



The Reflector



www.delawarephotographicsociety.org • Delaware Photographic Society

April 2005

President's Thoughts

Digital photographers, get ready. At the March meeting the DPS Board agreed to have monthly competitive digital competitions next season. Bill Ritchie has agreed to be the digital chair, and digital competition rules are being drafted. The board decided to have the digital competitions separate from a reduced scale slide competition, but on the same night. A revised set of slide competition rules is being drafted.

In addition, get ready for the DPS summer workshops on digital image shows. It was suggested at the Board meeting that a special-interest group be formed to meet,



*Flying United © 2004 David Hutton
DVCCC Travel Circuit award page 8*

learn about, and discuss the use of the software (like ProShow Gold) for creating digital image shows. ProShow Gold was used for the WIEP slide show this year and many people have expressed

interest in it. To address this interest, we have decided to have an undetermined number of workshop meetings at Cokesbury this summer. A nominal fee will likely be charged for the workshop series to cover a few expenses because this was not in the budget and is probably of interest to only a few DPS members. If you're interested in the digital image show summer workshops, please contact David Hutton at 302-731-4815 or at dghut36@aol.com.

Dave

Annual DPS Photo Essay Contest

April 25 • 7:30 p.m.

Don't miss the Annual DPS Photo Essay Contest. The essays may be in prints, slides, or CD for digital projection. The same rules apply for digital entries as for slides, and entries must tell a story, evoke emotion or set a mood. They may be prose or poetry, fact or fiction. An entrant is limited to one entry per class.

Categories:

- Print Essay Class

- Slide Essay Classes

Class I – 10 slides

Class II – 3 minute

Class III – 10 minute

Class IV – 15 minute

Applications and complete entry rules may be found on-line at www.delawarephotographicsociety.org or at Society meetings. **If you plan to compete, notify Laszlo Hopp at lhopp@comcast.net /610.444.9670 by the April 22 deadline.**

Coming Events

- April 4

7:30 p.m. – Instruction Night

- April 11

7:30 p.m. – Slide Night

- April 16

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

DPS Swap Meet

- April 18

7:30 p.m. – Print Night

- April 25

7:30 p.m.

Photo Essay Contest

- April 30

DVCCC Spring Foto Fling

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2004-2005

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www.delawarephotographicsociety.org

The Delaware Camera Club (DCC) was established January 28, 1931. DCC is a charter member of the Photographic Society of America and The Delaware Valley Council of Camera Clubs. In 2002 the name was changed to the Delaware Photographic Society (DPS) and the Society became a tax deductible charitable organization.

Assigned Subjects 2005 - 2006

At the February DPS Board meeting, Jane Strobach solemnly reported that she and Bob Hunt had very carefully selected the Assigned Subjects for Slide and Print competitions for the 2005-2006 monthly contests. Everyone listened intently — Assigned Subject competition always is a very important item in our club, both for slide makers and printers.

Jane then read the list of subjects for next year: September: *Kittens in a Basket* (seemed strange, but we recently had seen several entered for WIEP). October: *Old Men with Crooked Teeth* (also strange, but we'd seen a lot of these also entered in our WIEP competition. Facial expressions ranged from quizzical to outright hostility). November: *The Color Mauve* (not too strange. We had the color purple one year). One of the next subjects was: *Nude Self Portrait* (really ugly), followed by *A Crime in Progress*, *Close-up Bacteria*, and *Standing in Front of a Monument*. By then, everyone



A Crime in Progress, photo by Bob Coffey

knew we were being had, and Jane started laughing. Shortly after that, Jane read the list that she and Bob really thought were potential subjects for next year. I have to admit, they were just a trifle better than the original list.

Herb Sargeant

Accepted list:

September — *In the Park*

October — *Moods or Emotions*

November — *Out of Place*

January — *Dance*

February — *Fashion*

March — *Distorted*

April — *Gates*

May — *Americana*

Intra-Club Digital Competition

The second intra-club digital competition will be held on **Monday, May 2, 2005**. Image files can be made by scanning either slides or negatives as well as from digital capture. While they will be judged, the points will not count toward the year-end print or slide competitions.

The criteria are:

- Open to all members · Open category · Horizontal images — 1024 pixels wide · Vertical images — 768 pixels · Maximum file size —

300 KB · Submission deadline — April 29 · No. of submissions — 4

The entry form will be posted on the DPS Web site and all entries must be submitted on-line using this form. The instructions for entering and for sending the image files are clearly stated.

