



Editor Notes....

Kerry Swick

It is Sunday night and I am hopefully recovered from Thanksgiving. For all of those that did not have the opportunity to ride on I-95 this past, well you did not mess anything. Please read this newsletter carefully and think about what it has to say. Provide feedback to the board members, and hopefully contribute toward getting SSCC back on track.

The next newsletter will arrive in the year 2000. In the meantime have a happy holiday season, and enjoy the New Year. We will never see this again for as long as we live.

Slide Meeting....

There will only be one meeting during the month of December and it will be the slide meeting. It will be held on Thursday, December 2, 1999, 7:30 PM at the Silgo Creek Community Center located off the Silgo Creek Parkway. The subject for the December meeting is Open and the judge and speaker will be announced at the meeting.

McCrillis Gardens Exhibit, Where You Live: Street Scenes in the Metropolitan Area....

Sally Gagne

The theme this year allows you to photograph crowds, empty streets, a passing group, building facades - anything that includes a street or sidewalk. The photos may be taken anywhere locally. BUT - they will be displayed in September of the magical year 2000, when the media reflects on history and change. If we get a large number of pictures of downtown Silver Spring, we can hope to persuade the *Post* to feature the exhibit, and our pictures could be treated more significantly than they might be otherwise.

Judging is expected to be held in July, so the deadline for matted pictures will be June. Up to eight photographs per person. Bring your friends to Silver Spring and take their photos!

Unsung Heroes....

Alex Cummins

Bill and Suzane Boyle have been doing food for the print meeting for forever. They are there every month setting up food, cleaning up, as well as buying the food. They do this so transparently that there are some who think the food just materializes. This is a job that makes the meeting much more enjoyable. That 15-20 minutes of munching and mingling are what many club members come for and would be much less enjoyable without the munchies. This is a thankless job and a very difficult job to fill when empty. So next time you're munching and talking at a meeting take a minute and thank those who are making your club experience more enjoyable.

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Presidents Column...

Alex Cummins

Another month has come and gone. I hope everyone enjoyed their turkey. Remember we only have the slide meeting this month. So bring your slides and compete. It is hard to have a competition when we have so few entries. Novices get stuck into the advanced class and feel that's unfair and the advanced competitors feel a shallow victory against such a small competition. Then neither compete and soon we have no competition. So bring a couple slides and compete. In January we will be back on schedule with a meeting on the first Thursday for slides and the fourth Thursday for prints. I hope everyone has a happy holiday.

Member Shows....

Member Vernon Kirkpatrick will participate in the McCrillis Gallery exhibit of works by gallery staff members, November 16, 1999 through December 17, 1999. His art in the show is titled 'Musical Artists of Note', and will include about 21 candid photo portraits taken at National Symphony rehearsals over a period of 25 years. Included will be conductors: Rostropovich, Ormandy, Mehta, Stokowski, Fiedler, Bernstein, Mancini, Maazel, Michael T. Thomas, Conlon and Sid Caesar (yes). Composers: Copland, Stravinsky and, Khatchaturian. Violinists: Menuhin, Mutter, Milstein, Jack Benny and Zuckerman. Pianists: Serkin, Rubenstein and Victor Borge. Guitarists: Parkening and John Denver. Flutist: James Galway. Cellist: Pablo Casals. Soprano: Kiri Te Kanawa. Most of the portraits are autographed.

Shooting The Pods....

Bob Ralph

I had never before worn a seat belt in a boat, but this time there was no alternative. At 55 knots, this was faster than I traveled most of the time on dry land. We climbed each wave and hurled off its crest, landing explosively and taking off again. Pellets of water stung my cheeks and whacked against my goggles. I clutched an old Nikon 2020, wrapped in a plastic sheet and partially sheltered under my poncho, while Ali and Steph, inured to the relentless pounding and the constant barrage of salt-water needles, straddled their waterproof camera boxes and allowed the inertia to pin them deep in their padded seats. The roar of the twin Evinrude 150's was deafening.

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Submissions for the *Cable Release* should be given directly to the Editor, Kerry Swick, or mailed to her: 5929 Iron Frame Way, Columbia, MD 21044. Provide IBM PC format disks.

email to kbswick@bellatlantic.net, otherwise typed with no
handwritten notations. Phone: 410-997-4918.

Shooting The Pods (cont'd)....

Bob Ralph

Before I could catch my breath, the engines stopped and we settled down to a relatively quiet chop, our spreading wake curving back almost one mile to the wooded cove from which we had started. Now I could see the misty green hills rising from the shores of San Juan Island to the east and north.

But the real treat of the day took my breath away. We were within the confines of a pod of killer whales, the tuxedoed Orcas that circled around us and crested and dove. An immense female breached, eight meters of white and black beauty arching into the air alongside us and showering us with spray. Then the dozen or so adults with half a dozen young drew figures of eight beside us, puffing mist and clicking loudly in a language of their own. As they lost interest in us and began to drift to the north, we pulled away to a safe 20 meters and chugged along parallel to the pod, matching their speed.

Ali and Steph, each with a Canon on a motor drive, had braced themselves on the gunwhales and were firing away. Their assignment was to photograph the dorsal fins of all the adults and juveniles in this pod. Later in the day, back in the Center for Whale Research in Friday Harbor, they would develop these black and whites, scan them into their computer files and attempt a comparison with the dorsal fins of known Orcas. These fins were like fingerprints, differing from whale to whale in size, shape and the character of defects or injuries. All known adults in existing pods had already been photographed and classified, but the new offspring were not yet on record.

