



Southern Exposure

Southern Exposure
Southland Photographic Society
<http://www.southlandphotographicsociety.com>

PO Box 911, Invercargill

February 2009

Meetings held in the Scout Assn Rooms in Wood St, Invercargill at 7.30pm on the first & third Thursday of each month.

Start-of-Year Promotional Meeting : 29 January



7.30 pm: In the Arcacia Rooms at the Central Baptist Rooms at 11 Deveron Street

The start of the year is a Promotional Evening - bring your friends and partners too. Supper is provided - this will give you time to talk to

different people in the Club, ask questions etc.

Supper Roster

5 February:	Dawn	Keith
19 February:	Eric	Valerie

A Gold Coin donation to help defray costs would be appreciated.

February Meetings

A Message from our President - Val

In 2010 the Southland Photographic Society celebrates its 70th anniversary. One of the things we plan to do to celebrate is to hold a major exhibition of members' work with the theme ... a year in the life of Invercargill. It would therefore be great if each of our members would ensure they make some wonderful images of Invercargill over 2009 so we ensure every member has at least one of their images in the exhibition. We will be looking for something just a little bit different - something a bit creative - something taken from a slightly different angle, using creative depth of field, perhaps a slow shutter speed to capture some movement...Consider what Invercargill means to you - what you feel about it and get out and photograph what you see and feel.

This could become your photographic theme for 2009. Perhaps you'd like to join up with someone else and go out and take photos together? We will probably plan some specific activities for people to attend, but in the meantime get out there and start clicking.

Val Wardell

Please Remember!

Would all Members please bring back their cups/trophies to the first meeting (Feb 5) to allow your name to be engraved on the item. Thanks!

Sunday Saunters

22 February - meet at Feldwick Gates of Queen's Park at 4pm. Bring something to eat - we'll make a decision on the day where we're going. We're hoping to catch the sunset somewhere!

PLEASE NOTE TIME!!

Patron: Neil McCallum

Office Bearers:

Immediate Past President : Kevin Tyree
President: Val Wardell
Vice President: Rosemary McGeachie
Secretary: Liz Sharp
Treasurer: Rodney Adamson
Committee Members: Alan King, Chris Duggan, Paul Ruzsa, Stuart Malcolm, Anne Diack
Editor: Rosemary McGeachie
r.mcgeachie@xtra.co.nz

5 February

Close off ABC Open Competition (1) - see definition of 'Open Competition' later in Newsletter.

Photo of the Month (POM). This entails showing (print or Digital Image) one of your recent photos, with you talking about it - why you like it, why you took it.

Member's Moment: Paul Ruzsa

Photo Tip: Alan King

Competition Rules Explained: Val Wardell & Others

19 February

Close off N/H & PJ Competition (1) - see definition of 'Natural History & Photojournalism Competition' later in Newsletter.

Eduational: Exposure - The Zone System. Eric Miller

Members Moment: Rosemary McGeachie

Photo Tip: Val Wardell

Intro to - Long Exposure: Chris Duggan



Some Definitions!

OPEN (OP) (Pictorial or ABC) A graded competition (AB&C Grades)

There are no limits to subject matter for images in the open section. The emphasis is on interest, visual impact, composition, and technical excellence. Images are not confined to any particular subject, type, or style of photography and include scenery, close-ups, buildings, portraits, glassware and still-life. Special techniques are also allowed, and include unlimited digital and darkroom manipulation.

Note: Three entries allowed from C Grade entrants, Two only from each B & A Grade entrant (this is a change from last year).

NATURAL HISTORY (NH) A Graded Competition (AB&C Grades)

Natural History photography depicts living, untamed animals and uncultivated plants in a natural habitat, geology and the wide diversity of natural phenomena, from insects to icebergs. Photographs of animals that are domesticated, caged or under any form of restraint, as well as photographs of cultivated plants are ineligible. Minimal evidence of humans is acceptable for nature subjects, such as leg bands for wild birds, buildings with barn owls or storks, or natural forces, like hurricanes or tidal waves, or earthquake damage. Natural History excludes anthropology and archaeology.

