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The Lens and Eye

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North Bethesda Camera Club

September, 2002

Calendar

Competition topic: *Open; any photo taken since 6/1/99.*

September, 2002

- 3 PCR; 7:00 pm
- 4 Print night; 7:30 pm;
Speaker judge: Ira Wexler
Hospitality: Oliver "Pete" Morton
Joseph Lundholm
- 11 Slide night; 7:30 pm
Speaker judge: Chuck Veatch
Hospitality: Jean Hanson, Ted
Oberman, Les Trachtman
Gallery: Joe Razza
- 14 Field Trip; National Arboretum; Meet at
the visitor's center, 10:00am.
- 18 Board Meeting 7:30 pm
Jerry and Bev Gordon's
- 25 Workshop, 7:30
Manipulation with Photoshop;
Jim Hawkins
- 24, 26 The Craft of Photography, I and II,
7:30; Kent Mason's house.



October, 2002

- 1 PCR; 7:00
- 2 Print night; 7:30
- 9 Slide night; 7:30
- 16 Board meeting; Sullivan's; 7:30
- 20 Field trip; Westminster, MD
- 23 Workshop; 7:30
- 22,25 The craft of photography; 7:30

Ira Wexler to be speaker for print night.

Ira Wexler has been delivering award-winning work to Fortune 500 clients such as Exxon, Citibank, Toshiba, Hilton, FedEx and McDonalds for 35 years. Specializing in imagery of people on location, he is recognized nationally and internationally, and has won over 100 awards for his work.

Ira is a frequent speaker and lecturer at colleges, universities, and student groups. Founding president of American Society of Media Photographers Mid-Atlantic, he has served as judge for numerous competitions, ranging from The Art Directors Club of Philadelphia's annual show to co-judging a Verizon photography contest with James Earl Jones. He has worked for himself for most of his career, except for a year and a half hitch as personal photographer for Stephen Stills, of Crosby Stills Nash & Young fame.

A self-taught photographer, Ira is the author of "The Business of Commercial Photography – A Professionals Guide to Marketing and Managing a Successful Studio, with Profiles of 30 Top Commercial Photographers," (Amphoto Books/NY,) and has written extensively on

(Continued on p.3)

Chuck Veatch to be speaker for slide night.

One of our regions best photographers, Chuck Veatch, will present an illustrated talk on "Getting the Picture: Six Steps to More Dynamic Images" on September 11. Chuck is a member of the Northern Virginia Photographic Society, has won many awards, has been exhibited throughout the area, and has published a book of beautiful images shot in and around Reston, VA where he lives. Entitled Shooting Close to Home: Hidden Treasures in Your Own Back Yard, the book encourages us to look for photographic opportunities in the familiar and often overlooked areas all around us.

While Chuck has demonstrated his ability to capture beautiful images of nature, in recent years he has been exploring more abstract and impressionist images. Chuck has attended several of Freeman Patterson's

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Member Profile

Miranda Chin



Many are the paths to developing an interest in, a passion for or a love of photography. Some members of the North Bethesda Camera Club fondly recall their adolescence when a parent, friend or teacher introduced them to the mysteries and magic of developing a black and white photograph. Just watching an apparently blank piece of paper slowly reveal an image was often enough to hook them on the hobby.

Miranda Chin did not follow that path. She came to photography while painting walls in her house.

"I saw a lot of blank walls," she said. "And I asked myself, 'Should I go and buy pictures?' Then, I thought, 'Maybe I could start to take photography and cover the walls with my own pictures.'"

So, Ned Li introduced her to NBCC. Her good fortune was to find a mentor in John Telford. For the past two and half years he has helped her develop her photographic knowledge and skills with regular meetings. In addition, she has started to learn composition by joining in the Visual Design I classes conducted by Kent Mason and John.

Miranda shyly admits that when she started she had no idea what 18% gray was. "But, John patiently showed me how to use the gray card when taking slide photographs." She is greatly impressed with NBCC's mentor program. Of course, the proof is in the pudding to use a cliché. In her first attempt of participating in the competitions in NBCC, Miranda received the novice slide photographer award. She accumulated nearly 30 points more than anyone else did in that category.

