



Silver Spring Camera Club of Maryland • USA

Cable Release

FOUNDED 1950

JANUARY 2009 • VOLUME 50 • NUMBER 5

A Word From the President

Bill Rau

Happy 2009, everyone! This year the Silver Spring Camera Club ends its 6th decade of photography activities. SSCC is one of the oldest camera clubs in the region, if not the country.

As you know, the Club is run entirely by volunteers. We are drawn together by common interest in and passion for good photography. Our constitution and competition rules provide structure and guidelines for our activities. In addition, the board of directors meets three or four times a year to consider issues relevant to our activities.

This month, the board will meet on the 3rd Thursday (January 22nd), in place of the usual workshop activities. Members are welcome at all board meetings. By holding this board meeting during a normal club meeting we hope to increase your understanding of Club decision-making. We also hope you will attend as a part of your involvement in the running and direction of the Club.

Club members are welcome to add topics to the board meeting agenda, to raise issues during the board meeting, and to engage in discussion of the issues. However, only board members can vote on issues that require a decision.

I invite you to attend this board meeting and add your insights and ideas to the Club's activities. I also invite you to add to the draft agenda topics listed below. Please contact me with your ideas or thoughts for agenda topics, or bring them up during the board meeting itself.

The draft agenda for the January 22, 2009 SSCC board of directors meeting includes:

1) Digital competitions--the final steps

- A. The Club is prepared to buy a digital projector.
 - A final decision is needed on a specific machine
 - Other equipment needs

- B. Software is available for running digital competitions.
 - Guidelines are needed for submitting digital images.
- C. Organizing competition images is needed
 - A person(s) is needed to manage competition images
- D. Competition rules must be reviewed to assure compatibility with digital competitions.

2) SSCC website--we must finalize a new website.

- A. Initial design and content development are underway
 - Additional content needs to be drafted and uploaded to website.
- B. Review of draft website is needed.
 - Identify 2 or 3 people to review and suggest changes.
- C. Settle on website host.
 - Review options (cost, space available, ease of access) and select host.

3) Suggestions for 2009-10 competition themes

Each club year, 3-4 themes are selected for competition, in addition to October's theme of Nature. Also, the constitution indicates that every other year (i.e., the 2009-2010 club year), a Body of Work competition is possible.

- Suggestions for themes for 2009-10 are needed.
- A decision on whether to hold a Body of Work competition is needed.

4) 2009-10 officers--looking ahead and preparing

All officers and most chairs have held their positions for 2 years. New officers and chairs may be needed for 2009-10.

- Discussion of interest and intent by current officers/chairs in continuing
- Discussion of ways to encourage and engage other members to consider running.

5) Identify a Club representative to Photographic Society of America (PSA).

6) Other Issues

I look forward to seeing you at the board of directors meeting on January 22, 2009.

SSCC Officers and Chairpersons (2008-09)

President	Bill Rau
Vice President	Bob Catlett
Treasurer	Jerry Fath
Secretary	Angelique Raptakis
Director	Norm Bernache
Director	Stan Klem
Director	Jim Rogers
Cable Release	Stan Klem
Competition	Michael Koren
	Michael Tran
Programs	Stan Klem
3rd Thursdays	Beth Koller
Membership	MyPhuong Nguyen
Field Trips	Bob Catlett
Historian	Norm Bernache
PSA Rep.	Vacant
Web Site	Paige Chandler
	Mario Ramos

Note: E-mail addresses and phone numbers are available on request. Please contact MyPhuong Nguyen at mpnguyenfoto@yahoo.com

The *Cable Release* is published ten times each year, September through May plus Summer, for members of the Silver Spring Camera Club. All rights are reserved but excerpts may be reprinted without permission provided proper credit and prior notification is given. SSCC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement and enjoyment of photography. Visitors and prospective members are welcome. Membership is open to all persons interested in photography. For more information, contact MyPhuong Nguyen at mpnguyenfoto@yahoo.com. SSCC is affiliated with the Photographic Society of America.

Submissions for the Cable Release should be directed to Editor, Cable Release, at newsdesk@ssccphotography.org.

SSCC Website: <http://www.scccphotography.org>

SSCC Membership Rates

Student	\$35.00
Individual	\$45.00
Family	\$65.00



The Silver Spring Camera Club has been a member Club of the PSA since the club was founded in 1950. For information regarding the benefits of a PSA individual membership and for PSA sponsored activities, please contact our Club PSA Rep. Henry Ng at henrycng@aol.com.

