



THE NEW

HOUSATONIC CAMERA CLUB

NEWSLETTER

The Life Long Learning Center
(Wagner building on the left)
Noble Horizons
17 Cobble Road
Salisbury, CT 06068

WE'RE ON THE WEB

<http://www.housatoniccameraclub.org/>

Webmaster: Lazlo Gyorsok

Editor: John Frenzel



The Program for the night of
January 17, 2006

Meeting begins at 7:00 PM
Sharp

**January 17: NECCC 2 black
and white and 2 color prints
and 2 color slides.**

**Judges will be Ian, Judy and
Lazlo.**

**Sid Shore will give us one of
his great slide shows.**

HCC Members "On the Web"

This month we feature **Jen Abbott**

Her web address is

<http://www.jenabbott.com>

Jen's site is in the early stages of its life, but the work she has posted on her site is top notch. It's going to be fun watching this site continue to develop.

Presidents Corner - *Rita Mathews*

Several years ago I visited south Texas to back up the North American Nature Photographers Association. (NANPA for short) in a new program they were just starting. It was a program to encourage the Ranch owners in Texas to place blinds by their water holes for photographers to take pictures of the animals that frequent the water holes. In an arid spot such as South Texas all animals must go to a water hole to drink. It has now proved a great success. This is about 6 years later and NANPA has now sponsored water hole blinds in many states. I understand there is even one in Massachusetts. The idea behind all this was to give the ranchers another source of money which not only would help preserve and protect the animals but could become a real source of cash and a real way to protect animals.. And now it has. I went with a group that consisted of 8 photographers to 4 different ranches. They had many blinds and at \$150 a blind per person per day that becomes real revenue. I can tell you it is very popular and well booked up. We also got many perks such as a Texas barbecue and lunch at the ranches. NANPA has now got blinds in a good many of the Western states and they are all very popular. It most certainly is the best the way to photograph all the birds, bobcats, rattlers, and javalinas which are peccaries or the American wild boar. It is all close-up work as the ranchers have the animals familiar with the blinds for they feed them there so they come almost fearlessly. I have several hundred close ups.

Photoshop Alternatives:

Adobe Photoshop is the undisputed big gun imaging program for photographers and graphic artists. However it does carry a very heavy price tag and this certainly is a factor in why some folks do not use the program. Combine that with the learning curve of this very complex application and you can literally see it reduce grown mature adults in to kicking and screaming maniacs. **Fear not** for there are plenty of options at your disposal. Adobe also offers the much less expensive and very well done Photoshop Elements, this offers the photographer an affordable option for entering the era of the Digital Dark-room. A detailed review of this program can be found at http://www.designer-info.com/Writing/adobe_photoshop_elements.htm Anyone contemplating purchase of this program should really check this out.

HCC Poll

Are the links to program reviews something you'd like to see continue in the newsletter?
Yes / No

Email me at <mailto:jfrenzel@silkenthread.net> with your answers and I will post results in the next newsletter.

Last Month's Meeting:

In December we partied like Paris Hilton. Noble put on a very tasty dinner for the club and then we got down to serious business.

Lazlo presented "Soldiers" an excellent slideshow he put together with music. Nothing quite like looking at great photographs and having just the right music to accompany it in the background. This was a real treat and extremely well done. We had one minor glitch with the music, we learn as we go. In fairness to this wonderful show it can be downloaded here <http://lazlo.us/slideshows/soldiers.exe> I'd recommend giving it a download if you have a fast connection to the internet.

We had a considerable amount of **judging** to be done for both **NECCC and PSA Competitions**. The complete results can be found on page 3.

Thanks and recognition to **Joseph Meehan** for the generous donation of books to club members. What a treat to be able to browse through and pick out books from such a wonderful selection. This was a very generous gift indeed.

Any Scrap Booker in the HCC?

Scrap booking has become big business, internet courses are popping up everywhere covering this topic. Here is a pretty handy tip for you.

Scrapping the paste;

When making a scrapbook, instead of printing your digital photos and then pasting them onto decorated papers, Try to photograph leaves, rocks, designs, feathers, and other textures to use as backgrounds. On your computer, choose a background appropriate for the page, paste your digital images over it, and add text using your imaging program of choice. Then print out a single 8.5x11-inch page. Keep a copy of the final composites, and burn them onto a CD. You won't have to worry when children flip through the scrapbook and roughly handle the pages. If one gets damaged, simply reprint the page.

