



The

Viewfinder

the Newsletter of the Syosset Camera Club

Volume 37 Number 6

February 2006

Spotlight on New Members

Jules Weisler reported by Moshe Markewitz

Jules Weisler joined our club during the 2005 season. Jules has been involved in Photography for many years. His photographic experience includes darkroom work in which he produced many prints which he used to hang at home and in his office. Surprisingly, Jules was never a Camera Club member until he joined us nor has he competed before. Jules now uses a Canon Rebel Digital Camera and had been submitting pictures for competition and scoring well. Jules is a retired science teacher and for many years, was a New York City Principal. He continues, even in retirement, to do science teacher training consultations. He authored a science text book and is a professor of education at St. Johns University. Jules is a father of two boys, has five grandchildren, and is a computer enthusiast. We wish you a welcome to the club and hope to see you active in all our functions



Our Trip To Elizabeth Morton Wildlife Preserve

Aileen Harrison

Gerry & I enjoyed a lovely day at the Elizabeth Morton Wildlife Preserve with a wonderful photographer, Ed Sambolin. The weather happened to be spectacular which added to the enjoyment. The last trip we did with Ed, was really cold. I don't want to make any bird photographers in the club jealous, but we had to practically chase the birds away. There were Red Cardinals, Blue jays, Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Black Capped Chickadees and a Hawk that we couldn't see to photograph, but heard.

Ed set up two blinds. He supplied the birdseed, blinds, a perch and chairs to sit on. The perch the birds landed on is a log that Ed filled with birdseed. It was a magnet for the birds. Gerry found the blind fairly comfortable because he was the only one in it and Ed brought a large chair for him instead of a little stool. Gerry also brought with him a right angle viewer that worked very well.

For me the blind was a little too confining. I enjoyed the ¾ mile

Meeting Schedule

POB Community Center
 Meetings start at 7:30 pm
<http://www.syossetcc.org>

January

- 1/19 Presentation by Leon Hertzson
- 1/26 Critique Night

February

- 2/9 Competition judged by Ed Sambolin
- 2/16 Presentation by Bill Rudock, "Landscapes."
- 2/23 Theme Competition "Eyes" judged by Arnold Brower

March

- 3/9 Competition judged by Richard Hunt
- 3/16 Presentation by Bill Overton of Oceanside Marine Nature Center
- 3/23 Presentation by Bill Schmidt

April

- 4/6 BOARD MEETING
- 4/13 Competition judged by Barry Kurek
- 4/20 Presentation by Ivan Rothman, The Falkland Islands
- 4/27 Theme Competition "Architecture" Judged by Dave Green

May

- 5/11 Competition judged by Art Inselsberger
- 5/18 Presentation by Tom Mantana, "Travel."
- 5/25 End of Year Competition judged by Mel Ettinger, Sherman Paur and Andrew Kurchey

June

- 6/16 end of year Honors Award Dinner at the Milleridge Inn 6/16

walk to the beach instead. I still was able to photograph plenty of birds in the trees and on the ground. The grounds have nature walks, and a large open field where Dear congregate.

This is a wonderful place to bring children. If you stand still and put birdseed in the palm of your hand, the Black Capped Chickadees eat the seed out of your hand. Actually that is the part of the trip that I enjoy most of all. When we get back from Florida in March, we want to go back with Ed. He does have three blinds, so I hope we can convince some members to join us.

Color Temperature Demystified



White point, white balance and color temperature are terms that are frequently misunderstood and sometimes confused. I thought this would be a good topic to explore after the hearing some of the questions raised during Alan Agdern's excellent presentation on photographic exposure.

Color temperature is an important concept in photography because of the brain's unconscious correction of vision. Human vision has the remarkable ability to correct what the eye actually "sees" to what we expect to see. In other words, an object that appears white under sunlight will also appear white even when reflecting light that is not perfectly white. Film and digital sensors record colors that are more or less faithful to their red, green and blue components. We therefore need to shift the color temperature recorded by the camera in order to get a image that corresponds to our "real life" perception of the scene.

With film photography, we handle color variations through the selection of film and filters. On the other hand, with digital photography we have a new creative option; the ability to change color temperature on a continuum from warm to cold without the use of filters.

