



The Ground Glass

SPOKANE CAMERA CLUB NEWS BULLETIN • SPOKANE, WASHINGTON
Affiliated with the Photographic Society of America



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

- January 23, 7-9 pm
4th Wednesday Workshop; “Portraiture”
by Ira Gardner. Photography Building,
SFCC
- January 26, 9 am - noon
Live model portrait shoot, Photography
Building, SFCC
- January 31 – February 4, 2008
Photo Tour of Yellowstone Park by
snow coach
- February 2-12
Costa Rica Photo Tour
- February 13, 7-9 pm
Digital Users Group, Photography
Building, SFCC

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New Members

A big welcome to Dean and Pam McGill!

Reader Feedback

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

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.

The fact is that relatively few photographers ever master their medium. Instead they allow the medium to master them and go on an endless squirrel cage chase from new lens to new paper to new developer to new gadget, never staying with one piece of equipment long enough to learn its full capacities, becoming lost in a maze of technical information that is of little or no use since they don't know what to do with it.

Edward Weston

A Second Opinion by Terry Appling

“Although photography generates works that can be called art – it requires subjectivity, it can lie, it gives aesthetic pleasure – photography is not, to begin with, an art form at all. Like language, it is a medium in which works of art (among other things) are made.” Susan Sontag

Last month’s Ground Glass featured an article arguing the merits of “natural” photographs as opposed to manipulated photographs, and the difficulties in evaluating the two fairly. This article is intended as a friendly response, hopefully as well thought out, and certainly an opinion.

I’ll start off by stating that, in my opinion, there can be no truly “natural” photograph. If a camera is aimed, and the shutter opened, decisions have been made concerning what will or will not be captured. The resulting image is constrained, or manipulated, by the decisions that were made. The term “making an image”, itself evokes manipulation; we are using the tools of light, focus, aperture, and shutter speed to control the image that is recorded. Add another essential tool, composition, and we have very powerful means to exercise near total control over the final image.

Have you used reflectors to add light to your images of wildflowers? Have you used a tripod and slow shutter to capture the silky flow of moving water? Have you used filters to reduce glare, or deepen certain colors? Or have you carefully planned to be at a certain spot at sunset, or waited for days for the clouds to be just right? Maybe you’ve moved a fallen leaf, picked up a scrap of litter, or pulled a branch to the side. All of these are examples of manipulating the “natural” environment in order to enhance, emphasize, and perhaps exaggerate some aspect of the final image. These are all things that we learn to do, are admonished to do, as we practice and learn and grow in our photographic skill.

And these are all things that can, and have been, done with and without a computer. In fact, many tools used on the computer to enhance photographic images are specifically designed to imitate techniques that have been used for decades in both the field and the darkroom. Either way, care and planning is required of the photographer. Either way, advanced skills give the potential to make a superior image, but do not guarantee it. Either way, the final image is an expression of both the maker’s vision and ability. Each of us uses the tools that we have, and are most comfortable with, to offer our own interpretation of the world around us.

Further, I believe that it is not inherently deceptive to manipulate an image, or interpret what we see. There are many uses for photography, many different motivations for making an image. “Record shots”, and “postcard shots”, are perfectly valid and serve specific purposes. A record shot deliberately records a place or event, and would be expected to favor accuracy of detail over impact. A postcard shot often portrays a commonplace subject in idealized circumstances. Both of these require certain photographic skills. For amateur photographers, these skills are useful, and may even be profitable. More often than not, though, we are trying to portray emotion and feeling, to stir a reaction in others as they view our images. In this context, an accurate reproduction of what is in front of the lens may be inadequate to convey the mood of a scene, or the intent of the maker. We should encourage photographers, both beginners and seasoned veterans, to be creative in visualizing what a scene could be, in addition to appreciating the “natural” reality of the scene.

Finally, should “natural” images be judged differently than “manipulated” images? Should it matter, whether an image was “manipulated” in the field, or the darkroom, or on a computer? Ultimately, all images must be evaluated by the same standards we have always used. Does the image have impact? Is it exposed appropriately? Does the composition support the subject? These are the elements that make a strong image. An expensive camera, or an exotic location, or the latest image editing software, are not what determine the strength or value of a photograph. It takes the knowledge and skill of a photographer (and luck never hurts, either) to make an outstanding image.

