

FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

2008 Kick-off Meeting to feature **Rick Sammon**

By Kevin Sarsfield



Whether sky diving from a plane, photographing nature's wonders beneath the ocean or making portraits of the indigenous people of Papua New Guinea -Rick Sammon seems at ease and up to the task. Combining an uncommon ability to relate to his subjects with the technical know-how to create spectacular images, Rick makes the art of photographing people, places and things seem like something we can do, as well.

In his program, Exploring Digital Imaging, Rick will bring his many years of travel photography to a big screen in our own backyard. In this informative and fun-filled presentation, Rick Sammon will share his pictures from around the globe - some of which have appeared in his 28 books and thousands of newspaper and magazine articles. For every image, Rick will share a photographic technique, digital darkroom tip, or a photo philosophy. After Rick "takes" us to Antarctica, the Arctic, Bhutan, Botswana, Cambodia, Costa Rica, India, Venice, Mexico, Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam, as well as to his favorite National Parks and wildlife centers here in the United States, Rick will share some of his favorite digital techniques.

Rick is one of Canon's Explorers of Light, an exclusive assemblage of 78 photographers stationed around the world. The Explorer program features experts in fields ranging from photojournalism, fashion and sports to nature, portraiture and travel photography. The Explorers of Light program excels in various ways by allowing Explorers to act as mentors while also helping to bridge the gap between the professional photographic community and amateur photographers. We are particularly pleased that Canon has assisted in bringing Rick's work to our membership and to the Capital District photographic community.

In addition to his Explorer association, Rick

has hosted 10 episodes of the Outdoor Life Network's Photo Safari which has taken him around the world with television and movie stars, and has hosted two, five-

part photography series on the DIY (Do It Yourself) network: the Digital Photography Workshop and the Photography Workshop. Rick has

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**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:
The Kick-off meeting will be held at
the auditorium in the Bulmer
Telecommunications Center on the
Hudson Valley Community Campus.**



Exploration of Night Photography
Presented by Michael Noonan

by Jeff Plant

The Projected Images Group is pleased to kick off the 2008-09 year by presenting Michael Noonan, a professional photographer based in Ballston Spa. Mr. Noonan has been a professional photographer for more than 35 years.

Several years ago Mr. Noonan showed his images of comet Hale-Bopp to SPS. He will, on October 8, talk on "night photography", as well as other aspects of his work. He has photographed many aspects of the night sky, including eclipses and aurora, and in addition, is a master of painting with light.

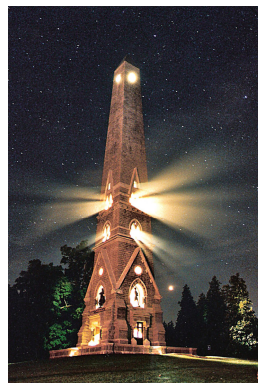
Mr. Noonan also photographs a number of subjects for clients, including Revolutionary and French & Indian War reenactments, the Saratoga Race Track, and portraits.

He is co-author of books on the history of Saratoga Springs and Ballston Spa, for which he printed images from historic negative.

Mr. Noonan is still a strong advocate for, and practitioner of, traditional darkroom arts and black & white photography, while much of his night photography is done in color.

Mr. Noonan is an advocate of deeply involving himself in the sounds and total atmosphere of the subjects he is photographing, such as the cadences of the mason's hammers on a stone bridge-building project he documented.

Night photography opens a fascinating parallel world of photographic subjects, and I am sure that Mr Noonan's explication of night photography techniques will be of great interest to SPS members.



October Print Group presents:
Bromoil Printing Processing by

Jill Skupin

by Robert Near

We are pleased to announce that Jill Skupin Burkholder will be the October print group guest presenter. Jill actively practices the fine art of bromoil printing and will be doing a presentation of her images along with actually demonstrating bromoil by producing a bromoil print that night.

The Bromoil Process was an early photographic process first discovered in 1907 which quickly became a great favorite of the photographers of the Pictorialist Movement, led by Alfred Stieglitz and the Photo-Sessionist Group. The soft, paint-like qualities of the prints are very typical for this genre, and have recently led to some art photographers using the process again. Because the print is hand crafted, it is unique; no two images will be the same.

