



Celebrating Our Seventy-Fifth Year!

Meeting Times: 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m. Scoring and Classes
Meeting Dates: 1st Wednesday – Board Meeting and Projected Images • 2nd Wednesday – Digital Users meeting
 3rd Wednesday – General Meeting and Print Images • 4th Wednesday – Workshop
 Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at Corbin Senior Activity Center, 827 W. Cleveland Ave.

Coming Events

See page 2 for details

- NO 4th Wednesday workshop this month
- December 19, 6:00 pm
 SCC Christmas Potluck, before the regular meeting
- December 31
 First Night Spokane, family-friendly New Year’s celebration.
- January 31 – February 4, 2008
 Photo Tour of Yellowstone Park by snow coach
- February 2-12
 Costa Rica Photo Tour

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I photograph continuously, often without a good idea or strong feelings. During this time the photos are nearly all poor but I believe they develop my seeing and help later on in other photos. I do believe strongly in photography and hope by following it intuitively that when the photographs are looked at they will touch the spirit in people.

Harry Callahan

Welcome to Visitors

November 21: Tim Johnson.

Digital Image Submissions

Email digital images to both Paul DeRocker and Will Murray. Action needed to “size” digital images is described on the Spokane Camera Club web site. (1024 pixels wide for “Landscape” style images by 768 images high.) It is OK to send images over-sized, but never under-sized.

Reader Feedback

Submit articles, news, or ideas for the Ground Glass to Terry Appling, terryapp@gmail.com or Otto Stevens, ottostevens@msn.com

“OTTO-FOCUS” – A Reporter’s Opinion

“Scorers should not be expected to give identical scores to images. Everyone will honestly evaluate a photograph according to his/her background.” – Jean Timmermeister, FPSA

“Nobody ever trusts paintings, but people believe photographs.” – Ansel Adams

“Seeing is Believing.” A commonly accepted phrase

“The professional man should never be anything but a continual student.” – Dr. G.V. Black

“Professionals caring for You.” – My motto for 41 years of dental practice

The four quotes above are my background for writing this column of Opinion. I have read LIFE magazine, and NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC cover-to-cover, since the 1930’s, and respected them as the absolute truth about the world around us. Their photographs inspired life-long goals to visit and experience those diverse cultures and magnificent wildlife. The beautiful images of the four corners of the world and their peoples, that are presented by our members each month, are wonderful additions to our knowledge and we thank you for that opportunity.

Computers are a wonderful asset to photography. I am grateful for the many camera club workshops, PSA, CAPA and community college seminars that taught me how to scan 1900 family slides (50 years worth) onto my computer, four years ago, labeled with dates and descriptions, and add 1400 new digital images of family, and after completing Kelly Howard’s “Photoshop Elements Organizer 5.0” I.E.L. class for Seniors, last week, “tag” the 3300 images by family and burn 71 CDs, individualized for 46 family members, as Christmas presents.

The issue is not whether we expose our images with film or digital. Digital photography has expanded the number of hobby photographers by multiples. There are many advantages, including immediate feedback, ability to change ISO settings with every exposure, miniaturization and cost. The monthly Spokane Camera Club “Digital Users” class has been very enlightening. We sincerely appreciate the time and effort that David Sams and Don Horton give to present that information very capably.

The issue is “How can the person who believes in natural, truthful photography be fairly scored, critiqued, or judged using the same criteria as for manipulated images?”

The goal of the “natural” photographer is to record life AS IT IS, and not how it COULD BE with manipulation. Should the “natural” photographer be scored and critiqued by standards that favor “manipulated” images, where ‘a Photoshop fairy tale containing a small fragment of reality’⁽¹⁾ to provide a “perfect” image with no distractions is championed?

My professional Code of Ethics removed any temptation to use a black pencil to darken shadows on a dental x-ray film to change the diagnostic appearance of “incipient decay” to a full blown cavity for financial gain. That same belief system prevents me from transplanting a blue sky with fluffy cumulus clouds into the space where a gray sky factually exists. At this point in time, I will not manipulate photographic images, and it annoys me to be critiqued for NOT doing so. Would you purchase a used car from a salesman who manipulated his photos?

We do admire and are amazed by the creative applied art skills of the Photoshop expert that produces those mind-boggling, unique and beautiful “manipulated images.”

We thank those brave souls who are willing to contribute their time and expertise to serve as Critiquers. Many critiquers are expert at using computer manipulation, pointing out how a “layer” or a “tool” could have healed a blemish, hidden a distraction, or substituted a spectacular environment for the dull shadows actually present at our own outing. This is very interesting and educational for those who choose to use manipulation. It would be rude and improper to challenge critiquers from the floor, asking that individual images be evaluated in a special way.

