



INFOCUS[®]

February 2009

The Newsletter Of The Indian River Photo Club

On the web at www.irphotoclub.org

President's Snap Shot.....



Well now you have a new club President to go along with the New Year. I hope they both live up to your expectations. I will do my best not to disappoint you. Your year, otherwise, is largely out of my hands. On behalf of all the members of the Executive Committee, elected and appointed, thank you for your faith in

us and we solicit your input and assistance at any time.

It was great to see so many of you interested in the bus trip to St. Augustine. It is always terrific. We may be able to put together another bus trip or two as well. Our trips are some of the most fun we have all year, whether local or distant, and you are sure to enjoy the ones you can go on. What a treat to get in to McKee Botanical Gardens before it opened to the public one morning. We may get a private night admission soon! Don't miss it!!

Thank you Christine Hobart.

Carolyn Shafer has turned over her newsletter, after several years of great work to Keith Wright-Osment and Boris Robinson. And Donna Green has turned over her many duties, including Secretary, to Hazel Lacks. Both still continue to serve the club in other capacities. Thanks to you both for many years of service and more to come. Best

wishes to those who follow in your footsteps, we know they will do well.

Many people are working in a team with Donna Green to help improve our monthly contests. They are putting in a lot of hours and kindly Cheryl Holmes has offered the club space at her Studio One facilities. That's a club working together, and that is what makes it fun. Thanks to you all.

Our January program by Pat Rice on getting sharp photos was a big help, and don't forget to see our new website redone by his son Patrick. Be sure Pat has your current e-mail address so you know about news and trips, etc. February 26th at the next meeting George Bolis and J R Williams will teach us how to photograph butterflies. This will be great because we hope to have a *Photo Excursion* to take butterfly photos when the time is right. A little bird told me George's wife Mary Esther is doing a lot of the work we will see, so we owe all three of them a big Thank you.

We hope to have a fun and educational year for you and with your help we will do it. The more we do together the more fun we will have and the more we will learn.

Smile,

Bill

Bill Menzies Club President

Our February 26th program will be "How To Photograph Butterflies"

presented by J. R. Williams and George F. Bollis, Jr.

Program Outline

The instructional (Power Point) part of the program.

Photographic equipment needed.

What you need to know about the habits of the butterfly that directly effect photography.

Where to find butterflies and/or how to bring them right to your backyard.

Challenges particular to photographing butterflies, and the solutions how to take photographs of butterflies that do not look like everyone else's.

Being creative.

Short DVD of butterfly photographs with music.



Monarch by J. R. Williams



Skipper by George F. Bollis, Jr.

Brooksville Raid Re-enactment

by Boris Robinson

Photographs by Scott Kelly, Carolyn Shafer and Boris Robinson



Several club members attended the 29th Annual Brooksville Raid Festival held on Saturday January 17th, included Carolyn Schafer, Pat and Patrick Rice, Scott Kelly, and Boris Robinson.

The annual festival is a recreation of a Civil War battle that happened in Hernando County in July of 1864. The Raid was an attempt to cut the flow of cattle through Florida and into the Confederate armies in Georgia and South Carolina. Even more so, it was a raid in which several members of the Federal army were able to exact a measure of revenge on those Hernando County Confederates that had driven them from their homes.



The principals involved were two companies of the Second United States Colored Troops, two companies of the Second Florida Cavalry (US), and

one company of the First Battalion, Special Cavalry (FL, CS).

The reenactment included a large battleground area and Confederate and Union camps.

Within the camps, only items that were in existence as of the 1860's are permitted, including clothing, camping, and cooking supplies and implements.



Although the re-enactors take these events quite seriously, the underlying theme is definitely about having fun. The re-enactors are very amiable to posing and getting into the civil war mode when asked by us photographers.



We spent a lot of time in the camps photographing ladies getting ready for the formal tea or taking care of their domestic duties, children playing games, and men and boys preparing themselves for battle.



The photos included here are just a few of the hundreds that were taken and after

converting a few of them to antique looking black & white, it almost appears as if they could have been made 145 years ago.

