

# Housatonic Camera Club

APRIL 2009



## “Panoramic Photography”

By Joseph Meehan

Professional photographer Joseph Meehan is the author of the first book ever written on panoramic photography. **At the next Camera Club meeting Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm**, Joe will display a number of his panoramic prints along with a slide presentation illustrating the diverse subjects he has photographed using both “pan” film cameras and modern digital methods.

Within a decade of photography’s beginnings in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, panoramic images were being exposed on daguerreotype plates using specialized cameras. Today, this unique form of picture making can be produced without the need for special cameras using software thus ushering in a whole new era for this unique form of photography.

The Lifelong  
Learning Center  
(Wagner Building)  
**Noble Horizons**  
17 Cobble Road  
Salisbury, CT 06068



Joseph Meehan has been a professional photographer, writer and teacher for over 35 years. Hundreds of his photographs have appeared in books and magazines in the US Europe and Asia. His work has been featured in Fuji Film, Nikon, Olympus, SanDisk and Hasselblad advertisements and his style has been characterized by the *New York Times* as “... alive with color and sparkling with light.” Meehan served as Senior Technical Editor of *Photo District News* for 12 years and is the former editor of the *Photography Yearbook* first published in Great Britain in 1935. He has written over 500 articles that have appeared in such magazines as *Popular Photography*, *Outdoor Photography*, *View Camera Magazine*, and the *British Journal of Photography*. He is the author of 25 books on photographic technique the most recent of which is “Mood, Ambience and Dramatic Effects in Photography” in the Kodak Art of Digital Photography Series, winner of the how-to book of the year by the library council.

Meehan recently served as expedition photographer for the history making research on the Arctic Narwhal in the high Canadian Arctic and Northern Greenland sponsored by the Smithsonian Museum, the Explorers Club, Harvard University and the National Geographic Society <[www.narwhal.org](http://www.narwhal.org)>.

Joseph Meehan received his baccalaureate degree with honors from Columbia University and a Masters of Arts degree from Manhattan College. He and his wife Lynn first moved to Lakeville in 1970 and they now live in the Twin Lakes area of Salisbury, Connecticut.

Web Site: <http://www.josephmeehan.com>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rita Mathews for an informative and entertaining presentation on "The Wilds I Have Known" at our March meeting. The personal photos along with the stories behind them were just a glimpse at the adventurous life she has led. We had a great turnout with a few first time guests and a new member. Rita did a great job patiently answering questions and teaching us all in the process. Not only does she step up and share wonderful presentations whenever asked, Rita also submits an article about photography for every newsletter, but also receives all the PSA & NECCC digital competition entries and makes sure they are sent in on time. Having filled in for her one time I can tell you it is no small feat. Again Rita, Thank You!

I would also like to thank everyone for the numerous (92) entries in our club competition. It made a wonderful slide show and was interesting to see how many different creative photos there were for each subject. For those of you who missed it or would like to see them again, I believe we will show them along with the next challenge entries at our end of the year dinner.

See you on the 21<sup>st</sup> - Happy Easter!  
~ Gisele Doyle

Dear club members,

Uncle Sam needs you to pay your taxes and the Housatonic Camera Club needs you to pay your dues -- BUT THAT'S NOT ALL! The club doesn't run itself -- it's a COOPERATIVE VENTURE.

I'm speaking to you on behalf of the Nominating Committee: (Myself, Rita Mathews, Lazlo Gyorsak, Brian Wilcox, and Judy Becker) which is activated every two years in order to nominate club officers and committee chairpersons.

OFFICERS: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary & Corresponding Secretary-- Usually one person, Treasurer.

STANDING COMMITTEES: Program, Membership, Publicity, Newsletter Editor, refreshments, Liaison Representative, Salon

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: consists of Officers and Chairpersons of standing committees.

All the above offices are elected by the membership.

As a club member you are eligible to stand for any of the above positions on the slate prepared by the Nominating Committee, or to be nominated from the floor at the election held at the upcoming meeting in May.

Committee members are appointed by chairpersons of standing committees.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HELP US FUNCTION!!!

Please let anyone on the Nominating Committee know how you would like to help --- WE NEED YOU!

For the Nominating Committee,

Bill DeVoti



## *Send in your Photos!*

We have one last **PSA Competition** for this year! E-mail your entries to Rita Mathews at [explomat44@yahoo.com](mailto:explomat44@yahoo.com) by Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure you size your photos correctly – **Horizontal images** should be no larger than 1024 pixels wide and for **Vertical Images** no more than 768 pixels tall. Your total **File Size** should be no larger than 350Kb. Please **Name your file** in the following manner - ClubName-LastNameOfMaker-entry#.jpg **Example: Housatonic-Doyle-1.jpg** include the TITLE of your image in your e-mail.

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### CLUB CHALLENGES

Start looking through your photos or go out and take new ones.....We have one last Club Challenge that will end just before the May meeting. The topics are – **SPRING** and **UP CLOSE** (including macro, super macro) we are including a Special Challenge of **WIRES, POLES & POWER LINES** (Yes, all those things you usually want to take out of your photos!) Because of the large amount of entries in the last challenge, please send in only 3 per topic (9 per person total). E-mail your entries to Gisele Doyle at [Alwaysdrawing@yahoo.com](mailto:Alwaysdrawing@yahoo.com) by Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>. All entries should be sized as for PSA (see above) and named with your name and title of your photo. Try to send only 3 photos at a time in your e-mails, they are easier and faster to open and organize. Any questions about competitions or challenges, e-mail them to either Rita or Gisele. Good Luck!

