



IN FOCUS



Member

A Publication of

THE SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB P.O. Box 763, Southern Pines, NC 28388

Enriching the North Carolina Sandhills through Photography

VOL XXIV, NUMBER 08

August 2008

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, August 11, 7:00 PM

Christ Fellowship Church

Midland Road at the corner of Pee Dee Road

Southern Pines, NC

Program: *Digital Competition :Flowers/Insects*

PROGRAMS: Don Hiscott

We're looking forward to having *Scott Hotaling* return from his trip out west. He will be presenting the program in September. You can see his work at

www.Lightofthewild.com.

In November we will have a program by *Mark Buckler*.

Mark will be with us for several days doing his

workshop and playing golf. It should be a fun time.

COMPETITIONS: Brady Smith

The next competition is scheduled for the **August 11th** and will be **Flowers/Insects** and it will be a digital competition. Susan Bailey of Raleigh will be our judge. Primary subject must be flowers and/or insects. Pay close attention to focus, lighting, background and composition. Regular quantity and time rules apply: up to **two (2) entries** taken within the last **three (3) years**. Rules for sizing and sending your digital images for the competition:

1. Size your image so that the longest dimension is a minimum of 768 pixels.
2. File type should be JPEG or TIFF and not exceed 2MB in size.
3. You must include the following information in your email:
 - Image title
 - Your name
 - Which class you're in (A or B)
4. You may also include a brief description for the photo. This will be used as a description under your photo when we put it on the club website after the competition.
5. Please submit your photos to the new competition chairman email address:
competitions@sandhillsphtoclub.org.

6. You must send them before midnight on **August 4th** to be included in the competition.

7. You may also give/send me a copy of your submissions on a disc or flash drive (but please don't wait until midnight on the 4th to give it to me!).

Looking ahead... Once again, don't forget that **October** will be a **Digital** competition on the topic of **Nature**, which includes photographs of animals, birds, plant life, and/or insects. No sign of the hand of man may be shown, scientific bands being the one exception. Specifically, no domestic animals or pets are allowed. Regular quantity and time rules apply: up to **two (2) entries** taken within the last **three (3) years**.

PRESIDENT'S MOMENT: Bill Matthews

A Project for Tomorrow

Fifty slide carousels – spanning fifty years of our family photos – were sitting on our shelves. At 140 slides per carousel that's 7,000 slides!

"What are we going to do with them?" Ellen asked.

"Scan them and put them all on a few CD's – one of these days" was my usual well-intentioned answer.

"7,000 is an awful lot of slides. How long will that take?"

"Yes it is a lot of slides, but I can reduce the number by editing and discarding many of them."

I suspect this dialog has occurred in many a photographer's home. But our moving day to a smaller house was fast approaching and the slides were still on the shelves. Finally we were down to the wire and the only remaining alternatives were pack up or throw out. Throwing out was emotionally unacceptable, so pack up it was.

All 7,000 slides now wait in 7 packing boxes in the garage at our new home. It's a hot, humid summer. Time is running out!

A typical automated high resolution slide scanner can take about a minute per slide at which rate the job could theoretically be completed in about 15 8-hour days in the unlikely event that no problems were encountered.

Another approach might be to copy rather than scan. A current professional high resolution, high dynamic range SLR might be able to capture several RAW slide images per second. All that is needed is an automated method of rapidly sequencing, illuminating and synchronizing image capture by the SLR. My old Kodak 4600 Carousel Projector will sequence slides at slightly better than one per second. I might give this a try if I can jerry-rig the appropriate transfer optics. 7000 slides at one per second represents only $7000/(60 \times 60) = 2$ hours – **if no slide jams occur!**

But if you think I have a problem, consider the recent plight of the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries. This organization is faced with the task of making digital copies of all of the work of the late photographer Hugh Morton – truckloads of images including 200,000 slides! After considerable research they elected to modify some used equipment that is enabling them to automatically scan about 600 slides a day, at which rate digitizing the slides should be completed in one year.

A later report will let you know how (**and if!**) my problem was resolved. Or does anyone out there have a better approach?

