

DEVELOPMENTS



Memphis
Camera
Club

February 2007 · www.memphiscameraclub.org

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MCC meets Twice a Month
1st Thursday: Competition
3rd Thursday: Program & Business
In the Longinotti Auditorium
behind St. Francis Hospital ER
West of Park & Ridgeway
At 7:00 PM

A Winning Club

— Barry Siegel

First, I would like to congratulate all those who won awards at the year-end banquet. It will make for a wonderful show at CBU this year. I'm sure that compared to our regular monthly competition, choosing photographs for the final awards among the best images that our club has to offer must be an even more difficult task. It was quite a collection of images as those of you know who attended. Up at the front of the room, adjoining tables, waiters and waitresses, and others passing by couldn't help but be transfixed by the nearly 150 images rotating by.

Though I shouldn't be, I continue to be amazed at the quality of work our club produces. I'm not talking about the few images which were chosen on this particular night, but of all the images that were submitted. Many of my favorites were chosen for awards that night, but many others that I loved were not. But it is not the images themselves which makes our club great (and I think we are!); it is the members who participate in the club activities and who provide assistance when needed. I'm talking about teaching classes, serving on committees, helping members with their cameras and printers, keeping up the website, writing articles for the newsletter, designing and producing the newsletter, helping put up exhibits, providing transportation to those who need it, volunteering for Race for the Cure, and so on. These are the things that make our club a winner in my mind. I want to extend a special thanks to all of you who continue to work so hard to make our club what it is. We couldn't do it without you!

Travel Photography

— Glenn Fuqua

What an amazing way to combine two loves — travel and photography. If you venture off the beaten path, you can see how others live and have the opportunity to photograph exciting candids, stunning landscapes and cityscapes, and everything in between.

Of course, we travel to places we have read, seen or heard about, but our photos don't have to look exactly like the familiar picture postcards. It's a challenge to make them our own — either by what we include in the photo, the angle we use, the lighting or some other aspect.



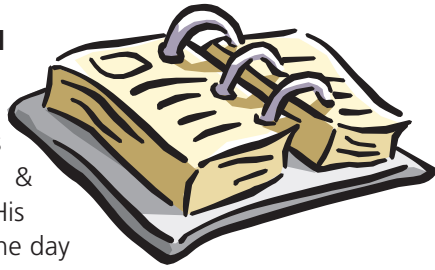
Photos are memories of our travel experiences. On a trip to Italy and France, my cousin and I rented a car and drove in the countryside on roads just wide enough (hopefully) for two miniscule cars to pass. We stopped when and where we wanted. We ventured inside grocery stores and pointed to the gorgonzola cheese, black olives and sun-dried tomatoes. One day a policeman

Continued on page 2

PROGRAMS FOR 2007

February 15th Year End Competition Dinner:

This month speaker will be **Sam Locastro**. Sam is an accomplished Portrait & Wedding Photographer. His presentation theme is "The day and Life of a Photographer." He will give tips on how to run a photography business and go through a general workflow of a photography job. Also, there will be a slide presentation illustrating samples of his work. So, everyone come out on February 15th, for a most informative and entertaining evening, especially those who are considering going into the photography business.



Continued from page 1

stopped us for going just a little over the speed limit, but upon realizing (quickly) that we were not Italian, he let us go on our way with a wave and a smile. And if you've never had your rental car break down on the expressway, been towed to a garage in Lucca and then taken a taxi to Pisa for a replacement car, you really haven't lived.

I could go on, but travel stories, like travel photos, are best kept brief. Edit your photos and then edit them again, several times. Cliff and Nancy Hollenbeck in Great Travel Photography offer this piece of advice: "Your family and friends will be anxious to see more photos if you only show them the very best shots from a trip. Show one bad photograph and it might become the one they remember."

Happy Travels!