For more information, contact Janet Jatko-Webb at

uncoveredangel@juno.com

or John Blankenbaker at

johblank@pipeline.com.

Instruction Night

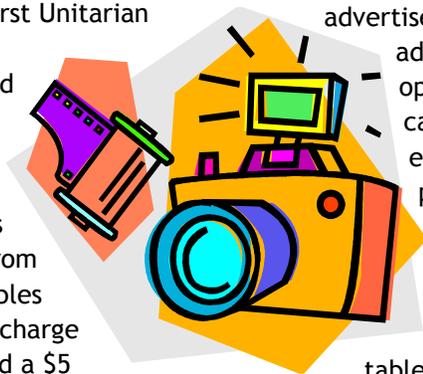
Education Director, Karl Leck, plans informative sessions designed to help members at various levels of expertise. These classes are held the first Monday of the month and are free to DPS members.

April 4: Sandro Cuccia, certified Adobe Photoshop Professional, will present *The Pre-Process Digital Workflow - What to Do BEFORE 'Photoshopping' Your Images*.

In this class we will examine the critical steps you need to take when moving your images from camera/scanner to computer. We will discuss image transfer, back-up and archiving strategies, file naming procedures, and other issues that ensure the secure handling of your image files. We will also examine the "digital asset management" functions built into the Photoshop products as well as third party solutions that focus on image cataloging and organization.

Swap Meet Scheduled for April 16

DPS has scheduled a Swap Meet for **April 16, 2005**, to be held at the First Unitarian Church (corner of Whitby and Halstead Roads, just one short block off Concord Pike) Wilmington. Join us in the Parish Hall from **9 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Tables are available at no charge to DPS members and a \$5 charge to non-members.



Admission is \$1 per person for everyone. This will be an advertised event. Take advantage of the opportunity to sell camera-related equipment or to purchase something new!!! For more information, or to reserve a table, contact Bob Hunt at makingcopy@aol.com.

Vignettes



- Instruction Night is held the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
- Competition nights are held on the second and third Mondays starting at 7:30 p.m.
- Program night is the last Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
- Location: Cokesbury Village, DuPont Pavilion, 726 Loveville Road, Hockessin, DE 19707.
- Membership dues should be addressed to: DPS Treasurer, Tom Hallenbeck, 621 Sandys Parish Road, Landenberg, PA 19350. Dues are \$35 for individuals, \$25 for others at the same address, and half the individual for others at the same address for junior and nonresident members. Dues for first-year members are \$20 per person.
- *The Reflector* is a monthly publication of the DPS. Contribution deadline is the third Monday of the month. Send announcements and articles to Sharon Coffey, 48 Partridge Lane, Kennett Square, PA 19348, 610.388.2741 or SESCoffey@aol.com.

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Questions & Answers

Contributed monthly by Erik Kissa

Q: *My electronic flash is not compatible with the latest Nikon cameras. If I buy the new Nikon SB-800 flash, will I have to buy a new synch cord as well?*

A: No, the old SC-17 cord does not need to be replaced. The new SC-28 is like a SC-17 with a locking mechanism added. The other new cord, the SC-29, has an AF-assist illuminator which aids autofocusing in dim light when the flash is hand held. The street price is \$74.95. The SC-29 cord comes with a curious warning for users in the State of California: "Handling the cord will expose you to lead, a chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm. Wash hands after handling."

Apparently the users of the cord in Delaware do not need to wash their hands.

Q: *What are the requirements for the PSA star ratings?*

A: Stars are awarded only to members of PSA for acceptances in the international exhibitions approved by PSA. For Color (Pictorial) slides the numbers of acceptances needed (the minimum number of different slides is given in parentheses) are: 1 star 30 (6), 2 stars 80 (16), 3 stars 160 (32), 4 stars 320 (64), and 5 stars 640 (128). The PSA system makes it more difficult to achieve a higher

star rating. It takes 8 times more acceptances to earn 5 stars than needed for 2 stars.

After 5 stars comes the Galaxy system. Each Galaxy requires 25 different slides with 4 acceptances each. Slides with less than 4 acceptances do not count.

The number of slides needed for the star rating is lower in other categories. The 5 star rating requires 288 (96) Nature acceptances, 480 (96) Photo Travel or 480 (96) Photo Journalism acceptances.



The requirements for Pictorial Print stars are the same as for the Color slides, 640 (128) for 5 stars.

