

## **The Women Photographers of Photo Club SPOLOKHI**

By Tamara Ishenina  
Vice President, Photo Club SPOLOKHI  
Archangel, Russia

Translated from Russian to English by Loni Shutov in 1991 when he was an Exchange Student at the University of Southern Maine.

During all nine years of the Photo Club's existence, there constantly had been a group of four or five women in it. Today, they are: Irina Deineko, Tamara Schilina, Tamara Ishenina. (Irena Dunenkova and Natasha Maksimova are very busy with their family problems but I am sure they will be back. )

Despite the somewhat similar styles of all the Photo Club' s members, our women are different from the rest of them. How different ?

When new works of SPOLOKHI members are discussed, women usually form a common opinion which is quite often different than that of men.

And it is not because our photographs are not as professional. The winner of the two latest contests at the Club (where the author' s name is represented by a number ) was Irina Deineko.

And, by the way, who is the organizer of the mini - contest "Tumanie"? Women of course.

And we have our favorite "ladies" place for taking pictures - The Village of Zaruchye. And while on a rainy Fall day, our men stay in their homes, we go to this Village despite the rain and slush. We get a drink of hot Tea from a thermos at an old abandoned stable, then take out umbrellas, and Off we go into the wet fields to shoot.

Who would dare to say now, that women are not as obsessed with Art as men.

We love people and we love to take pictures of them in different situations and moods. The same can be said about Nature and Wilderness ~ One wishes to keep every sight of it forever.

We cannot help feeling very close to the People that we take pictures of, or shuddering with emotion every time a wave hits the shore.

This is the only moment when your Soul is free of the word "must," free of the humiliation of standing in lines, of the insane pile of slogans in your mind.

But, what wonderful stories our pictures tell. Like that trip of Tamara Schilina to a village. Just imagine—a strange woman going back and forth along a street in a small village carrying around a basket...without a bottom. She just picked up a basket that somebody threw out and she was looking for a nice spot to take a picture of it. Later at the Club, she was telling us how the dogs barked at her and the village people eyed her suspiciously.

Another time, she was taking pictures of a 1 year old Bear living in a person's backyard. The beast had a sudden attack of curiosity, started chasing the photographer, caught up with her and...Gave Her a Hug! Tamara said that never in her Life was she as scared as at that time.

Irina Deineko has been with the Club for three years. She moved to Archangel after graduating from the Leningrad (Saint Petersburg) Institute of Communications. She is a volunteer Guide at the local Museum. Photography is just one of her many hobbies. Irina brings to the Club photographs and slides taken in the Vologda and Velikiy Ustug regions, in the Villages around Mezen and Pinega ~ Beautiful sights of Northern landscapes and architecture.

After one glance at her works, one feels that, although Irina has lived in the North for a short time, she understands it as well or maybe even better than we do.

Every person that can use a camera confronts a choice - What to photograph ? And people spend years searching for an answer to this question. But, the answer is simple - Photograph whatever you love.

And of course, our results are not words but Pictures. And here they are for you to see.

Tamara Ishenina  
Vice President  
Photo Club SPOLOKHI  
Archangel, Russia

Tamara's Essay was published in the "Soviet Photo Magazine" for the Union of Photojournalists of the U.S.S.R., # 7, July 1991.

Dennis Marrotte  
Portland Camera Club  
May 16th, 2018