Indian River Photo Club

JUNE 2009

INFOCUS NEWSLETTER

Roger does it Again!

First but not The Winner!

At nine twenty four on Thursday evening, barely minutes after the end of the meeting, the computer signaled the arrival of an e-mail. Yes, Roger Sobkowiak did it again with the first photo to arrive! See the photo to the right. Well done Roger!

"Laundry Line "
By Roger T. Sobkowiak
Honorable Mention, Class A, Black and White
Taken with a Sony Alpha 100.
Taken at an Amish Fair in Pennsylvania.

Our monthly meeting had a great turnout, especially with the number of photographs submitted for consideration in the monthly meeting. Probably because the theme was "Open".

Our Judges were Louis Ciszek and Denise Ritchie and we are all indebted to them for the diligence employed in making the hard decisions. Judging is not quite so cut and dried as many of us would like to think, and with the very high standard photography that our members consistently submit month after month, judging is no easy task.

Patrick, Pat, and Barbara Rice did IRPC photo "id's" with JR Williams taking the shots. The setup will also be available for members at the next meeting. That is of course for those who need "Ids". A printer was on hand and the team provided the new photo "Ids" by the end of the meeting.

Our speaker this month was our own, long standing, club member Pat rice, who gave us his seminar on "low light" photography. There were plenty of good "basic" questions that were asked at the end of his very informative presentation. Thank you Pat, we all learnt a great deal.

Continued on page 6

"The Club President's Snapshot"

What a fantastic trip we had to St. Augustine! Fantastic weather, great photo opportunities downtown and at the Alligator Farm. Thank you Maria Heffernan for organizing such a perfect trip.

Gail Cohen has been many times and always gets great bird and wildlife photos at the Alligator Farm. This year for the first time she went downtown. She loved it. She had no idea there were such great and diverse photos to be had there. The President of the Pelican Island Audubon Society, Richard Baker, his wife Juanita, and an Audubon Society officer Susan Boyd, all went as well. This was the Baker's first trip to the Alligator Farm and they were properly impressed. I believe they went back again a few days later. No matter what your interest in photography there is no end to the opportunities in St. Augustine. In addition to the architecture, church interiors, cemeteries, people, birds, and alligators, I saw a car show, and a fully costumed Island Band perform in the open. Wow!

We are planning more events for you all, as well. We will have another bus trip October 24th to the Miami Metro Zoo. This is a very popular trip so watch your e-mail and sign up early. We will have a top Cannon contract photographer at the Kight Center at Indian River State College on November 14th and he will have a limited number of spots for a personal photo shoot the next day! Hands on, in the field, with a Pro. Mark your calendar's now. Don't miss this!! We will let everyone know how to sign up as details are finalized. The same with the bus trip. Keep your e-mails up to date and attend every meeting you can. Additionally we are planning to publicize top photo club members' personal photo shoots so that any club members, who wish to, can go too. This is a perfect opportunity for novices to get personalized hands on instruction in the field. You can practice what you have learned in our Monthly Meetings and Seminars. We are also going to add "10 Minute Topics" to our meetings. At the beginning of each meeting, as time permits, one topic related to photography will be explained. In July our meeting program will be "Q & A – Panel of Experts". We are asking you to send ideas for "10 Minute Topics" and questions for our panel to answer, to irphotoclubnewsletter@gmail.com. Keith, our newsletter editor, will pass them on to the Executive Committee. Remember, this is the address to send photos to be considered for inclusion in the newsletter, and contest winners send your winning images with details there as well. It is your newsletter, club!!

With such a great newsletter sometimes it is hard to download, we hear. We will begin sending, by e-mail, a link to the photo club's own website where you will see the newsletter immediately. This is easier than downloading the file yourselves, and you can print it from there if you wish. It will help raise awareness about our website, too. We are as proud of the website as we are of our newsletter. Tell, Keith how much you like the newsletter and Pat and Patrick Rice how much you like the website. Soon we will have a Librarian for out teaching materials and will add to the supply, please let us know what you want us to add. Thanks, all, for volunteering to help with this. We will begin welcoming new members through our Membership Committee – Mary DelVecchio and Debi Hall. Thank you both. Thanks to a very well presented suggestion from Barbara Rice, we will put out refreshments just before the break. It seems some people (your evil President) have snacks during the program and this can be distracting. Your suggestions are appreciated!

