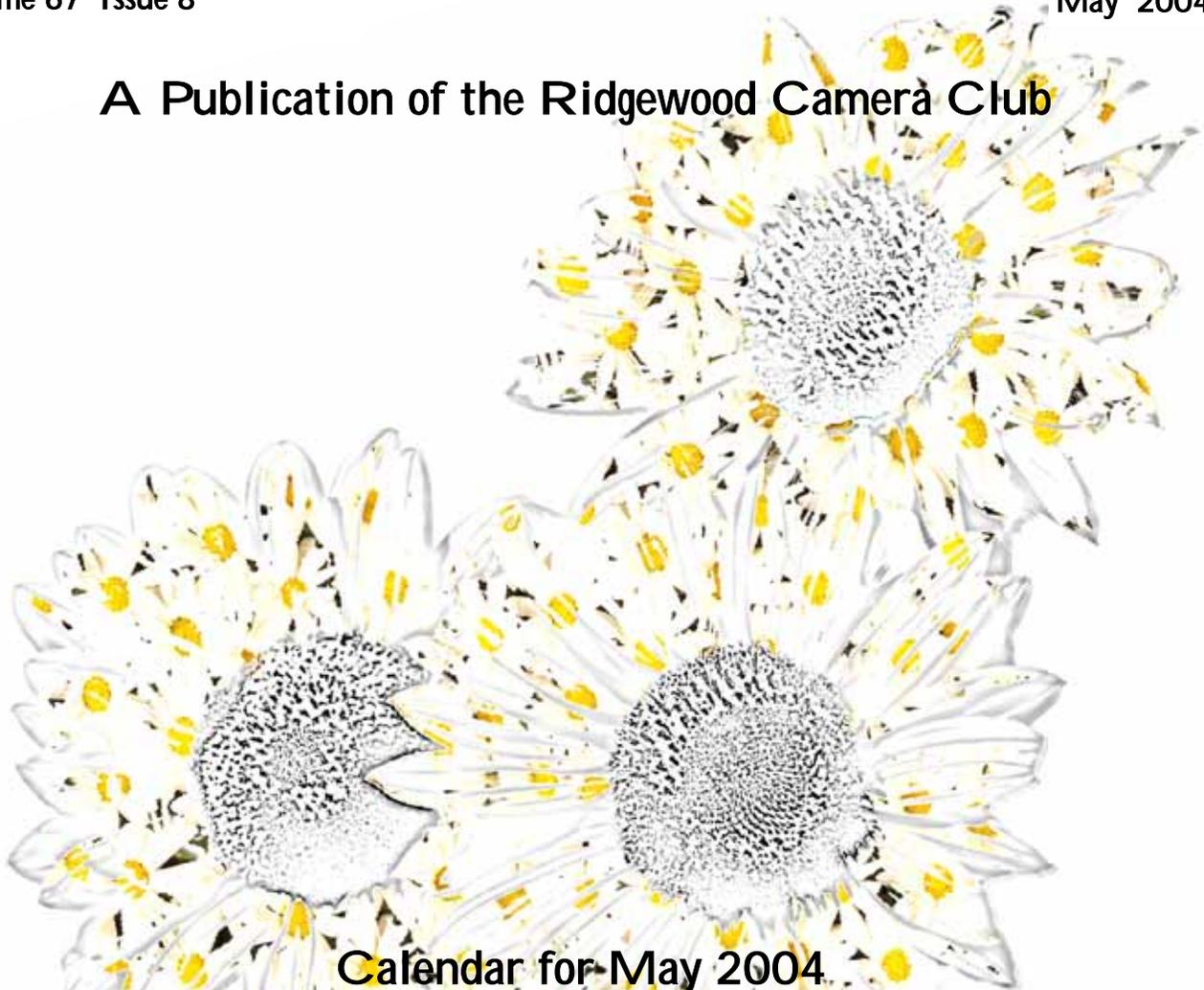


FOCAL PLANE

Volume 67 Issue 8

May 2004

A Publication of the Ridgewood Camera Club



Calendar for May 2004

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5 Executive Committee MTG. | Host: Peter 7 Della O'Malley |
| 12 Annual Competition and Election of Officers | Judges: Gil Lopez-Espina, NJFC, FMC
Simon Leventhal, Frank Wagner
Dr. Phil Echo. (Refreshments) |
| 19 Program (P-6) " How to Photograph Wildlife" | |
| 26 Annual Dinner | |

Workshops

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 8 Close-up Flower Photography | Dieter Steinmeyer |
| 14 Black Light Photography | Alyce Parseghian |
| 21 Using Digital Imaging | George Garbeck |

Fieldtrip

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 22 Philadelphia Zoo | Camille Laplaca-Post |
|---------------------|----------------------|

May I take your photo?

