

Focal Plane



A Publication of the Ridgewood Camera Club

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December 2008

Happy Holidays

NYC at Night Holiday Field trip December 12th

Every year at Christmastime Dieter and Vinnie take a trip to the city after dark to photograph around Times Square, the midtown area and of course Rockefeller Center. This year we scheduled Friday December 12 to do that, the weekends are just too crowded. You are invited to come along. We will take the 3:45 PM bus from the Vince Lombardy Park & Ride lot on the New Jersey Turnpike to arrive in the city at dusk. Meet us at the bus terminal or wander in later. We generally spend at least an hour at Rockefeller Center so you should be able to find us there. Bring an energy bar as a snack as dinner may be late. Also you can bring a tripod but be ready to be hassled by the tripod police especially at Rockefeller Center, you have to learn to photograph in stealth mode.

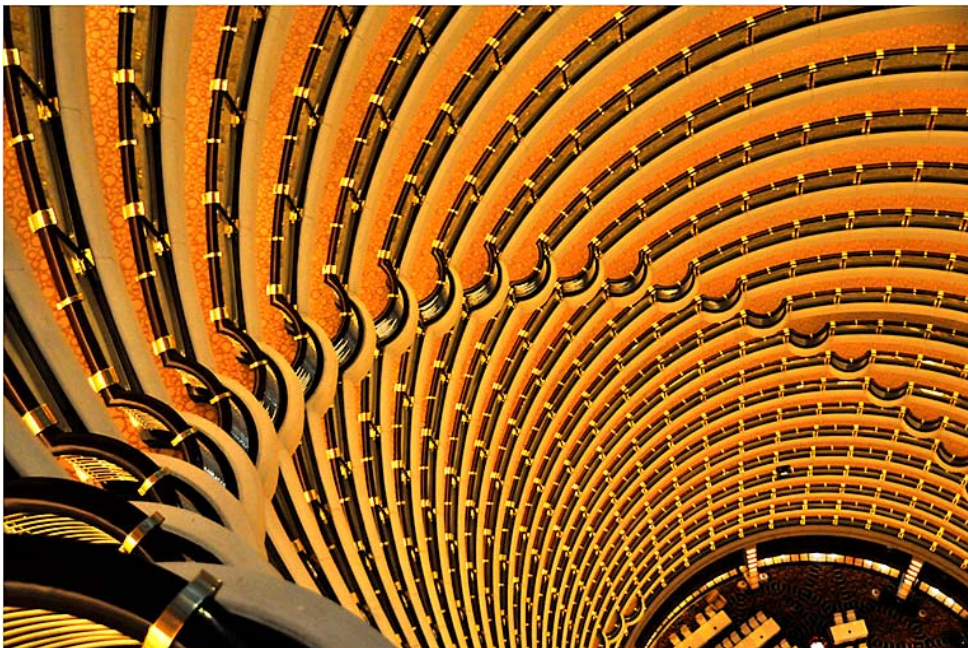
December 2008 Calendar

Dec 10 **Nature competition** **Judge: Phil Echo**
 Dec 17 **Holiday Party** **Hostess: Alyce Parseghian**

That's all there is, just party, party.

Marie's Image of the Month Selection

"Grand Hyatt"
 by Eric Dong.



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Monthly Bulletin of Ridgewood Camera Club

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2008-2009

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Ridgewood Camera Club

Assigned Subject Competition

November 12 2008

David Mills was Judging

Honorable Mentions

Anthony Calandra.....	Ocean Blvd
George Campbell.....	Up and Around
Nancy de Flon.....	Verrazano Bridge at Dawn
Jia Han Dong.....	The Cloister 2
Jerry Fornarotto.....	Canadian Barns
Marjorie Forrest.....	Church Door
Marjorie Forrest.....	Cupola with Weather Vane
Sam Ohan.....	Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall
Sam Ohan.....	Wright's Guggenheim
Peter O'Malley.....	Her Majesty's Theatre
Della O'Malley.....	Historical Red Clinton Mill
Alyce Parseghian.....	Armenian cathedral door
Alyce Parseghian.....	Walkway to Summer palace 1
Bob Peltz.....	Wyoming Barn
Don Phillip.....	Castle Watchtower
Dave Pierson.....	shaker door way
Joe Placer.....	The Giant Wheel
Sonya Szostak.....	Chichen Itza Ruin
Sonya Szostak.....	Memorial within Memorial

