

THROUGH THE LENS

Newsletter of the Arlington Camera Club

April 2004

President's Comments . . .



Hello everyone. I hope that you have had a chance to get to our web page and check it out. Yes, it is still in the process of change and additions. We still need your photos. Here is a way to get your photos on the web and visible. If you only have them in hard copy form, such as prints, negatives or slides, just get them to Ken Olsen or me and we will scan them for you and get your photos back to you. Remember, we are doing low resolution scans for the web.

If you already have them in electronic format, just e-mail them to kolsen@mc.net or to aricamclub@yahoo.com and we will take them from there. How many can you send? We have a lot of room and want to maintain a stock of photos so that we can change them. This way when people go to our web site they will see different photos.

We are still working on getting out more on field trips. If you want to go, see Ken Olsen and he will get the schedule lined up. We found that we can leave from the Historical Society and park in the lot by the Society. This seems to work out well.

We are setting up our summer schedule so that we can continue to meet during the summer months and go over photos taken and learn from our own picture taking. On that vein what we will do at a critique session is to limit the photos to only those taken on a field trip with a maximum of three photos per photographer. They should be mounted and displayed so that we can discuss each of them. I think we will get more out of this rather than just passing around photos to view. If you have some 4x6's that you want to discuss, we can do that after the critique session.

Also, from 7:00 to 7:30 we will have Tips From Trevor and it will be on an informal basis at the back of the room. These sessions will be limited in subject matter so that we can have more discussion. We feel it will be more interactive by doing an informal type of get together.

I also want to remind you that we have to prepare for the election and need volunteers for specific committee positions.

As you know it takes an effort on everyone's part to bring forth good programs and meeting subject matters. **Your input is important!!!** Yes, even just a little comment or observation can be very helpful and work towards interesting meetings and subject matters.

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Upcoming Events at ACC

Important: ACC meets at the Arlington Historical Society, 110 W. Fremont, Arlington Heights.

April 7 - Competition Night

Theme: Water

April 21 - Workshop

Digital Photography

Arlington Camera Club meets on the first and third Wednesday, from September through June at 7:30 PM.

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(Pres. Comments – cont'd)

We need your help. A sheet will be available for you to put your name down for the committee of your choice. You can work on more than one committee. With a good base of people on the committees we will attract some more interested photographers. One of our goals would be to appeal to some of the younger people in our community. There seem to be quite a few around and they have some great techniques and take some interesting photos. They might be able to show us a new way to see a photo opportunity and we could share some of our experiences with them. That would be a win-win situation.

One another note, four of us went to the Epson print seminar and learned quite a bit about printing and PhotoShop. It was well worth the fee.

One of the video instructors was a gentleman named Bob Krist. You can check out his web site at www.bobkrist.com.

I don't think that his work would score very high in competition because in a lot of his photos the horizon is right through the center of the image area and a lot of the images are centered in the photo. He shows us that violating the rules of judging can work. Take a look at some of his photos. I think that when a photo draws your emotions and has that certain impact, the photographer has conveyed his message to you.

I look forward to our upcoming meetings and hope that we can make them interesting and informative for you.

Keep shooting.

Bill Kruser

Tips From Trevor

April 7 – *Film and Print Labs* – How do you choose your film processing lab and how do you pick a good one?

April 21 – *Impact and Emotion in Photos* – What do you look for that gives you strong emotions from a photo? How can a photo give you better impact?

"There are no rules for good photographs, there are only good photographs."

Ansel Adams

Photo Locations – Goose Lake Prairie Nature Preserve and Morton Arboretum

Goose Lake Prairie Nature Preserve – West of Chicago is a patch of land still like the old days before John Deere's steel plow tore up all the sod. About 1,500 acres of native prairie wildflowers bloom from mid to late summer. You'll see plenty of purple cone flowers, black-eyed susans and daisies. Be here in the mornings after a heavy dew. Overcast, calm days also work well for close up wildflower photography.

Morton Arboretum – In the western suburbs of Chicago lie one of the great Arboretums of the country. Morton (Mr. Salt) donated the rural land years ago. Since then suburban sprawl has surrounded the area and made it an oasis of wilderness in America's third largest city. Unique species of trees, shrubs, herbs, plants and flowers from all over the world grow here in an artistically arranged setting.

The park is big and features many informal gardens that can appear like natural wild settings with proper framing. Groves of trees in the reserve are big enough to be called small forests. Trails take the hiker or biker through various regions of the world. Reflection ponds and wildlife (cranes, squirrels and raccoons) add a wilderness touch as well. Nature photographers who feel stuck in this large metropolitan area should get an annual pass to the arboretum and get outdoors.

All seasons are worth visiting the arboretum. Spring is my personal favorite with daffodil fields, flowing trees and flowering shrubs. Fall would be second favorite. One never can tell what he/she will find in this diverse garden.

