



Focal Plane

Volume 68 Issue 7

March 2005

A Publication of the Ridgewood Camera Club



Marie's Pick of the Month

"Little Bee Eater"

by Vinnie Kempf

March 2005 Calendar

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 2 | Executive Committee | Host: Nancy Merena |
| 9 | Nature Competition | Judge: Roman Kurywczak |
| 16 | Pictorial Competition | Judge: Roman Kurywczak |
| 23 | Print Competition | Judge: Howard Knauer |
| 30 | Multiple Forum Night | |



From the Editor

With St Patrick's day around the corner spring can't be far away.

Looking around me at the club meetings seems like an exceptional high number of our members escaped to Florida this winter. "Must be nice"

This past month we had the Ridgewood international showing and what a show it was. You might not realize how much work goes into this project and how much effort it takes to take the show on the road to a number of camera clubs in the area. Chick and Helen Chakarian really deserve our gratitude for all the work they are doing for us.

March is heavy on competition, one of each nature, pictorial and prints. Are you ready? If you are planning to enter in the digital portion of the competitions please send them in as early as possible. It's not very complicated to collect and compile the images but we must allow some extra time for unforeseen happenings.

Please notice that there are some empty spaces in this issue. The reason for those spaces is the fact that I need some help from our members to fill those spaces. It becomes increasingly difficult to fill the pages with meaningful material year after year.

This is my call for help.

Dieter

Using a Card Reader with your Digital Camera

Low cost flash memory card readers are a cheap and convenient alternative to cables for transferring images into your computer. They also avoid you having to use cables or even to have the camera connected to your PC. By using a card reader (which is powered from your PC) you can save the camera batteries.

Most of these devices are USB based and cost less than US\$50. Make sure you get the type that is compatible with the type of card used in your camera. The first time you use it you will probably need to install driver software. The first time you insert your memory card your system will also need to install further drivers. This process is fairly automatic, but do not Cancel it, otherwise the card cannot be read.

The card reader will appear on your computer as a new drive letter and will be called 'Removable Disc'. If you have several drives on your system it can be difficult to pick out since Zip drives and other types of removable discs are described in the same way. If you have a camera card in the reader you should be able to see a folder called DCIM at the top level.

Camera manufacturers advise you not to format digital camera flash memory cards on your computer. Some cameras have trouble reading cards formatted in this way. All cameras have functions that will format and clear the cards and it is best to use them when you buy a new memory card. The problems arise because the computer selects different default sizes for disc blocks and directory sizes to the camera. Computers are much more flexible in the layouts that they can read than cameras.

Focal Plane

Dieter Steinmeyer
Editor

201-652-3031

dsteinmeyer@verizon.net

Website - <http://www.ridgewoodcameraclub.org>

Monthly Bulletin of Ridgewood Camera Club

Member PSA & NJFCC

Copy Editor
Vinnie Kempf

Techno Editor
MR LENS FLARE

2004-2005
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International

The 22nd Ridgewood Camera Club’s International competition was held on January 29 under the guidance of Chick Chakarian. We had 309 entries in the color slide division and 159 entries in the special theme portion (Silhouettes and Water in any form).

We also had a celebrity team of judges, Wade Clutton, FPSA,
 Evelyn Greaves FPSA
 and Martin Bruce. FPSA .



Lots of our members pitched in to make it a success. It’s just great that so many of our members are always ready to pitch in. Trudy Braun was in charge of the kitchen that day and provided us with a very nice lunch again with the help of many members including the second in command Richard Braun.



Chick’s Chicks



It’s over

Nature Competition February 9 2005

Howard Knauer was judging



Nature General Honorable Mentions

Rocks and Water..... N. Merena
 First Light- Death Valley..... T. Vari
 Stony Brook..... T. Spector
 Aspen Grove..... C. Fox
 Fall Collage..... R. Gheno
 Morning Mist on Sunriver G. Garbeck

Nature Zoological Honorable Mentions

Red Panda Lunching..... A. Gunther
 Pollen Laden Bee..... A. Parseghian
 Gentoo Penguin Mom & Grown Chick. A. Parseghian
 Grooming Macaques..... D. O'Malley
 Bobcats M. Forrest
 Heron ready to Pounce..... D. O'Malley
 Gray Wolf Hesitating..... M. Forrest
 Stop bothering me go play..... V. Kempf
 Gulf Fritillary..... R. Gheno

