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The Newsletter of the

Volume 26, Number 4 January , 2003
Editor - Larry Easton



Website:

www.reginaphotoclub.com

Box 4501 Regina, Sask. S4P 3W7

Sask Amateur Photo Competition

The 21st SaskAmateur Photo competition will take place at the Regina Research Park, The Terrace Rotunda, 10 Research Drive, University of Regina, from March 24 to March 28, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm, 2003.

CATEGORIES

Colour:

Landscape, Seascape or Cityscape
People
Open

Black & White:

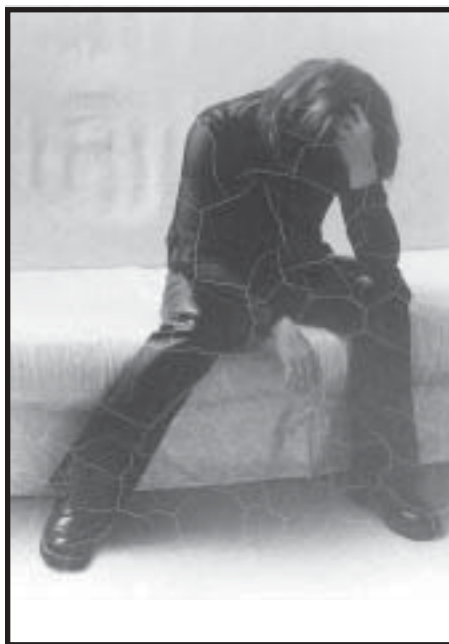
Landscape, Seascape or Cityscape
People
Open

Other:

Animals
Plants and Flowers
Hand Coloured
Youth

Theme:

Canadian Patriotism



Best of Show - 2002
"On the Verge"
by Janna Glasman

AWARDS

First, Second, Third and
Honourable Mention
In All Categories
Best Of Show
Over \$2600.00 in prizes

Entries: Deadline for entries is Wednesday March 19. Mail to 927 Stanley Crescent N., Regina, Sask. S4X 1Z9. Personal drop-off entries will be accepted only on Saturday, March 22, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Terrace, 10 Research Dr. For more information phone (306) 949-0889. Entry forms and details will be available at various photo and framing shops as well as on the Regina Photo Club web site: www.reginaphotoclub.com

Fees: An entry form and a fee of \$5.00 per photo paid by cash, money order or cheque, payable to the Regina Photo Club, must accompany your entry. Post-dated cheques will not be accepted. Do not send cash in the mail.

(Continued on page 2)

"Become Better Acquainted With the Art of Photography"

2002 / 2003 EXECUTIVE

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What's Inside

| | Page |
|---|------|
| SaskAmateur Photo Competition 2003 | 1 |
| How Good Are Digital Cameras | 2 |
| Camera Equipment For Sale | 2 |
| Member Exhibition | 2 |
| Member Profile | 3 |
| Advertising, Events Calendar | 4 |
| On the Web | 4 |
| In Search of Ghosts - Ghost Towns That Is | 4 |
| The Editors Last Word | 5 |
| Photo Contest Photo Scam | 5 |
| Cypress Hills Photography Workshop 2003 | 6 |

How Good Are Digital Cameras?

A recent article by Ron Giddings which appeared in the Graphic Exchange magazine Nov/Dec. 2002 issue, certainly consolidated any misgivings about digital image quality. Here the article is talking about top end digital SLR cameras specifically, however, the lower priced digital cameras also just keep getting better.

In September 2002, a German research group released a scientific test report that concluded: "The generation of 6 megapixel sensors has reached the limitation of 35mm SLR lenses. The resolution bottlenecks formally caused by the sensor, are now defined by the lens' abilities. To improve resolution, it is necessary to say goodbye to an old tradition. The analog architecture of 35mm SLR lenses underlines the serious restrictions when used with high resolution digital sensors. New lenses optimized for sensor' needs are necessary." The tonal range a digital camera capture can exceed that of film. Where a photographer used to have to make a choice between losing shadow detail or burning out the highlights with film, they can now leave tonal decisions until the computer stage.

