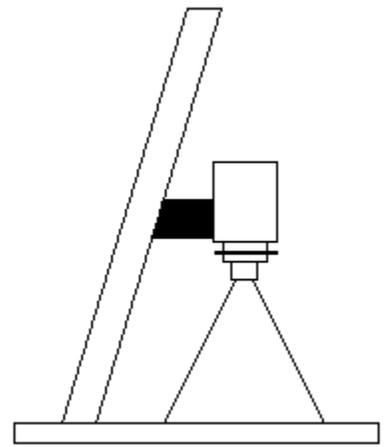


Contact Sheet

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The 105

Normally, I write in this section about what happened at the educational meeting at this point in the newsletter. But since the first Thursday was January 1 - - and a national holiday - - we felt that our attendance would be zero people that night. After all, football would still be on, and on, and on. And we did not want to change the meeting to the next week since it would interfere with the other camera club's meeting date. Therefore, this may be a little more philosophical and less news in this newsletter than normal!

Since the club was only three months old when I first started and we are now in our 21st year, why do I still keep coming to meetings? Maybe I'm a slow learner! Maybe you really can't teach an old dog new tricks! No, the real reason I continue to come is the "105". The next obvious question is: "What the devil is he talking about?"

I have kept track of records for the Advancement Program since its inception about 18 years ago. We started it with much fear and trepidation since judging other people's work was the downfall of the preceding club. Their efforts were based on the PPA standards (Professional Photographers of America) which awarded points to the top 10% of the images shown and the

remaining participants got zip for their efforts. Therefore, the good photographers came and showed their stuff; and the new guys never came back after a few presentations. We did not want this to happen to our club! We got information from about ½ dozen other clubs including ones in Denver, Boston, Toledo, San Francisco, and I can't remember the other two now - - ah, the joys of getting older. All of these were variations of PPA rules, and we were sure this wouldn't really fly in this community. Therefore, we decided to give everyone points for their images. The more experienced photographers should reach a certain level faster than the novice, but the novice wouldn't be shut out and would continue to come.

Also, we did not want the formality of the PPA rules that said only pictures that fit very rigid requirements would be awarded any points. One club member that came to the Idaho Falls area from Boston remembered a fall field trip for colors in that area. There was a particularly photogenic red barn with white trim that had very good fall foliage around it. But the only way to get a high rating for your image of this barn was to set your tripod in three marked spots on the edge of the road, put the barn image in the bottom lower right region and shoot with about a 50

mm lens. A VERY RIGID judging system. We wanted more flexibility!

We all improve when we see many good, and even bad, images. We must look at photographs critically to see what areas can be improved, how to get the light on the subject better, what angle we should try the next time we are at the same scene. And this is where the 105 comes in.

In the past year, there were 256 images shown at the Advancement Program nights, of which 105 were from new club members. To me, these are the most exciting images I see. They tend to be fresher, more adventuresome than some of the things I now do. I become complacent when I go on a photo shoot. I like doors, handles, windows, old buildings, barns, etc. - - and sometimes I forget the adventure of looking for other approaches. The 105 are not as jaded. They don't know that this window reflection is too bright on the building and will draw your eye away from the graffiti you are really trying to take a picture of. Therefore, they take the picture - - and somehow, there is a cat sitting on the window ledge looking toward the graffiti that totally makes the picture. My mind had shut that image out since it was focused on the images I liked to shoot. Old photographers who were film based knew how expensive it was to shoot images that might not come out correctly. We wanted the safety of familiarity.

The 105 keep photography fresh for everyone. They are excited! They try good things! They try bad things! My payment to them for their exciting images is hopefully some of the knowledge I have acquired over the years - - maybe cropping a little off the right side since it doesn't contribute to the actual image, maybe shooting at a

different f/stop to get better depth of field so the foreground fence is an integral part of the finished image, maybe trying a fill flash to get better light on the face, etc. Both groups of photographers win in this situation, and photography continues to be a joy to everyone.

In one of my first years when I was a 105 member, I was trying to get the color balance correct on my first Cibachrome image in my darkroom. I spent 16 hours on one weekend and never felt like I had the color correct. An older club member told me to just ignore the compensation tables that were printed in all the books and just follow what the filter changes said. When I did that, I got the correct exposure on the darkroom image in just two runs in the Cibachrome solution. He kept me in the darkroom by solving my frustration, with just one sentence of help. I need to repay that debt.