Inside this Issue

- 1 A Word from the President
- 3 January Speaker
- 3 January Competition Judge
- 4 January Field Trip
- 4 Making the Switch to Digital
- 5 December's 3rd Thursday Workshop
- 6 Photo-Related Happenings
- 7 December Competition Results

SSCC Meeting Location

All three major monthly meetings for this Club Year (2008-09) will be held at the Marvin Memorial United Methodist Church at Four Corners in Silver Spring. Directions are as follows:

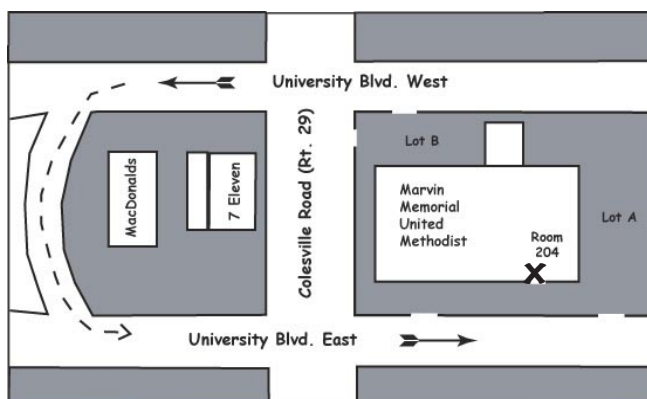
From downtown Silver Spring: go north on Colesville Road (Rte. 29); take a right onto University Blvd. East; then left into the church parking lot A.

From College Park/Takoma Park: take University Blvd. West. As you approach Rte. 29, move to your far left lane and turn left into church parking lot B. Or, you can pass through Rte. 29 intersection and turn left at the loop just past MacDonalds. Proceed on University Blvd. East, pass through Rte. 29 intersection, and quickly get in the far left lane and enter into church parking lot A.

From points north of Four Corners: proceed south on Rte. 29 and turn right onto University Blvd. West, move into the far left lane and turn left at the loop just past the MacDonalds. Proceed through Rte. 29 intersection, and turn left into church parking lot A.

From Wheaton and points west of Four Corners, go east on University Blvd. As you pass through Route 29 intersection, turn left into parking lot A.

Wherever you park, walk to the southeast corner of the Church and enter Room 204. All of our meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.



SSCC meets in the Church across the street from Blair High School. Part in Lot A. All meetings start at 7:30 pm

Guest Speaker - January 8th *Maxwell Mackenzie*

Maxwell Mackenzie has provided award-winning large-format and digital photography services for architectural, interior design, corporate, advertising, health-care, hospitality, retail, and editorial clients since 1981.

Maxwell MacKenzie earned a BA degree from Bennington College, in Vermont in 1975, with a dual major in architecture and photography. He began his photographic career in an old coffee warehouse on the Thames, in Wapping, East London, shooting ads and editorial work in England and Europe. In 1981 MacKenzie moved his base to Washington, DC and began specializing exclusively in shooting architecture and interiors. He did post-graduate work at the Corcoran Gallery School of Art, and studied with two of the best practitioners in his field: Peter Aaron of ESTO Photographics at the Maine Photographic Workshop, and Nick Merrick of Hedrich Blessing at the Santa Fe Photo Workshop. MacKenzie himself has taught week-long master classes at the Palm Beach Photographic Centre, Montgomery College, Md, and recently taught a workshop at the International Center of Photography in NY entitled: "The Poetry of Places, Exploring the Beauty of the Man-Made". He has received individual artist grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts, and the DC Commission on the Arts.

MacKenzie has authored three books of panoramic & aerial fine-art photography and has been widely exhibited in galleries and museums nationwide. His photographs can be seen in numerous private, corporate, and institutional collections, including permanent collections of U.S. Embassies in Bogota, Columbia; Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire; Conakry, Guinea; Moscow, USSR; Kathmandu, Nepal; Dushanbe, Tajikistan; and Lima, Peru.

MacKenzie's commercial work is featured on over a thousand websites, and has been published in brochures, books, and magazines worldwide, including over 500 covers. He is highly regarded for his exquisitely orderly, precise, and balanced compositions, and for the artful sensitivity and subtlety of his lighting. Continually in demand, MacKenzie's work has taken him throughout the U.S., and overseas to Austria, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Brazil, England, France, the Galapagos, Germany, Greece, Italy, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, and Wales.