....continued on page 2....

....*Otto-Focus, continued from page 1*....

I cringe when I hear a photo described as “a good record shot”, or “a postcard view.” That may have been a very inspirational and emotional moment for that photographer. Haynes Studio sold many thousands of picture postcards in Yellowstone Park, and tourists try to emulate them. We all have egos, and repetitive analysis of how every image could have been “manipulated” to remove natural imperfections, when that person enjoys seeing scenics, buildings, and people as they are, appreciating nature’s imperfections and character wrinkles, instead of Botoxing them, can be demoralizing. When it is no longer enjoyable for a camera club member to compete, the easiest way to avoid discouragement is to quietly drop out, and many former regular image contributors are no longer members. I do not believe that our camera club wants to transition quietly from field photographers into an elite group of computer experts.

The last phrase in the Object of the Spokane Camera Club is: “promote greater interest and betterment in the knowledge and practice of amateur photography.”

The emphasis in our mission is on amateur photography. I do not advocate doubling the number of Divisions for entries, and would be perfectly happy to see categories being scored and critiqued sequentially, by groups. I suggest that each maker declare at the time of entry whether each image is “natural” or “manipulated”, group them, and ask scorers and critiquers to evaluate each image in a “natural” group on its merits, and NOT on how computer software could have improved it.

⁽¹⁾ “Is Photography Dead?”, Newsweek, 12/10/07 – *Thank you to John Klekas for forwarding this excellent article from Newsweek magazine, after I presented my concerns to the December 5 Board meeting.*

Otto O. Stevens, D.D.S., Reporter

Member Activities

Shows and Presentations

Bobbi Zorn has a print showing at Global Credit Union.

Community Involvement

Rodger Hartman requests 35mm film cameras for SFCC Photography students, either Free or for Sale.

SCC member **Pat Schilling** writes: “I have an acquaintance who works for Rite Care Spokane. They help children with language disorders, providing among other things speech therapy services.

They're looking for someone to shoot some stills of their "clients", and then help them in making a video. Ultimately, this will be used in conjunction with fund-raising.

Perhaps you know of someone in the club who might fit the bill, and maybe just forward this to the membership. They can e-mail me for contact information.”

Contact Pat if you're interested, patschilling@juno.com

Field Trips and Activities

First Night Spokane

First Night Chair, Paul DeRocker, requests volunteer photographers as Paparazzi for the many entertainment events downtown on New Year’s Eve.

It is an outstanding non-alcoholic celebration for the entire family with a multitude of activities ranging from Magicians to Symphony musicians, Kid’s Parade, and Fireworks. Contact Paul to volunteer @ (509) 467-5819.

Costa Rica Photo Trip

Dates during the ideal "drier" season for the 10-day naturalist-guided Costa Rica Photo Tour have been arranged to leave Spokane on Saturday, February 2, and return to Spokane from San Jose, Costa Rica on Tuesday, February 12.

Cost, AFTER round trip air-fare for arrival in Costa Rica, will be one extra night hotel stay (because of the time required to fly to San Jose), plus \$2200 U.S. for all of the essentials. Commitments need to be made by December 31. Group size will be limited to a maximum of 10 photographers. Contact Otto Stevens @ (509) 327-8954 for detailed itinerary and description direct from Gerhard Linner..

Yellowstone Snow Coach Photo Tour

Don Burnell (one of our new members, who has been entering many exquisite images – from Chicago’s skyscrapers and bridge to Iguassu Falls in South America) is organizing a drive to West Yellowstone, Montana, and 3 days of snow coach touring into Old Faithful and surrounding area.

Club News

November 21 Meeting

November scorers were Doug Amsbury, Steve Shining, and Dennis Biggs.

November critiquer Jay Cousins announced that his favorite book on Photography, “Looking at Photos” has NO used books on Amazon.com, but is available new for \$35. He also recommended a 2nd book, “Photography Until Now.”

Thanks to Jay for his informative critiques, which stressed utilizing mats that are white, grey, cream or bone, because they support the image the best, and the image “stands alone” as a piece of art. Lighter color mats allow the images to “float” towards you, while black or colored mats depress the photos. “Decorator art” allows colored mats.

His expertise is amazing in quickly evaluating sharpness, color control, composition, contrast, sense of motion, tension, over and under-exposure, distractions, and rhythm. “Less is better”, crop the image at the moment of capture.

Announcements: Deke Cloyd, Regional Director, PSA, encouraged membership, applauding the new Editorial content of the PSA Journal.