The Bromoil process was based on the oil print, whose origins go back to the mid-nineteenth century. A drawback of oil prints was that the gelatin used was too slow to permit an enlarger to be used, so that negatives had to be the same dimensions as the positives. After G.E.H. Rawlins published a 1904 article on the oil print process, E.J. Wall in 1907 described theoretically how it should be possible to use a smaller negative in an enlarger to produce a silver bromide positive, which should then be bleached and hardened, to be inked afterwards as in the oil process. C Welborne Piper then executed this theory in practice, and so the Bromoil process was born.

Please join us for what should be a wonderful presentation as we kick off the year with the first print group meeting on October 1st 2008.

Rick Sammon can't

also shared his photographic tips on virtually every morning show in major cities across the country, including Oprah.



For almost 20 years, Rick has written the weekly photography column, Camera Angles, for the Associated Press. He also writes travel features for AP and has taught for Popular Photography and Imaging, the Maine Photographic Workshop and eDigitalPhoto. He has won the Ben Franklin Award for Best Children's book "Hide and Seek Under the Sea", Golden Light Award for Best Nature book ("Flying Flowers"), Diver of the Year ("Beneath the Sea"), and the NOGI Award (the Underwater Oscar). Despite the accolades, he remains down-to-earth, approachable and, above all, interested in the world and its people. A quick review of his website (www.ricksammon.com) allows this to be evident in his photographs.

Be sure to bring a friend, neighbor, interested photo-student or potential SPS member with you. This will be an excellent opportunity to



get the photo-juices moving and will certainly be a highlight of our Fall programming.

Please join us on Wednesday, September 17, 2008 at 7PM for this exciting photo opportunity. In order to provide Rick with a suitable venue, we have moved this night's presentation only to the auditorium in the Bulmer Telecommunications Center on the Hudson Valley Community Campus. Outfitted with state-of-the-art audio and visual equipment, comfortable seating and excellent sight lines, we're confident that you will enjoy this intriguing presentation.

Directions and a campus map are available at the following web pages:

<https://www.hvcc.edu/campusmap/index.html>

(Driving Directions)

https://www.hvcc.edu/campusmap/campus_map.html

(Map)

Handicapped parking is also available. For further information, please call: Kevin Sarsfield @ 518-674-8592.



Schenectady Photographic Society Print Competition Rules, 2008-2009

The purpose of the competition is to provide a venue for showing prints. The competitive element exists to add interest, and these rules are intended to provide order in the competition and simplify the process of handling prints. Judging is inherently subjective and does not yield a definite evaluation of the merits of individual images.

1. Monthly Competitions October-April

*Only dues-paid members may enter.

*Three Categories:

Monochrome—Images consisting of one color. Uniformly toned images are acceptable in this category.

Color—including partially toned and hand-colored images.

Assigned Topic—images/negatives must have been made after May 1, 2008.

Each maker may enter **three prints each month**. However, one of the three must be entered in the monochrome category. And no more than two prints may be entered in any one category.

Presentation:

*Prints must be 5x7 or larger. An exception will be made where the process is not conducive to enlargement (eg. Polaroid, contact print, etc.).

*Overmats are optional.

*Mounts must be 8x10 or larger, but may not exceed 16x20.

*Colored mounts or mats and multiple overmats are not allowed. Mounts/mats must be white or black.

*Prints in frames are not allowed.

*Prints requiring special handling are not allowed. The print chair may disqualify prints that, in his/her sole judgment, may present risk of physical harm to other prints.

*Signed prints are not allowed.

*Prints must be submitted to the registrars, between 7-7:30 p.m. on the night of competition. Prints must have a 3x5 card (available on the night of competition) with required information filled in and placed on upper left corner of the mount.

*The original image must be the work of the maker. Printing and mounting may be done commercially.

*Prints that “place” may not be re-entered in subsequent monthly competition. Prints may not be entered more than two times.

2. Judging and Scoring

*An impartial judge will evaluate each print for impact, composition, technical execution and

presentation. The judging of the assigned topic category will include the additional factor of how well the image responds to the assignment.

*Prints will be displayed on racks under normal room lighting for judging. The arrangement of prints on the display racks will be at the discretion of the print stewards. The judge will not be given titles at the time of judging.

*Judges will be asked to comment on prints that “place”, and if time allows, on other prints that deserve discussion. This discussion is intended to help members and visitors discern the strengths and weaknesses that the judges see in the prints.