As a concrete example, one of the 105 images was a spectacular sunset with some foreground brush. It was really well done with good exposure. I used to like to take sunset images, and had an area that I went to frequently because there were no power lines, a good foreground tree, and some sand dunes to the left side of the image. They built a house that now sits on the right side of the image - - and I stopped going for sunset images. Now, I am excited at trying to find another good sunset location.

Another example was the use of a slightly magenta, metallic appearing paper to show a grain elevator. Several club members didn't like the color of the paper, but it woke up the area in my brain that used to play with various papers in the darkroom. I had glossy silver, red, yellow, sepia toned, matte,

glossy papers that I would try to find the one that best suited the images. I kind of forgot about the excitement of trying some of these experiments. Some of them worked quite well, others were a BUST -- but I was having fun in photography, and in the darkroom.

So, thanks, 105ers!

Club Notes

We have several people who are willing to be club officers for next year, but we still need someone for vice president since there will be times when the president will not be at the meeting. Please volunteer at this next meeting so we can publish a list of officers for 2009!

We also need to thank Farr's Jewelry for the use of the digital projector at the last Advancement Program.

Field Trips

The Dog Races in the Ashton area are on the third weekend in February. Chris lives in this area and states that are some good areas that work well for photographers. With all of the snow we are getting this year, it should be a good field trip. Check the Internet site and the Advancement Program night for further details

Advancement Program

The theme of the Advancement Program for February is: **Automobiles**. Please bring three of your best images, slides, digital image files and join us at 1900 Grandview in the Conference Room at 7:30 p.m. on February 19.

(There is currently an antique auto show in the Idaho Museum in IF.)

The banquet in January had eight participants who received recognition for their continuing efforts in the Advancement Program. The Certificates are given to those members who reach 300 points (or multiples) in the monthly judging. This would be about 30 images that they have presented for comments. By presenting your image, you are trying to find out what can make your image better, what people like about the image. We ask those that judge to use positive criticism and not to just shred the photo. By looking at and judging the image, the audience is learning what other club members are trying, what areas around here are worth taking photographs of, and how to best present an image. Both the presenter and the viewer benefit!

900 points: Lisa STEPHENS

1200 points: Margaret VEST

2100 points: Rodney JACK

2400 points: Doug JENSON

3600 points: Roger HENG

3900 points: Sue HENG

3900 points: Marty LARCOM

6900 points: Jan LARCOM

Four of the "105" are at 200 points. There have been some people that have only entered several images a year to get to their level of accomplishment along with some who participate almost every time. As chairman of this program, I have tried to come to most of these programs. And I have probably learned the most because of the extreme variety of images and the talent of the photographers in our group. Thank you for allowing me to get better at photography by sharing your incredible images. Thank you for looking at the photographs I have presented and showing where I could

improve my presentation of these images. I hope to continue to improve, and I am sure you will, too - - one of the advantages of youth and growing up in the digital era. We old people just don't seem to learn as quickly as you guys do!

Dues are due! \$25 per year for the entire family. Thank you.

Monthly Meeting

Date: Feb. 5, 2009

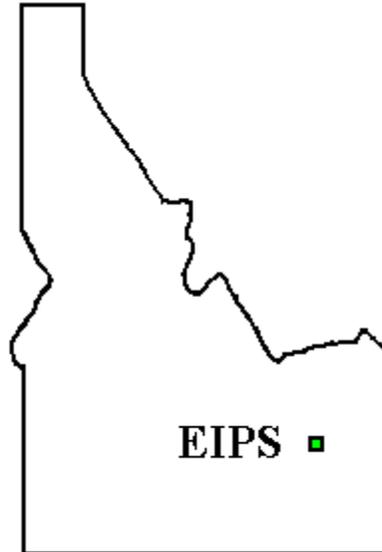
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: 1900 Grandview Ave. Conference Room

Program:

We are going to have a flash photography workshop. Bring your camera along with something/someone you want to photograph. We will have a softbox and umbrella set for you to use. Come have fun!

Chris Leavell – President
e-mail address: cleavell@fretel.com
Membership Info:
Web address: www.eips.net



Graffiti

EIPS is a group of amateur and professional photographers who have joined together to further the art and craft of photography. Please join us and expand your horizons. Sharing knowledge makes all participants better at their craft. We meet on the first Thursday of each month for our educational lecture. Then the third Thursday is our Advancement Program where we share some of the images we have done. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in the 1900 Grandview Ave conference room. We all become better photographers!

From Roger Heng: Photoshop classes online and free.
<http://h30240.www3.hp.com/campuses/campus.jsp?campusId=1303&mcid=HHO2>

