

# the *LensPaper*

NORTH COUNTY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

AUGUST 2004

## August 2004 Meeting

Wednesday, August 25, 2004  
Quail Botanical Garden, Encinitas  
Ecke Building Meeting Room  
Enter Front Gate - **Exit Rear Gate**  
Front Gate is Locked at 7:00 p.m.

**6:00 p.m. - Front Gate Opens**

**6:15 p.m. - Sign-in & Refreshments**

**6:30 p.m. - Announcements & Member Greeting**

**6:45 p.m. - Member Share**

**7:15 p.m. - Break & Refreshments**

**7:30 - 8:30 p.m. - Presentation**

**Donations: First-time guests free/ returning guests \$3.00**

## AUGUST'S SPEAKER: BOB HARRINGTON

For August, Bob Harrington will present a program entitled "Pluses and Minuses of Digital SLRs."

Bob will give an even-handed presentation of what digital SLRs can do, their warts, and what it takes to use one. He will also show some images, time permitting.



Bob Harrington was a life-long casual film shooter and became serious about photography only after getting a digital SLR two years ago. Digital photography was a natural choice because in Bob's working career as an electronics engineer, from which he's retired, he was immersed in computers and other technical subjects. In those two years, he has shot over 35,000 frames, taking advantage of one of the virtues of digital cameras, that one is able to climb the learning curve relatively rapidly. In addition to this indispensable hands-on experience, Bob made good use of the incredibly wide and deep resources on the Internet.

Birds, especially in flight, became a passion early on, and Bob has accumulated a fairly extensive avian photo library. He also began photographing the organ concerts in Balboa Park and was asked to become the "official photographer" (volunteer) for the Spreckels Organ Society, for which he maintains a photo gallery for the SOS web site. He has three photos hung permanently in the Spreckels Organ

Building. He has produced numerous promotional portraits for Carol Williams, San Diego Civic Organist. One of Bob's photos was chosen as "Photo of the Week" by *Birder's World* magazine (online edition), and he had five images accepted at the San Diego Fair in 2003, including three honorable mentions. Bob's photos are shown in his web site, [www.robert-harrington.com](http://www.robert-harrington.com). They appear on several other web sites, and they have been used in newsletters and on two CD covers for Carol Williams. Bob has had some success selling prints and sold photo rights to an advertising agency, a textbook company and others.

Bob's latest photo endeavor is autocross, a sport in which cars are driven singly on a curving course set by cones. A local group sponsors meets in Qualcomm Stadium, giving the opportunity for photographing the cars in motion.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Mike McMahon

Over the past months, it has been more obvious than ever that the engine that drives the enthusiasm of the Society is the amazing volunteer effort that we receive. If, like me, you've noticed a renewed sense of excitement and activity, I would suggest that it is a direct result of the increased levels of volunteer commitment.

We have the highest level of Photo Shoot activity that we've seen over the past couple of years...thanks to the leadership of Carolyn Taylor and to the volunteer Shoot leaders. Our *LensPaper* newsletter has expanded with excellent new content...thanks to the efforts of our Editor, Hugh Cox, and those members who submit valuable articles.

Our website has taken tremendous strides...thanks to the skill and hard work of our Webmaster, Tom Scott. It is now a source of up-to-date information on activities...past, present, and future. The online galleries offer members a free avenue to show their work on the internet.

NCPS members played a larger role at the San Diego Fair than ever...volunteering to help hang the show and by entering and winning awards in record numbers. Our upcoming Members' Exhibition in November promises to be better than ever...again, thanks to our volunteer leaders, Carrie Barton and Jeff Brosbe, and the many members who contribute to the event.

Mindful of the success we've enjoyed, I believe it is important to do two things. First, we need to thank our volunteers at every opportunity...they give of their time and talent and are deserving of our appreciation. Second, we need to encourage others to step up. Those who are not currently involved need to consider lending a hand. The last thing we want to do is to "burn out" our volunteers - refreshing the team with new contributors is the key to sustaining our programs.

Please be prepared to say "Yes" when the call goes out for volunteer help...it will ensure the continued success of the NCPS.

