



# Southern Illinois Photographic Society

www.sipscameraclub.com

## December 2013 Newsletter

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### Calendar of Events

#### December

Meeting: Dec. 3 (Carterville)  
Program: Chris Benda, INPS  
15 Minutes of Fame: none  
Contest: Scavenger Hunt results  
Outing: none  
Planning Meeting: none

#### January

Meeting: Jan. 7  
Program: Selling Your Work,  
Dave Hammond  
15 Minutes of Fame: Nancy Smolak  
Contest: TBA  
Outing: CONWR, Jan. 11  
Planning Meeting: Jan. 21

#### February

Meeting: Feb. 4  
Program: Panoramas and Landscapes,  
Mike Hicks  
15 Minutes of Fame: Jim Osborn  
Contest: TBA  
Outing: TBA  
Planning Meeting: Feb. 18

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### Inside...

All the news and the latest from Jim Osborn!

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### November Meeting

The feature of our November meeting was a "Swap, Shop, and Sell." Members brought in items to sell or trade, and we covered two tables with all sorts of equipment. The goods included SLRs, point-and-shoots, lenses, cases, chargers, tripods, and even a bird camera.

The election of officers for 2014 was held. We had 31 ballots turned in (with one being unusable). Next year's SIPS officers will be:

President: Linda Bundren  
Vice-president: Bill Thomas  
Secretary of Records: Lu Horning  
Secretary of Technology: Jonathan Springer  
Treasurer: Dana Tetzlaff  
Board Members: Karen Carlton, Jo Dodd, Joanna Gray, Dave Hammond, Mike Hicks

Lynn Love has agreed to continue tallying results for the monthly contests. Thanks to all of these people who keep the club running smoothly.

In addition to voting on officers, we also voted on topics for next year's monthly contests. Joanna Gray has collated the results and is using them to put together the list of contests for 2014.

Our 15 Minutes of Fame this month was given by Bill Thomas. Bill visited the Pacific Northwest last May, and brought back many great images of the landscape out there. Bill started in Portland, and worked his way up the coast. In Oregon, he had pictures of Portland's downtown, Multnomah Falls, and Astoria overlooking the Columbia River. Across the Columbia in Washington State, he visited Cape Disappointment and showed us the lighthouse there. He then headed north to Olympic National Park, a temperate-region rainforest on the Olympic peninsula in Washington. He showed pictures of enormous "nurse logs" from which new trees sprout and grow. Flora included many cedars, pines, and ferns. Fauna included the banana slug and blue grouse. Along the

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### Photo Op

by Jim Osborn

Recently I returned from a week's vacation to New Mexico and southern Colorado. I have been taking fall vacations for over 20 years, sometimes with someone else and sometimes by myself. I realized many years ago that there were numerous places I wanted to visit but it wasn't going to happen unless I made it happen. Usually, vacations are planned for all the members of the family—where you go, when you go, what you do, what you don't do, etc. In 1991, I went to the airport in Springfield, bought a round trip ticket for one to Las Cruces, New Mexico and then went home and told my wife. In October, I packed up my backpacking gear, hopped on a plane and started what was to become a series of incredible adventures. That year, I rented a car in southern New Mexico and visited Carlsbad Caverns, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Roswell NM, the Three Rivers Petroglyph Site and much more.

Imagine not having to compromise your time with anyone, being able to get up when you want and decide on the spur of the moment where you want to go and what you want to do that day. Perhaps you might revisit the same site or even change your plans mid-day, or simply take an unplanned side excursion on a dirt road that heads into the mountains—simply because you don't have to be anywhere in particular at any particular time.

Back then I wasn't as passionate about photography as I am today. My trips now are definitely planned around taking pictures. On this recent trip I did invite a couple close friends and I invited my brother—no one could go...but that did not deter me. I no longer camp on my vacations, but I haul just as much equipment in the form of cameras and lenses. On my most recent 9 day trip I toured Petroglyph National Monument in



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## November Meeting

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beach, wind-swept and salt-encrusted logs appear bleached white, making for some alien-looking landscapes. In the north of the park, he was able to look across the sound into Canada.

We had a number of show-and-tell items this month. Bill had pictures from our outing to the bison roundup in Cobden, which he and John Kreher attended. The roundup is done to inoculate the herd. There were several pictures of cattle chutes and wide-eyed bison.

Jan Sandusky had a number of pelican pictures from CONWR, some taken from her kayak. In one shot she managed to get both pelicans and a buck that wandered into the background. Jim Osborn also showed pictures of pelicans circling the refuge from early October.

Linda Bundren relayed the results of the Crab Orchard photo contest. Club members placing included:

Landscape: 1st place Myers Walker, "A Walk Down Fawn Trail;" 2nd place Lynn Love, "Spring Reflections;" 3rd place Jim Osborn, "Cypress Swamp;" and honorable mention Jim Osborn, "Morning at Mermet Lake."

Wildlife: 3rd place Myers Walker, "Four Raccoons."

Flowers, Plants, Trees & Fungi: 1st place Lori Mascal, "Good Morning Southern Illinois;" 3rd place Ray Brown, "Don't You Wish."

Youth: 2nd place Christian Schoeffel (Linda Bundren's grandson), "Pelicans in Flight."

Refuge Choice: Myers Walker, "Female and Male Woodpeckers."  
Congratulations to all these winners.

Our contest for this month was the yearlong Scavenger Hunt. Winners for this will be announced at the dinner party in December.

Our next meeting is the Christmas party, which, because it includes a catered dinner, is only open to those who have made a reservation. Our regular meetings at the Marion library will resume the first Tuesday in January (Jan. 7).

## Christmas Party Photo Exchange

For the Christmas Party this year we are doing a photo exchange. Bring a nice matted (not framed) 8x10 photo, and please wrap it. At the party, each participant will select another wrapped photo to take home with them.

## Gallery at Crossroads Coffee Company

Crossroads Coffee has invited SIPS to show photos at their Cartersville 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 2014 are mostly open. March is taken (Tom Dunn), as is May (Nancy Smolak). If you would like to show in one of the other months, let Lu know and she can put you on the schedule.

## Photo Op

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Albuquerque, took the last steam train ride of the year on the Cumbres and Toltec Narrow Gauge Railway into southern Colorado, visited Great Sand Dunes National Park and detoured south to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge (a place that was still on my bucket list). The detour south was totally unplanned. I simply decided to forego spending time in Taos and Santa Fe in hopes of seeing some Sandhill Cranes at Bosque...and I lucked out. There were approximately 2000 cranes on site in addition to snow geese, Canada geese, mallards, pintails, etc. It was photography nirvana! It did occur to me that none of my family would have tolerated more than a quick drive through the refuge, whereas, I spent the best parts of 3 days there. Again, on the spur of the moment, I decided to take a day trip to the Three Rivers Petroglyph site, a place I had visited 22 years before. In all I drove 200 miles round-trip to relive my first visit and I wasn't disappointed. This remote site near the foothills of the White Mountains holds about 21,000 ancient Indian rock carvings. The hike up the hill to view the rock carvings was more strenuous than it was 22 years ago but, then, I'm not 40 years old anymore. Sitting amidst the rocks, under a clear blue sky, with a cool breeze blowing my hair around, I looked out across the desert toward the mountains 50 miles to the west and experienced an overwhelming sense of peace. There was something about the experience that was almost spiritual—the same feeling I had 22 years ago. I felt like I had come full circle.

I still have places to go, either with someone else or by myself, but I hope I am never deterred from my adventures, because I go alone; rather, I hope I can continue to experience the freedom of spontaneity in my travel—oh, yeah, and take a lot of memorable pictures along the way.