

Focal Plane

A Publication of the Ridgewood Camera Club

Volume 68 Issue 2

October 2004



Are-You- Gonna-Share ?

Douglas Goodell

October Calendar

6	Executive Committee	Host: Marianne Badala
13	Print Competition	Judge: Heinz Otto
20	Pictorial Competition	Judge: Judy Helderman
27	Program	Dankwart Koehler "Night Photography"

Workshops

15	Still Life	Teacher: Alyce Parseghian
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From the Editor

Another change of the seasons is on it's way . Falling leaves, Halloween with it's witches and goblins and whatever else is in this year are just around the corner.

In this issue we have an article about a Photo trip without film. That's right, the time has come. There is also an article about security issues a very popular subject these days.

While we are on the subject of security the question often asked is " Is it safe to do photography in the city"? The answer to that is an unequivocal YES. Vinnie Kempf and I take frequent trips into the city to photograph. The city is as vibrant as ever in fact what used to be so called unsafe neighborhoods are going upscale. There are parades, street festivals and demonstrations (99% of which are nonviolent)

Central Park is one of our favorite places there is always something going on. There is a small Zoo and a children's Zoo which is very nice .

What are a couple of old guys doing in the children's Zoo? Watching the kids watching the animals.

Some advice should anybody venture into the city. Don't take too much hardware with you, one camera, one lens or two and good

walking shoes. Then there is the tripod issue. Since we are all members of the camera club I am not going to tell you to leave your tripod at home .

*** check small print at the end

The only small incident we had with security was in the new AOL TIME WARNER building. We where photographing in the lobby when a security guard advised us that it's OK to do so but don't photograph the names of the many stores in the lobby.

Why? We don't know.

Go ahead take a trip into the city and enjoy your hobby of photography without concern about HM's or Awards.

Dieter

*** I leave my tripod at home



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Monthly Bulletin of Ridgewood Camera Club

Member PSA & NJFCC

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MR LENS FLARE

2004-2005

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Competition Secretary

Helen Chakarian

Competition Secretary

Florence Kantor

Treasurer

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Ridgewood Camera Club

We meet on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesday of the month at 8:00 pm
The Woman's Club of Wyckoff, 176 Wyckoff Ave. Wyckoff. NJ
Guests are always welcome at regular meetings



Photo Safari Without Film

I thought I would share some of my observations from my first major all digital photography trip. First and foremost it removes a lot of anxiety over film photography in the following areas:

1. did I nail that exposure?
2. are the camera and lenses working properly?
3. is there "film" in the camera and did it properly load?
4. are the settings I am using the correct ones for the subject ; e.g. shutter speed, aperture etc.?
5. are my compositions correct and did I get what I wanted in that last shot, did I cutoff any feet and heads?
6. will I hit the end of roll right at the peak of the action and have to change rolls?

It also allows one to look at the overall body of work. One can easily see if one has enough images of say elephants and one should therefore concentrate more on cheetahs or particular birds. One can also see in the field, where there is time to correct, whether or not one captured their favorite animals in good light and if not to go back and reshoot.

The concept of bracketing exposures is no longer required. If one looks at the histogram after the image is recorded and the histogram is not "clipped" any over or under exposure can easily be corrected in Photoshop eliminating the need to wear out your camera and yourself bracketing exposures. I had to compensate for two stops underexposure because the camera exposure compensation was inadvertently changed and the images could be saved. Do not expect to do that however with two stops of overexposure.

You can forget about a split neutral density filter. The new Shadows/Highlight filter in Photoshop is in essence a variable split neutral density filter that does a better job than the conventional filter that you place in front of the lens. The demarcation line between highlight and shadow is not limited to a straight line in fact you can have multiple demarcation lines in one image and the Highlight/Shadow filter will adjust multiple shadow and highlight areas. It is like having Mr. Singh Ray with you designing a split neutral density filter on the spot for the image at hand. You might also find that the Shadows/Highlights filter eliminates the need for fill flash.

The hassle of film scanning at airports is removed

and the weight of film is also eliminated, flash cards weigh significantly less than film.

Plan on taking many more images than you do on film. On this trip I photographed more than twice what I normally do. Prepare to take along enough storage devices to allow for the increase in image taking

In essence there is a lot more than just instant gratification to be gained from digital photography, try it and you will never return to film.