Q: *Have you seen a difference between the digital and the non-digital lenses?*

A: No, I have not. I do not have the digital and the unmodified versions of the same lens to make a comparison. It is possible that a digital modification improves wide angle photography under certain conditions. However, the lens manufacturers have not come forward with a comparison demonstrating the benefit of the digital modification. Improvements may be significant but not large enough to be readily demonstrated.

Better coatings and refinements of the optical design can be expected to improve the performance of a lens on digital and film cameras as well.

Q: *Have you seen any artifacts when using an unmodified lens on a digital camera?*

A: No, although I use a 24mm wide-angle lens quite frequently. The theoretically predicted increase of the light fall-off may not happen for two reasons. Firstly, the sensors have been improved and are now less sensitive to the direction of light rays. Microlenses on the photosites angle the light rays toward the center. Secondly, the digital cameras with an APS-C sized sensor use only the center area of the field. Perhaps the limitations of unmodified wide angle lenses could be observed on the full-sized sensors of some Canon and Kodak cameras. It is difficult to compare the performance of a lens on a digital camera to the performance on a film camera because other variables are involved.

Q: *Multiple scanning increases the scan time. Is it really needed?*

A: Multiple scanning is not always needed but is very useful for reducing noise in the shadow areas. Four times scanning should be sufficient in most cases. However, I use routinely the 12x setting when making high quality scans.

(Continued on page 5)

Questions & Answers

(Continued from page 4)

Q: One of our leading photographers in DPS says that he can tell a digital print by its lack of depth? What does he mean?

A: I have heard the same statement before and understand what he means. Unlike silver based prints which have silver or dye particles embedded in a gelatin layer, the ink-jet printer deposits a dye or a dispersed pigment onto the surface of paper. The print looks like a picture printed in a magazine. One might say that the digital print looks like a print! The manufacturers of printers have made a considerable effort to make the surface of the ink-jet print to look and feel like a photograph. Significant improvements have been made.

Q: Does the D70 take a cable release, and if so, what kind?

A: The D70 uses an infrared (IR) remote release (LM-L3, \$16.95) instead of a cable release. Pressing the transmit button of the ML-L3 sends an IR signal to the receiver on the front side of the camera, just below the mode dial. The IR beam can be aimed directly to the window of the receiver or bounced off a reflective surface. The remote release is great for self portraits.

Q: You have given your D70 a good workout. Can you tell me what features you wish it had?

A: I have used the D70 for landscapes, people (including portraits), and even for sports with very satisfactory results. I use the digital camera more often than my film cameras because I can process and view the images the same day. Of course, I have a wish list.

All Nikon SLR cameras, including the D70, have an APS-C size sensor with the 1.5x focal length factor. I would like the camera to have a full frame sensor with at least 12 MP but could not justify the expense of a Canon EOS-1Ds Mark II. The viewfinder magnification, 0.76x, of the D70 is on the low side. A larger than the 1.8" LCD monitor would be nice but eat up more battery power. The noise level is insignificant at ISO 200, but could be lower at ISO 400-1600. Having said that, at ISO 400 the digital noise of the D70 is less obtrusive than the grain of the best ISO 400 film (Provia 400F).

My real gripe is the flash system. The new Nikon cameras (D70, D2x, and F6) have the advanced i-TTL flash system which is compatible only with the new SB-800 and SB-600 flash units. Older flash units, including the macro SB-29s, do not function in the TTL mode.

Digital SLR cameras are vulnerable to contamination of the sensor (the low-pass filter) with dust and the D70 is not an exception. I wish all camera manufacturers would do something like Olympus to solve this annoying problem. A

theoretical but perhaps not a practical solution would be to use a fixed semitransparent mirror like some Canon film cameras used to have. The mirror would seal off the sensor and not attract dust because it does not have an electrostatic charge. The stationary mirror in the digital camera would be just as easy to clean as a mirror in the film camera. A simpler design is used by Sigma. The Sigma SD9 and SD10 digital SLR cameras have a glass dust protector built inside the lens mount. The glass disk seals off the camera chamber and is easily accessible for cleaning. Eventually all digital SLR cameras will have some dust protection.

Send questions to ekissa@aol.com

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DNG – The New Digital Negative Standard

By Sandro V. Cuccia
svcphoto@comcast.net

As camera circuitry and components evolve in speed and sophistication, while the cost of mass storage diminishes, an increasing number of digital photographers are discovering the power and flexibility that the RAW format gives them. The creative controls they are given is truly liberating. However, there are as many camera raw formats as there are camera manufacturers (and camera models), and format specifications are proprietary, that is, not open to public scrutiny. This means that not every raw file can be read by the many image editing and cataloging software packages out there. So, photographers find themselves in a bind – using these raw file formats as a long-term archival solution carries a risk, and sharing these files across complex digital workflows is even more challenging.