**Thanks to fellow member, Tom Scott, for sharing his knowledge and experience last month in "Going Public With Your Work". Tom's presentation was masterful.**

**PHOTO SHOOTS** by Carolyn Taylor

Members enjoyed a Saturday morning photo shoot at the Bernardo Winery, a first visit for most of us to this old (established 1889) family owned establishment. Thanks to Bob Cameron and his laptop, we were able to view our digital work on the spot. There were lots of things to photograph and several stayed on for "patio dining" at the Café Merlot - very nice indeed.



While visiting under the vine-covered patio at the winery, we all agreed that we'd love to tap into the club's membership for more sharing of particular interests. Will you teach others at an informal outing? How about a "table-top" shoot giving us ideas and suggestions for photographing flowers, shiny objects, and other items? Anyone willing to lead us in "available light portraits"? Some of us with new digital cameras would welcome a simple "hands-on" lesson on basic operations. Get the idea?

Step forward - you are guaranteed an appreciative audience of your fellow club members!

**MEMBER SHARE** by Emile Kfourri

August's Topic - "Documentary"

Select or make three images that, when placed together, tell a simple story. Examples could be a person building something, an animal looking for food or a child getting into mischief. They say images are worth a 1,000 words. Try to use up to 3 images to say the 1,000 or 3,000 words for you. You will not be able to describe the images, so they will need to do the talking for you.

**NINTH ANNUAL NCPS PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION** by Carrie Barton and Jeffery R. Brosbe

IT IS NOW!! The application for this year's Annual NCPS Member's Exhibition is in this newsletter. Last year's exhibition was a great success and we expect this year's to even surpass that. Please read the application form carefully. There have been a few changes. There are also contact numbers and email addresses for those questions that you may have. **GET YOUR APPLICATION IN ASAP.** And Carrie and Jeff will be at the meeting to answer questions there too.

**MEMBER PROFILE: Garrie Lynn Rhodes**

Garrie Lynn Rhodes has been taking pictures since she was seven, at which time she loved to shoot bridges. At age nine, her parents got her a developing kit and she developed photographs in the basement of their Michigan home. Garrie has always had a deep love of nature and her photography reflects that to this day.



She received a degree in Biology from the University of Michigan which was followed by a MBA. She got a bit far afield from nature by being a college instructor and a stockbroker. As an Air Force wife, she has lived in 27 houses and has had a chance to see a bit of the world. She loved living in London, Japan and all of Asia, but her preference of places to live and work is right here in Southern California.

Five years ago, Garrie went back to college (Palomar College) and earned a certificate in Photography.

This past year she has changed almost entirely to digital photography.

Garrie loves the challenge of looking at the world through the camera. This forces her to see the shapes and colors and patterns in everything she observes.

Garrie is a member of the NCPS board, sharing the duties of Program Coordinator with Barbara Royer.



## DIGITAL CAMERA SENSOR SIZE: THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION

by Bob Harrington

The only question most people ask me about my digital camera is: "How many megapixels?" It is an important question, maybe the most important, but a close second is the size of the sensor, and no one has ever asked me about that.

Sensor sizes vary over a wide range but tend to fall into two general categories. DSLRs have sensors in the range from around 24x16 mm to 36x24 mm, whereas consumer or "prosumer" cameras have sensors in the vicinity of 8x6 mm. The difference is very important to the performance of the cameras because sensor size determines how much noise a sensor produces, and noise is one of the main limitations on the performance of a digital camera.

The advantages of larger sensors correspond in important respects to the advantages of medium and large format over 35 mm film. A difference is that the resolution of a digital sensor is determined by the number of megapixels, not the overall size of the sensor. Squeezing 8 megapixels onto an 8.8x6.6 mm chip, as in the Sony DSC-F828, does indeed provide 8-MP resolution, but the noise is much higher than, for example, the Canon 300D (Rebel), a 6-MP DSLR with a 22.7x15.1 mm sensor. A direct comparison of the noise of these two can be seen in the review of the F828 on the [dpreview.com](http://www.dpreview.com) website. The F828 has about four times the amount of noise as the 300D at most ISO settings.