Discussing her artistic background, Miranda said that schools in her native Taiwan did not spend much time on arts and crafts. The emphasis was on studying and achieving good grades. She came to the United States to attend graduate school. As an undergraduate she focused on statistics. However in graduate school she shifted to mathematics. She works for the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration developing Global Positioning System tracking network.

Miranda uses various Nikon cameras and usually shoots Fuji Velvia. She adds that she enjoys photographing everything. She has accompanied John Telford on trips to the slot canyons in Page, Arizona; and, recently, took part in John's workshop to Bar Harbor and Nova Scotia. She's continuing her search for subjects to decorate the walls of her house. But now there's less empty space than before Miranda picked up her camera.

Text and photo by Joe Razza

McDermott Takes 2nd Place at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens

North Bethesda Camera Club member *Dan McDermott* won second place at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens 2002 contest. The contest seeks pictures taken within the confines of the Aquatic Gardens. His photograph Pink Lotus had taken a top prize at an NBCC competition. This is the second time he entered Kenilworth's annual photographic contest. Last year, he waltzed away with the first prize.

Welcome New Member

We extend a hearty welcome to Sean and hope you will add him to your new membership booklet.

Shih-Chang (Sean) Liang
157 Research Rd.
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-982-0138
scliang@hotmail.com



Ira Wexler; (continued).

photography, business, technology and client relations. He regularly provides pro-bono work to socially conscious organizations such as the United Way, YMCA, and the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Ira enjoys a reputation as a creative problem solver, providing clients with an abundance of ideas, energy and experience – and ways to get things done that make sense. He's known as someone who is easy to work with, and who consistently brings home the bacon. His mixture of Fun, Experience, and Excellence have helped him focus on a great career, with his work in high demand. His working business philosophy is to

deliver great work, to exceed expectations, and to make a difference.

Jim Hawkiins

Chuck Veatch (continued)

workshops in Canada, as well as a ten day workshop with the Rocky Mountain School of Photography in Montana. You are invited to see his current show being exhibited in the Reston Hyatt Regency. We welcome Chuck Veatch to NBCC as presenter, teacher and judge.

Barbara DeLouise

Notices

- Deadline: 4 February 2003. "*The 2003 Bethesda International Photography Competition.*" A juried competition for photographers hosted by the Fraser Gallery of Bethesda. Open to all photographers 18 years and older. The winner of the Best in Show award shall receive \$500 in prize money and a one month solo exhibition at the Fraser Gallery Georgetown location in 2004 and may be offered future representation by the gallery in the Greater Washington D.C Area. First, Second and Third Prize winners will receive \$200, \$150 and \$100 respectively in prize money and will be included in a group show at the gallery in 2004. Three Honorable Mention winners will be also invited to exhibit in one of the gallery's various group shows in 2004. For details please contact the Fraser Gallery at 301/718-9651 or visit: <http://www.thefrasergallery.com/bethesda-photography.html>
- The Washington National Cathedral announces a juried photography exhibit in 2003 entitled "Seeing the Light: Reflections of the Spiritual." The Cathedral is inviting photographers to take photographs now and submit them for exhibition--to capture the spiritual atmosphere of the Cathedral and its gardens and share their perceptions with the public. For more information and an entry form please contact: Mimi McNamara Communications Coordinator Department of Visitor Programs and Volunteer Services Washington National Cathedral (202) 537-2223; tours@cathedral.org.
- A new challenge is before us. We have been invited to exhibit our work at Glenview mansion in Rockville in February, 2003. The theme of our exhibit will be EGGS. Many interesting and imaginative images were submitted last year in the club competition on this theme, including a number of slides and prints that were not chosen among the winners, but were very good.

