



The

Viewfinder

the Newsletter of the Syosset Camera Club

Volume 38 Number 9

May 2007

President's Message *Aileen Harrison*

Due to the bad weather we were having, I can't say too much exciting happened in the way of Sunday Field Trips. In between the drops and ice we managed to cover some Zoos. The Queen's Zoo is still my favorite. Every member should try it at least

PROGRAM 2007

April

- 12 Competition- Bill Rudick
- 19 "Zoo Photography" presented by Sheldon Pollack
- 26 Theme Competition- Manipulated images

May

- 10 Competition- Andrew Kurchey
- 17 Presentation by Ivan Rothman
- 24 End of Year Competition- Sherman Paur, Arnold Brower and Art Donnelly

Meetings are at the Haypath Community Park at 7:30 pm

Sunday mornings, 8 am at the Plainview Diner

once. The Zoo is very manageable, can be covered in less than 2 hours, as opposed to the Bronx Zoo for which you need a day. One time at the Bronx Zoo we were lucky enough to see the new baby Snow Leopards in the Snow. They were having a ball. Another time at the Queen's Zoo we had a rare 70-degree day, and caught the Bears having the time of their lives in their wading pools. They were really frisky. The Birds at the Central Park Zoo are a treat to watch and photograph.

Last night since we didn't have our own meeting we went east to the Nature and Wildlife Photographers of Long Island meeting. We met our Webmaster, Ed Starling there, who also went for the first time. They seem to be a very active club. From what I gathered, they make field trips once a month and they start at 5:30am. Of course it is this early time, which separates the men from the boys and the girls from the women. Would love to see our Sunday breakfast club do this more often. (hint, hint). They also do not print anything. All is done digitally. They judge each other's pictures and the best 10 go to PFLI in the digital competition. We saw their best 10 last night, which will show up at PFLI on Friday the 13th of April. As their club name implies, their pictures are only of Nature. They meet in an ancient building at the Connetquot River State Park Preserve. Their 50/50 raffle cost \$5.00 and the winner won \$79.00, you do the math.

Reminder

When arriving at meetings please pick up your name badge and put it on as a courtesy to guests and new members.

Looking forward to seeing real Spring. Hope it comes soon. See you at The Plainview Diner any Sunday morning at 8:00am. We have some very interesting round table discussions. The group is definitely increasing in size. Even if you can't go out and shoot after breakfast, the meeting in the morning is worth your while.

This Just in From Nikon -

"It has come to our attention that select electrical components in a limited number of D70 cameras may, in some instances, fail affecting camera performance and/or operability. While only a limited

number of D70 cameras are affected by this advisory, if (1) when a memory card is inserted, your D70's memory card access lamp blinks, locking camera operations and preventing operation, or (2) with no memory card inserted, the camera will not turn on despite the battery indicator showing a fully charged battery, Nikon Inc. will service it free of charge." For further information go to <http://www.nikondigital.com/main.html> and click on "Service Advisories."

Huntington Tulip Festival Photo Contest

You may submit up to two 8x10 photographs taken during the Huntington Tulip Festival for a chance to win up to \$350. The festival will take place on Sunday, May 7. The entries must express "the spirit of the Huntington Tulip Festival" *whatever that means*, and each entry must have an entry form attached to the back. Apart from the beautiful displays of tulips, you will find many opportunities for human-interest photos and a chance to bask in the sun if you're lucky. Be sure to get there early enough for a parking spot. You can get the entry forms and more details at:

