



The Reflector



www.delawarephotographicsociety.org Delaware Photographic Society

November 2004

President's Thoughts

Since its creation several years ago, the DPS Web site has become an increasingly valuable asset as it includes WIEP information, announcements, back issues of *The Reflector*, schedule of events, members gallery, and links to many other photographic sites. The number of "hits" is in the thousands each month and many of our current members first learned about the DPS this way. If you are reading this message on line and live nearby, we invite



Webmaster, Steve Furlong received PSA Honors for a job well done. Photo by Bob Coffey

you to visit one of our Monday evening meetings. The welcome mat is always out and driving directions to our Cokesbury Village meeting location are on-line.

The good news is that our contract to meet at Cokesbury Village has been extended through 2005. Our new location has provided us with more meeting space and storage space than we have had in recent years, with convenient parking.

Dave

Ralph Baron, November Speaker

A Glimpse of Russia

November 29 • 7:30 p.m.

Ralph Baron's travelogue on Russia chronicles a two-and-a-half week trip which included a seven-day cruise up the Volga River from Moscow to St. Petersburg.



Come join us 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 610-388-2741 / bobcoffey@aol.com.

November 2004 Events

- November 1
7:30 pm. – Instruction Night
- November 5
5:30-8 p.m. – Reception
DPS/Belgian Print Exchange
(Pg. 9)
- November 8
7:30 p.m. – Slide Night
- November 15
7:30 p.m. – Print Night
- November 19
Ray O'Day Awards
Maple Shade NJ (pg. 9)
- November 29
6 p.m. Dinner with Speaker
7:30 p.m. – Speaker
Ralph Baron
Cokesbury Auditorium

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**DELAWARE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
2004-2005**

President — David Hutton

302.731.4815 / DGHut36@aol.com

First Vice President — Jeff Smith

302.368.1089 / jasmix@comcast.net

Second Vice President — Bob Hunt

302.764.1363 / makingcopy@aol.com

Recording Secretary/Membership

Eileen Furlong

302.764.6922 / efurlong@comcast.net

Treasurer/Corp. Secretary

Tom Hallenbeck

610.274.1345 / hallentj@msn.com

Education Director — Karl Leck

610.388.0298 / usesa@earthlink.net

Slide Director — Jane Strobach

302.994.8167 / jstrobach@yahoo.com

Print Director — Bob Hunt

302.764.1363 / makingcopy@aol.com

Program Director — Bob Coffey

610.388.2741 / Bobcoffey@aol.com

Reflector Editor — Sharon Coffey

610.388.2741 / SESCoffey@aol.com

Computer Chair — David Shi

302.235.0848 / davidtshi@yahoo.com

Field Trips — Valentina Donor

Valentinad@att.net

Awards Committee Chair — Gus Costis

302.798.8195 / gtcostis@comcast.net

DVCCC Representative

Lynn Maniscalco

302.478.6423 / ltmphoto@juno.com

Publicity Chair — John Hamilton

302.479.0222 / deljohn@aol.com

Digital Competition — Janet Webb

302.764.5015 / uncoveredangel@juno.com

DPS Webmaster — Steve Furlong

302.764.6922 / sfurlong@comcast.net

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.

Focus on Ralph Baron



Ralph Baron

Photo by Bob Coffey

I got into photography in a heavy way when I retired and had the time to spend. I'm a frequent presenter at clubs throughout New Jersey and have won numerous statewide inter-club print competitions as well as in the local clubs to which I belong. I've been doing digital slide shows for two years using film and then scanning images into Photoshop. Only this past spring did I finally convert to all digital, including the camera. Suddenly, I'm the digital slide show maven from NJ and have twelve presentations lined up for 2004-2005. I travel (for photography) and spend way too much time on the computer doing other than Photoshop.

My family includes four children, and six grandchildren. My education includes an engineering degree from Manhattan College and a masters in management from MIT. Besides photography, first with prints and now slide shows, I own and fly an airplane out of Mt. Holly, NJ, just to keep my mind active instead of staring constantly into a computer screen.

