



# The VIEWFINDER

The Bowie-Crofton Camera Club

## SEPTEMBER SNAPSHOT

### Opening Night

September 15 Program features Valerie Watson and "Art Opportunities".

*This page*

### Important Competition Rule Changes

Revised Competition Rules are now available. Take effect for October Competition. *This page*

Volume 23 Number 1 • September 2003

## Changes to the Competition Rules

by Scott Swanson, VP Competitions

The Executive Committee of the Bowie-Crofton Camera Club has instituted changes to the competition rules. The new rules will take effect in the 2003-'04 club year that begins this September. The first competition of the club year is October 6th.

The two major changes to the competition rules are (1) "digital manipulation" is no longer constrained to only half of the competitions and (2) images may be entered in competition no more than two times total (instead of two times per division).

In response to many requests to do something about "digital", we (the Executive Committee) decided to deal with the issue by concentrating on the image itself instead of the specific photographic processes used to produce the image. Discriminating against the use of a computer in image preparation is no more rational than discriminating against large-format cameras or lenses that only a very few photographers can afford to purchase. The computer has become a common tool in the photographic world: the digital darkroom is here to stay. We implemented this rule change by removing entirely paragraph 6 ("Common processes, to include scanning...") from the competition rules. The competition rules no longer contain the term digital.

In addition, the preceding paragraph ("Any and all elements of an image...") was strengthened to explicitly prevent the use of non-photographically produced elements (things, objects, shapes, etc.) in competition images.

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## Valerie Watson Presents "Art Opportunities"

### Opens Club Year Opens with September 15 Program

by Ann Krumrein, VP Programs

Don't miss our first program meeting, "Art Opportunities" led by Valerie Watson, Visual Arts Specialist for the Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission. Valerie brings with her over 13 years of experience with the Commission as well as being a featured watercolorist and adjunct art faculty at Prince George's Community College.

The MNCP&PC affords many free services and various avenues of support to artists. The Commission also acts as a clearinghouse, not just here in Prince Georges County, but throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Come prepared to be challenged!

## September How-To Meeting

by Clarence Carvell, VP How-to

For the first How-To meeting of the new season, all the finalists of last years End-of-Year Competition will have the opportunity to discuss the techniques they used to photograph and present their winning images. Since these photographs had to pass through at least two judging sessions, it should be helpful to learn how these members work stood out from all the others in the competitions.

## Calendar of Events

### SEPTEMBER

**15 Program Meeting**  
MNCPPC's Valerie Watson discusses "Art Opportunities" available to photographers.

**22 How-to Meeting**  
End-of-Year Competition winners from '02-'03 discuss their techniques.

**29 No Meeting Scheduled**

### OCTOBER

**6 Competition**  
Slide Topic: Unrestricted  
Judge: Joe Miller  
NEW RULES IN EFFECT!

**11 Field Trip**  
To Cambridge, MD;  
Attend on September 22 to discuss an overnight trip

**13 Photo Talk Meeting**  
Competition Rules & Mounting and Matting for Competitions

Member, Photographic Society of America since 1977

P.O. Box 515, Bowie, MD 20718-0515 • <http://bowiecroftoncameraclub.homestead.com/> • [bccviewfinder@aol.com](mailto:bccviewfinder@aol.com)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### GRANT PANEL (2002)

Roz Kleffman, David Ebert,  
Jeff Kendrick,  
Appointed – vacant,  
Elected – vacant

## Articles for The Viewfinder

THE VIEWFINDER is distributed at the first meeting of each month during the club year (and once, via mail, during the summer). All contributions of interest to photographers are welcomed.

The deadline for submitting articles is the first Monday of the month **prior** to publication (ie, articles submitted on October 1 will be published in November).

It is preferred that articles be sent via e-mail to **jdkphoto@aol.com**

## Membership Rates

Junior (ages 12-17) . . . \$5.00  
Individual . . . . . \$12.00  
Family . . . . . \$18.00

## Meeting Nights

The Bowie-Crofton Camera Club meets the first through fourth Monday nights of each month – September through May – in the Fellowship Hall of the All Saints Lutheran Church at US 301 and Mt. Oak Road in Bowie. Meetings begin at 7:30. Visitors are always welcome.

