



FOCAL PLANE

A Publication of the Ridgewood Camera Club

Volume 72 Issue 1

September 2008

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Welcome Back

From the Editor

Welcome back to another season of Photo Fun.

Hope you all had a enjoyable summer. Some of you will travel in September Including my wife and I. We are going to Europe for three weeks which means the October Focal Plane will be late. So this is going to be the September issue.

Thanks to the contributors to this issue Nancy Lamb and Nancy de Flon. In this issue you also find some pictures from the RCC picnic which was planned and organized by Connie Fox.

Don't forget this is only the first issue of the season there are eight more to come. Please keep your articles coming in to help fill all the future issues.

Dieter

DID YOU BLOG TODAY?

Here are some of the RCC celebrities at the NECCC. conference

At the annual NECCC conference in Amherst, MA July 11-13
Sonya Szostak won a medal in the Digital Nature, Best Wildlife, Gorilla
Toby Spector won 2 honor awards in the Slide Competition.

1. Snow Capped Mountains & Aspens
2. Snail in Blacklight

Gisela Schroeder won an honor award in the Digital Open for Crocus Swirled

Attending the conference were Nancy Lamb, Sonya Szostak, Marie Kane, Toby Spector, Gisela Schroeder, Connie Fox, Karen Kruger, Vinnie Kempf, George Garbeck, Martin Joffe, Tibor Vari and Fred Helfst.

This message is brought to you by our high flying reporter Toby Spector.

President's Message

Summer is gone all too quickly, along with my good intentions of pursuing all the informative photo literature and magazines so patiently waiting to be read. Instead, I accomplished some much-needed "paint-up and fix-up" at home.

I did manage to get to the New England Council of Camera Clubs in Amherst, Mass., where I attended some very informative workshops, the balloon festival in N.J., "Belmont for Breakfast," and Monmouth race track for some experimental shots. With all that, you were always on my mind. I hope your summer was rewarding and enjoyable.

Focal Plane

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Monthly Bulletin of Ridgewood

Camera Club

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2008-2009

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Ridgewood Camera Club

Welcome back to another exciting year of photography at Ridgewood Camera Club. I say that with an expectant smile because I know that members of the executive committee have been productive and successful in their diligent search for ways to make this year interesting and valuable for all of you.

Many of you have previously experienced adventurous photo trips to other countries that you are willing to share.

Look at the calendar on our website and notice the variety of programs that Bun Chan has arranged for us. Far away places this year include China, Italy, and Ireland.

Dave Pierson, our workshop chairperson has managed to set up eight workshops during the year. Members of the club have volunteered their expertise and homes. Our website is looking better than ever. Now we even have a "Blog" along with a delightful video that takes us on a balloon ride, thanks to George Garbeck.

Alyce Parseghian is looking into purchasing jackets and tee shirts with the RCC. logo. Steve is making sure our equipment is in top condition. Sonya has sent the club brochure to the printer, (but don't forget to view the website from time to time for any changes to the printed calendar) and Karen has our new digital competition program ready to go for our first pictorial competition.

We are still in need of a field trip coordinator, someone with that "get up and go" attitude, who knows of events and places where we can all gather for photo opportunities.

Most of all, even with the raise in rent, we can still afford to keep our meeting place again this year. This is why promptly paying the club dues is important.

In June, the executive committee approved an addendum to our digital competition rules.

"Images submitted in projected image competitions that have been previously submitted in a nature competition cannot be entered in a pictorial and vice versa." Now it becomes important to decide in which category your image must remain. Another change this year includes the submission and scores for the print competition to be explained later.

Sam Ohan and Arlene Voll the hospitality chairpersons are going to need our support for a contribution of a beverage or a snack during a program night. What's a camera club meeting without some delectable desserts and friendly chit-chat?

I'm aware that we have members of many talents at Ridgewood. As President of Ridgewood Camera Club, it is a pleasure to experience your creativity, generosity and friendship. I hope that this year the exchange of knowledge and friendship will continue to make our club even better.

"Friendship can be purchased only by friendship. A man may have authority over others, but he can never have their heart but by giving his own".

I look forward to sharing the joy of photography with all, and seeing you at our meeting on September 10th for our first program night featuring Diane Shapiro, "Editing and Getting your Images into the Marketplace".

Yours truly,

Connie Fox

Visiting Sunflower Heaven

Nancy de Flon

Nathan Farb photographed them. Carl Heilman II photographed them. Alas, “they” were a one-time wonder, seemingly never to be repeated. I’m talking about the vast field of sunflowers that someone once planted on the Plains of Abraham—that tract of land near Lake Placid, NY bordered by Route 73 and the Adirondak Loj Road leading to the High Peaks trailheads.

