

The Newsletter of the **Simsbury Camera Club**

P.O. Box 321, Simsbury, CT 06070

Visit us on the Web at

www.SimsburyCameraClub.com

Meetings:

1st Tuesday, 7pm—Simsbury Public Library
3rd Wednesdays, 7 PM - Eno Mem. Hall Rm001
754 Hopmeadow St. (Route 10/202), Simsbury, CT

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April 2012

Member Photographic
Society of America



Affiliate
New England
Camera Club Council

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April Program:
By
John Slonina

Simsbury Library
Tuesday, April. 3
7:00pm

***UPCOMING DIGITAL
COMPETITIONS***

April 2012

Regular Category: Travel

May 2012

Regular Category: Simsbury Bank Calendar
Special Category: SONG/BOOK/MOVIE Title

Our Presenter for our April 3rd meeting will be John Slonina. John and Vicki Slonina are professional nature photographers, tour leader and writer devoted to the conservation of wild places and wild things. John's goal is to portray natural events through elegant nature photographs and writings. John's photographs are designed to show the phenomenal beauty of nature in a dramatic artistic way. Incredible things happen every second, but are often unnoticed.

From John's website: www.sphotography.com:

We have been studying natural history and photography for several years. This increased our awareness of several issues impacting our environment. We document natural events such as behaviors, life cycles, and the habitats needed for survival.

My goal is to use our photographs and writings to educate and inform as many people as possible about nature and environmental issues. I hope to introduce them to places and animals that they may never have the opportunity to see. I believe that a personal connection to nature is necessary to increase a person's desire to protect a particular species and habitat.

Upcoming Noteworthy Dates:

- Apr. 3: Monthly Program Meeting
- Apr. 11: Digital Contest Images Due
- Apr. 16: Judging Digital Images - 6:30
- Apr. 18: Monthly Competition Meeting - 7:00

(Continued on page 2)

Simsbury Camera Club Executive Committee

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Refreshments:
Bill Latournes
Linda Pro

(Continued from page 1)

We feel that it is important to educate and inform the public about natural/real events. My photographs are always of animals in the wild and never of those being held in a captive environment. Therefore, all our art reflects what we see in our travels.

We have over 400,000 natural history images. Our files are rapidly growing with new images being added weekly. Our photography is distinctive, artistic, and sharp. Our love of natural history is evident in our work and our passion for nature is the subject of each image.

Slonina Nature Photography is our Photo tour company. We lead trips across North America to many wildplaces. Our photo tours and workshops visit Florida, Tennessee, Montana, Wyoming, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Alaska, Minnesota, Washington State. We also lead photo tours to several national parks including Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Katmai, Mt Rainier, Olympic, Great Smoky Mountains, Kenai Fjords, Everglades, Big Cypress Preserve, Shenandoah, Acadia.

We hope that you all can make it to what will be a wonderful evening featuring John Slonina Nature photography.

After-The-Break

Our April 18 After-the-Break topic will be”

“Applying Sharpening selectively Using Luminosity or High-Pass Filters”

Come learn how to selective sharpening on selected areas of your photographs.

**Remember to Take Photographs for
The Simsbury Bank Calendar
submissions for next September!!**

Rule of Thirds

(excerpted from photographymad.com)

The rule of thirds is an essential photography technique. It can be applied to any subject to improve the composition and balance of your images.

The rule of thirds is one of the most useful composition techniques in photography. It's an important concept to learn as it can be used in all types of photography to produce images which are more engaging and better balanced.

Of course, rules should never be applied blindly, particularly in art, so you should think of it more as a handy "rule of thumb" rather than one that's set in stone. However, it will produce a pleasing photo more often than not, and is an excellent starting point for any composition.

What is the Rule of Thirds?

The rule of thirds involves mentally dividing up your image using 2 horizontal lines and 2 vertical lines, as shown below. You then position the important elements in your scene along those lines, or at the points where they meet.

When framing a photo, imagine the scene divided up as above. Think about what elements of the photo are most important, and try to position them at or near the lines and intersections of the grid. They don't have to be perfectly lined up as long as they're close.

You may need to move around to get the best composition. This forces you to think more carefully about the shot, and is a good habit to get into whether you're using the rule of thirds or not.

To help you out, some cameras have a setting which overlays a rule of thirds grid onto your photo. This removes all guesswork and helps you get your positioning even more accurate

In landscape shots, it's common to position the horizon along the centre of the frame, but this can give the photo a "split in two" feel. Instead, place it along one of the horizontal lines.

Try to include another interesting object, such as a tree, and position it according to the rule of thirds. This provides an "anchor", a natural focal point for the scene

It's a good idea to position people off to one side of the frame. This provides some "breathing space", shows the subject's environment, and stops the photo from looking like a mugshot.

We are naturally drawn to people's eyes. Place them at one of the intersections on the rule of thirds grid to give the shot a clear focal point.

