



# the Viewfinder

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*All I want for Christmas,*

*Hanukkah, Kwanzaa is my . . .*

Al Herbst

With the Holidays and gift giving times coming soon, I thought all of us who were naughty or nice start to prepare a list of gifts (hint) they would like to receive.

After much thought, and trying to decide which category I would fit into I prepared my list. I thought I would share it with you. I have my heart set on a new camera!

The new **Canik Mark X\*** (a joint venture between Canon and Nikon). This should put to rest the constant rivalry between us as to merits of Canon verses Nikon. Just to list some of the features of this new model, there are so many I cannot possibly list them all:

- 50 Mega Pixel sensor – this being the equivalent of the human eye.
- ISO of 40,000, which is 800x, times the sensor rating.
- A full 3-inch LCD screen that is fully articulated.
- A screen that is “live”.
- A new universal lens mount that would accept both Canon and Nikon lenses, If one decided to use them, in lieu of buying the ‘new walk around’ lens’.
- Built into the body is a “quick release”, one that the industry has standardized, and one that will work with all ball heads, pan heads, tripods and monopods.
- In the lens department, a ‘walk around’ light weight lens that will be a F2.0, 8mm to 400mm (50x Zoom) that is IS/VR/OS–in the vertical, horizontal, diagonal and rotary modes.
- A built in GPS system that will use the LCD screen as well as the built in speaker system to help the photographer to find his way out of the woods, locate his car or nearest restaurant. In addition the GPS will record into the stored data the exact location where each image was taken. Listing the latitude, longitude, altitude, temperature and the position of the sun in relation to the camera.



## PROGRAM 2008

Breakfast and field trips every Sunday starting at 8 AM at the Plainview Diner.

Meetings are at the Old Bethpage Community Center on Haypath Road, 7:30 PM

### December

11<sup>th</sup> Competition judged by Art Inselsberger

18<sup>th</sup> Ivan Rothman- Creatures Large and Small

### January 2009

8<sup>th</sup> Competition judged by Pat Walsh

15<sup>th</sup> William Grabowski- Photomontaging and Collaging  
22<sup>nd</sup> Theme Competition- “Abstract”

### February

12<sup>th</sup> Competition judged by Leon Hertzog

19<sup>th</sup> Allan Kessler- Selection Quality Media To Showcase Your Photographs

26<sup>th</sup> In house presentation TBA

### March

12<sup>th</sup> Competition judged by Ken Bausert

19<sup>th</sup> Theme Competition judged by Bill Grabowsky

26<sup>th</sup> In house presentation TBA

- A 5 gig buffer built into the camera, so that when you are shooting and your card fills up, the buffer would automatically respond to continue saving those winning images and notify you to 'replace memory card soon'.
- A built in flash that is equal to a Canon 580 EXII or Nikon SB900 that is also removable from the body for off camera shooting as well as being wireless within a 100 foot range. When the flash is not in use, it recedes into the camera body.
- Built into the body of the **Canik Mark X\*** will be a "hand warmer" that will heat the body of the camera to your suggested temperature. No longer will you be walking around with a frozen camera and frozen fingers. This system will also be used to keep the lenses from forming condensation on the surfaces when you take the camera in from the cold or into a high humidity environment. i.e. green houses, butterfly world, bird houses, etc.
- A 'personal sensor' that allows only the owner to use the camera. This would deter the theft of the **Canik Mark X\***, since it would not operate and transmit a signal indicating the location of the camera on a GPS tracking system. A removable card would set the owners code into the camera kept separately from the camera and can be used for a legitimate transfer of ownership and/or authorized user.
- The body as well as the lenses are completely water resistant and would shed the water in a normal rainsquall or if the camera falls into a lake and is removed within 30 seconds upon immersion.
- Video recorder mode– needless to say that the **Canik Mark X\*** can make the best of the camcorders take notice. The options, picture quality, sound as well as being able to download stills of high digital quality are so remarkable that this entire subject will covered in depth as well as seen on the TV special – Animal Kingdom. Check your TV Guide for time and date.
- My stocking will be hung on the mantle and when I come down in the morning, lo and behold .....
- If I do not find a **Canik Mark X\*** in my stocking, I will understand, times are tough. I still want to wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous holiday Season, filled with much joy and may the New Year bring you an abundance of 9's .....

\* \* \* \* \*

## Future Tech *Barry Goldstein*

### Sensor sensitivity

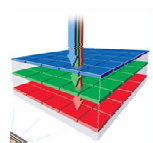
First the basics: silicon is the second most abundant element on Earth and the most versatile. Scientists have now found a way to make it even more useful by exposing it to sulfur hexafluoride in the presence of a high-powered laser. When that happens it becomes a new material called black silicon that's between 100 and 500 times more sensitive to light. A company called SiOnyx, don't ask me to pronounce that, is trying to commercialize it for use in digital cameras and other applications. Using this technology, it is not unreasonable to think that cameras of the future may sport a normal ISO of say 100,000. Who needs image stabilization when you're using a shutter speed of 1/50,000 sec?