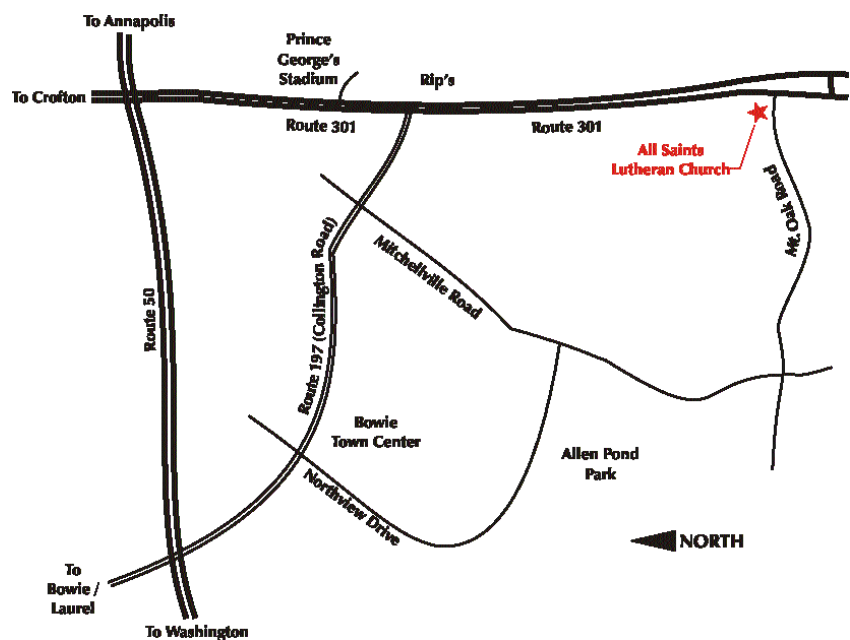
with the text directly in the body of the message. File attachments (MS Word, .txt, .rtf) are acceptable.

Photographs should be submitted electronically as uncompressed TIF or Bitmap (.BMP) files with a minimum size of 4"x6" at 200dpi. JPEG files are acceptable when they are compressed at a "high" quality setting.

Content submitted from other sources (ie, internet or periodicals) should include source information to provide credit to the author.

## Photographic Society of America (PSA)

The Bowie-Crofton Camera Club is a twenty-seven year member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA). Dick Whitley, a PSA Region Director and Chairman of the PSA Mid-Atlantic Chapter is Bowie's club representative to PSA. For information regarding PSA individual membership and events contact Dick Whitley (301) 899-6457 or e-mail whitleyr33@aol.com.



## Changes to the Competition Rules

*Continued from page 1*

This is to prevent the use of hand-drawn elements, either digital or analog, in competition entries. However, our intent is not to prevent the manipulation of color or brightness by hand but instead to prevent freehand artwork from being added to photographic images entered in competition.

The Executive Committee made the second change, that images may be entered at most two times, to reduce the number of times that an image is submitted for judging. We feel that this will prevent “viewer fatigue” and will promote the creation of new images. In the previous competition rules, an image could be submitted up to two times per division (monochrome print, color print, and slide). In the new rules, an image can never be entered more than twice, regardless of division. If the image receives a High Award (First, Second, or Third) in its first competition, it may not be re-entered. If the image receives an Honorable Mention, it may be re-entered but only in the same division. If the image did not receive any award points it may be re-entered in any division. However, in no case may an image be entered in competition more than twice.

In addition to these two major changes to the competition rules, the Executive Committee added a paragraph about the monthly competition descriptions. Paragraph 6 in the new competition rules (“Each photograph must conform...”) simply states what everyone who enters the competitions already knows: images entered in a competition must adhere to all rules and restrictions specified in the description for that competition. If the competition description states that no cats are allowed in an image then any images with cats entered in the competition will be disqualified. The descriptions of the monthly competitions are approved by the Executive Committee and are published in *The Viewfinder* newsletter during the summer before the club year begins in September.

I hope that everyone has enjoyed a wonderful, photographically satisfying summer. Please take a look at the revised competition rules on the B-CCC Web site (<http://bowiecroftoncameraclub.homestead.com>) as you prepare your images for competition. I look forward to seeing the fruits of your labors behind the lens in the coming club year.