. Photo Contest Winners for January – Congratulations and well done.

The club would like to thank our club member J. Scott Kelly, assisted by Carolyn Schafer, for their judging of this months Photo competition “Candid”, and the constructive comments given on how the final photographs were selected and placed.

We list below the final tally of competitors placing's and some of the photographs are on the following pages.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Class A..</p> <p><u>Special Techniques</u> -- 6 entries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Untitled – Jim Cohoe 2. Yes We Can – Bob Strupat 3. Biker Art – Stephania Wright-Osment <p><u>Black & White</u> -- 16 entries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Newlywed Smiles – Roger Sobkowiak 2. Having a Drag – Stefania Wright-Osment 3. Time Flies – Barbara du Pont <p>H.M. At What Price, Freedom – Earl Evans
H.M. Untitled – Jim Cohoe</p> | <p><u>Color</u> -- 28 entries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brr, The Water is Cold – George Bollis 2. Let’s Dance – Gloria Yarina 3. Orange Poet of Golden Gate Park – Bob Carey <p>H.M. Clown Beauty – Roger Sobkowiak
H.M. The Game Goes On – Keith Wright-Osment
H.M. Wipe Out – Gail Cohen</p> <p>Class B – Color -- 7 entries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can Do – Tammy Harvey 2. Ascot Calling – Karolyne Lucero 3. Speed Demon – Kelly Ward |
|---|--|

Our Photo Themes for 2009

· February	<i>Open</i>	· July	<i>Water</i>
· March	<i>Beauty</i>	· August	<i>Open</i>
· April	<i>Texture</i>	· September	<i>Farewell</i>
· May	<i>Open</i>	· October	<i>Four</i>
· June	<i>Blue</i>	· Nov/Dec	<i>Best Picture of the Year</i>



Do your Homework by Dr. Len S. Hood

Look at travel guides, postcards and picture books of the area. Learn where the best photo opportunities are. Remember key events, festivities, and landmarks. You'll be inspired to take better pictures. Remember to look for possible photographs as entries to the above monthly competitions. Learn the features and operation of your camera. If you're still learning how to use your camera, take the camera manual along — it's good reading on the plane.

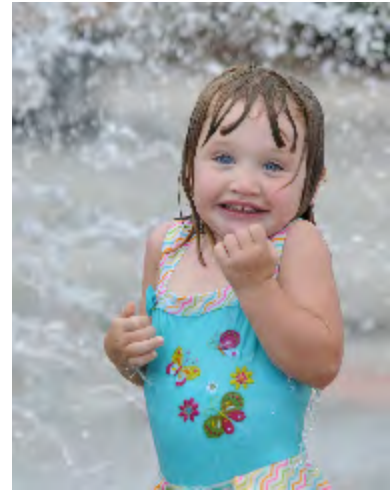
Our club's purpose is to provide all photo enthusiasts, both amateur and professional, the opportunity to meet with others like themselves to enjoy their hobby and learn through the programs at our regular meetings, special training sessions, field trips and contests.

Your Candid Photographs in the January Competition



"Let's Dance" by Gloria Yarina, Class A, Color, 2nd place.