We hope you will submit these works again for consideration for the Glenview Mansion show. In addition, you may submit *new* images for the exhibit. A selection committee will review all entries in November – prints and slides; black and white, and color – to chose the images that will be included in the exhibit at Glenview. Please call me if you have questions. *Barbara DeLouise; 301-530-3479.*

- The club has an important new competition rule starting with the 2001-2003 season. The revised rules create a new "Altered Print" category to provide a venue for creative expression while preserving the traditional print categories for those competitors who value the "hunt" for images which are not manipulated, whether digitally, chemically or in-camera. The revised rules do not create a new category for Color Slides at this time anticipating that use of digitally manipulated imagery in slide format is not likely to be significant for the immediate future.

Notes from the “Digital Photo Group”

Last year, at the urging of the NBCC Board, a group was assembled to “study” digital photography. It was a diverse group consisting of 10 NBCC members with a range of digital photography skills, from very inexperienced (never used Photoshop) to expert (teaches digital photography). Some members of the group use digital cameras and some scan slides and negatives and then adjust them in Photoshop. Most print their images using various Epson printers in color and in black & white.

Since the initial mission was vague, we spent some time determining the purpose and direction of the group. We concluded that this would be a test group to see if a self-taught digital photography class. (e.g., something similar to Kent and John’s popular Visual Design class) could be possible.

Here’s a report of what we did and what we learned from this experience.

What we did:

We met one evening a month at various members’ homes from 7:30 to 9:30 (or later).

We chose a book to use and tried to have reading assignments from the book for each meeting. (We used “Adobe Photoshop 6.0 for Photographers” by Martin Evening.)

Based on the workflow of “Input > Process > Output” we made a course outline for the remaining months and assigned two members to research and present each session.

Our course outline:

- Session 1: Introduction – terminology; Input – digital cameras, scanning, resolution
- Session 2: Process – transform, cropping, selection
- Session 3: Process – adjust tones, layers

- Session 4: Process – color caste, hue, saturation, channel mixer, filters
- Session 5: Process – channels, sharpening
- Session 6: Output – resizing, archiving, printers, inks, papers

What we learned:

Composition of the group – There should not be more than 10 people in the group. In fact, eight or fewer members would be better. It is not necessary for all members to have the same level of expertise. If there are enough people, grouping by experience would help, but an inexperienced group would need the guidance and help of an experienced person. A more advanced group could concentrate on certain topics. Each member of the group should have access to a computer and computer imaging software such as Photoshop or Photoshop Elements. Most importantly, all members should have similar goals and should have a **strong commitment to actively participate and contribute.**

Location of meetings – Since renting meeting space, especially classroom space with one or more computers or even a digital projection system is too expensive, these meetings must take place in member’s homes. Unfortunately, not everyone has their computer in a place where a group of people can gather around and see what is on the screen. For this reason it may not be practical for all members to take turns hosting meetings.

Format of the meeting – Limit each meeting to two hours and try to stick to the topic. Start out with questions and discussions about previous topics. Finalize the date and place of the next meeting, the assigned topic and who is doing the next presentation. Then the members who have prepared for this session should do their presentations. Usually this means gathering around the computer and monitor to see how some technique is done. (This is why the size of the group should be kept small.) Ideally, the presenters should

provide handouts so that group members can take them home to follow when they work on their on computers.

Organizational hints – Form an email group and use this to remind members of meetings and to share hints, info, and interesting web sites. It would be helpful to appoint a secretary to take notes, collect copies of the handouts, and save the emailed hints for future reference by the group members.

Conclusion

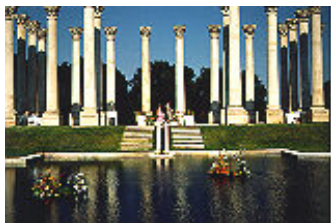
Even though we spun our wheels for a few meetings getting organized and deciding what to do, we learned a lot and had a good time doing it. We also became more aware of the endless list of additional topics that we would like to learn about. As helpful as this group experience was, we realized that it is no substitute for a structured class on digital photography or Photoshop, especially one that equips each student with an individual computer and software on which to work during class. We encourage you to take a class taught by an experienced teacher, sign up for an online course, borrow video training tapes from the Club’s lending library, or use “Adobe Classroom in a Book” or other reputable “how-to” sourcebooks. Belonging to a digital photography interest group will help you to reinforce or sharpen the skills you learn in class. However, the best way to become proficient in using Photoshop is simple – lots of practice on your own!

