



April 2009

Amir West to Speak

Our speaker for the April 20th meeting will be SPS member Amir West, who will be speaking on "Choosing Photography Gear for Long Trips," a very timely topic now that vacation season is nearly upon us.



Amir got an early interest in photography from his teacher, Keith Gmerek in the 4th grade. Keith taught a photography class which included basic dark room techniques and Amir found himself really impressed with all the photography equipment. Years later, after spending much of his creative energy in other outlets such as drawing & painting, writing and expressing his love of music as a popular DJ in upstate New York for 15 years, Amir picked up a camera again and began to shoot just about anything he could find.

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A Full House on Hand For March Meeting



SPS member Nicole Green delivered a knock-out punch (sorry, I couldn't resist) when she spoke to the club at the March meeting. We learned about her family, her background, her education, and what made her the artist and photographer that she is today. Nicole has an extraordinary talent for turning the ordinary into an extraordinary image, and this was very evident in the photographs she displayed. Our thanks go out to Nicole for a very inspiring presentation.

Attendance at this meeting was the highest in recent memory. There were over 80 images entered in the competition. Let's keep up the good work!

Calendar of Events for 2009

DATE

TOPIC

JANUARY 19	OPEN
FEBRUARY 16	FOOD AND DRINK
MARCH 16	OPEN
APRIL 20	THREE
MAY 18	OPEN
JUNE 15	ABSTRACT
JULY 20	OPEN, NO TIME LIMIT
AUGUST 17	SEEN BETTER DAYS
SEPTEMBER TBA	OPEN
OCTOBER 19	WATER
NOVEMBER BANQUET, TO BE DETERMINED, END OF YEAR COMPETITION	
DECEMBER SOCIAL, TO BE DETERMINED, NO COMPETITION	

7:00—Open doors and meeting room set-up

7:00-7:15—Register images for competition

7:15-7:30—Judging

**7:30—Start program, business meeting,
announce results**

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month

American Red Cross

561 Fortress Drive

Winchester, Virginia 22603

Rules for Monthly Competitions

Photographs must be signed in by 7:15. Entries will not be permitted after that time. Photos must be matted or mounted, and frames and glass covers are not allowed. The submissions must be taken within the last two years, except for the July competition when there is no time limit. You may enter 2 images per division in which you belong.

As a reminder, Class A is for the advanced photographer, Class B is for the intermediate photographer, and Class C is for the novice photographer.

News and Notes

SPS member Sterling “Rip” Smith will be offering a Digital Photography Workshop on High Dynamic Range Imaging on May 2-3, 2009, at the Contemporary School for the Arts and Gallery, 4 W. Franklin Street, Hagerstown, MD. In this two day workshop you will learn how to create stunning images that capture and display the full range of light and detail in the scene. You can register online at www.sterlingimages.com. For more information call 304-596-0873 or email Rip at sterlingimageswv@gmail.com

John Monroe wanted to let everyone know about a shareware program called CombineZM which does focus stacking automatically. He has also been trying out another program, PhotoAcute, a program to let you increase resolution, reduce noise, produce HDR images, fix chromic aberration, focus stack, and reduce blur caused by camera shake. A trial version of this program is available at www.photoacute.com and will give you an unlimited chance to try out the software.

Have some unwanted books, equipment etc. that you would like to give to a new home? Bring them to the next photo club meeting and donate them to the “Projector Fund” stack. We will sell these items with proceeds going to the photo club, earmarked to buy a much needed projector. We appreciate any and all donations, so keep on cleaning out those closets and bookshelves, and keep on taking home these bargains!

June 11-13 will be the “The Festival of the Photograph” in downtown Charlottesville. There will be exhibits, speakers, and workshops. Please visit their website www.festivalofthephotograph.org/2009/index.html for more info.

Jim Planck wants to remind everyone of the trillium bloom in early May. One of the best places to see these wonderful wild flowers is in the George Washington National Forest in Warren County. Take I-66 to Exit 13, right on 55, then east (left) to Linden. North (left) on Freezeland Road to the parking lot for access to the trail.

ARE THESE YOUR PICTURES?--

A couple of years ago members of The Shenandoah Photo Society donated matted pictures to the Handley Regional Library System. These photos were framed and are displayed in the study rooms in Bowman Public Library in Stevens City. The library wants to give credit to those who donated the pictures. Two photos, shown below, are not identified. If these are your photos, please contact Pete Meeks at rbmpete@wildblue.net or at 540 955 2607.



