



The PHOTOGRAM

*The Newsletter of the Portland, Maine Camera Club
Established May 24, 1899*

**Meetings on most Monday nights,
September - May at 7 PM (6:30 Digital Nights)
at the Stewart P. Morrill Post American Legion
413 Broadway, South Portland, Maine
Stay current with the Yahoo online
group for current club activities!**

Visit our website at: www.portlandcameraclub.org

May, 2006

Club Calendar of Events:

All meetings start at 7 PM unless otherwise noted

Please submit competition material no later than 6:45 PM

- | | | |
|-------|---------|---|
| May | 1 | Slide Competition - Subject: Open |
| | 8 | Print Competitions – B&W and Color. Subject: Open |
| | 15 | Digital Night - What's gadget is in your camera bag?? |
| | 19 | Annual Banquet |
| June | 28 | 44 th Annual Windjammer Days - Boothbay Harbor, ME |
| July | 14 - 16 | 61 st NECCC Conference in Amherst, MA |
| | 21 - 23 | 41 st Yarmouth Clam Festival - Yarmouth, ME |
| Sept. | 4 | Labor day |
| | 7 - 9 | Photoshop World in Las Vegas |

Portland Camera Club resumes in September

Be sure to check the Yahoo forum frequently through the Summer to learn about Monday evening Photoshoot destinations and other Camera Club activities!

NECCC at Amherst, Massachusetts

The 61st New England Camera Club Conference will be held on July 14th - 16th at the Umass campus in Amherst, Massachusetts. There are lots of programs for both film and digital photographers at the conference that annually attracts more than 4000 hobbyists and pro's alike. Speakers as Lou Jones, Deborah Jefkin-Elnekave, and Andrea Gallant [who is presenting the Saturday night show called 'It's a Wonderful World'] are among just a few of presenters.

Whatever your interest in photography there is always something more to learn and the NECCC is the place to go where you will pick up tips and procedures that will widen your creativity and improve your images.

In addition to the traditional slide and print competition, what's new this year is a digital image competition where attendees are able to submit 1 image in an 'Open' category and 1 image in a 'Nature' category. Submissions may be done on-line by July 5th or by delivering your images on a CD on July 14th at the conference. In addition to these contests, a models photo shoot is also held at the conference where you may submit images into a separate contest where cash prizes will be awarded for the best shot of each model.

Lodging can be an issue as area hotel rooms completely fill up but dorm rooms are usually available. If you are planning to go you might check with other PCC members to explore options to share a room. To register for the conference go to www.neccc.org and click on the conference button for more information and for a downloadable registration form.

Members Gallery

Focus on Montage



Bruce Burnham and Pam Davis show manipulated images without using any digital methods. These images are the product of combining 2 pieces of film and mounting them together them into a slide frame. Top images by Bruce Burnham, bottom by Pam Davis.



Digital Photography - Back to the Basics

Many folks rode the digital 'wave' from the beginning but not everyone was an early adopter and they consequently missed out on some of the 'foundational knowledge' that is assumed today. Here are some digital 'back to basics' that will serve as a good refresher for veterans and hopefully help some get up to speed quickly.

Always shoot with the maximum megapixels. You can always make a large picture small but you cannot get good results by making a smaller picture large.

Shut off Digital Zoom - you can crop into a picture using a software program and usually end up with a better looking image than by using digital zoom.

Shut off that Time & Date stamp - you can always add a time and date stamp later but you'll find yourself having to do a lot of Photoshop 'cloning' to get rid of one in your picture.

Learn how to navigate the menu in your camera to quickly set the White Balance. Using 'AUTO' white balance - the camera default - will zap the predominant color from the scene. By choosing the balance for the proper light you will get much better colors in your pictures - and it will save you hours of color correcting later! - try using 'Cloudy Day' setting when shooting outdoors on Sunny days for a very nice warming filter effect!

512 Meg memory cards make for an easy 'one to one' transfer to CD's with enough space left for a catalog file on the disc. 4 Gig cards are great for archiving to DVD media in the same fashion.

Back up your image files onto removable media! A CD or DVD properly stored will be immune to a virus or a hard disc crash and your files will inherently be protected. Make a couple of copies while you are at it - media is cheap! Removable hard drives are also very useful for storing huge amounts of data and a great way to back up your internal hard drive.

If you don't have an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) then plan to get one. These will keep your computer running long enough during a power outage to allow for a graceful shut down without losing any data - or corrupting files!

You can fit about 100 high quality images onto a CD at 6MB per image - or about 750 of those same sized images onto a DVD disc.

Set your color space to Adobe 1998 in Photoshop for editing images.

Set the color temperature to 6500K - this control is NOT found in your computer but instead in the menu on your monitor. Out of the box most monitors are set for 9300K. There are claims that the lifespan of some CRT monitors will be lengthened by making this adjustment to 6500K. To more critically adjust the color temperature use a device like a Colorvision Spyder.

XGA resolution is 1024 x 768 at 72 dpi - this is the resolution for most entries in digital competitions and for most digital projection - it is always wise to inquire before assuming this! S-RGB is the typical color space profile for projection.

Image size is measured in Pixels for display purposes because not every display is the same size in inches.

CRT monitors show more colors than LCD type and are therefore preferred for doing critical image editing and subjective color work.

Printer resolution is greater than display resolution - a file optimized for display will not print well because you cannot make a small file bigger without some loss in sharpness.

Most inkjet printers are optimized for the sRGB color space however newer photo printers are standardizing on Adobe 1998. Check with your printer to optimize the print output.

Some printers use Pigmented ink and others use Dye. Pigmented inks are less likely to fade and the newer printers have solved the issue of limited color gamuts. Dye ink printers can deliver a very wide color gamut and usually cost a bit less.

