FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

Print meeting to feature Leif Zurmuhlen

Proctor's Theatre
photo © Leif Zurmuhlen

Leif Zurmuhlen will be our speaker on print night, January 3rd. He will show some of his work and talk about his career, which has been varied and interesting. He has been making photographs since he was 13 years old. His favorite subject has always been people, especially women.

SPS member Ray Hull to show medium format slides

Ray Hull lives on the Hudson and relies on photography to supplement his writing. After three years of early SLR-digital use, he reinvested in film; this time, in medium-format (2¼"/ 6 cm-sq). He appreciates Teutonic technology, good glass, good architecture in crisp light, and the discipline of shooting formal, full-frame views, and avoiding any significant cropping or manipulation.

His photography interest dates back to developing and printing black and

Shazams Snak Shop
Photo ©Ray Hull

Digital camera essentials

The following is the part 2 article reprinted with permission from Photoxels - www.photoxels.com/fundamentals.html. The author is Yim Wong

Optical vs. Digital Zoom

Which is better, a digital camera with 3x optical zoom and 2x digital zoom — or one with 2x optical zoom and 4x digital zoom?

The answer is easy if you understand the difference between optical zoom and digital zoom.

With optical zoom, you use the optics of the camera to bring your subject closer, just like in a conventional non-digital camera.

Digital zoom is simply another fancy term to mean "blow up" — as in "enlarge" — the actual picture, which therefore *always* results in a loss of picture resolution. Just as in a film-based picture, enlarging the image magnifies the "grain" of the image, similarly digital zoom 'magnifies' the dots or pixels that make up the digital image (increases the "noise level").

[*Editor's note:* In reality, you do not really magnify a pixel, but as you enlarge the image, the gaps between pixels increase and the software 'extrapolates' — guesses — what color pixels should fill in the gaps.]
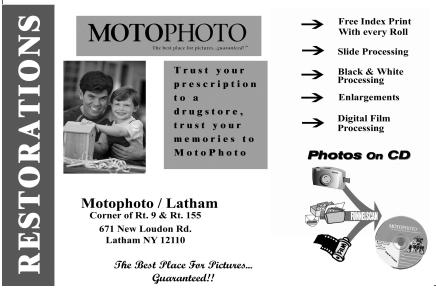
So now it becomes clear that digital zoom is, *for comparison purposes*, "useless." Why do we say that? Because you would *always* want the original picture in all its maximum resolution, and then enlarge it, if desired, in an image editing software later.

Is digital zoom then a *totally* "useless" feature for a digital camera to have? No! Read the above paragraph again: we said, "*for comparison purposes.*" For arguments sake, let's say that if there is no appreciable loss in image resolution when you use digital zoom, and it helps you in composing a pleasant image, then it is a useful feature to have in your digital camera, and use it by all means. Again, what we are saying is, do not use digital zoom to *compare* cameras since the same effect can be accomplished in an image editing software.

Bottom line: When *comparing digital cameras*, always use optical zoom, not digital zoom. And ensure that any digital camera you purchase either allows you to disable digital zoom entirely or warns you clearly that it is switching to digital zoom. "Seamless" optical to digital zoom, without an appropriate warning, is not a good idea.

White Balance

The image sensor in a digital camera does not "see" light the same way that film does. The sensor just receives light, generates an analog charge that must then be interpreted by software to digital pixels. This gives digital cameras the ability to adjust color in camera. What white balance allows a digital camera to do is to calibrate all the colors based on the color White. In finding a reference white, all other colors are adjusted accordingly. The better digital cameras allow you to calibrate the white balance using a white (or gray) card. Ensure that your digital camera allows you to select different white balance setting for different situations, such as outdoors, cloudy, fluorescent, and tungsten.

The dates of the Mentoring night and the Photo Essay night have been switched. Photo Essay will be on Wed, January 24th and Mentoring will be on Wed, January 31st.