I joined the DPS in June and was immediately drafted into active duty assembling the WIEP slide show for the first time in digital format. What happens after I've been around for awhile? ☺

Intraclub Digital Competition

Due to the popularity of last year's first intra-club digital competition, this year two such contests have been added to the schedule. The first will be held on **Monday, December 13** and the second on 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 — 1028 pixels wide

- Vertical images — 768 pixels
- Maximum file size, 300 KB
- Submission deadline
December 9, 2004
- Number of submissions to be announced

Karl Leck has planned a training session for Instruction Night, December 6, when the topic will be *Digital Competition Preparation & Photoshop Questions*.

Details on entering will be published in the December issue of *The Reflector*. Plan now to enter your favorite images. For more information, contact Janet Jatko-Webb at 302-764-5015 or uncoveredangel@juno.com.

Instruction Night 2004-2005

Education Director, Karl Leck, has planned another highly informative year designed to help members at various levels of expertise. Sessions are held the first Monday of the month beginning in October.

November 1: Exhibiting Your Prints – Heather Siple

So you've thought about sharing your work with the public? Local fine artist Heather Siple will present all the basics of the business of exhibiting one's work, from preparing to solicit shows from local venues to finding places to show, and finally preparing for the big opening. The evening will also cover resumes, artist statements, options for presenting work and advertising.

Heather Siple has been exhibiting her work locally for the past 6 years. Her work has been on display at The Delaware Art Museum, The Biggs Museum of American Art and the Packard-Reath Gallery, and is regularly featured at the Wilmington Library. Her work has been published in numerous regional publications.

December 6: *Digital competition Preparation & Photoshop Questions*—Bring your digital imaging problems – Karl Leck

January 3: *Composition—No Rules, Just Right!* – Karl Leck

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

March 7: TBA

April 4: *Creativity* – Karl Leck

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 Rd, 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

PSA is International

Contributed by Erik Kissa

The recent list of star awards in the PSA Journal revealed that about half (48%) of all the recipients were from foreign countries. The recipients of the awards were evenly divided in all Divisions, except for the Monochrome Print and the Stereo Division. The Monochrome Print Division was almost exclusively foreign: one award (1*) to USA, eight others went to Argentina, Germany, Italy, Singapore, and Sweden (the only 5* award). In contrast, the Stereo Division was essentially American with 11 recipients in USA, and only two foreign recipients (Canada and Germany).

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.

Questions & Answers

Contributed monthly by Erik Kissa

Q: *The judging of photographs seems to be random and arbitrary. How is it possible to learn and improve photography by sending photographs to exhibitions?*

A: Participation in international exhibitions is one of the best ways to learn photography but the learning process is not simple. Learning is more or less by trial and error. An image is either rejected or accepted by an exhibition. No explanation is given for a failure or a success. The photographer is left to guess the reasons why an image was liked or disliked. However, useful information can be found on the report card provided by an exhibition. A photographic exhibition is not only a contest but a grading process.

The judging is not random but the results are statistical. This means that some images will never be accepted by international exhibitions and some will be almost always be accepted. Most of the images will be accepted by some exhibitions and not by others. The percentage of acceptances, meaning the probability of an image being accepted, is then the indication of the value of the photograph as seen by various judges. The statistical nature of judging means that submitting an image to only one exhibition is insufficient. A rejection by one exhibition does not exclude the probability of receiving a medal by another exhibition. At least three judgments are needed to evaluate an image statistically, although two acceptances or two rejections

give a meaningful clue. The circuits of exhibitions are convenient for getting three or four judgments with one mailing: Southern Georgia (4 Color Slides, Travel- Photo), Wisconsin (4 Color Slides, PJ), and Delaware Valley (3 Photo-Travel). Obviously, not much can be learned if all images are always rejected. In this case constructive comments from an experienced photographer may be needed to advance to the exhibition level.

Most international exhibitions express the vote of the judges with numbers on a report card. The difference between the reported score and the minimum points needed for an acceptance gives useful information. The points above or below this reference point indicate the opinion of the particular panel of judges. Point difference above the required acceptance level indicates a good exhibition potential. A narrow one-point deficit indicates the likelihood of acceptance by another exhibition. Four or more points below the acceptance value suggest that the image may have difficulties with other exhibitions as well. The low score of the image raises the question - what is there that the judges did not like? What is missing? To find an answer to these questions is the learning process which makes a better photographer.