CD and DVD Media - How archival are these anyway?

By Mike Leonard

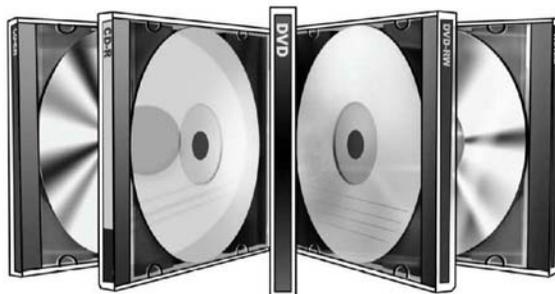
This is a question I hear a lot recently and for the answers I turned to some trade magazine articles and of course to the internet.

CDs and DVDs are structurally different from one another in a fundamental way that affects durability. In a CD, the reflective metal layer that contains data exists in the top surface of the CD, the label side. Only a thin coat of lacquer protects it from damage - and on some disc's there isn't even that! This is why care must be taken to label a disc. If you bear down with a ballpoint pen, or use a marker with a high acid content in the ink you'll likely penetrate the lacquer and disturb the metal reflective layer rendering it with reading errors.

The structure of a DVD is a bit different from a CD - the metal reflective layer of a DVD is sandwiched between two layers of polycarbonate. This however does not at all mean that DVDs are a safer medium on which to store your precious files. That polycarbonate can absorb moisture, which can intern oxidize the aluminum reflective layer causing it to become dull which may render a disc to be totally unreadable. Even discs with a Silver layer are not immune - gasses can also get by that polycarbonate layer and trap sulfur dioxide, a common air pollutant, that will corrode the silver reflective layer also rendering the disc useless.

Many inexpensive (free after rebate) discs use a photosensitive organic dye - many of these have a blue color on the writing side and when held up to light you can actually see through them quite easily. These discs are highly susceptible to accelerated fading from UV, high temperatures, and humidity - definitely not an archival type of disc.

Delkin manufactures a line of Gold CDs and DVDs with a UV resistant dye which they claim will provide a life of 300 years for the CD media and 100 years for the DVD. A unique 'Scratch Armor' coupled with the gold layer is what sets this disc apart from others on the market. Plus the gold layer is not susceptible to the deterioration issues that affect the aluminum and silver discs. The Delkin Archival Gold discs sell for a little over one dollar per disc.



Proper storage is another important factor to the longevity of any media. A comprehensive document, written by Fred R. Byers in conjunction with the Council on Library Information resources and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) titled, "Care and Handling of CDs and DVDs – A Guide for Librarians and Archivists," can be found at this website:

www.itl.nist.gov/div895/carefordisc/CDandDVDCareandHandlingGuide.pdf

In the report NIST reports a consensus among manufacturers that under recommended storage conditions that CD-R, DVD-R, and DVD+R discs should function 100 to 200 years and that CD-RW, DVD-RW, DVD+RW, and DVD-RAM discs should function about 25 years.

Another valid concern that occasionally voiced is whether there will even be a CD or DVD player around in a couple hundred years on which to play the media? The bottom line is archiving is important to do and, regardless of how you are currently doing it, you should expect to have to copy that content to whatever becomes the latest and greatest archiving format in the future.



Petunia Basket by Geri Lynn Smith



Snowy Egret by Dana Small

The Photogram is published monthly, Sept-June, by the Portland Camera Club, Mike Leonard editor. The club is a charter member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and the New England Camera Club Council (NECCC), and is open to all interested in good photography. To contact the club call Bruce Burnham, President (633-5516), Mike Leonard (846-4897) mleonard@maine.rr.com or Dennis Marrotte, Secretary (854-3763).

Market Place

**A Special Thank you to our supporters
Please say that you saw them in the Photogram!**



**Photographic
Traditions of Maine**

Custom Ilfochrome, Type C, B&W and Platinum Printing

125 Presumpscot Street, Portland, Maine 04103
207-774-8200
ptom@photographictraditions.com

Take Washington Avenue North and turn right on to Presumpscot Street. Take a right at the Chapman sign. Look for Photographic Traditions of Maine.

Show your Portland Camera Club card and receive 15% off all orders.



May 2006 Camera Club Specials at Hunts:

**Canon Rebel XT with 18-70 lens
factory refurbished
\$570.00....limited supply**

Canon 5D.....\$2969.99

less \$300 Canon rebate till July 15, 2006!

Nikon D200 with 18-70 lens.....\$1999.99

Epson 2200 Inks.....\$8.99

Epson 2400 Inks.....\$11.99

Epson 1800 Inks.....\$11.99

Epson P2000 40G\$399.99 less \$50.00 mail in rebate

Velvia 50-36....\$3.99 each in 20 pack

Velvia 100F-36 dated 7/06....\$2.50 per roll in 20 packs

EBX-36 in 5 pack.....\$3.99 each

Sandisk Extreme III 2Gig.....\$109.99

**Call Dave Draper at Hunts
South Portland store at 773-9555**



Portland Color
Photo Processing Services

**E6 & C41 Processing • Scanning
Prints from Digital Files, Slides, and Negatives**
(wallets thru 10"x15")

Hours:
Mon - Sat: 10am to 8pm
Sun: 12 noon to 5pm

for icc profiles and other info:
www.portlandcolor.com



now at
220 Maine Mall Rd
South Portland, ME
207.879.6060
deb@portlandcolor.com



Final Frame - Sign of Spring by Doug Coleman

Portland Camera Club

P.O. Box 2526

South Portland, ME 04116