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
75 years
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An oxymoron: digital slide group?

Howie Johannessen

For the months of January and February the Slide Group will be making a change to its usual program. Instead of the slide competition we will be judging digital images which have been submitted prior to the monthly Slide Group meeting. There will be no assigned topics for those two months; entries will be of a general category. A maximum of three slides may be submitted for each of these two months. The assigned topics previously scheduled for January and February will be doubled up in March and April, respectively. Thus, March will have three groups for which slides can be submitted: a general category and the two assigned topics, "Portraits" and "Streetscapes". The month of April will also have three groups: a general category, and the two assigned topics, "Tracks" and "Interiors". A maximum of five slides will be permitted for the two doubled up months of March and April, with a maximum of two slides permitted in each of the three groups.

The program structure of the slide group meetings for the months of January and February will remain the same. Judging will take place while the speaker is presenting. The digital images will be projected and the results of the judging announced after refreshments.

To submit images for January and February go to the SPSwebsite

www.Schenectadyphotographicsociety.com

Click on 2006-2007 competition
Under January slide topics
Click Instructions
After you have read the instructions, go back to January slide topics and
Click online submission
When you **click** on Browse, all your files will open up and you highlight the one you are submitting

The deadline for submission is **Sunday, January 7, 2007** and **Sunday February 11, 2007** for the months of January and February, respectively.

Please be patient with us if we encounter glitches in this digital experiment. We are hoping that all will participate and enjoy the evening.

If you have problems doing this, contact our webmaster, N. Sukumar at sukumar@sukumarfineartphoto.com

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Jeff Perkins to lead two January meetings

Secrets of blend mode to be discussed on digital night

Knowledge of Photoshop's Blend Modes dramatically expands the digital darkroom. We will review these fabulous tools and how they can enhance your images, save faded photos, and better deal with contrast than other Photoshop tools.
Bring your notebooks on Wednesday, January 17th to save some useful tips on these fabulous Blend Modes.

Jeff Perkins

Nailing Composition is topic of mentoring night

Sometimes you wonder "Why my photos don't have impact?" you can have a $5000 digital camera, the best film camera and 2.8 L lenses, perfect exposure, but without good composition the image does nothing. We will cover some useful

guidelines and principles that will aid you in improving your images. These principles will apply to all sorts of images, from landscapes to portraits. Come to mentoring night, January 31 and learn some simple techniques.

Jeff Perkins, Mentoring Chair

December's
First Place Photos

Clockwise from top right: Theresa Swidorski *Homage to Harry Callahan,* Robert Near *Web's Jewels,* Ken Deitcher *Fallen Feather*, Steve Johnson *Artist,* Luba Ricket *Shoes and Shadow*

December Competition Results

Prints

Color 48 Entries

*	Steve Johnson	Artist	1
	Linda Buckman	Blue Eyed Babes	2
	Barb Lawton	Dhu Lough Pass, Connemara, Ireland	3
	Barb Lawton	Undercover Art	4
	Jane Riley	Perched Fly	5
	Sandra Conlin	Through the Planes of Time	H M
	Connie Bush	Red	H M
	Jane Riley	Diamond in the Rough	H M
	Cynthia Placek	Reflection	H M
	Robert Near	Single Leaf	H M

Monochrome   21 Entries

Theresa Swidorski	Homage to Harry Callahan	1
Steve Johnson	Family on Hadley Mountain	2
Louie Powell	515 W 24th Street	3
Louie Powell	Haunted House	4
Kevin Sarsfield	No longer in use	H M
Colleen Magai	Ladles	H M

Assigned   Spider Webs   13 Entries

**	Robert Near	Web's Jewels	1
	Cynthia Placek	Windowsill Web	2
	Michelle Calderon	Untitled	H M

Judge Chris Shields

Program Christina Florada / Van Dyke Process

Winner's Notes:

*Steve Johnson writes: This photo is of an artistic vendor at the Albany Tulip Festival, May 13th '06, a little after 9am (shortly after setup). I thought I could take advantage of my superwide Sigma 10-20mm lens and somehow make the lanterns appear larger than life, and have a nice colorful and soft focused scene in the background. The photo was taken handheld at 17mm focal range, f5.3, 1/80th shutter speed, using a Nikon D70.

