

Through the Viewfinder

Ventura County Camera Club

January 2007

The Ventura County Camera Club
meets on the second Wednesday of
every month at 7:30pm at the
Ventura Woman's Center
3451 Foothill Rd.
Ventura, CA 93003
805/648-1143

Next Meeting: Wed. January 10th, 2007. 7:30pm

Chair: Roy Allen

Judge: Chris Zarney

Refreshments: John & Connie Ferritto

Category: Light & Form

Lottery: Last month's lottery brought in

Notes From The Prez's Pad

I would like to wish everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year. This New Year will bring many exciting things to our Camera Club, first of which is our meeting Wed. Jan. 10th. Our Judge will be Chris Zarney and the topic will be "Light & Form". Chris is one of our most popular judges. Let's show him some real knockout images and learn from his comments and critiques.

Second is our yearly banquet, which will be Wed. Jan. 31st at 6 pm right here in our regular meeting room. The catered dinner menu will feature salmon and tri-tip plus other goodies including appetizers and wine. Our yearly winners will be presented and Ines Roberts will highlight the evening with a presentation. The cost is \$30.00 per person. Please make your check to VCCC and mail to Joyce LaMers.

Remember, yearly dues are due as of January 1st. The dues are \$35.00 per person for the year. What a bargain! Where else can you receive professional critiques of your photographic work, refreshments, and best of all, time to just hang out with others who share your passion for photography. Again, mail your check to Joyce.

On a photographic note, the annual PMA show is being held in Las Vegas this year. The dates are March 8th, 9th and 10th. The registration information can be found on line at www.pmai.org/pma07 If you have any questions for manufacturers or are looking for a specific item, it will probably be there. The last two years it's been held in Orlando, just a little too far to commute. But this year we are lucky. Anne and I will be there.

Every month as your president I write my thoughts and ideas down in the form of this column, which Susannah puts in our newsletter. As members of VCCC, you also can put your ideas in our monthly newsletter. I encourage all members who have an idea, suggestion, or information about photography you want to share with other members, to write them in a clear and concise form and e-mail it to Susannah. The only two conditions are: 1) it must be about photography and 2) it must be positive and helpful to all members.

With the New Year come New Year Resolutions. Usually on everybody's list is to lose those extra pounds you put on during the holidays or get a little more exercise. Both of these help us physically but, why not put at the top of your list the resolution to "improve and strengthen your creative photographic talents"? We certainly have seen a monumental change in the way we capture, adjust, and store our images. So why not commit some of your time each week to making sure you personally improve.

continued...

VCCC Officers

President	Roy Allen
1st. V.P.	John Ferritto
Treasurer	Joyce LaMers
Workshop Coordinator	Pat Osborne
Judge Locator	Pat Osborne
Newsletter	Susannah Kramer
Entries/Announcing	Frank Naumann Bob Murtha
Website	Bob Murtha

future categories

December	A Different POV 2007
January	Light & Form
February	In My Kitchen
March	Solitude
April	Doors & Archways
May	Along a Lonely Road
June	Winter Scene
July	Shadows
August	Small World
September	Ghostly Images
October	Food
November	Main St. Ventura
December	People at Work

For a full listing of the VCCC
rules check the website at:

www.venturacountycameraclub.com

The industry has changed the tools with which we capture images, so why shouldn't we improve our eye and our ability to create on paper (or the medium of our preference) an image of artistic excellence.

With all of us photography is a passion. So, why not get passionate about improving our talents and abilities as photographers. A little extra effort every week will produce big rewards in the future. We are photographers because we want to be photographers. In the first few weeks of 2007 why not set some goals for yourself and then work towards those goals. I had a coach that said, "it's not about winning, it's about doing your personal best each time. If you strive to do your personal best each time, you will be a winner".

Thanks very much, and Happy New Year

Roy Allen

P.O.V.

