



The Reflector



www.delawarephotographicsociety.org • Delaware Photographic Society

February 2005

President's Thoughts

Is there anything that gets photographers, and probably artists, more excited than judging of their work? Over the past year the judging system at our club competitions, the image-of-the-year competitions, and the WIEP have probably sparked more e-mails than any other subject. Let's face it, judging is subjective. Just ask anyone who has submitted some photographs to several locations, only to get a huge range of scores and acceptances. Last month our judging chairs tried a different approach by having each of the three judges look for different criteria rather than overall

image feeling. There was a rather predictable result, a flurry of e-mails. Perhaps the best e-mail I got this time was from Bill Talarowski, who starts out, "Dave, this argument has been going on since I first joined the club in 1957. Photographers and artists are a creative bunch and don't like being put in boxes and told what to do. They also cannot take [dissenting] comments easily either." He went on to mention all the schemes that the club has tried over the years including even being judged by a count of raised hands in the audience. Whoever got the most votes won.

In any event, my suggestion to the members is to just relax a bit. On any given night you may lose, but my observation is that the best photographers do indeed end up with the highest cumulative scores for the year.

Is it any wonder that some of the hardest positions to fill in DPS are the print and slide judging chairs? Personally, I really appreciate the job that the judging chairs do and thank them for their effort. So, for those who don't like the system, or think they can do better, the nominating committee would very much like to have you volunteer to serve.

Dave

February Program — Exploring New Zealand

Jane Strobach and *Karl Leck* will share a digital program of images from their recent trip to New Zealand on **February 28 at 7:30 pm**. They set out to see a cross section of the well-known as well as the quirky, off-beat aspects of this relatively new land. Traveling by car and without a strict schedule allowed the freedom for serendipitous moments. Bed & breakfast hosts supplied information about many local areas for interesting photographs.



White Horse Mt. © 2004 Karl Leck

New Zealand presents the traveler with a variety of landscapes from verdant rolling hills, glaciers and snow covered mountains, beaches of black, brown or white sand, misty fiords, bubbling thermal springs, and dense rain

forest. The Maori culture has a strong influence on life and craft. Jane and Karl's program will show this wide range of photo possibilities. A handout will provide suggestions for doing your own New Zealand adventure.

Join us for dinner at 6 p.m. for Dinner with the Speaker in a private Cokesbury dining room. **Reservations must be made in advance.** Sorry, no walk-ins. Dinner cost is \$14, all inclusive, check payable to DPS. Limit 30. Contact Bob Coffey at bobcoffey@aol.com or 610.388.2741.

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2004-2005**

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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.

Our First Cruise!

By June McKenney

On July 31st, 2004, Bob and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. Our children surprised us with an all-expense trip to Nova Scotia on the Voyager of the Sea in September. It was our first cruise. There would be a day in New Brunswick and a day in Nova Scotia...with a three-hour photo tour and a city tour included.

We packed Bob's Nikon F100, an Olympus Stylus, my Minolta Z1 and a \$15 Ansco Panoramic. The ship was awesome and we discovered it offered many photo ops as we explored each deck.

On our second morning, we awoke to 'land sighted' outside our door. I was so excited! This was New Brunswick. I grabbed my Z1 and panoramic and went out onto the balcony to start taking those "award winning" photos!!! Snap, snap with Z1, then I laid it on the small table there on the balcony, grabbed the panoramic and CRASH!!! The Z1 landed on the cement floor...broken!!! My heart sank. I thought, "I'm going on the photo tour...and no camera."

Well, the Olympus was still available and it served me the rest of the trip. The photo tour with Lance Timmons, a nature and wildlife photographer, skilled in both digital and traditional

photography, was great. He used a Cannon digital camera to demonstrate several techniques as we visited various St. John's attractions. He was an interesting tour guide, as well as an excellent teacher. He remarked that his photo tours were a good way to supplement his income as a professional photographer.

The next morning we docked in Nova Scotia. A morning Gray Line Tour of Halifax was very pleasant and gave us some ideas for places



Self Portrait by June McKenney

where we would like to spend more time. We were fortunate that our tours had been reserved when our cruise tickets were purchased; as many folks on the cruise

were disappointed that there were no more spots available. The warm September weather was delightful as we walked around the town that afternoon. We learned that the fall season lasts a month longer than that of Boston; even though it is north east of Massachusetts.

Our visits on shore provided just a brief "taste" of Canadian hospitality. We would like to return — perhaps take a motor trip to Bar Harbor, Maine, and the ferry over to Nova Scotia.

