We'd like to welcome a new member club: The Central New Jersey Camera Club, represented by Glen Sharko. It's nice to see our organization expanding - we hope to see this trend continue. Welcome aboard!

Many thanks to the clubs that sent their schedules for this season to The Cable Release. Some schedules, however, are still missing - please send them as soon as possible so they may be advertised in The Cable Release and on the NJFCC website.

We're proud to present our first feature article, “You and the Judges – Two Forces” by Ara M. Chakarian, APSA. If you've written an article and would like to see it in print, submit it to The Cable Release!

Organized for the mutual enjoyment and advancement of photography in New Jersey

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A Few Words...

You and the Judges - Two Forces

By Ara M. Chakarian, APSA

On a recent “New Members’ Night” at our camera club meeting, many aspects of our club’s activities were discussed. We talked about PSA, The New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs (NJFCC) and competition. I was asked to talk about what a judge looks for when he or she evaluates a picture. The ideas I shared with the group that night are listed here for the consideration of our newer members of PSA.

Competition night brings two forces face to face – one force is the club members who are entering their work into competition; the other force is the individual we ask to evaluate our material and score it – the judge.

Competitors rightfully expect the judge to be objective, to offer helpful comments, to be consistent in scoring and respectful of the presentations. We rightfully expect the judge to be knowledgeable of photographic technique and, ideally, to have reached some stature as a competitor. Our local judges are people who have been asked to be placed on the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs’ listing of judges. There are no requirements the individual has to meet.

The judge expects you to enter into competition only those slides or prints that are free of dirt and lint. A photograph that is “dirty” will be so noted and scored low.

While dirt will be quickly noted, so will poor exposure. This is a mechanical function. Learn quickly if your camera meter reads high or low. A full roll of overexposed slides strongly suggests an ASA setting adjustment is necessary. Also, determine the direction of the lighting on these poor shots. The odds are you had direct overhead lighting. Overexposure is the biggest fault of “B” workers. At a recent competition night at a local club, as I sat judging the “B” class, slide after slide was overexposed. Most were taken in the middle of the day with an overhead sun.

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(continued on page 3)
Special Events Calendar

If you know of any upcoming events, please send your submissions in early so that your fellow photo-enthusiasts have an opportunity to participate!

Cosmopolitan Chapter of the Photographic Society of America (PSA)

9/18  Field trip to the Clown Festival in Seaside Heights, NJ. Field trip is also on 10/19

11/7  FOTOFEST will be presented at the Skyline Hotel, 725 Tenth Ave (between 49th and 50th streets) in New York City. The event will begin at 9am and continue until 5pm. Programs include: Reggie Wickham • Helen & Sherrill Lynch, APSA • Alison Dawson – author of “Building Graphics” • Workshops • Model Sets • Indoor Silhouettes • Mylar • Glassware • and more! Admission: Members – $15 prepaid, $18 at the door; Non-members – $20 prepaid, $23 at the door. For more information please contact Jim Iannizzotto, Treasurer. Email: jimisap@aol.com, Address: 835 Rockland Ave, Staten Island, NY 10314

Unique Photo

The following events are sponsored by Unique Photo at 11 Vreeland Rd in Florham Park. Call 973-443-9392, ext. 243 for more information and reservations. Note: Due to a conflict, the trip to Ellis Island has been postponed until the spring.

10/7  10am-5pm  Mamiya Day, Clean & Check
10/7  7pm-9pm  Mamiya Seminar with John Woodward.
10/14  10am-5pm  Hasselblad Day, Clean & Check
10/14  7pm-9pm  Hasselblad Seminar with Tony Corbel
11/17  7pm-9pm  Hasselblad Seminar

NJ Photo Forum

The NJ Photo Forum is sponsoring a 5 session Fall Workshop with Ross Wagner. All sessions will be held at the Watchung Arts Center from 7:30pm – 9:30pm, on 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, and 11/9. The 5 week session is $45. Checks should be made payable to the Watchung Arts Center and mailed to Ross Wagner, 265 Oak Ridge Ave., Summit, NJ 07901. For more information, call 908-522-1120.