We hope that other NBCC members who are interested in the many aspects of digital photography will be able to get together to form similar groups. We will share what we’ve learned and can even be persuaded to be guest presenters at a meeting of your group. Contact a member of the NBCC board if you are interested.

Sue Oberthaler

Field Trip; September 14

National Arboretum



This month's field trip takes us to the National Arboretum in Washington, DC. Some of the attractions include: hollies, crabapples, azaleas,

daffodils, magnolias, boxwoods, irises, daylilies, peonies, dogwoods, and maples. Major garden features include: aquatic plants, the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, the Asian Collections, the Conifer Collections, the National Grove of State Trees, the Friendship Garden, the Native Plant Collections, the Capitol Columns, and The National Herb Garden. Not everything is in bloom, but there are still plenty of "photo-op" opportunities.

Workshop; September 25

Jim Hawkins' Approach to Manipulating Images in Photoshop

Make sure you're at the first workshop of the new club year on Wednesday, September 25, to hear Jim Hawkins show and explain how he manipulates images with Photoshop. He will entertain your questions about this topical subject. The workshop will take place at the Faith United Methodist Church beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Jim had a 40-year career with the Eastman Kodak Co., holding leadership posts in several departments. He's very active in several organizations including the National Mental Health Association and Children's Hospice International. For three weeks this summer he was photographing youngsters for a yearbook at the Carol Jean Cancer Foundation's Camp Friendship in Laytonsville, MD.

Dan McDermott

DIGITAL SHOOTOUT AT THE OK CORAL

Prices for good digital cameras have just dropped 60 percent! "Oh" Define "good". Well, how about 6 megapixels in a SLR box that takes your existing lenses? You mean like the 5.5-Mp Nikon D1X that cost \$5000 just for the box? You've got it.

Canon, Fuji and Nikon announced at this year's Photo Marketing Association (PMA) meeting that 6-Mp "prosumer" (a level between consumer and professional) cameras are in the pipeline at prices near the \$2000 mark. These cameras use existing Nikon or Canon lenses. The Canon has the new CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor) technology) image sensor. Don't underestimate this campaign - people are buying. Penn Camera told me (August 8) they had 85 orders for the Nikon D100 (body based on the F80) but only 5 units to deliver. Similarly for the others, the Fuji FinePix S2 Pro at \$2400 takes Nikon F-mount lenses, and the Canon EOS D60 (EF lenses) at \$2200 can now be ordered.

Digital camera prices tend to fall over a matter of months and, especially, years. Less than a decade ago the first digital camera picked up by news photographers was a Kodak/Nikon combine that cost \$25,000. Last year, the Nikon D1x box (5.5-Mp Nikon - lenses extra) came out at \$5000. Now you can get an even larger pixel array camera at a more affordable cost. Note that a 6-Mp camera can easily provide a 10x14 print at 200 dpi. That is more than enough for camera club competition.

Here is the bottom line. Digital camera prices seem to be following their own parallel to Moore's Law

(Processing power will double every 18 months). Prices are falling by a factor of two every 18 months or so - at constant quality. To illustrate, my Nikon CP990 3.3-Mp camera (9x12 print) came out two years ago at close to \$1000; now you can buy one for \$400. Based on this, a 6-Mp camera for your existing Nikon or Canon lenses should reach the \$1000 mark, say, by Christmas 2003. These developments along with detailed camera specifications are available in the "Reviews" section of www.dpreview.com.