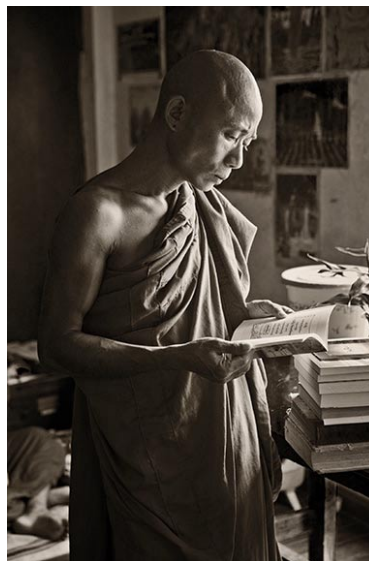
Competition Judge - January 15th *Marti Belcher*

Marti Belcher comes to us from the Vienna Photography Society in Northern Virginia, and was their B&W Photographer of the Year in 2007. She is currently a resident artist at the Lorton Arts Center and a member of the League of Reston Artists. Her academic credentials includes four degrees: an AA in Humanities (1981), BA in American Government (1984), and two AAS degrees—one in Graphics Design (2003) and another in Photography (2005).

Marti's artistic perspective and eventual photographic success are rooted in her simple upbringing in upstate New York, where her grandfather operated a dairy farm and her parents made TV antennas for a living. She came to realize that the tranquility of agrarian life, the nitty-gritty of the factory environment, and now, the speed and sterility of the age of technology, has blessed her with an uncommon vantage point. But it wasn't until 2003, when she started studying photography as a graphic design student, that it all came together—and she finally found her creative mechanism with photography.

In her own words, Marti "strives to find a way to reveal the simple, basic, and honest emotions found in each and every one of us . . . The phrase, 'the human condition', is often used to describe poignant photographs of people that live in distant places. What I have come to understand is that all of us are examples of the human condition, whether our sod hut, farmhouse, or estate may be. My

portraits and photography will always be about our similarities, not our differences."



Monk reading #5
by Marti Belcher

January Competition Subject is Photojournalism
Storytelling images that are a faithful and comprehensive depiction of the subject.

Field Trip - January 10th Air and Space Museum

Contact Bob Catlett if you would like a ride to January's field trip location: Smithsonian, Air and Space Museum, Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, VA. The Catmobile will be leaving the usual meeting place at the Giant Food parking lot on Arliss, just off of Flower Ave., at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday January 10th, 2009. Car pooling is advised, as the museum is free but the parking is \$12.00.

Making the Switch to Digital Photography by Sandy Littlejohn

I've always loved taking pictures. The usual: friends, trips, birthdays, and of course holidays. Halloween is a favorite of mine. There were usually some prize-winning costumes, but never any prize winning photos.

My camera at that time was a Kodak Oneshot, and it served me well for about 40 years. Of course there were pictures I liked--even some I liked a lot. But never did I get the photos I dreamed of getting or trying to get. So I lived with the idea that I'm just not a good photographer.

After 40 years of faithful service my old camera developed a few problems and was on its way out. It was the summer of 2007 and I had gone to Ritz Camera to pick up some pictures. That's when I noticed a Sony digital camera on sale. It had all the features I couldn't live without: 7.2 megapixels, no shutter delay, multi-shot burst (as Sony calls it), and a zoom lens. Wow, I was a hot shot now! I couldn't wait to start shooting.

The Sony was a nice camera, and I was very happy with lots of my photos: the sharpness, the vivid colors, all those great features. I even won a couple of prizes at the Montgomery County fair. I thought: "This is more like it." One of the winning photos was taken on a field trip with SSCC. I felt like this is the world's best camera, until . . .

One morning I noticed a pair of wrens had moved into the wren house that hung in the dogwood tree out back. I got excited and thought: "I'm going to get some great pictures." After about an hour of setting up a makeshift blind I decided, "This is where the burst feature is going to be terrific." I then happily clicked away the hours.

I knew I had taken some terrific shots --the best one was a wren with a spider in its beak ready to



SSCC December field trip to Fredericksburg, Va.

pop into the mouths of her little ones. But to see the spider, you had to blow up the shot so much that all you could see was noise.

I soon realized that an upgrade to the Sony was not an option--and I must have an SLR with a much longer and sharper zoom. This time I went to Penn Camera and bought a Canon 40D.

This whole process of upgrading my equipment and striving to take better pictures has been great fun. I'm also learning so much from the SSCC members. So thanks to all who have offered me a helping hand.

I take pictures for the same reason I always did: to save the moments you wish could last forever. When I look back through my photos, even the old Kodak shots are more vivid than my memory.