## Photo Field Trips, 2003-2004 Season

*by Mark Laster, Photo Field Trip Captain*

For the season ahead, field trips are scheduled for the following dates, which are all “second Saturdays” except for the trip in November, which is on the first Saturday.

**October 11, 2003:** Cambridge, MD. This field trip can be done either on Saturday ONLY, or Saturday AND Sunday, depending upon our discussion on September 22. (see below for details)

**November 01, 2003:** people at play and work, at the OysterFest centering on Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels.

**March 13, 2004:** rushing water.

**April 10, 2004:** animals.

**May 08, 2004:** blooms or flowers.

As you can see in the list above, we're not planning photo field trips during December, January, or February, when poor road conditions are the most likely.

## Field Trip Discussion – September 22

*by Mark Laster, Photo Field Trip Captain*

The first photo field trip of the 2003-04 season will go to Cambridge, MD, on Saturday, October 11th. You'll be able to take part in it as a one-day trip, if you like, and if there's enough interest, there will be a continuation the following day.

To plan the “outer limits” of that trip, I'd like everyone who is thinking of taking part in the October photo field trip to join me for a short discussion, just after the regular program ends on September 22. The purpose of that discussion is to gauge the interest level for a two-day field trip that would start on Saturday, October 11, stay overnight in the Cambridge vicinity, and continue on October 12.

Cambridge is one of the oldest cities in Maryland, with a neighborhood of beautiful old houses, some museums, and a business district that displays a variety of 20th Century architectural styles.

Within 10 miles of Cambridge are the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, a 17th century graveyard, a 19th century tenant house and a one-room school, all of which provide photo opportunities.

If you miss the discussion on September 22, you'll still be welcome to take part in the field trip, but if you want to influence the planning, please attend the discussion.

## Photo Talk: This Year's Plan

### Second Monday to be Packed with Information

by Chris Hunt, VP Photo Talk

Photo Talk topic nights are the second Monday of each month. On these nights fellow club members share information on a photographic subject and participation from attending members to ask questions and contribute their knowledge is highly encouraged. In short it is a night for discussing photography!

#### The Schedule

The first Photo Talk night this year is October 13th. Scott Swanson, Competition VP, will discuss the rules for our monthly competitions and Thelma Loret de Mola will review and demonstrate competition mounting and matting requirements.

Shooting Locations is our November 10th topic with Jeff Kendrick discussing photographing New York City and subjects to photograph in cities in general. Ferrell McCullough will talk about landscape locations, Ed Duffy will tell us about places to find good people subjects and Bob Hall will tell us about National locations.

After the holidays we will resume on January 12th with a discussion on Filters with Bill Collins imparting his wisdom regarding filters used in color photography and David Hornick sharing his knowledge of what to use with black and white film.

On February 9th Marketa Ebert will share information on printers, including resolution, profiling and converting color to black and white.

Our March 8th topic, Lighting: Basics and Beyond, will be presented by Clarence Carvell.

Cameras and Lenses will be discussed on April 12th with fellow club members exhibiting the types of cameras and lenses they use, including digital and medium format.

## Exhibition: The National Road... a Photographic Journey by Clarence Carvell

**Where:** Howard County Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD

**When:** August 27 to September 30, 2003 (9 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday except holidays)

A selection of fifty photographs from the National Road Project, made to document the existing state of The National Road, (U.S. Route 40), from Baltimore, Maryland to Vandalia, Illinois. As the first federally funded highway, authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1806, the National Road, in its entirety, has recently been designated a National Heritage Site. These photographs, selected from a collection of over 7000 negatives, show examples of sites along the road that have been restored, in need of restoration or have been destroyed by fire or aggressive development. Sponsored in part by the Howard County Department of Education and by private interested parties.

A reception will be held on Friday, September 19 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

The May 10th "Season Finale" will be the well-received Slide Show workshop, coordinated by Dick Russell, where club members present their images in slide show format set to music and/or narration.

#### Member Showcase Gallery

In addition to these topics we will have a gallery showing of members' work every club meeting night except during competitions. A sign-up sheet will be on the table at the back of the room. Please sign up for a date to share your work with the rest of the club.