The NJ Photo Forum will meet on 9/22, 10/18, 11/17, and 12/20 at 7pm at the Watchung Arts Center. Call Michael Creem at 908-273-1572 for more information.

Nikon School

Nikon School is coming to NYC. One-day classes are scheduled for 12/11 & 12/12 in 1999, 3/11 & 3/12, and 5/20 & 5/21 in 2000. Class runs from 9am-5pm and includes lunch and the Nikon School Handbook. Cost is $99 per person. For more information or to enroll, call the Nikon School at 516-547-8666.

Photo Exhibits

Sheila Lenga, Judy Levine, and Sue Puder, from the Cranford / Millburn Camera Club, are among a group of NJ Photo Forum members that are displaying their work at the Children’s Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. The exhibit will be on display through October.

“The Endurance: Shackleton’s Legendary Antarctic Expedition” is currently on exhibit at the Museum of Natural History in NYC. It contains 125 photographs taken on the ice flows and Elephant Island. The exhibit runs through October 11, 1999.

OCEAN COUNTY CAMERA CLUB

PHOTOGRAPHIC TRADE SHOW

Sunday, Oct. 31, 1999  10 AM - 3 PM
Lakewood High School Gymnasium
East 7th Street, Lakewood, New Jersey

Sponsored By: Lakewood Community School

Table Reservations $30.00  Preview Admission $8.00 (9AM - 10 AM) General Admission $4.00 With This Card $3.00 (10 AM - 3 PM)

For Information, Please Mail or Call Inquiry to:

Heike Graef  Harold Kessler  Sal Tozzi
847 Royal Lane  1195 Cecil Court  13 Hemlock Hill Road
Toms River, NJ 08753  Lakewood, N.J. 08701  Jackson, NJ 08527
(732) 270-6428  (732) 363-8099  732-364-4939

OVER 170 TABLES AVAILABLE
ALL DEALERS ARE REMINDED TO BRING A N.J. SALES TAX ID #
You and the judges - two forces (continued from page 1)

Proper focus is also a mechanical function. Handling a camera while wearing glasses is awkward. Can you get a corrective eyepiece for your camera's viewfinder? Do you use hyperfocal distance focusing for your landscapes, or when you are using a wide angle lens? We do. Does your viewfinder show full frame?

Dirt, exposure, focus – a good judge will observe these aspects almost at once. The slide or print must pass these three inspection points before its value as a picture is considered.

Now let's think about the picture as you recorded it. How did you plan and compose your image? What went through your mind as you looked through the viewfinder? The following topics should have been among your thoughts, as they are some of the basic tenets upon which your picture will be judged:

- Is this an interesting shot, with a center of interest? Be it a portrait, nature, scenic or abstract, this tenet applies.
- Where to place the center of interest. The rule of thirds, it might surprise you to learn, is not a PSA rule. Before going out judging, I bought an art book. There was a rule of thirds. A leading line might dictate the placement of a center of interest. In nature, we would not like to see the stem of a flower come in from the side of the frame, but from the bottom.
- Lighting, if directly frontal or overhead, will rarely produce a properly exposed shot. If the sun is in front of the camera plane, from the side to the front, lens flare could be a problem. On a hazy day, the odds are that you will suffer overexposure. On sunset shots, do not expose with the sun in the picture unless you can comfortably look at the sun. Move the camera to one side to avoid the sun, set you exposure, then recompose your shot. Bracket. Learn to take silhouettes of trees, parts of trees or anything that can be an interesting shot.
- Distracting elements such as bright areas, busy backgrounds, a too-large dark area. If you have a preview button on your camera, do you use it? It is surprising what shows up when the lens is stopped down.
- Vertical or horizontal? Like crossing a street, look both ways. Nature subjects usually, like portraits, look better when shot vertically.
- Learn how to crop. Rare is the picture that does not need some in-camera cropping.