http://town.huntington.ny.us/permit_pics/347.pdf

New HD Photo Format

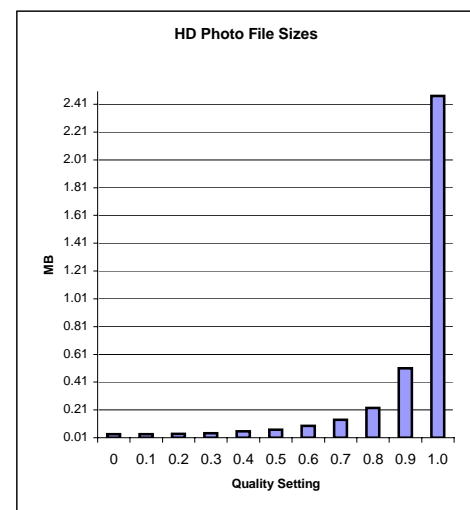
The main file formats for photography are JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group), TIFF (Tagged Image Format), RAW (just as the name says) and of course Photoshop's own PSD. The advantages of the JPEG format are its ability to compress an image file down to a fraction of the original size with minimal loss in quality and the universality of applications that read it. The disadvantage is that it is a lossy format. Meaning that each time you save the file, you use some of the information and the quality of the image. The extent of the loss depends upon the quality setting you use in the dialog box that pops up when you save. In the scheme of things digital, JPEG is an old-timer, being around since 1992. Originally termed ISO Standard 1098, JPEG is so good a format that it has taken 15 years to come up with something that may be better.

Is it time to say goodbye to JPEG? Not just yet, but it seems inevitable at some time in the future. Microsoft has announced HD Photo, a new file format for digital photography that offers more features and possibly higher image quality than JPEG and with the claim of fewer damaging artifacts. But wait! Similar claims are being made for a new improved JPEG called JPEG2000. This standard has not come into use as yet because of potential patent conflicts.

HD Photo offers both lossless and lossy image compression. Microsoft claims that HD Photo retains the full dynamic range and color gamut data from the camera. Because making adjustments to color balance and exposure settings won't discard or truncate data as other common formats do, it's easier to "undo" those changes at a later time. As a result, significantly smaller files can be created while still retaining optimum picture quality.

A beta version of a plug-in for Photoshop operating under windows operating systems is available from Microsoft. Microsoft expects to release finished plug-ins before the end of May, which will be free of charge. It seems likely that new cameras will include this format and manufacturers will supply firmware upgrades to enable older cameras to capture in HD Photo. The smaller file sizes will have the additional benefit of more images per card and shorter

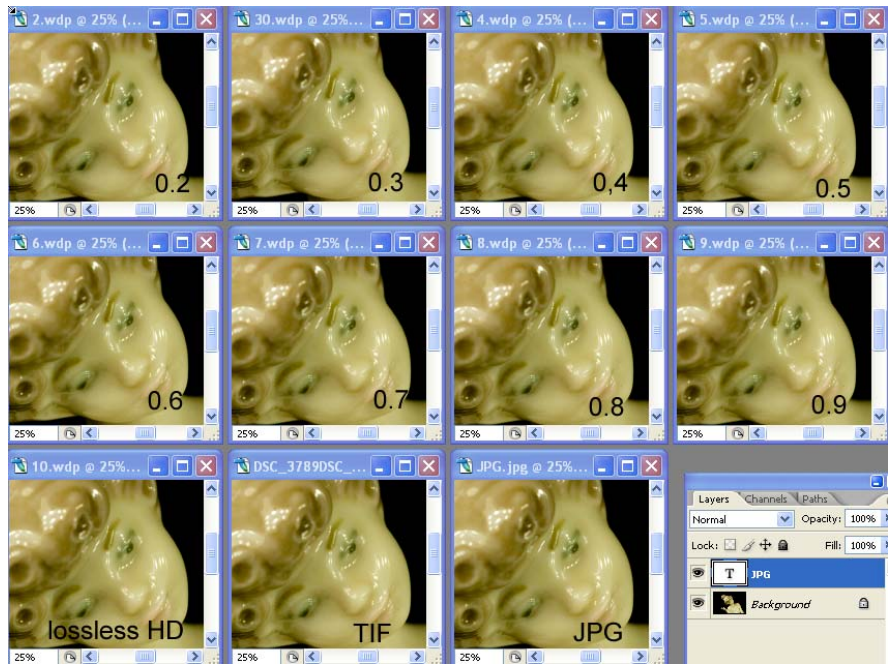
Setting	File Size (MB)	Subjective Quality
0	0.035	Unacceptable
0.1	0.036	Very Poor
0.2	0.038	Good
0.3	0.043	Very Good
0.4	0.055	Excellent
0.5	0.068	Excellent
0.6	0.095	Excellent
0.7	0.139	Excellent
0.8	0.225	Excellent
0.9	0.509	Excellent
1.0	2.470	Excellent
JPEG	1.360	Excellent
TIFF	17.230	Ref. Standard



processing time in the camera. HD Photo is natively supported in Windows Vista¹. The format suffix is WDP or HDP.