*"Burr, The Water is Cold"
By George F. Bollis
Class A, Color
First Place*



*"Untitled"
By Jim Cohoe
Class A, Black & White
Honorable Mention*



*"Ascot Calling"
by Karolyne Lucero
Class B, Color
2nd. place*



*"Speed Demon"
By Kelly Ward
Class B, Color
Third Place*

*"Biker Art"
By Stefania Wright-Osment
Class A, Digitally Altered*



*"Untitled"
By Jim Cohoe
Class A, Digitally Altered,
First Place*

Your Candid Photographs in the January Competition



"Having a Drag"
By Stefania Wright-Osment
Class A, Black & White
Second Place



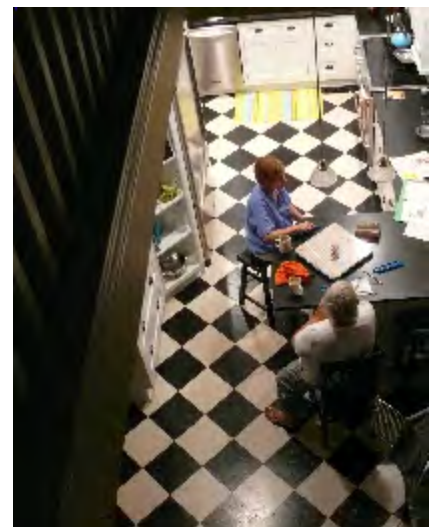
"Can Do" by Tammy Harvey
Class B, Color, First Place



"Newly Wed Smiles"
By Roger T. Sobkowiak
Class A, Black & White
First Place



"Yes We Can"
By Bob Strupat
Class A, Digitally Altered
Second Place



"The Game goes On"
By Keith Wright-Osment
Class A, Color
Honorable Mention

Catch Her, If You Can

Spotlight on Donna Green

Donna Green loves to travel. Not just to all the places accessible to her sleek 22-foot Airstream trailer, but to the farthest flung corners of the globe. And when she's not coming or going, you'll probably find her leafing through a travel guide in search of the next destination, which at the moment appears to be Peru.

Retired after some 30 years of teaching high school Spanish in Iowa, Massachusetts and locally at Vero Beach High School, she and husband Dennis seldom miss an opportunity to pack up the dog and get moving.

Until a year ago they did it in a previous Airstream, visiting a long list of northern, mid-west and western states. Alas, "there was an accident," which didn't dampen their enthusiasm for the open road but did result in a new trailer and a new Toyota to haul it.

The travel bug sank its teeth into Donna in 1969 during an eight-week car trip through Europe with her mother. "I had never been outside the U.S. but I felt that if I was going to teach Spanish, I should visit a Spanish-speaking country," she says. And what better than Spain itself?

Both then and now, traveling abroad for her is less about exotic locales than it is about the people and cultures found in such places...and the opportunity to show a bit of America to the world.

She was in Pamplona during the running of the bulls and on the day Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon; and was in Madrid on the day dictator Francisco Franco re instituted the monarchy to begin Spain's return to democracy. During the former she experienced the world's admiration of a great American achievement; during the latter she witnessed first-hand a historic procession through cobblestone streets, not just a TV newscast.

Two years later she spent an entire summer living with a Spanish family on the Mediterranean

coast, while studying at a campus of Granada University. Later, she and Dennis and son Dan traveled around the world – literally – visiting all 24 time zones over five weeks.

With family or on her own, Donna has since visited India, Tanzania, Kenya, Vietnam, Cambodia, Egypt and Iceland.

Not even being nailed down by work and family obligations could prevent her from exploring her interest in the people and cultures of other places. In 1992 she hosted a student from Macedonia for a year, while son Dan spent a school year as an exchange student in New Zealand.

And he appears to have caught the same bug – having spent a year in Afghanistan as a State Department representative and half a year in Iraq as a U.S. Navy officer, Dan is now studying for his doctorate and writing a memoir of his time in Afghanistan.

"I'm happiest when planning a trip," Donna says, and admits to being the instigator of most of them. Dennis, a retired electrical engineer who is active in the leadership of the Port Malabar Rifle and Pistol Club, is sometimes called upon to haul the tripod, but remains a willing participant.

Photography is sometimes a secondary reason (or flat out excuse) for travel. Dining or sleeping over in the homes of locals is her favorite experience. "They may not speak English fluently, but it's a great way to share in their culture and lifestyle...I love it!"

Nevertheless, Donna is dedicated to advancing her photographic skills. In coming weeks she will take a week-long photography program that will see her trekking through the Sonoran Desert between Phoenix and Sedona, and take a one-day travel photography seminar in St. Petersburg led by National Geographic photographers.

She owns a full-frame 12.8-megapixel Canon 5D yet her go-to camera remains her trusty Canon 20D, equipped with a variety of zoom lenses up to 400 mm. In fact, on distant trips when she has to carry



"Bishnoy Woman" in traditional clothing and jewelry.

everything herself, she most often uses an eight-megapixel point-and-shoot.