Back to the present: there are two main sensor types used in mainstream digital cameras. The Foveon X3 sensor used in Sigma cameras and Bayar Pattern sensors used in most other digital

#### New Members

The Syosset Camera Club welcomes Margie & John Flagg as our newest members.

cameras. The Foveon sensor works in a manner similar to color film, in which each of the three primary colors is detected in a separate layer at each pixel location. Other sensors use a mosaic of red, green and blue filters called a Bayar Pattern. This pattern of filters covers the sensor so that each pixel has either a red, green or blue filter over it. Now Kodak has a new twist. In order to increase sensitivity, they are adding a fourth, pixel that



responds to all colors (panchromatic). Theoretically this may compromise color accuracy because of the reduced amount of RGB color information. The tradeoff will be a significant increase in light sensitivity and by inference, less noise.



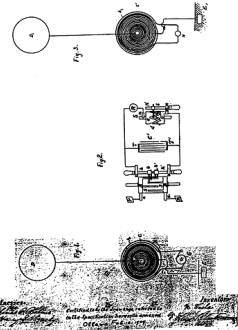
### Batteries

The commonplace battery is becoming as high tech as the other components of your digital camera. In a rather short period of time we have seen an evolution from the NiCad to Lithium-ion (Li-Ion) rechargeable battery. Now, developments in nanotechnology are promising to significantly increase the energy density

of Li-Ion batteries. The improvement is due to the increased surface area in the electrodes due to the shrinking of particle sizes by employing nanotechnology.

Increasing the power and reliability of batteries is only half the story. A concept that has been amply demonstrated in the laboratory but not implemented anywhere to my knowledge is that of 'long distance' wireless recharging. When you place your electric toothbrush in its stand it recharges wirelessly by magnetic coupling over a very small distance (a few millimeters at most). But what if the coupling distance could be increased to say 10 or 20 feet. The potential exists that sources of magnetic radiation in the range of 4 to 10 MHz could be installed in homes and public areas. A receiving device within that range would pick up the energy to power a charging device and automatically recharge batteries in cell phones, laptop computers, cameras and any other gadget you may be carrying.

Strange as it may seem, Nicola Tesla demonstrated the concept over 100 years ago. A man who demonstrated the concept of radio before Marconi, Tesla was one of the least appreciated geniuses of all time with 136 patents, among them Canadian patent 142352 "*Improvement in the Art of Transmitting Electrical Energy Through the Natural Mediums.*" He did not limit his vision to small distances. His dream was to wirelessly supply power to entire countries. At any rate, the concept is viable and it's only a matter of time until we see widespread implementation. The only downside may be the fear of health effects from the magnetic field. It is worth noting that there is no basis for such fear, but experience shows that fear will almost certainly delay development for decades.



### Landscape or Portrait?

Photographers in the early 1900's used a device called a rotating back to change camera orientation from landscape to portrait. It was simply a way of rotating the film holder instead of the camera, which was large, heavy and unwieldy. This is something that could not be done with roll film on, so the concept of the rotating back got lost in the recesses of view camera oddities. We don't use film in a digital camera, so why can't the sensor be turned instead of the camera? Alternatively, a Hasselblad like square format could be used and you could crop or not depending on your preference. Perhaps Mr. Herbst would agree to incorporate this concept into the Canik Mark X.

### Printer Ink Revisited *Barry Goldstein*

As a follow-up to the issue of printer ink economy, I refer you to an article in PC World that reports the results of tests performed by their laboratory. These tests confirm what I had reported in the September issue of the Viewfinder. Interestingly, HP is the only manufacturer whose printers do not automatically shut down when a low ink signal is received. For the full report please go to the following link:

[http://www.pcworld.com/article/152953/article.html?tk=nl\\_wbxnws](http://www.pcworld.com/article/152953/article.html?tk=nl_wbxnws)

