



The Viewfinder

Bowie-Crofton Camera Club • Volume 23, Number 11 • Summer 2004

SUMMER SNAPSHOT

Annual Pig Out
Sunday September 5 at 4PM in
Mt. Airy, MD
page 3

Meetings Resume
The 2004-05 club
year will begin
on September 20.

President's Comments

by Roz Kleffman

The camera club meetings may be on vacation for the summer BUT I promise you that there has been lots of summer activities for club members. The executive board has met twice to prepare the upcoming schedule for 2004-2005 season. The list of upcoming programs is very interesting.

We said our good-byes to Gene and Jeannette Duffy as they packed up their Crofton location and moved to their permanent Florida location. After 25 years in Crofton, they have decided that Florida is the place to be. They packed and packed and could not squeeze one more thing into the wagon. B-CCC was the real winner as they donated many items to the club. All items will be sold at reasonable prices. A full list will be available in the September VF. If you are interested in slide carousels, camera bags, camera gadgets etc., call me. Advance sales are in the process. I spotted some classic B-CCC bean bags – a real collectors item.

I look forward to seeing everyone in September. Keep clicking...

Consider Moving Up In Competition

Self-promotion May Be Rewarding (or Awarding)

by Scott Swanson, VP Competitions

The monthly photography competition has become one of the most popular aspects of the B-CCC. As the club has grown, the number of members participating in the Novice class has skyrocketed. Unfortunately, participation in the Advanced class has been uneven. The ranks of active Advanced competitors actually declined from the previous club year.

The B-CCC competition is divided into six categories based on the type of photography (the "division") and the skill level of the competitor (the "class"). There are three divisions (Monochrome Print, Color Print, and Slide) and two classes (Novice and Advanced). Three divisions and two classes per division produces the six competition categories (e.g. Novice Monochrome Print and Advanced Slide). A photographer can be Novice in one division and Advanced in another division. The competition rules of the B-CCC include a section entitled "Novice/Advanced Rule" (section 2) that explains the role class plays in competitions.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2004

5 Pig Out

Annual Club Year Kick-off at the home of Miles Smith and Gail Phillips in Mt. Airy, MD *see page 3*

20 Opening Night (Program)

The club year opens with our first program.

27 How-to

What I photographed this summer. Bring your best images from your summer outings. *see page 3*

OCTOBER 2004

4 Competition

Topic: Unrestricted. Images from anytime, anywhere.

Dues are now due. Have you paid your dues for the '04-'05 Club Year? Pay now so that you are eligible for the opening competition in October.

Are you participating an exhibit? Are you looking to buy or sell photographic equipment? Let club members know about it – submit it to The Viewfinder.

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Member Photographic Society of America
since 1977

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Field Trip Captain VACANT

GRANT PANEL (2004-05)

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 the November newsletter).

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

the text directly in the body of the message. File attachments (MS Word, .txt, .rtf) are acceptable, but not preferred.

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.