The solution for this growing problem is the Digital Negative (DNG), a new, Adobe-sponsored, publicly available archival format for the raw files generated by digital cameras. By addressing the lack of an open standard for the raw files created by individual camera models, DNG helps ensure that photographers will be able to access their files in the future.

There are some stumbling blocks that DNG will need to overcome. First, industries are generally skeptical about standards that are developed and promoted by a

single company (Adobe in this case). Everyone will be watching not just for what Nikon, Canon and the other camera makers do, but whether Microsoft and Apple will weigh-in on this issue. Second, camera makers will have to decide if they are willing to implement a universal raw format in their cameras. Photographers have the opportunity to exert the appropriate pressure. Also, an eventual move to a standard will be easier for camera makers to handle rather than keep up with their own array of proprietary formats.



Third, other software vendors will need to support the new format. This seems very likely since the DNG format specification is very similar to the widely used TIFF format. More important, Adobe has clearly documented all file specifications for DNG. Ultimately, it is much easier to support one new documented format that to keep current with the panoply of undocumented camera formats out there.

DNG is starting to take hold. This March, Hasselblad and Leica announced their support for the DNG format in their new digital bodies. More and more third-party imaging software vendors are releasing software updates that support the format. Some examples are iView MediaPro, Extensis Portfolio 7 and Alto Cumulus.

Should you use DNG? If you buy-in to the notion that a standard file format is the way to go, then it makes sense for you to begin archiving in DNG format, using Adobe's free converter available

on their website. (The new Adobe Photoshop CS2 will likely have built-in conversion functionality.) Obviously, if you save to DNG instead of your camera's native format you are betting on Adobe being the longer-term player in this game, or at least that DNG will be endorsed by camera makers over time. As a Nikon user, I ask myself if in 20 years, Nikon will support the raw (.nef) images I make with my D-70 and D-100 today. I think it is more likely that the DNG open standard file format will take hold and that I will be able to work unencumbered with my current files in the future. I am committed to using Adobe tools, so I see this as a risk tradeoff worth taking. On the downside, if you like your camera maker's software for processing your raw images e.g.; Nikon *Capture*, it will not currently support DNG. Camera makers have too much invested in their current formats and will be slow to add support. You will probably need to wait and see how things play out.

In conclusion, as digital photography and cameras evolve, it is likely that you will buy new cameras several times in the next decades. Using camera-specific raw image formats, you may very well wind up with archives filled with a multitude of incompatible files, each requiring different software applications, some of which may not even run anymore on the latest computers and operating systems. The DNG specification will unify this collection of images under a single standard, which will evolve with the technology, and give us reliable access to our images regardless of what camera was used. ↵

DVCCC Spring Foto Fling

FREE ALL-DAY EVENT!!!

Saturday, April 30, 2005

9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

200 Stiles Ave., Maple Shade, NJ

All members of DPS qualify for free admission to the Council's Spring Foto Fling. The morning session consists of photo competitions. Thirty medals will be awarded in ten categories. Rules and categories are available on-line at www.dvccc-photo.org. Two multi-media programs will be presented in the afternoon, *The Power & the Glory* by Ray Guillette and *Ethiopia: Ancient*

Land, Land of Paradox by Carol-Ann Rogus. The afternoon will also feature a stereo card display and Photo Travel Circuit Exhibit.

The event is made possible by proceeds from the Annual DVCCC sponsored Photo Travel Circuit. Check www.dvccc-photo.org for more details and directions.

DVCCC 8th International Photo Travel Circuit – Results, as of March 12, 2005:

- Pine Barren Exhibit – **Monica Nagy** won the DVCCC Silver Outstanding Local Noice Award, Open Category, for *Taj Lady*.

Other DPS members with acceptances were: David Hutton, Erik Kissa, Herb Sargeant and Billie Travalini.

- Colonial Exhibit – **Dave Hutton** was awarded the DVCCC Silver Outstanding Local Novice Award, Transportation Category, for *Flying-United*, and **Doug Donor** received the DVCCC Silver Outstanding Local Novice Award, Open, for *Fishing at Dawn*.