Vinnie Kempf

Fieldtrip

Grounds for Sculpture September 2004



Vinnie Kempf



Vinnie Kempf



Vinnie Kempf

Pictorial Competition Sept. 15, 2004

Judge: Ralph Krubner

Pictorial Class B

Honorable Mentions

Pink Calla.....	M. Badala
Tuscan Doorway.....	P. Gordon
Gulf of Mexico	F. Crommelin
Orchid in Bloom	C. LaPlaca Post
Pink Frills.....	M. Badala
Bottle Brush.....	C. LaPlaca Post
Love Bite	L. Lembo

Awards

Cathedral Peak Reflected.....J. Placer

Pictorial Class A

Honorable Mention

October	D. Hoffman
Bass Harbor Lighthouse	D. O'Malley
Light Squall during a Storm.....	T. Vari
Steve.....	M. Forrest
Dusk- Lower Manhattan.....	B. Bain
Safe Haven.....	A. Gunther
Like Father, Like Son	C. Fox
One with Nature	T. Vari
Feather Magic.....	M. Forrest
Lembert Dome	J. Fornarotto
Running with the Ball	M. Kane
The Rink at Rockefeller Center	B. Bain
Subtle Beauty	P. O'Malley

Awards

Trotter #2	V. Kempf
Passion Flower	D. Steinmeyer
Thirsty Cat	A. Simpson
At Day's End.....	C. Chakarian
Snow Mountain against the Aspen.	T. Spector
Wagon Wheel.....	V. Kempf
High Summer at Stony Brook	R. Gheno

Nature Competition Sept. 22, 2004

*Judge: William D. Griffin,
FPSA, NJFC*

General

Honorable Mention

Morning with Cranes + Eagles	D. Goodell
Schwabacher Landing	V. Kempf
Yellowstone National Park.....	D. Hoffman
Swirls reaching for the Sky	T. Vari

Awards

Spider Links + Curves.....	A. Gunther
Fall in Harriman.....	D. O'Malley

Botanical

Honorable Mention

Oyster Plant	D. Steinmeyer
Blue Eyed Grass	D. Steinmeyer

Awards

Indian Pipe #6	A. Simpson
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Zoological

Honorable Mention

Puffin with Fish.....	A. Parseghian
One Last Push	R. Gheno
Flamingo.....	T. Spector
Vulture Trio	J. Fornarotto
Relaxing Baboon.....	M. Kane
Emerald Swallowtail	D. O'Malley
Hammerkop	M. Kane
European Eagle Owl.....	M. Forrest
Lorikeet	M. Forrest
Lion Cubs feasting on Gnu	J. Fornarotto
Dragonfly Face.....	D. Goodell
Kookaburra Portrait.....	M. Kane

Awards

Elk.....	V. Kempf
A Quiet Moment.....	D. Hoffman
Are you gonna Share	D. Goodell
Coiled Copperhead	A. Simpson
Polar Bear Sow + Young Cub.....	M. Forrest

TOTALS

Class A September 2004

	P	A	N	TOTAL
M. Forrest	23		25	48*
A. Simpson	22		25	47*
V. Kempf	24		22	46*
D. O'Malley	22		24	46*
D. Hoffman	22		23	45*
M. Kane	21		24	45*
D. Steinmeyer	23		22	45*
J. Fornarotto	21		22	43*
A. Gunther	21		22	43*
P. O'Malley	22		20	42*
R. Gheno	22		19	41*
T. Spector	21		20	41*
T. Vari22	22		18	40*
C. Fox21	21		18	39*
A. Parseghian	21		16	37*
B. Bain	22		12	34
D. Goodell	25			25
A. Chakarian	21			21
F. Alam	18			18

Fred Frankle

We were saddened to hear that Fred Frankle passed away Saturday, September 25th. Fred was a past president of RCC and was a very talented print maker. Our condolences go out to his wife Eleanor

Condolences

Our condolences go out to Gwenn Levine, whose mother passed away in September.