Thanks Pat Rice for a great Program last month and in June our Program will be by Patrick Rice on Color Management, the contest theme is "Blue". In July our Program is "Q & A – Panel of Experts" featuring your questions answered by Gail Cohen, George Bollis, J. R. Williams, Mike Ricciardi, and Pat Rice, the contest theme is "Water". Thank you all.

Bring guests to the meetings and get your membership I-D photos before the meeting. Enjoy!!!!

Smile,
Bill

Indian River Photo Club EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 7, 2009

Present:
Bill Menzies
Pat Rice
Patrick Rice
Richard Thomson
Boris Robinson
Dave Garrett
Hazel Lacks

Meetings:

June 25 – Color Management – Patrick Rice
10 minute topic: Shooting Fireworks – Richard Thomson
Blue Contest Theme: Scott Kelly, Dick Paterson possible judges

July 23 -- Q & A – Pat Rice, George Bollis, J.R. Williams
10 minute topic: B & W ?
Water Contest Theme: Richard Thomson, judge

August 27 – Black & White Photography – Boris Robinson
10 minute topic: How to Judge Photos – Dick Patteron
Open Contest: People's Choice

December: Planning Meeting – to plan out meetings, speakers, 10 minute topics, contest themes, and judges for the year. Exec. Comm. Plus any members who wish to attend.

Seminars:

Nov. 14th – Adam Jones -- Knight Center – All Day.
Nov. 15 – Photo Shoot
Future possibility: File Management & How to Backup Photos – Patrick Rice

Workshops:

Get to Know Your Camera: Pat Rice – McKee Gardens possible location. Pat to check with Christine Hobart for date, time, fee.

On-going two hour photo shoots on Saturday or Sunday, beginning in August. Leader will choose day, time, place. Will also mentor those who want it.
Aug. 1, Sunday: Richard Thomson, Sebastian Inlet, 10 am – noon
Volunteer Leaders: Pat Rice, David Garrett, Bill Menzies,
Possible Leaders: George Bollis, J.R. Williams, Mike Ricciardi, Gail Cohen

Trips:

Oct. 24, Miami Zoo – Maria getting bids on buses
Disney Animal Park
Dolphin Cruise – Dave Garrett checking on Gatorland
Fireworks -- July 4th – choose a meeting site for those who wish to come.

Membership Committee:

Mary DelVecchio and Debi Hall, Chairpersons
To greet each new member and provide them with an Info packet.
Could also send out a gentle recruitment letter to the Reader Snapshot submitters in the P.J.
Send applications to: Keith, Patrick, Mary, Debi

Library:

Ask Karolyne Lucero to be the librarian.
Need to increase inventory – magazines, books, DVD's
Responsible for check out & return of materials, and keeping track of who's got what, and for how long.
Newsletter to solicit library material.

Monthly Contests:

Ask Stefania Wright-Osment to help Curtis during the meetings.
Newsletter editors to send winning photos to Patrick to get on the website.

Newsletter:

Instead of emailing out entire newsletter, we will post it on the website. Then, the editors email an announcement that the newsletter is available that will include a link to the website.