“I often don’t take my tripod and I have to make a lot of quick decisions,” she says, “because unlike tours led by a photographer, my guides aren’t going to wait while I fiddle with settings or look for perfect light.”

When she bought her first SLR camera in 2000, Donna shot everything on automatic. When she was ready to advance, she joined the photo club...but soon stopped going because of “all the confusing talk about shutter speeds and f/ stops.” Yet, a year later she was taking classes at Indian River State College and thoroughly enjoying the challenge.

“We did weekly assignments, and the best part was seeing how each student interpreted the subject. It was wonderful,” she says.

Back in the club and active in field trips and other events, she was conscripted to be secretary. After three years she has just stepped down from the board, but remains up to her elbows chairing a committee that is charged with revamping the rules for monthly competitions.

Donna Green’s Photography

Donna chose four photos to demonstrate her personal approach to photography.



“Bishnoy Woman” was taken in Rajasthan, the largest state in India bordering Pakistan. “I was attracted by the traditional clothing and jewelry,” Donna says. “The Bishnoy people are fascinating because they live naturally, trying never to harm any animal.”

“Fishing, Now and Then” was taken in Vietnam. The striking colors of these family fishing boats caught her eye. She also notes the circular bowls in the foreground and explains that these are made of bamboo and used by the fishermen to row between shore to their boats.

“Lanterns” was also taken in Vietnam, in the city of Hoi An. Made of silk stretched over a bamboo frame, they are common in many Vietnamese homes. “I liked the color and composition of this display,” Donna says. “Even the shapes appealed to me.”



“Artistic Oval” demonstrates a complete change of pace. The floor of the Quadracci Pavilion at the Milwaukee Art Museum reflects Lake Michigan beyond. “This is a wonderful example of the creativity of Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava. We went up specifically to visit this new branch of the museum and see his work.”

Donna has a website under construction and invites members to look in as it develops. Check the Members section of the club website to find its address.

This profile was written by photo club member Bob Strupat.

The competition guide lines committee's Update



The club's Executive committee for 2008 together with the 2009 Executive Committee decided at their 2009 inaugural meeting to form a "Competition Committee" of interested club members, in order to explore some members' suggested competition rules changes.

The first meeting of this committee was held under the chairmanship of Donna Green on January 8th. 2009. Members have, after many many hours of meeting together, decided to submit their findings to the club's Executive Committee for their consideration as to what the next steps should be, and, if any changes in the present status should be implemented.

This has been an arduous task and Donna and her co-club members should be congratulated on making such an effort to review what appears to some members as a slightly dysfunctional system of competition classes, judging and progression.

Lock the Focus by Dr. Len S. Hood



If your subject is not in the center of the picture, you need to lock the focus to create a sharp picture. Most auto-focus cameras focus on whatever is in the center of the picture. But to improve pictures, you will often want to move the subject away from the center of the picture. If you don't want a blurred picture, you'll need to first lock the focus with the subject in the middle and then recompose the picture so the subject is away from the middle. Usually you can lock the focus in three steps.

First, center the subject and press and hold the shutter button halfway down.

Second, reposition your camera (while still holding the shutter button) so the subject is away from the center.

And third, finish by pressing the shutter button all the way down to take the picture.

New and Prospective Members

Welcome to the Indian River Photo Club. For online information, please visit us at: www.irphotoclub.org.

The Calendar section will tell you about upcoming events, including the next club meeting, usually held the third Thursday at 7 pm. Please bring some of your photos to share - the photos should be taped to a foam board (available at Michaels or Staples) and/or matted.

New members should enter their exhibits initially in the 'B' Class, and there is an informal competition - and *it's all about fun and learning*.

We welcome Howard J. Derector of Port St. Lucie to the Club and look forward to his enjoying his photography along with us all, as we have fun and continue to learn and improve our skills together.

