

# FOCUS

## SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

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Number 4

### Print group presents Harry Wirtz

Harry Wirtz is a photographer and graphic production artist who makes his home in rural Edinburg, NY, in the southern Adirondack Park.

His photography, spanning thirty years, encompasses educational slide shows, products, musicians, landscapes, and still lifes. Recent exhibits in the region in 2005 include group shows at Albany Center Galleries, Mohawk-Hudson Regional Artist Exhibition, and the Perrella Gallery. Working with both large format film and digital equipment, he does hand-made

limited edition books of photographs and close-up nature panoramas. His graphic arts services extend from retail advertising through book layouts, with web design a new experience over the past year.

His presentation on Wednesday, January 4 for the Schenectady Photographic Society will be about his photography, in the form of a projected presentation with actual prints. He will share his thinking about photography and issues related to achieving high-resolution images and prints from both film originals and digital files.

*Queen Anne's Lace, 2005.  
Colorinkjet print from digital  
composite, 14 x 34 inches.  
Copyright Harry Wirtz.*

[www.harrywirtz.com](http://www.harrywirtz.com)



### January will be an Over- view of PSA Digital Salons

Ken Deitcher M.D. FPSA

Photographic Society of America has had print and slide salon information available to members for many years. The most recent are the digital salons. These exhibitions give competitors the opportunity to show their creativity to international photography groups and have them judged. Winners get acceptances, points and possible medals. The accepted images are burned to a CD and all participants receive a copy. On slide night I will show several of these salons, as well as a publication of images

that compete in one of the world's largest, the Austrian Super Circuit. The submissions; prints, slides and digital images are submitted by the administrators to 4 European Salons, in over 13 different topics for prizes ranging from complete Hasselblad outfits to several digital cameras. These images are the best in the world and competition is open to amateurs and professionals alike.

*Please see PSA digital salon photo page 3*

# Digital Does Vegas

Jeff Perkins, digital and mentoring chairman

What a great town! As a photographer, Las Vegas has so much to offer. You have incredible architecture, fascinating landscapes, beautiful mountain ranges with sunsets galore, beautiful and not so beautiful people. Las Vegas is a very affordable vacation destination from Albany, particularly if you look for airline and hotel specials and stay only Monday through Thursday evening. We had a great room at the Luxor Hotel for only \$89 a night, including a bunch of free meals and other freebies!

Besides all the stuff to photograph in town, especially at night with incredible colored lights, there is beautiful Red Rock Canyon to tour and capture beautiful images only 20 minutes west of Las Vegas. I chose my Konica-Minolta Maxxum 7D camera with the kit 24-100 8mm digital lens and a 16 mm 2.8 Minolta lens. I brought three 1 GB CompactFlash cards and a 40 GB PD 70 X digital wallet for plenty of backup storage. The only filter I brought for daytime use was a circular polarizer.

One of the advantages of this camera is built-in Anti-

shake technology. This gives you three usable stops so that one can handhold the camera where as with non-Anti-shake/image stabilization, a tripod would be required. None

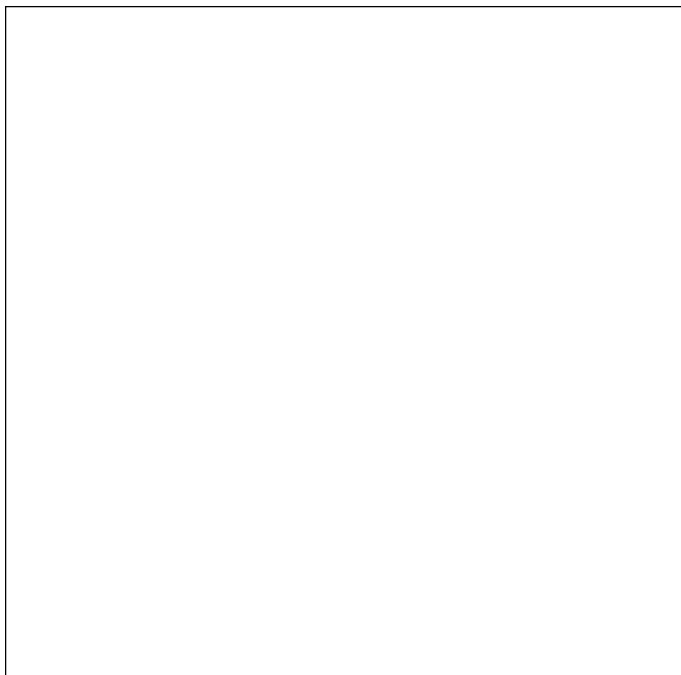
of my shots required a tripod. Even the night shots of the beautiful half size Eiffel Tower and the Statue of Liberty replica, were comfortably captured with ISO 800, handheld. I took a beautiful photograph of a Sammy Davis Jr. impersonator doing his famous song "Mr. Bo Jangles", handheld at ISO 1600. This is one of the main advantages of professional digital SLR cameras, the ability to change ISO on-the-fly and get high quality, low noise images even as high as 1600 and in some cases 3200. You can see my images on Smugmug @:

<http://morninglight.smugmug.com/gallery/970379>. So if you are a little bored with photographing locally, have some time and a bit of money, consider Vegas. You will be well rewarded by this rich photographic environment.

*Photo above: Image of Las Vegas pointing south from the top of the Paris Hotel Eiffel Tower. Handheld!*


*Photo below Mr. Bo Jangles.*

*Both photos © Jeff Perkins*



**RESTORATIONS**

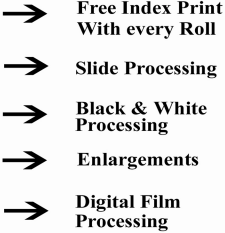
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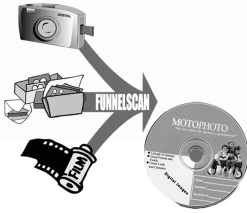




Photo by Carl Vanhulle of Belgium. It was the winner of the PSA super circuit. On slide night, January 11th, Ken Deitcher will be showing the winners of the PSA digital circuit. See the first page for more details.



## Photo Essay meeting to be held January 25th.

Our second meeting of the year will be January 25, 2006. At this meeting, Jim Craner will demonstrate the use of Pro Show Gold, the program Howie Johannessen used last year for his award winning slide essay *Alf*. We also will be examining some of the great masters of the photo essay to see what some of the commonalities are in this method of presenting a body of work. There will be only one more meeting in the year (March) before the year end competition so please come with ideas of what you might want to do, a project in process (either slide essay or print essay) for feed back, or just come to see what photo essays are all about and get inspired to try your hand. Remember this is for both **print and slide** essays.

## January 18th is next digital meeting

*Bob Riccardo*

The title of my program is "Photoshop for beginners." I will get into the basics of Photoshop: how to set up your own work space, how to change your preferences, how to make your own keyboard shortcuts or change the default shortcuts and other little items that might be helpful when starting out in Photoshop. Those with knowledge of photoshop might pick up some pointers too.

As always, there will be a digital mentoring session from 7:00 to 7:30p.m.



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## Recover lost digital photos

*from the Kim Kommando show Nov 30, 2005*

**Q.** Somehow I managed to lose my family vacation pictures from the digital camera. All I wanted to do was edit them. They must still be on the memory card. But how do I retrieve them, or who can do that kind of work? My wife's 43rd birthday and my daughter's 8th birthday are on this card. Both are ready to kill me. Your urgent reply would be considered life-saving.

**A.** A memory card mishap can range from nuisance to devastation. And some photos are worth more than any camera. That's especially true of photos of our kids, who don't stay little for long.

Given the importance of these pictures, I'd look first at recovery services. There are a number of firms that do recovery work. [FlashFixers](#) offers such a service. Others include [Media Recover](#) and [eProvided](#). Prices for these services vary with each request.

Don't forget about local shops. Check your phone directory for photography stores or data recovery. Call around. Ask how much experience these people have, and whether they do the work themselves. They may farm it out.

If you prefer to do this yourself, there is plenty of software around. Some good examples include [PhotoRescue](#) (\$29), [ImageRecall](#) (\$40), [Search and Recover](#) (\$40), and [ZAR32](#) (\$99).

Each offers a free trial version that allows you to determine if your photos are recoverable.

[Lexar](#), a maker of memory cards, also offers recovery software. Its Image Rescue 2.0 is \$30. It does not show a trial version.

### Notes from two of our members:

**Nick Argyros:** I recently bought a 512 LEXAR CF and on the chip was a copy of Image Rescue. Look at the fine print on the package to see if it is included at no extra cost.

SanDisk offers to sell their recovery software for \$30.