#### Meetings Will Start With Critique Session

Composition and photo critiques were the most highly requested topics from last year's survey. At the beginning of each Photo Talk night we will have a brief discussion of an aspect of composition and a critique of a few photographs. A separate category of photographs will be critiqued each month beginning with color and monochrome prints, then color slides, then digital images. The digital images night is for those members who want to bring in an image on a CD or floppy and have the image projected via the digital projector rather than make a print. However, a print can be made of a digital image and submitted on the color and monochrome print night. The images will be presented anonymously, unless you request otherwise, and the attending membership will discuss the pluses and minuses of your image.

Tables will be set up along the side of the meeting hall to drop off your slides and CDs and to display/discuss your prints before the meeting begins. Competition rules regarding mounting, matting and identification apply for all images. The schedule is as follows:

**Color and monochrome prints: 10/13/03, 2/9/04;**

**Color slides: 11/10/03, 3/8/04;**

**Digital: 1/12/04, 4/12/04.**

There will be no discussion on the Slide Show night.

## Competition Meeting: October 6.

### Unrestricted, Judge: Joe Miller

By Pete Banholzer, Competition Assistant

The first competition of the year is Unrestricted - images on any topic may be entered. In contrast to previous years digitally manipulated work can be submitted and will be subject to the same consideration as traditional or "straight" images.

The judge for this context will be Joe Miller. Joe is a member of the of the Manassas-Warrenton Camera Club and Northern Virginia Photographic Society and founded the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs to coordinate activities among area clubs. He has been a long time teacher of the importance of visual design in images and has written on a variety of photographic topics. In addition to teaching many classes he has also learned in particular from Freeman Patterson and will spend much of September in South Africa with him.

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## Using Other People's Work

Now that the club has cleared the way for the digital image-makers, it has also opened up a sort of Pandora's Box.

Last year, much to my dismay and of course several others as well, there appeared in competition, several entries which were clearly taken from stock imagery. This can be hard to control even though the rules clearly state the photo must have originated in camera and taken by the entrant. The line between camera and scanner has been crossed many times and it's doubtful these differences will ever be challenged. Using someone else's art however, regardless of the medium, is without question, a violation of the rules and cannot be interpreted in any other fashion. More than that, it is unquestionably a violation of the copyright laws.

The club has decided to take a hard line on future offenders. With so many members looking at so much commercial software, it's quite unlikely anyone could escape detection. If your membership in the club and your self respect mean anything to you, it might be wise to first consider the consequences.

A second order of competition business evolves around how much can an entrant add to an image before it becomes something more than a photograph. A simple explanation doesn't exist but it can be said that once you begin to create an extension to a photograph by painting, drawing or adding parts of an image that is not your own, then you have exceeded the limits as set forth by the rules.

## Digichrome vs. Ilfochrome

by Clarence Carvell

No one argues that digital printmaking is not here to stay.

Bowie-Crofton Camera Club, more than any other club in the area, has taken to digital printmaking in a big way. For some camera clubs, this has led to more problems than it has to growth. B-CCC has tried to take a somewhat open minded approach from the very beginning. As always however, when rules changes affect a member's perception of what it takes to win, there is always controversy. Winning is almost always based on one person's opinion, the judges, which is frequently one of high subjectivity and frequently self-serving. Good camera clubs are based on craft, not on competition and on the objective evaluation of ones own work and the work of others in the club.

When it comes to digital, there are certainly arguments on both sides of the court, for traditional and for digital printmaking. The traditional print makers have long felt at a disadvantage because of the tools the digital print-makers have at their disposal.

The club, in recent years, has tried to accommodate both venues by regulating the amount of computer manipulation allowable before printing, which has worked to some extent. The digital printmaker however, cannot grow under such constraints. If we accept the argument that digital printmaking is definitely here to stay, then changes in the rules were necessary to remove those constraints, either to sponsor a separate competition on a monthly basis or to somehow 'deregulate' manipulation.