Color temperature is measured in degrees Kelvin. You may recall from high school science, that the Kelvin (K) scale is a system of thermal measurement that starts at absolute zero, the coldest temperature possible. So what does color have to do with temperature? Color temperature is based on a theoretical material called a black body radiator which absorbs all

incident radiation. When a black body radiator is heated, it will give off light of a color that corresponds to a particular temperature. At about 900 K, it emits a dull red. Heated to between 1,500 and 2,000 K, it emits a yellowish-red color. At 3,000 K the black body radiates a yellowish-white color, and at 5,000 K a bluish-white. The filament of a common light bulb behaves similarly to a black body emitting a continuous spectrum of light. A fluorescent lamp on the other hand, emits spikes of color depending on the type and mixture of gases in the fluorescent tube.

Important Reminder

*New Sunday meeting place
Effective Jan. 1, 2006*

The Celebrity Diner at 8:00 am
The diner is on Jericho Turnpike
west of South Oyster Bay Road.

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SCC Officers may be contacted by using the link in-

www.svossetcc.org

The color temperature of the Sun is about 6,000 K. The sun, therefore radiates bluish-white light. Before reaching the earth however, the sun's light passes through the earth's atmosphere, which filters and diffuses it creating blue skies and red sunsets. The color temperature of daylight can range from about 2,000 K to 30,000 K, depending on the mix of direct sunlight with diffused and reflected light, the degree of refraction and the amount of dust and water vapor in the atmosphere. In the early morning and late evening, sunlight strikes the atmosphere at an oblique angle, causing it to pass through a thick layer of atmosphere. This causes a great amount of refraction that emphasizes the redder components and results in a low color temperature.

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Film that is intended for daylight shooting is balanced for a color temperature of about 5,500 K, while film intended for shooting under tungsten light is balanced for about 3,200 K. Since 5,500 K is much bluer than 3,200 K light, if outdoor film is shot using tungsten illumination, the pictures that result will have a distinctly yellow cast which is most apparent in the areas that should look white. Conversely, if tungsten film is used to shoot outdoors, the pictures will have a blue cast. These errors can be compensated for by using appropriate filters to alter the color balance of the light.

Color Temp. °K	Description
3000	Incandescent lighting
4200	Fluorescent lighting
5200	Direct sunlight
5400	Electronic flash
6000	Overcast daylight
8000	Shade

With a digital camera you adjust the "white balance" setting.

When you adjust the white Balance on your camera, you are selecting the color temperature that the camera will interpret as white. This is also known as the "White Point." Digital cameras are usually calibrated to 6500K as their default White Point. Theoretically, setting a computer monitor to sRGB should match the 6500K interpreted by the camera.

If your camera has automatic white balance, it will generally give you good color

balance assuming that you want the color balance to mimic sunlight. By fine tuning the white balance, you can make the photo warmer or cooler. This is an especially valuable tool for sunsets, portraits and other situations where color temperature is an important factor. Some DSLRs have a white balance bracketing feature that allows you to take a series of exposures at differing white balances. All digital cameras allow you to adjust white balance in steps similar to the above chart. High end cameras have a function that allows you to set the white balance by actual measurement using a neutral gray card or white object.

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There is one more concept that should be understood to round out the topic. This was covered in the September 2003 Viewfinder, but I will briefly review the key points for the sake of completeness. That is the *Mired* measuring system used to describe color correction filters. While these filters are seldom used in digital photography, they are still relevant for you film users. Mired means "micro reciprocal degrees" or the reciprocal of degrees Kelvin multiplied by 1 million (a more modern notation is MK-1), So who cares? Mireds, or more commonly decamireds (mired x 10) are used as a measurement standard for converting light from one color temperature to another using color conversion filters.

The advantage of decamired filters is that they can be numerically combined to create the required correction. A filter that produces a color temperature change of 1,000 K at 3,4000 K will produce a change of 10,000 K at 100,000 K. This is because the filters are designed to relate to a visual scale of color. The response of the human eye to color is more closely related to mireds than to degrees Kelvin. A color change of 1,000 K at the higher temperature would hardly be noticed. To see this more clearly, note the following changes in color temperature.