## PHOTO HINTS AND BASICS #1

By Rita W Mathews

Even though one may have been taking photos for years, as I have, I still find it valuable to return to the basics. If you are just starting out you can give yourself a solid foundation by starting with the basics. Successful photos are the result of knowing just how it all works and how to put it all together.

So, first things first, read your camera's manual and become familiar with all it has to offer. Then, for a picture to be recorded the film must be exposed to light. The amount of light that hits the film is controlled by you in two ways: By the shutter which blocks all light from the film until you "push the button" which opens the shutter allowing the light to hit the film and then quickly closes. You control the amount of light by setting the shutter speed on your camera, and by the aperture which is an opening in the lens that can be adjusted in size to again control the amount of light hitting the film. A large opening lets more light hit the film and a small opening lets less light hit the film when the shutter fires. You control the amount of light by choosing the size of the opening, called the F-stop, of the lens. The F-stop is the ratio of the focal length of the lens to the actual size of the opening. Thus the larger the F-stop the smaller the opening and less light hits the film.

Reciprocity is the relationship between the Aperture settings (F-stops) and the shutter speeds. For instance, if you had a sunny day at mid latitudes after 10 AM with a cloudless sky you would obey the "sunny 16 rule" by setting your camera at F-16 and the shutter at

1/ISO of the film in this case Velvia ISO 50.

F-stops	2.8	4	5.6	8
Speeds	1500	750	360	180

11	16	22	32	45
90	45	20	10	4

All the exposures on the scale above are equal. The choice is yours, fast shutter for action, small aperture for depth of field. The F-stops are integers and the shutter speeds are fractions of a second i.e. 1/360 etc. If your camera shows a speed as "2" that means 2 full seconds.

If you move (in manual mode) the f-stop x number of stops right or left you must move the shutter speed the same amount right or left (reciprocity) to remain at the same amount of light exposure.

The next thing that should concern you is whether your in-camera light meter is accurate. Most new electronic cameras have pretty accurate meters. Unfortunately some of the older ones can be off a full stop but it is best to find out on all cameras. Pick a clear sunny day preferably in summer when the sun is high and at full strength (at least 2 hours after sunrise and 2 hours before sunset) with a nice blue sky with no clouds. You can do this by mounting a medium telephoto lens on your camera; set the ISO to 125; select shutter priority and set the shutter to 1/125 (1/ISO); take a reading off a gray card (make sure it is square to the sun) or take a reading off the clear north blue sky 40 degrees up from the horizon (a shade less than halfway up. If your meter is accurate, the aperture suggested by your camera should

be F-16. If your meter is off, change the ISO reading until your camera has an aperture reading of F -16. If your camera needs adjustment this way you will have to adjust the ISO reading each and every time you load a fresh film in your camera. The alternative is to send the camera to the manufacturer to have the meter calibrated. You can adjust the ISO by ½ stops or by 1/3 stops increasing or decreasing whatever it takes to get to F-16. The ISO's are 1/3 stops apart i.e. 50, 64, 80, 100 etc. So much for the old film camera but you must realize the digital is just the same as far as exposures are concerned. You can check if your meter is accurate in much the same way. Set your ISO to 100 or 200 if your camera does not have a 100 (some do not). Set your camera to shutter priority at 1/00 for your ISO 100 camera or 1/200 for your 200 ISO camera. Then as you go out to a north blue sky or a direct reading from a grey card square to the sun as above your f-stop a should be F16. In this case you probably cannot change the ISO in small increments as they do not follow the 1/3 stops apart. However you can adjust your camera to + or - up to one or two stops on your exposure compensation settings. Since I just told you how to check you digital camera light meter, I decided I must do it in reality before talking about it. Thus I did all the above and discovered that my Nikon hits F16 and 1/100 against the north blue sky however, my camera does not have an ISO below 200. I, moreover, trust it at most anytime for its correct exposures. I will have to look into this. Next time I will take up the histogram which is the most important part of your digital camera for correcting the exposure.

Light makes photography. Embrace light. Admire it. Love it. But above all, know light. Know it for all you are worth, and you will know the key to photography.

~ George Eastman

### PHOTO OPS / TRIP IDEAS

#### Earth From Above - A Free Outdoor Large-Scale Photography Exhibit

By Yann Arthus Bertrand **May 1 - June 28, 2009**

World Financial Center Plaza, Battery Park City - Day & night - Free to the public

Check the web site [www.Earthfromaboveusa.com](http://www.Earthfromaboveusa.com)

#### Coney Island Mermaid Parade - Saturday, June 20, 2009

A fun idea from Fredrick Orkin!

Check the web site [www.coneyisland.com](http://www.coneyisland.com)

## Looking to Space Science for Panoramic Expertise

When it comes to capturing detailed shots, a single lens can fall short, especially if you're looking to enter gigapixel territory. Using the same technology that the Mars exploration rovers relied on to gather their panoramic images, GigaPan Systems has created the GigaPan Epic, which lets photographers take detailed, high-resolution panorama shots with a standard point-and-shoot digital camera.

The Epic is a small robotic mount that automates the picture-taking process when you attach a camera to it and specify the boundaries of your landscape. The images are then downloaded to your computer, where the GigaPan Stitcher software automatically combines them into a panorama, and the GigaPan Viewer — to the delight or dismay of the people photographed — can be used to zoom in on individual faces.

The GigaPan Epic has already been used to capture a 1,474-megapixel panorama of President Obama's inaugural address as well as panoramas of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and Union Station in Washington.

[www.gigapansystems.com](http://www.gigapansystems.com)



THINK SPRING ..... CHALLENGE!



Both photos by Gisele Doyle