WORKSHOPS: Bill Matthews

September 13, Saturday

***Making Photomontages II* with Mike Stratil**

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Sandhills Community College Horticultural Center

In his workshop in May, Mike Stratil presented a step-by-step method for producing photomontages with strong artistic impact, based on a number of ideas from the psychology of creativity which Mike has studied and taught. This workshop was very well received and now, by popular demand, Mike has agreed to do another session, this time presenting the photographic and digital techniques used in the creation of photomontages.

In ***Making Photomontages II*** Mike will demonstrate many of the post-processing techniques that he uses in doing fine art photography, including photomontage. Topics: selection of a segment, saving and retrieving masks, refining segment edges, transfer of a segment to a layer, manipulation of a segment via adjustment layers (e.g., brightness-contrast, levels, curves, color balance), arrangement of content layers, subordination of an adjustment layer to a particular content layer, transforming segments, adjusting layer opacity, and blending. Mike's goal is to de-mystify these techniques

and demonstrate their combined power. Although he will go through the steps for each technique, we will not have time to memorize all the steps. Instead, he will provide a sheet of references to each technique in the wonderful little book Photoshop Pro Photography Handbook by Chris Weston. This book is oriented toward CS3, but the methods are the same in Elements 6.

November 8, Saturday

***Special Workshop* with Mark Buckler**

Nature photographer Mark Buckler, our guest speaker at the November 10 general meeting, will conduct a special paid workshop in the Sandhills area the previous Saturday, November 8.

Since the majority of the responses to the questionnaire for subjects for this workshop was evenly split between two of the topics offered, ***Beyond Snapshots*** and ***Bird & Wildlife Photography***, we are working with Mark to offer a workshop combining these two topics. We plan to present details of this offering and a sign-up sheet at the August meeting.

Additional 2008 Workshop

We are still hoping that Bob Biamonte will be able to offer a Photoshop workshop at an SCC computer lab later in the year.

FALL TRIP: Jim Davis

One update on the 2008 Fall Field Trip to the Boone-Blowing Rock area for Tuesday, October 21 to Thursday, October 23, 2008.

The Grandfather Mountain Sunrise to Noon Photo Shoot on Wed. 10/22 has sold out. Vinny Colucci has offered to do an additional informal photo shoot on Wed. afternoon. The location will be announced at the Tuesday night orientation meeting. It will be a location with easy access and available parking. Everyone is invited to participate at no charge and advance sign-up is not required.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Fairfield Inn and Suites in Boone, NC. for the Sandhills Photography Club The toll free number is: 1-866-871-7425. The club rate is \$75.60 plus 9.75% tax. This rate is also available if anyone wants to go up early on Monday, Oct. 20. You will need to make your own reservations and rooms will be held at our rate until Sept. 15. The N C Mountains in fall should be great for photos. Over 40 travelers have expressed interest in going on the trip, so you need to make your reservation as soon as you can.

EXHIBITIONS: Betty Hendrix

“Capturing the World”

Campbell House Show – Our Best So Far!! The reception had a wonderful turnout – members and guests Thanks go to each member who participated whether in photographs or in food, beverages, serving or clean-up. It was an outstanding team effort. Special thanks go to June White, Carole & Len Barnard for organizing and arranging the food, wine, and centerpiece as well as all the help.

SPC CLUB LOGO PRODUCT ORDERING: Jill Margeson

To order Logo Items - You have two Choices:

1. Deal directly with Jubilee Screen Print at 314 Grant St. in Seven lakes, NC 27376. Matt McNeill handles the embroidery items and has catalogs and sample sizes and colors. Phone 910-673-4240; www.jubileescreenprint.com

2. Decide what you want and call (673-1497) or e-mail Jill Margeson after August 5 through to the next meeting. I can deliver a group order and pick it up for you.

Choices:

- 1. Light-weight zippered and hooded sweatshirts in small through 3XL in many colors. \$24.55
- 2. Baseball caps. \$10.00
- 3. Polo shirts - 7 ounce heavyweight pique-with or without pockets. \$24.55
- 4. Patches- \$6.00. Glue or sew onto your camera bag, vest, etc.

MEMBERSHIP: Marilyn Owen

With the addition of 5 new members as of the July meeting, the current membership stands at 83 members, plus 2 honorary members. Please welcome new members **Cynthia Pizzini, Diana Simpson, Barbara Sherman, Edward Thompson, and Jan Wells**. Also welcome back previous member **Glenn Gilchrist** into the fold.

