



HUNTINGDON VALLEY CAMERA CLUB NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2008

Friends, Food and Fun at December 3rd Holiday Party

You are invited to the Huntingdon Valley Camera Club Annual Holiday Party, always a fun evening. This year the party is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd, at 7:15 p.m., in the Huntingdon Valley Library Community Room, 2nd Floor, 625 Red Lion Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA. Remember, if you plan to attend, call our President, Sandy Livezey, at 215-335-3972, and let her know what item you plan to bring. Also remember to skip supper, so you have room to sample all the delicacies.

Field Trip to Mummers Parade

Philadelphia's 109th Annual New Years Day Mummers Parade is scheduled for Thursday, January 1st, weather permitting. Several HVCC members have made an annual pilgrimage on New Year's morning down to South Philly, below Washington Avenue, where the string bands assemble before marching up Broad Street, usually starting about 10a.m. We have discovered that **BEFORE** they march is the best time to capture great images, and once they start strutting you do have the option of standing on one of the islands on Broad Street and taking great action shots. Our tentative plan is to meet at the back parking lot of the Huntingdon Valley Library about 10 a.m. and arrange carpools. If you'd like to participate in our Mummer's Field Trip—again, weather permitting—please call Vice President Sherry Resnick at 215-947-8745 by Tuesday, December 30.

Perelman Building a Great Spot for Photos

Peering down stairwells, looking up at blue sky and clouds through a rooftop grid, lying on the floor for another angle on Japanese costume designs, getting close to statues for macro shots of the textures—just a few of the ways that HVCC members captured images of the Perelman Building on our November 19th field trip. The outing also provided an opportunity for some of our more experienced photographers to give tips to newer members. No doubt some of these images will show up in our competitions, particularly on February 4th, when the competition theme is Abstracts and Patterns.

Wilmington International Exhibition and Other Photo Contests

One of the premier events in the Delaware Valley is the 76th Annual Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography, a juried exhibition sponsored by the Delaware Photographic Society, which is scheduled for Sunday, February 22nd, through Sunday, March 9th, 2009, at Arshat Hall on the University of Delaware Wilmington Campus. . The exhibit attracts photographs from all over the world; last year over 4,000 entries were received from over 30 countries. However, we'd like to encourage some of HVCC's photographers to enter. The closing date for entries is January 17th, and there's more information at <http://www.delawarephotographicsociety.org>.

There are many other opportunities to enter your best images in photo contests, both ongoing and with entry deadlines. One website that lists many of the contest is <http://www.proofpositive.com>.

“Curly Locks” was Best in Show on November 10th..

Curly Locks,” a monochrome image of a sheep by Sherry Resnick, won Best in Show in our November 10th competition, the theme of which was Animals—Wild or Domestic. Sherry took this picture with her Nikon D200 at a local farm, originally in color but she decided it was a stronger image as a monochrome. All the November winners are listed below:

Best in Show	Sherry Resnick	Curly Locks
Color		
1 st Place	Sherry Resnick	Ecstasy
2 nd Place	Edie Krieger	Pensive Monkey
3 rd Place	Leslie Ogle	Cat in the Bag
Honorable Mentions	Jack Weinstein	DT III
	Harvey Ballen	A Day at the Beach
	Sherry Resnick	On Alert
	Frank Linder	Mallard Duck
Monochrome		
1 st Place	Sherry Resnick	Curly Locks
2 nd Place	Cary Rush	Trafalgar Cat
3 rd Place	Edie Krieger	Big Cat
Honorable Mention	Sandy Livezey	Pelican

SANDY & FRANK’S CORNER

Lions and tigers and bears. Oh my! Lions and tigers and sheep? Oh yes! The sheep image, Curly Locks, taken by our Vice President, Sherry Resnick, won Best in Show on November 12th in our animal-themed competition. Congratulations to Sherry and to new member, Leslie Ogle, who took third place in Color with Cat in the Bag and to all our other winners. Our judge, Tom Levy, gave great critiques for each image, and we thank him.

Animals can be difficult subjects to shoot. Like children, they can be constantly moving, never staying in one place for long enough to allow us to capture a nice portrait of our favorite four or two-legged friend. Unlike people portraits, where we don’t want to see every pore, we do want good detail in an animal’s fur and eyes. You need to ready your camera at F16 and a fast shutter speed so you can capture that expression when it first appears.

By the way, how many photographers does it take to photograph two peke-a-poos? I once helped to take serious portraits of these two dogs wearing yamulkas. While family members tried to keep the little dogs on the stools, another photographer clapped his hands wildly in a circle trying desperately to get the dogs’ attention. Another photographer waited patiently with his camera in hand for the right expression to appear. I had an inspiration, so I placed my hands on the shoulders of the kneeling cameraman and said, “Get ready.” I then let out a short, high-pitched whistle, and the two little heads tilted up with their ears perked and both sets of eyes looking right at me and the camera for a great shot! So I guess the answer could be one photographer with a high whistle.