Close-ups in the Spring

— Bob Laster

Today is a cool, rainy, gray January day. No leaves, not many people out and a good afternoon to take a nap. I even let my dog that usually likes it outside in because she looked depressed. But when I went out to get the dog, I found a bright, pink bloom fully opened on my backyard camellia bush. I've seen the greenery of daffodils and hardy amaryllis. I've even heard stories of daffodils blooming locally already. But now, here it is, a real bloom, a sign of spring. For those who might have stored their cameras for the winter or have been shooting only indoors, now is the time to start planning for spring. A golden opportunity will

come with our spring field trip to the Smokies. Think landscapes galore. But wait, there will also be many opportunities for close-up work with thousands of wild flowers blooming, moss and lichen on rocks and the occasional bear you might wish you had not seen so close. So how close were you to the bear to call it a close-up? I'd say a football field and a 500mm lens were ok for the bear. But a definition for a close-up photograph is when the reproduction ratio is from 1:10 to 1:1 (from 1/10th life size to life size). Macro is where the reproduction ratio is from 1:1 to 10:1 (from life size to 10X life size). Micros are where the reproduction ratio is greater than 10:1 (greater than 10X life size). These questions often arise in macro discussions but who cares? It's really what you want to do that counts. It's your creativity, imagination and the impact they create that count.

So what kind of gear do you need to do macro photography?

One of the best investments is a good macro lens (50mm, 90mm, 180mm or some variation). If you are not sure you want to do much macro work, an initial purchase of magnification filters for your present lens will work. However the quality is not quite as good as a dedicated macro lens. Another inexpensive way to get into macro photography is to purchase extension tubes. There is no glass with the tubes and no loss of image quality. Other options include coupling rings, reversal rings, and bellows but decide you want to do a lot of macro by shooting and experimenting before you buy any of these gadgets. A tripod is essential. Other very helpful gear includes a reflector, a diffuser, flash, cable release, and a gray card.

Experiment locally before the big trip. Try both in and outdoor subjects. Try small and large apertures with the entire photograph in focus, the subject only in focus and nothing in focus (the easiest). Try slow and fast ISO to help get the shot if it is windy. I also think that a fast ISO (1000 or greater) can produce an attractive "grain" whether portrait, macro or landscape. Once you're ready with the subject, gear and time, turn off auto everything. Meter your gray card for exposure and white balance, and then manually focus on the area of the photograph that is most important to you. Then check it for composition, exposure and general focus after a trial shot. If you are happy, shoot it again in case there was movement. Also refocus and shoot again. Then change the focus, aperture, ISO and composition and try again and again. I read an article that predicted a 10% success rate. Hmmm, that might be a little high. But the idea is to have fun and capture photographs that make you happy. Start thinking about the gear you have or might need in the Smokies. Practice and plan to do lots of photography this spring. Have fun, learn a lot and teach the rest of us some too.



February Photos of the month



Print Competition

Nature (14)

"Whoa A Red Snapper"
Thomas Richey – 27 Points

Color Open Print (8)

"Arkansas Beauty"
Barry Siegel– 25 Points

Color Scenic Print (13)

"Colors of Sunrise"
Dale Cox– 27 Points (POM)



B&W Print (8)

"Cool Mountain Stream"
Dale Cox – 26 Points

Candid People (8)

"Musicality and Symmetry"
Patti Possel – 24 Points

Creative (4)

"Sleeping Soldiers"
Steve Copen – 27 Points



Slide Competition

Scenic or Landscape (4)

"View From The Top"
Quinn Strother – 23 Points

Nature (8)

"Columbine"
Bob Laster – 25 Points (SOM)



"Colors of Sunrise"
Dale Cox – 27 Points (POM)



"Sleeping Soldiers"
Steve Copen – 27 Points

Be a good Winner

Be sure to send your images to maryphotcollage@aol.com and ellen.isaacman@goodadvertising.com for the web and newsletter respectively. This applies to both the slide and print of the month as well as all category winners. Send your stuff.