Consider the increasingly obvious question, "Why film"? For one thing, creative folk seem to prefer what they are used to, and for another they want to stay with their investment. However, many people have 6-Mp scanners, or have 6-Mp scans made commercially. Hence, slide-to-print conversion with a scanner has become an important entree to digital photography. Here are some other possibilities. A digital camera can be used as a scanner if you buy a suitable attachment, a close-up lens or a macro lens. In principle, a 6Mp image should be about the same whether you get it from a scanner or from a camera. You can also take slides of your monitor - a 19" monitor provides about the same resolution as a digital projector. Just to make life interesting 4000 dpi scanners let you blow up your 35mm slides to 16 x 20, which is close to the film limit of 20X enlargement.

And if none of this grabs you, I've heard that Daguerreotypes are making a comeback.

Dave Freeman

NORTH BETHESDA CAMERA CLUB

Treasurer's Year-End Summary Report

July 24, 2001-July 24, 2002

INCOME

Membership dues	\$4,995
Fees for 2001-02 Visual Design classes	\$590
Publications	\$23
Corners	\$26
Summer picnic (August 2001) receipts	\$141
Awards dinner (June 2002) receipts	\$1,242

Total Annual Income \$7,017

EXPENSES

Rent	\$3,300
Lens & Eye Newsletter	\$919.76
Printing	(\$495.68)
Postage	(\$424.08)
Other copying	\$31.47
Summer picnic (August 2001)	\$143.96
Slide essay night (flowers, cakes, programs)	\$52.09
Awards dinner (June 2001)	\$16
Awards dinner (June 2002)	\$1,791.83
Dinner service (church)	(\$1,207)
Trophies, engraving	(\$364.83)
Gifts	(\$152.45)
Programs	(\$24.68)
Film/processing	(\$42.87)
Gifts	\$52.49
Supplies for Visual Design	\$317.79
Exhibit fees and supplies	\$40.05
Ribbons	\$436.20
Sunshine Committee supplies	\$10
Speakers' dinners	\$178
PSA membership dues	\$42
Stamps	\$6.80
Stickers/business cards	\$122.91
Miscellaneous (mugs/candy,	\$60.49
Keys, batteries, plastic tray)	
Membership Refunds	\$100
Visual Design Refund	\$40

Total Annual Expenses \$7661.84

Net of Income Less Expenses for the Year -\$644.84

Karen Coates, Former Treasurer

July 5, 2002

Please note: This figure does not include a significant number of 2002 membership checks.

Notices

* Kent Mason has just learned that NBCC has placed first as a camera club entry in the annual photography contest sponsored by Nature's Best magazine. Many of you may remember the fantastic presentation given by the Nature's Best staff at one of our club meetings. For those of you unfamiliar with NATURE'S BEST, it is a 100-page, full color quarterly magazine that offers a showcase presentation of the natural world recorded by the world's leading photographers, writers, and adventurers. All winners will be published in the Fall issue. Entries are judged on technical quality, composition, originality, and artistic merit. We will post more information about this event as it becomes available here in the Lens and Eye as well as our club web site.

* There is one addition to the Competition Rules that was made by the NBCC Board over the summer, and thus was not included in the version circulated to members last spring. The Board has prescribed a penalty in the event that a member enters a larger number of prints or slides on a given competition night than is allowable under the rules (see Rules 5 and 6 in the earlier version). The new provision reads: "*The penalty for exceeding the maximum number of allowable entries in a slide or print competition will be the disqualification of all of that member's entries for that evening.*"

* New membership booklets for the Club's 2002-03 program year, which include the revised Competition Rules, membership list, competition assignments, etc. will be available at the opening Print Night on September 4th.

* Congratulations to club members Caroline Helou and Carolyn Johnson for their stunningly beautiful images in the August exhibit at Glenview Mansion.

* If you are interested in entering the photography exhibit which is part of the annual Waterford Historic Homes Tour and Craft Show on October 4-6, please call me for more information.
Barbara DeLouise; 301-530-3479.

* A big thanks to all the club members who worked hard to capture the beauty of butterflies on film and to mount fine images for the exhibit at Brookside Gardens in May.

