

Your Best Shot

Fort Myers Camera Club

February 12, 2008

Meeting Location Iona-Hope Episcopal Church, 9650 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers
www.ftmyerscc.com

Mark Your Calendars

- 2/18** Competition / People at Work
- 2/20** Scavenger Hunt topics emailed out AND Dwayne Alton at Cape Coral Hospital
- 2/21** Kreulens at Audubon / The Beauty and The Beast
- 2/?** Field Trip / Civil War Reenactment
- 2/24** Scavenger Hunt Images due by midnight
- 2/28** Field Trip / San Pedro Island
- 3/1** Digestive Health Print Show Hanging
- 3/3** Scavenger Hunt Night
- 3/7** Big Arts on Sanibel / Tina Edwards
- 3/10** Competition / Religious Expressions
- 3/13** Field Trip / Six Mile Cypress Slough
- 3/17** Image of the Year
- 3/19** Dwayne Alton at Cape Coral Hospital
- 3/27** ~~Field Trip / Loxahatchee~~ **CHANGED**
- 3/27** End of Year Banquet
- 3/29-30** JPI Weekend
- 4/2** Field Trip / Fisheating Creek

Fabulous show, Dana!

Dana Vannoy was our speaker on February 4. Her program had two parts: *Egypt -- Land of the Eternal Nile* and *Petra*. Egypt was a 33-minute Proshow Gold presentation and Petra was a seven-minute show. The photographs were stunning, as expected, and a good example of the tremendous photography that can be done on a “non-photography tour.”

After the break, Dana demonstrated the construction of a show using ProShow Gold eliciting a number of “wows” as audience members found how easy it is to get polished show results. You can find the program on the web at <http://www.photodex.com/>.

Scavenger Hunt

The Scavenger Hunt was introduced and ideas for topics were collected from those in attendance. At the next meeting the rules will be reviewed. The following Wednesday the topics to be used will be drawn out of the envelope and emailed. The entries are due by midnight the following Sunday. March 3 we get to see everyone’s images!

A little club history

Bob Chamberlain is the current keeper of the sacred archives of the Fort Myers Camera Club. Digging around in said archives he found references back to 1984. Apparently the first meetings were in March 1984 and then started up again at the beginning of the

season that fall. Original membership totaled six but by the next meeting it was up to twenty!

Over the years the meetings have been held in a number of different locations. The current Iona-Hope meeting space really suits our needs for both meeting and socializing space.

Welcome

We greeted 19 (!) guests at our last meeting, including a large contingent from Golf View. The group from Golf View have their own camera club and we are hoping they will want to join ours, too. A great program like Dana Vannoy's, well-advertised by Judith Demkow, really packs in the visitors.

The board meeting

The Board held a meeting on February 11. It was most cordial and efficient. If you have shied away from serving the club for fear of attending Board meetings, set aside your fears and step up when the opportunity arises! The following notes are not the official minutes of the meeting but they do cover everything quite thoroughly.

Year-Round Meetings: Some time was spent discussing possibilities and it was eventually decided that Cindi Bateman would poll those that are interested in meeting to develop a plan. Most likely one meeting a month (or maybe just for April and May and then again in September and October). The content of the meetings is to be determined.

Financial Report: The finances are doing great with \$2,047.07 at the end of last season and stand at \$2,460.81 now following the ins and outs of dues and expenses for rent and refreshments and such.

March 27 Banquet: The room at Three Oaks has been secured again this year and we are

planning a potluck after last year's great success. Last year we had a competition at the banquet because we had lost the church room one night. This year we are hoping to have a program instead.

More tedious items: The Print show is continuing on plan, the Scavenger Hunt is continuing on plan, payment of \$60 club fee was authorized to SW Florida meeting and competition, payment of \$15 was authorized to FCCC for club joining fee.

Provisional calendar and Assignments: The meetings for next year are based on this year's calendar with two additional meetings added in January and February. The two additional meetings are to add two educational meetings. Here's the plan:

- Nov 3: What I Did Last Summer
- Nov 17: Competition: Show Motion
- Dec 1: Program
- Dec 8: Banquet
- Dec 15: Competition: Still Life / Tabletop
- Jan 5: Print Competition
- Jan 12: Education
- Jan 19: Competition: Macro / Close-Up
- Feb 2: Program
- Feb 9: Education
- Feb 16: Competition: Monochrome
- Mar 2: Program
- Mar 9: Competition: Portraits
- Mar 16: Image of the Year
- Mar 23: Banquet

The assignments were selected from those submitted for consideration by club members with an eye to choosing those that would push us as photographers into areas that may be new to us.

Competition Categories: A new category is being added for next year! In addition to Assignment, Nature, and General, we will have Creative. Advanced Photoshop users and "trick" photographers will rejoice.

Only One Category of Photographer: After a couple years' experiment into novice and advanced categories, we are reverting to only one category. This change was emphasized by a review of scores where we noted that those rated as novice would have often won the advanced category.

Digital Only: Beginning next year, the competitions will be for digital images only. Those photographers that are remaining film based will get assistance from other club members to scan their competition slides to convert them to digital so everyone can still compete.

Judging and Scoring: A significant change in judging procedure is being adopted to allow more time during the meetings for critique of the images. Images will be sent to Karen Lund one week earlier than the current schedule. This extra time will be used to place the competition files on CD and distributed to the competitions judge or judges. This way the images will be judged before the meeting begins.

We love our treats!