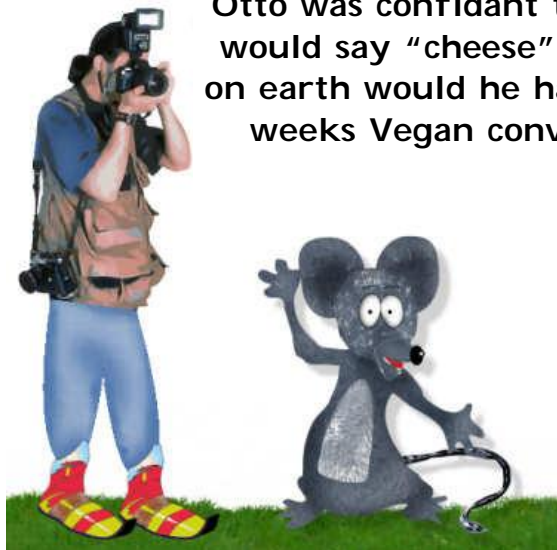
The Gallery page on the website has seen some new postings by Ann Wilkinson. If you've not checked out the gallery lately, you had better get over and see what has been going on. Great photographs Ann, I'm happy to see you posted them! Keep them coming!

HCC Program for the remainder of the year

February 21st: NECCC, 2 Black & White and 2 color prints and 2 nature slides. Judges are Ann Wilkinson, Rita Mathews, Bill Devoti. Also Bill Devoti will give us his usual wonderful summer photos.

March 21: PSA competition. Judges are John Frenzel, Brian Wilcox, Ann Wilkinson. Arthur Hillman of the Simons Rock College will give us a talk and show.

April 18: Show by Joe Meehan



Otto was confident the mouse would say "cheese", but how on earth would he handle next weeks Vegan convention?

"And most of my early pictures failed but about one in 100 somehow looked better than what I saw."
~ Galen Rowell

"No matter how slow the film, Spirit always stands still long enough for the photographer It has chosen."
~Minor White

NECCC results for December:

Color Slides:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|------|
| 1) The Crossing | J.Frenzel | (26) |
| 2) Your Move | B. Devoti | (21) |
| 3) Sunset at Lookout Point | A. Wilkinson | (17) |
| 4) My Dog Rusty | J. Becker | (16) |

Nature Slides:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|------|
| 1) Gold Dust | J. Frenzel | (23) |
| 2) Dusk at Yavapai Point | A. Wilkinson | (21) |
| 3) Perched Rock | B. Devoti | (20) |
| 4) Grren and Gold | J. Becker | (15) |

PSA EID Competition:

We had our first PSA judging in December:
The winning selections are listed below:
Jen Abbott: Bleeding Hearts
Lazlo Gyosork: Creapy House
Rita Mathews: Whitesands Dunes
Brian Wilcox: Stephanie in Black and White
Ann Wilkinson: End of the Day
John Frenzel: The Abbey

Hints and Basics 12-2005 - *Rita Mathews*

Winter time is a great time to utilize the long shadows that we have at dawn and dusk. The sun is at its lowest point in the Northern Hemisphere now in December. Of course, there is also snow on the ground. Snow poses a problem with all cameras in that the meters that we now have still will take snow as an 18% grey mass and that is not the way we like to see it. The other problem is that it is too reflective in full sunlight and you get no detail at all just a bright white mass. . So between the two you must compromise. To get a bit of detail in the snow you must open your aperture somewhere between 1 and 2 stops. Usually in this latitude in winter 1 to 1 1/2 stops will do the trick. A polarizer will also help, not only to keep the snow from being very reflective but if you use it in conjunction with a warming filter, you get rid of that blue white look. Moose Peterson has polarizers called Moose filters with a warmer built in the circular polarizer. I use these year round, they are very good and they can be purchased at any larger camera outlet and are made by Hoya. They are great in the summer also. In fact on my landscape lens I keep one on all the time. Polarizers will give you deeper blue skies and clouds that stand out all of which help your snow scenes.

Another thing that helps greatly is to inject some color against the white snow such as people in colorful clothing or some colorful equipment left over from summer half buried in the snow. Dark figures also do well against the snow. The light on snow can be tricky and even with the new digital cameras it is better to bracket your photos just to make sure. You can also get subtle changes in the greys to blacks areas which can be startling against the white snow. If it is very cold you can get fog coming off water or the breath of animals and if that cold you must think of your batteries. In case of cold the lithium battery works the best. And remember your camera should not go from cold to hot in a hurry. Bring along a plastic bag that you can seal it in to bring in doors. Let it warm up before opening the bag. This way you will not get any condensation inside your camera. On the other hand the cold can be very dry so I leave this one up to you. Next time I would like to discuss the digital camera and the controls that are different than on the film cameras like histograms. Keep taking pics, enjoy it and ask questions and keep going. I am hoping to bring at least one session of learning to you before the end of the year.

~Rita Mathews

Until Next Month.....See you on the 17th.
Stay healthy and stay safe,