Membership Rates

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

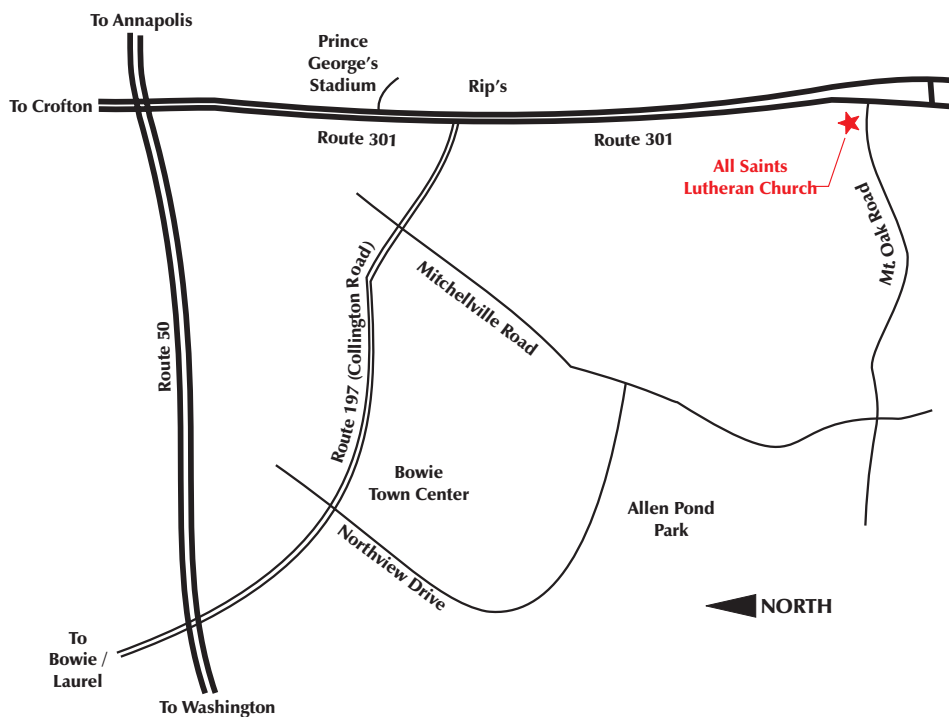
Meeting Nights

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.

Photographic Society of America

The Bowie-Crofton Camera Club has been a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) since 1977. Dick Whitley, a PSA Region Director, is B-CCC's representative to PSA.

For information regarding the benefits of a PSA individual membership and for PSA-sponsored events contact Dick Whitley (301) 899-6457 or e-mail whitleyr33@aol.com.



Help B-CCC Compete in PSA Competition *Slides Needed at, or Before, First Meeting Night*

by Dick Whitley, PSA Representative

The Bowie-Crofton Camera Club has completed the 2003-04 International Club Slide Competition sponsored by the Photographic Society of America. The competition included seven groups comprised of 111 PSA member clubs. Bowie competed in Group B, the second highest, and finished tenth among the twenty clubs in the Group. Our final standing will place us in Group B again during the 2004-05 competition year.

During the past year, B-CCC had one slide receive an Award of Merit. Among the 480 images judged during the competition year, twenty images judged received an Award of Merit and they will now compete for the "Slide of the Year" award. Bowie will be represented by Dick Whitley's slide Painted Vase With Flowers.

As the PSA representative, I want to thank all of the club members who participated by submitting slides for the competitions. Regardless of whether your slides were selected for competition or not, your effort to represent B-CCC in an international competition is sincerely noted. I am concerned, however, about our participation in the 2004-05 competition year. As more of our members convert to digital imaging, it is becoming more difficult to get member participation with slides. I personally find it very strange, however,

that one of, if not, the largest camera club in the Washington, DC metropolitan area with approximately 180 members cannot have better participation in submitting twenty-four good, strong slides during an eight month period. We submit six images in October, December, February and April.

If you are unfamiliar with the competitions, they should be color slides; all subjects are eligible; they do not have to be new slides; you do not have to be a PSA member because this is a PSA Club competition. Although slides dupes are recommended, they are not required. Slides are generally returned from the judging club in approximately three weeks.

These competitions offer you an opportunity to find out how your images will do against those of photographers through out the United States, Canada and several European countries. If you have additional questions, contact me Dick Whitley, (301) 899-6457 or e-mail: whitleyr33@aol.com . Since Bowie's next club meeting will not be until September 20 and our images must arrive at judging club by the 1st of October, I must receive your images at or before our first meeting. I will accept as many slides as you want to submit.

Bowie has risen from Group E to Group B during the past several years. I am hopeful that during the 2004-05 year, we can finish in one of the top five positions and for the first time ever move into Group A.

BCCC Annual Picnic

Club Year to Kick Off With Labor Day Social

Come one! Come All! Come to the annual B-CCC end of summer- beginning of the club year picnic. Once again, this year it will be held at the home of Miles and Gail Smith on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 5, 2004 from 4PM until ???

Plan to bring with you a dish to share, as well as up to 30 slides to share at the after supper slide show. The house is air conditioned, so don't worry about the weather.

There are dogs and cats, however, so if you have allergies, be forewarned.

To coordinate food, etc. please RSVP to Miles and Gail at 301-829-1972 or gail.m.phillips@adelphia.net. Directions are printed on page 6 of this newsletter.

Please mark your calendars now for this wonderful, annual, B-CCC event. We hope to see you all there!

How-To Meetings Early in the Year

by Clarence Carvell, VP for How-to

September 27 – Things I Shot This Summer

Bring up to five slides or prints, any subject, but must have been done since the June banquet. Be prepared to talk about the work. Mounting and marking rules apply. Also, Clarence and Scott will be going over competition rules for 2004-2005 as there have been some changes. The competition committee has the right to reject any work not conforming to the rules.

October – 50 Fast Photoshop Techniques

How To - Fourth Monday in October. Clarence Carvell and Dick Russell will again present, by popular demand, their Fifty Fast Photoshop Techniques, with Version 8 updates. The workbook and shortcuts guide will be made available free to BCCC members in attendance.

***DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR THE
UPCOMING YEAR. BRING A CHECK TO A MEETING
OR MAIL IT TO THE CLUB PO BOX.***

Thoughts for Upcoming Competitions

Too Many in Novice, Too Few in Advanced

continued from page 1

Section 2 states that a Novice competitor with 8 High awards (1st, 2nd, or 3rd place) or 15 awards of any kind (High or Honorable Mention) in a division in the previous two club years will be “promoted” to the Advanced class in that division. The Novice winner of the “Class Photographer of the Year” award in each division is also promoted to the Advanced class in that division. The purpose of these rules is to recognize the progress of Novice photographers by promoting them to the Advanced class in divisions in which they show excellence. In past club years, class promotion has served to keep the Novice classes from growing too large and the Advanced classes from growing too small.

The number of class promotions based on awards (not “Class Photographer of the Year”) has dropped substantially in recent club years. This is due primarily to the growing number of competitors in the Novice classes. More competitors leads to more entries, and more entries leads to a lower probability of an award (especially a High award). The current competition rules were originally developed when the B-CCC was much smaller. As currently written, the rules provided a rewarding competition experience for club members for many years.

However, the club, specifically the Novice classes of competitors, has grown much larger in the last couple of years. This success has put strains on the current class promotion rules. Attrition from the Advanced class

(due mainly to photographers moving to more business-oriented photographic pursuits) has outstripped the rate of promotion of Novices to the Advanced class. This has led to the current situation of large Novice classes and very small Advanced classes. For the first time in several club years, we had mini-competitions (fewer than nine entries) in some Advanced categories.

The Executive Committee of the B-CCC is reviewing some possible rules changes to address balance between Novice and Advance class sizes. The competition rules are well-constructed and have produced rewarding competition experiences for many years. They may require, however, some “tweaking” to accommodate the growing size of competition participation. Please don’t be alarmed – “tweaking” means changing some numbers (e.g. 8 High awards to 7 High awards) not rewriting the rules from scratch.

Section 2 of the competition rules also states that a Novice competitor may promote himself to the Advanced class at any time. Please remember, however, that you cannot “demote” yourself from Advanced to Novice class without the consent of the Executive Committee of the B-CCC.

So, for those of you Novice class competitors who are waiting for the rules to promote you, don’t wait! The class promotion rules were written when the B-CCC was much smaller and do not seem to function as well now that the club has grown quite large. If you have several awards in the Novice class in a division, now is the time to promote yourself to the Advanced class of that division.

End-of-Year Dinner – A Real Record Breaker

By Thelma Loret de Mola

I knew you could do it! We had the all-time turnout of 68 members and guests at our closing dinner. What’s more, we had a good showing of new members. They deserve kudos for entering into a party of, for the most part for them, strangers. On the other hand, our membership is known for its friendliness and from what I heard from a couple of “newbies,” we lived up to our reputation.

The food was up to its usual deliciousity, too. In fact, Ann Krumrein’s recipe for broccoli salad has already been passed along to two people. And who did the chicken with that yellow sauce? We need that recipe, too. Speaking for myself, I had two go-arounds on Richard Rohlfing’s Sewer Casserole. I still think we should be putting together a B-CCC recipe book-right Gail? And speaking of Gail Phillips, how about the job she did on those chocolate cameras!

Another record-breaking event that night was the swearing in of the new slate of officers: the same bunch as before. As Roz pointed out earlier, this is the first time all of the officers re-upped. Bravos all around! And more bravos to the final photos. The talent in our club is awesome. What a learning experience to study the works of our members.

Now it’s time to do it all again to open the new club year. Let’s pack Miles’ and Gail’s house to the rafters. Check the info elsewhere in this Viewfinder. I’m going for another chocolate camera!

Slide Show Workshop

Tips to Plan Your Show for Our Annual Presentation

by Dick Russell

A lot of pictures are taken through the summer and fall months. What will we do with them all? After their first review, I suppose that many will never again see the light of day. Hopefully, those in the discard pile have, at least, taught us some lessons that will improve our future shoots. Of the keepers, some will be suitable for monthly competitions. Those are generally the ones that make an immediate high impact that will be recognized by a judge who is faced with more than a hundred images and little time. Then there are those that are equally as good but show better when displayed with other images to form a body of work. If they are lucky, these pictures may be shown once to family or friends before being stashed away in the closet.