Camera companies are starting some new trends including smaller models, built-in zooms with focal lengths of 9 - 36mm f2 - 2.4 and lighter weight, brighter and cheaper. Cameras with CCD's smaller than full frame 35mm lens have focal length increases by 1.3 to 1.7. This is great for longer telephotos, but means your 24mm lens on a 35mm camera is equivalent to 35mm wide angle.

Some companies are working towards a standardized lens mounting system between manufactures. This will provide the photographer with a larger choice of different manufactures' lenses for a given camera body.

Even the CCD is reaching its maximum limit of 10 megapixels in the near future. A new type of sensor, a CMOS (Complimentary Metal Oxide Semiconductor) uses a hundred times

less power than the equivalent CCD and can be fabricated very inexpensively. One complaint with digital cameras has been the hoggish need for battery power.

There are other sensors being used, but Kodak who started the digital revolution in the first place, has just announced a Nikon based CMOS camera capable of capturing 14 megapixels per image. Sensors capable of such a large capture can have an uncompressed image in the order of 34.7 MB.

This has led to the development of high capacity Compact Flash cards in the 1.5 GB, 2GB and 3GB sizes. As seems to be the case with all digital storage devices, as storage increases, physical size decreases.

Digital cameras require a high battery power source capacity. These cameras use rechargeable (NiCd) nickel-cadium or (NiMh) nickel-metal hydride batteries. It is essential to use ultra fast rechargers and if possible one that has the features to plug into a car cigarette lighter.

Prices for the high-end models such as the 11-megapixel Canon EOS-1DS CMOS full frame SLR was priced at CDN \$ 12,000. For more on this camera review by Canadian photographer Michael Richmann at www.luminous-landscape.com/reviews/cameras/ids/ids-field.shtml. Kodak at year end announced their 14 megapixel DCS Pro at about CDN \$7,300. The Fujifilm FinePix S2 Pro has many of the F80 camera features with Fiji's own SuperCCD. This 6.17-megapixel SLR is an excellent choice for photographers who already own Nikon Lenses. Tests provided gorgeous, sharp and colourful 34.7 MB images. The body only price is CDN \$3,800.

Ron Giddings is a Toronto photographer and digital artist. View a portfolio of his work at www.rgiddings.com

(SaskAmateur continued from page 1)

Awards Presentation: Winners will be notified by March 25. Awards will be presented at the Terrace on the Awards Night, Wednesday, March 26, 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Returns: Entry pickup will be at The Terrace only on Saturday, March 29 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Entries being returned collect are subject to a \$1.25 handling and packaging fee per photo. The Regina Photo Club or any sponsors will not be responsible for entries not picked up.

CAMERA EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Richon X R 2 1: 2 50mm Lens, Hoya 52mm Skylight Filter & Case
 Rollie A 110 with case & flash
 Sigma - 39 - 80mm F 3.5 Macro - zoom with Hoya Skylight Filter, Lens Hood & case
 Makinon - 80 - 200mm 1: 3.5 with Macro Zoom & Hoya Skylight Filter Case
 2X Auto Tele Converter
 Bell & Howell Model 450 Thyrister Automatic Flash with AC/DC Converter & Bracket
 Hoya Filter: 49mm + 1, 49mm + 2, 52mm 80 B, 52mm 81 A, 52mm 82 A, 52mm PL, 52mm FL - Day, 55mm UV, 62mm UV, 62mm PL, 62mm FL - DAY
 49mm Lens Hood
 52mm Lens Hood
 McQueen Lens Cleaning Kit & Lens Cleaning Cloth
 2 - Richon Camera Lens & Body Caps
 Argus Pre-viewer 1 V (for slides)
 Leather Camera Bag with Film Changer
 Camera Eye Cup Attachment
 Film Shield Bag
 Contact Laird Wilson at (306) 543-0739, e-mail: laird.wilson@sk.sympatico.ca

Member Show at the Neil Balkwill Civic Arts Centre

We have 20 prints hanging from seven photographers: Shirley J Gerlock - 2 prints, Wayne Gilmer - 3 prints, Jean Gilmer - 3 prints, Marlyn Toderan - 3 prints, Reta Radu - 5 prints, - Donna-Joy Tuplin - 2 prints, Glen Tuplin - 2 prints

The Regina Photo Club exhibit will run from January 12th to 26th.