**Len Meiselman:** I found myself in the same situation recently and found freeware at [www.convar.com](#). The program is Image Inspector and works fine. Recovered every picture ever written to this 1gig card which apparently had not been overwritten.

## Monitor Calibration

*Jim Barthman*

*Jim Barthman is a certified Photoshop. Ace. His web site is <http://photoshophelp.blogs.com>*

I get questions all the time regarding color management. The most common question- "I want the image on my monitor to look my prints, where do I start?"

Calibrate your monitor. It's quick and easy to do and Adobe has even provided the tools necessary to do it.

PC users will find the utility **Adobe Gamma** in the Control Panels.

Mac OSX users will find the utility **Calibrate** in the System Preferences.

Choose **System Prefs > Display** and click on the Color tab. Both utilities provide step by step instructions for calibrating the first piece of hardware in the digital workflow, the monitor.

November 06, 2005 in [Color Management/Correction](#) |

## A great program called Picasa

*Ken Deitcher*

Picasa automatically finds photos on your camera or photo CDs and organizes your pics. This photo organizer lets you browse photos and watch slideshows. You can touch up red-eye and other imperfections without any danger of saving over the original. And if you'd like to share your photographic wonders with the world, e-mailing a photo is made much easier.

Version: 2 Price: Free

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# December Competition Results

## Prints

Successful Critique Night

*Ray Henrikson*

The Print Group meeting last month centered around the annual Critique Night. Forty-five prints were entered for consideration, there was no assigned topic, and a member could submit a maximum of two prints. Each print received detailed criticism from the judges, and occasionally from the audience. Judges were Gary Hollinger, a local professional photographer who has judged at SPS many times; Stephanie White, a former president of SPS who has judged our print competitions previously; and Tom Knight, also a former president of the Society who was passing through the area and was invited to participate.

Of particular interest and occasionally to the amusement of the audience was the not infrequent conflict between judges. This just highlighted yet once again the subjective nature of judging fine art photography. At times, it seemed as the audience was judging the judges, whether they realized it or not!

Some lessons were learned in this second iteration of Critique Night: Having three judges' comment on a print is probably too much – two judges are adequate, and two prints per person may be excessive. Please convey your thoughts, impressions, etc. concerning Critique Night to Ray Henrikson (439-4308, rhenriks@nycap.rr.com).



## Slides

### General 12 Entries

* Jeff Plant	Two Leaves on Ice	1
Ruby Gold	Shadows on Stockade Steps	2
Luba Ricket	Coincidental Callas	3
Kevin Sarsfield	Vortex	HM
Ken Deitcher	Two of a Kind	HM

### Assigned Handyman Special 8 Entries

** Kevin Sarsfield	Tick Tock	1
Kevin Sarsfield	Timepiece Gears	2
Connie F. Houde	Cracked	3
Luba Ricket	Screwiness	HM

**Judge** Sandy Noyes

### Winners Notes:

\* Taken with a Nikon F100 on a tripod, a Nikon 300 mm f4 lens and Velvia 100 film. It was in the morning at the Crossings Park in Colonie. The two leaves were in a small frozen ditch making rhythmic patterns in the ice.

\*\* Camera: Nikon F3, Film : Fuji Provia 100. Lens : 135mm Novoflex short mount - adapted for Bellows. Also, 2 extension tubes, a 2x tele-extender and full bellows extension yielded about a 6x total magnification on film.

Entire unit was mounted on a rigid copy stand - and a focussed microscope illuminator was used as a light source. Since the light source was about 2800 degrees Kelvin, I chose not to filter it, as it accentuated the brass of the watch face with very "yellow" light.

The tick was - at one time - live, and as the judge said - many times - totally unnecessary for the photo - but very necessary because of the title of the image. Key factor with this set up - lots of bracketing for the right exposure - use mirror-lock-up and a remote release so as not to introduce any vibration to the rig.



Schenectady Photographic Society  
is a member of the  
Photographic Society of America

## A trip to Ireland planned for next October

Anyone who would like to go to Ireland next October, read on. A trip to a Hillcrest House, a B&B in western Ireland is being planned. The dates are Oct. 9-19, 2006. The cost is approximately \$2,300 (depending on the air fare). We will be staying at Hillcrest House in County Mayo for the 10 days, and making daily trips out and about the country side. Our guide is very familiar with the best photographic locations in the area. Breakfast and dinner is provided each day, as is transportation to and from Shannon airport.