But there is an alternative for some of these story telling groups of pictures. Organizing your images into a coherent collection and synchronizing them to music and/or narration can lead to an entertaining show for your viewers and a rewarding experience as you share your work with the rest of the club in the form of a slide show. As of now, this opportunity is available for your slide film and, if a computer and digital projector become available, print film or digital images could also be used. In any event, start thinking about joining the annual slide show workshop for the coming year's presentation.

The workshop will cover the topic of constructing the show. Before that, you will need a collection of slides from which to build a story ("story" is loosely interpreted to mean the theme linking the images).

So for now, let me offer some thoughts to ponder while you are out there taking pictures. A good starting point is to consider about ten slides per minute of show time. Remember that you will want to have images that visually flow from one to another. Pay attention to the use of filters. A single polarized image (read deep blue sky) may not mix well in the midst of similar scenes with light blue skies. Typically, it is more comfortable to change gradually from one such characteristic to another.

Similarly, it is preferable to avoid frequent switching between horizontal and vertical presentations. It is good to be able to group at least three of the same orientation. Many scenes can be nicely composed as either horizontal or vertical. Capturing both will give you more options when it comes time to assemble a show.

When taking a series of shots to be used together, use the marks in the viewfinder to help position objects in favorable places to make a smooth segue from one image to the next. Example: In a series of shots with a horizon line, if it is compositionally acceptable, keep the horizons at about the same place. This allows movement from one slide to the next without bouncing the viewer's eyes.

Take many more pictures than you think you will need. This will give a better opportunity to flow from one set of colors to another or from mountain peaks to valleys. You may want some intermediate images to help you move from compositions with rocks on the left to those with rocks on the right. If you are trying to capture the mood of a place, take time to pick up some local music that could be used in the background.

Consider building a slide show for presentation to the club at the end of the year. Workshops will be held at various times of the year to help you along the way. Decide early to give yourself enough time to shoot needed images, select music and compose your show.

"SOMETHING TO SHOOT FOR"

• 2004-05 Competitions Topics

- **October 4:** Unrestricted – any topic, any subject, any time.
- **November 1:** Textures – images must contain texture(s) as the important compositional element.
- **December 6:** Food – prepared, raw, or in its natural state.
- **January 3:** Photojournalism – entries must be storytelling images where the activity itself is the theme. No manipulation of the image either digitally or in-camera is allowed.
- **February 7:** Travel – Images must capture the feeling of a place or portray a place, a people, or a culture, and be made more than 50 miles from the Bowie-Crofton area. All entries must conform to this theme.
- **March 7:** In-Camera Experimentation – the subjects are unrestricted but the image must be obviously manipulated with the camera. Manipulation by image processing software to create effects is not allowed. Techniques may include, but are not limited to, timed exposures, panning, zooming, multiple exposures, infrared film, and filters.
- **April 4:** Nature – the image must portray aspects of natural plants or animal life in a living state. Natural land and sea features and natural phenomena are included. No evidence of the hand of man is acceptable. No manipulation of the image, either in-camera or digitally, is permitted. All novice entries and advanced slide entries must conform to this theme.
- **May 2:** Unrestricted – Any subject, any place, any time.

Directions to the Labor Day Picnic at Miles and Gail's house

- *Take I-70 to Rt. 94 or Rt. 27. These are west of Columbia, but east of Frederick.*
- *Take either route north to Gillis Falls Road. If on Rt. 94 (Woodbine Road) go about 3 miles and turn left. If you're on Rt. 27, I don't know the mileage!*
- *Turn right off of Rt. 27, onto Gillis Falls Rd.*
- *When you see the Mt. Olive Methodist Church at the top of a hill, turn onto Cabbage Springs Rd.*
- *Go just a little ways on Cabbage Springs to Sommersby (entrance to Dove's Landing).*
- *Our street, Mt. Olive Ct, is the only turn off of Sommersby.*
- *We're the 2nd house on the left (white with green shutters and lots of porch).*
- *Park in the driveway or along the street in front of the house.*
- *Phone: (301) 829-1972*

Share Your Knowledge!!!
Submit Articles and Photos to The Viewfinder.
Help Your Camera Club!!!
Lead a Field Trip to a Favorite Photo Destination.

The Viewfinder

Bowie-Crofton Camera Club
P.O. Box 515
Bowie, Maryland 20718-0515

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FIELD TRIP CAPTAIN NEEDED.

B-CCC is still looking for people to plan and lead Field Trips for the coming year.
Do you have a favorite place to shoot? Lead a field trip there. Contact Roz Kleffman