



INFOCUS



THE SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

P.O. Box 763, Southern Pines, NC 28388

Enriching Our World Through Photography

VOL XXVIII, NUMBER 1

www.sandhillsphtoclub.org

June 2012

PRESIDENT'S NOTES, Scott Duvall:

Congratulations to **Matt Smith**. He has been notified that he has won a photo competition by Popular Photography magazine. His winning image was first out of 1582 entries. Watch for the June issue of Popular Photography and the July issue of our Club Newsletter for more details.



On May 5th, **Bill and Ellen Matthews** were gracious hosts of the first meeting of the Sandhills Photography Club's Strategic Planning Group. **Suzanne Kirkman, Jill Margeson, Bill Matthews, Barbara Milson, Linda Piechota, Debra Regula, Hunter Rudd and Matt Smith** are working with Vice President **John German** and myself on this initiative. The group's objective is to identify the most important strategic issues and opportunities facing the Club in the next several years.

After a lively and productive discussion, it was agreed that the four most important subjects were *TECHNOLOGY, EDUCATION, CLUB GROWTH, and WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA*. Some of the key points brought up about each are as follows:

TECHNOLOGY

Opportunities with video, smartphones, image manipulation, and new camera technologies

EDUCATION

New approaches such as pairing new members with experienced members to do images together for competitions, offering teaching to the public for a fee

CLUB GROWTH

Approaches to maintain the feeling of "intimacy" as the Club grows such as shorter, more frequent meetings, subdivision of the Club into Focus Activities and Specialties

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

This appears to be perhaps the biggest opportunity. A much more dynamic, up to date, interactive website would offer numerous advantages as to how the Club operates, educates its members, conducts competitions, et.al. Taking advantage of social media tools such as Facebook and Flickr would provide new approaches that would be particularly attractive in building a younger Club membership.

The Strategic Planning Group agreed to have a separate meeting on each of these subjects during the remainder of 2012. We hope the results of these discussions will provide a blueprint for the Club starting in 2013. I will keep you posted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

- June 11th, 7pm Competition: Nature

BOARD MEETING

- Thursday, June 14th, 2pm

PROGRAMS

- July 9th – *Eric Ton* – Fractal Art
- September 10 – *Gene Furr* – “His View on Nature Photography”
- November 12 - *George Butt* – “Another Evening With George”

COMPETITIONS

- June - Nature/Digital/3 year
- August - Abstract/Digital/3year
- September - Reflections/Online/3year
- October – Open/Print/No time limit

FIELD TRIPS

- October 14-16 – Mt. Airy, NC

WORKSHOPS

- June 2nd - Taking a Portrait, *Al Reeder*, 9-12

John Witkowski

In case you have not already heard, John Witkowski died recently.

<http://www.thepilot.com/obituaries/2012/may/24/john-witkowski-jr/>

He was president of The Sandhills Photography Club in 1998 and very active in the club from 1994 until moving to Vermont a few years ago to be closer to his children.

He and Bill Matthews worked together to present the club's first digital competition in November 2005.

The Boys and Girls Club of the Sandhills has joined a national program “ImageMakers”, where they are teaching the children the joys and creativity of photography. However, they are in dire need of small digital cameras. They have asked us to donate any used small digital cameras we may have for this purpose. The coordinator for this program is Tim Sayer of Sayer Photography and he is looking for not only digital cameras and volunteers, but has a need for photo editing software and supplies – where money donations would be most welcome.

Here is a blurb about the program.

ImageMakers National Photography Contest

This year-round program encourages Club members ages 6-18 to learn and practice black-and-white, color, digital and alternative process photography. ImageMakers has three components: the ImageMakers National Photography Program Resource Guide full of fun, creative activity ideas for three skill levels; a website (www.imagemakersbgca.org) featuring resource tools and fun interactive games; and an annual photography contest that provides local, regional and national recognition. Club members' photographs selected at the contest's national level are exhibited at the BGCA National Conference and at other events and venues. The national winners are featured at BGCA's National Conference each year and online through the ImageMakers Virtual Gallery.

Please call me, Susan Deutsch at 910.639.9909, for pick-up of cameras, donations or additional information.

The Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club is Caroline Eddy at 692.3222 or caroline.eddy@nc.rr.com

Tim Sayer may be reached at tim@sayerphotography.com

TREASURER'S REPORT; *Dave Powers*

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF 4/30/2012

CHECKING ACCOUNT

STARTING BALANCE 3/31/2012	\$4203.13
EXPENSES	\$163.88
INCOME	\$310.03
ENDING BALANCE	\$4349.28

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

STARTING BALANCE 3/31/2012	\$3378.67
INCOME	\$0.28
ENDING BALANCE	\$3378.95

A note from Diane McCall:

I needed a recent photo of myself for a reunion yearbook we're making for our 50th high school reunion this summer. I had nothing, so contacted Al Reeder to see if he'd mind if I used one of the ones he took for our membership files. He generously sent it to me and I stopped at Walgreen to get it printed. When I went to pick it up, they told me they were unable to print it because it was, obviously, a professional photograph, and I needed to get a waiver from the photographer!! Even tried the manager, but he wouldn't budge. Same thing at Rite Aid! Finally got a copy at Walmart, where I could print myself.

So, congratulations for the excellent photography done by Al. (He got quite a kick out of the whole thing.)

WORKSHOPS: *Bill Matthews*

Next Workshop

Taking a Portrait. with Al Reeder

Saturday, June 2, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Burlingame Room, Ball Visitors Center, Horticultural Center, Sandhills Community College

In recent *In Focus* newsletters we have had a chance to see some samples of the wonderful portraits Al Reeder has been taking of club members for the on-line directory. In this workshop Al will show us how he does it. He will set up his equipment and with the help of a model demonstrate seeing light, using your equipment, setting up your lights, five different basic setups and finishing.

For more information please contact Al Reeder at 295-5311 (areeder@nc.rr.com) or Bill Matthews at 692-8254 (wmatth@embarqmail.com). Although it is not necessary to sign up ahead of time to attend, a call or email would be appreciated as an indication of how many plan to come.

Later in the Year

In August, at a Saturday to be determined soon, we will offer a workshop on RAW Files with Hunter Rudd. See the next newsletter for full details.

And finally this year: ***From Your Monitor to Club Projector - An Experiment in Calibration.*** Here I am planning to run tests with a number of members and their cameras and monitors, with special attention to color and tonal range, and present the results in a workshop in the fall.

Suggestions for workshop topics are always appreciated. Please pass them on to me, Bill Matthews, at 692-8254 or wmatth@embarqmail.com.

PROGRAMS, *John German*

July Program: Artist Eric Ton on “Fractal Art”



Eric Ton – Instructor Fine Art. *“When people view my art I want it to remind them how much fun play can be and fill them with the desire to explore. I am the first of the Saturday morning cartoon generation and my earliest art influence would be the Pop, Mod, and Psychedelic art of the 1960’s. Overall I want my art to be fun. If nothing else I hope my images will make you smile. Sometimes a smile is enough! Thank you for stopping and taking time to look at my work”. - Eric A. Ton “Ecco”*

From the Pilot:

Adopted by Robert and Lorraine Ton, Ton says he “was a Chicagoan from birth to 35.” He attended Illinois State University, the American Academy of the Arts and the University of North Carolina in Greensboro.

After holding a position as senior manager and “fixer” of Hungate Corporation, Ton left his hometown to move to Pinehurst where his parents now reside. “My parents are without a doubt most important to me now,” Ton says.

He is currently an art educator at Sandhills Community College, but his true persona surfaces regardless of plaques on the wall. “My focus has never been a big career,” says Ton. “I only wanted to experience life.” Indeed he defines himself as a juggler rather than an artist. Though his history does include employment at a circus, his street performance juggling with Winston Damon qualified more as intense dance or martial arts, to the point where he was “Chuck Norris” to the neighborhood kids.

“Juggling is the closest I am to being connected to something bigger than myself,” says Ton. “Art is what I do, and I handle it very blue-collar, and as a constant accomplishment.”

With a cultured smile beneath his World of WarCraft hat, Ton says he’s “like a big kid.”

Grounded in the first of the Saturday morning color cartoon and video game generation, Ton has become a “comedian in the art world.”

“I never understood why people view art so religiously,” he says with a laugh. “I take the route of making things that are funny and whimsical, but still well made.” He has a freedom in creating his art, because creating is not his official occupation.

From The Pilot on an exhibit at Flynn’s Coffee Bar

“One of the reasons that I’m doing this is to really expose my fractals, as they are my latest interest,” says Ton. “There will be a mid-March lecture on fractal art during the Palustris Festival. Fractals are a unique way to make art through mathematical algorithms rather than through sketching. As the camera is to photography, so the computer is to fractal art - it’s a necessary medium. I try to teach in my classes at Sandhills the importance of recognizing the validity of digital art as equal to traditional art.”