Head to head, a good darkroom printer will always have the advantage in as much as a good Ilfochrome or print from negative is still far superior to a digichrome. That said, it is also true that the constraints placed on manipulation severely limits the growth of the digital printmaker, which ultimately affects the darkroom printer as well by removing some of the best competition. Anyone who has been in the club for a while and watches the competitions closely, will know that most of the regular winners, even digital, come from a strong darkroom background. Good judges are quick to recognize the difference. That may change as digital photographer/printmakers become more skilled in the art but in the meantime, everyone will agree that for a good

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## Club to Award Photography Grants \$2000 Available for Photographic Explorations

*Have you been club member for more than a year?*

*Are you serious about improving your photographic skills?*

*Could you use a little extra money to accomplish this?*

The Bowie-Crofton Camera Club may have just the program for you! Since the 1998-99 club year, B-CCC has had up to \$2000 per year to give away in the form of grants. Provided as a gift to the club, the funds are intended to be used to award grants to photographers who displayed enthusiasm for photography and a desire to improve their skills.

All club members are encouraged to apply for a Grant Award. Money provided by the grant may be used for a wide variety of purposes: coursework (college courses, workshops, etc.); equipment or expenses related to the coursework (books, babysitting costs to allow time for course attendance, travel expenses, etc.); equipment to pursue improved photographic activities; research into new, experimental, or unusual photographic techniques. These examples are not intended to be all inclusive. Applicants are asked to be creative in suggesting uses that will help them meet their photographic goals.

Applications are accepted through the end of October and awards are announced at the club's Holiday Dinner. Written applications are accepted through the end of October and must address the following points:

- For what will the grant be used?
- When and where will the funds be expended?
- What benefits will be derived by the applicant?
- What benefit will be derived by the Bowie-Crofton Camera Club? (Refer to "demonstrate, to the B-CCC membership, the benefit gained..." described below.)

Other supporting information may be included in the written application. Any financial information that you wish to provide or that the panel asks you to provide will be held in strict confidence.

In addition to the written application, several other requirements must be met. The applicant must:

- be a member in good standing of B-CCC with a consistent record of attendance for at least a year.
- have demonstrated a desire to improve their photographic skills.

- be willing to submit to an interview by the panel.
- provide receipts acceptable to the panel to verify grant expenditures.
- demonstrate, to the B-CCC membership, the benefit gained in the form of a presentation at a regular monthly meeting or at the Holiday Dinner or in another form acceptable to the panel.

All members are encouraged to apply to:  
B-CCC, PO Box 515, Bowie, MD 20718-0515  
(ATTN: Grant Panel)

## Digital vs. Ilfochrome Printmaking

*continued from page 5*

judge, it's the subject that makes the photograph work. Going into the new year, all constraints on digital printing have been removed; in fact the word 'digital' has been removed from the rules entirely. This will not come as good news for some of the hard core darkroom printers but the reality is, it can only make the club better, more competitive, slightly ahead of the curve so to speak and open to a whole new class of camera enthusiasts.

It's not unlikely that we will see the elimination of commercial printing of images in competition within the next year or two and a much greater emphasis placed on content. It's also possible that we could see the removal of any class distinction since Elements, Photoshop or at least some other kind of digital manipulating software is on nearly every new computer.

## B-CCC Connects with the Community

### Annual Show at Bowie City Hall

*by Ann Krumrein*

Traditionally, during the month of November, the Bowie-Crofton Camera Club has the distinct honor of exhibiting photographs at Bowie City Hall. We have been asked to show again in November 2003.

All prints will be welcome and will be collected, framed and ready for hanging early in the new club year. Listen for announcements at club meetings. We need volunteers to collect prints and to assist with hanging / takedown.

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community and attract those photographers who are looking for a place to further their interest in photography.

## 2003-04 Schedule of Events

### September 2003

- 15 Program – Art Opportunities by Valerie Watson of Maryland National Park & Planning Commission
- 22 How-to – Techniques from the Winners of the 2002-'03 End of Year Competition
- 29 No Meeting Scheduled

### October

- 6 Competition – Slide Topic: Unrestricted; Judge: Joe Miller
- 11 Field Trip – Cambridge, MD (planning for overnight trip to be September 22)
- 13 Photo Talk – Review/discussion of club competition rules by Scott Swanson; Slide mounting for greater impact with Thelma Loret de Mola
- 20 Program – Macro / Close-up by Fred Siskind
- 27 How-to – Care and Feeding of computers, scanners, printers, and digital cameras

### November

- 1 Field Trip – OysterFest at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, St. Michaels, MD
- 3 Competition – Slide Topic: Macro / Close-ups Judge: John Boretos
- 10 Photo Talk – Shooting Locations: Local and National Spots for Interesting Subjects
- 17 Program – Going Back to School by Mike Bryant of the Sackler / Freer Gallery
- 24 How-to – Portraiture: Getting it Right the First Time by Richard Rohlfing

### December

- 1 Competition – Slide Topic: Shadows and Silhouettes; Judge: TBD
- Holiday Social, (schedule will be revised & posted on-line when date and time are determined.)