Q: *Does negative color film have more exposure latitude than slide film?*

A: This is true generally. The exposure latitude decreases

with the increasing contrast and color saturation of the film. Most color negative films do not have the color saturation of slide films. Negative films, such as Kodak UC400 which produce saturated colors like color slide films, do not have more latitude than some slide films.

Erik Kissa

Send questions to ekissa@aol.com

Sale for Bird-Watchers

▪ **Nikon Nikkor 500mm F5 Mirror Lens + Nikon 16-A Auto-focus converter; unique 800 F8 AUTOFOCUS Lens, only \$1250.**

This is the original, famous and fastest 50cm (500mm) MIRROR which has become a collectible and most certainly highly useable lens. I used it for my prize-winning bird portraits. Optical quality is comparable to latest, most expensive APO/ED 400-800mm lenses, in excellent condition, no deterioration of the mirrors, no fungus, almost no signs of use apart from micro-scratches on mount. Focusing is smooth. Comes with elegant, solid brown leather case, custom F8 front diaphragm, 4 orig. Nikon Rear filters.

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Havasupai Canyon Photo Tour

Contributed by Herb & Marian Sargeant

The helicopter literally fell off the tiny ledge on the rim of the deep canyon and continued downward between the vertical walls until it finally settled to a landing five minutes later in the middle of the Village of Supai. This was our dramatic introduction to a photo tour sponsored by *The Friends of Arizona Highways Magazine*.

About 600 of the Havasupai tribe live year-round in the canyon. They hunt, fish, farm and serve as horse wranglers and pack-mule skinnners for the 200 to 400 campers who visit the campground. A short distance from the campground, Havasu Creek merges with the Colorado River in the national park.

As soon as our helicopter landed, we mounted our horses for an hour's ride down a steep, rocky trail to the campground. We camped for four nights with four other tour participants and professional photographer, Kerrick James.



Turquoise Pools © 2004 Herb Sargeant

The primary subjects of our tour were three magnificent waterfalls. Havasu Falls drops vertically over a 100 feet from red limestone cliffs into sparkling turquoise pools at the base. As the flow of water changes over the years, huge sheets of travertine rock form on the cliff-side along the falls. It

looks a bit like sheets of chocolate cake icing. A polarizer and a graduated grey filter were required for proper exposures of the white water and the deep shadows of the cliff faces. A tripod provided the opportunity to bracket exposures

over wide time differences to either stop the water spray, or blend it into gauzy threads.

Many times, stepping back a few steps for a wider view wasn't an option; a step or two might have meant a hundred foot drop, or a dunking in one of the pools. As we were wading at the base of Navajo Falls to get a choice perspective, Herb lost his footing and almost dunked his camera. A large rock saved him from going under, but gave him a big bruise as a memento.

In addition to the falls, we all just had to take shots of the helicopter lifting the portable toilets out of the canyon with a tow cable so they could be cleaned. Come to think of it, that would really have been a thrilling ride, if the potty were picked up while you were busy with your morning rituals. ☺



Fudge Ripple © 2004 Herb Sargeant

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Contests

▪ **2006 PNC Calendar:** This is a reminder that DPS members should be photographing scenes and events in Delaware now for use in the 2006 PNC Calendar. The bank is interested in buying and printing images taken each month of the year in all three counties. Photos will be collected in June 2005. All members of DPS are eligible to submit photos. Images may be slides or prints from negatives or digital.

In July, PNC requested our photos for the 2005 calendar, and 1045 images were submitted from 22 members. PNC will select an image for each month and a cover shot. The selection should be completed in October, and photos will be returned in November.

