

THE VIEWFINDER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SYOSSET
CAMERA CLUB

Volume 31 Number 7

March 2002

Message From The Editor

The Syosset Camera Club *Southern Style*

I always thought that the club's weekly attendance dropped off a little when the weather got colder. At first I thought it was only my imagination, but then I realized that I had truly learned the true meaning of the word "Snowbird". I'd like to pass on an E-Mail I received from Moshe Markewitz and another from Cyril Rauch concerning a small get together of Syosset Camera Club members in Florida on Friday, February 1 2002. On that day fourteen members of the Syosset Camera Club (that's right -14!!- more than we get at some meetings) who are at the present in Florida. A half day photo excursion was planned at the Wakodahatchee Wetland in Delray which was to be followed with lunch at a local eatery. The group included the Kleinmans, the Kalikows, the Halperns, the Rauchs', the Markewitzs', the Kupferbergs, familiar names to us all. It was a beautiful Florida winter day with temperatures in the mid 70's and partly cloudy, ideal for photography. This wetland is a quiet, rich ecosystem an treated us with everything it could offer. We saw several blue, green and tri-colored Heron, and one even nesting. Great Egrets, American Coats, White Ibises and various types of turtles. The vegetation was also rich and varied. Giant Balrush, Arrowheads, Leather Fern, live Oaks, and much more. The longest lens that anyone had was a 300mm and that was hardly long enough. Needless to say, all the point & shoot and digital cameras were of little use. It was a wonderful outing and all indicated to do it all again in early March. Moshe assured me that this was not the founding of a Florida branch of the club, although, with that many people, it would not be a hard thing to do.

Frank Iraggi

Calendar

February

28th - Macro & More (How to get good nature close-ups) presented by **Andrew Kurchey**

March

7th - Board Meeting

14th - Competition - judged by Lillian Refer

21st - Magic Pictures - Special Techniques.
Presented by **Bob Golding**

April

11th - Competition - judged by Robert Ulberg

18th - Theme Competition - Winter's Signature

**25th - A Walk In The Woods - presented by
Ronnie & Rudy Flesch**

May

2nd - Board Meeting

9th - Competition judged by Gerald Shak

16th - Shooting From The Heart. Presented by
Rob Goldman

Club Notes:

“A Little Help Is Needed”

Recently, Judy Ruderman inherited a lot of Mike’s photographic equipment. Unfortunately, Judy needs a little help in learning how to use it. The equipment is built around a Canon EOS Elan with accessories. If you feel you might be able to help Judy, please contact her at 516-935-8742. She can also be reached by E-Mail at judymike@juno.com.

“Another Passing”

We have been advised of the passing of yet another long time Syosset camera Club Member. Gabe Solomon passed away in late January. Unfortunately, no other information was forwarded to the club.

“An International Photo Competition”

We have been contacted by Mr. John Byrne, President of the Tallaght Photographic Society in Dublin, Ireland advising that his organization is arranging a photo competition. Anyone interested may contact Mr. Byrne directly concerning the details via E-Mail at j.byrne8@ntlworld.ie.

“Making A Good Recovery”

We recently heard from Dr. Joe Kahn advising that his recent medical problems will soon be behind him. I’m sure that I speak for the entire club in wishing Joe a speedy recovery and a quick return to the fold of the club.

FOR SALE

Complete Black & White darkroom, including a Beseler 23CII enlarger, a stabilization processor and a Graylab timer. Trays, dryers and beakers are also there. Everything you need to get going. If interested, please call **Frank Iraggi** at **516-496-0236**. E-Mail: **fotoguy@optonline.net**

Syosset Camera Club

President.....	Moshe Markewitz 631-757-0554
Vice Presidents.....	Clem Kleinman 516-931-8322 Sy Roth 516-433-2516
2 nd Vice President.....	
Treasurer.....	Carol Greenberg 516-674-6056
Secretary.....	Harry Buschman 516-334-2356
Programs.....	Mel Wachspress
Judges.....	Julius Hecht
Membership & Records.....	Orrin Edwards
Competitions.....	Sy Roth
Exhibits.....	Gerald/Aileen Harrison
PFLI Delegate.....	Sy Roth
Field Trips.....	Alan Agdern & Peter Metzger
Publicity.....	Eugene & Annette Fox
Olympus Liaison.....	Mel Wachspress Moshe Markewitz
Editor/The Viewfinder.....	Frank Iraggi

Meetings will be held at 8:00PM at the Olympus Corporate Headquarters at 2 Corporate Drive in Melville.