Awards

Pater Brannigan.....	Citibank, Jersey City
Pater Brannigan.....	Gaudi Home, Barcelona
Jia Han Dong.....	Grand Hyatt
Jia Han Dong.....	National Grand Theater
Jerry Fornarotto.....	Rock and roll hall of fame
Connie Fox.....	Room for All
Connie Fox.....	Taller than the Moon
Connie Fox.....	The Golden Gate
Rich Gheno.....	Neoclassical Courthouse Dome
Rich Gheno.....	The City's Art Deco Gem
Marie Kane.....	Fixer Upper
Stanley Kantor.....	Ancient Dwellings
Joyce Levine.....	come in before you enter
Sam Ohan.....	Javits Center
Peter O'Malley.....	Big Ben
Della O'Malley.....	Geometric Pattern of Javit Center
Della O'Malley.....	Harbour Inn in Moon Light
Dave Pierson.....	stair way to the stars
Lynn Ronan.....	Bruges Evening
Tibor Vari.....	Seattle Skyline

Frank Crommelin



Frank is a member of the Ridgewood Camera Club. He stopped by the Focal Plane Office and we talked about photography. What else? He had some interesting things to say so I started taking notes. Which I want to share with you.

Q: I understand that you are very active in Photographic Society of America (PSA). Can you tell me how and why you got started.

A: Well it started out when I entered a few PSA sponsored contests. Awards are given as Medals, Honorable Mentions, and Acceptances so when I received several acceptances it was suggested by Nick Muskovac who headed up the Electronic Division that I join PSA, after getting a few more acceptances I did join. In February of 2007 I won my first Bronze medal in creative/altered reality division at a exhibition in Florida and the woman that was in charge of the exhibition invited me to join a PSA Creative study group. The Study Group has been great it has expanded my photographic skills tremendously. It's comprised of seven photographers two of which are professionals, three are from the USA and one each from Chile, Wales, Thailand, and Israel. We each email one image per month with an explanation as to "How we did it" to the group leader Jim Hawkins and he posts it to the web site on the tenth of the month, by the twenty fifth of the month we are required to comment and make suggestions that we think could improve the others members images. It works excellent with no ego problems, as you always hear in judging it is "subjective" so it nice to hear what six of your peers see in each others images.

Jim Hawkins of the group encouraged me to try the PSA Print of the Month contest this is where you send in four prints, two color two mono. to be judged by various advanced photographers through out the country. The winners are posted on the PSA. web site and a running score is kept from July to June. I am not a print person but I have been very lucky and have two first places so far this year. The print size is 8X10 or 8-1/2 X 11 un-mounted and you will get your prints back with a short critique. As I said I am not a print person and my prints are made on a \$85.00 Epson Printer, but now that I am set up to do small prints I have started entering the PSA small print contests. So you see it's been a progression and I am really enjoying it. I know that a lot of you have great images so don't retire them after they have been through the club and state competitions get them out and compete at the world level you will be surprised I know I was

Q: How long have you been a member of PSA.