Awards

Maroon Bells-Colo..... T. Spector
 Ear of the Wind..... T. Vari
 Ridges and Patterns at the Canyon.... B. Bain

Awards

Nature Botanical

Honorable Mentions

Trillium #2..... D. Steinmeyer

Awards

Dutchman's Pipe..... T. Spector

Ant tending its Flock of Aphids A. Simpson
 Great Blue Heron Wading..... P. O'Malley
 Northern Water snake resting in the
 Branches A. Simpson
 The Hummer..... D. Phillip
 Green Heron P. O'Malley
 Little Bee Eater..... V. Kempf
 Alaskan Caribou J. Placer
 Sparrow #2 J. Levine
 Shades of Gray M. Kane

NJFCC Salon

Marie Kane

The NJ Federation of Camera Clubs held two competitions in February. The Tops in NJ – Nature was held on Tuesday, February 8th at the Teaneck Camera Club. Here are the results.

HM's:

Dieter Steinmeyer..... "Blue Eyed Grass"
 Rich Gheno..... "One Last Push"
 Della O'Malley..... "Emerald Swallowtail"
 Marjorie Forrest..... "Ebony Langur Learning Preening"
 Doug Goodell..... "Are You Gonna Share"
 Marie Kane..... "Relaxing Baboon"

The Photo Travel competition was held on Tuesday, February 15th at the Plainfield Camera Club. Results are as follows.

Merit Awards:

Peter O'Malley..... "Bryce Hoodoos"
 Toby Spector..... "Sunlit Aspens on the Sneffles Range"
 Vinnie Kempf..... "Misty Morning"

TOTALS SLIDES



Class B February 2005

Class A February 2005

| | P | A | N | TOTAL |
|-----------------|----|----|----|-------|
| C. Laplaca-Post | 69 | 39 | 55 | 163* |
| J. Placer | 61 | 35 | 62 | 158* |
| M. Badala | 56 | 34 | 49 | 139* |
| L. Lembo | 64 | 23 | 50 | 137 |
| N. Merena | 62 | 22 | 41 | 125 |
| F. Lopez | 57 | 18 | 45 | 120 |
| C. Gottlieb | 24 | | 38 | 62 |
| S. Szostak | 19 | | 40 | 59 |
| J. Levine | 21 | | 37 | 58 |
| P. Gordon | 40 | 15 | - | 55 |
| F. Crommelin | 37 | | 16 | 53 |
| L. Bold | 18 | | 16 | 34 |
| M. Mann | | | 18 | 18 |
| L. Iulo | 17 | | | 17 |
| E. Vereb | | | 9 | 9 |
| L. Rainford | | | 5 | 5 |

| | P | A | N | TOTAL |
|------------------|----|----|----|-------|
| M. Forrest | 72 | 46 | 73 | 191* |
| V. Kempf | 73 | 49 | 69 | 191* |
| T. Vari | 66 | 47 | 68 | 181* |
| T. Spector | 65 | 45 | 68 | 178* |
| M. Kane | 66 | 41 | 69 | 176* |
| D. O'Malley | 72 | 36 | 68 | 176* |
| D. Steinmeyer | 65 | 48 | 63 | 176* |
| P. O'Malley | 63 | 42 | 70 | 175* |
| R. Allen Simpson | 63 | 39 | 69 | 171* |
| R. Gheno | 63 | 42 | 60 | 165* |
| A. Parseghian | 61 | 43 | 60 | 164* |
| A, Gunther | 61 | 35 | 66 | 162* |
| B. Bain | 62 | 42 | 53 | 157 |
| J. Fornarotto | 41 | 48 | 39 | 128 |
| D. Hoffman | 38 | 38 | 44 | 120 |
| C. Fox | 40 | 17 | 61 | 118 |
| D. Phillip | 35 | 6 | 43 | 78 |
| A. Chakarian | 57 | | 19 | 76 |
| D. Goodell | 6 | | 69 | 75 |
| F. Alam | 35 | 39 | | 74 |
| M. Molino | | 41 | 21 | 62 |
| G. Garbeck | 24 | 8 | 21 | 53 |
| J. Mann | 19 | | 33 | 52 |
| N. Lamb | | 41 | | 41 |
| K. Licht | 19 | | 19 | 38 |
| J. Schilling | 21 | | | 21 |