And that is how our images must be evaluated; according to their own strength, and not by the tools used to create them.

Member Activities

INSIGHTS about FIRST NIGHT

Nine volunteers, 7 from Spokane Camera Club and 3 from Spokane Valley Camera Club, were led by "First Night" Chair Paul DeRocker to 70 venues downtown, to serve as Paparazzi, photographing a broad variety of performances and the enthusiastic audiences. The volunteers were Sister Madonna Buder, Tim Bailey, Brian Crow, Paul DeRocker, David Hubert, John Moore, Rosemarie Bisiar, Harvey Brown, and Otto Stevens.

David Hubert: "Wonderful time and enjoyed this first experience. Had no hesitation maneuvering through the crowd or the event to get the right view point. "First Night" attendees were all quite accommodating, many simply ignoring me while they enjoyed the activities at hand. Look forward to participating again next year."

Sister Madonna: "Everyone seemed to take the cold in stride, all enjoying themselves. Never heard an unpleasant word. Parents had their kids under control. My batteries periodically froze, so I enjoyed observing more than shooting."

Brian Crow: "Unique opportunity for me to photograph people of all ages enjoying themselves, both indoors and outdoors. Uncommon characters and extraordinary entertainers to photograph – craftsmen working their trades, juggler on a unicycle, acoustic instrument acts, with music from folk to classical, and soul deep blues in the icy cold of the night. God willing, I'll be there again next year."

John Moore: "Once again, I had an absolute blast down there. When I entered Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral, I realized that I was looking at the "best part" of our community – the very talented kids in the Youth Symphony and Choir. Their smiles, their skills, were all on display during "First Night". Watching and capturing some images of these quality youth provided good insight into the next generation of Spokane's leaders."

Tim Bailey: "I consider it a privilege to photograph the various community activities on a volunteer basis. I got a big "high" helping with the National Junior Disabilities Championship last summer. To see the young kids at "First Night" enjoy themselves was another "high." Who needs alcohol or drugs when you can experience such satisfaction with producing 5 CDs of images of young children and adults having fun? Also, as we take more photos, we improve our skills as a photographer."

Otto Stevens: "Every child and every adult was smiling and having great fun – the many volunteers helping the kids with colorful masks, face painting, drums and other crafts, and the kids excitedly absorbed in the mass of activities around them. Folks were courteous and welcoming of having their photos, and their children's photos, taken. Quality of music from hard rock to Gospel to Irish tin whistle to our marvelous Spokane Symphony provided a variety to meet everyone's taste, in addition to the many other forms of entertainment."

Paul DeRocker: "I too enjoyed myself and made about 425 images. I still haven't learned that I can't be everywhere getting images of everything! The crowd was always ready with a big smile and happy to be in front of a camera. I'll start resizing and converting the Raw files Thursday after work. Meanwhile, I need to catch up on my beauty sleep!"

Our sincere thanks to "First Night" chair Paul DeRocker! Thank you for your leadership in providing "First Night" with thousands of photos which they can use to advertise and promote "First Night 2008!"

Field Trips and Activities

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

December 19th Meeting

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

Critiquer, Jean Timmermeister, FPSA, continued her recommendations for improvement of print presentations. "A mat is part of the presentation of prints. International Exhibitions require black, white, or gray mats. Expose and Print for crisp contrasts of black and white with Monochromes, rather than grays."

The delicious potluck Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all, and generous contributions were forwarded to the Food Bank.

At the Board Meeting

New Meeting space reports were that Unitarian Church, University District, and Comcast Building are either not adequate or not available for regular usage. The Corbin Senior Center would allow us to return to storing our equipment in their building, if WE can find a space for storage. Wildlife Council Building IS available, but adequacy of storage space is yet to be determined. New Building at SFCC has ideal facilities, and MAY be available. Rental rate and adequacy of storage are to be determined. Consensus was to delay a decision, pending further information.