A solo exhibition by Jean Gilmer with Florals & Photographs is also on display from December 11 to January 30, 2003.

MEMBERS IN PROFILE

Marlyn Toderan

Marlyn received her first camera around the age of 13 or 14. It was a Kodak Brownie Hawkeye and she used it until she was about 35. That little camera, which still works, has recorded the family from birth to the start of their teens. She still has a Polaroid SX - 70 which dates from the 1970's and uses it some, but found the film and flashbulbs expensive. It still works and she has started fooling around with it a bit for different effects. The film is now even more expensive.

Marlyn began a career as a Lab Technician at the Grey Nuns Hospital, now the Pasqua Hospital. She left the work force for about 5 years while the youngest two of her four children were preschool. During that time off, she sewed for those who wanted custom-made clothes. Spare time was spent taking weekly swimming lessons as it was a structured class in a sport she enjoyed. By the time Marlyn returned to the work force she was a qualified Life Guard.

She worked at the "new" hospital, the Plains Health Centre from opening to its close of 25 years. On the closure of the PHC, she took a lateral transfer to the Pasqua Hospital and worked there for the next two and a half years before taking early retirement June of 2001. At the age of almost 34, Marlyn had returned to work as a Lab Tech, she found time and money to take a course in scuba diving. She has been a member of the Regina Scuba Club since 1975. Unfortunately the membership has declined and this year they are a name only and not active.

Marlyn became as frustrated at not being able to adequately describe the sights she was seeing or to find out what they were and explain the wonders to friends. She decided it was time to purchase a Nikonos underwater camera with a 28mm lens as well as the standard 35mm. This camera is a rangefinder. The 28mm lens is used only for underwater. The 35mm lens can

be used for on surface or below, but distance, F-stop and aperture must all be set manually. Still not satisfied with her underwater pictures, she took a course taught in Powell B.C. and had a great week diving and taking pictures. The course was excellent. They did two dives each day and were back in town by 3 p.m. so the slides could be processed and mounted for critique after the evening lecture. She learned much.

Initially Marlyn dived in Saskatchewan and Alberta (Lake Minnewaka and Waterton) and New Brunswick. After the underwater photo course, she returned many times and seasons to the west coast. In 1985 here husband and her went to Fiji for their first trip out of



Shipwreck in Fiji

Canada. Subsequent trips have been to Bonaire, Honduras, Indonesia and lastly Palau. She has been down to a depth of 140 feet, but most diving is between 30 and 70 ft. The greatest amount of sea life is found between the surface and 50 feet. The only reason to go deeper is to see the



Moon Jellyfish

few rarer things such as some corals and sponges, ship wrecks that settle on the bottom or are caught on a reef and a few of the palagic fish prefer depth. She has tried to photograph all with varying



Alabaster Nudibranch

degrees of success.

The inability to do macro with that camera on the surface led to the purchase of a Nikon FE and a few two hour courses offered by the camera store. This camera is still in use mainly for black and white film and occasionally slide film. Somewhere in this time period, she took a darkroom course and learned even more about photography. After entering the Regina Exhibition Photo Contest, and winning a second place in one category, it was suggested she join the Regina Photo Club. Marlyn has been a Regina Photo Club member for a number of years and finds it invaluable in the continuation of photographic knowledge.

Eventually Marlyn wanted another camera and chose the Nikon 601. It is the camera she uses the most now. Nature and scenics are her preference, but she likes the prairie scenes, old buildings, flowers, insects and water related subjects also. Other hobbies and interestes include sailboarding, carpentry, gardening especially flowers, reading, and has even tried hang-gliding. She has taken early retirement and hopes to be able to spend more time taking pictures and going on club trips.



F/8 CUSTOM PHOTO LAB WILL PROVIDE REGINA PHOTO CLUB MEMBERS A 10% DISCOUNT ON COLOUR & B/W PRINTS WITH PRESENTATION OF MEMBERSHIP CARD

Raffle Ticket Winners

The draw for the raffle ticket winners was made at the December 17 meeting.

1 st Prize - Glen and D. J. Tuplin (framed glass wheat by Jacqueline Berting)

2 nd Prize - Leeza Wong (signed Freeman Patterson book)

3 rd Prize - Dave Perry (package of film)

On The Web

The following web site has some spectacular landscape photography by David Noton of Dorset, England

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

This information was forwarded to the Editor by Bill Armstrong.

