



The

Viewfinder

the Newsletter of the Syosset Camera Club

WELCOME BACK
To The 2007 - 2008 Season Of The SCC
First Meeting Sept 6th - We Cannot Start Without You!

Program 2007-08

September

- 6 Theme- "What I Did Last Summer"
- 20 Competition- John Brokos
- 27 "Layers, What They Are and How to Use Them:- presented by Gerry Harrison

October

- 11 Competition- Andrew Kurchey
- 18 "Lenses" presented by Sigma
- 25 Critique and Round Table Discussion

November

- 8 Competition- Barry Kurek
- 15 "Shooting Through Mylar" presented by Suzan Goldstein. Bring your camera
- 29 Theme Competition- "Motion"

December

- 13 Competition- Ed Sambolin
- 20 "Filters"- presented by Tiffen
- 27 Critique and Round Table Discussion

January 2008

- 10 Competition-
- 17 "Alaska"- multimedia presentation by Robert Glick
- 24 "Fundamentals of Three Point Lighting"- Lowell

February 2008

- 14 Competition-
- 21 TBA
- 28 Theme Competition- Photos that show depth of field effect

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President's Message *Al Herbst*

What a great season we had last year. Your club achieved many major accomplishments during the 2006-2007 that we all can be proud of. This happened because we had a strong and dedicated leader that made it all happen - Aileen Harrison who served as our President, devoting her time, energy and talent to make our Club what it is. Thank you Aileen for the super job you did as our President.

Just to name a few things we saw happen last year -

- Our Club achieved more 9's, 26's and 27's than ever before. We are all getting better!
- A special 'Tip of the Hat' goes to Marty Silverstein for his triple-header awards. Keep shooting Marty!
- Membership is growing, and we have plans to continue this growth.
- We purchased a new lap top computer as well as a digital projector this past year. In keeping with the changing technology of photography, we are now using digital projection for competition in place of slides.
- Two of our members were honored by the PFLI - Gerry Harrison was made an "Associate of the PFLI" for his generous contribution of time, talent and effort to the PFLI, and Barry Goldstein was recognized for his continuous contributions to the Syosset CC and was awarded "The PFLI Service Award." Our thanks and congratulation to you both!

All Meetings of the SCC are at the Plainview-Old Bethpage Community Center, Haypath Road, Old Bethpage and start promptly at 7:30 pm. Visitors always welcome

Don't forget Sunday mornings, 8:00 am at the Plainview Diner

A special thanks goes to Barry for his design and manufacture of the new light-box and the roll-a-way locking cabinet. A great job, it works.

As we enter the 2007 - 2008 season, I want to say thank you for your vote of confidence in making me your President for the coming term. I will do my best to continue the momentum and direction that was set by Aileen and all of us working together will make the Syosset CC the envy and talk of every camera club and the PFLI.

Your Board has met and laid out plans for a very "interesting," exciting and ambitious year. Our judges are set for the competitions. We will be trying some new things as well as using those that we all know that work.

We have put together some programs that we think you will find be both educational as well enjoyable. This is our club, we all are a part of it and together we will make it happen! If you have an idea or suggestion tell us. We want and need your participation.

Looking forward to another great year, with your help.

Changing of the Guard

In this first issue of the Viewfinder for the 2007-08 season, I would like to echo Al's thank you to Aileen Harrison for her wonderful leadership and energy on our behalf during the last few years. Although Al Herbst has larger feet, he will have his work cut out for him in filling those shoes. So thank you Aileen and welcome Al, to the Presidency. There is no question in anyone's mind that Al will not continue the great work. In case you haven't heard, Al Herbst has also been elected PFLI Secretary. We all look forward to working with Al in his new role and I know everyone will give him maximum support. *Ed.*