Nominating Committee appointed. Chair, Barbara Murray, Don Horton, Tim Bailey.

Spyder calibrator for Club projector was authorized to be purchased.

Biennial Photo Print Exchange with Nishinomiya Photo Arts Club continuation was approved. Chair, Don Horton will need 25-30 color or B and W prints matted to 16 by 20 size, early in the Fall of 2008. Spokane Falls Community College will display the prints from Japan.

Community Service Recognition for Volunteer Photographers concept was presented by John Moore. John offered to develop and Chair the Committee if the concept is approved by the Membership.

Continuing Education, Barbara Murray, Chair:

NEW 2nd Wednesday addition, 6:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. – "35 mm. Basics" by Don Horton. Photography Building, SFCC. Based on college level textbook. Bring cameras and manuals. Expect assignments. 3 Sessions: January 9, February 13, and March 12. Helpers would be welcome to assist.

LIVE MODEL PORTRAITURE SHOOT: Saturday, January 26, 9:00 A.M. – Noon. Photography Building, SFCC. Instructor to be Recruited!

"SLIDELUCK POTSHOW" will be co-sponsored by Spokane Camera Club and the Institute for Extended Learning of the Spokane Community College District, at SFCC. 40 to 50 slides (or digital images) with music, shown in 5 minutes. Four presentations were made by Club members at the last show. Will Murray showed the excellent National Junior Disability Championship presentation made by Stephen Dawson III, as an example. Will Murray will Chair future "POTSHOWS", and requests entries from Club members.

January 2nd Meeting

Scorers were Sister Madonna Buder, Dr. Ed Petruzello, and John Klekas.

Our critiquer was Ira Gardner, SFCC Photography Instructor, Past-President of Spokane Camera Club. Ira's helpful observations included: seeing multiple photos within the scenes, crop in, simplify the images, merging with borders, concentrate on the center of interest, focus in tighter. Ira commended the emotional impacts, moods with fog, local icons, repetition of subjects, color saturation, and imagination to SEE images.

We appreciate your very positive and discerning input, and thank you, Ira.

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 Jan	Total Year
Barbara Murray	10	25.0	133.0
Marilyn Bashore	10	28.0	128.0
John Moore	10	26.0	128.0
Tony Horpel	10	29.0	123.0
Steve Shining	10	28.0	123.0
Will Murray	10	23.0	122.0
Pat Schilling	10	23.0	122.0
David Sams	10	21.0	117.0
Stephen Dawson	10	16.0	110.0
Rich Pokorny	10	23.0	108.0
Mardelle Shagool	10	22.0	99.0
Kenneth Kelling	9	23.0	93.0
Donald Burnell	8	29.0	92.0
Dennis Biggs	8	21.0	85.0
Glenn Dibler	8	19.0	80.0
Nancy Dibler	7	19.0	74.0
John Klekas	6	--	72.0
Jim Heywood	6	24.0	67.0
Claudia Biggs	6	21.0	67.0
Doug Oriard	4	21.0	46.0
Paul DeRocker	4	24.0	44.0
Terry Appling	4	--	42.0
Laura Lok	4	--	41.0
Tony Hollobon	4	--	40.0
Doug Herrman	3	15.0	38.0
Ed Petruzzello	4	22.0	37.0
David Lok	3	--	33.0
Bobbi Zorn	2	--	20.0
Doug Evenson	2	19.0	19.0
Joan Oriard	2	--	16.0
David Hubert	2	--	15.0
Brian Crow	1	--	13.0
Rebecca Tift	1	--	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 Jan	Total Year
Pat Schilling	10	19.0	114.0
Otto Stevens	10	20.0	112.0
LeRoy Nielsen	10	21.0	108.0
Clifton Caldwell	10	22.0	107.0
Donald Burnell	10	14.0	104.0
David Sams	10	16.0	101.0
Sr. Madoona Buder	10	23.0	96.0
Paul DeRocker	6	--	52.0

January Subject: Winter Scenes

January Scorers:

Sr. Madonna Buder Ed Petruzzello John Klekas

**The subject for February is:
Sports**

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