A minimum of 6 participants is necessary, with a maximum of 11. If interested, please email Linda Buckman who will then email you some additional information [linda@empireone.net](mailto:linda@empireone.net) A deposit of \$500 is required, and you must be ready to pay for the airfare as soon as a flight is booked.

## Welcome new members

We are delighted to welcome you to SPS. If you have any questions, please ask one of our Board members.

Edie Abrams  
Carole Clements  
Bernie Clements  
Terence Curran  
Mary Curran  
Ron Guglielmo  
Ron Herndon  
Mary Herndon  
Henry Ilnicki  
Steven Johnson  
Geraldine Johnson  
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Bill Rolston  
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Laura Schatzel  
Raub Smith  
Isaac Smith  
Beth Smith  
Schuyler Smith  
Wyatt Smith



*Kayaks. Photo by Steven Jarrett*

## Steven Jarrett has picture on web site

Steven Jarrett had one of his photos selected by Adorama as one of six to be included on their new web page currently under construction.

## Coming soon...the Photo Grab Bag

*Linda Wroble*

January 4th, 2006 will kick off the photo grab bag competition. Participants will receive a roll of slide film and the topic they are to shoot. The undeveloped film must be returned the following week. The chairperson will have the film developed and returned to the competitor on Wednesday, January 25 when he/she will have fifteen minutes to select their best slides for judging. The cost to participate is \$15.00. The winners will receive cash prizes.

An example of previous competitions is available on the SPS website.

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# News You Can Use

SPS records with sorrow the death of Jack August. He has been an active member since 1952 and was the recipient of many awards for his beautiful photography.

## Two members have pictures on web site

Stewart Sacklow and Ruby Gold each had a picture picked by Arborwood for their photo of the week. Stewart's was shown the week of December 4th and Ruby's appeared the week of December 18th. Ken Deitcher's photos appear often on this site. To see the photos, go to [http://www.arborwood.com/Photo\\_Week/thisweek.cgi](http://www.arborwood.com/Photo_Week/thisweek.cgi)

## Three members have photos on exhibit

Ray Hull was in 3 invitational shows in November: Albany Center Galleries' first fundraiser at the Washington Avenue Armory, Historic Albany Foundation's Annual Vacancy Show, and the Damien House's annual Art for AIDS show. Eight of his nine pieces were sold.

Two members, Connie Houde and Bill DeLaney, are also

currently exhibiting at the new Exposed Fine Art Photography Gallery in Delmar <http://www.exposedartphotography.com/>

## Bill DeLaney had photo published

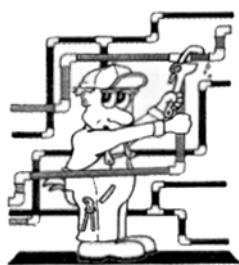
Bill DeLaney had a Holgaroids photo published in Issue #90 of *SHOTS* magazine. Issue was about "the city." *Shots* is a great B/W photo art magazine published four time a year

## Jim Craner to hold two workshops

Jim Craner will be having two matting and framing workshops. They will be on Saturday, January 21st and Saturday, February 18th.

Contact Jim Craner at [RENARC@aol.com](mailto:RENARC@aol.com) or at 518-526-2253 for further details. Space is limited to four people per session.

Web Page Address  
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## January Calendar

Wednesday, January 4

Print group: Achieving high-resolution images and prints from film originals and digital files/Harry Wirtz

Assigned: Trees

Wednesday, January 11

Slide group: PSA digital salon photos / Ken Deitcher

Assigned: Through the Looking Glass

Wednesday, January 18\*

Digital: Photoshop for beginners, the basics to get you started / Bob Riccardo

Mentoring session 7:00p.m. - 7:30p.m.

Wednesday, January 25

Photo Essay: Pro Show Gold / Jim Craner

Photo Grab Bag competition

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m.

\*Board meetings are at 6:30 p.m.



The *Focus* is published nine times a year by the Schenectady Photographic Society. The organization meets each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. from October through May to promote and present informative programs, activities and competitions in the photographic arts for photographers throughout the Capital District. Members range from novice to expert.

Annual dues are \$30.00 for individuals and families. The *Focus* newsletter is included in the membership dues. SPS meets at the First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, New York. Parking and entrances are on Chapel Street, a one way street off Nott Terrace. Guests are welcome at all regular meetings.