Bonnie Chamberlain's menu featured a Valentine's theme with a colorful heart-shaped decor. This time she was ably assisted by two club members. Bonnie provided the festive Cranberry- and Blackberry-Topped Cheesecake and the Cranberry-Nut Couscous Salad. Anne Moore brought the Artichoke and Roasted Pepper mix on heart-shaped toasted bread. Ron Addison prepared the Bird's Nest Candy. Recipes were requested for several of the dishes so here we go:

Cranberry-Nut Couscous Salad

- 10 oz plain couscous
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped green onions
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped sweet yellow or red pepper

- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup slivered almonds, toasted
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup lemon juice
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup olive oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp paprika
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp salt
- $\frac{1}{8}$ tsp pepper
- 1- $\frac{1}{2}$ tbl sugar (suit your taste)

Prepare couscous according to package directions. Transfer to a large bowl, fluff with a fork. Cover and refrigerate for 30 minutes or until chilled.

Stir in cranberries, onions, yellow or red pepper, and almonds. In a small bowl, whisk the lemon juice, oil, paprika, salt and pepper. Pour over salad and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate until served.

Yields 14 regular-sized servings.

Bonnie's hint: Make a day ahead, chop items very fine, and add nuts just before serving.

Artichoke / Roasted Pepper Hearts

- 24 oz marinated artichoke hearts, drained
- 1 cup drained roasted red bell peppers
- 2 Tbl + 2 tsp chopped basil, less if using dried
- 24 slices bread
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup olive oil
- 2 tsp Italian seasoning

Finely chop artichoke hearts and peppers. Place in medium bowl and add basil and mix well. Using 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ " heart-shaped cookie cutter, cut 2 hearts from each bread slice and place them on an ungreased sheet and broil 4-6" from heat for 30-60 seconds. Turn hearts and brush with oil and sprinkle with Italian seasoning. Broil additional 30-60 seconds till tips are lightly toasted.

Serve by placing 1 Tbl mixture onto each toasted heart

Yield: 48 hearts

Bird's Nest Candy

Ron doubled this recipe for the group but assuming you're not feeding sixty or more people, here is the single recipe:

- 12 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 can (7 or 7½ oz) peanuts or Spanish peanuts
- 1 can chow mein noodles
- 1 teaspoon butter

Melt chips in butter slowly. Add peanuts and noodles. Stir and drop by spoonfuls onto wax paper.

Ron's hint: If the candies do not appear to be hardening properly, pop them into the refrigerator to firm up.

Field trip notes

Eleven people participated in the Everglades field trip. We hear the weather cooperated. Chat with some of the participants during the treat break on Monday and hear some good stories. We hope to see some nice images from the trip soon.

Field Trip Change! The March 27th trip to Loxahatchee is being cancelled because the Year-End Pot Luck Banquet will be that evening. Jeanne will be sending out information on a local field trip.

Tech talk

Ron Addison believes that podcasts are a great way to learn more about photography and Photoshop. A podcast is a media file (voice only or voice and video) that is distributed over the internet.

Ron downloads podcasts to iTunes. iTunes can be download to your computer for free, and most podcasts are free. Some podcasts can be viewed from a website without needing iTunes. Good photography podcasts can be found at:

<http://prophotoshow.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.lenswork.com/lwpod.htm>

Good Photoshop podcasts can be found at:

<http://www.photoshopusertv.com/>

<http://www.photoshopusertv.com/>

<http://www.photoshopkillertips.com/>

Another podcast where you meet some outstanding photographers is:

<http://thecandidframe.blogspot.com/>

Very impressive

This section is intended to spread the good word about photographic successes. Had a photo published? Won a prize? Let Joyce know - and please remember that friends don't let friends go unpraised!



Bobette Pfeifer won 1st Place Star Mono in the Photographic Society of America (PSA) Picture of the Month competition. The photo is entitled "Old

St. Augustine School" and can be seen at <http://www.psaphoto.org/pom-gallery/monogallery.htm>. Bobette notes that she thought she had taken a vertical photo, but apparently she was wrong and it won as horizontal.

There is more great news from Bobette: She has received notice that she's achieved THREE stars in Small Color Prints from the PSA. This means she has accumulated a specified number of Acceptances, including new work, in International PSA approved competitions. She notes that she didn't know Photoshop so she had to work really hard to take everything correctly.

Thanks to Contributors

The editor thanks these people for providing information included in this newsletter: Bonnie Chamberlain, Bobette Pfeifer, Ron Addison, and the Board.

Who ya gonna call?

These contacts are on are web site (<http://www.ftmyerscc.com/membership.html>) but it might be handy to have them in this format, too.

Tom Kreulen, President, 239-549-7934
tkreulen@comcast.net

Judith Demkow, Vice President, 239-549-0695
jdemkow@msn.com

Rosalie Kreulen, Secretary, 239-540-0132
rkreulen@comcast.net

Cindi Bateman, Treasurer, 239-573-1727
ncbateman1@aol.com

Frank Wilson, Slide Chairman, 239-433-1482
fandmwilson@comcast.net

Karen Lund, Digital Chairman, 239-482-7292
karenlund@aol.com

Jeanne Tyrer, Field Trips, 239-936-5749
jeanneit@aol.com

Joyce Wans, Newsletter, 425-501-1586
Joyce@RonAddisonImages.com

Bobette Pfeifer, Prints, 239-395-1292
nbpfeifer88@aol.com

Sharon Antonelli, Banquets, 239-590-0717
saphoto4u@embargmail.com

Bonnie Chamberlain, Refreshments, 239-437-1649
bobcphoto@msn.com