Words of Wisdom from Jean Gilmer

Jean used to say when she stretched herself by entering competitions, that she was practicing accepting rejection. (She says It doesn't help that much!) Then Jean found a little quotation that she says to herself when she does these crazy things and thought it might encourage others to participate if they take it in the same context as she does.

"Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sang best." Author unknown. Forwarded to the Editor by Jean Gilmer.

2002/03 RPC Events Calendar

Regular meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the first & third Tuesdays from September until June. Meetings are held at The Exchange, 2431 - 8th Avenue.

January 21, 2003 - "Mostly Saskatchewan " Slide Show. Presented by RPC member, Jim Slough.

February 4, 2003 - (1) "Beautiful Atlantic Canada" Slide Show. Presented by RPC members, Glen and DJ Tuplin. (2) Photo Design & Composition for Competitions. Presented by RPC member Larry Easton.

February 18, 2003 - "Digital Portraiture and Marketing your Photos through the Internet". Presented by Trevor Owen, Owen Photography.

March 4, 2003 - (1) "Prairie Panoramas" Presented by Allen Lefebvre, a local Regina Photographer. (2) Deadline for 2nd In-club Competition.

March 18, 2003 - Results and critique of the second Inclub Competition.

March 24 - 28, 2003 - SaskAmateur Photo Competition 2003

April 1, 2003 - "Investigative Photography". Presented by Sgt. Wade, Regina Police Service.

*Non-Meeting Dates. Seminars are for RPC members only. Registration is limited, costs vary. RPC also conducts field trips, special workshops and competitions throughout the year. Please read later issues of the f-16 Newsletter for further information.

In Search of Ghosts - Ghost Towns That Is

An article in Will Chabun's column in the January 10 Leader Post piqued Bill Armstrong's interest about Saskatchewan ghost towns. A few days later he was researching information at the Legislative Library, and found an interesting booklet listing ghost towns of Saskatchewan. There was also a large map with locations of more than 200 ghost towns, including many along the Red Coat Trail (Hwy. 13). Bill recalls many of these communities like, Vidora, Senate and Govenlock from his days working at the radio station in Swift Current. These towns are not even on the current highway map. Then there are ghost towns such as Robsart, Scotsguard and Ravenscrag still shown on the map, but nearly existing in name only. Places like Moffat is on the list, a location visited by RPC members last September.

The web site gives a history of many of these towns. For instance, here are some excerpts from the town of Robsart. It started in 1910 when the Canadian Pacific Railroad purchased a quarter section of land in the southwest corner

of the province 80 kilometres south of Maple Creek. They named it Robsart when the first wave of early 20th century settlers trudged to southwest Saskatchewan to tame the new frontier grasslands, they needed every bit of inspiration they could muster for strength and perseverance. In 1913, Henry Abbott led the first pioneer settlers to the new prairie community and quickly built a general store and feed mill. Within two years, Robsart had a mayor, council, town hall, and more than 30 businesses, including a dentist, veterinary surgeon, and jeweler.

With the arrival of the railroad in 1914, Robsart was a land of promise. In fact, postcards of the day hailed the pioneer community as, "The town with a bright future." Every week, locals observed, fresh businesses were optimistically opening their doors. There were new hotels, cafes, livery barns, grain elevators and a bank. There was even a photography store run by Uncle John Asplund. As well, churches and a school were built - and by 1917, the town boasted its own hospital. Within a decade of being found, Robsart had a population of 350 optimistic souls.

Robsart's explosive prosperous beginnings began its long decline in the late twenties. A grain elevator fire in 1929

(Continued on page 6)

THE
EDITORS WORD
LAST

Staying Ahead of Dinosaurs

Most amateur camera clubs are struggling with the evolution of digital photography. Camera clubs if not presently, will in the near future have to deal with a technological explosion in digital photography. Most of this controversial debate rages on the legitimacy and conditions of entry into photo competitions, the definition of digital images, and even if digital entries should be allowed.