Traveling overseas this summer? You'll have many chances to take some of those great portrait shots of the local inhabitants ... if you're prepared. What's the best way to get their cooperation and have them pose willingly for you? Just ask them! As part of planning your trip, take a few minutes to learn how to say "May I take your picture, please?" in the native language. You will find more often than not that by going that extra yard you will gain the subjects' confidence and open them up for a more natural portrait and a rewarding experience. And if you like to travel off the beaten path to get those out-of-the-way shots, chances are you may encounter people who don't speak English, so this could be a life-saver.

You could get a guide book and memorize the appropriate phrases, but for some reason these are usually presented in formal, cumbersome or old-fashioned versions. So, here in colloquial, concise, and still polite phraseology is the big question posed in several different languages.

French: Puis-je vous prendre en photo, s'il vous plaît?

Spanish: Puedo tomarte una foto?

German: Darf ich Sie bitte fotografieren?

Italian: Posso fare lei la sua fotografia?

Dutch: Magi k een foto van u maken?

Hungarian: Megengeded, hogy lefényképezzeleki?

Slovak: Môžen Ťa Odfotit?

Hindi: Mein aapki photo le sakta hoon?

Japanese: Koko de shashin o totte mo ii desu ka?

Bon voyage!

George Garbeck

From the Editor

Tibor Vari did it again, he helped me fill up the pages with of the Focal Plane with his article about Monument Valley.

We had a number of new members the past few weeks. In order to do a better job of getting everybody off on the right foot we will publish their names and corresponding sponsors in the Focal Plane. We always had sponsors for new members but never really followed through. I am guilty of the charges. I sponsored new members and never meet them simply because its not that easy if you don't know who to look for and its not all that easy to read the name tags from afar. The tags are either too small or the eyesight is not what it used to be.

A sponsor is to be a new member's initial contact to asks questions and get information. If we all make an effort to meet each other it will make the club's activities more enjoyable for all of us.



The only big event this month is of course the annual dinner, hope you can join us.

Dieter

New Members

Linda Bold

Sponsor: Peter O'Malley

Joan Fabris

Sponsor: Dieter Steinmeyer

Howard Madden

Sponsor: Camille Lapaca-Post

Inzu Nuzzi

Sponsor: Loretta Lembo

Lloyd Rainford

Sponsor: Florence Kantor

Focal Plane

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Monthly Bulletin of Ridgewood Camera Club

Club

Member PSA & NJFCC

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MR LENS FLARE

2003-2004

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Marie Kelleher

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Helen Chakarian

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Ridgewood Camera Club

What is Photography?

By Erik Kissa, EPSA - *Wilmington, DE*

The word “photography” is derived from the Greek language: photo means light and graph(on) means written. Photography is defined by the Webster and other dictionaries as the art or process of producing images on a sensitized surface by the action of radiant energy and especially light. This is not a rule or an immutable eternal law, but simply the technical and scientific definition of the term “photography.” used in English and many other languages. Photography has changed. but its definition is still valid. A digital camera obtains images by the action of light on a light sensitive surface. The images are photographs, although the action of light is physical and not chemical.

Are images created by a computer photographs? It is agreed that slides or prints corrected or modified by a computer are photographs. On the contrary, images made by drawing or painting without using a camera or light are not photographs. The digital compositions containing both photographic and non-photographic material form a debatable gray area. The main issue here is not the nomenclature, but the eligibility for photographic exhibitions. Contests must have rules to be meaningful and exhibitions need standards. However, the border between photography and digitally created graphic art is diffused. The PSA Consolidated Exhibition Standards [PSA Journal. 68 (1) 16, 2002] require that the photographic content of the image must predominate. This criterion is open to interpretation. Hence, the decision of which images are acceptable as photographs is left to the judges of the exhibition.

Professionals choose the imaging technique most likely to please the client. Amateurs are free to make images by any process they enjoy. PSA has room for every imaging technique and electronic imaging is a growing field.