Treasurer's Report:

We have 171 paid members and 60 students
Bills paid – insurance, VB Museum of Art
Bought 12 mugs

Other Business:

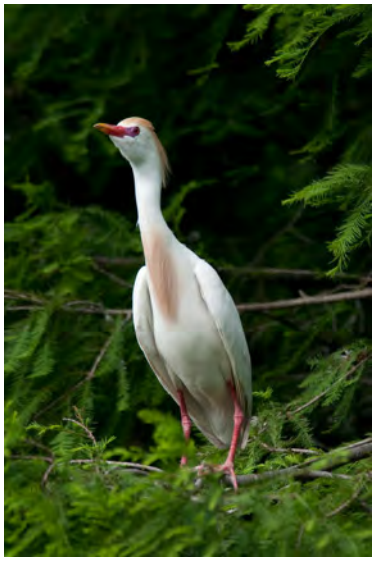
Keith Wright-Osment's wife, Pam, unanimously elected to cater the Christmas party this year.
Hackbury Hammond Thank You Photo Book – Hazel to contact Sam and Ally Comer and deliver.
Re Barbara Rice's suggestion, we will put out snacks during the Q&A after the speaker presentation.

to St. Augustine

By Carolyn Shafer

We all gathered together at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant just West of Interstate 95 on Route 60 in Vero at 10:00 on Saturday, May the 16th , to board the bus that would take us North on the Interstate to St. Augustine and the Alligator Farm. There were 23 of us there with all our camera gear and lunches. It's amazing how fast those three hours in the bus passed when you don't have to drive or watch the road. As it turned out our bus driver was also an avid photographer and he didn't know who his passengers were going to be until the last minute, so he didn't bring his cameras.

The bus dropped several people in downtown St. Augustine so they could photograph the buildings and the antique car show that was running at the time. They were later picked up by the bus and brought to the Alligator Farm so they could continue their photography .



Upon our arrival we were checked through into the park very quickly thanks to Maria Heffernan's preplanning and organization. Some said the bird population was down and the alligator population was up, but there were still plenty of birds to photograph. Lots of babies, eggs, and nest building. The Queen Anne's Lace was in full bloom which made wonderful backgrounds and frames for the birds. We saw roseate spoonbills, snowy egrets, tri-color herons, blue herons, wood storks, cattle egret, among others, and of course lots of alligators which were in full mating mode.

After it became too dark to take any more good images we boarded the bus for our trip back home, first, stopping at the local Steak and Shake for dinner, and there again Maria had done her magic. They were ready and waiting for us, so we were quickly served and on our way south. Then following tradition, Bill Menzies made sure we had dessert for the trip home. Thank you, Bill.

It was a very nice trip, and we had perfect weather with a nice breeze. Can't wait for the next one.

BMW Isetta at the car show.

Pelican Island Audubon Society President Dr. Richard Baker on his first visit to the St. Augustine Alligator Farm - focused intently on his subject.

Street dancer Caribbean Island style

Some of what you missed

those who did not do the St. Augustine trip.

Photographs by Bill Menzies, Club President.

Ceiling in Flagler College.

Inside a very old drugstore in OLD ST. AUGUSTINE.

It was reported by George, our Treasurer, that The Hal Schmitt Seminar cost the club a total of $497.

Scott Kelly presented an introduction for his new Gallery opening next Wednesday. Sounds like an exciting and beneficial addition to our local artistic scene.

Scott Kelly also gave us a short "heads up" on the second annual Scott Kelby Photowalk. Scott (Kelly that is), is the local Walk Leader. This is a world wide event and it will be held on July 18th from 6 to 9 am at the eastern end of Beachland Blvd in Sexton Plaza's.

The web sites below give you a lot more detail.
http://worldwidephotowalk.com/vero-beach-fl-usa/
http://worldwidephotowalk.com/

Bill Menzies told us briefly about a Seminar scheduled later this year given by Adam Jones, it will be at the Kight Center from 9AM to 5PM on Saturday November 14th, 2009. You will given fuller details

Welcome New Members

All the members of the Indian River Photo Club welcome the following who have recently joined our ranks. Joshana Tynes, Gene Harriman, Julie Van Mersbergen, Eric C. Freiheit, Elidiado P. Carranza, Kimberly Britt, Paul Tripaldi, Sue Wimpy and Patricia Corapi. Our members are encouraged to get to know you and assist you in your photographic adventure with us. Your participation in our monthly photo contests is one sure way of getting to know us, and we you.
We wish you "good shooting"!