By nightfall, I was nursing a cold and the two rolls of Kodachrome 64 that would preserve my memories of an unforgettable day.

Ali and Steph had registered and named two whales not previously catalogued.

A Club at the Crossroads....

Kerry Swick

In order to understand exactly what a crossroads is one must take a look out what the dictionary has to say. Crossroads - a critical turning point (The World Book, 1976). At the crossroads - in a situation where a choice must be made (The World Book, 1976).

I am an outsider looking in at the Silver Spring Camera Club. I do not take photographs, I only jokingly, pay the bills. I am not intimately involved with the organization so my views are that of an outsider looking through the doorway at the club. I see what all other outside observers see and hear when they look at SSCC. Over the past couple of years this club has undergone a negative transformation. The club membership has dropped from 94 members last year to 56 members. That is a drop in membership of forty percent in one year alone. In addition, I have observed a great reduction in the number of events being held as part of the club activities. Workshops are almost non-existent, attendance at meetings is down, contributions to the newsletter are down, and the number of entries at the competitions is down. We have also witnessed the shutdown of the GWCC competitions for this year. It is very apparent that what made the SSCC successful in the past is no longer working.

The decisions faced by the club's board of directors now deals with survival. I have seen other organizations suffer through the same ordeals the club is faced with and some of them have had to shut their doors. No one individual is to blame and it may even be more of a product of the times. The club may also be a victim of its inability to change and grow with the times. This is even more apparently when one looks at the club's makeup and how it has failed to bring in new members. The same members year after year can not carry the load. After a while it is no longer enjoyable for these select members.

I would like to offer some solutions that may be disturbing to some and uplifting to others. One alternative is to just shut the club down and not to wait until the club falls completely apart and is unable to pay its bills. If it is not fun anymore then there is no reason to keep going.

Another alternative is to restructure the club to match the times. Here are some suggestions on how to do it:

- Cut back and refocus the direction of the club. Remember, the club is no longer a large photography club.
- Cut back on the number of meetings. Hold workshop and speaker sessions every other month and competitions only on the other months. This way you would only need one location for meetings. Some members might not think this is a good idea, but without a strong membership you can not pay the rent.
- Change the rules so that more people can enter competitions. Publicize these changes so everybody knows what changes have been made. The costs of

getting started in photography are high and that makes it difficult for new people to get involved.

- Support the gallery show initiatives. These shows are organized by the members in order to show what the club is doing to the general public. The shows incorporate many of the things that are good about the club. They foster competition as part of the selection process. They give something for the members to shoot for, and it is always good to see one's work being displayed for the public.
- Turn the club into an education opportunity for its members. Develop workshops for beginners where they can learn how to photograph, how to compose, how to develop, how to print and how to present their art.
- Develop workshops that will improve the quality of work created by its members. Workshops should be created using feedback from the membership. It is my understanding that in the past workshops would start off strong and fade because members did not participate. It is better to have a few good workshops than a lot of poorly supported workshops. The workshops should change and evolve as the organization grows and develops.
- Support the newsletter and publish what is happening in the workshops. It has been a while since I published anything concerning hints or news from a workshop. These articles may also generate interest in other members to attend the workshops. The newsletter is the one tool that every member gets each month. Make it really work for the club.

SSCC offers many benefits to its club members. For some it is an opportunity to develop a craft. For others it is an opportunity to socialize with others with a common interest. I think it is worth the effort right now to save the club. So, schedule a board meeting with the goal of creating a successful club. If you feel it is time to shut the doors then let the SSCC board know and do not go to the meeting. One can not succeed if the support is not there.

In closing, remember those that have made the effort in the past. I praise the efforts of those selected few that worked so hard in the past, and I ask those that have not to step up to the challenge. It is now time for those that have not truly made the effort to step up and help. I learned a long time ago that it does not take a whole lot of effort by the many to create a successful club.

October Slide Competition Results....

The subject was Open and the judge was Andrea Blair

Novice Slides

1 st	Alex Cummins	Pelican
2 nd	Rhoda Steiner	Natures Beauty

Advanced Slides

1 st	Larry Mars	Coyote Buttes Vista
2 nd	Joel Fassler	On The Road to Mineral King
3 rd	Clarence Carvell	Thermal Pool (Yellowstone #187)
HM	Bernice Easter	Alaska Tundra
HM	Harold Hoiland	Sand Dunes
HM	Jim Rogers	Camassia Cusickii

November Slide Competition Results....

The subject was open and the was judged by Jim Roy

Advanced Slides

1 st	Jim Rogers	Litre Norwegian Boy
2 nd	John Osgood	Closed Doors
3 rd	Bob Ralph	Jurassic Miniature
HM	Jay Kinney	Flame & Stars
HM	Steven Stubits	Also Bells
HM	Larry Mars	Oxbow Bend

Montgomery County Historical Society Volunteers Needed....

Karen Lottes

The Montgomery County Historical Society is having a retrospective of the work of Lowell Kenyon from January 23 to April 2, 2000. In conjunction with the exhibit, we are looking to bring attention to and increase the holdings of our photographic archives. To that end we are having several photocopying days where people who have photographs of the county can bring them for copying for inclusion into our archives. We are looking for volunteers to do the photo copying? We have access to the equipment, but need knowledgeable people to work it. The dates are February 6, March 5 & April 2 (all Sundays) from 12:30-3:30. If we get enough people, it may only require a commitment of 1-2 hours. If interested please contact Karen Lottes at 301-340-6534.