**Robert Near took this winner with a Nikon D2X camera, a Nikkor 60mm f2.8 micro lens, camera set at digital 400 ISO. He always uses a tripod. Exposure was 1/40s at f/10.0 It was taken in the Town of Athens, Greene County along a small road at 7:16am. He used a water mist bottle to create dew drops.

Slides

General 20 entries

*	Ken Deitcher	Fallen Feather	1
	Ken Deitcher	Floating Flower #2	2
	Jeff Plant	Trees By a River of Light	3
	Jeff Plant	Corrupted Moon	H M

Assigned Shoes 14 Entries

**	Luba Ricket	Shoes and Shadow	1
	Chris Marotta	Seven to Three Thirty	2
	Kevin Sarsfield	Aglets and Eyelets	3

Judge: Mike Hemberger

Program: Thalia Cunningham / Worldwide Photography

Winner's Notes:

* Ken took Fallen Feather wth a Canon A2E, 100mm macro lens and Fujichrome Velvia. It was hand held with no filters.The natural morning light gave the warm colors. It was taken in my backyard over 10 years ago around 10 AM The original slide was scanned onto a Kodak Photo CD. I recently opened the file on my computer and resized it and sent the digital file to Slides.com to make a slide.This image made a complete circle slide to dig file to slide.

**Luba writes: "Twas the day after Thanksgiving
I saw beautiful shadows on the wall
I raided my nieces sexy shoes singing
Shooting them & their shadows I had a ball

Gratefully my sister didn't even blink
As I stood on the dresser to get the shot
Shoes that were red, black & even pink
I couldn't stop and just shot a lot

The natural sunlight was the best
I was fortunate to have passed the test ...."

Luba took this shot while singing with a Nikon N80 camera, a Tamron 28-300 lens and one of the Fuji slide films.

Go to our web site to see all the photos in glorious color.

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

PSA
**Photographic
Society of
America**

Photo Essay – Reality Check!

Connie Houde and Jim Craner

Time flies when you are in the Photo Essay Group - there are only two regular meetings of the group before the year-end competition on April 25. Based on the kickoff meeting, we are hoping for a record-setting number of 'print and projected' photo essays this year.

The next meeting is on January 24th, and we would like to use that night to review work in progress, provide additional tutoring on the use of the Pro Show software, and begin finalizing the list of essays and presenters for the annual competition. Jim will review the settings you should use when using Pro Show to finalize your show for projection. If you will be showing your essay from slides, and need the SPS equipment, you will need to make arrangements.

At the meeting on March 28 (the last before the competition) we would like to do a dry run of the work in progress. This is especially important if you are showing your essay digitally for the first time. If you need to use Jim's laptop, you will want to bring a CD containing your show to be sure it will run properly. Note, Jim's laptop DOES NOT read DVDs; so output your show as a CD. Contact Jim if you need help. If you will be using your own PC or Mac, it wouldn't hurt to bring it, and your essay, just to check compatibility with the SPS projector. If using a Mac, you will need the small 'monitor out' pigtail that comes with each Mac. At this meeting we would also like to finalize the list of presenters and essays and discuss logistics for the competition.

Before competition night – April 25 - you will want to be sure that Jim has a copy (on CD) of your final essay. Print your name, and the essay title on the CD. These can be mailed to Jim (see annual report for address) or given to him at any meeting. Naturally, you are welcome to bring questions to either of us at any time.

