

Focal Plane

A Publication of the Ridgewood Camera Club

Volume 69 Issue 1

September 2005

September 2005 Calendar

**7 Executive Committee Meeting
Host: Helen & Ara Chaakarian**

**14 Program, Sicilian Adventure by
Camille LaPlaca-Post**

**21 Pictorial Slide Competition
Judge Judy Helderman**

**23 Workshop, How to Photograph Birds
Doug Goodell**

**28 Nature Slide Competition
Judge Scott Cooper**

Welcome Back

From The Editor

By the time you get the 1st issue of the Focal Plane for the new camera club season the long hot summer will officially be over, but only by our calendar.

Mother nature operates on a different schedule. Hope you all had a pleasant summer in spite of the heat.

Camille, Nancy Lamb, Pat Gordon and Joan Egan Had a great time in Sicily as you can tell by the article Camille wrote, after reading it I was ready to go right away. Can't wait to see the slide show she prepared for us. Don't miss it on September 14.

There must be some more of our members that traveled to some nice places. Why don't you share your travel adventures with us.

I am all out of words, so I decided to fill the space with some recent photos of New York City.

Dieter



Mr. Lens Flare

Here we go again, another new season of camera club fun.

It is safe to assume that the digital competitors will be on the increase. Yet there are questions on how to format the entries for competition. There seems to be a lot of help for those who are familiar with Adobe Photo Shop. George Garbeck wrote a Photo Shop action that makes it simple to generate the right format but can be a bit challenging if you are not really computer savvy.

There are other imaging programs that let you achieve the same results. Like Photoshop Elements, Photo Impact and Microsoft Picture It.

The programs that come with a point and shoot camera most likely won't do it. Don't let that stop you from entering competitions. Please ask, there are plenty of people to help.

Lens Flare



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President's Message

I hope everyone is excited about starting the 2005-06 year which is shaping up to be another banner year for the Club. Having successfully introduced digitally presented images in competitions last year we will continue with this program and now with our sister clubs, Teaneck and Tri-County acquiring digital capability, the Tri Club Competition will also offer a digital alternative as well. And, I'm pleased to note that in recognition of our early initiative into digital, the NJFCC has selected our Club to host the first state competition to include digital entries. You can be proud of our Club as we're clearly a leader in this area of photography.

With the rapidly growing interest in digital photography, our Program and Workshop chairs have scheduled sessions designed to help the membership move up the learning curve in this exciting new area. In November, Stan Kantor will host a workshop on "How To Select A Digital Camera" while in December Dieter Steinmeyer will present "Digital Imaging For The Beginner." In January, George Garbeck will present a program entitled "Theory & Technique For The Digital Shooter." For those who continue to shoot film you need not worry as we also have scheduled programs and workshops that will be of special interest to you and we will always offer the opportunity to submit slides in all of our competitions.

With monthly competitions, creative programs, informative workshops, the PSA International Salon and a progressive and energetic membership, The Ridgewood Camera Club has a great deal to offer and much of which to be proud. We encourage members to bring their friends and introduce the Club to those who share a common interest in photography, whatever their level of knowledge or skill. At the same time I wish to ask the membership who benefit from our many activities to remember there are a large number of people behind the scenes who work hard to make events happen. They need help and backup. Consider offering to backup a Chairperson who may not be able to attend all meetings or offer to take on a special assignment. It will truly be appreciated.

I want to take this opportunity to thank George and Ruriko Garbeck for hosting a wonderful summer picnic and for Alyce and Ed Parseghian once again offering to host our Holiday Party. Both events have become highlights of our Club year.

I look forward to seeing you again on September 14th, our first meeting of the new season. In the meantime, let's all continue to remember to have fun with our photography.

Fred Helfst

It Happened this Summer

Thirteen of our members attended the New England Camera Club Counsel At the University of Massachusetts from July 15th through the 17th.

PRINTS

Cheetahs	HM and Judges Choice Award.....	Vinnie Kempf
Bass Lighthouse in Main	HM and Popular vote	Della O'Malley
Ducks in Formation	HM.....	Peter O'Malley
Turtle Close-Up	Popular Vote	Della O'Malley
Pink Tulip Trio	Popular Vote	Della O'Malley
Tracey with Hat	Popular Vote	Peter O'Malley

SLIDES

Pink Columbine	HM.....	Della O'Malley
Bass Harbor Light.....	HM.....	Peter O'Malley
Green Heron	HM.....	Peter O'Malley
Cheetahs	HM.....	Vinnie Kempf

Ringwood Manor Association of the Arts

At their annual Photo exhibit

Joe Placer received First Place in the Portrait Category
Connie Fox received Second place in Botanical/wildlife

George Garbeck

had a group show exhibit at the Duncan Miller Gallery in Los Angeles entitled "Paris in Black & White: Vintage and Modern Photography" which ran from May 1st through July. The work can still be seen at their website at <http://www.duncanmillergallery.com/garbeck.html>

These photos plus many of his color images will be on display locally at the Cottage Place Gallery, at the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood, 113 Cottage Pl., Ridgewood. This show runs from September 10th to October 2nd, 2005.