Ed Thompson is moving from a point and shoot Kodak V705 to a Nikon D60 DSLR. His favorite photography subjects are sailing, cruising, water and landscapes, and he also enjoys using the photo enhancing software. Copies of the Competition Guidelines will continue to be available at the membership table through this year. If you do not yet have one, please stop by to pick yours up. The document can also be downloaded from the website, but it is rather large.

BY LAWS REVISION: Marilyn Owen

Thanks to all the members who cast their votes for the bylaws changes. We managed to get the quorum needed in order to adopt the changes. The revised by-laws will be put on the website when our Secretary signs them.

TID-BITS FROM MEMBERS

Hey there! Where are your interesting tid-bits????

Two Websites of Interest - Jim Smith

As a member of Carolinas’ Nature Photographers Association (CNPA), I recently received notification of a change in the Coordinator for the Ashville Region. I decided to look up the website of the new Coordinator, Lisa Knezha. She has a super gallery of nature images at the following site:

<http://www.lindadeaton.com/gallery.html>

Another interesting site is the site for the Triangle Region of CNPA. On it are slide shows and galleries of images their members have taken on many of their field trips, which include a weekend with Mark Buckler on the Outer Banks, and a trip to Western North Carolina waterfalls. Susan Bailey, our judge for the next competition, just finished putting a ProShow slide show on the website about the Waterfalls of Western NC trip. Go to:

<http://www.cnpa-triangle.org/outings.html>

PHOTO EQUIPMENT CLASSIFIED:

If you have equipment you would like to sell, or items you are looking to buy, send your ad to Jim Smith at smithjf@aol.com. Please keep the ad simple. I will try to put it in the next Newsletter after I receive it. I will run the ad for two issues. If you want the ad to continue beyond the original two issues, please request it each month by an email to me.

Wanted -Macro lens, Canon preferred. Please call Gisela Danielson, 673-0521

LOOKING AHEAD

August

11 Club Meeting Digital Competition
Flowers/Insects

14 Board Meeting

September

8 Club Meeting Guest Speaker
Scott Hotaling

11 Board Meeting
13 Workshop **Making Photomontages II**
Mike Stratil

October

- 13 Club Meeting Digital Competition
Nature
- 16 Board Meeting
- 21-23 Fall Trip: Boone/Blowing Rock NC

REFRESHMENT ASSIGNMENTS: Bill Sheppard

The following are the refreshment providers for the remainder of the year:

- August Gisela Danielson & Carolyn James**
- September Jill Margeson & Chris Christiansen**
- October Joan Herrmann & Carol Smetana**
- November Tom Greenwood**

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT: Denis Smetana

No report available for this issue

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Thursday, August 14, 3:00 pm, Sandhills Community College Horticultural Gardens Visitor’s Center.

SPC WEBSITE:

www.sandhillsphtoclub.org

2008 SPC Board Members:

President:	Bill Matthews	949-3714	
Vice President:	Don Hiscott	295-9544	
Secretary:	Jill Margeson	673-1497	
Treasurer:	Denis Smetana	944-8124	Past
President	Brady Smith	947-3946	
Programs:	Don Hiscott	295-9544	
Competition:	Brady Smith	947-3946	
	June White	692-6385	
	Jill Margeson	673-1497	
Exhibitions:	Betty Hendrix	949-4131	
Field Trips:	Jim Davis (Fall)	673-7017	
	Jill Margeson (Spring)	673-1497	
Day Trips	TBD		
Hospitality:	Bill Sheppard	944-1219	
Publicity:	Ann Stokes	235-0950	
	Anne Cook	295-2605	
Workshops:	Bill Matthews	949-3714	
Newsletter:	Jim Smith	673-4744	
PSA Rep	Jim Smith	673-4744	
Membership:	Marilyn Owen	235-0520	
Website:	John Wynton	673-1084	
Club Photographer	John Witkowski	692-4903	

THOUGHT for the MONTH

“Any landscape is composed not only of what lies before our eyes but what lies within our heads.”

D. W. Meinig