Deke announced the formation of “Jamuse”, a new free and easy Software program to quickly transmit images and information.

Deke also announced the launching of “Sirreal Magazine”, minimum of 100 pages per issue, which will be distributed in Seattle, Portland, Coeur d’Alene, and Spokane, dealing with urban revitalization, modeled after the “Purple Cow.” Deke is making offers to each camera club to provide images that will be their magazine subjects, with 12 images in every issue. Readers will choose the top photo, each year, and a \$1000 prize will be awarded to the maker. Call or E-mail Deke for details, for your participation.

At the Board Meeting

Corbin Senior Center no longer provides storage space for Spokane Camera Club equipment, so all racks, projectors, and refreshment equipment must be taken home by members after every meeting. Rent of \$45 per meeting, \$760 per year has been pre-paid through May of 2008.

Ideas for an alternative meeting place were presented, and members volunteered to investigate the availability and cost of a different meeting place. Minimum requirements are: Storage for SCC equipment, sink & power for coffee pot, allow food in room. The ideal location would include kitchen, stage, and Digital Projection.

Some suggested locations were the University District, Wildlife Council on north Market St., the Community Building on Main, the Unitarian Church, near SFCC, the Comcast Building, and Avista.

New Business: There was a proposal to maintain a maximum of six images per month submitted, but allow as many as 4 submissions as Digital Projections, with two as color digital images and two as monochrome digital images.

It was unclear whether this would result in an Additional Division to 5 Divisions in the 2008-2009 year, and President Horpel and Donna Larsen were absent from the Board meeting, so Vice-President Herrman deferred action on the proposal until the January 2008 Board meeting.

Concern was raised that “natural” images and “manipulated” images competing against each other while using the same criteria for evaluating each group was contributing to loss of long-time members. It was requested that the Board find a way to level the playing field, so “natural” photographers do not fade away. No action was taken.

December 5 Meeting

General Meeting: “35 mm Basics” video from Brooks Institute was presented as the “Alternative Program” during scoring of projected Images.

Nine Paparazzi Volunteers, Chaired by Paul DeRocker, met with Megan Hulsey, Associate Director of “First Night Spokane” for information and to coordinate venues for their volunteer photography of performers and participants at the New Years Eve non-alcoholic extravaganza, downtown. Phone Paul DeRocker immediately if you wish to serve and donate CDs of all of your images to “First Night Spokane” for their use in future publicity. Volunteer photographers get a free pass to all of the events & get “head of the line” preference at all venues. It is great fun, from 3:00 P.M. until midnight. You don’t have to commit for more than 3 hours.

Scorers were Doug Herrman, Ted Wiley, and Marilyn Bashore.

Critiquer for December is Jean Timmermeister, FPSA. Jean, an experienced critiquer who has judged many international competitions, including a recent competition in China, noted that we should not expect Scorers to give identical scores to the images, since every person sees images differently, according to the variety of our backgrounds.

Jean suggested that the Spokane Camera Club and Spokane Valley Camera Club provide a joint “35 mm Basics” course, since both clubs have many new members.

Her positive evaluations stressed looking at the edges of our photos to eliminate any thin areas of sky or distracting white or black spots by cropping the image. Also be sure to provide adequate space around our subjects to prevent having the subjects merge with the edges. Utilize fill-flash and reflectors to eliminate un-wanted shadows, avoid flat light, always remember the basics of composition, color, diagonals and leading lines.

Equipment for Sale

Hasselblad body 500 CM, Magazine A 12; Lens Carl Zeiss CF f 80 2.8; Lens Shade 60/80; Lens Zoom Schneider - Kreuznach Variogon Macro 5,6 140-280 with pillow case. All equipment is in very good condition. Please contact Mr. Luigi Ornaghi, 440 W Shingle Mill Road, Sandpoint ID 83864 (208) 265-8145

Some interesting statistics about Spokane Camera Club image submissions during the past 5 years.

Monthly Competition Totals for the Year	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	Projected 2007-2008
Color Prints	431	403	373	212	272
Monochrome Prints	250	224	254	150	160
Slides	383	290	274	124	124
Digital Projection	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	267	280
Total # of Images entered during Year	1064	917	901	753	836

N.A. means that Digital Projection was "Not Allowed" during the years 2003-04-05-06.

Projected Images for 2007-2008 was determined by taking the monthly averages through Nov.-Dec. times 8 months.

Spokane Camera Club membership totaled 130 on Jan. 24, 2005; 86 on Jan. 4, 2006; and 61 on Dec. 11, 2007.

