

Southeastern Photographic Society

Exposure Notes

December 2010

www.spsatlanta.org

Our Next Monthly Meeting is January 7, 2011

January Competition - Open (Vintage)

The Open competition allows photographers to enter their best work on any subject. Since this is also a "vintage" competition, the image can be from any prior year.

President's Message

Happy Holidays to one and all! I hope that Santa (or that other special elf in your life) leaves a particularly wonderful photography goodie under your tree and that you're able to take advantage of some time this holiday season to get out and start planning your shots for the 2011 competitions and critiques. We have a great lineup of themes this year that were suggested and voted on entirely by our members! It is my hope that even if some of these themes aren't the "sort of thing" you'd usually photograph, that you'll take the opportunity to stretch yourself a bit and explore the theme anyway. That's really what they're intended for – to get you out of our comfort zone and exploring themes you might never have considered, and maybe discover a new favorite subject in the process.

Merry photos to all, and to all shoot good light!

Ken Ross

Happy
New Year !

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SPS Holiday Party and Meeting



We had a great turn out for our year end Member 's Choice and pot luck dinner. What a great way to end the year! Percy Clapp won first prize this year. Percy won a gift certificate for a free photography workshop from Natural Connections.



Percy receiving his first place award

THANKS TO LEDRA DAVIS AND NATURAL CONNECTIONS FOR PROVIDING OUR GRAND PRIZE THIS YEAR!

In addition to our grand prize, some of our other sponsors provided gifts for our points winners in each of our three submission categories. Camera Concierge, Showcase Photo and Video, and Digital Arts Studio provided gift cards ranging from \$25 to \$100. Be sure to give them a huge *THANK YOU* the next time you stop by these sponsors.



2011 Member's Choice Image

Man on Horse, Percy Clapp



2nd Place

3958 Second Exposure, Paul Shimek



3rd Place

The Crossing, Cherie Truesdell



2011 Flower Show Photo Contest

This year, Showcase Photo and Video is a sponsor for the photography contest. Thanks to their sponsorship, there are prizes this year for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each class. The classes are:

- Landscapes
- Flowers
- Travel
- Water Features
- People and Other Critters
- All Things Musical

Flowers do not have to be in any photo. Photos are limited to "subjects in our environment". (Helpful Tip - The flower class receives the most entries, so if you want to improve your chance of being juried into the show, enter the other classes, especially the new one.)

To enter the show and for additional information, deadlines, and entry requirements, just log on to www.sfsphotography.org

Membership News

We had one of our highest membership rolls in recent history. Thanks to all our renewing members, and especially those who joined SPS for the first time this year. The final tally for 2010 was:

160 individual memberships,
37 family memberships, and
6 life members

Our total membership was 203, which included exactly as many renewals as we had new members.

To date we have 68 paid memberships for 2011. Remember, renewals are due Jan 1 for the next calendar year, and paid membership is required to participate in competitions and gallery shows, to attend 4th Tuesday Learnshops and member-only field trips, and to receive the Showcase discount card. Also, those who do not renew by March 31 will be dropped from the roster. Our membership dues for 2011 are \$30 per individual and \$40 for households.

Choosing a Camera Bag

The number of issues to consider when buying a camera bag are as numerous as photographers. There isn't a "one size or type fits all" checklist. **Personal preference, cost, size, and applicability all factor in** to selecting the best bag for you. Manufacturers have made the choice easier, or harder, depending on your **point of view, by offering a wide variety of bags. The shoulder bag isn't the only choice anymore.** And cost is as varied as the number of styles available.

There are a wide variety of camera bags on the market, this in response to the extensive range of cameras available, and an even wider range of different photographic purposes. A good camera bag is for much more than carrying the camera, there is a host of important accessories and essential bits of equipment to carry around as well. You may find that your best option is to own two or more bags, depending on your shooting situation.

The following isn't a complete list of options available, but is intended to give you some ideas of issues to consider when purchasing the bag that's right for you.

Shoulder Bags.

The old standby. Shoulder bags offer the benefit of convenient access to your equipment. While the size varies greatly, shoulder camera bags commonly open from the top allowing for quick access to cameras, lenses, a new memory card, or other accessories. Most average size shoulder bags allow for a camera body and two to three lenses, depending on their size. There are usually several pockets that are easily accessible for memory cards, extra batteries, filters, or cleaning equipment. Larger bags can hold a combination of more than one camera body and several lenses.

The drawback to shoulder bags is that they are awkward to carry for lengthy photo shoots. Even if you **switch shoulders, by the end of a long shooting day, you will definitely know you've been carrying a bag** on your shoulder. And obviously the bigger the bag and the more equipment you carry, the heavier the burden.

Backpacks

Backpacks allow you to carry a lot more equipment than a shoulder bag, and they distribute the weight evenly across your back and on your hips. A lot of current designs have very similar functions to backpacks used for camping, with hip belts and shoulder strap adjustments to allow the user to adjust the pack to fit his or her personal body shape and type.

They are great if you will be in more rugged terrain, as the backpack leaves both hands free for climbing or maneuvering around obstacles. The backpack is out of the way leaving both hands free for operating the camera and allowing for quick movement.

A lot of backpacks have additional space to pack raingear, water bottles, and other non-photographic equipment that may be useful during an all day shoot in the outdoors.

The main down side of the backpack is it is more difficult to access the contents. You usually have to take the backpack off to get to or change your equipment, and when you begin shooting you may be holding most of what you started out storing in your bag.

