

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. As photographers, this is always the busiest time.

Whether we are photographing weddings, families or seniors, everyone wants to be outside if possible, and in New York this is the best time to do that.

So how do we enjoy the summer, if we are working all the time? I would like to suggest that you make sure to take a little time during this busy season for yourself. For me, that means making time to do what I enjoy—even if it is for just an hour here or there. I find it gives me a better perspective on life in general. (And for a photographer, a better perspective can only be a good thing!)

Whether it involves sitting on the porch in the evening having a gin and tonic and watching the sun set (hey it could happen) or getting up early for a walk or a bike ride, it is worth the effort.

We are even taking a week to go to PPSNYS workshop in Geneva in July. Yes, it is right in the middle of our “senior season” and yes, we do have weddings on both Saturdays so it will require a little extra work and planning. The benefits of attending are always so great that we make sure that we arrange our summer to allow for it.

This year Tim and I are both attending Ken Sklute’s class His program “Wide Angle Vision” sounds really great and we are excited to be able to learn from a photographer who has been honored as one of Canon’s “Explorers of Light” as well as winning more photography awards for his wedding work than I can name here.

We are also looking forward to spending the week with other people who are as interested in photography as an art and a business as we are. The exchange of ideas and information among the people in our classes and those we meet up with for lunch and at the social functions is one of the biggest reasons we attend every year. What a great learning experience! Not to mention that every morning we get up early to ride our bikes and spend every evening relaxing on the porch or at the barn with friends enjoying a drink and watching the sunset!

## MEMBERS’ BITS & PIECES

**Joan Keffler asks:** I have a question about my Nikkor lens and if anyone has had this problem. If so, what did you do about it?

I have a Nikkor silent wave motor AF-S 17-35mm 2.8 lens that has been with me for a decade of great service. I have a Nikon D700 and D300 camera. The last three outdoor events (using a tripod!), the majority of the images were fuzzy. However, the last 2 indoor events using the same lens (and no tripod), the images were crystal clear. Is this crazy? Anyone have any suggestions? Thanks for all your help and have a prosperous summer. joan@joanheffler.com

**Joan also reported** that she was recently interviewed by the Daily Gazette for an article about reinventing yourself.

*Congratulations, Joan!*

**Mark Sweeney** just returned from the PPA Judges Workshop, one of the requirements on being an PPA Approved Affiliate Juror.

*I'm looking forward to his input as we prepare prints for 2010 competition! Always helps to have a judge's assistance! CLC*

**Carol Donato** and **Bob Riccardo** will be having 2 person shows of their racing images from the Fonda Speedway, Fonda, NY at the following places:  
**August** at the Rotterdam Library, 1100 N. Westcott Road, Schenectady, NY  
**September** at the Niskayuna Library, 2400 Nott Street East, Schenectady, NY  
**October** at the Fonda Library, East Main Street, Fonda, NY  
**December** at the Normanside Country Club, 165 Salisbury Road, Delmar, NY  
**March 2010** at the Bethlehem Public Library, 451 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY

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## **“FRIENDS WITH CAMERAS” SPEND THE DAY AT MOHONK MOUNTAIN HOUSE**

CCPPSNY’s annual June meeting is usually a relaxed, fun opportunity to spend some time shooting and getting tips from each other in a picnic ‘format’ at a member’s home. This year was different. On June 15, several of us got up at various hours of early and drove to the Mohonk Mountain House outside New Paltz. What a lovely place to spend a day! From the moment we drove through the gate, an overwhelming feeling of peace ... reinforced by seeing deer so close you could reach out your car window and touch them (well, maybe not, but you get the idea) - and QUIET.

We only met ‘formally’ for lunch; we arrived separately and wandered separately or in small groups around well-maintained paths offering various views. Ed and I chose the lake shore path—level, easy walking, with one flight of stairs up from the beach. Others followed a higher calling—up to the watch tower. Still others sought a more rustic atmosphere and went off into the woods. We all encountered wildlife—practically within reach.

And lunch...suffice it to say that we all needed MORE hiking. But we took a moment to let it settle—and Ken took this photo of all of us.



A few of us tried some new techniques. Ken and David lined up the rockers and Barb, Chris and I took turns running down the porch hitting all of them to make them rock—while the guys took photos. OK—maybe you had to be there.

Deb brought her Lensbaby for me to experiment with. This is a teeny little lens that allows you to focus on one part of the scene, then manipulate the outer rim to adjust the blur on the rest of the scene. Takes a bit of getting used to—and not something you’d use every day—but I can see that it’s a fun little doodad that doesn’t take up much space in the case.



## **PHOTOSHOP FOR BEGINNERS AND ADVANCED BEGINNERS Aaron Pepis, Master Photographer, Cr.**

This 3 hour class is designed to familiarize students with the power of Photoshop. The use of tools, layers, levels, curves and shortcuts will be explained and explored and you will leave the class with an understanding of them.

For this ‘hands on’ class, a basic familiarity with Photoshop is recommended. Students can bring their laptops loaded with the highest level of Elements or CS programs they have available.

The cost of the class is \$75 payable one week before the class and is limited to 10 students.

The class will be held on Saturday, July 11 at 10AM. If a weekday is better for some people we will add a class provided there is a minimum of 5 people.