Monthly Competition

Monochrome Division

Maker's Name	No.	Total Dec	Total Year
LeRoy Nielsen	8	24.0	106.0
Ted Wiley	8	28.0	104.0
Barbara Murray	8	23.0	97.0
Donald Burnell	8	19.0	88.0
Will Murray	8	19.0	87.0
Timothy Bailey	8	17.0	85.0
Mardell Shagool	8	19.0	83.0
Sr. Madonna Buder	8	16.0	81.0
Bobbi Zorn	3	--	36.0
Rebecca Tifft	3	--	28.0
Marilyn Bashore	2	--	22.0
John Klekas	2	--	22.0
Ed Petruzzello	2	19.0	19.0
Brian Crow	1	--	11.0
Dick Fanazick	1	8.0	8.0
David Sams	1	--	7.0

Digital Division

Maker's Name	No.	Total Dec	Total Year
Barbara Murray	8	29.0	108.0
John Moore	8	24.0	102.0
Marilyn Bashore	8	22.0	100.0
Pat Schilling	8	22.0	99.0
Will Murray	8	19.0	99.0
David Sams	8	23.0	96.0
Steve Shining	8	19.0	95.0
Stephen Dawson	8	22.0	94.0
Tony Horpel	8	21.0	94.0
Rich Pokorny	8	18.0	85.0
Mardelle Shagool	8	16.0	77.0
John Klekas	6	--	72.0
Kenneth Kelling	7	17.0	70.0
Dennis Biggs	6	23.0	64.0
Donald Burnell	6	20.0	63.0
Glenn Dibler	6	19.0	61.0
Nancy Dibler	5	22.0	55.0
Claudia Biggs	4	20.0	46.0
Jim Heywood	4	19.0	43.0
Terry Appling	4	21.0	42.0
Laura Lok	4	19.0	41.0
Tony Hollobon	4	18.0	40.0
David Lok	3	20.0	33.0
Doug Oriard	2	25.0	25.0
Doug Herrman	2	23.0	23.0
Paul DeRocker	2	20.0	20.0
Bobbi Zorn	2	--	20.0
Joan Oriard	2	16.0	16.0
Ed Petruzzello	2	15.0	15.0
David Hubert	2	--	15.0
Brian Crow	1	--	13.0
Rebecca Tift	1	10.0	10.0

Color Print Division

Maker's Name	No.	Total Dec	Total Year
Tony Horpel	8	22.0	104.0
Barbara Murray	8	20.0	103.0
Marilyn Bashore	8	29.0	102.0
Lori Carlton Smith	8	22.0	99.0
Will Murray	8	22.0	98.0
Tim Bailey	8	20.0	92.0
Donald Burnell	8	21.0	91.0
Mardelle Shagool	8	19.0	86.0
Sr. Madonna Buder	8	19.0	82.0
Otto Stevens	8	20.0	81.0
Bobbi Zorn	6	--	70.0
Clif Caldwell	6	11.0	62.0
Ted Wiley	4	18.0	59.0
Paul DeRocker	5	9.0	58.0
Doug Amsbury	4	10.0	46.0
John Klekas	4	10.0	42.0
Dennis Biggs	3	--	41.0
Rebecca Tifft	3	--	35.0
Claudia Biggs	2	--	28.0
Doug Evenson	2	--	24.0
Ken Phipps	2	--	23.0
Rodger Hartman	2	--	21.0
Richard Fanazick	2	19.0	19.0
Doug Herrman	2	--	17.0
Ed Petruzzello	2	14.0	14.0
Tony Hollobon	1	--	12.0
Donald Horton	1	10.0	10.0

Slide Division

Maker's Name	No.	Total Dec	Total Year
Pat Schilling	8	22.0	95.0
Otto Stevens	8	23.0	92.0
Donald Burnell	8	21.0	90.0
LeRoy Nielsen	8	20.0	87.0
David Sams	8	23.0	85.0
Clifton Caldwell	8	18.0	85.0
Sr. Madoona Buder	8	15.0	73.0
Paul DeRocker	6	17.0	52.0

November Subject: Low Angle (24" off the ground)

December Scorers:

Ted Wiley Marilyn Bashore Doug Herrman

**The subject for January is:
Winter Scenes**

Spokane Camera Club Officers

2007 — 2008

PresidentTony Horpel
 Vice President..... Doug Herrman
 Secretary Terry Appling
 TreasurerPaul DeRocker
 Past President.....Betty Ledlin

Board of Trustees

2007 — 2008

Steve Shining Bobbi Zorn
 Donna Larsen Dennis Biggs
 Will Murray John Klekas