All of these points are covered in some of the fine recorded lecture programs available to you as a member of PSA. Use them. It is like one-on-one teaching. You can contact headquarters for a free catalog of available programs.

This article originally appeared in the PSA Journal – April 1999. It is reprinted with the permission of Mr. Chakarian.
Officers:
President (acting)                                    Howard Royce                        732-974-0517
Vice President                                         Sheilia Lenga                          908-687-2617
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Nature Slide Comp  (acting)                   Ira Finke                                  609-655-9521
Pictorial Slide Comp                               Marian Boyer                          973-538-3209
The Cable Release                                  Barbara Svachak                     732-608-0708
Directories                                               John Davidson                        973-625-4820
Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month (August – May) at 8:00PM at the Watchung Arts Center.

⇒ Camera Naturalists:  10/14 Competition “Close Up Macro”, judge Stanley Jacobson
⇒ Cranford / Millburn:  9/27 Competition “Blue”, judge Dorothy Spillane; 10/4 “Poloroid Image and Emulsion Transfer” demo by Nancy Bernhaut; 10/17 Fieldtrip to NYC (rain date 10/24)
⇒ Essex:  9/16 Presentation by Walter Choroszewski; 9/30 Competition, judge Andre Cantelmo; 10/7 PSA Lecture “Slide Painting”
⇒ Livingston:  9/13 “Beyond Basics” by James Stachecki; 9/27 Competition, judge John Copeland
⇒ Mapleshade – Moorestown:  9/14 “An Evening with Reginald Wickham – Part 2”; 10/12 “Africa” by Buck Sleuman
⇒ Plainfield:  9/21 Host NJFCC Competition Pictorial & Nature; 10/6 Competition: PSA Nature

NJFCC Contacts

Deadline for the next edition of The Cable Release is Wed, October 13th

The August Cable Release incorrectly listed Ross Wagner’s name on page 2. He is conducting a fall workshop for the NJ Photo Forum in Watchung.

Upcoming NJFCC MEMBER Club Events

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NJFCC Member Clubs on the web

Cranford/Millburn Camera Club:  http://members.tripod.com/CameraClub cmcameraclub@hotmail.com
Morris Photo Color:                             http://www.users.nac.net/jmp/mpc.htm
Raritan Photographic Society:            http://www.eastbrunswick.com/rps

Build a free web site for your club!

You don’t have to be a Webmaster to build your own web site. The NJFCC and New Jersey Online (NJO), www.nj.com, invite you to build a free website for your non-profit group with NJO’s Community Connection. If you already have a site, list it in our directory so people throughout New Jersey can find and learn about your group. And building your site is easy!

Community Connection is an easy-to-use program that allows groups to build and maintain their own web sites for free. You don’t need to know any programming or HTML. All you have to do is type information about your group in the boxes provided and you’re done. You can even include your own logo or artwork. Later this fall we will be adding a photo gallery where you can download up to 50 images.

Use your web site to spread your group’s message, announce upcoming events, and encourage volunteer sign-ups. Community Connection makes it easier for residents throughout NJ to locate your group. It’s also a great way to keep members in touch without the expense of costly mailings.

If you already have a web site, list it in the Community Connection Directory. All sites built and registered with Community Connection will be included in the searchable, statewide directory so users and other groups can find you.

What’s the catch? There isn’t one! This is not a limited time offer and there are no fees or catches. New Jersey Online is committed to serving the community and becoming the online source for news and information for people who live or work in NJ. Working with the Star Ledger, Times (Trenton) and Jersey Journal we provide reliable, up to date information about NJ.

Create your own web site today! For more information about Community Connection and how you can build or list your own web site, visit http://www.nj.com/cc or call 201-459-2876.