Winning Images--March Color Class A



First Place
Smelling the Flowers
Joanna Pecha



Second Place
Thread Making
John Monroe



Third Place
Camel Laugh
John Zimet



Honorable Mention
Woodpecker
Cynthia Winter

Winning Images--March Monochrome Class A



First Place
Raptor
John Monroe



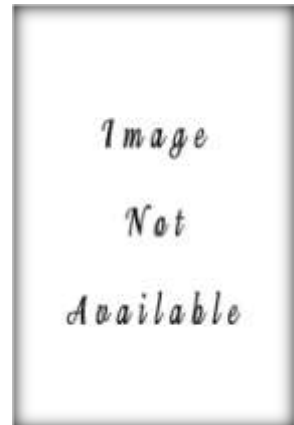
Second Place
Notions & Spirits
Karl Mueller



Third Place
Jefferson's Planter
Pete Meeks



Honorable Mention
Cathedral
John Zimet



Honorable Mention
Picher #15
Leo Schweiger

Winning Images--March Color Class B



First Place
Stripes
Kristin Zimet



Second Place
Packing the **Balloon**
Kristin Zimet



Third Place
Hawaiian Hibiscus
Laura Patten



Honorable Mention
Rising Dawn
Tanya Barton

Winning Images--March Monochrome Class B



First Place
Working Late
Chet Lewandowski



Second Place
Silent Voices
Ellen Zimmerman

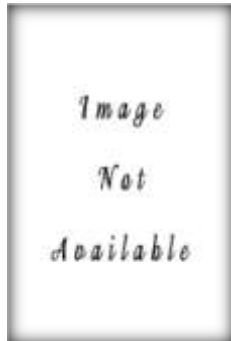


Third Place
Street Musician
Bob Way



Honorable Mention
The Crossing
Kristin Zimet

Winning Images--March Color Class C



First Place
Sadie
Earl Cockerham

Second Place
In Thought
Sandra Ashton



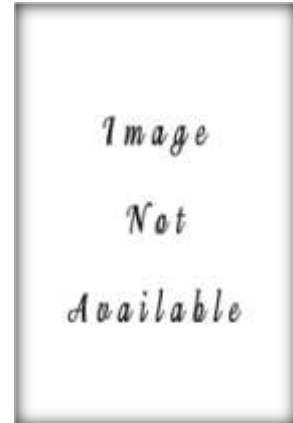
Third Place
Helping Hands
Jo Pilette

Honorable Mention
Lioness
Irene Cockerham

Winning Images--March Monochrome Class C



First Place
The Winker
Tanya Barton



Second Place
Zebra
Irene Cockerham



Third Place
Friendship
Tanya Barton



Honorable Mention
Snake
Earl Cockerham

Winning Images--March Enhanced



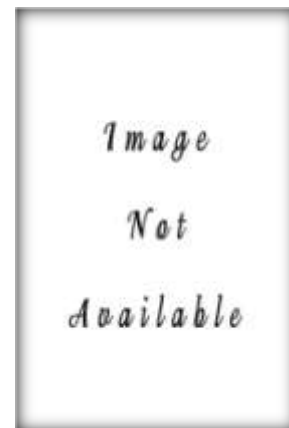
First Place
At the Aquarium
Kristin Zimet



Second Place
Window
Mark Jenkins



Third Place
Moonstruck
John Monroe



Honorable Mention
Feathers
Earl Cockerham

Websites of Interest

Equipment and Supplies

www.nikonusa.com	Nikon news and equipment
www.usacanon.com	Canon news and equipment
www.wacom.com	Wacom tablets and pens
www.bhphotovideo.com	Online retail equipment
www.adorama.com	Online retail equipment
www.penncamera.com	Retail & online equipment sales, classes
www.visibledust.com	Sensor cleaning supplies
www.expodisc.com	White balance tools

Software

www.niksoftware.com	www.photomatix.com
www.adobe.com	www.topazlabs.com
www.alienskin.com	http://www.picnik.com/

Services

www.flickr.com	Photo sharing
www.istockphoto.com	Stock photography
www.mpix.com	Photographic and press products
www.BorrowLenses.com	Equipment rental
www.fotolia.com	Stock images
www.LC-tech.com	Photorecovery for digital media
www.moo.com	Business cards, mini cards, etc.
www.PerfectPosters.com	Large digital prints

Blogs, Training, and Tutorials

www.photoshoper.com	www.kelbytraining.com
www.planetphotoshop.com	www.digitalphotoacademy.com
www.photoshopseminars.com	www.scottkelby.com/blog/
http://davecross.blogspot.com/	http://www.moosenewsblog.com/

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(Amir, Continued from page 1)

Upon purchasing his first digital SLR for a price that was enough to make his new wife's eyebrow raise significantly, Amir swiftly determined that he probably needed to look into turning this hobby into a vocation unless he wanted his big head to be introduced rudely to the West family frying pan. As luck would have it, Amir met a gentleman named Norman Brown in a bookstore as they both considered purchasing the same book about Photoshop. Mr. Brown turned out to be a local wedding photographer who invited Amir to join him for a few of his upcoming weddings; one thing led to another and Amir has been shooting weddings and portraits all around the country for the past 5 years.

Amir has a particular affinity for nature, wildlife & travel photography, but his primary work from a professional standpoint is location portraits and weddings. Photographing people in various environments under different conditions is a great challenge and yet also offers great rewards that keep Amir coming back for more.

You can view some of Amir's work at the website of his business, Photo Fanatic Photography, www.photofanatic.org

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Check us out on flickr®

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/shenandoahphotographicsociety/>