

November 4, 2009

Subject: Interstate Fair report

The 2009 Spokane Interstate Fair photography competition was an outstanding event because of the participation of many of the club members in putting the display together. The competition had 704 prints, entered by 149 individuals. It was a bit disappointing that more club members did not enter, as this is a good way to have your work seen by thousands? In any event the display was outstanding in every way, with the most prints ever entered. The state fair board gave the exhibit outstanding scores across the board! Volunteers from the club assisted in every aspect of preparing and presenting the exhibit. Beginning with set up day, the day before fair opening, we had Steve Shining, Tim Bailey, Paul DeRocker, Steve Dawson, Lynn Nordhagan, and Bob Griffith who put in over 6 hours of work hanging the prints on the walls and racks. This is a big job as some of prints are around 8 feet off the floor on the wall! It also had another peril, as the pins they used to mount the prints are sharp! The next big job was that of the booth hosts who provided the daily oversight of the exhibit, answered questions, solicited peoples choice votes, and generally represented the camera club on photography. This was a very time consuming activity and one which needs more volunteers in the future to avoid having to have members serve on several days, as was the case for the past several years. This years volunteers in that area included Ted & Nina Wiley, Otto Stevens, Paul DeRocker, Doug and Joan Oriard, Steve & Patty Shining, Donna Larson, Aaron Lowe, Celest Horpel, Steve Dawson, Roger Hartman, Mardelle Shagool, Norma Smith, Bev Hardin, Doreen Hoover, Tim Bailey, & Lynn Nordhagan. Several of these pulled more than one tour! Also included were Jan Hannick, Carlene Hardt, & Bobbi Zorn from the Valley Camera Club. The booth host pulls a 6-hour shift in exchange for a ticket to the fair, close up parking and the opportunity to visit the rest of the fair before or after their booth tour is over. A pretty good deal in all! Finally, another group, or should I say most of the same volunteers from the other activities, assisted in the take down of the exhibit. Because of the concerted effort of that group, all 704 prints were down in about 30 minutes, with the bagging/tagging of them for return to the fair office taking another hour. A very well done job! As with the hanging of the prints, the taking down requires a lot of high altitude activity from ladders and Steve Shining just about has the record for high ladder performance. Keeping ahead of him takes a lot of effort from the other folks! The exhibit of prints was very well received by the visitors to the fair, with many of them expressing awe at the magnitude of the display. Most had never seen anything to compare. The club should be very proud of their effort to put on this display for the community, as it is a great promoter of photography, and second to none in the Inland Empire area! Remember, the Spokane Camera Club sponsors this event.

LeRoy & Vicki Nielsen
Fair Superintendents