Artificially produced plants or animals, mounted specimens or obviously set arrangements, will not be eligible. Only basic manipulation is allowed as defined below.

After satisfying the above requirements, every effort should be made to ensure the highest level of artistic skill in all nature photographs.

Correct identification of subject is strongly recommended. The use of the scientific, Maori or native and/or common names should be used wherever possible. Cute, humorous or other such titles will not be accepted.

Note: Three entries allowed from C Grade entrants, Two only from each B & A Grade entrant (this is a change from last year).

PHOTOJOURNALISM (PJ) An Open Competition (No Grades)

Photojournalism is about capturing story telling images as they happen. Emphasis should be given to life in our world. The theme of people and their environment should be used although people are not essential ie a shot the day after a house fire, if well taken, can still tell the

essential tale. An image should be able to stand alone and tell its story without a title but if carefully chosen a title can often add to its impact.

Photojournalism often consists of human interest and portrays people in everyday situations. Here one tries to record body language, facial expressions, and a range of emotions. Good timing is essential, and one should strive to catch the key moment in any action/activity.

In photojournalism the technique, composition, and lighting (although important) remain secondary to the story.

Photojournalism images must not misrepresent the truth, so only basic manipulation is allowed as defined below, and events recorded may not be set up by the photographer.

NOTE: Most images may be improved by a judicious amount of Basic Manipulation. This manipulation is permissible for all images in any Division. Basic Manipulation allows cropping and moderate use of:

- Colour correction · Contrast adjustments
- Saturation adjustments · Sharpening
- Dodging / Burning · Removal of scratches or dust spots

To see more on SPS Competition Rules - go to:

<http://homepage.mac.com/southlandps/page3/files/SPS%20Championship%20Rules.pdf>

2009 Programme (first three months)

Feb 5

Close A B C Open Competition (1)

POM

Speaker:
Members Moment, Photo Tip, Competition Rules explained

Feb 19

Close N/H & PJ Competition (1)

Educational - Exposure - The Zone System

Members Moment, Photo Tip, Intro to - Depth of Field

Mar 5

Judges Portfolio: Barry Smith (Open Projected Image Judge)

Getting to know your camera, Photo Tip, Intro to - Depth of Field

Mar 19

What is it? Come along and see.

SS Long Exposure

Speaker/Presentation

Photo Tip, Intro to - Freeze Frame

April 2

Close A B C Open Competition (2) Results ABC (1)

Photo Tip, Intro to - Close up/Macro Photography

Apr 16

Close N/H & PJ Competition (2) Results N/H & PJ Entries (1)

Photo Tip, Members Moment, Intro to - Flash Photography

Note:

SS = Set Subject
POM = Photo of the Month
PJ = Photojournalism
NH = Natural History
ABC = Grades for open competitions

Photo of the Month & Set Subject - up to 2 prints/projected images may be entered to be discussed or judged by popular vote on the night. POM must be recent work. Entrants for all competitions except for Set Subject & Photo of the Month must be financial members. Refer to the Rule Book for information on these competitions.

The US Navy found they had too many officers and decided to offer an early retirement bonus. They promised any officer who volunteered for retirement a bonus of \$1,000 for every inch measured in a straight line between any two parts in his body. The officer got to choose what those two parts would be.

The first officer who accepted asked that he be measured from the top of his head to the tip of his toes. He was measured at six feet and walked out with a bonus of \$72,000.

The second officer who accepted was a little smarter and asked to be measured from the tip of his outstretched hands to his toes. He walked out with \$96,000. The third one was a noncommissioned officer, a grizzled old Chief who, when asked where he would like to be measured replied, 'From the tip of my prick to my testicles.'

It was suggested by the pension man that he might want to reconsider, explaining about the nice big cheques the previous two officers had received. But the old Chief insisted and they decided to go along with him providing the measurement was taken by a Medical Officer.

The Medical Officer arrived and instructed the Chief to 'drop 'em,' which he did. The medical officer placed the tape measure on the tip of the Chief's penis and began to work back. 'Omigosh' he suddenly exclaimed, 'Where are your testicles?' The old Chief calmly replied, 'Vietnam'.