So if your idea of heaven is to photograph endless fields of sunflowers, and you have a certain resistance to traveling to Kansas, what do you do? With a little help from my friend Google, I discovered that for ten days in July, the Buttonwood Farm in Griswold, Connecticut (it’s practically in Rhode Island, really) offers acres and acres of sunflowers. The owner, Duane Button, started this in 2003. A crew of volunteers harvests the sunflowers and the beautiful bouquets of the large-headed smiling beauties are sold for \$5 each, with all proceeds going to the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

How many sunflowers do they grow? Well, on one day alone while I was there (this year’s event was July 19-27) they sold 1,000 bouquets—that’s 5,000 sunflowers—and it didn’t even make the tiniest dent in what’s growing in the fields. People come from miles around to photograph and to queue up for the Buttons’ justly famous ice cream. (During the July event they even feature a sunflower flavor!) In addition to the armies of parents posing their kids against the flowery yellow backgrounds, I enjoyed speaking with several serious photographers, as well as with two lady artists who had their easels set up—one drawing in pastels, the other painting with acrylic.

I stayed at the nice Americ Inn about a ten-minute drive from the farm; it’s just off Route 395, about 14 miles from Norwich. This could be well worth a two-night field trip for RCC, and perhaps a group rate could be negotiated at the hotel. Bring your polarizers !



Iceland as a Photo Op

Nancy Lamb

Since Vinnie has a wonderful account on the RCC blog of our Icelandic adventure, I'll just add some thoughts to ponder.

I see Iceland becoming the next hot destination, not only for tourists but especially for photographers. Photographic workshops such as Focus On Nature are now ramping up for a minor invasion this coming spring/summer. With the Euro exchange rate out of sight against the dollar, the Kroner seems to be a good alternative, since its rate has been steadily improving for us. The down side is that food is very expensive, as many goods have to be imported, but the up side is that the diet is heart healthy with an emphasis on fish and fresh vegetables. Hope that didn't turn you off, but if you are hooked on fast food, it is scarce....we only saw one Subway.

The fishing industry is alive and well and generates a fine living in spite of the quotas now in place. Fish farming has been discontinued, being less productive than wild fishing and quotas are reached in record time.

Puffin photography was available but not without some effort. We traveled to an island with many Puffins, but the Arctic Terns nesting in the same area were determined to inflict injury on us. Eventually we defeated this tern terror by sitting under our extended tripods and photographing from there, producing many shots of dive bombing terns and not enough of puffins.

I loved the unpolluted air and the perfect temperatures which never got above 65F. Even in the city one could breathe freely and the cool days of July were a delight. Driving was without hassle and traffic was light most of the time. The down side is that gas costs \$9 per gallon.....and you thought you had it bad...and some of their maps didn't fulfill their promise even when read upside down, but it was something of an adventure getting lost in a country with numerous glaciers, geothermal hot springs, bubbling mud pots, black sand beaches strewn with icebergs, thousands of waterfalls and chance encounters with the sublime Icelandic horse.

It was fun to have daylight 20 hours out of 24, but we didn't take full advantage of that as exhaustion set in well before sunset and if you wanted to catch the sunrise it was only 4 hours away. Night never became more than dusk which made for some interesting shots at 11 PM and if you were in a partying frame of mind there was plenty of that going on with the locals.

The emergency shelters became something of an obsession as we climbed higher into remote mountains littered with ice caps. Upon finding these shelters well supplied, we relaxed knowing that we could survive a car breakdown in the middle of winter which with the fierce winds, it sometimes seemed to be.

Hotel accommodations were surprisingly contemporary. Some of the more isolated lodgings were less than stellar, but all were clean and included a very hearty breakfast with pickled herring and a dollop of cod liver oil if you so desired. I'm not kidding...it's a product of Iceland that was evocative of my childhood before vitamins were available.

If you are ready for a not too distant, exotic photo op Iceland may be just right for you. I'd recommend it in a New York minute.



Now check out on the RCC blog the complete marvelous account of our adventure, written by Vinnie Kempf.



Ridgewood Camera Club Picnic 2008



*Thank you
Connie*

**Double Winner at the Annual Competition
Projected Images
Marie Kane**



**Yellow Day Lily
Marie Kane**



**Male Painted Bunting
Marie Kane**



**Color Print Winner
Columbine Close-up
By
Della O'Malley**



**Black & White Print Winner
Columbine in B & W
By
Rich Gheno**

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

Architecture

Waterfalls



Ridgewood Camera Club

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