

IN FOCUS

A Newsletter of **Grand Photos** of Sun City Grand

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FROM THE PREZ...

By Wayne Wellan



First of all, I would like to thank Sue Marrugi for taking the position of Editor for the Grand Photos **IN FOCUS** newsletter. Our Photo Club is very fortunate to have so many talented people. I would also like to thank our Vice President, Jerry Weinstein, for coordinating the summer programs during my absence this summer. Many thanks go to Gene McDermott and his committee for doing the picture cards and also to all the members who made presentations at our workshops.

I'm looking forward to installing our work stations in the new lab, and seeing the new photos from our members that will be presented at ACCC and Grand Photos.

Thank you again for all the great support. I'll be glad to see you all again when I return to Sun City Grand during the first week of October.

The election of new officers will be coming up soon. We will need a nominating committee to come up with a slate of officers. Please let me or other board members know of your interest. The rules state that the nominating committee cannot contain current board members or candidates for the board.

I also encourage the members to consider running for the new board. ❖

Oktoberfest, Saturday, Oct. 6th

(Save the date!!)



By Lyle Patton

Oktoberfest '07 Chairman

Grand Photos will be on display at the SCG Oktoberfest! We'll be showing off our club and recruiting new members, displaying and selling members' prints, and selling cards and gift bags.

Sales were surprising at the Spring '07 Art Show – with small prints on 11" x 14" boards priced at \$10.00 and large prints on 16" x 20" boards for \$20-30.00. Our proceeds reached \$180! And we're hoping our new inventory of photo note cards, holiday cards and gift bags will attract lots of customers.

We'll need helpers for setup, takedown, and manning the display. And we'll need nice mounted prints – both large and small – to show off what our Grand Photos members can do. If you wish, yours can also be for sale. The mounted prints can be brought to the Photo Club lab the week before. Indicate your price or "NFS" on them. Contact me before bringing any framed prints.

We'll need lots of help from 8AM to 4:30PM for the 9 to 4 show; if you can donate an hour or two, **please** contact me at pattfam@cox.net or by phone at 623-266-7095. ❖

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ACCC Fall Roundup Competition

By Ron Schoenwald, ACCC Rep; Dik Salsbury, Digital; Jim Urquhart, Prints; Stan Bormann, Slide Chrm.

The entry turn-in for the ACCC 2007 Fall Roundup will be on September 27th in the Yavapai Room, Chaparral Center from 9AM to noon.

Many of you are new to ACCC competitions. You can visit the ACCC website, but it is not up-to-date and you may not find all the answers to your questions. ACCC entry rules differ from our club and Northwest Valley competitions.

General:

Separate competition divisions are **Prints**, **Slides**, and **Digitals**. You may enter two images in each category of each division at \$1.00 each.

Prints – Limit of 6 prints allowed:

For print entries, ACCC has the following requirements that differ from ours:

- No foam board is allowed
- The matt board can be 11x14 up to 16x20
- Strokes are allowed in the Nature Category up to 5 pixels in width.
- Monochrome. ACCC allows a color in addition to black and white.

Suggestion: If you mount all your prints on 16x20 black or white matt boards and print the Monochromes using only black and white, you may enter them in our competitions.

Print Categories are:

- **MONOCHROME OPEN**
- **MONOCHROME NATURE**
- **COLOR OPEN**
- **COLOR NATURE**
- **ROTATING (Celebrations)**
- **CREATIVE**

The Print Committee will fill out the ACCC labels for your prints, but use the entry form to list your entries and categories. (Entry forms for prints and digital have been e-mailed to you and will also be on the Web site at www.grandphotos.net)

Slides

Slide categories are:

- **OPEN**
- **NATURE**
- **ROTATING (Celebrations)**
- **VIRGIN**

Virgin category slides must be “as shot” and must be shot originally on slide film and not modified in any manner after the picture is taken other than cropping in some manner such as using a Gepe mount. It is permissible to have filters on the camera when the shot is taken.

Digitals

Digital categories are:

- **OPEN**
- **NATURE**
- **CREATIVE EXPRESSION**
- **ROTATING (Celebrations)**

Images shall be jpg, 1024 x 768, quality 8-10. A thin stroke of up to 5 pixels in width will be allowed. Having images correctly named is critically important. An e-mail defining the correct file-naming convention was e-mailed to the membership. You can also check our Web site (www.grandphotos.net) in the Competition section. Grand Photos members participate very well in the ACCC competitions and we encourage you to enter your photos and then attend the show on Nov. 10th to see them displayed.❖



Glade Creek, Tennessee – Infrared – 2007
Jim Urquhart

What a Summer We Had!

By Jerry Weinstein, Vice President

Our lab was open each Monday and Thursday morning throughout the summer. Many thanks to the volunteers who were monitors. We couldn't do it without you. John Hertia, I don't think you missed a morning! It was great seeing the members just come in and talk about their equipment, trips they took or plan on taking. Many members had some problems they worked out in the lab. We came up with some new ideas and spoke about things that we thought would help Grand Photos become the best that it can be.

We had workshops each Monday afternoon. They were attended by at least 20-30 members. It was fantastic!! With such a great turnout, we didn't think we had snowbirds. The workshops were interesting and very productive. We learned how to use Power Point and how to clean a sensor. We found out how to shoot pictures at the zoo, and how the Strategic Air Command took their pictures. Just to name a few.

