

Contact Sheet



Vol 4 No 12

December, 1990

Chattanooga, Tennessee

DECEMBER BANQUET

When: December 13, 1990
Where: Ramada Inn 23rd Street.
Program: Results of the annual Print and Slide Competition.
Social Time: 6:15 PM--Viewing of Entries
Dinner: 7:00 PM--Buffet Dinner.
You must sign up for this dinner by calling Bucky Hughes (266-1747) prior to December 7. There will be a charge of \$12.50 per person for the dinner--pay at the door. Visitors are welcome also but they must sign up in advance.

PUBLICITY PHOTOS AFTER THE BANQUET

We will be shooting some publicity photos after the banquet so please stay around for this. We will shoot two groups. One will be the winners in the contest. The other will be officers and board members.

SHOW AND TELL TOPICS

Topics for the coming months will be:
January "Things with Legs"
February Unusual Photo Displays

FEBRUARY SHOW AND TELL

For February, please bring in anything unique which has something to do with how you display your pictures. Perhaps you build your own frames or make your own mats from unusual materials. Or perhaps you incorporate other artistic media such as sculpture, collage, watercolor, etc into your final work. Maybe you turn your photographs into unusual gifts by placing them inside paperweights. Whatever your creative bent, we want to hear about it!

FIELD TRIP

A field trip is planned for January 12 to Raccoon Mountain. Mark your calendar now. We will meet on the parking lot of Shoney's Golden Gateway at 8:30 AM to caravan to Raccoon Mountain. There is plenty of daylight scenic shooting to be done on top of the mountain including possibilities of deer and eagles (long telephoto needed). Janis Dintsch will lead this trip and has arranged for us to go into areas inside the mountain (TVA Pumped Storage Facility) which are not normally accessible to the public. The hydro generation equipment is brightly painted and should make interesting color compositions. This machinery resides in a large cavern cut from inside the mountain which creates an interesting atmosphere. A few notes about lighting: 1. You will need a tripod for the indoor shots. 2. There are lots of light sources so use a good lens hood to reduce flare. 3. Lighting is fluorescent in some areas and Mercury vapor (or Sodium vapor) in other areas. These are some of the most difficult lighting colors to deal with, and they will leave you with green film if you shoot slide film without a filter. On the plus side, the areas are well lit and uniformly lit. A TVA photographer has had success with Kodacolor 400 and 1600 and the new Kodak VPH (400 speed) using no filtration and letting the processor correct color in the printing stage. The ability of Kodacolor 400 to deal with mixed (and strange) lighting is legendary and this is probably the best way to go. If you want to use slide film, try an FLD filter (magenta color). This filter is made for fluorescents, and will probably kill the green in the Mercury vapor as well. Even if you don't shoot any pictures, the tour will be great!

BACK TO BASICS

"Control"

by John Brooks

I hear a lot about automatic cameras these days. The dealers tell you about all the magical things the latest features will do for you and it almost sounds as if you don't need an operator. Just aim the camera and it will produce a perfect image. I also hear a lot from people trying to use these technological wonders to produce actual pictures. These conversations are usually punctuated with comments about the difficulty of mastering the numerous modes and controls on the camera. It seems that, in all their efforts to build in functions to cover every possible situation, the manufacturers have made cameras so complicated that it requires a lot of study to operate. If any of this has been bothering you lately, here's a novel idea for you: try a manual camera! With only three basic controls, nothing could be simpler. Once you get the hang of it, you may not want to go back!

The price is right too, with a number of models selling for a fraction of the cost of their automated cousins. Especially on the used market, good manual cameras can be had for \$150 or less--including a lens! Names to watch for are: Minolta SRT series (101, 201 etc.), Pentax K1000 and Spotmatic, Canon FTb, and the Nikkormats (somewhat more expensive). While this list is not all-inclusive, you can expect any of these mechanical models to give an added bonus of relatively trouble free service well into the next century! And they are not totally dependent on battery power.

Being a long time user of manual cameras, I am a firm believer that everyone should at least learn on a manual camera. The mastery of the concepts and controls of photography acquired in this way will stand you in good stead even if you should later decide to "automate" the process. With a normal 35 mm camera there are only three basic control settings that actually affect the picture. These are focus, aperture (lens opening), and shutter speed. Recognize that any other controls on the camera are provided only to help you in setting the basic three.

To have total control over the picture,

you must understand the effect that aperture and focus have on depth of field, the effect that shutter speed has on image motion or blur, and the situations where your light meter will trick you into selecting the wrong exposure. Having an automatic camera does not exempt you from learning any of this; it simply gives you the convenience of having the camera set some or all of the basic three controls for you. Whether it sets them correctly still depends on you.

I'm not really suggesting that you get rid of your automatic camera; just put some thought into the types of decisions the camera is making for you. While the modern systems have done much to automate the decision making process, it is still up to the photographer to determine when the auto systems are appropriate to the picture he wants. If an auto function helps you in some way, by all means use it. If however it doesn't help or, worse, gets in the way, don't hesitate to switch into manual. Just don't let yourself be a slave to the systems provided. Case in point: I've seen too many photos lately in national publications with the subject dead center (where the autofocus sensor is). Now I'll be the first to admit that a centered subject is appropriate some of the time, but I think a lot of this is just sloppy autofocus technique, where the photographer simply did not lock the focus and recompose the shot for a pleasing composition.

