



InFocus

March, 2009

Newsletter

February Meeting

The February meeting night brought us cold weather and competition from the Bloomsburg Art Walk. The library was very busy as they too, had a children's event on the same night.

Plans are in the works to have a fund raiser at the Bloomsburg Renaissance Jamboree. Funds will be raised to purchase a projector for the Library. We will use it for meetings and the Library will have it available for its affairs. More information on this is below.

Discussion also followed on what we should concentrate on at meetings. In the past, we concentrated on post processing using Photoshop. We have also discussed improving our prints with a critique time. Maybe we should spend more time on "getting it right" in camera. That means more talk about composition, exposure and understanding light.

The club has gained two new members as a result of the announcement of the 2009 Scavenger Hunt. Mr. Will Michaels will be our judge. You can learn more about Will at his website <http://www.willmichael.com/Site/Welcome.html>. Don't forget that the deadline is March 19 at our next meeting. You can submit your entry anytime to svaronka@ptd.net

Following our discussions, we watched two videos from Digital Camera Magazine on preparing your photos for stock agencies. Now most of us probably don't have our photos with stock agencies, but these videos showed how to pay attention to minute details like dust marks on our sensors. We also discussed exhibition standards. When are heavily post processed photos allowed in

competition? This, of course, depends on the contest or exhibition rules. Taking our lead from the PSA rules, they only have three categories that do not allow for heavy post processing. They are: photojournalism, nature and travel. These categories should be pure as can be. Minor changes that could have been done in a darkroom are allowed. Exposure, contrast and sharpening are ok, but cloning or layer modifications are not. If they are needed, then the photo should go into a different category.

2009 Scavenger Hunt

Hopefully, you are all hard at work for the club's first contest. As announced earlier, Will Michael has agreed to be our judge. I hope you all have time to visit his website. I'm sure you'll agree that he is very qualified.

The winners will be announced at the April meeting. The winner's 10 photos will be printed out on 13x19 paper and then framed. It will be on exhibit at the Renaissance Jamboree and then until the May meeting at the library. There will also be an award for the one photo that is "Best of Show."

Anyone can win this. It's not necessarily the best technical picture but the ones that capture the categories the best. So get out there and shot.

Renaissance Jamboree

As you all know, I have been borrowing a PC projector to use at the library. Since we don't have dues, a treasury, by-laws, or officers yet, it's hard to budget for one and maintain an ownership. By having the Library purchase one, we avoid the ownership issue, have a projector for our use, and benefit others that may use it at

the library. We probably need to raise \$750 to make the purchase. How can we do this?

The plan is twofold. I invite those of you who can donate prints to do so. We will offer them as a gift to those who make the appropriate donation.

Secondly, we will offer children's portraits for \$5 with props like pirate's hats and fairy wings. The photos will be printed on site and placed in a cardboard frame with a sticker commemorating the Jamboree.

We have a tent, background stand, 3 backgrounds, Camera, PC, table, print display stand, props, frames, signs.

We still need manpower, electricity, printer, ink, paper and maybe a few cold drinks.

If you can help at this affair, or can offer your prints, please call Steve Varonka at 784-4561.

Follow the web site for more information.

What do you want from your club?

There are 18 of you out there that were interested enough in CMPS to fill out an application to join this group. Our meeting turnout has averaged 5. The Forum posts are receiving no responses. The Gallery contains only 5 albums. We have a contest coming due 3/19 and I'm not sure how many contestants we will have. We also have an event coming up on 4/25 and need some help.

It's time to ask yourself what is it that I want out of a photography club? Please, we need to know what to do that will entice you to devote some time to your club, even if that's only attending a 2 hour meeting. We need ideas for programs. We need ideas for contests. Do you want to learn post processing? Do you need more on composition or exposure? You need to speak up, your silence is deafening.

I started this venture thinking that most photographers want to get better, and the way to get better was to meet with other photographers to share our talents and look for ways to improve. I think most of you feel the same way. If you do, then it's time for you to speak. You can speak in several ways. Post on the Forum, put an album in the Gallery, come to a meeting or volunteer to help at the Renaissance Jamboree. This club needs you to survive. We need your talents.

If there is something that you can help with, please let me know. I can use someone to continue on with this newsletter. I can use help coming up with a ½ hour program for the meeting. I can use help with club publicity. We can still keep this informal. Positions will be designated until such time as we feel it necessary to establish a treasury. With money handling, comes by-laws. Personally, I would like to see us stay informal, but that will not ensure that we are creating something that will last.

I'm not sure if you've noticed, but Columbia Montour Counties have begun to recognize the arts. Photography should be a part of this renaissance. You can help by your presence and participation. If you have an idea, bring it forth. Complacency will bring us down.

Something got you to fill out the application. Now you can help fulfill that wish.

Call me anytime at 784-4561, Steve.