Some Notes on The Next Club Meeting

Program for June meeting is Color Management, presented by young Patrick Rice.
A 10-minute topic for June will be : Shooting fireworks – by Pat Rice

IRPC Monthly Contest Awards – May, 2009

Class A

Color: 21 pictures

1st –Bob Barbour – Blue Cypress Sunrise
2nd – Rus Metz – Air Time
3rd – George Bollis – Splender in the Grass
HM –Lisa Wilnow – Iguana
HM – John Waite – Play the Fiddle
HM – Maria Heffernan – Paradise Colors

Black & White: 11 pictures

1st – Hal DuPont – Spring Rain
2nd – Lisa Willnow – Early Morning Mist
3rd –J.R. Williams – Zebra Swallowtail
HM – Roger Sobkowiak – Laundry Line

Special Techniques: 6 pictures

1st – Debi Hall – Only "We" Can Make A Difference in Wildlife Conservation
2nd – David Garrett – Cattle Egret
3rd – Bob Mitchell – About Barb

Class B

Color: 8 pictures

1st – Justin Lahman – Nectar of the Gods
2nd – Susan Webb – Climbing Vine
3rd – Sarah Kappel – Spread
HM – Pam Price – Pillars of Strength

Black & White: 1 picture

1st – Joleen Zubek – The Pipe

Special Techniques: 1 picture

1st – Carl Tanner – Jonsey in Oil

Congratulations to all the Awards recipients.
Great and inspiring photographs
again this month!
Most of the Awardees' pictures are presented
on the following pages.

INDIAN RIVER Photo Club Contest Awards for May

"Blue Cypress Sunrise"
By Bob Barbour
1st Place, Class A, Color
Photo taken from a canoe at 6:15 am
ISO 400 f5.6 at 1/40 sec on tripod set in the water.
Using live view on Canon 50D at 22mm
with a Canon 10-22mm f3.5-4.5 lens.
The flash was used as the key light on tree
Adobe PS CS3

"Only "We" can Make a Difference in Wildlife Conservation"
By Debbie Hall
1st Place Class A, Special Techniques
Taken with a Sony DSC-H7 at F3.2, 1/1000 sec, ISO 200.

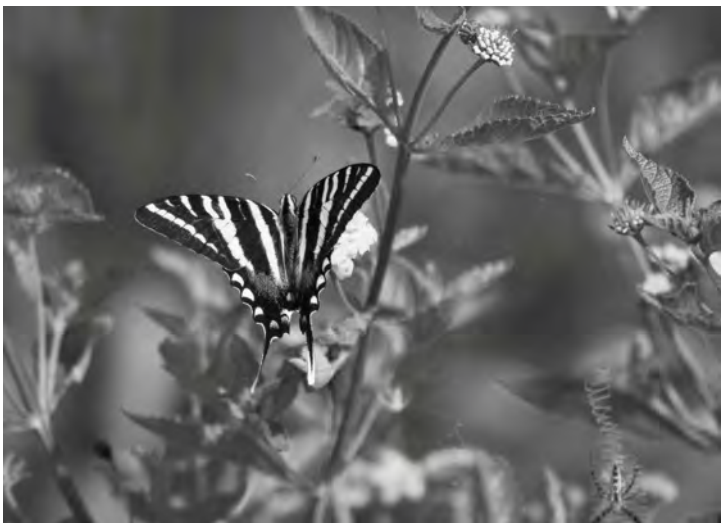
Processed with PS CS4

"Spread"
By Sarah Kapel
3rd Place, Class B, Color,

Photo taken with a Canon PowerShot SD950 IS
At F4.0, 1/100th sec. With an ISO of 160
Focal length was 13.6mm

Software used: Picasa 3.0

"Zebra Swallowtail"
By J.R. Williams
Class A, Black & White
Third Place
It was shot with a Canon 50D at f/5.6, 1/640 sec. w/ an ISO of 400 and a 100-400mm zoom lens. It was taken at Arnold's Butterfly Haven.