When photographing moving subjects, position them as normal, but also pay attention to the direction they're moving. As a general rule you should leave more space in front of them than behind, to show where they're going

You can easily apply the rule of thirds to existing photos by cropping them. This allows you to reposition the important subjects in your image, moving them into more pleasing positions.

To help you, software like Photoshop and Lightroom have built-in "crop guide overlays" which include a rule of thirds option. This places a rule of thirds grid on top of your image as you crop it, allowing you to get your positioning spot on.

Breaking the Rule

As with all rules (at least in photography), the rule of thirds doesn't apply in every situation, and sometimes breaking it can result in a much more eye-catching, interesting photo. Experiment and test out different compositions even if they go against any "rules" you've learned.

However, learn to use the rule of thirds effectively before you try to break it - that way you can be sure you're doing so in order to get a better composition, rather than just for the sake of it.

The Winter NECCC Competition Results By George Zars

This competition was held by the Gateway Camera Club on February 21. The judges were Marilyn Cloran, Jim Brady and Michael DiStefano. Forty –three clubs participated in the Pictorial section (15 Class A and 28 Class B. Forty clubs entered the Nature section (13 Class A and 27 Class B).

In the Pictorial section competing with the 28 Class B clubs, SCC club score of 74 ranked us 10. Our club's total score from the Fall and Winter contests is 155 placing us in the ninth place numerically.

This time we did better in the Nature section. Our club scored 84 points and received two Honorable Mention ribbons. Daniel Dermo's Swallows Communicating and Cathy Thiem's Ruby Throated Hummingbird received the ribbons with scores of 23. Congratulations!

Our cumulative score for the contest is 167 which places SCC at #7 among the 13 clubs in Class A Nature section (with a high score of 184 and a low score of 137).

The Spring Competition, ending this year's NECCC Interclub Competitions, will be judged on April 24th. A strong set of images has been submitted. Let us hope we earn more ribbons to end the year on a positive note.

Simsbury Camera Club 2011-2012 Calendar

Aug 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sep 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Oct 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Nov 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Dec 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jan 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Feb 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			






Mar 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Apr 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Jun 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Jul 2012						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

-  SCC Monthly Program Meeting (1st Tuesday)
(At Simsbury Library)
-  SCC Monthly Contest Meeting (3rd Wednesday)
(At Eno Memorial Hall)
-  SCC Judging night
-  SCC Images Due for Monthly Contest
-  SCC Images Due for Internet Contest

Important notes:

Please note important changes for the 2011-2012 year.

NEW Night—NEW Place for Program night!

Our First Tuesday monthly meetings (Program nights) will be held at Simsbury library from 7-9pm. This is a change from what in the past has been held on the first Wednesday.

NEW Internet Judging Contest!

There are 2 additional contests this year called Internet judgments. Images for these will be due on Sept 2nd and Jan. 20. Both these contests will be "NATURE" category. See below for details.

Our 3rd Wednesday meeting remains the same and held 3rd Wednesday night at Eno Memorial Hall. The monthly contest images are due on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Simsbury Camera Club
2011-2012 Monthly Contest Categories

Month	Regular (2)	Special (1)	Internet(2) <i>Note due dates</i>
April	TRAVEL	—	—
May	BANK CALENDAR	SONG/BOOK/MOVIE	—

Note: Regular and Internet categories will be counted in monthly/yearly points/averages. The special category is not counted towards total points. Special category is intended to give more flexibility to try creativity and unique topics without counting towards the points total.

Note on SCC guidelines for End-of-Year Awards

At the end of each season, along with our Images of the Year awards, we present several awards for high individual scores and averages for the season along with promotions to higher classes for individuals. To be eligible for these individual awards for images, we have in place some guidelines that we generally (at discretion of the judging committee) adhere to.

1. Members considered for individual awards (high total/high average in class) should have submitted a minimum of 12 (see note below) images (two-thirds of the full allowed 18 regular contest images) for this season. Note that for this year, we are not including the 2 internet judging submissions for this 2/3 guideline in submissions for digital images, since the 2 extra contests are new and we want to give it a chance to catch on this first year.
2. New members normally are placed in Class B when joining the Simsbury Camera Club. To be promoted to the next higher class, a member should have the minimum submissions in (1) above, and have a higher overall individual average than that of the class above (ie if a member in class B has a higher average than the total class A average and a minimum of 12 (see note) images submitted, the member is promoted to class A).

typically uses to make the contests fair for all and ensure people compete at a comparable level to others. However, the judging committee does reserve the right to make exceptions based on individual cases.

Some other judging notes:

1. Special contests results are **not** included in the individual points and average total. The purpose behind the special contests, is to offer different creative categories in which to be able to experiment without having to consider about how the image will score and affect one's standings. Therefore, we encourage you to try different and unique things in these special contests thinking "outside the box".
2. Judging results for individual images are always available from either the judging chairman or Focal Point editor. In our results, we only publish the winning image total points. However, if a maker is not present at the judging, your scores can always be obtained just by dropping one of us a note requesting the points for your particular image submitted.