*For the purpose of the Printmaker of the Year awards, prints that place in competition will be awarded points as follows:

1st place	7 points
2nd place	5 points
3rd place	4 points
4th place	3 points
5th place	2 points
Honorable Mention	1 point

If the number of entries is limited, the Print Chair may, at his/her sole discretion, eliminate one or more of the “places” for that month.

3. Year End Competitions

Print of the Year

*Separate Monochrome and Color Print competitions will be held at the May meeting.

*Only prints that have been entered into a monthly competition during the 08-09 season of SPS may be entered into the Print of the Year competition(s).

*Entries must bear the original entry card on the back of the mount.

*Presentation and entry rules are the same as for the monthly competitions.

*Each maker may submit up to **two entries in each** of the Print of the Year categories.

Printmaker of the Year

*Recognition for Printmaker of the Year, and 2nd Place & 3rd Place Printmaker of the Year will be awarded in 3 categories of Monochrome, Color and Assigned Topic.

*Award selection will be based on total points accumulated during the Oct-Apr. monthly competitions of the respective categories. In case of a tie, the person with the most 1st place scores will be judged the winner. If 1st place scores are tied, then 2nd place scores will be used, etc., until a clear winner emerges.

Schenectady Photographic Society Slide & Projected Image Competition Rules, 2008-2009

1. Monthly Competition October-April

- *Current member of SPS (dues paid)
- * Submitting slides for competition
 - Competition limited to 35mm format, (color and bw)
 - Put a dark colored dot at bottom left corner of a slide as normally viewed.
 - Put your name and title of slide on same side as dot.
 - Do not use gummed labels that require moistening as they may come off & jam the projector. Pressure sensitive labels may be used.
- *Complete a 3x5 card (available on night of competition) with the required info. Submit both slide and card when registering for competition.
- *Number of **slides** allowed each slide month: **four**. Maker may enter two slides in general and two in assigned.
- *Directions for entering digital images will be in the FOCUS and on the web site.
- *Number of **digital images** allowed each digital image month: **three**. Maker may enter two in general and one in assigned or one in general and two in assigned.
- *Slides
 - Slides must be an original slide, not a manipulation or a photo made into a slide.
- *Digital images
 - Alternative processes or manipulations are allowed in creating an image. Every element of such an image must be the original creation by the maker
- *Assigned Topic
 - Must have been taken after May 1, 2008.
 - Must meet the assigned topic.
- *Entry Time
 - On Slide Group night of each month between 7-7:30 p.m. No slides will be accepted after 7:30 p.m.

2. Judging

- *Impact
 - Interesting subject, subjects which fill the frame, strong colors, textures, pattern, action, emotion, creativity.

***Composition**

Strong center of interest, leading lines, framing, vertical/horizontal format, perspective, graphic elements, rule of thirds.

***Technical Quality**

- Focus, exposure, lighting, tonal range.
- Image surface free of scratches, dust and finger prints.

3. Scoring

1st place	7 points
2nd place	5 points
3rd place	4 points
4th place	3 points
5th place	2 points
Honorable mention	1 point

If the number of entries is limited, the Slide chair may, at his/her discretion, eliminate one or more of the “places” for that month.

4. Year End Competition and Awards

***Slide/Digital Image of the Year**

- The slides or digital images must have been entered in competition between October 2008 and April 2009 (regardless of score received).
- Three slides/digital images may be entered for Slide/Digital Image of the year competitions.

***Assigned Slidemaker/Digital Image Maker of the year.**

Award points will be based on total points accumulated during the Oct.-Ap. monthly competitions.

***Slidemaker/Digital Image Maker of the year**

Award points will be based on total points accumulated during the Oct.-Ap. monthly competitions.

***Ties**

In the event of a tie in any of the categories, the person with the most 1st place scores will be judged the winner. If 1st place scores are tied, then 2nd place scores will be used, etc., until a clear winner emerges.

During judging, no one will be permitted in the judging area except the group chairperson and/or his or her designated assistant (s).

SPS Print Night Competition **Subject Change**

Due to the fact a large number of members have requested a print critique we will not be having any print competition at the February Print night. That session will be dedicated to critiquing photographs. We will have two working photographers at this meeting who will give critiques on photographs submitted; members will be allowed to submit up to two printed photographs.

Due to this, the "Public Gathering" topic has been eliminated. If you already have that award winning image, remember it can be entered into either the Monochrome or Color categories during one of the other months.

SPS Shirts

Members: Please wear your SPS shirt (if you have one) and your name badge from last year at the kick-off meeting. This will be helpful to visitors and potential members who might want to connect with existing members.

Jane Riley Leads Off For the Digital Group

By Jim Craner

Our own Jane Riley will be making a return appearance as the Digital Group's lead speaker for the 2008-09 year. Jane will be stepping us through the creation of the 'After' image that accompanies this article – a beautiful 'painterly' rendering of a floral still life. This work uses relatively simple, yet very powerful Photoshop techniques, and the results are stunning as you can see. Jane received rave reviews when she gave this talk to that 'other' camera club she visits while wintering in Florida. Jane is a former teacher and an outstanding presenter. Please join us when the SPS Digital Group welcomes Jane Riley on Wednesday October 15, 2008.

On that same night, following Jane's talk there will be a short presentation on the subject of preparing images for submission in the Projected Image competitions on Slide Night. This presentation hopefully will take any remaining mystery out of this process, which seemed to 'bedevil' some members last year. The techniques will apply to any version of Photoshop including Photoshop Elements.

I'm looking forward to a great year with the Digital Group; our speakers will include several 'oldies but goodies' and some new faces as well.



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Zooming In On Items of Interest

An Exhibit Featuring Max Tiller

A photography exhibit featuring the work of Max Tiller, of Colonie, will kick off with a reception at 2 p.m. at the Massy Residence, 182 Washington Ave. Ext, Albany, NY on Sunday, September 14, 2008. Tiller's recent photos, "EVERYTHING NEW IS OLD AGAIN", will be featured. The Black and White photos were made using an old film camera that was able to record images digitally. The photographs were all taken recently of old buildings and places that have been around for many years. The images have the look of a time gone by. They will remain on display through October, 2008.

Newcomer Meeting at SPS

A special information meeting to introduce prospective and new members to the various activities of the Schenectady Photographic Society will take place on September 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the regular meeting site of the Society, the First United Methodist Church at 603 State St. in Schenectady. This meeting will also be helpful for members who have been in the Society for a year or two, but for whom the workings of the SPS are still a bit mysterious.

SPS offers a variety of activities. These include: guest speakers who cover a variety of topics each week; print, slide and digital competitions judged by outside professionals; fine arts programs; the creation of photo essays; field trips, and mentoring.

SPS Print Night Competition Panoramic submission

During the 08–09 SPS year we are going to allow panoramic images to be submitted into print night competition. To do justice to panoramic images we are adjusting the maximum mount size; see additional Print Competition rules below for panoramic images. Schenectady Photographic Society Print Competition Rules apply to panoramic images except for these additions.

- Mounts may not exceed 10"x 26"
- Members will be allowed to enter only **one** panoramic image per monthly competition.
- Panoramic images do not have their own group therefore they must be entered into Monochrome, Color, or Assigned topic.

A Balancing Act


In order to balance the number of competitions in the Projected Images Group between traditional slides and digital images, the April, 2009 meeting will have competitions in **both** the slide and digital categories. The already announced assigned topic, "Patterns" will be used for **both** the slide and digital competitions that night. It will be interesting to compare the same topic done in both mediums.

As an experiment (and departure from past practice) the judges for Projected Image nights will be given only the titles of the works submitted.

We encourage all SPS members to compete in the Projected Images competitions, as projection with light offers a different and very powerful method of displaying images. Let's show the print people how good projected images can be!

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September/October Calendar

Wed, Sept. 14	Kick-off Meeting: Rick Sammon @ HVCC
Wed, Oct. 1	Print Night: Bromoil Processing: Jill Skupin
Wed, Oct. 8	Slide Night: Exploring Night Photography: Michael Noonan
Wed, Oct. 15*	Digital Night: Image Magic: Jane Riley
Wed, Oct. 22	Photo Essay: TBA
Wed, Oct. 29	Mentoring Night: TBA

*Board meeting

Meetings begin at 7:30

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 \$40. for individuals/families. The FOCUS newsletter is included in the membership dues. SPS meets at the 1st United Methodist Church, 603 State St., Schenectady, NY. Parking and entrances are on Chapel Street, a one way street off Nott Terrace. Guests are welcome at all regular meetings.