



HOUSATONIC CAMERA CLUB
NEWS BLAST *January*
2011

Noble Salon Show

The Housatonic Camera Club proudly presents it's latest photo show at Noble Horizons in Salisbury, CT. The exhibit will open with a reception on Friday, January 20 from 5:00 to 7:00 in the Learning Center Gallery. The show will be open to the public on weekends from 11:00 to 3:00 through February 20, 2011.

Encourage your family and friends to stop in and view the latest work of our talented club photographers.



Club Photo Challenges

Our

club photo challenges are back for 2012. Club members are “challenged” to take pictures which apply to the assigned topics listed below. The challenge photos will be featured at our March meeting (tentative) and at our Member Show Case meeting in June. In addition, members are encouraged to post their challenge photos to the Forum at any time and are also asked to leave comments about other photos which have been posted. For help with posting online you should contact Lazlo at lazlo1@optonline.net . More information on presenting pictures at our meetings will be sent out before the meeting at which the photos are due.

Our assigned topics for this season are:

Farms/Farming

Doors and Windows



Faces

GREEN

Are you up to the challenge? Show us your talent and creativity! You don't wait until the assigned topic images are due. Start now to collect your photos and post them to the web as soon as the challenge albums on the Forum are set up.*

Note: Participation in the salon show and photo challenges is for members only, but it's never too late to join or renew your membership. See the membership information attached at the end of this News Blast.

Product Review: Sony Nex-5N *by Bill DeVoti*

Blame it on Lazlo! He showed up at our meeting with this cute LITTLE Sony Nex-3 camera that almost fits in your pocket, or unnoticeably around your neck and under your arm. Hmm! Then he demonstrated its speed out in the parking lot at night, and let it known it sported an interchangeable lens ... I was hooked! I needed a new camera and was tired of lugging around a relatively heavy DSLR creating a bulge under my jacket. By the time I made up my mind the Nex-3 was replaced by the more expensive Nex-5N. Oh well, "In for a penny, in for a pound!"

That "pound" came to \$700 "street" including a 16-55 mm zoom lens, but add another \$100 (on promotion from \$250 with the camera, only - what's a guy to do?) from B & H. Not bad, my last Sony several years ago after my Minolta crashed set me back "two grand" as Nathan Detroit would say. Well after filters, extra batteries, two 8 GB memory

cards, extended warranties (5 years on the camera) and my very own Giotto-- alas, only an LCD screen protector :- (The "damage" came to \$1300.

"The envelope, please!" The camera is like nothing else I've ever used! (Don't go away, there's more at the end.) Plusses include a large APS-C sensor (in this model), half the weight/size of a standard DSLR (thanks to mirror-less/finder-less technology), auto focus, full HD movie shooting 60p/24p -- whatever that means, I never shoot movies-- object tracking AF via touch LCD, up to 10fps shooting speed, tiltable touch screen technology, 0.02 second (world's shortest) release time, anti-motion blur and hand-held twilight modes (6 rapid-sequence images of a subject layering the optimum portions of these exposures into a single image), auto HDR, sweep panorama stitched in the camera, anti-dust setting, optional background defocus, That's enough here. Google the camera and read the rest; or, if you buy one, there is a tutorial program built into the camera.

Well, I'm still learning how to find all these things; the touch LCD technology helps move around, but there are some features I still haven't used. The tiny (but powerful enough) flash that fits with difficulty into a hatch on top of the body is awkward, and if you buy the excellent, optional OLED viewfinder it unfortunately fits with the same difficulty in the same hatch with the flash removed, so no catch lights if you're using the viewfinder. That item costs another \$350 "smackers" (says Harry the Horse, another Damon Runyon character). So maybe you want to look at the NEX-7 which is a little larger with the same technology, only with a built-in viewfinder and a 200mm zoom lens -- which makes a large lump under a jacket.

Experiencing the 2012 NECCC Conference *By Fredrick K. Orkin*

I had known about New England Camera Club Council's annual summer conference yet had never gotten around to attend. When no other HCC member opted for NECCC's courtesy enrollment for a first-time attendee, I jumped at the chance. Why? Because this is our region's premier educational event for photographers of all skill levels, attracting more than a thousand from New England and beyond, with many repeat attendees.

Held on University of Massachusetts' Amherst campus, near Springfield, this Friday-afternoon-through-Sunday-morning conference combined lectures and demonstrations with model shoots, trial use of Nikon and Canon cameras and lenses, camera testing, projected image and print competitions, and trade exhibitions. The meeting centerpiece was a three-ring circus of 28 mostly one-hour lectures, all of which repeated at least

once, on a wide range of topics: general interest (use of new media & social networking, digital infrared, architectural photography, night photography, off-camera flash, copyright and model releases), nature (birds, flowers, “small critters,” miscellaneous wildlife), travel (what to take with you, Bhutan travelog), sports (Olympics), digital (low-light photography, use of layers and masks, fine-art black & white, high-quality printing), and portraiture. My favorite talks covered night and low-light photography, architectural photography, and digital-enhancement layers and masks, but all presentations were well-organized and very informative, if not well-honed for the mixed audience. Presenters were experienced photographers from New England (many NECCC members), professionals from beyond the region, and vendor representatives.

Beyond excellent content, the conference was extremely well administered, with each session having a formal introduction (albeit drawn from the printed program), on-time beginning and ending, printed handout for most in a bound syllabus, and Q&A in which questions were repeated before the answer was given. The meeting is also a bargain: registration, \$160; housing, \$50 per night in an air-conditioned dorm suite; free parking; and a wide variety of food, \$65 for meal plan in the dining commons. Do plan on attending next year: July 13-15, 2012 – you will not be disappointed!

HOUSATONIC CAMERA CLUB PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2012

January 17: Digital Circuit DVD (Tentative)/ View Competition Images for NECCC and PSA / Discussion of the Photos in the Noble Show

February 21: Digital Circuit DVD / Discuss Competition Images for NECCC and PSA

March 20: Presentation by Bill DeVoti, “Modern Croatia” / Assigned Topic Photo Challenge

April 17: Presentation by Fred Orkin, “A Trip to Belgian and Holland” / Discussion of Competition Images for PSA

May 15: Presentation by Joe Meehan, Subject T.B.A.

June 19: End of Year Dinner and Members Showcase / Assigned Topic Photo Challenge

Housatonic Camera Club

Membership Enrollment 2011—2012

I wish to enroll as a member for one year. Attached is the membership fee of \$25.00 (and \$10.00 for each additional family member).

Please hand or mail this form to the Treasurer, Judy Becker
432 Undermountain Road Salisbury, CT 06068-1101 *judybecker40@att.net* 860-435-2263

PLEASE PRINT ONLY ... AND CLEARLY!

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS(ES): _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

WE WILL SEND YOU OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS, SCHEDULES, AND CLUB INFO.