Class B September 2004

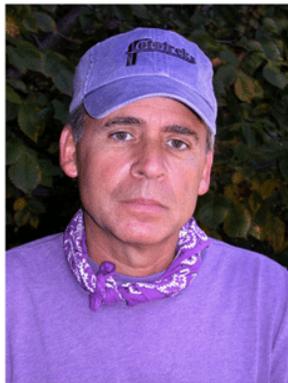
	P	A	N	Total
J. Placer	22		20	42*
C. La Placa-Post	23		18	41*
F. Crommelin	21		16	37*
M. Badala	22		14	36*
L. Lembo	21		14	35*
L. Bold	18		16	34*
F. Lopez	18		13	31*
P. Gordon	22			22
N. Merena	18			18
E. Vereb			9	9
L. Rainford			5	5

TRI-COUNTY CAMERA CLUB PROUDLY PRESENTS

Proceed without Caution

The latest audio-visual extravaganza by world-renowned nature photographer

Gil Lopez-Espina



Those fortunate to have seen any of Gil's previous shows will once again be mesmerized by the visual and musical power of his new digital presentation. This diverse collection of nature's unforgettable moments highlights the magnificent African wildlife and the majestic waterfalls of Southern Brazil, plus much more, including Gil's masterful bird photography. All themes fluently harmonizing to honor the splendor of 'Mother Earth'. And yet, Gil's artistic spirit is always present, particularly when displaying his highly unique Photoshop manipulations.

Friday, October 29th, at 8:00 P.M.

Nutley High School

300 Franklin Avenue, Nutley, NJ 07110

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION

TICKETS

\$10.00 - advance purchase

\$13.00 - at the door

CONTACT

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Fred Helfst to exhibit in Connecticut.

Fred will have a one-person print exhibit of his photographic work on display at Noble Horizons, 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, Connecticut from October 15th through mid-November. The exhibit and sale will be held in The Life-Long Learning Center at the Noble Horizons facility and will kick-off Friday afternoon October 15th with a reception from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fred will have thirty of his color prints on display. Public viewing is limited to weekends from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Noble Horizons is an assisted living facility operated by Church Homes, Inc. and is located in the picturesque north-west corner of rural Connecticut. If you're up in the neighborhood shooting fall scenes by all means stop in.

Alert ! Orange

I would like to report on a menace to our beloved RCC that has been growing slowly over the past few years. It comes in the form of a shadowy, invidious infiltration of our ranks by members of other camera clubs! Yes, hard to believe, but it's true! One by one they diabolically join up hoping no one has perceived their previous loyalties. For what end, I ask, are they doing this: to steal our secrets; sabotage our competitions; or worse, win our awards?

Oh there haven't been any problems yet you say. But am I the only one who has noticed the recent problems with the microphones not working properly, light bulbs burning out mysteriously, or in the increased number of 'accidentally' out-of-order slides in competitions - they all can't be Chick's fault; or the increase in lengthy print titles that cause Helen to get writer's cramp? Small things, yes, hardly enough to sabotage the well-oiled machinery of a RCC competition. But that's how they start; they're just testing the waters!

Let me posit that they are biding their time acting as 'sleeper' cells waiting for the right moment to strike, perhaps on a field trip or most conveniently during the tri-club competition! These sleeper cells are hard to detect, hidden away as they are at our lengthy meetings right there among the rest of us sleepers. (The recent 10:30 curfew imposed by our new President should cut down on legitimate sleepers and go a long way in exposing the sleeper cell members).

It has gotten so serious that even our current Vice President -- I won't name names -- has been found to have conflicting allegiances, and anyone who has seen the movie *The Manchurian Candidate* knows how grim a scenario that will present when he ascends the throne next season.

Right now the measures we have in place to combat such an insidious peril involve overlapping areas of responsibility by several different Exec members. Screening of members is currently handled by the membership chairman and gathering of intelligence on other camera clubs is handled by our vice presi-

dent when he attends NJFCC meetings. I propose combining these duties with the addition of a Chairman of Homeland Security to our Exec committee. Granted there is not much he could do beside watching our doors and windows for infiltrators and administering a loyalty oath now and again, but at least we can all feel a little more secure ... that is until he starts raising color-coded alerts!

Once we solve this problem, as I know we will, we can turn our attention to the next area of concern: the outsourcing of judges.

-- The Nikonoclast



Farewell Marie

 Our Recording Secretary, Marie Kelleher, has moved to South Jersey. It was Marie's job to record the minutes of our Executive Committee meetings. Thanks for a job well done! We wish you well and hope that you will visit us sometime. Al Simpson has agreed to take over Marie's job.



Assigned Subjects for 2004-2005

1. **Night shots:** Photographs taken after sunset or before sunrise.
2. **Patterns:** Repetitive patterns, designs.
3. **Pairs:** Two of the same kind. Set of two.
4. **Creative:** Is defined as a departure from reality created by the use of filters, digital manipulations, reflections, montages, multiple exposures, or any technique that results in a picture that would not normally be seen with the human eye



Ridgewood Camera Club

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