



# Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

## August 2013 Newsletter

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### Calendar of Events

#### August

Meeting: Aug. 6

Program: Photo Manipulation.

Bill Randall

15 Minutes of Fame: Jonathan Springer

Contest: My Neighborhood (1 year)

Outing: DuQuoin Fair, Aug. 24

Planning Meeting: Aug. 20

#### September

Meeting: Sep. 3

Program: Cape Girardeau:

Then & Now, Tom Neumeier

15 Minutes of Fame: Lorraine Highlander

Contest: Trains, Planes & Autos

(60 days, unlimited postproc.)

Outing: Shrimp Festival, Golconda

Planning Meeting: Sep. 17

#### October

Meeting: Oct. 1

Program: Critiquing

15 Minutes of Fame: Max Pardee

Contest: Harvest Time (1 year)

Outing: TBA

Planning Meeting: Oct. 15

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### Inside...

All the news and the latest from Jim Osborn!

### July Meeting

The program for our July meeting was about maintaining backups of your digital photos. Jonathan Springer presented his perspective on the subject, with other members offering their experiences as well in interactive discussion. The focus was on forming a practical strategy that balances the effort and expense with the impact of loss.

Jonathan began with an overview of backup technology, including hard drives, flash memory, optical discs and cloud storage. Each has different advantages and disadvantages in ease of use, reliability, and cost. Hard drives are generally the most cost-effective, and are the technology of choice for mid- to large-size collections. In fact for very large collections, it is the only realistic option. Flash drives are very reliable, but cost makes them best for smaller collections. Optical drives (Blu Ray, specifically BD-R, has the most capacity at around 25GB per disc) are convenient, but longevity and reliability are not as certain. Cloud storage is very reliable and worth considering, subject to one important constraint: the time it takes to upload. Aside from any limitation on the speed of your internet connection, many services impose a daily upload limit (often around 3 GB).

Having selected a good technology, the next question becomes how to use it. Jonathan recommended a three-copy strategy. The first copy is your working copy on your computer, the one you use in your normal workflow. The second copy is in "near-line" storage, somewhere fairly accessible so you can write to it easily. This might be a USB hard drive or one of the "network storage" drives you can buy. The third copy is your major disaster copy, kept somewhere very safe. Ideally, this should not be in your house, but perhaps at a relative's or friend's house. Its inaccessibility will limit the frequency you update it, but try to do it every month or two. Keeping

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### Photo Op

*by Jim Osborn*

In this Photo Op article I want to give a plug to the Scavenger Hunt photo contest. Personally, this is my favorite contest of the year, because it really gives you best opportunity to show your creative side while still challenging to you to be technically innovative and excellent. If you take pictures regularly the probability is high that you value photography for the art. This begs the question, do you take snapshots or do you take photographs? I believe that a photographer makes photographs. You utilize your imagination and technical prowess to create an image that will appeal to others, not just to yourself. So, how cool is it to be given a full year to create 10 images of random subjects. Even now you have more than enough time to brainstorm ideas for the shots, stage different shots, experiment with angles or lighting or depth of field, etc.; then, pick and choose the images you want to submit for the contest. One picture for each of the 10 subjects should be sized to 5 X 7 and put in a portfolio. You may title each picture (or not) and you should state the subject that each photo represents. Portfolios will be turned in at the November meeting. A judge from outside the club will review all the entries and pick the top three. Results will be announced at the December meeting. Originality and technical excellence will be important! The categories, once again, are:

1. Still life
2. Through my window
3. My best friend
4. 6 or 8 legged creature
5. Pond life
6. Railroads
7. Curves
8. Abandoned buildings
9. Shoes and boots
10. Silhouettes



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## April Meeting

*cont'd from p. 1*

more than these three copies is fine, but avoid excessive complexity.

For backups while on an extended trip, where you are taking a lot of pictures, Jonathan suggested a two-copy variant of the strategy. In this scheme, the flash memory cards are the first copy; leave all images on the cards and bring enough to not have to overwrite them. Every evening, download the day's shots onto a laptop, which becomes the second copy.

We discussed backup software next. Clicking and dragging works fine, but there are better ways. Both Windows and Mac OS X come with good basic backup software. Among professional software packages, Norton and Acronis are two popular ones, but there are certainly many other good options.

Finally, remember that an imperfect backup strategy that you actually perform is always better than a perfect one that you do not follow. No one likes making backups, but they like losing data even less, so take a little time and give yourself some peace of mind.

Our 15 Minuts of Fame was given by Dave Horning. Dave specializes in portraits, and he showed us some of his favorites from the over the previous year. Topics included "Just playing around," Artsy, Big Bellies, Hard Bodies, Pretty Faces, Cancer Sucks, Location, Pin-up, Supershoots Lighting Workshops, Dark Side of the Light, and Be Very Afraid.

For Show and Tell, Linda Bundren brought information on the upcoming Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Photo Contest. The deadline is Sept. 30, with a reception in Oct. for the winners. More information can be found at <http://friendsofconwr.com/en/photo-contest.html>.

Karen Carlton let us know that the Anna Garden Club would like to have any flower photos we might have taken at the recent outing there. Also, Nancy Smolek mentioned that Anna is having a photo contest with several categories. Jim Osborn will be forwarding info on that.

Tom Rabideau reminded us of the Little Egypt Photo Contest, which started Aug. 1. Entries are showing at the LEAA Art Center in Marion.

Bill Thomas showed photos of the Chicago Blackhawks Stanley Cup celebration up in the Windy City.

Karen Carlton showed an old camera from her landlord, a Brownie Holiday Flash by Kodak. This camera is for sale.

SIPS-logo apparel is ready for purchase now. Linda Bundren will be taking orders, which must be prepaid and include 8.25% sales tax, at the next meeting. They have T-shirts, sweaters, and many other items in a variety of colors. They can also emblazon an existing article of clothing.

Our contest for this month was "My Town/City." The winners were:

1st place: Mike Hicks, "On Broadway"

2nd place: John Naas, "Murphysboro Fountain"

3rd place: Mike Hicks, "Batman Building"

Congratulations to these winners! Next month, our contest is "My Neighborhood." This is a one-year contest.

## Photo Op

*cont'd from p. 1*

In past years, this contest hasn't had the level of participation that you might think it would have. The reason I hear most frequently is "I ran out of time." Don't be a procrastinator!—put your thinking caps on and make a list of images that might fit each category....then, figure out how to make those images stand-out as interesting and unique. This can be a fun contest, so go for it!

### Gallery at Crossroads Coffee Company

Crossroads Coffee has invited SIPS to show photos at their Carterville location. Each month, a SIPS member can put up a collection of 10 framed images, which will remain up for 2 to 4 weeks. SIPS has a set of frames that can be rented by club members for \$10 for the duration of the show. Pictures can be listed for sale (a portion of any proceeds goes to Crossroads Coffee).

The spots for 2012 are mostly filled up, but next year will be here before you know it, and it is not too soon to sign up.

The current schedule is:

**Aug.** Jonathan Springer

**Sept.** Jo Dodd

**Oct.** Chris Sullivan

**Nov.** Mike Hicks