Videos can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/user/Eccoton>

Images can be seen at <http://ericton.weebly.com/index.html>

<http://eccoton.deviantart.com/>

Membership News: *Donna Ford*

We welcomed 6 new members the month of May and 5 guests. Our total membership stands at 130. All of us extend a warm welcome to our newest members

George Delisle has lived in Moore County for 8 years. Prior to moving here George lived in Boston. George shoots a Canon 30 and 60D. His favorite subjects to photograph are sports and music. George considers himself a semi-advanced amateur with room to grow. He hopes to increase his knowledge of photography and sharpen his eye. He believes you can learn something new every day. George was one of three official photographers for the Boston Folk Festival for 5 years as well as the Eno River Fest for one year. He has done work for musicians.

Evalyn pronounced (Eva-Lyn) Gaskell considers herself an amateur. She has lived in Moore County for 12 years. Evalyn shoots a Canon camera as well as the camera on her Samsung Droid phone. Her favorite subject to shoot is nature. She enjoys photographing flowers, plants, wildlife and sunsets. Evalyn hopes to increase her knowledge and become a better photographer. She recently retired and is looking forward to pursuing her love of photography.

Also joining our club this month are **Gus and Marit Ulrich**, and **William and Deborah Robins**.

Please join me in welcoming our newest members.

2012 SPC Board Members

President	Scott Duvall
Vice President.....	John German
Secretary	Tom Reedy
Treasurer	Dave Powers
Past President.....	Jim Davis
Programs	John German
Competition.....	Jill Margeson & Diane McCall
Exhibitions	Tom Reedy
Hospitality	Bill Sheppard
Publicity	Susan Capstick
Workshops	Bill Matthews
Newsletter.....	Alison Earl
PSA Rep	Susan Capstick
Membership	Gisela Danielson
New Member Development	Debbie Regula
Website	Brady Smith
Club Photographer	Al Reeder
Spring Field Trip.....	Jill Margeson, Linda Piechota
Fall Field Trip	Linda Piechota
Day Trips.....	OPEN
Wildlife Focus Group	Tom Reedy
Historian	Linda Piechota

Hospitality - Bill Sheppard

February	John German
March	Paula Taggart
April	Scott and Ethel Duvall
May	Joe and Marilyn Owen
June	Susan Capstick and Kathy Green
July	Janice Huff, Diane McCall, Susan Angelier
August	Gene and Joanne Lentz
September	Lisa Messina and Jeanmarie Schubach
October	Carol Smetana, Joan Herrmann, Sandy Bachofner
November	POT LUCK
December	CHRISTMAS DINNER – NO MEETING

Special thanks to *Bill and Sandy Sheppard* for organizing and providing the paper products and ice and ALL that they do!

COMPETITION COMMITTEE, *Jill Margeson*

6:00 PM Sunday, June 3, is your fast approaching deadline for entering your digital Nature images to competitions@sandhillphotoclub.org. As a reminder, this is about nature, not man-made things. Please keep the focus on Mother Nature: wildlife, plants, natural landscapes or seascapes. Touches of man-made things that total under 25% are allowed, but the judge will be using his artistic skills to determine if your inclusion of man-made items helps or detracts from the impact of your image.

Frank Pierce from Eye Candy Gallery will be our judge on June 11. Please do not include images he has seen or printed for you. The maker should remain anonymous for a fair judging. Include your data with the picture, since we check for the 3 year time limit – from June 3, 2009 through June 3, 2012. We don't know how many images will be received, so we are asking you to submit the usual two, but make one be a first (1) choice, and the other be a second (2) choice. Indicate your choices by putting a 1 or 2 after the class A or B (A1,A2,B1,B2) in the file name attached to your image. The second choices will be shown for judging along with the first choices, if there is time. They will be shown for quick critique but no judging or awarding of points or ribbons if there are more than 70 entries for the evening.

It is not too early to be thinking about the August digital topic: ABSTRACT. Two entries, your image must be captured during August 5, 2012, and August 5, 2009. The description reads: Photographs may show repeating or unusual patterns of a subject which is not immediately identifiable. In abstract photography, there is no common ground and no rules to follow. The abstract form can be shown in patterns, colors, a collection of shapes, or just a play with light where ordinary objects become extraordinary.

Titles are not permitted this time, so that your image will speak for itself! More details will follow about the two judges we expect for the August 13 Abstract competition evening.

ADVERTISEMENT:

Want to meet some nice people? Do you have enough technical skills with Power Point or laptop to problem solve in front of a group of photographers? Can you set up a projector and computer? Want to help make decisions about competitions and play a scorer role or backup for setting up equipment? We're looking for **YOU** to be on our Competition Committee! Call Diane McCall at 910-690-8241 or Jill Margeson at 910-673-1497 for more details.