Reprinted for the PSA Journal February 2004

Fieldtrip

The weather was less than perfect, a lot less than perfect. In fact a non photographer would have called us crazy for going photographing on a day like that. There was Camille, Nancy, Alice, Marie, Joan , Vinnie , Dieter. We drove to Hoboken and took the Hudson Tubes across. It was the first trip for all of us since that terrible day.

It was an eerie feeling to arrive at ground zero in an open pit.

Our destination was the Seaport at pier 17, it's only a short walk from the station. The weather didn't improve much, still cloudy and cool but there was a school band from Seattle playing some foot tapping music.



After lunch things started to look up we explored the Fish market area along the river up to the Brooklyn Bridge. The light did get better and there are numerous

photo ops to be found. We had the most fun with some reflecting surfaces on Water Street and some large movable plastic disks.



Everybody got a turn being the model or photographer.



SLIDES SLIDES SLIDES SLIDES SLIDES SLIDES SLIDES

Class A March 2004

	P	A	N	TOTAL
V. Kempf	93	92	97	282*
T. Vari	94	81	97	272*
J. Fornarotto	88	82	101	271*
S. Kantor	90	86	93	269*
P. O'Malley	84	87	89	260*
R. Gheno	84	82	88	254*
A. Parseghian	81	80	87	248*
A. Gunther	77	83	79	239*
D. O'Malley	82	81	76	239*
A. Simpson	78	77	84	239*
M. Kelleher	74	78	74	226*
J. Becker	77	79	63	219
D. Steinmeyer	83	75	60	218
R. Bader	73	75	68	216*
B. Bain	20	82	21	123
D. Phillip	39	27	36	102
F. Alam	57	18	0	75
L. Vincour	39	0	0	39
D. Friedman	19	0	19	38
A. Chakarian	36	0	0	36
G. Levine	18	0	17	35
T. Spector	18	0	17	35
J. Cuomo	0	0	22	22

Class B March 2004

	P	A	N	TOTAL
C. Laplaca Post	79	75	71	225*
M. Badala	74	72	70	216*
F. Lopez	58	71	52	181
L. Lembo	55	53	36	144
J. Placer	59	18	54	131
N. Merena	76	11	17	104
P. Gordon	41	18	12	71
D. Young	39			39
E. Vereb	21	6		27
J. Schilling	22			22
R. Winston	21			21
L. Bold		18		18
L. Iulo		15		15

Tri – Club Competition

Marie Kane

The Tri – Club Competition was held on April 20th at Tri County Camera Club in Nutley. For the first time since 1998, Ridgewood did not win the trophy! Teaneck beat us by 9 points. It was their first victory in 15 years. However, the following members won individual awards.

3rd Place Plaque:

Dieter Steinmeyer “Anemones”

HM's:

Rich Gheno “Wait for Dinner on the Fly”

Pat Gordon “Prisoner in Fortress – Cortona, Italy”

Club Scores:

Teaneck CC: 469

Ridgewood CC: 460

Tri County CC: 438

NJFCC Salon

Marie Kane

Following are the results of recent NJFCC slide competitions.

Tops in New Jersey Nature

HM's:

Rich Gheno “Wait for Dinner on the Fly”

Stanley Kantor “Black Crowned Night Heron Flying”

Spring Color Slide Interclub

HM's:

Rich Gheno “21st Century Bloom”

Vinnie Kempf “Liquid Gold”

Vinnie Kempf “N. Y. Stock Exchange”



PRINTS PRINTS PRINTS PRINTS PRINTS PRINTS PRINTS

Class B Prints March 2004

BLACK & WHITE BY MAKER

K. Licht	88*
B. Ullmann	82*
J. Levine	78*
F. Lopez	50
J. Placer	23
R. Kiil	18

Color by Maker

F. Helfst	98*
K. Licht	90*
B. Ullmann	81*
J. Levine	79*
F. Lopez	41
E. Vereb	29
J. Placer	19
B. Winston	13
D. Pierson	8

Class A Prints March 2004

Black & White by Maker

D. O'Malley	91*
R. Gheno	88*
G. Garbeck	87*
P. O'Malley	86*
J. Schilling	58
B. Bain	38
F. Alam	37
C. Fox	24
D. Steinmeyer	17
J. Mann	9
M. Molino	8
J. Fornarotto	7