Just what is digital? When does a conventional film image become digital? Does the slide or negative scanned and put through Photoshop and burned on to a CD constitute a digital image when the photo lab prints the image onto conventional photographic paper? Or what about the digital camera image burned onto a CD and printed by the photo lab on conventional photographic paper? Does the digital camera image printed from the computer printer constitute the only true digital image? As the technological paths weave back and forth, the demarcation lines become fogged. We must ask ourselves, does it matter how the image perceived by the photographer becomes a photograph?

Before the advent of the micro chip, much of our everyday lives subsisted in an analog world. We human beings are by nature very analog oriented which by definition means we receive situations and problems and process the answers in a continuous form. Digital on the other hand, is a process that receives situations and processes information into a digital form using the binary system. The binary system of enumeration with a base of 2 such that any number can be expressed as a combination of 0's and 1's.

If digital cameras are digital by

definition, then what do we call cameras that use film instead of memory chips? I reached the simple conclusion that the film type cameras must be analog cameras.

I don't expect many of our readers to fully grasp the mathematical complexities of analog and digital. My background in Electronics Engineering Technology occurred when the electronic world was still very much analog, but we were on the door step of a new era - digital electronics. I had the fortunate opportunity to gain an understanding of both. In today's technological world, anyone who uses computers, telecommunications, microwaves, calculators and cars to mention a few, are using digital technology. Why? Because they do the job more efficiently, faster and easier in more complex situations. The electrical power that lights and heats your home is still analog, but very much monitored and controlled by digital means. So much for some background.

Cameras of the 1970's and earlier were strictly mechanical. Some had a built in analog light meter with a matching needle movement to adjust exposure by means of aperture or shutter speed combinations. These were truly 'analog' cameras.

Today's models of film cameras with both manual and auto focus and multiple exposure modes have viewfinders and external displays with Liquid Crystal Displays (LCD) to display a multitude of functions. Some earlier models used Light Emitting Diodes (LED) to display some functions. These cameras are in their own right, a digital driven camera with micro chip processors that will in a fully 'auto' mode, decide for the photographer, aperture, shutter speed and focusing. I have labelled this type of camera the 'analog/digital hybrid' camera. This camera still uses conventional film.

The next generation of camera, the 'digital' was inevitable with a light sensitive silicon chip or CCD's (Charge Coupled Device) to capture images and store picture information in a digital code on a memory card. Film has now been replaced by the CCD and

memory card which unlike film can be reused repeatedly. The CCD has been in use on video cameras since they obsoleted the 8mm film movie cameras. Many of today's high end digital cameras function as film cameras using the same metering and focusing features and lenses.

The artist has many mediums at their disposal to create their artistic works. Does it matter if they paint a scene on location or use a camera (digital or other wise) to preserve the essence of the moment, so that they may complete the painting in the comfort of their art studio. I think not! And so it is with photography.

Are not the instruments we call cameras, whether analog or digital just a tool or medium to capture an instant in time to preserve a memory, a smile, a dream, our heritage, our natural world or a family vacation. How we capture the image in real time is not relevant. The analog and digital camera are simply a means to an end - nothing more - nothing less and they both work.

I believe it is time we move on. Creativity of the photographer should not be judged by tools of the trade, but by an individual's talent with the end product. ***Any one can take pictures, photographers make pictures!***

Contest Scam!

This is your chance to receive national recognition!

Our next book "World of Words" is going to be a composite of photography, short stories and poems from up and coming artists from around the nation! Don't miss out on YOUR opportunity to be a part of this event!

This is your chance at the some of up to \$15,000.00 in cash and prizes to be awarded. Prizes awarded for Best Nature/Wildlife Shots, Fantasy, Erotic, Life Studies, Still Life. Local, regional, and national winners will be awarded! Final voting will be done in part by our viewers online at our site or affiliate location websites! (Such as The Artists Advocate) Winners will appear in an ad in a national magazine! The more votes you get the better your chances of winning! Entry deadline: November 15, 2002.

Print and fill out the entry form below, including 1-10 photos (no larger than 8x10)
(Continued on page 6)

Cypress Hills Photographic Workshops June 17 - 21, 2003 & August 12 - 16, 2003

The Cypress Hills rise 600 metres out of the surrounding plains. This is the highest rise of land between the Rocky Mountains and Labrador. The Cypress Hills are a part of Saskatchewan untouched by the last period of glaciation, and this accounts for a unique geographic area with animals and plants not usually associated with the Southern Prairies. Over 200 different species of bird life have been identified in the Cypress Hills. It is one of the few areas in all of Canada where wild turkeys still survive.