View all award winners at: www.dvccc-photo.org

Print Discussion



Print makers gather for "show and tell" at the monthly Amigos luncheon at the DuPont Country Club. From left, Bill Talarowski, Jane Strobach, Lee Randolph, Herb Sargeant, Charlie Shambelan, Joe Bernofsky, Bob Nelson, Ray Firmani, Karl Leck, and Eric Kissa examine historical prints brought by Bob Nelson. Photo by Bob Coffey

PSA

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) is the largest organization of its kind in the world, bringing together amateur and professionals in all the varied fields of photography, including color slides, nature, pictorial prints, stereo (3D), electronic photography, video/motion pictures, photojournalism, travel photography, and devotees of every process in which the worldwide membership is interested.

Help from experts and educational programs is available to all members. Find out more about the PSA from these websites:

www.psaphoto.org and delawarephotographicsociety.org.



We wish to express our sincere condolences to Lynn Maniscalco on the loss of her mother and to Sandro Cuccia on the recent loss of his father, Dr. Carlo Cuccia.

Our sincere condolences to the family of long-time Delaware Camera Club member, Mary Carnahan.

Member News

📧 Congratulations to **Rod Tanchanco** for his recent awards: First Place, Sierra Club of Del. Annual Photo Competition, First and Third Places, Annual Photography Competition, *Ranch Magazine*, Award of Merit for Excellence in Photography, New York Institute of Photography. Rod also had the privilege of getting his architectural photos published in the March issue of *Home Theater* magazine.

📧 A **Sandro Cuccia** image was selected as one of three finalists in the Photography category for the Photoshop Guru Award at the March Photoshop World Conference held in Las Vegas.



Longwood Ears © 2004 Rod Tanchanco
First Place Sierra Club Photo
Competition - Nature/Abstract

📧 **June McKenney's** image, *The Potter's Hands*, was selected as a *News Journal* Photo of the Week. Send your favorite neighborhood or community photo to:

crossroads@delawareonline.com.

📧 **Beth Kingsley Hawkins'** photo *Love in Bloom* was selected as a showcase image on the front page of North American Nature Photographer's Association (NANPA) Web site. Beth's photos may be viewed in the Members' Showcase Gallery at: www.nanpa.org/showcase_gallery.php

📧 **Bill Talarowski** will exhibit his work at the Jewish Community Center, March 28 to April 28, 2005. The Center is located on Garden of Eden Road, Wilmington.

WIEP Update



Four in a Row © 2005 Wm. J Talarowski

📧 The **2005 Peoples' Choice** ballots have been tabulated and the difference among the top local prints was very small. The winner was **Bill Talarowski** with *Four in a Row* with 14 votes. Second was **Bob Hunt** with *Philly City Hall* with 13 votes. Third place was a tie with 12 votes for *Shades of the Past* by **Jane Strobach** and

Moonlight Buggy Ride by **Bill Talarowski**. The non-local award was won by **Ou Kewei** of Canada with *Golden Waves*. This print also won a DPS Silver Medal award.

📧 Wade Clutton, Exhibition Standards Director, PSA Color Slide Division, sent the following remarks to Chairman, Jeff Smith: *Thanks for serving as the WIEP Chairman and running a first class operation.*

Thanks, too, to all the staff who continue to make Wilmington a first class exhibition year-in and year-out. Another lovely catalog upholding the quality we have come to expect from Wilmington.

Jeff adds his continued appreciation to the many members who assisted with this endeavor.

Assigned Subjects

April – *Flying*

May – *Broken or Abandoned*



Spring Photo Ops

Sunday, April 3, 9:30-11 a.m. Wilmington Rowing Center Open House: tours of the boathouse, rowers in action as they return



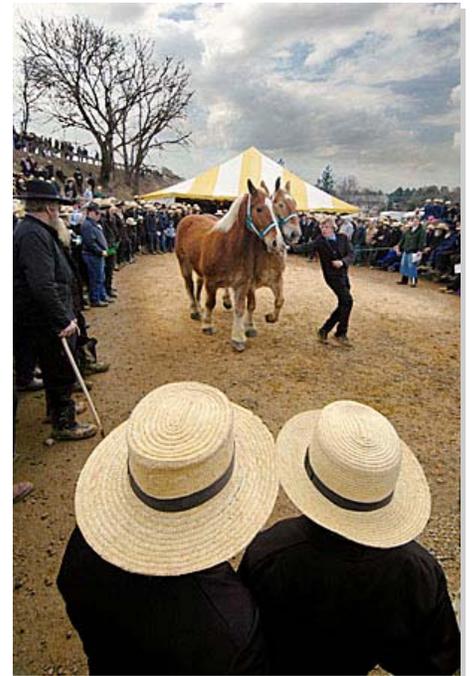
from their morning workouts. Wilmington Rowing Center, 330 S. Madison St., Wilmington.