No obsolescence- Microsoft also announced plug-ins for Photoshop. The plug-ins will enable users to both read and write HD Photo files from within Adobe Photoshop and include support for high dynamic range pixel formats. The beta version plug-in will work with Photoshop CS3 and CS2 only and is available for Windows Vista and Windows XP, as well as Mac OS X. *The plug in will not work after April 30.*

Bottom line (try this at home)- I have installed the beta version of the plug-in for this article in order to report the pros and cons from a neutral perspective. Please note that this is not a benchmark test, which would be in violation of Microsoft's end user



agreement. I opened a 3008 x 2000 pixel TIFF image with a resolution of 240 pixels/in. I then saved the file at 10% increments of "quality" from 0 (maximum compression) to 1.0 (lossless). For subjective comparison to JPEG and TIFF formats.

Findings- The results are shown in the chart and in the Photoshop samples shown above. I found that at the 0.5 quality level and above, there was no discernable difference between the original TIFF and the HD Photo image. The JPG at minimum compression was 1.36 MB compared to comparable subjective quality of the wdp file weighing in at only 68 KB, well substantiating the claim of "files 1/2 the size of jpeg."

The beta version of the plug in enables Photoshop CS2 to open the format but Bridge only shows an icon, no image and no IPTC information. Double clicking the file name in bridge or in a folder on your computer will open a HD file if you first configure a file association in the "folder options" section of Windows Control Panel.

Do not use this format when sending files to others unless they indicate that they can read the format. For best results you should work with the highest quality image during editing (usually RAW) and save to a compressed format only after all adjustments have been made.

The beta version plug-in was a 'breeze' to download and worked flawlessly. If you would like to play with the format, you can download it from: <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=B157CA0F-083F-4957-9AA3-4DA1DE3DC20B&displaylang=en>

For the more technical oriented only (the Editor will not accept complaints about the overly technical nature of this material)- HD Photo is an image codec that gives a high-dynamic-range image encoding. It supports monochrome, RGB, CMYK and n-channel color representation, using up to 16-bit unsigned integer representation, or up to 32-bit fixed point or floating-point representation. It may optionally include an embedded ICC color profile. An alpha channel may be present for transparency and Exif and XMP metadata formats are supported. The format also supports multiple images per file. The format allows decoding part of an image, without decoding the entire image. Full decoding is also unnecessary for certain operations such as cropping, down sampling, horizontal or vertical flips, or rotations. All color representations are transformed to an internal color representation. The transformation is reversible.

¹ Support is through "Windows Imaging Component (WIC) codec" which can be downloaded from Microsoft for Windows XP support.

HD Photo uses a reversible color space conversion, lapped biorthogonal transform and a non-arithmetic entropy-encoding scheme that is efficient in preserving high frequency image data. This makes the algorithm retain high image quality at high compression ratios.

HD Photo uses a TIFF-like file container to store image data in a table of Image File Directory (IFD) tags. An HD Photo file contains image data, an optional alpha channel data, HD Photo metadata, optional XMP metadata stored as XML, and optional Exif metadata, in IFD tags. The image data is a contiguous self-contained chunk of data. The optional alpha channel, if present, is compressed as a separate image record, enabling decoding of the image data independently of transparency data in applications, which do not support transparency.

Being TIFF-based, this format inherits all of the limitations of the TIFF format including the 4GB file-size limit, which according to the HD Photo specification "will be addressed in a future update".