On this expedition I was reminded of two cardinal rules: always put the camera strap around your neck and always pack an extra camera. ☺

Instruction Night

Education Director, Karl Leck, has planned 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.

February 7: *Traveling with Film and Digital Cameras* – Karl Leck

Karl will discuss traveling with camera gear, both film and digital. When preparing for a several week trip he needs only a few hours to pack clothes but several days to think and decide on the photography gear that will be useful yet light in weight. If any item that is not for emergencies goes unused on the trip, it should not have been taken. Preparation for photographing in every kind of expected weather is necessary. Will film and



batteries be readily available if needed? What are the positive and negative aspects of rechargeable batteries? Which filters may be helpful? What if I have 40 pounds of valuable photography equipment and the airline limits me to a 7 kilogram carry-on bag? How do I store 1000 Raw digital images while traveling so I can re-use the camera cards.

Sorry folks, no Photoshop this month, just a lot of practical information on bringing home the trophy pictures. There may be a few stories about photographing big events and strange places. Bring your own experiences and questions for discussion.

March 7: TBA

April 4: *Creativity* – Karl Leck

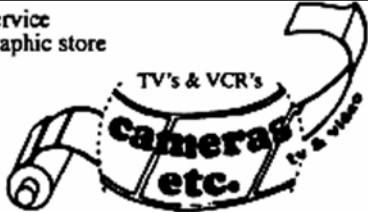
Swap Meet Scheduled

DPS has scheduled a Swap Meet for April 16, 2005, to be held at the First Unitarian Church (corner of Whitby and Halstead Roads) Sharpley, Wilmington, Delaware. 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. For information, or to reserve a table, contact Bob Hunt at 302.764.1363.

Please support our sponsor.

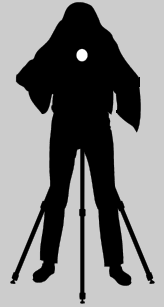
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Vignettes



- 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.

• Visit our Web site at:
www.delawarephotographicsociety.org

Questions & Answers

Contributed monthly by Erik Kissa

Q: *If all images have been erased by the delete function, is it still necessary to format the memory card?*

A: Deleting images by the delete function may leave residual data which may corrupt the card. Formatting removes any residues and assures that the card is clean.

Q: *What size memory card should I buy?*

A: The 512 MB memory card is the optimum size for several reasons. The capacity of the card is sufficiently large for most one day photo shoots. The card can be easily changed if more images must be stored. Changing the memory card is easier than changing film. The advantage of having a 512 MB card instead of a 1 GB, or even the 8 GB card, is safety. A memory card can be corrupted, lost or damaged and if a smaller card fails, the number of images lost is smaller. According to an old wisdom, all eggs should not be placed into one basket.

More important than a huge capacity is the read/write speed of the memory card to keep up with the fast buffers of modern digital cameras. The write speed of the 80x card is 12 MB/s. Most digital SLR cameras use Compact-Flash cards.

Q: *How much faster is the USB 2.0 port than the USB 1.1 port?*

A: The USB 2.0 port (Universal Serial Bus) is about 40 times faster than the USB 1.1 port. A USB 1.1 connection can transfer up to 12 MB per s (1.5 MB per s) data whereas the USB 2.0 connection can move 480 MB per s (60 MB per s). The high speed facilitates printing and is absolutely necessary for transferring data to an external hard drive. New computers come with USB 2.0 ports and new printers and scanners have USB 2.0 capability.

The FireWire 400 (IEEE-1394) is about as fast as the USB 2.0. The FireWire 800 is twice as fast but is currently available only for Mac computer.

Q: *Are the hand held exposure meters obsolete?*

A: Not at all, hand held meters are very useful tools. An accurate exposure determination requires metering the light reflected from object and the incident light falling on the object. The average of the two readings is more accurate than the exposure determined by the camera.

The meter in the camera can measure only reflected light. Incident light can only be measured with a hand held meter equipped with a hemispherical dome. Incident light measurement is very useful and essential under certain situations, for example, when adjusting lighting ratios.

The brightness range of a scene may be wider than the film or sensor can handle. A reflected light meter with a narrow acceptance angle, the spot meter, can measure small areas in the scene. The

discrete readings define the average exposure for the desired range of highlights and shadows. A hand held spot meter has a narrower acceptance angle and is therefore more effective than the spot meter in the camera.

The use of hand held meters is not always straightforward. The effective f-stop of the lens must be known and corrected for the filter factor if a filter is used. Lenses with a constant f-number are therefore essential. Zooms which vary the f-number when zooming exclude, or at least complicate, the use of a hand held meter.



