

Essex Photo News

May 2008



Our 58th Season

We are a teaching club and take pride in turning snap-shooters into photographers and amateurs into serious amateurs. This newsletter is an extension of EPC's strong teaching goals.

DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

President JoAnn Tucker
Phone: 973-226-5060
Vice President Nath Kaplan
Secretary Rachael Barish
Treasurer Scott Smith
Delegate-At-Large...Caroline Ades
=====

Program Chairperson-Howard Knauer
Newsletter Editor:
Nancy McMurtrie .. (973-239-4843)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

May 1, 2008

PHOTO LAB @ 7:30PM:

Howard Knauer:

"Sunbeams on Command"

PROGRAM @ 8PM

Creating Panoramas

by Greg Miller

May 15, 2008

ANNUAL COMPETITION

Judges: Marie Kane

Stanley Kantor & Heinz Otto

FULL MOON

May 19th 10:11 PM

IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

<http://essexphotoclub.org/>

<http://essexphotoclub.blogspot.com/>

<http://nbkaplan.com/Essex/newsletter/>

SUPPORT EPC AND B&H

If you are ordering anything at B&H, including cameras, electronic gear, or even TVs, it will benefit our club financially by ordering through our Essex Photo Club website at:

<http://www.essexphotoclub.org/>

Enter, scroll down, & click the B&H icon.

You will go straight to their website & EPC will get 2-3% on the sale. If you have friends who are not in the club, you can ask them to also order through our webpage. Our club will get the benefit.

MAY PROGRAM

Greg Miller – Creating Panoramas

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

"GREG MILLER's panoramas are created by digitally stitching together multiple images.

On average
13 images
I seek to
emotional
the viewer
the emotions



he uses 10 to
per panorama.
create an
response for
that stimulates
I feel when I

see a scene that nature provides. I have a life long passion for mountains, water, and photography. The digital era has finally allowed me to control the full photographic process resulting in fine art prints that have the appearance I intended when looking into the viewfinder." 'Starting with a Nikon 35mm system and an Arca-Swiss 4x5 large format camera, I get film transparencies, scanning each at high resolution and optimizing in PhotoShop, and printing with archival paper and inks.' Living in Monroe, NY, Miller is a member of the Catskill Artists Gallery, and currently Vice Chair of the NY/ North Jersey Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club."

MAY PHOTO LAB

Howard Knauer – Sunbeams on Command

Howard will discuss some of the things you can do with flash other than just lighting the subject in the dark. Within 30 minutes, he will include how flash works in conjunction with your camera, getting better quality light from your flash, using two flashes, using fill flash, and if time permits, explaining studio type lighting with your flash head(s).

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



Slate of Officers for the Next Two Years

The Nominating Committee of the Essex Photo Club has announced the slate for the next term of the club from June 2008 – June 2010. The voting will occur in May and the new board will take office at the June board meeting.

President: Nath Kaplan

Vice President: Todd Boressoff

Secretary: Stacey Lindley

Treasurer: Bart Costello

Member-at-Large: Caroline Ades

Website of the Month

By Nath Kaplan

Luminous Landscape

<http://luminous-landscape.com/>

This is a web site dedicated to learning about both digital and film photography. The site has many different sections that are worth exploring, but the section I like is the "Understanding Series". There are 24 different topics that are covered. They explain what it is, and why you would use it. The web pages are short and easy to understand. Some of the topics covered are:

"Understanding Raw Files",
"Understanding Histograms",
"Understanding Mirror Lock-Up",
"Understanding Depth of Field", and
"Understanding Exposure". If you are looking to get a better understanding of photography, visit Luminous Landscape.

SPRING FIELD TRIP TO CAPE MAY

May 16, 17 18, 2008

If you have made reservations for this field trip, let JoAnn Tucker know where you will be staying so that she can coordinate activities that are planned for the weekend even though members will be staying at various locations. See the March Newsletter for suggested accommodations.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME

Meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month @ 8PM @ the Caldwell United Methodist Church 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, NJ at the corner of Bloomfield Ave. & Washburn Pl. For directions: <http://www.caldwellchurch.org/NewWeb/AboutUs/Directions.htm>

Thursday, June 5th

Annual Awards Dinner at
The Hanover Manor
16 Eagle Rock Avenue
East Hanover, NJ

Cash Bar @6PM

Dinner @ 7PM

Join us for an exciting evening including silent and open auctions.

The cost this year per person is \$35.00.

For directions see:

<http://www.thehanovermanor.com/contactus/>



Focal Point

Putting Judges and Blue Ribbons in Perspective

by joe Thomas



At one of my Photo Fare sessions on judging, the question came up: "Why don't abstracts score well?" To which we might add the following: "Why do urban scenes generally fare poorly in club competitions?" "Why do mushrooms do better than lichen?" "Why do vast landscapes score better than flowers but not as well as photographs of one animal devouring another?"

To answer the question with a question: "Why don't oranges grow on apple trees?" But to provide a longer (but not completely fair) answer, consider the following: Many judges are partial to that which they picture themselves. Some judges who travel extensively wouldn't be caught dead in New York City. Some who favor the American West go there to shoot scenics and/or wildlife, not flowers.

Then there are some judges (not all, but a few) who are enamored of rules: The rule of thirds, the rule of direction, placement of the horizon, the avoidance of negative space as if it were fatal, etc. Yet street photography is pure energy, not rules. And patterns (in and out of nature) are frequently their own center of interest so someone looking for a dominant tree might well fail to see the forest.

Most judges reflect the culture in which they were nurtured. Almost all judges come up through camera clubs and hone their art with images from Outdoor Photographer and National Geographic in mind. Theirs is the world of Adams and Muench and Wolfe. Arbus and Weegee and Avedon are creatures from outer space so a lot of judges are reluctant to venture to the edge. And that's not where most camera club members want them to go anyway.

What it comes down to is this: If you want to win ribbons then it's best to play by the established rules. If you want to change the culture then work for change by entering an offbeat photo once in a while, for instance, or become a judge. On the other hand, if you want to enjoy every aspect of photography, then stand on the precipice occasionally and don't get caught up in the ribbon syndrome.

Three Judges for Annual Competition on May 15th

And now for the climax of the competitive season – the contest in which the best of the best are on view with the merits of all being judged by a panel of three federation judges. The date is May 15th with 8PM as the starting time and each club member who is eligible (check your eligibility status beforehand) is permitted three entries in the classes in which they have been competing regularly.

The judges will be the legendary Heinz Otto, the curator of the PSA's national photographic archives, and Marie Kane and Stanley Kantor, both of the Ridgewood Camera Club where each has won numerous honors. All three have been "regulars" at Essex Photo Club judgments but have not been used previously this year in keeping with our tradition of using judges to whom the work will be fresh.

As in the past, the scoring range will be four to nine, with scores being tabulated electronically. Commentary will not be provided and winning entrants will be honored at the Annual Club Dinner.

Keep in mind that entries are limited to photographs previously entered in one of the monthly contests. The EPC label must be on the back of prints. Print titles must be submitted by May 1st with the prints being brought early to the May 15th meeting for processing. In slide categories, the entries themselves must be submitted by May 1st.

Annual Awards Dinner Note

Remember that Essex Photo Club is close to being able to purchase a digital projector for presentations and competitions. The proceeds from the auctions at the dinner will enable us to meet all the expected needs of our club for becoming a "DIGITAL PHOTO CLUB" including the purchase of the software for speeding up the process of running competitions starting in September 2008.