I want to thank those members who worked so hard to plan and give the classes. They were great. We didn't stop for a minute. **Our club can be whatever we want it to be.** Thanks for all the help you gave me this summer! ❖



Summer '07
Wayne Wellan

From the Editor...

We hope you enjoy this first edition of the bi-monthly Grand Photos newsletter **IN FOCUS!** We certainly will welcome your ideas and suggestions for future issues. Our next issue will come out in November.

We have a lot of talent in our club. One of our regular features will be "**Tips and Tricks**". If you have an approach to photography that you would like to share in the form of an article and pictures, please let me know. You can e-mail me at sumarru165@msn.com or call me at (623) 584-2080.

Sue Marrugi, Editor

Out of Africa-Wildlife Park Photo Shoot

By John Hertia, Photo Shoot Chairman

The first photo shoot being considered for the new season is the **Out of Africa – Wildlife Park**. This is located 90 miles north of Phoenix and only 20 minutes south of Sedona.

This is a photographer's dream, with the following opportunities:

Serengeti Safari in a safari vehicle with a tour guide.

The Wildlife Preserve. There is an educational tram or trolley tour of the preserve with an unobstructed platform providing excellent photo opportunities. We'll see lions, tigers, hyenas, wolves and other predators that roam in large open habitats.

The Predator Feed and Giant Snake are other attractions!

The cost is \$26.00 per person. Expect to spend at least 4-5 hours to see the complete park. The date is yet to be decided, depending on the interest. ❖

“Tips and Tricks”

IF I CAN JUST REMEMBER...

By Gary Jann

Tomorrow promises to be the perfect fall day...sunny, cool morning, and highs around 80 degrees. How can I take advantage of this great outdoor opportunity? Let's see. Oh yes, I remember, last summer there was a photo club presentation about how to take pictures of animals at the zoo. Here's an idea. I can take the grandkids along, outfit them with some of those inexpensive digital cameras, and we can all "shoot critters".

I'll get my stuff together and plan to get out of the house early. What can I remember about taking pictures at the zoo? There was something about shooting through the wire and depth of field and backgrounds, and, oh yes, what was it about the eyes? Wow! I better sit down and write out some of these ideas so tomorrow I can be ready. Ok, let's see what I can remember.

1. Shooting through cage wire. The idea is to reduce the visibility of the wire in the photo. To do that I need to lower the f-stop, thus opening the lens aperture, so that the depth of field is shorter. This should blur the wire when I focus on the subject. The further the subject is behind the wire, the better chance I have of blurring out the wire. I also need to get as close to the wire as possible. I can also shoot through the wire if it has larger openings, providing I can get close to it.

2. Using Wire cages. There might be an opportunity to use the cage to frame or highlight a critter behind it. I need to be looking for those possibilities.

3. Be aware of backgrounds. Backgrounds need to enhance the critter. They should not be competing with my subject. I need to find neutral, non-cluttered or sometimes contrasting backgrounds. That may not always be possible, so what can I do then? Oh yes, Elements to the rescue. But then I may not be able to use the photo in nature competitions. Wow, there is so much to remember.

4. Focus on the eyes. Just like portrait shooting, I need to focus on the critter's eyes. I may need to use the manual focus to make sure I get the focus exactly across the pupil of the eye. There was something else about the eyes too

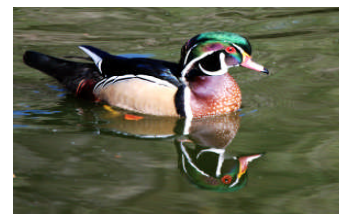


5. Capture eye glint. I need to look for the sun's reflection off the eye. This means the critter needs to be in the sun, eyes open, and the sun behind me when I am facing the critter. But that isn't always possible. Yes, I can always try my flash. If I use the fill flash, perhaps I can catch the glint in the eye. The last resort is Elements again.

6. Get closer and closer and closer. I see a great shot and start shooting. Then I need to physically move in closer and shoot a few more and then move in again. If physically moving isn't possible, then I use my telephoto lens to get closer and closer.

7. Use natural lighting – front, back, and side. I need to remember that front lighting provides no shadows and makes the critter look flat or two dimensional. Side lighting creates shadow and highlight patterns across the critter and creates a three dimensional quality. Backlighting puts the entire critter I can see in shadow. The result could be a neat highlighting of the critter's furry edges. I can also try focusing on the critter and exposing for the background to create an interesting silhouette.

8. Look for unique poses, angles, and activities. Some critters provide interesting shots when they are motionless. Others may be performing and offering unique action shots. I must remember to use a faster shutter speed to freeze the action pictures. Of course, I can always use the critters' motion blur with slower shutter speeds to create interesting shots as well. I may have the opportunity to change my angle of view by crouching down or even lying down to create a unique perspective of a critter. Then again, there may be a chance to climb on something to change my angle too. I have lots of possibilities to think about.



9. Use Elements. Later I may use Elements to enhance photos and create that unique shot not possible at the zoo to impress my friends!



Wow! There is just so much to remember. I'm glad I took the time to think about these ideas and write them down before I go. Now if I can just remember to take my camera, and pick up the grandkids. ❖