Q: *Does wireless flash photography use radio transmitters?*

A: Yes and no. The wireless flash photography is either optical or radio transmitted. The wireless flash photography advertised by the major camera manufacturers is essentially the old optical slave technology with some new refinements. The light output of modern slave units can be controlled by the camera TTL system.

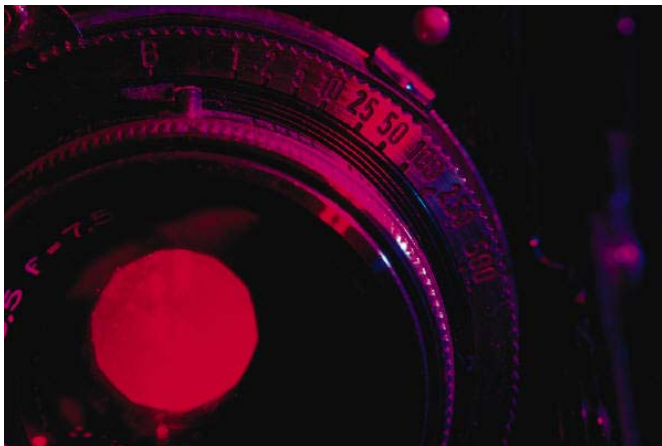
Radio transmitters for wireless flash photography are available from independent manufacturers: the Pulsars from Bogen and the

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Questions & Answers

(Continued from page 4)

PocketWizard Plus system from Wein. Each unit can be operated either as a transmitter or as a receiver. The electronic flashes controlled by a radio transmitter can be placed anywhere, even outside of the light beam of the master flash unit. The radio transmitted flashes give the photographer an unlimited freedom to control lighting. The use of radio transmitted flashes may invalidate the manufacturer's warranty of the camera but damage of the camera is unlikely.



Q: Why do you need many lenses?

A: It is true, that some pros get excellent results with only one or two lenses. Most photographers use several lenses, even in the field. The number of lenses needed is determined by the variety of photography and the personal work style.

- For *film cameras* my bag usually contains the 24-120 mm/3.5-

5.6 VR lens, the 70-200 mm/2.8 VR lens. A 28-70 mm/2.8 zoom lens replaces the 24-120 mm lens when a wide aperture and a constant f-number are needed. A wide aperture lens is in the bag for night photography and available light shots, the 50 mm/1.4, the 35 mm/2.0, or the 85mm/1.8 lens. Sometimes the 17mm super wide-angle lens comes along.

In addition to the basic assortment some special lenses are needed. When traveling light with a minimum load of gear, the new 28-200 mm/3.5-5.6 Nikkor has performed very well. Close up

work requires 50 mm and 105 mm macro lenses. For travel photography and longer telephoto shots the 70-300 mm /4-5.6 Sigma APO zoom has been very useful. I could equip the 70-200 mm /2.8 lens with 1.4x and 2.0x telecon-

verters but the larger zoom ratio and the mobility of the Sigma are advantageous. The Sigma has been my favorite for flower photography as well and has produced many award winning images. The Sigma at the 1:2 magnification ratio is an acceptable quality macro lens with a long working distance helpful for photographing insects.

The list of the lenses already includes 11 lenses but for photographing birds, wildlife, or sports a 400 or 500 mm lens would have to be added.

- With a *digital camera* the

situation is quite different and an arsenal of twelve lenses is out of question. Changing lenses allows dust to enter the camera and is therefore a potentially troublesome luxury. The need to clean the camera can be reduced by using a lens with a wide zoom ratio. A 24-120 mm/3.5-5.6 zoom lens (36-180 mm 35mm film camera equivalent) covers the most frequently used picture angles. A fast lens for available light photography may not be needed if boosting the digital sensitivity does not create excessive noise.