From Nature Photo Gallery (www.naturephotogallery.com)

**Our thanks to Hank Erdmann for his March 3, 2004 program on
"Natural Light and the Art of Photography"**

Message from Pat Wadecki – Photo Opportunity

The Ryerson Conservation Area (www.RyersonWoods.org) – where our affiliate club the Riverwoods Nature Photographic Society meets in Deerfield, Illinois – would like you to know about a special photographic opportunity they are offering. On May 1, 2004 they are holding their annual Smith Nature Symposium and the featured guest is National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore. While there are many activities available during the day from a bird walk (7:00-9:00 a.m. – free) to a Wildflower walk (1:00-3:00 p.m. – \$15 registration required), the activities that might interest your club members are "photographing in the field" with Joel and local large format scenic photographer Joe Kayne (featured last year in the landscape photographer issue of Outdoor Photographer magazine). To be part of the small group that will go out with these two photographers you would need to purchase a \$10 "chance" to be part of the lottery which picks the participants.

One of the afternoon sessions (1:00-3:00 p.m. – \$15 registration required) is a critique with Joe and Joel (maximum of 4 slides or prints).

On that evening there will be a Keynote address at 8:00 p.m. with coffee and dessert (\$20) featuring Joel speaking on "Triumphs, failures and embarrassments: An assignment for National Geographic".

Registration can be done by phone at 847-968-3321.

Low Key Shooting on the Streets (from www.photoslave.com)

The following recommendations were made by *Dave Beckerman*.

1. If your girlfriend (or any woman) is willing – let them act as a foil. Put them in front of you and your intended subject is nearby. Pretend to take the picture of your friend, but you're really taking a picture of the little old man next to her.
2. Photograph in crowded situations. This is by far the easiest thing to do. Street fairs, heavily trafficked streets, etc. After you take your shots, continue to hold the camera to your eye. Nobody really knows if you were shooting them or the people behind them.
3. Photograph a portion of a landmark – people can understand why you're photographing it, but devote 3/4 of the frame to people who are unexpectedly walking into the frame. Again, keep the camera to your eye so the person isn't really sure if you've just shot them or the building or what.
4. Get a nice wide angle lens, like a 21mm, and use hyperfocal distance so that everything from say 3 feet to infinity is in focus – hand the camera from your neck and take as many pictures as you want.
5. Get a right-angle finder (if you can find one) for whatever camera so that you are actually looking down, not at the subject. Most people are totally at ease if you are not looking them straight in the eye.
6. Another easy thing – simply go to a real touristy spot where everyone else has cameras. You can shoot there as if you had an invisible cloak.
7. Photograph when it's really cold out – say under 35F. People are so busy trying to get somewhere warm, they couldn't care less what you point at them.

Above all else, remember that YOUR attitude conditions the responses of the people you are photographing. If you look scared, out of place and don't have a good response when someone asks you what the heck you're doing, then you're in trouble. I always smile, say thanks and go on my way. Almost 100% of the time I get a smile in return. Even if people are confrontational, so what? It's all part of life, especially life with a camera: a smile, a frown, a conversation, an argument. Be socially aware enough to see what's coming and prepare for it. To be honest, some people just have the knack.

C.A.C.C.A Results for March

<i>Maker</i>	<i>Image Title</i>	<i>Points</i>
SMALL COLOR COMMERCIAL PRINTS:		
Ken Olsen	Autumn Harvest	HM 18 Pts.
Carol Arnold	A Pretty Girl in a Pretty Hat	20 Pts.
Cindy Kuffel	A Precious Moment	18 Pts.
Barbara Borchert	Pink Blossom	AW <u>22 Pts.</u>
	TOTAL	81 Pts.
	YTD TOTALL	395 Pts.
COLOR SLIDES:		
Marv Smietana	White Rose	20 Pts.
Diana Jacobson	Park Avenue	20 Pts.
John Weber	Alone With Nature	18 Pts.
Jim Emmerson	Fighting the Fire	<u>20 Pts.</u>
	TOTAL	78 Pts.
	YTD TOTALL	400 Pts.
LARGE COLOR PRINTS:		
George Keller	Mamma San	<u>19 Pts.</u>
	YTD TOTALL	97 Pts.
LARGE MONOCHROME PRINTS:		
George Keller	Screw Pine Stump	18 Pts.
Roy Wesolowicz	Polish Stamp	AW <u>21 Pts.</u>
	TOTAL	39 Pts.
	YTD TOTALL	174 Pts.
SMALL MONOCHROME PRINTS:		
Carol Arnold	Playful Kitty	18 Pts.
George Keller	Pelican	18 Pts.
Jim Emmerson	Looking Up	20 Pts.
Marv Smietana	Weeping Rock	<u>19 Pts.</u>
	TOTAL	75 Pts.
	YTD TOTALL	367 Pts.
SMALL COLOR PRINTS:		
George Keller	Fawn	18 Pts.
Barbara Borchert	Yellow Rose	20 Pts.
Lin Hartnet	Tweetie Bird	17 Pts.
Marv Smietana	Steam Train	<u>20 Pts.</u>
	TOTAL	75 Pts.
	YTD TOTALL	392 Pts.

-- statistics provided by Marv Smietana