Today, my bird pictures (thanks to "delete") are no longer dots in a tree. They are sharp and have that catch light in their eyes. The background is out of focus, making it a joy to look at. Honestly, I shoot photos for myself--but when I get a terrific one it's wonderful to share it with people who appreciate that same joy with their own efforts.

So here's to happy shooting and clearer, sharper, more colorful memories!

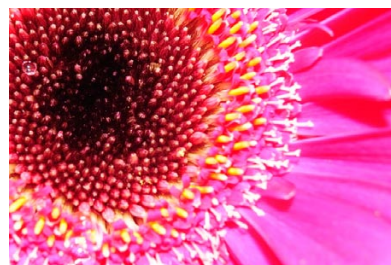
Meeting Cancellations?

If the Montgomery County Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather or an emergency situation, then SSCC meetings are automatically cancelled as well.

**December's 3rd Thursday Workshop
(Macro & Closeup Exercise)
by Beth Koller**

Cheap Thrills

- ✓ Bouquet of flowers (some with branch points to better collect water droplets; some with vivid and distinct centers for focal points) \$40
- ✓ 10 vases (2 for each work station) \$20.
- ✓ Floral foam and tape (to stabilize flowers) \$5.
- ✓ Assorted boxes to adjust the relative height of the flowers
- ✓ Spritzer with water \pm a touch of glycerin or soap (to adjust surface tension of the water droplets)
- ✓ Flashlight (for introducing spot highlights)
- ✓ 20+ assorted members of the NIH and Silver Spring camera clubs
- ✓ Cameras and close-up optics (macro lenses, close-up lenses, and extension tubes)
- ✓ Tripods (standard and tabletop) \pm macro rails
- ✓ Patience, Patience, Patience



The Challenge

Participants oriented themselves and the posterior flower to provide the correct angles for the production of reflections in water droplets on the stems of the anterior flower. (The most critical element was to identify an image in the droplet by eye and then to make adjustments of the elements while looking through the camera lens. Because the image is inverted, it was important to move the posterior flower opposite to the apparent position.)

Results: Priceless!!!

For those who are interested in learning more about this technique and use of the Wimberly Plamp clamp [\sim \$40], Lindsay Adler has prepared a video at www.youtube.com/user/adlerphotoworkshops.

In addition to this exercise, several participants took advantage of the beautiful blooms by taking standard macro shots \pm water drops and backlit shots.



Photo-Related Happenings

Tony Sweet Presentation

Noted fine arts nature photographer Tony Sweet is coming to Leisure World on Sunday, January 18 at 3:30 p.m. to make a presentation entitled "Seeing in the Digital Age". The presentation will be held in the auditorium of Clubhouse II (3300 N. Leisure World Blvd.) and admission is FREE!

If unfamiliar with the layout of Leisure World, ask guards at any of the three gates into Leisure World to direct you to the Sunday Matinee being held in Clubhouse II.

For questions, e-mail or call Larry Mars at limars@verizon.net or 301-598-2188.

VisArts Classes

The new VisArts Winter/Spring 2009 catalog is now available online. Please note the following procedures to review and/or register for classes:

1. To view the upcoming Winter/Spring 2009 catalog: [Click here for catalog](#)
2. To Register for classes:
 - Please visit our website and click on the white "Online Course Registration" button
 - If you are a new user, click "Continue" to proceed; otherwise, please sign in with your user ID and password
 - Select the age/category of the student who will be taking the class
 - Select the department of your choice and click "continue" to see a list of classes that match your choice
 - Check the box next to the class or classes for which you wish to register
 - Proceed through checkout giving your personal information

To begin registration, go to www.visartscenter.org.

For questions or concerns, contact Karen Grissen
kgrissen@visartscenter.org
VisArts at Rockville
155 Gibbs Street #300
Rockville, MD 20850

Office: 301-315-8200

Fax: 301-315-8296

www.VisArtsCenter.Org

3rd Annual Washington Gardener Photo Contest

Contest entry period is from January 1-21, 2009. Photos must:

- be garden-related (i.e. plants, plant parts, garden fauna, garden tools, etc.);
- have been taken in the 2008 calendar year; and
- have been taken within 150-mile radius of the U.S. Capitol building.

The winners will be announced at the Washington Gardener Seed Exchange on January 31, 2009 and then are published in the March/April 09 issue of Washington Gardener Magazine and are displayed at a local art show, PhotoSynthesis, this spring.