Herb Sargeant

DPS Calendar Representative
hmsargeant@aol.com 302.731.4069

▪ **National Parks Photo Contest:** A Picture Worth More than a Thousand Words! Kodak and the National Park Foundation remind park goers that now is a great time to thumb through those prints or browse on-line photo albums to choose their best shots for the National Parks Pass Experience Your America Photo Contest. Along with great Kodak prizes and a trip for themselves and three others to the National Park of their choice, the Grand Prize winner of the contest wins the honor of having his or her photo grace the front of the National Parks Pass. Entry deadline for the competition is **January 5, 2005**. For more information, visit www.nationalparks.org.



▪ Ray O'Day Awards

The annual Ray O'Day DVCCC interclub competition will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2004 from 2-4 p.m. at the Maple Shade Municipal complex, 200 Stiles Ave., Maple Shade, NJ. The slide show will be at 3 p.m. DPS served as judge for this year's monochrome and slide division. Contact John Hamilton at 302-479-0222 or deljohn@aol.com for information.

Member News

Stay tuned...

▪ **Bill Talarowski** has been interviewed by WILM Radio 1450 AM on *Fine Art and Vintage Calendars Featuring Delaware*. The program will air on Tuesday, November 16 at 9 a.m. Over the years, Bill has provided many photographs for the PNC Calendar and has now published his own 2005 Calendar.

▪ **Ray Firmani** has been featured on WHYH television in conjunction with his participation in Project Delaware WWII.

PSA Stars

PSA has awarded **Erik Kissa** 5 stars in Photo Travel. The PSA

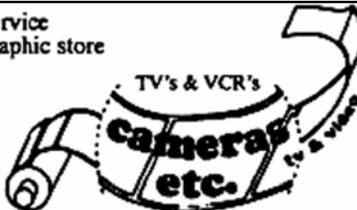
Photo Travel five stars require a minimum of 480 acceptances with 96 different images. Erik has already received five stars in the open Color Slide category. Erik and Lynn Maniscalco are the only two DPS members who have received PSA stars.

Tip for AOL Users

If you are an AOL subscriber who sometimes has problems seeing the updated web pages on our Web site, check out the attached link that describes how to turn off compression in your AOL server.

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Exhibits

▪ **Belgian – DPS Photo Exchange**

The exhibit will be held at the main Wilmington Library, 10 E. Tenth Street during November. Eight members of Olympdia Lembeek have submitted 45 photographs for this exchange with the DPS. Photographers Luc Dequick, Willy De Broyer, Jan Herbots, Michel Dehaeseleer, Marcel De Vriendt, Fernand Paesmans, Geert Deron, and Eric Ecker provide an array of cycling, equestrian, track and field, swimming, adventure, and nature photos for the exhibit. Luc Dequick and Willy De Broyer

are not strangers to the DPS, as they have frequently exhibited their exciting work in the annual WIEP, winning numerous awards. Luc made many friends here when he served as a WIEP judge in 2001. Join us for the Opening Reception on **November 5 from 5:30-8 p.m.**

▪ DPS members are invited to display photographs at the **Wilmington Drama League** from November 29 until January 3. Any general interest subject is acceptable, but creative prints are of particular interest. Space is

limited, so the number of entries per person will depend on the number of participants. Please contact Dave Hutton at 302-731-4815 or dghut36@aol.com if you would like to participate.

▪ **Joe Bernofsky** is having a one-man show of his lovely flower prints at the Jewish Community Center through December. You may remember that one of Joe's awesome orchid shots won slide-of-the-year in 2004. The center is located on Garden of Eden Road, just off Concord Pike, Wilmington.

Digital Developments

The digital handwriting is on the wall. Before Fuji, the three giant film producers were Kodak, Agfa, and Ilford. Now, Agfa has discontinued film production, Ilford is in bankruptcy, and the future of Kodak is uncertain.

Nikon will introduce the F6, said to be the last Nikon pro level film camera. The Nikon D2X digital camera will have a 12.4 megapixel sensor, but will keep the APS-C size with a 1.5x magnification factor. A Nikon camera with

a fixed lens will have built-in vibration reduction, like the Konica Minolta. Canon will lead the megapixel race with a full frame 16.6 megapixel sensor in the EOS-1Ds Mark II.