Free admission; for information: www.wrcrowing.org.

Saturday, April 16, 1 p.m. Kite Day, Brandywine Creek State Park. This promises to be a high-flying day of aerial acrobatics. Bring your sense of soaring and be prepared to reach new heights. Fee: \$2 per person. www.destateparks.com

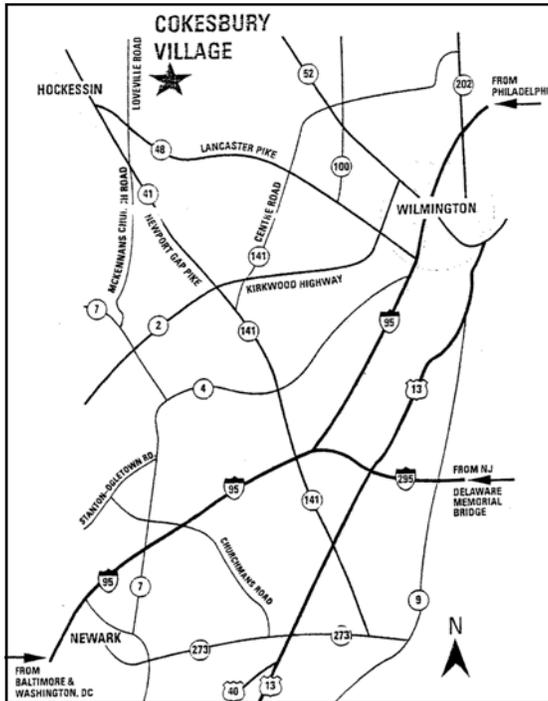
Saturday, April 9, Mud Sale, Rawlinsville, Pa. "Mud Sales" are springtime benefit auctions for volunteer fire companies held in Lancaster County Pennsylvania. Local people, both "English" and Amish come to buy and sell everything from quilts to buggies. Rawlinsville is located south of Lancaster off of Route 272.

April 30 – May1, 10 a.m.– 4 p.m. Fort Miles: The War Years Fort Miles at Cape Henlopen, Cape Henlopen Drive, Lewes. Living history event focusing on coastal defense and the Delaware home front in World War II. Re-enactors from throughout the region will put on demonstrations. For information: 302.645.8983. Admission fee.

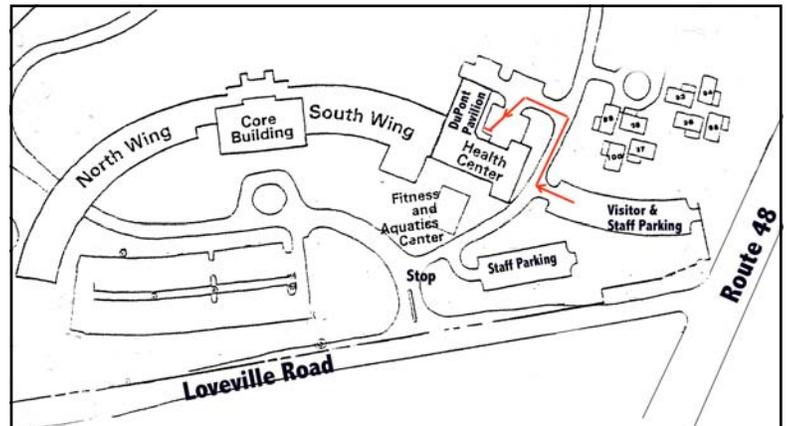


Wanna Be Bidders © 2005 Robert Coffey Auction action at a March Mud Sale

Cokesbury Village Maps/Directions



Cokesbury Village, 726 Loveville Road, Hockessin, DE 19348



Enter Cokesbury Village from Loveville Road. Turn **RIGHT** at the first stop sign. Immediately on the right is a Staff Parking lot. As the road curves down the hill, the next parking lot on the right is marked Visitors and Staff Parking. That is our lot until it is full, then we can overflow to Staff Parking. From the parking lot walk to the right for about 50 yards down the hill. Turn left and then turn left again between the buildings. Our entrance (ambulance entrance) is in the right corner next to the DuPont Pavilion at the blue canopy.