Blurring the lines

The advantages of an SLR over a 'point and shoot' are many, but not always obvious. Aside from interchangeable lenses, SLRs have larger sensors that are capable of greater tonal depth and lower noise levels. But that's now. Unless the technology used in SLRs evolves faster than that used in non-SLR cameras, the advantages may not warrant the cost and weight burden in the future. In fact, it is not outside of the realm of possibilities that the advantages of a pocket-sized camera will overwhelm the utility of SLRs as we know them today. Perhaps that's why there seems to be a trend toward smaller and lighter in the SLR world, such as the Nikon D40, Sony Alpha, etc. Here are a few point and shoot examples; The Olympus SP-550 UZ has a 28-504mm zoom; the Nikon Coolpix S50C features Wi-Fi image downloading so that you can empty your camera's memory at a Wi-Fi hotspot anywhere in the world. Sony will be marketing at least one 12 MP compact sometime this year. The new Sigma DP1 has a 20.7x13.8mm Foveon sensor with a total of 14.1 million photosites (full frame 35mm is 36 x 24mm) and new sensors under development will increase speed without increasing noise (see new Kodak sensor elsewhere in this newsletter). Some of the cameras that will reach the market in the near future will have enough internal memory to make the memory card an optional accessory. Of course they all have some form of optical stabilization, face recognition is becoming standard and all of the above cost less than a SLR equipped with a standard zoom lens.

A camera designed with the sensor, electronics, body and lens as a fixed unit, feature for feature can be produced more economically than an interchangeable lens camera. It is not a far-fetched idea that all of the above features will be combined in a sub \$1,000 compact sometime soon. When that hap-

Officers & Chairs

President	<i>Al Herbst</i>
Vice President	<i>Marty Silverstein</i>
Second VP	<i>Bill Schmidt</i>
Treasurer	<i>Carole Greenberg</i>
Secretary	<i>Jules Weisler</i>
Programs	<i>Aileen Harrison</i>
Judges	<i>Moshe Markewitz</i>
Membership	<i>Barry Goldstein</i>
Records	<i>Barry Goldstein</i>
Exhibits	<i>Gerald Harrison Aileen Harrison</i>
Photographer	<i>Marty Silverstein</i>
Publicity	<i>Linda Volin</i>
Competition	<i>Barry Goldstein</i>
Viewfinder Editor	<i>Barry Goldstein</i>
Webmaster	<i>Ed Starling</i>
PFLI Delegate	<i>Al Herbst</i>
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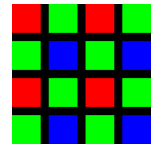
SCC Officers may be contacted by using the link in-
www.syossetcc.org



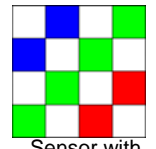
pens the choice of SLR vs. a “point and shoot” may come down to something more esoteric than pure utility. It’s kind of like driving a sports car with a standard shift vs. automatic.

Kodak Does It Again

As in film photography, increasing the sensitivity of the recording medium increases noise. In film photography, it’s called grain. In an effort to increase the speed of its sensors, Kodak has come up with the idea of adding a third pixel to the RGB scheme. Current sensors are based on the 1976 patent of another Kodak scientist Dr. Bryce Bayer. In the Bayer scheme, half of the pixels are green and the other half are equally divided between Red and Blue. Actually all the pixels are the same except for a colored filter over each of the pixels to allow only the designated color to pass through to the pixel. The camera’s computer algorithm puts the information together to make the image. (The over-weighting of Green in the pattern is in conformity with the sensitivity of human vision). In the new Kodak sensor, a fourth panchromatic (white) pixel is added to the mosaic. The panchromatic pixels measure overall luminance (brightness). The Red, Green and Blue pixels add the color information. Because the white pixels suffer no filter loss, the sensor is much more sensitive. The concept is analogous of the scheme used for color television, in which luminance and color information are separate entities. The new patent is only a few months old, so it does not appear in any current cameras, but it is on the way.



Bayer Pattern



Sensor with Panchromatic Cells

Is your Sensor Dirty? *For SLR users only. Others breathe a sigh of relief*

The problem

Every time you remove a lens from your SLR, there is an opportunity for it to inherit a piece of dust, lint or hair, which will show up as a shadow in your images, much like dust on a negative in the old days, otherwise known as schmutz. The problem is usually visible in light areas of a photograph such as sky. There are various cleaning methods, but prevention is the preferred route.