The hours at the Ridgewood Gallery are on Sunday's from 12 - 3pm. Or by appointment

Dieter Steinmeyer

Has an exhibit of his favorite prints
 at the Ringwood Manor Association of the Arts
 Winner Circle

together with eleven other artists painters and sculptors

Show dates are from Aug 14—Sept 7.

Hours Wednesday , Saturday , Sunday and Holidays 1:00—4:00

Directions: Rt 17 north to Sterling Mine Rd (Sloatsburg Rd)

Follow signs to Ringwood State Park (4.3 miles from Rt 17)

RCC PICNIC

On July 30 was our annual picnic, this time at the invitation of Ruriko and George Garbeck. The weather report the day before was not that promising but on our day it turned out to be a perfect day in more ways than one.

The food was great and plentiful. Ruriko was the perfect grill master on top of that everybody brought some goodies to try. The desert were irresistible and full of calories. Who cares on a day like that.

There was a beautiful pool and a friendly puppy named Jake. Just for an extra touch of class there also was a friendly violinist who played many requests and was very much interested in Photography.



"Sicilian Adventure"

Camille LaPlaca Post

It seems my adventures keep getting better. Although I feel as though I have lost my ability to see close ups without glasses, which to no end still frustrates me, however, the depth of my sight keeps increasing with age. My adventure to Sicily was "spectacular." It was everything I wanted it to be and more, which gives me continued positive energy and determination. For the few minutes while landing as I gazed out the window, I could hardly believe my eyes...there was the Tyrrhenian Sea, the mountains and the greenery of Spring seen through the white puffs of clouds. The rugged landscape of sea and land was so picturesque. I was filled with excitement no matter how tired I was.



From the moment we drove away from the airport in Palermo in a stick shift van filled with luggage and camera equipment for 4 very brave ladies, I could feel the enthusiasm in each of us. Our goal was to drive around the island, staying in four different hubs in four entirely different areas of Sicily. We planned our trip a few months prior - the very first Sicilian tour for 4 camera club ladies from New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts. We each gathered information on Sicily, purchased road maps and guide books, picked some dates and conferred about our desires and what we wanted to see. I hadn't driven a stick shift vehicle in quite a few years but it all came back and I was no. 2 driver, as Nancy Lamb was no. 1. Nancy managed to go over "earthquakes" (an eruption of the pavement due to severe water erosion) and the narrow-

est of streets, all on the first day without any sleep! She should be commended for her bravery and skill. I, on the other hand asked for help several times during the trip, one of which resulted in being police escorted to our first B & B, Villa del bosco in a town called Calatafimi. Joan Egan and Pat Gordon became superb navigators, each having a different map to guide us on our journey. As we drove to each destination, Joan would read to us about the history and what we should be looking for. She was also a great translator along the way when no one seemed to understand what we were trying to say. Thank you Joan! It was impossible to see it all, but we really did it all. We found our way with the research we accumulated and then asked questions along the way. Pat was great at asking people for directions and, of course, "Foto please!" Sicilians were more than willing to be in our pictures.

We traveled through many towns: Salemi, while driving to our first B&B, we were escorted to a restaurant by two Sicilian men - one in a small car, the other driving a bus ... and we stopped traffic when our van was stuck on a narrow street; visited the archaeological ruins of Selinunte, a city by the sea; Sciacca with a seaport along the Mediterranean; Segesta where we toured the beautiful Greek temple built in the 5th century BC in the midst of rolling hills; Erice, perched high on top of Monte San Giuliano, which has preserved its medieval character and was a delight to visit; Cefalu on the sea, where I went on a motorcycle to check out our accommodations and where



we captured the sunsets along the sea; Agrigento for a full day of temples, museum and ancient gardens; Montalegro, where we met my relatives and where my photo buddies became dedicated shutterbugs capturing the moments of family reunion; Piazza Armerina, sightseeing and visiting the ancient mosaics at the Villa del Casale; touring the Greek theater in Syracuse; exploring Ortygia and Taormina; and lastly, walking through the city of Catania in the early a.m., photographing the hustle and bustle at the fish market, and then on to Bellini Park with Mt. Etna in the distance.

Our trip was a wonderful experience. No matter what difficulties we encountered, we overcame them. We all had a seeking spirit that lasted throughout our journey. We had a plan each day, and each hub that we stayed at was unique. Meeting and conversing with the people in their daily environment was extremely rewarding. What made our trip so great was that, not only did we each share in the responsibilities of our journey, but we were a group of willing and positive ladies who, together with experience, confidence, mutual respect and determination, found that many of life's quests are possible.

Join us on September 14th for our first program night and get a taste of Sicily.



Assigned Subjects for the 2005/2006 Season.

This time we only have two in order to keep the meetings from getting too long. We eliminated the normal creative subject because they seem to appear during the course of the regular pictorial competitions.

1. Fruit *and or* vegetables.

That means you can take a picture of a broccoli and an apple together or one at a time.

2. Fog

**Like a foggy day in London Town, or a foggy day in Maine.
Or any other foggy place.**



Ridgewood Camera Club

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