Most digital SLR cameras are equipped with a small APS-C size sensor and this causes a problem with wide-angle photography. A 24 mm lens has the same picture angle as a 35 mm lens on a film SLR camera. A 17-35 mm lens corresponds to a 35 mm film equivalent of 28-52 mm, not wide enough. A wider angle requires an extremely short focal length, from 10 to 20 mm. These lenses are heavy and expensive. Some require rear slip in filters. Unless a high end digital camera with a full size sensor is within the financial reach, a film camera with the existing lenses is a reasonable alternative for wide angle photography. ↩

Send questions to ekissa@aol.com

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page shortcut to:

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Cleaning Your DSLR Sensor

Contributed by Bob Coffey

It is not a question of “if” but rather “when” a digital SLR camera will collect dust on the sensor...unless the lenses are never changed. Even then, there are reports of camera bodies being delivered brand new with dust specks. You may not notice them, especially if you never enlarge your images, but they show up as dark spots on light surfaces where there is no image detail to mask them; i.e., sky in the background. Once you discover them you have four choices:

- Ignore them completely and hope they will go away somehow (No dust in MY camera!)
- Remove the specks on the image file in your computer using Photoshop tools such as the Healing Brush or the Clone tool. It's not a huge task, but the larger you zoom the image the more specks you will find (Gasp!), so it may take some patience to restore the image.
- Return your camera body to the manufacturer for professional cleaning. This is not only quite expensive, but it leaves you without a camera for a period of time. Also, you will need to do this again periodically. Good justification for buying a back-up camera body.
- Invest the time to learn about sensor cleaning and purchase an appropriate do-it-yourself kit.

The comments below address the latter option. First, I highly recommend subscribing to Tim Grey's DDQ (Daily Darkroom

Questions) www.tim@timgrey.com for excellent guidance on all aspects of digital image processing and printing. In a recent issue he recommended a Web site dedicated to sensor cleaning www.cleaningdigitalcameras.com. I visited it and many of the referenced links to other Web sites and absorbed a lot of background information plus detailed instructions that were well illustrated with screen grabs. As a result, I purchased a kit containing a Sensor Swipe, 110 Pec Pads and a small bottle of Eclipse, which is highly refined methanol. I then



proceeded to clean my Nikon D100 and the operation was a success. Months ago, I tried a Speck Grabber, a sticky swab that came with the camera that was designed to “grab” the specks off the sensor. Now I realize that this tool is really worthless as it can only be used to remove anything that can be seen. Unfortunately, only the largest specks are visible even with a loupe and most of the specks seen in the image are produced by dust that is invisible to the naked eye. I also tried blowing the specks off with Dust Off. This wasn't effective and posed a big risk of spraying the liquid propellant onto the sensor. That could be harder to remove than the dust specks.

In order to see the specks on the computer screen one must

make an exposure of a light box using a small aperture setting (such as f/16) with the focus set at infinity. Then import the image file into your computer and open it to full screen size. Adjust the contrast with Levels or Curves in Photoshop. I used Auto Levels and that really popped everything into view.

In my initial test prior to cleaning the sensor there were a lot of specks on the test image. Only one speck was large enough for me to detect on the sensor viewing through a 4X Schneider Lupe. The first cleaning removed most of the dust, but it required 10 passes to completely clean the sensor due to several stubborn spots. Based on the testimonials that I have read this is higher than normal, which is about three cleanings. This was due to intensive use of the camera for about 14 months. On one occasion while changing lenses I was caught in the prop wash of a B-25 bomber at an air show. I've just discovered a few specks on images that were taken after only four month's use. I wasn't aware of that until enlarging the images this week.

The procedure is simple enough but somewhat tedious. I recommend doing this when you are fresh and working in a clean, quiet environment with excellent lighting. I use the quick release head on my tripod to secure the camera, leaving both hands free. After the first few times I was able to open, clean and reattach the lens in the timeframe of 25 to 30 seconds that is recommended.

The Nikon D100 requires an AC adapter in order to set the Mirror Lock Up feature and that accessory costs \$75. Fortunately, the Nikon D70 doesn't require the expensive

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Contests

📷 DVCCC PHOTO Travel Circuit

Choose your eight best Photo Travel slides and plan to enter them in the upcoming Delaware Valley circuit. The entry fee for each group of four slides is only \$3 – a total of \$18 for all (payable to DVCCC) – or less if you opt for the internet catalog. Each group of four slides will be judged by three different judging panels, and in each of those six judgments there will be a silver medal awarded for best image by a novice. (A Photo Travel novice is defined as a member of a council club who has never won a medal in the Colonial, Brandywine, or Pine Barrens exhibitions and has fewer than 30 acceptances in PSA-recognized Photo Travel exhibitions.) DPS is a member of the council, and many



other local participants have already won in years past. So, the pool of eligible entrants is quite limited, giving you a very high probability of winning a medal. It is also interesting to see how three different juries judge the same entries—lots of enjoyment for a very small investment! And mark your calendar now to attend the show on April 30 as part of a free all-day photo event in Maple Shade, NJ. For details on entering, contact Lynn Maniscalco at ltmphoto@juno.com.