For a complete list of the 2009 contest rules, download the PDF linked here. A blank Word.doc entry form can be downloaded here. (If the links do not work for you, just send a request for the forms to WGardenermag@aol.com.)

What is NANPA?

The North American Nature Photography Association is a member driven photography organization run by its members for its members. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in nature photography and the preservation of the environment. Current membership includes photographers of all skill levels including some of the worlds best known professionals, along with environmentalists, stock agencies, equipment vendors, government agencies and people with a passion for great nature photographs.

To learn more about NANPA, including joining, go to www.NANPA.org. B-CCC member Clarence Carvell (CCarvell@aol.com) is the current Membership Chair for NANPA and can provide information, membership brochures and membership applications. The current pro-rated membership fee is \$50. Clarence is available to visit your organization at your convenience.

Warning re: Malware Issue

Some Samsung digital picture frames sold during this past holiday season may contain a computer virus. For more info, check out this link:

<http://www.itworld.com/security/59888/amazon-warns-customers-infected-digital-photo-frames>

December 2008 SSCC Monthly Club Competition Winners

December 11 Competition

Judge: Andy Kline

Subject: Open

Combined Slides

(8 entrants; 16 entries)

1st	Craig Callan	North Rim Dawn
2nd	Michael Tran	Bringing out a Lantern
3rd	Elisa Frumento	Flower with Dew
HM	Beth Koller	Dolly Sods - Fall

Novice Mono Prints

(7 entrants; 14 entries)

1st	Mario Ramos	Silver Rose
2nd	Sheryl Adams	Velvet Soul
3rd	Miguel Gallegos	Up, Up No Matter What
HM	Craig Callan	Dorothy Day

Advanced Mono Prints

(9 entrants; 17 entries)

1st	Harald Hoiland	Tenaxa Lake
2nd	Myphuong Nguyen	A Highland Gentleman
3rd	Pat Bress	Ria #1
HM	Harald Hoiland	International Planter

Novice Color Prints

(11 entrants; 20 entries)

1st	Mario Ramos	Los Compadres
2nd	Jerry Fath	Quiet Village
3rd	Sheryl Adams	Pier 7 From Brooklyn Bridge
HM	Genie Sachs	Deep Inside
HM	Peter Hui	Ancient Doorway

Advanced Color Prints

(11 entrants; 22 entries)

1st	George DeBuchananne	Shimmering Trees
2nd	Michael Tran	Follow Mom
3rd	Carl Brandt	Shadow Pattern
HM	Bob Catlett	Masked Man
HM	Michael Tran	My Favorite Seagull



Sheryl Adams

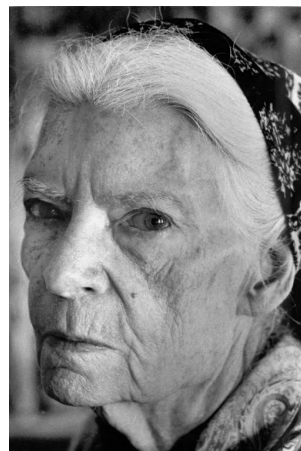


Michael Tran



Beth Koller

Mario Ramos



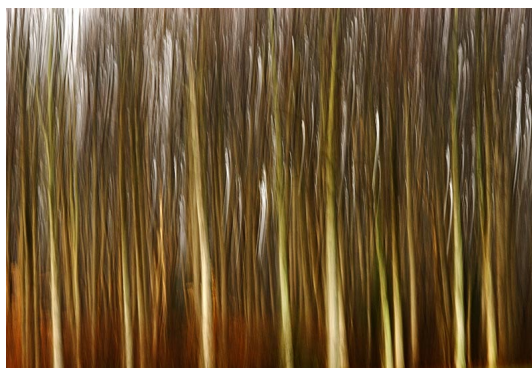
Craig Callan

A Few December Competition Winners

More December Competition Winners



Michael Tran



George DeBuchananne



Sheryl Adams



Carl Brandt



Mario Ramos



Michael Tran

Silver Spring Camera Club Membership Form 2008-2009

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email Address _____

Membership rates: Individual \$45; Student or Spouse \$35; Family \$65.

Dues cover the club year from September through May. After January 31, dues for the remainder of the club year for new members are \$35; dues for spouses and students remain at \$35. Make checks payable to the Silver Spring Camera Club, and mail to SSCC, P.O. Box 2375, Wheaton, MD 20915-2375--or simply bring your check to one of our meetings.

For all questions about the club, contact Membership Chair MyPhuong Nguyen at mpnguyenfoto@yahoo.com