Sizing your images (in Photoshop):
for entry in any digital competition:

Photoshop - Image - Image size -
Pixel dimensions box

- Maximum width is 1024 pixels
- Maximum height is 768 pixels
- Save as .jpg file (maximum quality)
- Name files as follows:
 - 1 - Competition category (Open, P/J, NHx)
 - 2 - Grade (AB or C Grade)
 - 3 - Title of image
 - 4 - image file suffix must be .jpg

Send image as an attachment, with author's name in the text of the email, to southlandps@mac.com

ie: Dear Paul
Here's my winning entry,
Dawn

Images attached will have a title like:

open-a-perfect sunset.jpg

So you're going out to take a pic or two! (Some things to think about...)

If you are taking photos of your family and holidays - I'm really pleased to hear that. But what are you going to do with the file (I'm making the assumption here that you've got a digital camera!)? I hope you are going to get them printed out and give them to various members of the family - or at least send the files to the family and they can print them themselves. You COULD put your AV skills into action here... And get a memorable result (this would give the family lots of laughs and memories).

Are you taking photos because you just want to (and like what you are looking at)? Even better. Lots of great photos are 'happy accidents'. Don't knock it!

Now don't let me put you off - but if you are thinking about entering Club competitions, there are a few things to keep in mind when you take your camera out. Start out by reading a little around the various categories - Open, Natural History, Photojournalism. There are some fairly easy rules around manipulation of photos for competition that you need to be aware of. See some of these elsewhere in the Newsletter or SPS website.

Some questions you should ask yourself to begin with. What's your subject? Keep this in mind when working - sometimes we put so much 'junk' in that the subject gets overwhelmed. What are you interested in? This will help you decide your subject (it's funny, but if you are really interested in something it shows!).

Have you thought about DOF (Depth of Field) - do you want the whole picture to be sharp? Do you just want the 'subject' to be sharp in a blurred foreground/background (remember, you are the artist here)? Note to oneself - check out on how to change DOF - think about aperture, shutter

speed. Slow speeds can make interesting photos.

What sort of light suits your topic? Where is the sun? Do you need to move yourself to a more favourable lighting aspect? Is it after dark? What about a tripod? Would a flash be helpful? Could you use natural lighting to it's best advantage?

How are you placed in comparison to your subject? Are you high enough? Can you go lower? Are you close enough (macro stuff gives a whole new perspective of very common things)?

Have you thought about panning? That can give a really good impression of speed done well.

What about different lenses. Are you using all you have available to you? Are you able to borrow someone else's? What's a good portrait lens (and why)? Have you played with a fisheye, or a Lensbaby?

Do you use your feet? Can you get closer? Or further away?

Are you being 'creative' enough? Vaseline has been suggested... That reminds me of a story I could tell you! Hairspray could be used smeared on an old filter. Have you tried 'zooming' your lens?

BUT - best of all - you're going out to take some pics. That's just great - let's see what you have when you get home! There could be a competition winner there. I hope so.

Rosemary McGeachie

Photoshop Tip

Centring Dragged Layers The Easy Way

When dragging a layer from one document to another, the object will appear in the new document at the point your cursor was when you released the mouse button. If you'd prefer that the layer appear perfectly centred within the other document, just hold the Shift key as you drag, and when you release the mouse button, the object will be perfectly centred.

Sizing your images (in Irfanview):
for entry in any digital competition:

- Download Irfanview & Plugins from <http://www.irfanview.com/>
- Install
- File - Open your pic
- Image - Resize/Resample
- DPI (at bottom of page on left) - 72
- Set new size - top of page on left - Width OR Height for longest side - 1024
- Tick - Preserve aspect ratio - 2 boxes above DPI
- OK - Bottom of page on left
- File - Save as - Save as a JPEG and give a new file name to prevent confusion
- Be careful WHERE you save this file (you can lose it quite easily)
- Continue as Photoshop instructions from 'Name files as follows' (See above).

What's On in Southland

NB: Your Newsletter Editor would appreciate info to put in this column each month. Emails most welcome!