Editor

March PFLI Scores

Judges - Adolfo Briceno - Suzan Goldstein - Ivan Rothman

Digital Projection B

Jules Weisler John J Harvey 23
Aileen Harrison Yellow Bird 23
Carol Goldstein Beach Scene 21
Jerry Sax Barn At Nature Co 21

Digital Projection A

Gerald Harrison Gorilla 4837 25
Barry Goldstein Flight 23
Matthew Tropper Wash. Mon. 21
Peter Newman 2 Bees On Bud 20
Marty Silverstein Feathers 20

Digital Projection A (Dec)

Matthew Tropper Calm Water 23
Barry Goldstein Reflection 21
Peter Newman Slimeing Tiger 21

Color Prints B

Ira Scheinerman Making Book 21
Maylan Monahan Xmas, 5th Ave 21
Aileen Harrison Mime In Mirror 21
Al Herbst Financial Funnies 21
Carol Goldstein Serenity 20

Barry Goldstein Rowboat 20

Color Prints A

Moshe Markewitz Reflections 24
Ed Starling Main St. Northport 23
Ramesh Patwa Iceberg 22
Robert Glick Long Beach Surfer 24
Matthew Tropper After Rain 22
Marty Silverstein Caricature 22
Alan Ross Ben Kweller Concert 21
Gerald Harrison Splish Splash 20

CAMERA COLLECTOR WANTS TO BUY

- ◆ Quality Cameras- One or a Collection
- ◆ Accessories
- ◆ Photographic Literature

Daniel Zirinsky

Memberships: Leica Historical Society- 40 years
Great Neck Camera Club since 1960
International Center of Photography
Life Member Photographic Society of America

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Email: camrbug@optonline.net

Collect Calls Accepted

Black & White Prints B

Maylan Monahan Brklyn Bridge 22
Ira Scheinerman Tomato Man 22
Al Herbst Street Collector 21
Jules Weisler Roc Bridge 20

Black & White Prints A

Gerald Harrison Higher & Higher 24
Matthew Tropper Space Shuttle 22
Marty Silverstein Dreamscape 26
Robert Glick First Haircut 23

Bob Schmidt Bridgeport, Ct 22

Alan Ross Lunch Break 21
Barry Goldstein Camellia 20

SCC Private Use of the Oceanside Marine Study Area

The Syosset Camera Club will enjoy private use of the Marine Nature Study Area in Oceanside on June 3 starting at 5:10 am. Bill Overton will open the gate for us and lock it when everyone is present. The date was selected based on optimal tide and feeding patterns at the salt marsh.

Dear Friends:

It is with great excitement that I announce a show of my aerial photography at the Shelter Rock Library on Searingtown Road in Herricks. The show is of photos taken in the last 6 months as part of my new aerial photography business. The show will run from April 1 - May 3rd. The photos are on display in the cases in the lobby of the library.

If you are in the area and have a few minutes I would love for you to see my photos and share my excitement of the first public showing of my work.

Best, Carol

Located in one of nature's most pristine wildlife areas, the Hempstead Estuary, the Marine Nature Study Area contains 52 acres of saltmarsh, tidal creeks and uplands that are home to a rich variety of wildlife. It is a waterfowl migration and wintering area for many species of bird, with over 200 being sighted, including 25 nesting species. **DON'T FORGET THE BUG SPRAY.**

Commentary on Social Commentary

Along with the current Ansel Adams exhibition at the Heckscher Museum of Art, was an exhibition of photographs by Larry Fink from his Social Graces series. By reading the placards, one finds that his photographs are "satirical images" from the 1970s and early 1980s. I suppose that it's a good idea to read the material before looking at the work. Otherwise you may mistakenly assume it to be a primer on poor

exposure and even poorer composition. But I must be wrong since Fink has been a professor of Photography and is nationally and internationally recognized by such authorities as the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of Art and has received Guggenheim and NEA grants. I would appreciate feedback from members who have seen the exhibit to get their perspective on this.

Editor

Time to Upgrade?