CLASSIFIEDS:

Club Patches still available!
\$8.00 each



See **Kathy Green** at the next club meeting or Ph-910-585-0190



New Sling Shoulder Camera Bag
Carry 2 extra Lenses and Flash.
Dimensions: 14.6"H, 9"W, and 7.1"D.
Retail \$65; I paid \$45; Chuck's price is \$25.

Call **Chuck Kersey** at 673-2429

Lowepro SlingShot 200 AW Camera Bag

Very good condition, no major wear. Easy to handle, convenient bag

- Fits D-SLR Camera 4-5 Lens Kit
- 600D Polyester and 1680D Nylon
- Fully Padded Interior
- Two Compartments
- Divider System
- Two Memory Card Pockets
- Attached Sling Shoulder Strap



Price \$50
Drew Steidinger
910-295-6393
astei@aastei.com

FOR SALE

Copy of Nik Software Color Efex Pro 4 Complete Edition.

This has never been used. The retail price is \$199.95 and I am selling it for \$100.

Call Brenda Hiscott 295-9544 or email at Hiscott@nc.rr.com.



Lowepro Nova 3 AW Camera Bag in great condition for sale for \$25.00. The bag will accommodate Camera, 2-3 lenses and a flash and has adjustable compartments. I have attached a picture. My phone number is 910-315-2994. Thanks!

Suzanne Kirkman
digital-art@nc.rr.com



NEW MEMBER DEVELOPMENT, *Debra Regula*

Hello everyone, I am trying out an idea for our new members. Each new member will have a bright colored, happy face sticker on their name tags. All members please look for the stickers and introduce yourself to our newest additions and make them feel welcome. If you have been a member of the club for a while and would still like to meet new people, contact me and I will put a sticker on your name tag also. When you feel you no longer need the sticker, just remove it. I hope this will help all of our new members and established members get to know each other. We all share a love of photography so finding topics of conversation shouldn't be a problem. I would appreciate any feedback about this idea and if it is working out for new members. Thanks! Debra Regula

FALL 2012 FIELD TRIP TO MT. AIRY, NC

Sunday, October 14 until Tuesday, October 16 (2 nights,)

Linda Piechota

A signup sheet will be provided for this trip at the June Photo Club meeting to get a feel for the number who are interested in going to the quaint little town of Mt. Airy and seeing the many sights nearby. The Fall Field Trip is a joint effort of the Field Trip Committee Chairman, Linda Piechota, and the Wildlife Focus Group leader, Tom Reedy. Linda will plan the trip in general as a normal club field trip. Tom will make plans for The Wildlife Focus Group and others who wish to take part in their adventures. We will stay in the same hotel and all of us will join together for social times and dinner on Monday evening.

Twenty rooms have been reserved at The Holiday Inn Express in Mt. Airy, NC, which will be our base for the trip. All rooms have 2 double beds with a rate of \$89.96 (\$101.66 with taxes). The cutoff date for making reservations is September 14, 2012. If there is lots of interest in June, I may need to try to add more rooms. You can make reservations at any time between now and 9/14 by calling the hotel at **336-719-1731**. The block of rooms is in the name of Linda M. Piechota/Sandhills Photography Club. You must ask for a room in that block. Please email Linda at lp7611@embarqmail.com after your reservation has been made.

The drive to Mt. Airy is about 2.5 hours of easy driving from Pinehurst. Mt. Airy is just about equal distance from (3) NC State Parks, all offering many beautiful views of fall scenery, waterfalls and much more. This trip will allow you to more or less do whatever you want to do, on your own schedule, with suggestions from the trip chairman. More details will be forthcoming from Linda and Tom as plans progress.

Since Mt. Airy is not a very long drive, you will have most of 3 full days to make photographs. Leaving early on Sunday, October 14 will allow you to spend most of the day in and around Mt. Airy. The (free) Autumn Leaf Festival will be going on Sunday for some good photo ops in the downtown area of town. Or, go to Hanging Rock State Park or drive on a myriad of scenic roads leading out of Mt. Airy in all directions, to catch some good shots.

Monday, you can visit Hanging Rock State Park in the morning (if you didn't already go there), then meander North to the Blue Ridge Parkway, drive South and in the afternoon visit Stone Mountain State Park. That evening the group will have dinner together at a special, scenic place after sunset. The sun will set on October 15 at 6:38pm, so we can catch a sunset and still have dinner at 7:30 or so. Tuesday, drive South to Pilot Mountain and partake of the trails, scenery and wildlife & nature. Leave for home by 4 PM and you'll be back by sunset.