Remember that Photo Travel slides depict a culture (foreign or domestic) as found, and no image manipulation is permitted. All acceptances count toward PSA star ratings. Download an entry form: www.dvccc-photo.org.

📷 Europa Cup 2005 Digital Salon

You are invited to participate in the 6th Europa Cup sponsored by the Photo Ciné Club de La Gacilly (France). For information and to download an entry form go to: <http://isf.europacup.free.fr/> Deadline for entries: May 15, 05.

📷 Annual DPS Photo Essay Contest, April 25, 2005, 7:30pm.

Start planning to enter and preparing your entry for the Annual DPS Photo Essay Contest. Your essay may be in prints, slides, or CD for digital projection. The same rules apply for digital entries as for slides. Your entry must tell a story, evoke emotion or set a mood.

Complete entry rules and applications are available at Society meetings. For more information, contact Photo Essay Chair, Laszlo Hopp at lhopp@comcast.net or 610.444.9670.

Cleaning Your DSLR Sensor

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adapter to lock up the mirror for cleaning. My initial cleaning effort with the Speck Grabber used the Bulb setting to raise the mirror, but I learned that was not a good idea for several reasons. First, the sensor is charged and that attracts more dust. Second, it requires one hand just to hold the shutter release down at the Bulb setting and that is pretty awkward. Third, I spent far too much time with the sensor open and that is not a good practice.

The cleaning kit cost \$32 including S&H, so I have a modest amount invested in maintenance equipment and there are enough Pec Pads in the kit for many cleanings. Replacements can be purchased separately for a moderate cost. 📷



Use reference # P163

72nd WIEP Update

Thanks to everyone who supported this year's WIEP!



WIEP Print Chairman, Bob Hunt during last minute processing. Neither rain, nor sleet, nor an eminent blizzard kept our dedicated processors from completing their tasks. Photo by Bob Coffey

Our job isn't complete as we still need your enthusiastic help for the exhibit at Arsht Hall.

Please don't forget hanging day, Friday, February 18, and make a point to view the prints and slide shows on February 20 or 27. To volunteer, contact WIEP Chair, Jeff Smith jasmix@comcast.net / 302.368.1089, Slide Chair, John Frelich jfrelich@comcast.net / 302.235.5943, or Print Chair, Bob Hunt makingcopy@aol.com / 302.764.1363.

Selected prints will be framed and hung on display at Arsht Hall, U of Del., Wilmington Campus from February 20-27, 2005. Slide shows will be presented on two Sundays, February 20 and 27, at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Admission is free and ample off-street parking is available.

Directions: Arsht Hall, Academy of Lifelong Learning, is located at 2600-2800 Pennsylvania Avenue (Route 52) just north of Greenhill Avenue, Wilmington. The campus is well marked and easy to locate.

Mid-February

View 72nd WIEP Award Winners online:

www.delawarephotographicsociety.org

WIEP Schedule

• February 18

Print Hanging - Arsht Hall

• February 20

1-5 p.m. 72nd WIEP Arsht Hall
Slide shows at 1 and 3 p.m.

• February 27

1-5 p.m. Second showing

Member News

PSA has awarded **Erik Kissa** a bronze star for his contributions to the PSA Journal.

Erik Kissa's informative article, "Creative Flower Photography" with accompanying photographs appear in the January issue of *PSA Journal*.

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to the family of long time member, Kitty Riccio. Kitty was an ardent slide worker and supporter of the Wilmington International.

Grab Bag

Paul Antal recommends a basic program for editing and organizing digital files and making CDs. Check it out at www.picasa.com and download the free program.

Assigned Subjects

February – Architectural Detail



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 world-wide 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.

Life Options Fair



DPS participated in the Life Options Fair held January 21, at the Newark Senior Center. The Fair featured lectures, demonstrations, and exhibits by 30 state and local organizations. DPS President, Dave Hutton introduced attendees to the many joys of photography.

Coming Events

- February 7
7:30 p.m. – Instruction Night
- February 14
7:30 p.m. Slide Night
- February 20
1-5 p.m. 72nd WIEP Arshst Hall
Page 9
- February 21
7:30 p.m. – Print Night
- February 27
1-5 p.m. 72nd WIEP Arshst Hall
- February 28
7:30 p.m. Program
Exploring New Zealand
Karl Leck and Jane Strobach
Cokesbury Auditorium

Processing last minute WIEP entries.

➤ Ardis Williams



➤ Ken Williams



Photos by Bob Coffey

▲ Dianne Carnegie