Field Trips are held every Sunday morning. Meet at the On Parade Diner on Jericho Turnpike in Woodbury at 8:00AM for breakfast.

Our page on the World-Wide Web is at:
<http://www.orrin.org/syocc/>

Beware the Dreaded Syosset Camera Club

Written with much love, and dedicated to our hardy group of photographers who brave all kinds of weather on Sunday mornings.

By Aileen Harrison

There they were on a Sunday morning at the foot of the Throgs Neck Bridge. Anyone with half a brain could see they were up to no good. Certainly the guard in the little house realized it, after all the spokesman for the group asking permission to take some pictures was Alan (Agdern). Alan has shifty eyes, which would have been bad enough, but he had a bad cold which made him look even more sinister. Then there was Orrin and who could tell what he had hidden under that hat. Gerry (Harrison) with his ominous tripod, was made to look doubly deadly because he had his Moll with him, "Armed Aileen". You knew you were in for trouble when you saw Seymour (Schwartz) in the car. Any minute he could whip out a policy and start selling. Carol (Greenberg) just sat in the back and tried to look innocent, but couldn't pull it off. Maybe, if she had Rascal with her it would have worked. Nobody could accuse Rascal of doing anything mean, or for that matter, doing anything at all but eat and sleep. Pete (Metzger) managed to keep a low profile cause he had to keep his eyes on the new guys, Ira and Marty. They weren't used to our dastardly doings yet and he didn't want them to squeal. After many debates, and a visiting supervisor, it was decided a crew like us had better head for a safe place to hide so we went to the Queens Zoo to fit in a little better.

February 14 Competition Results

Judge: Al Koslofsky

BLACK & WHITE PRINTS "A"

Print of the Month: Alan Agdern

BLACK & WHITE PRINTS "B"

Print of the Month: Frank Iraggi

COLOR PRINTS CLASS "A"

**Print of the Month: Alan Agdern
Robert Schoenfeld - 9
Orrin Edwards - 8
Carol Greenberg - 8
Frank Iraggi - 8**

COLOR PRINTS CLASS "B"

**Print of the Month: Gerald Harrison
Richard Reis - 8
Judith Ruderman - 8**

COLOR SLIDES CLASS "A"

**Slide of the Month: Ramesh Patwa
Orrin Edwards - 8**

COLOR SLIDES CLASS "B"

Slide of the Month: Annette Fox

**The following pieces have appeared previously in
The Viewfinder --- But the information is
timeless**

The Daguerreotype

Louis-Jacques- Daguerre invented the daguerreotype process in France. The invention was announced to the public on August 19, 1839 at a meeting of the French Academy of Sciences in Paris. American photographers quickly capitalized on this new invention, which was capable of capturing a "truthful likeness." Daguerreotypists in major cities invited celebrities and political figures to their studios in the hopes of obtaining a likeness for display in their windows and reception areas. They encouraged the public to visit their galleries, which were like museums, in the hope that they would desire to be photographed as well. By 1850, there were over 70 daguerreotype studios in New York City alone.

Popularity of the daguerreotype declined in the late 1850s when the ambrotype, a faster and less expensive photographic process, became available.

The Process

The daguerreotype is a direct-positive process, creating a highly detailed image on a sheet of copper plated with a thin coat of silver without the use of a negative. The process required great care. The silver-plated copper plate had first to be cleaned and polished until the surface looked like a mirror. Next, the plate was sensitized in a closed box over iodine until it took on a yellow-rose appearance. The plate, held in a lightproof holder, was then transferred to the camera. After exposure to light, the plate was developed over hot mercury until an image appeared. To fix the image, the plate was immersed in a solution of sodium lenses soon reduced the exposure time to less than a minute.

Although daguerreotypes are unique images, they could be copied by redaguerreotyping the original. Copies were also produced by lithography or engraving. Portraits based on daguerreotypes appeared in popular periodicals and books.

The Cameras

The earliest cameras used in the daguerreotype process were made by opticians and instrument makers, or sometimes even by the photographers themselves. The most popular cameras utilized a sliding-box design. The lens was placed in the front box. A second, slightly smaller box slid into the back of the larger box. The focus was controlled by sliding the rear box forward or backwards. A laterally reversed image would be obtained unless the camera was fitted with a mirror or prism to correct this effect. When the sensitized plate was placed in the camera, the lens cap would be removed to start the exposure.