Special thanks to these Judges:

Carl Nilson, Sam Lacastro, Bruce Johnson and Tom Richey. There was a whopping number of photographs entered this month... 56 Prints and 13 slides!

A new addition (number of entries)

Please look at the titles of the categories, in parenthesis, is the number of entries in that category.

Check Our Website. It's Great!

www.memphiscameraclub.org

There is also additional information about dates of photo related events in the Mid South, field trips, etc at the website.

Natures Best Competition

A reminder to begin preparing your submissions for the camera club division of the Natures Best competition. Please prepare your submissions for MCC the same way the contest requires them. If not submitting slides (and I would never submit an original slide-only a duplicate), you will need to prepare two digital prints of each image which conform to the categories as laid out in the rules. One should be a low resolution JPEG 14 inches on the longest side at 72 dpi. The other should be an unsharpened TIFF 20 inches on the longest side at 400 ppi. The rules can be found here: http://www.naturesbestmagazine.com/pdf/2007_WSRIPA_guidelines.pdf

MCC spring field trip to the Smokies April 19-22, 2007

We are holding 20 rooms at the Hampton Inn at 967 Parkway in Gatlinburg, TN, April 19 for 3 nights. The rate is \$89.00, Thursday night, and \$109.00 for Friday and Saturday nights, plus 12.5 % tax. The rooms have 2 queen beds and include breakfast. You must contact the hotel direct to reserve your room by March 1, 2007. You can call them at 1-888-476-6597. Just tell them you are wanting to reserve a room in the block set up for the Memphis Camera Club. You will have up until 72 hours prior to arrival to cancel individual reservations. This rate is for 1-4 persons in the room.

PLEASE LET ANGIE KNOW IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON GOING AND/OR HAVE MADE RESERVATIONS.

THE FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A GROUP MEETING WITH THOSE PLANNING ON GOING. WE HAVE RESERVED ST CATHERINES MEETING ROOM FOR SUNDAY MARCH 4 AT 1:00 PM . THAT IS THE SMALLER MEETING ROOM WHICH IS ACROSS THE HALL FROM WHERE WE NORMALLY MEET ON THURSDAY NIGHTS.

Assigned Subjects for 2007*

April	Musical
June	Seven Deadly Sins – Illustrate one
August	Old - Not a person
October	Country Lane
November	Photo for a Holiday Card

*Only images shot after February 2007 are eligible.

February Birthdays

Neyle Sollee	02/12
Mike Sorensen	02/23

Happy birthday to you all!



What is a Portrait?

Hopefully this will help you decide where to put your candid people shots and if you truly have a portrait.

The clubs definition:

Portrait: A print of a person or group of people usually showing faces. This category includes prints in color or B&W. This category will be judged for proper portrait characteristics such as lighting, posing and the person(s) as the primary center of interest. Lighting, posing, and attention to detail are the keys to shooting portraits.

Kodak's thoughts on "people pictures" portraits:

Truly good people pictures seldom happen all by themselves. They take planning. Even casual-looking people pictures are often planned. Some planning is purely technical, such as selecting equipment and lighting. Other planning may include choosing your subject's clothing, hairstyle, pose, and setting.

The hallmark of a portrait is that you take control and leave little to chance. Will a portrait simply be a flattering likeness or a glimpse into your subject's personality? When you know what you want to achieve, everything else should work toward that end: the setting, the clothing, the props, the pose, the lighting, the composition, and so on.

Additional high scoring images



"Whoa A Red Snapper"
Thomas Richey – 27 Points



"Cool Mountain Stream"
Dale Cox – 26 Points



"Hallowed Light"
Steve Copen – 27 Points



"Arkansas Beauty"
Barry Siegel– 25 Points



"Musicality and Symmetry"
Patti Possel – 24 Points

Personal Gallery Page on our website!

MCC members who want a personal gallery page on the club website have only to copy their images (any format) onto a CD and get it to me. If you want titles to accompany the images please add a text file to the CD with that information. Your gallery doesn't have to be competition images, but keep the number of images under 20.