Color by Maker

P. O'Malley	96*
G. Garbeck	91*
R. Gheno	89*
V. Kempf	89*
D. O'Malley	89*
B. Bain	61
C. Fox	59
J. Schilling	59
J. Fornarotto	46

D. Steinmeyer	46
F. Alam	38
L. Vinecour	36
M. Molino	22
J. Mann	19
B. Winston	6

PRINTS - TRADE

A. Chakarian	94*
D. O'Malley	90*
A. Parseghian	85*
A. Gunther	77*
M. Kelleher	77*
F. Lopez	55
J. Mann	47
D. Young	23
L. Iulo	18
L. Lembo	14
C. Laplaca-Post	12
D. Pierson	6
E. Vereb	6

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NJFCC TOPS Print Competition

Black & White (Mono) by Maker

HM

Rich Gheno	Garden Rose
Award – 1st Place	
Kenneth Licht	Sentinel

Color by Maker

HM

George Garbeck	Two Worlds
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Award – 1st Place

Rich Gheno	Fishermen's Memorial
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Trade Prints

	HM
Alyce Parseghian	Delicate Arch

Merit Awards

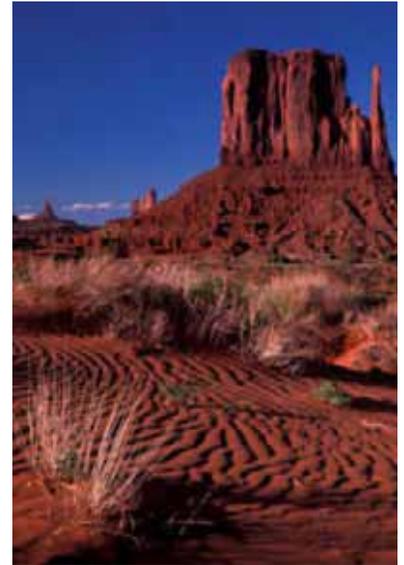
Ara Chakarian	Quiet Harbor
Della O'Malley	Stargazer Lily

Monument Valley

© by Tibor Vari
March 2004

In northern Arizona just across the border from Utah is Monument Valley. The area is famous for a number of John Ford films and its wonderful scenery. This landmark has also become a photographer's paradise and thus the reason for the journey here. Before actually going to the valley, we check into the Hampton Inn in Kayenta to get the photography gear ready.

After paying the entrance fee you are in front of a large building where you can buy souvenirs as well as hire Navajo guides to take you into the heart of the valley. Since its getting late, the free self guided tour is chosen. When pulling out of the parking area you can bear right and go down the hill but we stay straight and go a very short distance to some bent knurly old trees. This is one of the classic pictures where the bent tree is used to frame each of the 3 buttes with various compositions. After shooting this scene, back track and now drive down the hill and turn left into the pullout and park. Walk around the edge of the parking area and look for sand ripples that can be used as foreground material to lead your eye to the buttes. If the weather is good the warm late afternoon light should be hitting the buttes at 90 degrees from where you are standing in order to get full polarization with the polarizer. Out west, I will generally back off the full polarization since with Velvia film, you don't want the sky to turn out an unnatural dark blue. Since it was late afternoon and the light was starting to fade, we head back to the entrance parking lot to shoot another classic scene with boulders framing the buttes while jostling with a very large photography tour for position. After the light faded, its back to the hotel for some dinner and sleep since the next day will start very early.



Since the two main photography locations (Totem Poles & Ear of the Wind), that I wanted to see are in the restricted Navajo territory, I researched a number of potential guides and settled on Tom Phillips of Keyah Hozhoni Monument Valley Tours. Tom is a well respected photographer himself and frankly, did not come cheap at \$200/person/day (May 2003). However, a number of publications recommended him so I took the chance. Tom also has less expensive tours that cover the morning or afternoon and can be custom tailored to your specific requests. Tom's website is at:

http://www.monumentvalley.com/Pages/english_homepage.html

The Navajo do not observe daylight savings time so there is always some confusion about what time it really is. The day starts with an early rise at 3:30 AM to be at the Monument Valley entrance by 4:30 AM, which is the time our guide Tom Phillips had wanted us there (turns out I messed up the hour). Well, no guide, so a quick nap in the car when Tom arrives a little after 5:00 AM. The excitement level rises because I am about to go to the Totem Poles and Ear of the Wind this morning! Tom also tells us he will take us into Mystery Valley and end the day at the Saucers. We are joined by two other cars with photographers and frankly, none of the 3 groups are thrilled to see the others.