INDIAN RIVER Photo Club Contest Awards for May

"Splender in The Grass"
By George Bollis

3rd Place Class a, Color
Taken with Nikon D200 at F16
1/1000 sec exposure with an ISO of 400

Processed in Adobe PS Elements

"Play the Fiddle"
By John Waite,

Honorable Mention, Class A, Color Taken with Nikon CoolPix 54 at F4.0, 1/266th sec exposure with an ISO of 200. Focal Length was 146mm

Adobe PS Elements

"Pillars of Strength"
By Pam Price

Honorable Mention, Class B. Color
Taken with a Kodak V100, at F4.9,
1/800 sec exposure with an ISO of 80, Focal length 22.5mm
Processed in PP X3

"Iguana"
By Lisa Willnow

Honorable mention, Class A ,Color
Taken with a Sony DSC-H5
at F4, 1/500th sec exposure with
an ISO of 125,
Focal Length was 72mm

Adobe PS CS2

"Paradise Colors"
By Maria Heffernan

Honorable mention, Class A, Color
Taken with Canon EOS 40D at F6.3,
1/400th sec exposure, ISO of 640
Focal length 6.3mm

Adobe PS CS4

INDIAN RIVER Photo Club Contest Awards for May

"Nectar of The Gods
By Justin Lahman

1st Place, Class B, Color
Justin is 13 years old.

A note from Justin's Mother.

My son Justin took this photo with my Canon EOS Digital Rebel 450 D XSi. I had asked Justin to take some photos of the things he loves most and he got a Dr. Pepper can. I was not helping or even in the same room. He doesn't have any experience with my camera. He put the soda can on our navy blue sofa and while taking the photo (one of many), he accidentally placed his finger partially over the flash (quick lesson: that hurts!). We printed this photo without any processing, adjusting or even cropping. He was using Auto mode. Justin will be taking Photography at his Boy Scout Summer Camp and I hope that he can make this his passion.

Taken at F5.1, at 1/60 sec, ISO 400 with a focal length of 39 mm.

"Early Morning Mist"
By Lisa Willnow,

2nd Place, Class A,
Black & White

Taken with a Sony DSC P200
At F7.1 at 1/800th sec, ISO 100
Focal Length 12.1mm

Processed in PS CS2.

"Air Time"
By Rus Metz

2nd Place, Class A, Color
Taken with a Canon EOS-5D
At F8.1 at 1/1250th sec. ISO 800

Processed in PS CS3

INDIAN RIVER Photo Club Contest Awards for May

"Cattle Egret"
By David Garrett
2nd Place, Class A, Special Techniques

Manipulated in Adobe Photoshop CS4 and painted in Corel Painter X with Sargent brush and Funky Chunky brush

Done on the Mac OS10 platform

"Climbing Vine"
By Susan Webb
3rd Place
Class B, Color,

Taken with a Canon EOS Digital Rebel
at F8, 1/160th sec. And ISO 400
Processed in PS CS4

Audubon Photo Award Opportunity For All Club Members

Club Member Richard Baker wishes to share this with Us

Dear Chapter Colleagues:

There's just over a month left to get amateurs, professionals and kids in your area to enter their work for the new Audubon Magazine Photo award. We need your help to reach them.

Birds in Focus is being promoted in publications and website nationwide. Let's be sure to connect with those photographers with the closest ties to our Audubon Chapters. The stories surrounding their pictures will offer a great opportunity to highlight important local and national conservation efforts, not-to-mention reconnecting entrants to the power and scope of the Audubon network

If you're not yet promoting the awards on the web, in newsletters, etc., please use the attached link to help get the message out today.

Thanks.

Philip B. Kavits
Vice President,
Chief Communications & Marketing Officer
http://audubonmagazinephotoawards.org/

Low Light Photography

By Pat Rice

Low light photography while a wonderful thing it can at times be frustrating trying to obtain correct exposure. Consider basketball photography where you need a fast shutter speed to stop the action and yet because most gyms are dimly lit you need more light than is normally available for good exposure.
Or how about your child's concert or play at school were flash photography is not allowed? In those cases, as in most low light situations, you must compromise on your settings. In my last presentation, to the club I covered several of the ways to compromise and yet get acceptable results. Before we begin let's review some terms I will be using.