Noise in a digital image is manifested as speckles all over. It is worse at higher ISO settings, an understandable phenomenon when you consider that higher ISOs are achieved simply by increasing the amplification of the

sensor signals. It is analogous to turning up the volume on a radio for a distant station.

Unfortunately, you will seldom find sensor sizes in millimeters in the specifications for digital cameras. One is tempted to conclude that manufacturers intentionally obfuscate by specifying sensor size in terms such as "1/1.8," which actually means 7.176x5.319 mm. A useful key for decoding these specs is at <http://www.dpreview.com/news/0210/02100402sensormsizes.asp>.

Prosumer cameras such as the Sony DSC-F828 or Minolta DiMAGE A2 (also with 8.8x6.6 mm sensor) are serious cameras capable of producing great images, but it would be a mistake to assume that they are comparable to, for example, the Canon 1D Mk II simply because they all have 8-megapixel sensors. There are, of course, a number of reasons why the Canon will outperform the others, but one important reason is the much larger (28.7x19.1 mm) sensor in the Canon.

Comments welcome to Bob at [robthrr@cox.net](mailto:robthrr@cox.net).

## COURTESY

Tom Scott's presentation at our July meeting was interrupted by no less than half a dozen cell phone calls. Those members and guests who have a cell phone are requested to place them in the "off" position or set on silent vibrate mode. Those expecting calls or who anticipate having to leave early should sit at the back of the room so that their need to step outside goes as unnoticed as possible. Conversation within the audience during any presentation is inappropriate. Let's hope that, as a group, we can demonstrate better manners. Thank you.

## EVENTS/SHOWS

Cathy Scholl's photographic images are among the work of six artists who have art displayed at the "Hill Street Coffee Shop" located at 524 So. Coast Hwy, Oceanside. The show runs approximately through October.

Two of Jeff Brosbe's images were accepted into the 13th annual juried exhibition at the ATHENAEUM museum and music and arts library in La Jolla located at 1008 Wall Street.

Tom Scott's exhibition, *Sand Vision*, runs through August 21 at North County Camera's "The Photographer's Gallery" (see Sponsors on Page 4 for address).

## NEW MEMBERS

NCPS welcomes the following new members: Michael and Elaine Barton, Oceanside; Toshiko Fumia, San Diego; David Hamilton, Vista; Stanley John, Carlsbad; Paul Searby, Olivenhain; Jennifer Stein, Oceanside; and Leah Zhang, Vista.

**NEEDS A HOME**

NCPS member Suzanne Schmidt/Traner reports that she has the following items for sale: (1.) Epson Expression 1600 transparency unit still in the box brand new and still in the box for \$200. or best offer; and (2.) Hewlett-Packard deskjet printer, 970C used for best offer. Contact Suzanne at (760) 742-2368.

**SPONSORS**

The North County Photographic Society thanks the following sponsors of their Eighth Annual Member Photography Exhibition. Please show your appreciation by visiting them.

<p><b>North Coast Photographic Services</b> 5451 Avenida Encinas, Suite D Carlsbad, CA 92008 (760) 931-6809 www.northcoastphoto.com</p>	<p><b>The Photo Factory</b> 733 Third Ave. San Diego, CA 92101 1 (800) 479-4997 richard@photofactory.com</p>
<p><b>North County Camera</b> 830 West Valley Parkway Escondido, CA 92025 (760) 737-6002 www.nccamera.com</p>	<p><b>Professional Photographic Repair</b> 7910 Raytheon Road San Diego, CA 92111 (858) 277-3700 prophoto@gte.net</p>
<p><b>Oceanside Photo and Telescope</b> 1024 Mission Ave. Oceanside, CA 92054 (760) 722-3348 www.optcorp.com</p>	<p><b>Yolie's Digital Imaging</b> 135 East Broadway Vista, CA 92084 (760) 724-8585 www.yolie.com</p>

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Digital SIG	James Respass	jim@greenflashphotography.com

**NOTE:** Please place NCPS in the Subject line of all correspondence.

**TO REACH NCPS**

<p><b>Web Site:</b> <a href="http://www.nc-photo.org">http://www.nc-photo.org</a> 24-Hour Programmed Info/Message Line: (760) 752-6375</p>
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