31Jan-1 Feb: Edendale Crankup Day

13-20 Feb: Shakespeare in the Park: A Midsummer Night's Dream - Hawthorne Gardens

15 Feb: Surf to City Fun Run - Invercargill

21 Feb: Hokonui Moonshiners Festival in Gore

21/22Feb: Leitch Motorsport at Teretonga

22 Feb: Otautau All Ford Day & Classic Car Show in Otautau

28 Feb: Waikaka Calvacade - rolls in at noon to Waikaka.

Contrasts Photo Comp Website now on line.

The website is open. In these early days, it will be added to (sponsorships etc) and things readjusted, to make it work better but you can contact us if you should experience any difficulties through the website.

www.contrastsofnewzealand.co.nz

A Nurse was on duty in the Emergency Room, when a young woman with purple hair styled into a punk rocker Mohawk, sporting a variety of tattoos and wearing strange clothing, entered. It was quickly determined that the patient had acute appendicitis, so she was scheduled for immediate surgery.

When she was completely disrobed on the operating table, the staff noticed that her pubic hair had been dyed green, and above it there was a tattoo that read, 'Keep off the grass.'

Once the surgery was completed, the surgeon wrote a short note on the patient's dressing, which said: 'Sorry, had to mow the lawn.'

*On a Plumber's truck:
'Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.'*

Contributions from members for the Newsletter are welcome!
Remember, I reserve the right of 'Editing' your contribution.
Please email or post to me. My email address is:
r.mcgeachie@extra.co.nz

A Request!

We have been invited to take part in the Rural Heritage Day this year. The theme is '1950s' and yes, some of us were part of that!

If anyone has some ideas about what we might do as a Club at this event, your comments and suggestions would be most appreciated!

Last time (end of 2007), we took photos (with a WW2 background). It was a certain amount technologically challenging!

If you have some good ideas, please contact Dawn at:

dpatt@paradise.net.nz

All SPS Members

We (as a Club) are taking part in the May Arts Festival this year. Keep this in mind for good photos to go on display. Prints are needed for this.

Freeman Patterson, Tony Bridge & Sally Mason are running three Creative-i Workshops in Akaroa in February 2009.

1. Workshop One: Digital Intensive - Going to the next level (Tony Bridge) - 10 - 14 February
2. Workshops Two & Three: Photography & Visual Design (Freeman Patterson, Tony Bridge & Sally Mason)

a. Workshop Two: 14 - 21 February

Workshop Three: 21 - 28 February

NB Workshops One & Two are for digital photographers only.

The workshops are being held at Mt Vernon Lodge on the hillside above Akaroa. Prices are between \$1293.75 to \$2700.00. For further information, please contact your Newsletter Editor.

*What's the definition of optimism?
An investment banker who irons five shirts on a Sunday evening.*



Wairaurahiri Jet Trip across Lake Hauroko - down the Wairaurahiri River to the South Coast - stay overnight, which

includes a BBQ tea (supply own food), time for photography and exploration - an evening of hilarity then back out the next day. OR Wairaurahiri Jet Trip across Lake Hauroko - down the Wairaurahiri River to the South Coast time for some photography - afternoon tea then return same day. These are excellent trips, well worth the money. Trip list will be sent out as soon as I have an indication as to which trip you want. Overnight stay will require a sleeping bag and being comfortable with sharing a room with others not necessarily of the same sex.

(a) An exhilarating jet boat trip down the Wairaurahiri, overnight stay with Peanut (Waitutu Lodge) and back out the next day.

Accommodation \$30 pp.
Boat overnight \$200pp - (normal price overnight \$169 pp each way for boat)
(b) Another option is to get ten together and sponsor ten stoat traps (\$225) and then you can have boat and accommodation free for 12 people
(c) Down and back on the same day - daytrip \$175.pp (Normal price day trip \$225)

Number of people required to make it viable - 6
Probable date - February 2009

Let Dawn know of your interest:
dpatt@paradise.net.nz

*Why is a Laundromat a really bad place to pick up a woman?
Because a woman who can't even afford a washing machine will probably never be able to support you.*

Have you got some great images you'd like to share? Have you got something you are really pleased with? Have you got something funny?

If so, we'd really like them for the club website.

**Please email to Paul Ruzsa:
pandtruzsa@extra.co.nz**