ISO - in the film days referred to as the speed of the film, the lower the number say 100 speed film meant it was less sensitive to light and was good to use in bright sunlight or 800 speed film was better to use indoor in dim light situations. The trade off was in the higher the speed rating the more grain / noise was introduced into the image. In the digital world using a higher ISO setting increases the sensitivity of the sensor to the light coming through the lens allowing you to use a faster shutter speed.

Shutter speed - determines how long the shutter is open exposing the sensor in digital cameras to the light coming through the lens.

Aperture - is the diameter of the lens opening and is usually controlled by an iris. The larger the diameter of the aperture, the more light reaches the film / image sensor. Aperture is expressed as **f-stop,** e.g. F2.8 or f/2.8. The smaller the F-stop number the larger the lens opening.

Those are the three variables that you can control in camera to get good exposures. In order to be able to control them you need to study your camera manual so you know how to adjust the variables. Here are some examples of what I do.

Sports

In my sports photography I am usually trying to stop the action, so the shutter speed is extremely important. I also am trying to capture the *peak action* which means I set my drive mode to high speed continuous shoot mode, and auto focus to AI Servo mode. I also shoot in jpeg mode. In order to freeze the action I am striving to shoot at 1/400th second or higher.

To do this I set my aperture to wide open, f/2.8 aperture on my lens, and bump up the ISO setting until I get the desired shutter speed.

This means in the local high school gymnasiums I am shooting basketball at ISO 1600 or even 2500. Because I am shooting at a higher shutter speed I turn off Image Stabilization on the lens, if so equipped. Many sports photographers shoot in manual mode but I generally use AV (aperture priority mode) on my camera because I find the lighting so inconsistent in the gyms. In stadiums, at night, I do use manual mode, ISO 1600-2500, f/2.8 , and hope to achieve 1/400 shutter speed. As with all photography, practice is very important, so get out there and try it.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Concerts/Plays

The lighting in the local high school Performing Arts Center varies greatly with the production being presented. In these situations I set the image recording setting to shoot in Raw mode which allows me the greatest latitude in adjusting white balance and exposure, after the fact, on my personal computer.

Many times,even though I am using a high ISO setting of 1600 or more, I still can't achieve a high shutter speed so I have to time my shots to lower periods of movement or else I get motion blur. This is also the time where I use the Image Stabilization (also known as Vibration Reduction or Vibration Compensation) feature on my lens, if it has it. This feature is most effective at lower shutter speeds to counteract camera movement.

This Month's Photo Competition Theme is BLUE

Here is some guidance as into what, and as to where, you might look

Blue.... ***noun, adjective, bloo"er, bloo"est, verb, blued, bloo"ing .***

Noun, yes, ... maybe there is an adjective you could use too!

1. the pure color of a clear sky; the primary color between green and violet in the visible spectrum, an effect of light with a wavelength between 450 and 500 nm.
2. bluing.
3. something having a blue color: *Place the blue next to the red.*
4. a person who wears blue or is a member of a group characterized by some blue symbol: i.e. *Tomorrow the blues will play the browns.*
5. (*often initial capital letter*) a member of the Union army in the American Civil War or the army itself. Compare gray (def. 13).
6. bluestocking.
7. blue ribbon (definition a winning category).
8. any of several blue-winged butterflies of the family Lycaenidae.
9. *Printing*. blueline.
10. **the blue,**
    a. the sky.
    b. the sea.
    c. the remote distance: *They've vanished into the blue somewhere.*

Themes for the coming months are ——- *Now is a good time to get ready!*

June	is	BLUE	September	is	FAREWELL
July	is	WATER	October	is	FOUR
August	is	OPEN	November/December	is	THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR AWARD

FLASH IT!
Some great tips on Flashing

By Dr. Lens Hood

Flash, Fill Flash, And Flash Off

Lucky for us, an automatic flash is included on just about every camera sold today. And most include a fill-flash setting for those less-than-perfect lighting situations that need a little boost. That doesn't mean the camera is fail-proof. You still need to know how and when to use these features.