Erik Kissa

A Dell of A Story

Contributed by Gus T. Costis

A year ago I purchased an expensive Dell laptop – expensive because it had a 60 GB hard drive, 1 GB of RAM, ultra-sharp / high resolution screen, DVD / CD burner, and fast 3.06 GHz CPU. I bought it to create and show “slide shows” using Photodex ProShow Gold software. I soon discovered the computer wouldn't run slide shows correctly. The music ran okay, but the images ran about half speed and, in no way, could they be timed to the music. I just knew there was a small glitch causing the problem, since I had created shows on another

computer (before buying the laptop) and they ran well on the new machine. So I started calling Dell Support, and talking with them first in Manila, then in India, then Panama, then Idaho, and finally, after many hour-long calls over many months, a southern gentleman in Austin picked up the case. Mind you, I always “knew” that with the very next call, with the very next “try this,” we'd find the problem. I sent CD's to Austin demonstrating the problem. They even called Photodex to no avail. Next, Austin sent on-site techs to my home on 3 occasions. They first replaced the hard drive. No luck. Next, the motherboard / video

card, CPU and memory were replaced, and finally the DVD / CD drive. But the elusive bug remained. Surprisingly, I discovered that an old version of ProShow Gold worked well, but none of the past year's newer versions, all with many refinements, worked correctly. To fix the laptop's problem, both Dell and I had done all we knew to do. Dell came through with the final, honorable solution: they sent me a new computer which, so far, works perfectly in every way.

Moral of the story: When you have computer problems, hang in there, don't give up! And by all means, give 'em Dell!

72nd Wilmington International Exhibition

Contributed by Jeff Smith

Preparations are underway for the 72nd Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography (WIEP), and we hope you are preparing to participate, both as an entrant and as a volunteer.

Prepare your entries now, as the January 22 closing date sneaks up quickly. Complete information and entry forms are available on the society's website, or at meetings. Entries may be submitted at meetings, or delivered to Irv Klair's home. (Maps available at meetings.)

Volunteers are needed for a number of tasks over the next several months. Print and slide entry processing will begin January 5 on Wednesday and Saturday

mornings and early afternoons. Many volunteers will be needed on Friday, January 28 to set up for the judging, on judging day, Saturday, January 29, and hanging day, February 18. Everyone involved enjoys the camaraderie and, of course, the photography. Contact Chairman Jeff Smith, 302-368-1089, jasmix@comcast.net, or Print Chair Bob Hunt, 302-764-1363, makingcopy@aol.com, to volunteer to help process entries.

One key position remains unfilled; that of Slide Chairman. This position does not require special skills; it is primarily coordination of the processing of slide entries and overseeing the slide judging. If you're willing to consider this job, contact Exhibition Chair Jeff Smith.

Catalog advertising is an important source of revenue for the society. If you would like to advertise or know of a potential advertiser, contact Ken Williams.

Hosts and back-up hosts for WIEP judges are still needed. For more information, contact Eileen Furlong at efurlong@comcast.net or 302-764-6922.

The annual Judge's Banquet will be held at the Delaware National Country Club on January 29. Our Judges will present their work, and the medal-winning slides and prints will be presented. Cash bar opens at 6:30pm with buffet dinner starting at 7:15 p.m. Reservation forms will appear in the next newsletter.

Wilmington Travelers Club

David Hutton will present a digital slide show titled "Canyons Tour from Las Vegas" at the November 19 meeting of the Wilmington Travelers Club. The meeting is at 8 PM in the Auditorium of Cokesbury Village.

DPS members that are interested in presenting their digital or regular travelogue slide shows should consider joining the Wilmington Travelers Club. The group is currently meeting at Cokesbury Village. This is a once a month opportunity to see an enjoyable slide show, or present an occasional show.

If interested, please contact David Hutton 302-731-4815 or Gus Costis 302-798-8195 within the next month.



Bryce Canyon © 2004 David Hutton

2004-2005 Assigned Subjects



January – *Just Hands or Feet*
 February – *Architectural Detail*
 March – *Brr ...it's Cold*
 April – *Flying*
 May – *Broken or Abandoned*