Southeastern Photographic Society Sponsors and Supporters

SPS is proud and very honored to have sponsors that support our club. These businesses are strong supporters of photography and photographers in general, but offer special benefits, discounts, and offers specifically to our members. Support these businesses and show appreciation the next time you need the services they provide.



www.pwdlabs.com



<http://naturalconnectionsphotoworkshops.com/>



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



www.digitalartsstudio.net



Although not an official sponsor of SPS, Showcase Photo and Video is a strong supporter of amateur and professional photographers in Atlanta and the southeast. We do have a rebate program with Showcase, where our club gets a percentage of all sales to SPS members over a calendar year. We have Showcase cards to present when you purchase items from

Showcase that ensures that we get credit for your purchases. If you don't have your card, see Virginia Dunbar at our next meeting.

Choosing a Camera Bag (con't)

Camera Vests

Many photographers like using a photo vest. Vests offer the same benefit as a backpack, in that the weight of your equipment is distributed fairly evenly across your shoulders and back. And you have easy access to your lenses and accessories. Most of the pockets are on the front of the vest. You can buy vest specifically made for photography, but some photographers have found fishing vests suit their needs, and **cost a fraction of the specifically designed "photo vest"**. **One word of caution; photo vests can be very hot**, even if they are made of light weight material. That may work to your advantage on colder days, but in the heat of the summer it can be like wearing a coat.

Belt Packs

While not as popular as the other types of bags discussed, belt packs offer the benefits of distributing the weight of your equipment around your hips. You have fairly easy access to your equipment and accessories. However, many belt packs are designed with storage compartments for specific size lenses or equipment, and **don't have a lot of extra storage pouches for additional accessories.**

Inconspicuous Bags

These styles of bags are becoming more popular, especially with photographers who are traveling in foreign countries. They often look like luggage, or a briefcase, and don't scream "hey, I'm a photographer, come steal my equipment". They do have pockets for accessories, but a lot of these styles only have a large, central compartment for your lenses, bodies, and equipment.

Check out our sponsors for the wide selection and styles of bags available for you to consider.

Josh Earhart

2011 Competition Themes

Meeting Dates Monthly / 4th Tuesday	Theme
January 7 / 25	Open (Vintage): The Open competition allows photographers to enter their best work on any subject. Since this is also a "vintage" competition, the image can be from any prior year (not just within the past 12 months as for the non-vintage themes).
February 4 / 22	Landscape: The subject for this theme should be a natural outdoor setting showing an expansive point of view. Grand vistas with few (if any) man-made objects are what we're looking for.
March 4 / 22	Travel: The primary criteria here is that the image must give the viewer a sense of place outside of Atlanta. This might be someplace out in the country [near Atlanta] or some far away land.
April 1 / 26	Macro: Show us a world in that is seldom visited, sometimes too small to appreciate in any other way. Macro is extreme close-up photography – the eyes of a bee, the ridges on a coin, or some other creative subject too small for us to appreciate without your skill and vision.
May 6 / 24	Portrait (not formal portraits): What we're looking for here is to have people (person) as the primary subject but not done as a formal portrait (not posed). Catch people in the act of being...people.
June 3 / 28	Churches and Graveyards: Explore the architecture and mood of these beautiful and sometimes haunting environments.
July 8 / 26	Death and Decay: No, not CSI photos – we're looking for images of deserted old buildings, rusting cars, deserted urban decay and maybe even some interesting dead trees. Since we already have a separate "graveyards" theme, let's avoid them for this theme.
August 5 / 23	Shot in the Dark: The obvious interpretation here is for an image taken in the dark, using natural or artificial lighting (including light painting). However, you're free to play with the theme if you have a different interpretation.
September 9 / 27	Flowers: Not much to clarify here – flowers of any and all varieties in any composition you can envision.
October 7 / 25	Patterns and Repetition: Repeating patterns is one of the strongest elements in art and something we always notice in photography. Here your challenge is to present strong repeating patterns or shapes (3 or more) in your composition.
November 4 / 22	Sunlight and Shadow: Light and shadow is what photography is all about and in this theme we ask you to really explore that relationship by making the light and shadows the actual subject of your image.
December 2 / 27	Members Choice: Show us your best image from the last 12 months whether you've already had it in competition or not. Digital submission only – no prints – and one image per person.

*4th Tuesday Topics To Be Determined. And Dates Subject to Change

*July and September Monthly Meetings are on the SECOND Friday due to holiday weekends

Exposure Notes

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Newsletter Submittals: Information and articles for the newsletter should be submitted two weeks prior to the meeting date. Articles may be submitted either electronically or by hard copy and may be given to Ken Ross in person, or mailed to 948 Rolling Meadows Dr., Loganville GA 30052 or e-mailed to ken@KennethRossPhotography.com

Meeting Location: The Southeastern Photographic Society (SPS) normally meets in the Fellowship Hall of *Briarcliff Baptist Church*, 3039 Briarcliff Road, on the first Friday of each month at 7:30 PM.

Directions: Take the Clairmont Road exit from I-85. Go south on Clairmont Road toward Decatur/Emory. At first light, turn right onto Briarcliff Road. Turn left into the drive way adjacent to the wrought iron fence **adjacent to Ed's IGA and park in the lot. An awning labeled 7'6" CLEAR** covers the entrance to the hall that leads to the Fellowship Hall.

2011 Officers

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