Letters to the Editors

If you have comments, suggestions, tips or questions that you might like to send to the editors, please e-mail them to irphotoclubnewsletter@gmail.com. We will answer, and we shall try to find solutions to photographic problems that you send in. Dr. Len. S. Hood is our expert in these technical matters and with his team nothing is unanswerable with time. Each month Len will be dotting the newsletter with his photo-tips.



Indian River Photo Club Minutes

January 22, 2009

Recorded and Submitted by Hazel Lacks

I. Club News -- Bill Menzies

- A. Greet new members and guests
- B. Thank past officers
- C. Introduce new officers
 - 1. President – Bill Menzies
 - 2. Vice Presidents – Pat Rice and Mike Ricciardi
 - 3. Treasurer – George Bachmann
 - 4. Secretary – Hazel Lacks
 - 5. Trips – Maria Heffernan
 - 6. Contests – Curtis Jensen
 - 7. Newsletter – Keith Wright-Osment, Boris Robinson, Bob Strupat
- D. Thanks to Donna Green, out-going Secretary.
- E. Thanks to Carolyn Shafer, out-going Newsletter Editor.
Mention of new look to the newsletter.
- E. Thanks to Christine Hobart for early morning access to McKee Gardens on 1/10/09.

II. VB Museum of Art Photo Contest Award Presentation – Mike Ricciardi

- A. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention ribbons resented.
- B. Pat Rice coordinated a slide show of the winning photos to the presentation.

111.. Financial Report – George Bachmann

- A. Annual dues are due
- B. Treasury is healthy †.

IV. Monthly Competititon Committee – Donna Green

They are working on:

- A. Defining A and B classes
- B. Defining moving from class B to class A.
- C. Defining contest criteria.
- D. Final report due to Board on Feb. 8th

V. Refreshment Sign-Up Sheet – Hazel Lacks

VI. Website – Pat Rice

- A. New look to website
- B. Contests
- C. Photo opportunities and excursions
- D. Acknowledgement of Patrick Rice for design.

VII. Program: How to Take Sharp Photos – Pat Rice

† *This is a summary of the Treasurer's statement, edited for confidential reasons.* Editor

Move it from the middle by Dr. Len S. Hood



Center-stage is a great place for a performer to be. However, the middle of your picture is not the best place for your subject. Bring your picture to life by simply moving your subject away from the middle of your picture. Start by playing tick-tack-toe with subject position. Imagine a tick-tack-toe grid in your viewfinder. Now place your important subject at one of the intersections of lines. You'll need to lock the focus if you have an auto-focus camera because most of them focus on whatever is in the center of the viewfinder.

Photo-Ops coming up

February 14th and 15th, Indiafest, at the Wickham Park Pavilion in Melbourne. Experience the rich heritage, traditions, music and foods of India.

February 28th, Deland Bike Rally in historic downtown Deland, FL. 10:00am to 7:00pm. See web-site for more details:

<http://www.delandbikerally.com/>

Feb 27-March 1 Vero's **Thunder on the Beach Powwow**.

February 28th to March 1st, 43 Annual Grant Seafood

Festival. 1st Street in Grant Florida. Along with the Seafood Festival, they will have displays by local artists and crafters at an outside show held on the festival grounds that are located behind the Community Center just north of First Street in Grant.

March 5th – 8th. The Calema Midwinter Windsurfing Festival, Racing will be held in the Banana River just off Kelly Park in Merritt Island. See World Cup Pros, Olympic class competitors, beginner sailors and all other levels of competitors.

See web-site for more details:

<http://www.calema.com/midwinters.php>

March 27, 28, 29. The 16th annual Battle at Narcoossee Mill. St. Cloud Fla. Sponsored by the Jacob Summerlin Camp #1516 Sons of Confederate Veterans. The Battlefield is on 150 acres of open and wooded land on the shore of East Lake Tohopekaliga.

