



President's Message

02-16-2008

Hello Everyone.

The club continues to go through a metamorphous of change. The transition from film to digital continues to leave battle wounds on some and a challenge to others. It also has an impact on the club in many ways and is mostly responsible for all the recent changes. We as members continue to struggle to position digitally generated images and relate them to film. This may be something we need to let go of.

For instance, we call pictures that are enhanced with computer software as digitally enhanced and struggle with the category in competitions. However, most cameras that shoot jpeg are digitally enhanced in the camera. Only RAW is not digitally enhanced. Software and computers affect images in a number of ways and even if you take a RAW picture and print it out the computer's printer drivers will make changes to the image. Learning how to best control this is part of the learning curve.

We may want to drop the digitally enhanced category all together. This was suggested by Mark Hamilton and makes since. In its place we may consider a new category called Digital Art or Digital Photographic Art. This is where you take a photo and through software you make it an artistic creation. This would eliminate the definition of what could be done in the dark room. Let's face it, most of what members enter could not do what we do with software in a dark room or even have a lab do in a dark room. But for now, we may just consider Color and Black and White as the two categories for competition.

Most photographers say they want their pictures to look as natural and as close to what

they see with the human eye. However, most printed images today are not what the human eye would see when taking the picture. The printed images have far more contrast; the colors are richer and most push chroma beyond what we see with the human eye. Also, the human eye sees depth of field far greater than any camera could re-produce. So when you push chroma, set layers out of focus, sharpen areas of the image, adjust contrast and brightness you are creating art and not trying to reproduce exactly what you saw with your eye. You are creating an image that produces impact and makes the picture have punch. So with that all of our prints are digitally enhanced. They are works of art and I for one would hope that never changes.

My other thought that I mentioned before about competition is I believe if a member obtains enough points to make it to Advanced in any category that member is then considered advanced in all categories. This would reduce a lot of confusion and make the rules of competition easier. So I will be taking a hard look at this over the next couple of weeks as Jeff and I continue to work on the rules of competition. We want to get them updated and complete and voted upon so we can post them on the web site. This will help new members when they join in understanding how the club works.

Jeff and I will start looking at our charter and other club charters around the country to see if we can work up a good draft for the membership to look at.

With Fred Huff's resignation this leaves the position of Secretary open. We need to fill this position as soon as possible. We will all miss Fred at our meetings and we wish him all the best.

Till then and always, Good Shooting.

Michael Adkins
President