

# FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS



Volume 76

Summer 2007

Number 9

## President's Message

*Bob Gough  
May, 2007*

**Founded in 1931, the Schenectady Photographic Society this year celebrates its 75th year as an organization. For three quarters of a century, SPS has inspired local photographers to learn about photography and to create better work.**

Since its inception, SPS has existed to provide area photographers, professional and amateur alike, with a forum in which we can discuss photographic techniques, the aesthetics of photographic images and the nature of photography as a tool, a craft and an art form. It has given us the opportunity to show our work to others and to view their work so that we all might learn from the experience and grow as photographers. It allows us to socialize with other people with a common interest and many of its members have formed life long friendships.

Photography has come quite a long way in the years since SPS was founded. Two cameras of choice in those days were the Kodak Brownie for snap shooting and the Leica I, the first high quality 35mm camera, for more serious shooters. In 1931 flashbulbs were cutting edge technology, replacing flash powder as a more reliable and less dangerous light source for low light photography. Kodachrome was still another five years away and Kodak color print film was another ten, so at that time color photography for everyday picture takers was still a thing of the future. 35mm SLR cameras would not come into widespread use for at least another ten years and Poloroid cameras would not be invented for another seventeen years.

In 1931 many of the photographers whom we now consider to be the great old masters of photographic art had yet to create the majority of their work. Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Minor White, Harry Callahan, Irving Penn, Margaret Bourke-White and Gary Winogrand are but a few of the many talented photographers who began their careers in the early half of the last century, creating photographs of

timeless beauty that have inspired us all over the years.

Recently, developments in photographic technology have added many new words and phrases to our lexicon. In 1931 an image file was a manila folder with a bunch of prints in it and flash cards were something used to teach kids math. Photoshop was the place you went to buy your film and to have it developed. Digital manipulation meant fiddling with something with your fingers and depending on what you were fiddling with you may not have wanted to talk about it in mixed company.

This year we have enjoyed a number of interesting programs, from our kick-off speaker, Shelby Lee Adams to talks by noted local photographers as Mark McCarty, Leif Zurmuhlen, Lawrence White and others. We had a number of wonderful presentations by some of our members: Max Tiller, Jeff Perkins, Ray Hull, Connie Frisbee-Houde, Frank Bumbardatore, Linda Heim and Robert Near gave talks as well as an excellent series of lectures by Jim Craner on the use of Photoshop to edit digital images. Also this year we experimented with a new form of competition, that of digital image projection and I look forward to seeing this expanded and developed in the years to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the board of directors, a group of dedicated individuals who work tirelessly, volunteering their time to ensure that there are engaging programs presented each and every Wednesday evening. In particular I would like to thank Vice President Kevin Sarsfield for being an excellent right-hand man and making my job that much easier. Finally I would like to thank all of you, the members of SPS for making the society the vibrant and vital organization that it is today. It has been my pleasure and my privilege to serve this year as president of the Schenectady Photographic Society.

**Kick-off  
meeting  
Wednesday,  
September  
19th**

# Year End Winning Photos



1st place color print of the Year: © Robert Near *Single Dewdrop*



1st place monochrome print of the Year: © Robert Near *Catskill Escarpment*



1st place Slide of the Year: © Howie Johannessen *Maine Coast*




One photo from 1st place projection photo essay of the Year © N. Sukumar *Double Vision*

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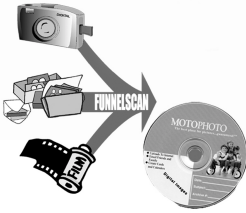
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# Year End Competition Results

## Color print of the Year

1st	Robert Near	Single Dewdrop
HM	Robert Near	Single Leaf
HM	Barb Lawton	Duh Loch Pass, Ireland

## Monochrome print of the Year

1st	Robert Near	Catskill Escarpment
HM	Max Tiller	Catch Basin
HM	Colleen Magai	The Sink
HM	Robert Near	Light through the Window

Judges: Stan Johnson, John Musco, Tom Santelli

## Color printmaker of the Year

1st	Barb Lawton
2nd	Linda Buckman
3rd	Ken Deitcher

## Monochrome printmaker of the Year

1st	Kevin Sarsfield
2nd	Robert Near
3rd	Ken Deitcher

## Assigned topic printmaker of the Year

1st	Kevin Sarsfield
2nd	Robert Near
3rd	Bernie Herman

## Betty Barker Awards

Linda Buckman and Ruby Gold

## Slide of the Year

1st	Howie Johannessen	Maine Coast
HM	Ken Deitcher	Fallen Feather
HM	Ray Hull	Dov
HM	Ken Deitcher	Classic Figure

Judges: Frank Bumbardatore, Leia Shick

## Slidemaker of the Year

1st	Ken Deitcher
2nd	Howie Johannessen
3rd	Jeff Plant

## Assigned topic slidemaker of the Year

1st	Jeff Plant
2nd	Kevin Sarsfield
3rd	Howie Johannessen

## Projection Photo essay of the Year

1st	N. Sukumar	Double Vision
2nd	Robert Near	Falling Waters

## Print Photo Essay of the Year

1st	Connie F. Houde	Oarhabagh, Afghanistan
2nd	Kevin Sarsfield	Trojan Skeletons

## Grab Bag winners

1st	Linda Heim
2nd	Frank Bumbardatore
3rd	Ray Hull



*The SPS group in Boston, led by Jeff Perkins*





The 2007-08 Board of Directors including Ruby Gold, Robert Near, Jim Craner, Bob Heinerman, Ray Kowalski, Bob Scribner, Jeff Plant, slide chair and Tom Mack slide group assistant discussing the upcoming year; Cynthia Placek, membership assistant, and Bob Friedlander toasting the upcoming season.