### Give Me A Break *Barry Goldstein*

- Why can't we have standardized lens mounts and other camera parts? We already have standards for the accessory shoe, memory cards, tripod sockets and flash batteries, but you can't put your Nikon lens on a Canon or mount your Smith Victor quick release plate on a Benbo head. It doesn't make sense. If they are afraid of losing sales, I think they are misguided. One may be more inclined to spend big bucks on a lens if it would fit any other SLR that he or she would buy in the future.
- I don't recall ever reading a review in a photography magazine that did not conclude with a kind word about the product. If you happen to depend on these reviews as guidance, make sure that you at least read between the lines. Anything less than gushing praise about a product should probably be a red flag. I think it is rather obvious that they do not wish to offend their advertisers.
- Stop referring to the act of taking a picture a "shot." Shooting connotes a destructive act. Something you do with a gun to inflict pain or death. Photography is a creative process. Something you do to create beauty, express emotions or document truth. You shoot a bird to kill it. You photograph a bird to celebrate its beauty.
- Don't refer to photography equipment as entry level or professional. The word "professional" only denotes purpose, not perfection. Any camera can produce an image worthy of professional use. Just evaluate the quality aspects and let the user make the judgment regarding suitability. I 'just love' when a reviewer states that a camera is "good for use as a family camera" or "a great vacation lens." What's that mean? It's crap but what the hell, you're on vacation so you don't care?

- You buy a camera that is the result of years of development and space age technology and you get a manual that is next to worthless. I thought the manual that came with my Nikon camera was bad until I got the SB600 flash. That manual is almost unreadable. If Thom Hogan can write a comprehensive and readable manual and sell it for \$19.95, why can't Nikon or Canon hire him and put the damn thing in the box with the camera you just paid megabucks for? Give me a break!
- Stop using Photoshop CS4 as the only editing software. Most amateurs cannot justify the cost, do not have it and do not need it. When teaching people how to do some editing task, at least show them how to do it in the affordable programs such as Photoshop Elements or even some of the free ones.
- Why can't I take a picture of a bridge? It makes no sense. Terrorists have no problem using concealed cameras, cell phones or satellite images from NASA and Google.

## Straighten That Horizon *Barry Goldstein*

One of the most common faults that turns up a competitions is horizons that are not straight. So when checking the composition of a scene containing a horizon, make sure it's straight. If you're viewfinder has grid lines, use them. If you discover the problem after you have taken the picture, it's easy to fix in most programs.

In Photoshop, just use the measure tool and the rotate command. The measure tool is under the eye-dropper on the tool palette. Using the measure tool click on one side of horizon, drag to other side, then select Image>Rotate>Auto. Don't pay any attention to the degree in the box; just hit "Auto."

No more excuses. I'm tired of hearing the judges complaining about crooked horizons. Add this to pet peeves.

<b>November '08 Competition Results</b>			
<b>B&amp;W PRINTS - A</b>		<b>COLOR PRINTS- B</b>	
Silverstein, Marty POM	10	Utrecht, Elliot POM	10
Glick, Robert	9	DeBiase, Valerie	9
Kleinmann, Clem	9	Herbst, Al	9
Schmidt, Bill	9	Kleinmann, Sarah	9
Markewitz, Moshe	8	Langholz, Alice	9
Patwa, Ramesh	8	Madigan, Dennis	9
Scheinerman, Ira	8	Monahan, Maylan	9
Weisler, Jules	8	Weisler, Jules	9
Herbst, Al	7	Madigan, Kerriane	8
<b>B&amp;W PRINTS- B</b>		DeSantis, Joseph	7
DeBiase, Valerie POM	9	Flagg, John	7
Bowie, Bill	8	Volin, Stanley	7
Ettinger, Burton	8	Kirschenbaum, Frank	6
Volin, Linda	7	Nussbaum, Richard	6
<b>COLOR PRINTS- A</b>		Rose, Doreen	6
Agdern, Alan POM	10	<b>PROJECTION- A</b>	
Bowie, Bill	9	Silverstein, Marty POM	10
Glick, Robert	9	Glick, Robert	8
Markewitz, Moshe	9	Goldstein, Carol	8
Schmidt, Bill	9	Newman, Peter	8
Silverstein, Marty	9	Patwa, Ramesh	8
Starling, Edward	9	Weisler, Jules	8
Goldstein, Barry	8	Goldstein, Barry	7
Greenberg, Carole	8	Harrison, Gerald	7
Kleinmann, Clem	8	<b>PROJECTION- B</b>	
Patwa, Ramesh	8	Ferrara, Chris POM	9
Scheinerman, Ira	8	Volin, Linda	7
Klosner, Irv	7	Woulfin, Gerald	6

<b>PFLI Competition Scores November</b>	
<b>Color Prints A</b>	
Marty Silverstein	27
Robert Glick	26
Bill Schmidt	23
<b>Color Prints B</b>	
Kerriane Madigan	23
<b>Black and White A</b>	
Robert Glick	25
Marty Silverstein	24
<b>Black and White B</b>	
Betty Adamo	24
<b>Digital A</b>	
Bill Bowie	23
Gerry Harrison	23
Marty Silverstein	23
<b>Digital B</b>	
Linda Volin	23