Three months old   Photo © Leif Zurmuhlen

Zurmuhlen

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He worked in commercial, editorial, portrait, wedding and fashion photography. He is the production manager at McGreevy Prolab in Albany, NY. He also teaches photography.
His first book is The Right Side of Forty with writer Patricia Martin. His exhibit of Nudes in 2005 was the first solo show at the Exposed Gallery of Art Photography in Delmar, NY.
He exhibits regularly and his work has been published internationally.
He still shoots film.
Please join us for the first meeting of the New Year.

Ray Hull

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whites, next to the laundry chute, in a 6th-grade pal's basement.

On slide night, January 10th, Ray will present a "Show and Tell" on mounting medium format to glass slides. He would prefer to show others' work, rather than just his own. He will mount and view them right there on his manual-feed, Leica 6x6 projector, no computer or digital projector required.
He hopes the screen is big enough to handle all this glorious reversal film data!

Everyone who has medium format slides is requested to bring them to slide night. If possible, contact Ray to let him know you are planning to bring medium format slides on January 10th. Ray's e-mail address is: rayhull@aol.com

Happy New Year

News You Can Use

Ken Deitcher receives many accolades

Ken Deitcher took first place in Popular Photography's annual contest in the sports category and also won an honorable mention in the animal category.

In addition to that, Ken has a picture in the December 17th *Parade* Magazine.

Ken Deitcher's first place winning photo in *Popular Photography's* annual contest

Video Tutorials on Digital Techniques
Jim Craner

As promised, I am preparing and sharing video tutorials for each of the topics being presented on SPS Digital Nights. Presently there are three (3) tutorials available on my website www.paws-photo.com.
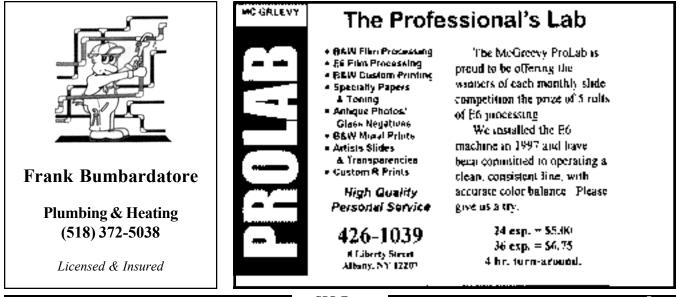
> Photoshop Crop Tool
> Photoshop Retouching
> Panorama Compositing with Photoshop

To access these video tutorials click on the 'Articles' tab on the home page, and you will be taken to a list of video tutorials, and essays (Adobe PDF files) on other topics.

The video tutorials were prepared using Techsmith's Camtasia Studio software and are output as Macromedia Flash presentations. When you click on a tutorial, it will begin to stream down to your computer, and should start playing after a few seconds. Photoshop CS2 was used to illustrate these techniques, however the lessons can be easily applied to the use of earlier versions of Photoshop, and in most cases to Photoshop Elements as well.

These tutorials were prepared with a 1024x768 screen size in mind, and should fit nicely onto a 17-19" monitor without the need to scroll to see the presentation. Each tutorial includes both audio and video.

Additional tutorials will be coming along as the year progresses. I would like to hear feedback about these – both in terms of content and the appearance of a tutorial on your system. You can provide feedback to us by email to jimc@paws-photo.com.

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Web Page Address
www.schenectadyphotographicsociety.com

January Calendar

Wednesday, January 3	Print group: A career in photography / Leif Zurmuhlen Assigned: Sporting Event
Wednesday, January 10	Slide group: Medium format / Ray Hull Assigned: No assignment. Submit digital images. See instructions page 3
Wednesday, January 17*	Digital: Blend Modes / Jeff Perkins
Wednesday, January 24	Photo Essay: Reality check / Connie Houde and Jim Craner
Wednesday, January 31	Mentoring: How to improve your photos / Jeff Perkins

Meetings are at 7:30 p.m.
*Board meetings are at 6:30 p.m.