These are guidelines that the judging committee

February Contest Results

Monthly Digital Image Contest: Open

Salon			
1st	28	Sun and Menacing Clouds	John McGarry
1st	28	Frog	Danielle D'Ermo
1st	28	Delaware Skipper Nectaring	John McGarry
2nd	27	Northern Mockingbird	Ben Skaught
2nd	27	Fall Colors	Nathan Gutman
HM	25	The Dream	Susan Poirier
HM	25	Bartolome Island	Ben Skaught
HM	25	Enders Falls	Bill Payne
HM	25	Planet Holcomb	Nathan Gutman

Total Images =

Class A

1st	28	Hawk	Mahen Shukla
2nd	25	Sara At Bridge	Laszlo Tarko
2nd	25	Natures Fireworks	Jim Patrina
HM	24	Taking Off	Bill Latournes
HM	24	Clearwings	Bill Latournes
HM	24	Early Childhood Literacy	Marck Buchanon

Total Images =

Class B

1st	26	Sand Dune at Dusk	David Beizer
1st	26	Moon Cat	Dolph Fusco
2nd	24	Black Cala Lily	Jeff Solak
2nd	24	Keep Your Motor Running	Alene Galin
2nd	24	Red Shouldered Hawk	Cathy Thiem
HM	23	American Brown Pelican	Cathy Thiem
HM	23	Meadow In Fall	Lea Anne Moran

Total Images = 28

Special Digital Contest: Motion

Salon			
1st	27	Cooling Off	John McGarry
Class A			
1st	25	Running With A Golf Ball	Bill Latournes
Class B			
1st	26	Cyclo Cross Racer	Lea Anne Moran
1st	26	Going For First Place	Cathy Thiem

Simsbury Camera Club Contest

Standings - March 2012

Overall Results to Date

Salon	23	IMAGES			Ribbons			
		Images	Points	Average	Blue	Red	White	Yellow
John McGarry	18	481	26.722	8	3	1	1	
Bruce Metzger	18	440	24.444		2			
Danielle D'Ermo	18	439	24.389	1	2	2	1	
Bill Payne	18	417	23.167		1	1		
Susan Poirier	16	379	23.688	1		1	1	
Ben Skaught	14	345	24.643		2	3		
Nathan Gutman	14	332	23.714		2	3		
Chris Fisher	14	326	23.286	1		1	1	
Gil Kleiner	14	295	21.071					
John Parisi	12	271	22.583			1		
Dick Clark	4	93	23.250					
Jim Watso	2	43	21.500					
Totals	162	3861	23.833					

Class A	Images	Points	Average	Blue	Red	White	Yellow
Bill Latournes	18	411	22.833	1	2	3	2
Richard Busch	17	398	23.412	2	4	3	
Mahen Shukla	17	391	23.000	3		2	1
Jim Patrina	17	376	22.118	1	3	2	
Steve Underwood	16	348	21.750		1	2	
Mark Buchanon	15	340	22.667	1	2	3	
George Zars	12	252	21.000			2	
Laszlo Tarko	10	232	23.200	1	1	1	
Barbara Steele	9	205	22.778	1		1	1
Kathy Miller	5	112	22.400				
David Royce	2	42	21.000				
Totals	138	3107	22.514				

Class B	Images	Points	Average	Blue	Red	White	Yellow
Cathy Thiem	18	420	23.333	3	3	4	1
David Beizer	17	370	21.765	1	1	3	
Alene Galin	18	364	20.222		3		1
Jim Ray	16	334	20.875	1	2	4	
Dolph Fusco	14	320	22.857	1	4	4	1
Lea Anne Moran	12	280	23.333	2	3	3	1
Ray Padron	10	212	21.200		1		
Lou Norton	6	133	22.167			1	
Anatoly Plaks	6	132	22.000				
Lu Pinner	5	99	19.800			1	1
Jeff Solak	4	97	24.250		1		
Paul Osgood	4	95	23.750	1		1	
Ed Raymond	2	39	19.500				
Liz Stanley	1	22	22.000				
Totals	133	2917	21.932				

Print Contest - Open

1st	25	Paul Osgood
1st	25	Paul Osgood
1st	25	Cathy Thiem
1st	25	Max Horton
2nd	24	Richard Busch

Print Standings to Date

	Prints	Pts	Ave
Paul Osgood	17	405	23.824
Bruce Metzger	14	319	22.786
Cathy Thiem	9	210	23.333
Richard Busch	7	152	21.714
Susan Poirer	7	149	21.286
Richard Tanner	5	120	24.000
Ben Skaught	2	47	23.500
Max Horton	2	47	23.500
Danielle D'Ermo	2	46	23.000
David Beizer	2	43	21.500
Chris Fisher	1	26	26.000
Total	68	1564	23.000