Tragic accident causes death of photographer Galen Rowell

World-renowned wilderness photographer and writer Galen Rowell, and his wife and business partner Barbara Cushman Rowell, a photographer and writer in her own right, died early Sunday morning, August 11, 2002, in an airplane crash outside of Bishop, Calif.

The Rowells, who were returning to their Bishop home from a circumnavigation of the Bering Sea, were passengers in a small privately owned plane that went down south of the Bishop Airport.

Born Aug. 23, 1940 in Berkeley, Calif., to a college professor and a concert cellist, Galen was introduced to wilderness before he could walk.



He has produced 18 books of photos and text that exemplify his special brand of participatory wilderness photography in which the photographer

transcends being an observer with a camera to become an active participant in the image being photographed.

In 1984 he received the Ansel Adams Award for his contributions to the art of wilderness photography. Since 1986, he has written a popular monthly column for *Outdoor Photographer Magazine*.

Barbara Rowell was the president of Mountain Light Photography, a photo agency, gallery and small press co-owned with Galen. Her photographs have been published in *National Geographic*, *Outside*, *Plane & Pilot*, and in many books, calendars, and travel publications.

Barbara and Galen were married in 1981 and together built Mountain Light Photography into a successful gallery and stock photography.

Barbara and Galen traveled to many exotic locations, including to a *National Geographic* assignment in Pakistan to cover the highest war in history where they were flown throughout the Himalaya as guests of President Zia. They have also been the guests of the Dalai Lama, and served as guides to Robert Redford on a trek through Nepal. They touched many lives around the world, and they will be sorely missed. The Rowell's web site can be found at:

<http://www.mountainlight.com/>

Web site tips

> This month there is lots to see at the New York Institute of Photography web site at <http://www.nyip.com>. This includes: Photographing musicians and their world; Low light photography; Web design, part 22; Digital dialog: copyright, copywrong! Digital camera buying guide; and Back to black-and-white, dodging and burning. This is a neat web site not to be missed!

> The site for "*Photo Critique Forum*" is billed as the most dynamic image-based photo forum on the Web. They invite anyone to share images with site visitors. The photographs are of very high quality. Visit and enjoy: <http://www.photocritique.net/>.

> As a professional outdoor/nature photographer, George Lepp has always been one to freely share his knowledge on topics related to photography and digital imaging. His web site has many instructive articles, especially in the digital area. Check it out at: <http://www.leppphoto.com/>.

> The Vivid Light Photography site has a lot of various subjects including tutorials, equipment news, questions and answers, classified ads, and more. Try it at: <http://www.vividlight.com/>.

> For a very thorough review of some of the considerations of carrying unprocessed film through screening devices at airports check out: <http://www.kodak.com/cluster/global/en/service/tib/tib5201.shtml#SEC4>.

> Simply a web site with some fantastic fotos: <http://www.rodplanck.com/>.

> A long list of articles from the very popular magazine, *Outdoor Photographer*: <http://www.outdoorphotographer.com/content/articles/index.html>.

> Instructions on how to make one of your favorite photographs a screen saver for your computer <http://www.outdoorphotographer.com/content/2002/sept/screensavers.html>.

Executive Board, Standing, and Special Committees

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Bob Peavy

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Chuck Lee

Treasurer
Sue Oberthaler

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Marcia Loeb
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Carol Lee
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Print Hospitality
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John Grupenhoff

Bulletin Editor
Tom Sullivan

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Joe Razza
Les Tractman
Ted Oberman
Dan McDermott

Slide Program
Jose Cartas
Miranda Chin
Barbara DeLouise

Slide Competition
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Ruth Crozier

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Duncan Whitaker

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Bill Richards

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Judy Switt
Kent Mason
Joel Hoffman

Awards Dinner Coordinator
Nancy Peavy

Technical Advisor & Answer Man
Hans Adler

Church Liaison
Janet Myder Hammack

Community Outreach
Joe Razza

First Class Mail

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