It should come as no surprise that so unique an area should also be steeped in human history. Native North Americans have been active in the area for over 7000 years. In the 1860's the Cypress Hills were the centre of a very active and destructive whiskey trade. In 1873 an unfortunate encounter between American and Canadian wolf hunters and a band of Assiniboine Indians left many dead. It was for this reason that the Canadian Government hastened plans to form the North-West Mounted Police. Fort Walsh

was built in 1875, deep in the hills, to bring law and order to the Canadian frontier.

The 5 days you will spend in the Cypress Hills will show you some of these areas of interest, but you will want to come back again and again to take in all of it.

This will essentially, be a photographic tour, with some aspects of a workshop thrown in. All levels of photographic participants are welcome from beginner to advanced. There will be plenty of opportunity for participants to learn, as well as shoot images in the beautiful surroundings of the Cypress Hills.

Participants who register prior to April 28, 2003 will receive the full workshop package for \$555. Participants who register after April 28, 2003 will be charged \$595 for the full workshop package. Funds quoted in Canadian \$.

Participants who wish to register for the partial workshop will be charged \$345 and will receive the workshop minus accommodations, meals and park entry fees. Camping and the Cypress Hills Lodge are located in reasonably close

proximity.

If several members of the same family are interested in taking the workshop, please contact Wayne Inverarity at the address below and we can work out a reduced rate.

To hold your spot (for either workshop) send a post-dated cheque dated April 28, 2003 in the full amount. We only take 12 participants so register early to avoid disappointment. We will maintain a short wait list.

CANCELLATION/REFUNDS:

For the June workshop, refunds (minus a \$50 admin. fee) will be made up to May 12, 2003. No refunds will be made after May 12, 2003.

For the August workshop, refunds (minus a \$50 admin. fee) will be made up to July 14, 2003. No refunds will be made after July 14, 2003.

For information and brochure contact Wayne Inverarity. Phone:(306) 569-2649 Fax: (306) 569-3516 or Email: winverar@sk.sympatico.ca Web: www.ab-photo.com/chpw/

(Photo Contest scam continued from page 5)
and send it with your \$5 registration fee per photo to:

Universal Talent
4000 SE 82nd Ave 1000-219
Portland, Or. 97266

Bill Armstrong received this email November 11 on what appears to be a **photography scam....note that they want \$5 per entry, and they get to keep all images. Nice work if you can get it!**

(Ghosts Towns continued from page 4)
was an ominous sign of things to come. The following year saw another blaze wipe out a large section of the business core.

The Depression years, with accompanying droughts, falling grain prices and poor crop yields, witnessed further business closures. Many merchants, staggered by crippling financial losses, packed and left for greener pastures.

The beleaguered community struggled

on but never with the same early pioneer optimism. Locals and nearby farmers rallied in the eighties to renovate a new community hall but slowly, one by one, most remaining businesses and homes were boarded up. By the end of 2000, only half a dozen people were left in the town. Prairie phantoms had clearly taken over. "There's not much left," says Mona Murray, a resident since 1981. "They call it a ghost town now."

But every once in a while, Archie Smiley comes back to look around at the remains of the town he still calls home. During the nineties, current and former residents of the town submitted stories and reflections to a community book; in part to help keep the memories alive. Smiley offered a revised old poem called, "Ode to Robsart":

"Here's to Robsart, it's still here yet,
No store, not hotel, a well with a jet.....
The main street still stretching, not much in
your way.
When you put it together, there is nothing
more,
No hustle, no bustle, no rumble, no roar.
It's as dead as a doornail, it's old as the hills,

No fun, no excitement, no jolly old thrills.
But still we did love it, though far we may
roam,
For Robsart is Robsart, and Robsart was
home."

The web address is **www.ghosttownpix.com**. This web site lists Ghost towns with maps, not just in Saskatchewan, but all across the prairies, British Columbia, and Ontario.



Larry Easton

A Ghost of Ravenscrag