From		to		Difference	
K ⁰	Mired	K ⁰	Mired	K ⁰	Mired
9,100	110	5,900	170	3,200	60
4,350	230	3,450	290	9,00	60
4,000	250	3,200	310	8,00	60

Note that although the magnitude of difference in degrees Kelvin varies as the range changes, the filtration difference in mireds is the same. In use, the mired value of the light source is subtracted from that of the film. If the result is positive, you use a warming filter (reddish); if negative, a

cooling filter (bluish). These numbers are additive; meaning that a pair of R3's produces an R6. An R6 plus a B6 cancel each other out to produce a neutral gray. Editor

Letters

Another nail in the coffin

"Barry, I thought you might use a reference to this article in the SYCC newsletter." From the NY Times Technology Section, January 12, 2006. *"Nikon Plans to Stop Making Most Cameras that Use Film."* By Martin Fackler. *The Japanese camera maker said Thursday that it would stop making most of its film cameras and lenses in order to focus on digital cameras.* Peter Newman

Warning! CD's are not for permanent storage

CDs that you burn with your computer have a life span of two to five years, depending on the quality of the CD. Optical discs commonly used for burning, such as CD-R and CD-RW, have a recording surface consisting of a layer of dye that can be modified by heat to store data. The degradation process can result in the data "shifting" on the surface and thus becoming unreadable to the laser beam.

excerpted from <http://www.computerworld.com/blogs/node/>

sent in by Orrin Edwards

January Competition Results

Judged by Leon Hertzson

Color Prints Group A

Nines

Gerald Harrison- POM
Glick, Robert
Roth, Seymour

Eights

Markewitz, Moshe
Metzger, Peter
Newman, Peter
Patwa, Ramesh
Ross, Alan

Seven

Greenberg, Carole

Color Prints Group B

Nines

Marty Silverstein - POM
Harrison, Aileen
Lloyd, Loretta
Starling, Edward
Tropper, Mat

Eights

Goldstein, Barry
Rothman, Stan
Sunshine, Ira
Weisler, Jules

Seven

Goldstein, Carol
Herbst, Al
Kaplow, Mike
Monahan, Maylan
Volin, Linda

B&W Prints Group A

Nines

Marty Silverstein- POM
Glick, Robert

Eights

Agdern, Alan
Goldstein, Barry
Harrison, Gerald
Newman, Peter

Seven

Markewitz, Moshe

B&W Prints Group B

Nines

Peter Metzger- POM

Tropper, Mat

Eights

Goldstein, Carol
Kaplow, Mike
Lloyd, Loretta
Weisler, Jules

Slides Group A

Nine

Ramesh Patwa - **SOM**

Seven

Greenberg, Carole

Slides Group B

Nine

Linda Volin - **SOM**

Eight

Volin, Stanley

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PFLI Submissions

The PFLI allows entries from each club in proportion to the number of members in each category. Normally, all nines are forwarded to PFLI for entry in the following competition, but if there are more nines awarded than we can enter, some will be returned. Similarly, if there are too few nines, some eights will be submitted. This is at the discretion of the Harrison's who do the thankless job of entering the work. You will know if your print was not entered if it is returned to you without a PFLI label on the back. In that case, you may reenter it. Check the website for more details.

Theme Competitions

Theme competitions are judged the same way as other competitions with two exceptions. The scores do not count toward the end of year ranking and the subject matter must be faithful to the theme. For example, if the subject is "Trees," it is not good enough to have a tree somewhere in the image, it must be the obvious subject of the picture. The judge will use that as a consideration in judging the work. The February theme will be "Eyes." Your submission must contain "eyes" as the focal point of the photo. Have fun. That's what it's for.

Quotable Quote

"It is the time you spend setting up and considering the scene that is the art of photography. It's usually of very small consequence whether you press the button or not."



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Digital Photography 101

Monday January 30th - 6:30pm - 8:30pm Amityville Store
 Monday February 13th - 6:30pm - 8:30pm Syosset Store
 Monday February 27th - 6:30pm - 8:30pm Amityville Store
 Monday March 13th - 6:30pm - 8:30pm Syosset Store
 Monday March 27th - 6:30pm - 8:30pm Amityville Store



Class Fee: \$50 or FREE with camera purchase

SUMMARY: This 2 hour class will cover the basics of the exciting new world of digital photography. This course is geared toward new owners of Digital SLRs and Point-N-Shoot Digital cameras.
TOPICS INCLUDE: Digital Photography Terms, Camera functions, Resolution and Compression, White Balance, Shooting Techniques, Storage and Archiving, E-mailing Your Photos, Getting the Best Possible Print and Fun ideas for using your photos!

Digital 101 is held every 2nd Monday at our Syosset Store and every 4th Monday at our Amityville Store, unless noted

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