Rocket Launches

February 12, 2009: NASA's space shuttle Discovery to launch from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., on the STS-119 mission to deliver the fourth U.S. solar array truss segment to the International Space Station. Time: 7:32am

March 5, 2009: A United Launch Alliance Delta 2 rocket to the Kepler observatory to hunt extrasolar planets in a space shot staged from Cape Canaveral Air Force Base in Cape Canaveral, Fla. 10:48 p.m.

March 9, 2009: A United Launch Alliance Atlas 5 rocket to launch the second Wideband Global SATCOM satellite from Cape Canaveral, Fla. 9:25-10:07 p.m.

Up and Coming Contests

2009 Pelican Island Wildlife Festival

Photography Contest

Deadline for entries is March 6, 2009

An Exhibition of Florida Landscape, Plant, & Wildlife photographs will be held 9:00am to 4:00pm Saturday, March 14, 2009 at the Riverview Park in Sebastian. Paste the below link for more details, and the last page of this issue.

www.pelicanislandfriends.org/festival/PhotoContest09.pdf

Other "Goings On" of Interest

Through Annie Leibovitz's Lens – Brevard Art Museum

Vero Wetlands, Boc Tower and Cypress Gardens Wacadahatchie and Green Cay

March – Last week in March – Johnson Photo Imaging in Bradenton, FL.

Adam Jones, detail of program on web site, two day seminar \$45

Check out "meetup.com" – Adventure Photography \$15/person per year

Trips and Possible Excursions

May 16 - St. Augustine

March - Cypress Gardens – Hackberry Hammock

March - Miami Zoo

**Contact Maria at mayheff8@aol.com
(Trips coordinator)**



This month's issue of the Vero Beach magazine has a first class write up on your Photo Club's 2008 Pictures of the Year Awards. A total of 119 entries produced some outstanding photographs in seven different categories, all of which should make us feel very proud.

The top fifty were featured at the Vero Beach Museum of Art and viewed by countless hundreds of admirers over the Christmas Holiday period. Although the competition was open to ALL, our club members occupied nearly 90% of the hangings. A copy of this month's magazine is a great addition to your portfolio

2009 Pelican Island Wildlife Festival PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



**An Exhibition of
Florida Landscape, Plant, &
Wildlife Photographs**
Public Exhibition of Awards
and Entries
9:00am to 4:00pm
Saturday, March 14, 2009
Riverview Park, Sebastian

CONTEST RULES

1. Deadline for entries: March 6. Mail or drop off at: Photography Contest, Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, 1339 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960
Office hours: M-F 8am-4pm
Phone: 321-258-5168
2. Entries must be at least 8"x10" matted and / or framed. Limit two entries per person.
3. Images must be of Florida landscapes, wildlife, or plants to be judged in student and non-student categories. **ANY ENTRY DETERMINED TO BE TAKEN BY DISTURBING OR "BAITING" WILDLIFE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE CONTEST.**
4. Entries should not be altered beyond adjustment of brightness, contrast, sharpness, and cropping; and should not contain any additional elements that were not present in the original photograph.
5. Include name, address, telephone number, title, and school (if a student), on back of entry. **FAILURE TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION MAY RESULT IN YOUR PICTURE NOT BEING JUDGED.**
6. Exhibition and ribbons to be announced and awarded during the 2009 Pelican Island Wildlife Festival on March 14th in Riverview Park, Sebastian. A winning entry may be selected for use on PIPS merchandise.
7. Entries may be picked up between 4-6pm, March 14th at Riverview Park or at the Refuge office starting March 16th, M-F 8am-4pm. There will be no mail return of entries. Entries become the property of PIPS if not picked up by March 31, 2009.
8. **PIPS SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR DAMAGED ENTRIES.**
9. For more information, call 321-258-5168 or visit the PIPS website at: www.pelicanislandfriends.org

2009 PELICAN ISLAND WILDLIFE FESTIVAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TITLES OF ENTRIES (Limit two per person):

1) _____

2) _____

I understand that PIPS shall not be held responsible for lost or damaged entries. All entries must remain on display until 4:00 p.m. Saturday, March 14. Entries become the property of PIPS, if not picked up by March 31, 2009.

SIGNATURE: _____