Please contact me [Sandy] if you are planning to come to our holiday party. Frank and I are looking forward to seeing you there.

~Sandy Livezey and Frank Linder, Co-Presidents

Pixels are Like Cupcakes—Let Me Explain

It happens to all of us: the moment when one finds out that more megapixels and better photographs aren't always the same thing. To be disabused of the Megapixel Myth — this decade's analog of the Megahertz Myth — can lead to an existential buyer's crisis in miniature. Disbelief, at first, gives way to a sort of embarrassing self-questioning: You mean, 15 megapixels isn't three times better than 5 megapixels? This year's model isn't better than last year's? I spent all that money upgrading — for nothing?

The panicky consumer is then faced with the choice of dumping digital electronics and becoming a Luddite, or learning about camera technology and taking control of purchasing decisions. Upon pursuing this latter path, one soon realizes that all is not lost. Newer generations of digital cameras and camcorders, which almost always have more megapixels or higher resolutions, still tend to produce great output. But there is more to a digital camera's sensor than resolution. Understanding some of the basics may just convince you that, at least this year, buying last year's model is a smart move.

Focusing on the Right Numbers: In a sea of specifications, one of the most overlooked is the size, not the number, of pixels on a camera's sensor. Bigger sensors usually mean bigger pixels, which provides some advantages when it comes to making an image. The mechanics of this can be understood by thinking of a digital camera sensor as a flat sheet of material pocked with millions (hence "mega") of cylindrical, cuplike pixels. In other words, picture the digital sensor as a tiny cupcake tin. Photons (light particles) pass through a camera's lens and are captured by the cups in the tray. Each cup is either red, green or blue (the three colors that are the building blocks for all other colors). The more photons a cup catches, the brighter that cup's color. Totally empty cups record black; totally full cups record white.

Larger pixels (cups, remember), with larger surface areas, capture more photons per second, which in electronics-speak means a stronger signal — and in camera-speak means less noise and cleaner colors. Bigger pixels can also capture more photons per exposure without filling up, so larger pixels hold on to their color longer and don't go white as quickly as smaller pixels.

Since sensor sizes in compact cameras haven't gotten much bigger, but their megapixel count has, increasing the number of pixels can be accomplished only by using smaller pixels. For this reason, it's often not worth paying extra for the newest megapixel champion, says Phil Askey, editor of *dpreview.com*. "Once you get beyond seven or eight megapixels in a compact point-and-shoot camera, the small lenses are struggling to keep up," Mr. Askey said. "And you're cramming so many pixels in such a small sensor that noise is becoming a real issue. We started worrying about this back in 2006, but it's only gotten worse."

The same thing is true for digital single-lens reflex cameras. In fact, recent tests conducted at *dpreview.com* concluded that the new 15-megapixel Canon EOS 50D (\$1,400) "shows visibly more chroma and luminance noise," and slightly less dynamic range, than the older 10-megapixel Canon EOS 40D (\$920). *Source: Russ Juskalian, New York Times, November 13, 2008*

Around and About HVCC

A warm welcome to new members **Leslie Ogle** and **Judy Zalkin**.

→**BREAKING NEWS:** Long time member **Bobbi Green** died in late October. She is survived by her husband Dr. Stanley Green.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ HVCC

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2008

Thursday, January 1st --Field Trip to Mummers Parade—Weather Permitting

Wednesday, January 7th – Open Competition

NOTE:: Meetings will be rescheduled whenever the Huntingdon Valley Library is closed due to inclement weather conditions—their telephone number is (215) 947-5138. If a meeting must be rescheduled, the HVCC board will call members to notify them of the new date.

PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT PHONE NUMBER.

Officers & Contacts 2008-2009

Co-Presidents: Sandra Livezey (215) 335-3972 & Frank Linder (215) 698-7642

Vice President: Sherry Resnick (215) 947-8745

Treasurer: Howard R. Silverstein (215) 333-0971

Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Edie Krieger (215) 947-7173

Immediate Past President: Marty Malgieri (215) 969-1589

DVCCC Representative: Charlotte Micklos FDVC (215) 725-9217

Membership: Rhissa Levy (215) 934-6195

Exhibitions: Sherry Resnick (215) 947-8745

Events Coordinator & Awards Dinner: Charlotte Bernstein (215) 673-8612

*We
wish
all
HVCC
members*



*a
very
happy
holiday
season*

OUR CAMERA CLUB IS A PROUD MEMBER OF:

