



Twin City Camera Club *View Finder*

Member of the PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA and THE SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF CAMERA CLUBS

Feb/Mar 2004 Editor: John Opie Assoc. Ed. Dennis Mally Roll 68, Exposures 2-3

SPRING SWMCCC CONFERENCE

SWMCCC Spring events are upon us. The Spring Conference will be hosted by the Kalamazoo Photo Guild and will be held at the Gull Lake Bible Conference Center which is on Gull Lake east of Kalamazoo. Featured speaker will be nationally renowned nature photographer, Larry West. The dates are May 21, 22 and 23. Mark your calendar, details will be in the next SWMCCC Counsellor. The Spring Competition will be on May 8 in Mattawan and will be hosted by the Fruitbelt Camera Club. For those of you participating in the competitions, your entries are due April 17 or preferably at our regular meeting on April 12. As usual, you may enter four photos in any or all of SWMCCC, competition categories including General Slides, Nature Slides, Portrait Slides, General Large Color Prints, General Large Monochrome Prints, General Small Prints, Nature Prints, and Portrait Prints. Entry Fee is \$3.00 per category.

SWMCCC ADDS DIGITAL SLIDES FOR SPRING COMPETITION

Beginning with the spring competition, SWMCCC will offer the option of entering film slides or digital slides in the General Slide Category. That is, participants may enter four film slides or four digital image files or any combination of the two that total four. Digital Images will be projected at XGA or 1024 x 768 pixel resolution. Care has been taken so that the projected illumination level and projected screen size for either a film slide or digital slide will be similar so as to not give one approach an advantage over the other.

To prepare your digital slides, the optimum image size (for full screen presentation) is 1024 x 768 pixels for a horizontal image. For a vertical image the maximum height is 768 pixels at your chosen width. You can do the sizing in pixels with either the cropping tool or by image resizing in your photo editor. The file format must be .jpg. Use a middle level compression value so that the file size is 100 x 150 kbytes. To submit your digital slides, email your image files to Don Vander Molen at djvandermolent@qtm.net. Send one image per message and include title in the email subject line or in a separate message listing the titles. If you need help, contact Don.

MARCH PROGRAM

As you will recall, it has been announced that beginning with the new competition season in September, TCCC will offer digital camera users the opportunity to enter our slide competitions. As preparation for this, at our March 22nd program, Don Vander Molen will introduce our new digital projector. Don will demonstrate the projector's use and features, show how digital slide images compare to film slides, explain how to prepare a digital image file for projection, and present a short digital audio-visual program. Also, Dan Penrod will conduct a mock competition to show how the digital images will be merged into our regular slide competition.

SPRING PORTRAIT PHOTO SESSION, APRIL 17

The Association of Portrait Photographers is having their Spring Portrait Photo Session in Grand Rapids on April 17. See Ralph Harju for more details.

please see next page for more notices

DIGITAL CAMERA WORKSHOP APRIL 17-18

The Berrien Artists Guild is having a digital camera workshop with Vincent Soo at the Box Factory For The Arts [269.983.3688] on April 17&18. This is an advanced course that will provide a full understanding from start to finish for digital camera and computer users. Topics covered include inverse square law, fill flash usage, composition and slow sync flash. Vince will also cover differences between printers and provide software tips, including ThumbsPlus. Saturday class will be from 9 to 4. Sunday class will be 9 to 3. Cost for Berrien Artist Guild members is \$100. Cost for non- members is \$115.

CHECK OUT THIS GREAT DEAL!

Alto Matte Board Cutter and Cutter Head, 36' capacity, \$50. See Curtis Drake: 269-621-3374

REPORTS ON JANUARY AND FEBRUARY PROGRAM MEETINGS

Hot off the press from Dennis Mally

Art Meets Science At January Meeting

Elaine Harju, a Box Factory artist and Ralph's better half, presented tips on photographing still life (a.k.a. table-top photography) at the January program meeting. Elaine drew from her experience as a watercolor and pastel painter to suggest how objects should be chosen and arranged for best results. She explained how we should seek to connect with the viewer by first thinking of the adjective that describes the intended reaction and then using the objects to tell a story that evokes that emotion.

When choosing objects she suggested we look for things that are tied by a common thread, but are of different sizes, shapes, colors, and tones. Examples would be a selection of fishing lures or other objects found in a tackle box, a grouping of antique glass bottles and jars, or an arrangement of shoes and boots. Elaine suggested using a color wheel to ensure that the objects' colors are either compatible or complimentary, and when shooting mono toned objects they should cover a range of tones including contrast extremes. Elaine reminded us that for some unknown reason, an odd number of objects is more pleasing to the eye than an even number, and that repetition with exception is a good technique to keep in mind when choosing and grouping objects.

When it comes to composing the image, the principles of good composition apply equally to tabletop photographs as they do for other types. The rule of thirds, angle of perspective, background, depth of field, lighting and shadows should all be checked as you look through the viewfinder and imagine the finished image. Every element should contribute to leading the viewer's eye through the arrangement and contribute to telling the story and evoking the intended reaction.

Elaine's use of visual aids, including pieces of fruit, proved very effective in getting her points across. Included was one of her self-rejected paintings which she courageously brought with her to illustrate how not to do things.

Many thanks to Elaine for an enjoyable and informative presentation.

more from Dennis on the next page

Annual Club Business Meeting Held in February

Ken McKeown, newly elected Club President, opened the annual business meeting by thanking former president Don VanderMolen for his many years of excellent leadership and service. It then became apparent that Don would not be able to relax much as Ken then stepped through the Club's organization chart for 2004, naming the various members, including Don, who have volunteered to take on particular roles and responsibilities. (See copy of the organization chart on back page of this issue.)

Colleen Lawrence has volunteered to organize the Club picnic this summer.

Don VanderMolen reported that the club would be purchasing a digital projector and notebook computer to enable projection of digital images in next year's competitions. The plan is to combine traditional slides and digital images into one competition category: Projected Images. A program meeting will be held March 22nd to demonstrate and discuss this change. (SWMCCC will introduce digital projected images into competition at the 2004 spring conference.)

Len Anderson reported that the Club would once again have a booth at the St. Joe Art Fair on the Bluff this year. This is the best, perhaps the "only" opportunity we have to display our work and recruit new members.

Dan Penrod, who compiles and publishes the Club's competition statistics, is also the Club's webmaster. Dan reviewed current content and plans for the website and demonstrated it after the meeting for those who were interested.

www.members.aol.com/tccameraclub

Howard Nahikian presented a brief but comprehensive Financial Review. Net assets at the end of 2003 totaled \$166 thousand, \$79 thousand of which is invested in the financial markets. Expenses approximately equaled revenue in 2003. Thanks to the foresight of the Club's founders and long-term members, the Club should remain solvent and self-sustaining for the foreseeable future.

NEW MEMBER: JUSTINE DRAKE

Justine has been doing her nature and close-up photography for 6 years. She works in slides, color prints and monochrome prints, using Canon and Fuji equipment. Justine lives at 8324 Hagar Shore, Watervliet MI 49098, phone 269-463-7333.

Welcome to TCCC, Justine!

REMINDER to TCCC members: You have the option of receiving the ViewFinder by way of e-mail. About a dozen of our seventy-plus members are already receiving our newsletter this way. Want to try it? Let John Opie at: joscribber@comcast.net