

Greetings Earthlings!

Now I know you are all waiting to see the latest and greatest issue yet of the "Sioux Projector". Well, let's just say I have some good news.....and I have some bad news.....

The good news? I saved some money on my car insurance with Geico.....(I wish.....)

Now the bad news..... I have suffered my first honest-to-goodness computer CRASH.....and it was not a pretty site. Out of nowhere, this big truck came screaming out of a digitally enhanced fog bank and hit my Gateway broadside.

The poor thing never saw it coming. Pieces of hard drives and CD burners were scattered as far as the eye could see. The good news is that my images are safe...but not so for much some of my other "stuff".....(psssst, Sandy.... I'll be needing the Distiller CD again.....)

Anyway, I've been saying for a while that it might be time for a new Extreme Makeover for the old newsletter, and I guess now is as good as ever.....

So, as I anxiously await the return of my computer (\$300 later...), you'll just have to settle for this e-mail version. (I don't have word processing or Adobe distiller on my laptop, so I couldn't do one anyway....)

So, onward.....

January Meetings:

Tuesday, January 3rd - at the Kenny Anderson Community Center - 7:30p.m.
Special Program - Marty DeWitt will present a program on Photographing Our National Parks Refreshments will be provided by Ron Balthazor
Monthly competition entries will be accepted. Themes are "Lifestyles" and "Nature"

Tuesday, January 17th - at the Kenny Anderson Community Center - 7:30p.m.
Program - announcement of monthly competition and any N4C results received Refreshments provided by Eric Merrill

Other items:

"Prez Sez" by Ron Balthazor

"Now that Christmas has passed us by, it's time to look forward to a new year. I think I'm more excited about the new year for I know I'll have many great learning experiences.

One thing I've discovered in my life is that I'm happiest when I am setting new goals. The constant stretch to learn new things and

accomplish new skills is a remarkable force. Although I do have a life (barely) outside of photography, it seems to be this artistic expression that offers the most challenges.

As many others have commented recently the quality of images to which we are exposed in the SFCC seems to be improving steadily. The bar is constantly moving higher. This is a good thing. It helps to establish goals for everyone. Regardless of your technical skills there are members who can help you improve. Let me encourage all of you to seek knowledge from your fellow members. That would seem to be the point of a camera club.

However, there are times when I feel we are not taking advantage of this wisdom. As a teacher, I learned one very valuable lesson. Teachers learn from students. So, whether you feel you are in the role of teacher or student, it is a mutually beneficial relationship. Very often the student's questions force you to think just a little bit deeper about the problem. Those questions force you to understand just a little bit more. No teacher can be effective without this deep understanding.

We have an amazing organization. Never before have I belonged to an association that had such a broad range of committed volunteers. I'm personally very thankful for that involvement. It makes my job much easier, but more importantly, it provides us all with the machinery to advance our photographic skills.

Happy New Year to you all!

Speaking of New Years - if you're looking for some fun and possible photo "ops", stop by a Hy-Vee Store, grab your \$6 Sioux Falls First Night button and a schedule of events and head out to shoot up the city Saturday night.

There's lots of entertainment planned, there will be some neat lights aroiund the city, and it'll all come to a dramatic conclusion with fireworks at midnight. Should be some neat shots out there somewhere.....

Competition Results for December

BUT FIRST!!!!!! Special THANKS to Don, Sandy and Verlyn for taking care of the Christmas banquet arrangements.

Judges were Linda Ward, Ron Balthazor, Lori Fisher and Steve Thompson

Color Slides

1st 45pts "Contemplation" by Marty DeWitt
2nd 44pts "Maple Flavored" by Ron Balthazor
3rd 42pts "Autumn in the Hills" by Ken Starkenburg
HM 41pts "Snowy Serenity" by Marty DeWitt
HM 39pts "Glacier Melt" by Marty DeWitt
HM 38pts "Rethimnan" by Ron Balthazor

B&W Prints

1st "Soft Thoughts" by Carol Schuurmans

2nd "Remaining Mum" by Ron Balthazor
3rd "Isolated" by Ron Balthazor
HM "A Walk in teh Rain" by Ron Balthazor
HM "The Storm Approaches" by Marty DeWitt
HM "Epcot" by Sandy Tebben

Color Prints

1st "Eagle and Magpie" by Marty DeWitt
2nd "View of the Falls" by Ron Balthazor 3rd "The Falling Lower
Falls in Fall" by Marty DeWitt (Sorry Ron...
couldn't help it!)
HM "Lost in Thought" by Ron Balthazor
HM "A Long Winter's Nap" by Marty DeWitt HM "It's Nature" by Carol
Schuurmans

GREAA JOB EVERYONE!!!! It was especially great to see entries from many
of our newer members!

For Sale

Don Rensberger still has two tripods for sale. I've asked him to bring
them to the next meeting in case someone is interested.

Digest Calendars - Ken Starckenberg and Marty DeWitt made quite a
showing in the 2006 "Conservation Digest" calendar. Between the two of
them, they accounted for 6 months and the back cover. They are
providing SFCC members with a complimentary copy, so if you haven't
gotten yours yet, there will be some at the next meeting.

Well, that's about enough. Again, I apologize for the low-tech edition.
I hope all goes well and that I'm back up and running for the February
issue.

In the meantime - HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!