I do not think you can take any better pictures with an automatic camera than you can with a manual one (or vice versa). The creative process still lies in the person behind the camera. The choice of system should be the one which works best for you. Regardless of the system chosen, effective control of focus, aperture, and shutter speed will put you in control of your pictures.

THANKS!

Thanks to Bob DeBeer and Janis Dintsch for bringing refreshments to the last two meetings. Contact Janis if you would volunteer to bring refreshments for one month. The club will reimburse you for the cost.

NEWS NEEDED!

We need news from YOU! Send it in! The club PO box is always open. If you have won some honors for your photography or are helping with some public service or have other news related to photography, we want to hear about it. Also if you know something about someone else in the club, send it in. They may be too shy to tell us about it. News about events of general interest is also needed as well as feature articles and "hints and tips."

MEMBER'S CORNER

Vicki Rozema will teach an introductory photography class at the Chattanooga Nature Center on Jan. 27 from 2 to 4 PM. The cost is \$7 for Nature Center members and \$10 for non-members. Snow date is Feb. 3. Call Vicki (755-8170, 344-9812) for more information.

Tom Cory has recently had photos published in "Blue Ridge" magazine. Congratulations to Tom!

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome new members Jose and Blessie DeGuzman and Jerry Morris. We are happy you have decided to join us! This is an excellent time for visitors to sign up as new members in order not to miss any of the club activities. Dues are \$17.50 per year (\$20 for couple, \$10 for student). Dues for new members are pro-rated beginning in January. \$10.50 (\$12 couple) will sign you up through August '91.

TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

by Vicki Rozema

Try using a Star Filter when photographing Christmas lights, either indoors or outdoors. Cokin makes several different star filters with different numbers of rays like 4 or 6. The larger and brighter the lights, the more striking the effect.

A Warming Filter can be used on your lens or taped over your flash to reduce the bright white glare of a flash. Warming filters come in varying densities of amber and will darken your photo 1-2 f stops so you should adjust exposure appropriately. A Soft Warming Filter will slightly blur the image as well as add color to the picture. It is sometimes used in

portraits to soften faces and warm skin tones. Try one to add a nostalgic or fantasy look to photos of your tree, creche, or an arrangement on the mantle.

December is a good time of year to photograph the Walnut Street Bridge because it will be lit every night through New Year's.

Stocking Stuffers: Gift certificates to your favorite camera shop, batteries, a few rolls of professional film like Velvia, or Kodak's PKR or EPN, cable release, mini tripod.

FOR SALE

Members are encouraged to use this space to sell excess photo items. Send in your listing to PSC, P.O. Box 8886, Chattanooga, TN 37411. Please give a brief description, condition, price, and your name and phone number. We will edit to fit if necessary. Deadline will be two weeks before the regular meeting day and ads will run for 1 time unless you resubmit or call John Brooks.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| Dec 13
6:15 PM | <u>Christmas Banquet.</u> Ramada Inn Attendance by reservation only. Eat at 7:00 PM. Call Bucky Hughes (266-1747). |
| Jan 8
6:45 PM | <u>Regular Meeting.</u> Visitors Welcome! Program will be <u>Harold Stinnett.</u> "Photography by the Months". |
| Jan 12
8:30 AM | <u>Field Trip</u> to Raccoon Mountain Meet on parking lot of Shoney's Golden Gateway. |
| Jan 29
6:00 PM | <u>Executive Board Meeting</u> Shoneys Golden Gateway. All club members may attend. |



OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Periodically we will run a list of officers and board members. If you have suggestions, or wish to volunteer for greater involvement in the club, please contact one of these people:

John Brooks	President	622-4649
Vicki Rozema	Vice-President	344-9812
Bob DeBeer	Treasurer	842-4206
Janis Dintsch	Secretary	894-7112
John Brooks	'88-'91	622-4649
David Lane	'88-'91	866-1097
Pat Cory	'89-'92	886-1004
Tom Cory	'89-'92	886-1004
Bob Davis	'89-'92	622-3030
Ken Gustafson	'89-'92	629-4265
Steve Andrews	'90-'93	875-9388
Ed Boven	'90-'93	622-7633
Lyle Catlin	'90-'93	892-7250
Vicki Rozema	'90-'93	344-9812

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Vicki Rozema	Membership	344-9812
Tom & Pat Cory	Publicity	886-1004
Bob DeBeer	Flea Market	842-4206
John Brooks	Newsletter	622-4649
Ken Gustafson	Distribution	629-4265
Bob DeBeer	Mailing List	842-4206
Ed Boven	Field Trips	622-7633
Vicki Rozema	Programs	344-9812
Janis Dintsch	Refreshments	894-7112
Tom Cory	Annual Contest	886-1004
Bucky Hughes	Banquet	266-1747



PSC
 P. O. Box 8886
 Chattanooga, TN 37411

