geese as well. Now....get out there, have fun and take lots of pictures!