### January 2004

- 5 Competition – Slide Topic: Portraits; Judge Don Becker
- 12 Photo Talk – Filters: Enhancing Color and Black & White Images
- 19 Program – Travel Photography by Richard Robinson
- 26 How-to – 50 Fast Photoshop Techniques by Clarence Carvell

### February

- 2 Competition – Topic: Travel (*ALL images must conform*); Judge: Libby Cullen
- 9 Photo Talk – Printers: How to Print *THE* Shot
- 16 Program – Photojournalism by Doug Kapustin of the Baltimore Sun
- 23 How-to – Tried and Proven Methods of Making Winning Flower Photographs by Suzanne Klick

### March

- 1 Competition – Slide Topic: Red, White & Blue (Advanced images **MUST NOT** include the American Flag, all others may do so); Judge: Dick Sprott
- 8 Photo Talk – Lighting: Beyond the Basics
- 13 Field Trip – Rushing Water
- 15 Program – Flower Photography by Jim and Mary Stagner
- 22 How-to – Tools and Techniques of the Macro Photographer by Martha Jacobs & Miles Smith

### April

- 5 Competition – Slide Topic: Nature (ALL Novice entries must conform); Judge: Tim Edberg
- 10 Field Trip – Animals
- 12 Photo Talk – Cameras and Lenses: What's Available & What We Use
- 19 Program – TBD
- 26 How-to – Getting Along in the Digital World by Gunther Miller

### May

- 3 Competition – Slide Topic: Unrestricted; Judge: Frank van Riper
- 8 Field Trip – Blooms and Flowers
- 10 Photo Talk – Slide Show Workshop Presentations
- 17 Program – TBD
- 24 How-to – Working in the Dark by Ed Pastula

### June

End of Year Dinner, (schedule will be revised & posted on-line when date and time are determined.)

Topics and speakers are subject to change. When possible, changes will be posted on the club web site ([www.bowiecroftoncameraclub.homestead.com](http://www.bowiecroftoncameraclub.homestead.com))

## President's Comments

### *Another Club Year Starting*

by Roz Kleffman

The Executive Committee did a great job this summer in preparing the calendar of events. I know that everyone will be very happy with the new line-up for club year "2003-04". There is a new list of programs and topics that should please everyone. The field trips have been streamlined to get a wider group of people attending.

Be sure to get a copy of the competition rules. A few changes have been made and you will need to read them over before the October competition. There will be an article in this edition of The Viewfinder describing some of the changes. Please look for it.

Batting 4th is Clarence Carvell. Don't remember voting him in office? Clarence is our pinch hitter for the (recovering) Richard Rohlfing. As you may know, Richard had open heart surgery in June. He is recuperating well. Clarence has agreed to help out as needed. This is business as usual for Clarence. He has helped out in many club capacities. Thanks Clarence. Richard attended the last executive meeting and looked very well. Keep up the good work Richard.

Did you catch that baseball term? Guess what I did a lot of this summer? I hope the warm summer days gave you the perfect pictures. I took a few shots at the Bowie Baysox games. I am anxious to see what everyone has been doing this summer. Hope you captured that perfect photo. Let's make this the BEST club year ever.

## PSA International Club Slide Competition

Bowie-Crofton will compete in Group B during the 2003-04 PSA International Club Slide Competition. I hope that more members will get involved during the coming year. The first competition will be in October and I would like to collect slides on September 15, but absolutely no later than September 22. They must be received by the judging club no later than October 1. Contact Dick Whitley for more details.

## The Viewfinder

### Bowie-Crofton Camera Club

PO Box 515

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**Wow, that is a lot of text to read!!!** The Viewfinder needs some photographs, or better yet **your** feature article accompanied by **your** photographs. Have a topic you know a little something about, did you take an interesting trip over the summer, or do some photographic experimentation? We want to read about it and see the results in The Viewfinder!

PPC:REC:AR

08/03