**Fieldtrip Feb. 26 2005 to
THE GATES
Installation in Central Park**



Alabama Hills

By
Tibor Vari
01/2005

The Eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range in California provides an incredible wealth of photographic opportunities. Starting in the north and working south you have Lake Tahoe, Mono Lake, the Mammoth Lakes region, Convict Lake, Bishop, the Ancient Bristle cone Pine Forest, the Alabama Hills, and finally Death Valley National Park. Probably the least known portion of this range is the Alabama Hills and it will be the focus of this article.

These hills derive their name from Southern prospectors who were sympathetic to the Confederate cause and named these hills after the warship "Alabama". Today the 30,000 acres are managed by the Bureau of Land Management and designated the "Alabama Hills Recreation lands". You may not have known it watching television but you have seen this area in the many western movies filmed in the hills as are many car commercials. You can explore this area by driving along the Movie Road.



To get to the Alabama Hills you must travel on Route 395 to Lone Pine and turn onto the Whitney Portal Road heading west towards the mountains. You will want to arrive before sunrise so that you can catch the warm glow of the sun off the mountains. A good rule to follow for sunrise photography is to scout a location during the day so that you know where to go the next morning when it is dark. Unfortunately, during this trip I did not have a chance to do so but had researched this location on the web and knew the spot to photograph a very interesting arch.

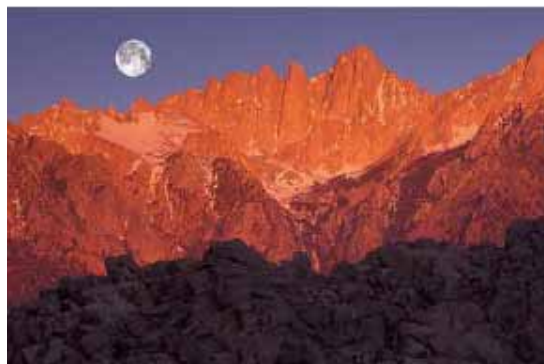


Traveling west on the Whitney Portal Road you will make a right onto the Movie Road. Follow this dirt road and bear right into a parking lot. Walk towards the western side of the parking lot along the trail down and over to the other side of the gully. You will then bear a bit towards the right moving towards a rock formation that quite frankly looks like a nipple. The Arch is to the right of this formation. Look carefully as it does blend in with the rock formations. Be ready as the sun starts to rise as the arch will initially be in shadow and have your wide angle lens ready! Stay low so as not to create a shadow yourself!

One thing to keep in mind when taking shots is to use your neutral density filter! The difference between the foreground hills which may well be in shadow that the looming mountains will have a greater range than film can handle. Another useful filter is a warming filter to add a little punch to the light. Finally, be careful with a polarizing filter and back off from the maximum polarization otherwise your sky will be way too dark. Of course, shoot all your shots using a steady tripod!

After taking shots of the arch the rock formations and the warm light on the mountain range will make for many interesting compositions. Frankly, you can't go wrong stopping and taking shots of the many rock formations.

Back track to the Whitney Portal Road and turn right (west), to wind your way up to the top of the mountain (about 13 miles total from Lone Pine). There are a number of pullouts from which you can take photographs of Mt. Whitney (at 14,494 feet, it is the highest peak in the lower 48 states). At the end of the road you'll find a campground and Whitney Creek. Be sure to visit the tiny Whitney Portal store as they make a killer breakfast!



So if you are in the Eastern Sierra's, try to spend at least one morning shooting in the Alabama Hills and Mount Whitney.

**Please update your files to reflect Tibor's
new Email and phone numbers**

Tibor Vari
201-805-3326 c
201-962-8228 h
201-236-8353 w
tibor@tiborvari.com
www.tiborvari.com

Assigned Subjects for 2004-2005

1. **Night shots:** Photographs taken after sunset or before sunrise.
2. **Creative:** Is defined as a departure from reality created by the use of filters, digital manipulations, reflections, montages, multiple exposures, or any technique that results in a picture that would not normally be seen with the human eye



Ridgewood Camera Club

**19 Smithfield Rd
Waldwick, NJ, 07463**