In their usual fashion, Microsoft has released their not quite ready for prime time operating system, Windows Vista, to a deservedly unappreciative user base. The majority of reviews and user comments that I have seen seem to virtually scream no! Do not upgrade! One has only to read readers comments in publications such as PC World to realize that it would be foolhardy to abandon XP in favor of Vista before at least the first major revision. Some of the claimed advantages turn out to be a major pain to many users who turn off the security and cosmetic features in favor of improved usability.

How about Photoshop compatibility? Even after much collaboration with Microsoft, Adobe appears to be less than enthusiastically supportive, stating, "All Adobe products available as of January 30, 2007 were released before Windows Vista be-

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Al Herbst

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Carole Greenberg

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Ira Sunshine

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Field Trips

Alan Agdern

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Photographer

Marty Silverstein

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Linda Volin

Competition

Barry Goldstein

Viewfinder Editor

Barry Goldstein

Webmaster

Ed Starling

SCC Officers may be contacted by using the link in-
www.syossetcc.org

came publicly available and so have not been fully designed for or tested on this new operating system”

Here is what one user has to say with regard to using Photoshop CS-2 with Vista. “Well I have had enough of Vista crashing, not liking lots of software which includes its own stuff and I need a steady system so I am taking it out today and putting XP back in. I have never run XP on this machine so it will no doubt be a joy to use this PC at its full potential instead of seeing blue screens daily. Vista will be confined to the drawer in my desk until Microsoft decides to make it a system, which is stable and compatible with all the software I use.” *From infopirate.org.* Here’s another testimony: “Adobe Photoshop CS2 was driving me nuts as I tried to run it on Vista. It kept prompting me to register every single time I opened the program! I started looking at processes, even tried registering again, but each time Photoshop would prompt me to register again. Well finally I tried right clicking to goto the compatibility section, but then decided to run Photoshop using Vista’s new “Run as Administrator” option (right click on Photoshop CS2 and then click “Run as Administrator” and finally, thank god, there was no registration screen.” Of course Microsoft does offer patches to fix incompatibilities. But just as I would not buy a kitchen appliance that needs to be repaired before I can use it, I would not want to use an operating system that does not perform 100% ‘out of the box.’

Gerry Harrison reports that he has been using CS2 with Windows Vista with no problem. Obviously there are differences depending on the hardware and firmware in use. We would like to receive comments from other members who are using Vista with Photoshop and other software. Please share your experience.

Editor

PFLI 2007 Schedule

April

13 - Competition Night 7:45 PM

22 - Spring Festival- 9am to 3 pm with Rick Sammon and Adam Jones. Leonard Victor and Goldstein Awards to be given out. Tickets \$30 at the door. \$25 in advance (see Al Herbst)

27 - Delegates Meeting 8:00 PM

May

11 - Competition Night 7:45 PM

20 - Educational Seminar 1:30 - 4:00 PM

June

1 - Delegates Meeting 8:00 PM

8 - Leonard Victor Competition 7:45 PM

September 2007 - PFLI PHOTO EXHIBIT at the Plainview - Old Bethpage Library

Competitions and Seminars are held at the Plainview - Old Bethpage Library

Year to Date High Score Standings as of March

	Rank	Competitions Entered	Used	Cumm. With Tie Breakers
B&W - A				
Glick, Robert	1	7	6	56
Silverstein, Marty	2	6	6	55
Harrison, Gerald	3	7	6	52
Goldstein, Barry	4	5	5	45
B&W - B				
Weisler, Jules	1	7	6	53
Herbst, Al	2	6	6	48
Bowie, Bill	3	4	4	37
Scheinerman, Ira	4	4	4	32
COLOR - A				
Glick, Robert	1	7	6	58
Silverstein, Marty	2	6	6	55
Harrison, Gerald	3 tied	7	6	52
Patwa, Ramesh	3 tied	7	6	52
COLOR - B				
Weisler, Jules	1	7	6	51
Harrison, Aileen	2 tied	7	6	50
Herbst, Al	2 tied	7	6	50
Sunshine, Ira	4	7	6	48