Prevention

- never change lenses in a windy area.
- Turn the camera off before changing lenses. Most sensors have an electrostatic charge that will attract dust to it like a magnet.
- Hold the camera with the opening facing down when changing
- When changing lenses be prepared and have your new lens ready to attach so that your camera is open for as short a time as possible.
- Check your lenses for dust before attaching them - use a blower to remove any dust from the rear element of the lens.

Diagnosis

Set your camera for the lowest ISO setting and manually focus at infinity. Holding the camera 2-3 inches from a white surface, make an exposure. If your sensor is clean, when you open the image in your editing software you will see a uniformly gray surface. If there is anything on the sensor it will be easily seen. If you don’t see anything, turn up the zoom level and check again.

For Sale

If you’re really serious about photography, here’s a deal for you.

Like new medium format SLR with interchangeable everything.

Comes with both waist level and eye level finders. The prism finder has a built in meter. 220 back takes 24 2.25” x 2.25” (6x6 cm) exposures.

80 mm f2.8 Bronica lens with electronically controlled Seiko shutter and leather lens case.

All original boxes, manual, caps, etc.

The perfect camera for portraits landscapes or just about anything.

Original cost \$2200. **Yours for \$599**

Contact: barry.goldstein@yahoo.com



Cleaning

Even with all of the above precautions, the time will come when your sensor will require cleaning. This can be a do-it-yourself job, but only up to a point. That point is a matter of personal confidence and your degree of fine motor skills. The first thing and perhaps the only thing you need to do is to blow air across the sensor from a rubber bulb such as an ear syringe or a bulb type blower made for that purpose. The next thing you need to do is to get the reflex mirror out of the way. Consult your users manual (you know, the book you have been meaning to read since you bought the camera but the plot is just too boring) to determine how to perform a “mirror lock-up.” Make sure you have a fully charged battery in the camera to keep the mirror up. If you run out of ‘juice’ before you’re done you could do some damage to the camera. Once the mirror is locked up, while tilting the camera down to prevent new dust from entering, hold the nozzle of the blower at an oblique angle to the sensor, being careful not to touch the sensor and squeeze sharply 3-4 times. Release the mirror and that should do it. You won’t know if you were successful until you make a test exposure.

Do not use multi-purpose canned air products such as Dust Off. These products contain propellants that will deposit an oily film on your sensor and never blow on the sensor. There are specialty canned air products on the market but they probably cost as much as a professional cleaning.

If you still have a problem, you have three choices. Take it to a professional, buy a sensor cleaning kit or use the “dust reference photo mode” if your camera has one. This is a process whereby an image of the dust is electronically subtracted from your intended image. Nikon includes it. I don’t know about Canon.

Cleaning kits contain swabs and highly purified methyl alcohol. The alcohol evaporates almost immediately. There are numerous other products that you can buy including vacuum systems. Each has its drawbacks. An excellent list can be found at <http://www.cleaningdigitalcameras.com/methods.html> . Actually you cannot clean the sensor. What you are cleaning is a very thin filter that covers the sensor surface.

If you follow instructions and are very careful you can do it yourself. If you own a Nikon, it does not pay to do it yourself, since the supplies will cost you at least \$25 and you can have it cleaned by Nikon in Melville while you wait for \$30 (thank you Al of Berger Bros. for that tip).

New Members

Tina and Chris Ferrara



Tina graduated from Franklin D. Roosevelt H.S. in Brooklyn. She works as an office manager for a reinsurance company in Manhattan. Tina enjoys many creative endeavors including decorating and crafts. Tina shoots with a Canon S3.



Chris attended Benjamin N. Cardozo H.S. in Bayside, and then went onto S.U.N.Y. Farmingdale where he received

an associate’s degree in Automotive Engineering Technology. He currently works as a bus mechanic for the MTA. Chris’ photography experience includes a few adult ed. classes that he attended and a lot of self taught travel, landscape, animal and floral photography. Chris has the distinction of having one of his photos displayed in Newsday’s “My Best Shot this past year.” Chris owns a Canon Rebel and a Canon S3. Aside from photography, Chris enjoys many activities including volleyball, biking, traveling and reading.