The class will be held at The Pepis Studio, 40 North Route 9W, West Haverstraw, New York. Send an e-mail to pepistudio@aol.com or call 845-429-3999 with any questions. Please make checks out to Aaron Pepis and mail to P.O. Box 465, Thiells, New York 10984.

Aaron Pepis is a talented and popular instructor who has lectured and presented ‘hands on’ classes all over the country to both amateur and well-seasoned professional photographers.

*I apologize for getting this info out a bit late—if you’re interested, please call Aaron—perhaps there is still room in Saturday’s class. If not, you’ll be able to get info on upcoming sessions. Carol*

## **FRIENDS WITH CAMERAS, cont’d**

David experimented with HDR, which, as best as I can figure out, is carrying bracketing to new heights. I’ve read the article in the new Photoshop User, and have gotten THAT much out of it.

When you look at the detail and beautiful light in his picture, you begin to understand the concept.



## 2009 PPA INTERNATIONAL PRINT COMPETITION RESULTS

As I mentioned in the May-June newsletter, CCPPSNY members did very well in our NYS Print Competition and were heading to International Competition in late June. Well, results are in from International and several members have reported their "victories."

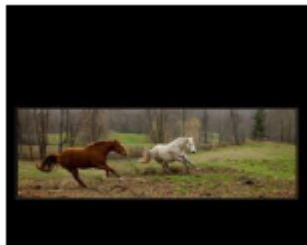
For those who are even more novice than I about print competitions, once a print is awarded "Deserving of Merit" at the affiliate level, it may be sent to International where it is awarded its Merit. From the merited prints, some are selected for inclusion in the Loan Collection, which travels the world; and some are selected to be included in the Showcase Book.

Congratulations are indeed in order to Ray Paulsen, whose four prints merited—earning him Master of Photography degree. This honor will be officially awarded at the national PPA convention, to be held in Nashville in January 2010. Hats off to you, Ray!

Ray's "Slim Pickens" was selected for the Book and his "Horse Play" will be going on tour as part of the Loan Collection.



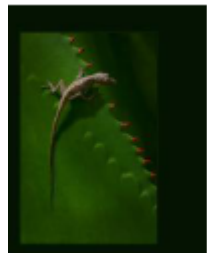
Slim Pickens



Horse Play



Judgment Day



Art Gecko

Mark Sweeney, who attended the Competition to take the Judges' workshop, saw his "Oohs and Aahs" selected for the Loan Collection.



Ken Bovat's "Holy Man" will also be on tour.

## PRINT COMPETITION RESULTS, cont'd.

David Jeffery had three prints awarded Merits and Carol Coronios' "Gotcha!" was awarded Merit.



Autumn Falls



Country Living



Grandpa Woodstock



Gotcha!

### Other CCPPSNY Merits:

**Dana & Tim Shafer's** album "Megan and John"

**Tim Shafer's** "Who's Next?" and "Dry Gas"

**Deb DeFazio's** "Abandoned", "Sunburst" and "Silken Seed";

**Mark Sweeney's** "Flat Tire"

**Ken Bovat's** "Black & White & Red", "Wave Runner" and "Who Farted?" and

**Michael LaRose's** "Her Eyes Speak the Truth", "Island Fantasy" and "After the Storm"

*I'm sure there were others...apologies to those whom I've missed.*

### UPCOMING EVENT:

**Photo Workshop**

**July 19 - 24**

**Hobart-William Smith College**

**Geneva, NY**

## BUYING INTO A SYSTEM

John Metcalfe, PPA Forum (with permission)

For some time my efforts had been spent striving to achieve a merit, believing all along that I could get my degree with client work. (A noble thought one would think...)

I did fair enough, scoring in and around the deserving of a merit category.

Even up till 2 years ago and having gone 4 for 4 at nationals, I felt I still was struggling to make the mark.

Until a few or so trade shows back, my friend Michael and I were walking around and we stopped and talked with Jim Chagares. He questioned us concerning our intentions for our prints in competition. (I'll ask you the same.) "What do you get when you attempt to score an 80 and fail?"

Answer: You're sent packing that's what.

Now... what do we get if we try to score a 100 and fail?

Answer: A merit.

He said to us, "Have higher aspirations for your work."

Have higher aspirations for your work? Those words rang in our ears and changed everything, especially the way we approach competition. (Every aspect)

Combined with a few others, we have bought into that system and devised a formula. There is hardly a day that goes by that we are not talking about it.

Having said that, over the past 2 years a dramatic change have taken place, the most obvious coming last year.

My highest score ever was lower than 3 of the 4 scores from last year's MARC competition. This year same thing. All four were well at the high end of scoring making my highest scoring print case to date.

This is not an attempt to get everyone to see my scores or a way to get my name out. To think such would leave you much mistaken. No, this is an attempt to let others know it can be done and it is possible to do consistently. If this is received well (sometimes I have the feelings of being a thread killer here) I would be happy to share.

Have higher aspirations for your work.

John Metcalfe CPP, M. Photog, Cr  
Illinois CPP Liaison

*I read this and thought that John's comments serve as a good challenge to many of us.*



Professional Photographers of America

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