A:, I joined in June of 2007

Q: How successful have you been

A: I have received 174 acceptances (1) Silver Medal (5) Bronze Medals (3) Stars in EID with (2) more pending.
That's an impressive record

Q: How does one get started

A: I would suggest going to the PSA web site, it's user friendly and for the first two years they walk you through all you need to know. In addition as a member you will get the PSA Journal that lists all the upcoming exhibitions. If you have any questions see Jerry Fornarotto he is our regional PSA representative Jerry will be glad to help you get started and would make an excellent sponsor. Check out the PSA web sites listed below

<http://www.psa-photo.org/> <http://www.psaphoto.org/Group24/> <http://www.psa-newmember.org>

Here are just a few of Franks Award winning Images



Bosque & White Sands

JOE PLACER



This past November my wife and I visited Bosque del Apache (forest of the Apache) a national wildlife refuge located in New Mexico. It is the largest park of its kind in North America, a stop along the way for thousands of migrating birds including Sandhill cranes, Snow geese, shorebirds and various ducks.

The government encourages the birds to rest here by planting and rotating crops of corn and alfalfa for them to feed on. We would enter the park before dawn, when the birds are most active in the various ponds and fields, leave before midday and return to catch the setting sun. It was both exciting and challenging to see and photograph the birds taking off and in flight. Panning with a long lens on a sturdy tripod with a rotating head is the ideal setup to keep the birds in focus while maintaining proper exposure. I used the shutter-preferred mode on my DSLR with a setting of 1000, fired in bursts and let the camera adjust the aperture accordingly. I varied the iso and the light balance depending on the conditions and set the focus on continuous. My longest lens is 300mm (450 with a 1.5 x factor) but the longer the better. I trashed more pictures than I saved but with a digital camera and plenty of memory I wasn't concerned that I would run out of capacity, besides there was always a Wal-Mart nearby.



After two and a half days at Bosque we drove north to the White Sands National Monument, two hundred and seventy five square miles of wave like dunes of white, rippled, gypsum sand, the largest natural gypsum deposit in the world. After the birds, it was relaxing to photograph

inactive subjects. We would arrive just before dawn to catch the rays of the rising sun as it bathed the dunes in warm light creating dramatic shapes and shadows. We were lucky enough to witness the rising of a full moon as the sun was setting. The light provided by the moon, along with a deep, colorful sky, made for some wonderful images. Even in this harsh environment, plant life in the form of yuccas, sumac and rosemary bushes flourish and made for good foreground subjects. The “purple” mountains in the background provided an interesting contrast with the white sand.



In both parks, early mornings are cold and it is well to dress in layers which can later be removed as the weather warms; gloves are especially recommended. In White Sands particularly, sunscreen and a protective hat are necessary as the afternoon sun is quite strong.

The Friends of Arizona Highways sponsored this workshop. Two professional photographers took us to the best photographic locations, offered advice, smoothed out any difficulties and answered questions that people had. Twelve other amateur photographers and three assistant volunteers were also on the tour.

Andie and I have attended several of their workshops and all have been very rewarding. Their workshop schedule is available on the friendsofarizonahighways.com Website.



Jerry Fornarotto writes

Take some time and visit the PSA website;

<http://www.psa-photo.org/default.asp?DivID=8>

Slide show of the Portland conference (yes, you will see Chick);

<http://www.photodex.com/sharing/viewshow.html?fl=3048467&alb=120310>

Member Galleries;

<http://www.psa-photo.org/galleryPageDisplay.asp?DivID=8&menuID=9&pageID=554>

Star Rating;

<http://www.psa-photo.org/competitionPageDisplay.asp?DivID=8&menuID=4&pageID=177>

Membership Benefits;

<http://www.psa-photo.org/membershipPageDisplay.asp?DivID=8&menuID=2&pageID=501>

Membership Application (list Jerry Fornarotto "Who referred you to PSA?");

https://www.psa-photo.org/membership_Individual_App.asp

If you have any questions about PSA contact Jerry Fornarotto, jforno@optonline.net , 973-667-9642

We meet on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesday of the month at 8:00 pm
The Woman's Club of Wyckoff, 176 Wyckoff Ave. Wyckoff. NJ

Guests are always welcome at regular meetings

Assigned Subjects for the 2008/2009 Season
Waterfalls



Ridgewood Camera Club

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