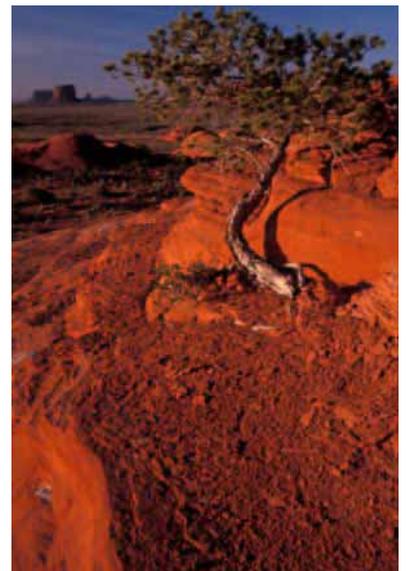
Tom lets us use our 4wd vehicle and off we go to the Totem Poles. This area is one of the key spots on the trip and the weather is great as is the light. This place is truly magical and I shoot a ton of film. Of course one of the individuals is part of a camera club group and is complaining about our presence. She becomes such an annoyance that even Tom has to tell her to stop walking on the sand dunes and messing up the wavy lines. I get a shot of my friend Dave taking a picture and it's so neat that we switch places and he gets mine. The key here is to take the shot (try vertical and horizontal compositions), and then move to a new position. There are plenty of foreground objects from the obvious sand lines to bushes and even the occasional animal tracks. Everything is shot using Velvia film, polarizer and enhancing filter.



Next we are off to the Ear of the Wind and some really neat 4 wheel driving over sand tracks. The truck seems to float over the sand at times while we are all praying the car does not lose its forward momentum. We stop at a home to see if the owner would bring her sheep to the arch for us to shoot. She can't be found, but the guys take some nice shots of the mud huts. Though, it is a shame that anyone in America today should live in these conditions (no plumbing, water etc.).

Again the lighting and mood is great at Ear of the Wind and again I blaze away with film. For the classic shot as seen in this article, you have to walk up a well traveled dirt path. To use the tree as a silhouette, it's a tight fit on the trail, so only one person at a time can take the shot. Tom also has us walk around and we get some additional compositions that I had not previously seen from this place. I use Velvia, polarizer filter, enhancing filter, and spot metered the rock.

By now its lunch time and we are all running low on film, so Tom gives us a two hour break so we head back to the hotel and restock our film supplies. The afternoon is spent driving to various locations, ruins petroglyphs, and arches in Mystery Valley. Some of the locations work well and others are just so-so. We finally arrive at the end of the day to the Saucers. After a harrowing 4wd up a very steep rock formation (white knuckle time), we crest over and park. The photographs are ones I have seen before and duly take them. At this point Tom takes us on quite a hike exploring all around this area and there are some really great compositions. But we are all dead tired and frankly exhausted as the day comes to an end. We gladly hand Tom each a \$200.00 check and it was well worth it every cent of it! I shot a record 10 rolls of film for the day and got back some of the most incredible photographs I have ever taken. I highly recommend Monument Valley if you are in the Northern Arizona area and definitely look Tom up for your guide.



ANNUAL DINNER-SAVE THE DATE

Tickets on sale at Wednesday night meetings-April & May (or by phone to Alyce Parseghian 201-405-1998)

When: May 26, 2004-(last Wed in May)

Place: Doubletree Hotel (same place as last year but new owner, was the Ramada)
180 Rte 17 S
Mahwah, NJ 07430
Tel 201-529-5880

Price: \$25.00 (open to nonmember spouses and friends)

Details: 6:00-9:00 cash bar
6:00-7:00 fresh vegetable crudités, cheese crackers.

7:00 sit down dinner

choice of Veal Medallions//Broiled Salmon w/ Dill Sauce
Potato and mixed vegetables
Dessert: Ice Cream Parfait
Assorted soft drinks-pitchers on tables
Coffee, tea and decaf coffee

Program: Installation of officers
Awards to competition winners
"Best of Ridgewood" slide show by Chick Chakarian



Ridgewood Camera Club

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