General flash tips

- Stay within flash range. Check your camera manual for the recommended range (usually 4 to 10 feet).
- A higher-speed film may extend your flash by a few feet, so it does pay to use the higher-speed film, even indoors for flash pictures.
- Batteries that are approaching exhaustion will not give full flash power even if the camera is still working.
- Prevent red eye by asking your subjects to look slightly away from the camera, and turn on all the room lights to shrink their pupils.
- Avoid use of the "red eye reduction" flash setting—to many people it's distracting and confusing.

Fill flash

Fill flash is included on most of today's cameras, and is a favorite feature. It is just enough flash to fill in areas of a picture that would otherwise be too dark. Use fill flash for sunny day portraits to fill in those dark shadows under the eyes, nose, or under the rim of a baseball hat. It can even help in a difficult lighting situation, such as a dark complexion on a beach, or a child playing in the snow. Fill flash is also useful for side-lit and back-lit pictures. For instance, a backlit scene may have enough bright areas in the background to provide an "average" brightness for the entire picture, but the actual subject is left in the dark. Fill flash balances the scene so that the subject is properly exposed, and the background is left alone.

Flash off

There are occasions when your camera thinks the flash is needed, but in fact it isn't. You probably have a "Flash Off" (or similar wording) setting on your camera. Here are a few examples of when to use it:

- When you are too far away from your subject for the flash to be effective.
- When the flash would create annoying reflections from mirrors and other shiny surfaces.
- At sunset or in other low-light situations where you'd like a foreground subject to be silhouetted.
- Where the quality of the existing light is beautiful, like a kitten sleeping in the sunbeam.
- Where flash is not allowed (steady yourself against a wall and anchor your elbows at your side).

Some notes for entrants in the monthly Awards Competition

To make it easier for the Monthly Awards Contest Administrator, please go online to the IRPC website and print the contest entry forms. Info can be typed into the form online and then printed. Go to: http://www.irphotoclub.org/assets/files/monthly_slips.pdf

Don't forget that photos entered in the Digitally Altered category **MUST** have the original photo/photos attached to the back, or the entry will not be judged.

ALL photographs entered in the monthly Awards Competition must be matted or mounted on a board.

New Mentor Series of Photo Outings to Start

We have a new Mentor Series of outings planned for the near future. Richard Thompson will be leading the first one on August 1, 2009. Those interested in participating can meet him at 10 am in the Sebastian Inlet Park on the north side of the inlet. The idea for this Series is for those interested in learning more about their cameras and photography can meet up and have a "workshop style" outing. [more details will be provided at the June Club meeting]

Our Reference Library

We now have a club library and we are also soliciting material for the library from our members such as educational DVD's and books. Current inventory includes Canon XSi Made Easy and Nikon D300 Made Easy DVD's. [Stefania Wright-Osment and Karolyne Lucero have volunteered to manage this.]

Su Zhou, a member of the King City (Oregon) Camera Club, tells us that plans for her next three photo expeditions to China are taking shape.

Highlights of the spring 2010 trip will include visiting Chinese farmlands, minority villages and ancient towns, landscapes of wildflowers on the remote Tibetan Plateau and a quiet Tibetan Buddhist temple.

The group will capture sunlight against the brilliantly shining limestone along the Li River and China's famous rice terraces. In the fall 2009 and 2010 trips will visit China's unique Siberian Tiger Park where the animals roam freely over a huge acreage. There will be photo shoots at Zhalong Nature Reserve, China's largest wetland which attracts species of birds unknown in the U.S. such as the rare red-crowned crane. Visits will be made to the gorgeous Juizhaigou National Park and the superlative Huanglong National Park--both listed in the United Nation's roster of world treasures. Stops will also be made at the Bifengxia Panda Base which is arguably the best place to see pandas in the natural setting they inhabit. Each trip will be a 16-day journey. Club members may get details and see pictures at www.zhousu.us . Click on "Tour 09 10" section.