Three NC State Parks are each an hour or less from the hotel. Information about each park is shown on the following page. In addition to the (3) parks, every road from Mt. Airy in any direction is going to give us many opportunities to make wonderful photographs. In past years, the autumn color has been at its peak at the time of the Autumn Leaf Festival, so let's hope that is true for 2012 also.

~ Continued next page ~

Hanging Rock State Park is located 30.9 mi - about 51 minutes from Mt. Airy, NC.

GPS coordinates: [36.411906, -80.254122](https://www.google.com/maps/place/36.411906,-80.254122)

http://www.stateparks.com/hanging_rock_state_park_in_north_carolina.html

<http://www.ncwaterfalls.com/hrsp1.htm>

<http://www.hikingupward.com/NCSP/HangingRock/>



Located off the four-lane highways there's another North Carolina to be discovered with sheer cliffs and peaks of bare rock, quiet forests and cascading waterfalls, views of the piedmont plateau that stretch for miles. There are lot of trails which provide spectacular views of cascades and waterfalls.

Birds are abundant in all seasons, especially in spring and fall when migrating species add to the resident population and the otherwise quiet mountain air is filled with the melodies of songbirds. Whippoorwills, eastern screech owls and

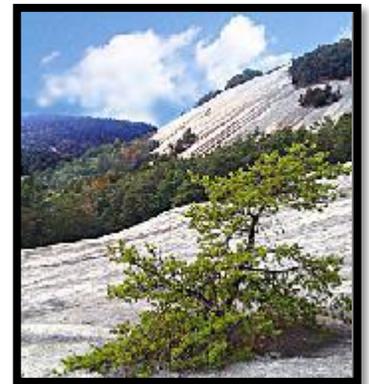
barred owls add special effects while amphibians, including American toads, spring peepers and chorus frogs, lend harmony to warm evenings.

Stone Mountain State Park is approximately 42 miles from Mt. Airy or about an hour's drive.

GPS coordinates: [36.3873, -81.0273](https://www.google.com/maps/place/36.3873,-81.0273)

<http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/stmo/activities.php> Click on "activities".

You can spend an entire day at *Stone Mountain State Park* enjoying the **waterfalls**, trout fishing, hiking, mountain climbing, exploring the old Hutchinson Homestead and sliding down the natural, rock water slide! Stone Mountain is not immediately visible upon entering the park that bears its name, but this magnificent 600-foot granite dome is well worth the wait. Sunlight and shadows dance across a broad tapestry of stone. White-tailed deer emerge from the security of the forest to graze on meadow grasses at the mountain's base. The scenery is only one attraction of the park. With more than 16 miles of trails, take a hike to see waterfalls, wildlife, nature and much more. Designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1975, Stone Mountain is bounded on the north by the Blue Ridge Parkway and on the west by the Thurmond Chatham Game Lands. More than 14,100 acres of mountain beauty offer opportunities for outdoor activities of all kinds.



Pilot Mountain State Park is about 14 miles from Mt. Airy.

GPS coordinates: [36.342056, -80.463347](https://www.google.com/maps/place/36.342056,-80.463347)

<http://www.ncparks.gov/Visit/parks/pimo/main.php>

<http://www.blueridgeheritage.com/attractions-destinations/pilot-mountain-state-park>

There are 2 sections to the state park. One part is the mountain park and the other is the Yadkin River section. Both are primitive areas with lots of wildlife to see. In the mountain section, you have look-out areas with beautiful views and it is great for hiking. There are trails for all levels. The Yadkin River section adjoins the mountain section, but it is on flatter ground and on the water. This is also a nice area for walking. Numerous songbirds including the

eastern bluebird, Carolina wren, brown thrasher and various warblers supply the woods with music. Watch for ravens soaring above Big Pinnacle. The raven and the pileated woodpecker are two of the rarer birds of Pilot Mountain. Other wildlife in the park includes red and gray fox, white-tailed deer, woodchuck, opossum, gray squirrel, raccoon, and several species of reptiles and amphibians. Learn about rural life in the past by visiting Horne Creek Farm. This state historic site is adjacent to the Yadkin River section of the park. Currently being restored to appear as it did in 1900, the farm is an educational center dedicated to preserving North Carolina's rural heritage. The farm is only open on weekends, so if you would like to check it out, please do so on Sunday, October 14.