Below: Incoming president Kevin Reiner, Jane Riley, Ruby Gold, Focus editor and Edie Abrams sharing a laugh before dinner.



Clockwise from top left: Jeff Perkins discussing the Boston trip with Susie and Ron Herndon; Sue Gersten and Karl Becker telling Linda Heim about their winter in Florida; Jim Craner, Digital group Chair, Bob Heinerman and Ray Kowalski enjoying a drink before the dinner; Bob Scribner, Jeff Plant, slide chair and Tom Mack slide group assistant discussing the upcoming year; Cynthia Placek, membership assistant, and Bob Friedlander toasting the upcoming season.



Below: Diane Reiner, Jane Riley, Ruby Gold, Focus editor and Edie Abrams sharing a laugh before dinner.

# Fragomeni

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***SPS Banquet  
June 6, 2007***



Clockwise from top left: Robert Near, incoming print chair and Connie F. Houde, photo essay co-chair enjoying the social hour, Howie Johannessen, outgoing slide chair selling chinese auction tickets to Nick Argyros; John Ogden, refreshment co-chair, Ray Henrikson and Bob Riccardo enjoying the moment; Linda Buckman, corresponding secretary and editor of the Yearbook, Colleen Magai, and Dale Winsor, recording secretary getting ready to buy some 50-50 tickets.



Below: Bernie Herman, Carole Clements, Sunanda Sukumar, Mike Krein and N. Sukumar enjoying the hor'sdeuvres.



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## 2007 - 2008 Assigned Print Competition Topics

Competition month	Assigned Topic	Comments
October	Mode of Transportation	Cars, trains, planes, ways of getting around
November	Unusual Angle	Study your subject from a different angle, get low, get high, get crazy
December	Repetition	Show repetition, be it man made or natural
January	City Life	Convey city life within your image
February	Up-close	Get in tight with your subject, look for inner beauty
March	Architectural Detail	Select out the architectural beauty in the details
April	Age	Convey age in your photos

Note: Prints for assigned print competitions must be taken after May 1, 2007

## 2007 - 2008 Assigned Projection Competition Topics

Competition month	Assigned Topic	Comments
*October	Agriculture	Anything pertaining to farming - crops, barns, animals, etc
**November	Rain, Fog or Mist	Any treatment of one or more of these atmospheric conditions
*December	Trees	Any season of the year - your interpretation
**January	The Color Red	May include other colors, but red objects or light must predominate
*February	Metallica	Metal objects or surfaces, rust, etc
**March	Running Water	Waterfalls, streams, etc
*April	Sunrise, sunset re-imagined	New, original or creative takes on an old standard

Note: Images for assigned competition must be taken after May 1, 2007

\*October, December, February and April will be digitally projected images.

\*\*November, January, March will be slides.

# News You Can Use

## Ken Deitcher receives accolades

Ken Deitcher's image "Rugby" has won an Honorable Mention in the Lightly Manipulated category of the PHOTOWORKSHOP.COM Digital Imaging Competition Sponsored by Adobe.

He also received 13 acceptances and a PSA Best of Show medal in PHOTOLOVERS 3rd India International Slide and Digital Circuit, 2006 This is a PSA approved international salon. There were over 400 digital images submitted and 2500 submission for the entire circuit from 37 countries.

And he had 6 acceptances and won a FIAP medal in the 6<sup>th</sup> Suncoast Virtual Salon.

## Two SPS members in Photo Regional

Robert Near and N. Sukumar had photos chosen for the photo regional in May.

## Tulip contest honors Stew Sacklow

SPS member Stew Sacklow had his picture of tulips accepted on the *Times Union* website in their tulip contest.

## Rules for next year's "slide" group

*Howie Johannessen, slide chairperson 06-07*  
*This is an excerpt from Howie's year-end report*

It appears that there is strong interest in digitally projected image competitions. It is for this reason that the Board of Directors has instituted a change for next year's competition with respect to slide and digitally projected images. Three of the seven

monthly competitions ( November, January and March) will be slides. Four of the seven monthly competitions ( October, December, February and April) will be for digitally submitted images. We will continue to have an assigned topic and a general category for each of the seven monthly competitions.

## Four slides will be allowed next year

*Jeff Plant, slide chairperson*

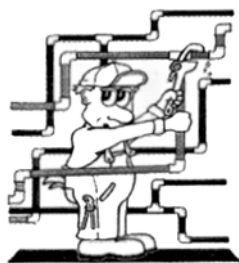
Because the number of entries into the slide category have been going down, next year we will allow four slides, two in general and two in the assigned category. This is for the "slide" entries only. The digitally projected category will still allow only three entries.

## Drue Sokol is honored

One of our members, Drue Sokol, was given the 2007 Hometown Hero's Award by the NY Teachers Association for her work in a role playing group she organized for mimicking real life controversial issues teens may be experiencing as well as mentoring a digital photography group at the Albany Academy for Girls.

## NECCC to be held in July

The 62nd Annual New England Camera Club Council Conference will be held at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA on July 13-15. There are usually more than 1250 attendees each year. You can get the details by going to [www.neccc.org](http://www.neccc.org) and then click on 2007 Conference Quick Glance which will open a PDF document with all the details. Each year, at least a dozen SPS members attend this incredible event.



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**Summer Calendar**

Wednesday, June 13*	Joint Board Meeting - outgoing and incoming boards
Fri-Sun July 13-15	NECCC Camera Club Conference Amherst, MA
Wednesday, July 18*	Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 15*	Board Meeting
Wednesday, Sept 12*	Board Meeting
Wednesday, Sept 19	Kick-Off Meeting



Meetings are at 7:30 p.m.  
 \*Summer Board meetings are at 7:00 p.m.

Summertime

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.