Competition

I have been thinking more about competition in recent months-& not of the judging-with-awards variety. Rather, I have come to realize that having two relatively strong elements ("points of interest") in an image can be distracting because of competition between the two. It's probably a variation of the unwise mindset that if one strong element is good, having more than one is better. At it's worst, this can lead to an image that is just too busy (no "visual arrest" as one judge puts it). I'll never forget a picture that Galen Rowell once showed of a composite of all the paths that some ones eyes took in viewing a "too busy" image-there were lines all over the place. In the variety of which I speak, there are "only" two attractive primary elements, but they cause the eye to bounce back & forth between them-no obviously dominant element, (& thus no "visual arrest"). Incidentally, perhaps the time honored advice that three of anything is more artistic than two is because it avoids the competition of "twos". Don't ask me about "5s" (good)vs "4s" (not so good)!!

We all know to avoid the too busy image . John Shaw suggests asking one self out loud "what really caught my eye in this scene"—then focus in on the answer. However, I still fall into the trap of the two equally attractive elements. This can lead to the image that is criticized as being two pictures in one. We often want to make our images interesting beyond simple impact, but in the quest for our inclusion of more interest, adding a less dominant element will serve us better.

Addendum-In this era of overwhelming numbers of digital related products, I find dpreview.com a good way to review& compare products.They don't themselves sell anything, though there are some ads. Digitalcamerainfo.com (also not a vendor, but ads) gives handy price comparisons.

Hank Stoutz

Seminar

Today I had lunch with 5 fellow lady photographers in Santa Barbara. One of the gals brought her husband. He is Jim Divitale. I've heard people speak of him with awe in their voices. Now I know why!!! Check out his web site at www.Divitalephotography.com (click on portfolio and then check out illustrations, still life, travel and art work) I especially liked his illustrations and still life and art work visible when you click on full screen and then his informationportfolio). At the end of the information, check out the interview with Rangefinder.

The reason I'm asking you to do this is that today we agreed that Jim should give a workshop in Santa Barbara Feb. 13th. It will be called "Creative Tools and Techniques" for Digital Photographers. He is now working for Canon so they will foot the bill for any workshop he gives if there are around 100 people there! With the Ventura, Ojai, Santa Barbara and Santa Ynez camera clubs we could have as many as 100 -200!!! If there will be any charge, it would be nominal ... like \$10. apiece, because Canon will be picking up his airfare, hotel/meals etc. and paying him. He usually charges \$2500.00 per day.

THEN go to his wife's web site and check her out at www.imagerybyhelene.com A pretty awesome couple.

Pat Osborne

December Competition Winners

December Judges: Roy Allen
John Ferritto & Pat Osborne

Assignment: A Different Point of View

Slide Winners, category: assigned

Slide Winners, category: open

Digital

1. Hank Stoutz
2. Hank Stoutz
3. Sharon Morris
HM. Matt Haines
HM. Don Hoffman
HM. Patricia Marroquin

Breeching Whale
Sandhill Trio
Spacious Office Space
Radiant Light
Smiling
A walk in the Shadows

1. Anne Allen
2. Patricia Marroquin
3. Patricia Marroquin
HM Roy Allen
HM Allyson Barnes
HM John Ferritto

From the Hood
Bow Wow Portrait
The Sun at Rest
Mono Lake
Superior
A Boy and His Lamb

Film

The following slides were all put into the year-end judging, they are, in alphabetical order:

Jim Breeding

Ventura Harbor from the Air

Jim Breeding

White Sands

Frank Naumann

Natural Patterns

John Ferritto

Over the Bridge

High in the Clouds

Frank Naumann

California Poppy

Half Way House

Print Winners:

Color:

1. Susannah Kramer
2. John Ferritto
3. John Ferritto

Dawn at Zabriski Point
Portrait of a Soldier
Toad

Black and White:

1. Don Hoffman
2. Len Kline
3. Tom Colp

Abstract Curve
Retired Beyond Repair
Undulations



Hank Stoutz "Sandhill Trio"



Allyson Barnes "Superior"



Hank Stoutz "Breeching Whale"

Banquet reservations:

Name: _____

Number attending: _____

Amount enclosed: _____ (\$30.00 X the number attending)

Mail to: Joyce LaMers
2514 GreenCastle Ct.
Oxnard, CA 93035-2901

Yearly Dues:

Amount: \$35.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone-H: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail _____

If address, phone and e-mail are the same just indicate "SAME"

Mail to: Joyce LaMers
2514 GreenCastle Ct.
Oxnard, CA 93035-2901



Roy Allen "Mono Lake"



Anne Allen "From the Hood"