Fred Stermann

A railroad professional, Fred retired from the Metro-North Railroad in 2006 after 41 years of service. During those years, Fred worked in various managerial roles for the Pennsylvania, Penn Central, Con Rail and Metro North railroads, including Grand Central Terminal (Fred says that the photo ops at Grand Central early in the morning before the crowds are fantastic). Photography became Fred’s hobby while in the service from 1966 – 1968. While Photography took a



back seat to family and work, he never lost interest. He became a digital enthusiast about two years ago. After some trial and error, he now uses a Canon 5D and three canon lenses: 16-35, 24-105 and 28-300. Fred also enjoys fishing and is "somewhat of an audiophile." Fred met his wife Sherri on the Internet about 8 years ago and they moved from College Point to Long Island.

In Memoriam

A former SCC member, Leon Brown, died on May 11, in Palm Springs, CA at the age of 84. Stan Rothman has some recollections of Leon to share with us.

"Leon Brown was a friend and patient of mine for many years. He and his wife Ruth were members of the Syosset Camera Club and competed in the slide division, as it existed prior to the recent conversion to digital projection. They traveled widely and he had a Slide of the Year and an honorable mention from PSA.

I recently found out from Ruth that Lee was largely responsible for the existence of the Syosset Public Library in its present location. A referendum to buy the land for the library was passed by the community and then set aside by the school board. Lee brought suit as a private citizen and was successful in forcing the board to acknowledge the result of the vote. This case was decided in 1968 and established legal precedent in the State of New York. It was dubbed Brown v. Board of Education.

Lee was a man of strong opinions but displayed sound reasoning tempered with kindness. He was passionate about opera and we often discussed, listened to and shared recordings. I say goodbye with genuine sadness. He will be missed by many."

Lightroom

Lightroom appears to have become of favorite of several members in the short time that it has been available. You can get a flavor of working with Adobe lightroom and a good tutorial by watching a demo at http://www.adobe.com/designcenter/lightroom/articles/lir1am_adjuststone.html?trackingid=RJOP#. You may wish to download the 30-day free trial. It has some powerful features, which you may or may not find worthwhile. Lightroom is Adobe's answer to Aperture. It is basically a tool for comparing, sorting, doing basic image editing tasks and raw conversions. While it is not marketed as a stand-alone application, at least one member has stated that it has become a solo application for him. The first time I used it, I was perplexed by the unusual method of finding files. You have to import your image files into the program before you can access them. I found the interface and tools to have a very 'professional' look and feel. Experienced photographers will appreciate the range of controls, which are calibrated in such a way as to make subtle changes to the image and prevent extreme, unintended results. If you typically take huge numbers of photographs and don't do much with layers, you may find the program an alternative and less expensive solution to your editing needs. If on the other-hand you shoot as if your camera was loaded with film, and will continue to use Photoshop anyway, there is little reason to spend an extra \$269.

Rick Sammon
Cannon Explorers of Light
Where: Holiday Inn Plainview
When: Oct. 10th 7pm-9:30pm
Fee: \$29.00
Sponsored by Berger Bros.

Letters

Thank you for another excellent edition of The Viewfinder. I thought your article on photography and art in the 21st century to be thought provoking. The possibilities inherent in digital photography makes it inevitable. I think that we will see a recapitulation of many of the styles, which have appeared in the evolution of painting. I think we will see not only a trend towards impressionism, but likely to abstraction and surrealism as well. Stan Rothman

Many thanks to Aileen Harrison for a wonderful evening. You deserve many complements for taking it on yourself to arrange the end of year party collecting and roping the raffles choosing the menu and make all other arrangements. Ahuva and myself had a wonderful time and I must assume that many others felt the same
.. Moshe Markewitz.

We went to the Galapagos Islands last year in May. Hope people going in November know about the Humboldt Current, which flows from the Antarctica north making the waters around the Galapagos extremely cold. You must use a wet suit. We were on a 100-person ship that wasn't filled and really enjoyed the trip. It was a photographer's paradise Alice Langholz