



## President's Message

2008 - Year in Review

By: Mike Adkins

It has been an honor and a real privilege to serve as President of the club over the past year. What is amazing to me is how fast the year has passed. Over the past year the club has continued to move through a number of changes. Some ideas worked and some were not so successful. One of the tests of membership patience was the club meeting night. It was almost impossible to get the entire membership to settle on a day. I continued to push for change because of my agenda for growth of the club.

There was an opportunity to pick up new members from Tri State Artist Association but their meeting night was the same as the Ohio Valley Camera Club. Moving to another night would allow TSAA members to also become members of our club. Then we found that moving the meeting night to Friday just did not work and what I thought was a great plan ended up having just the opposite effect. So a change was required again. This time we moved back to Thursday nights but out of sync with Tri State Artist Association meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday nights. This second change ended up working well for the club and I only wish the idea had come to me at first.

Over the past year we have had some wonderful programs. The program given by Laura Moul on marketing your prints was very informative. David Fattaleh's critique program called Elements of Photography was a huge hit and was very educational. Mark Hamilton gave a wonderful prospective on the use of small pocket digital cameras and provided a slide show of works created in both film and digital formats. I provided three programs during the year. One of the programs was a slide presentation of club activities over thirty years ago and a second program on matt cutting and a third on

smoke art. Jeff Bryson also conducted a very informative program on macro photography.

This year was also a year of photo outings. One of the very exciting and enjoyable outings was the trip to Hocking Hills Ohio. This ended up a dual purpose outing with myself and Laura Moul entering in the Shoot the Hills Photo Competition. The other members who went on the outing spent their time taking pictures of the incredible scenery. Another outing was a visit to Camelot Photography in Huntington where members were treated to how a professional studio operates and finally a trip by a few members of the club to the New River Bridge and Bridge Day.

2008 was also a great year for members of the club who entered photo and art contest. Since most of this is from memory please excuse my failure to make note of them all. Jeff Bryson and myself both received awards from our works that were entered in the Allied Artist show and both had prints hanging in the Huntington Galleries. Members also did exceptionally well in the Ashland Art Gallery Photography Competition. Other members have won numerous competitions throughout the year. This is a testament to the exceptional talent of our club members.

Another honor of the club in 2008 was the offer to have our photographic works displayed in the Robert C. Byrd Federal Building for over two months. The show was well received and was a wonderful opportunity for the club exposure.

One of my 2008 agenda items was to grow the club. Through growth comes diversity and opportunities. The club has doubled in size this year and continues to grow. I still have the long-term goal of one hundred active members and will continue to work toward this goal.

And finally, there have been two very successful additions to the club this year. First has been the continued hard work by Kathy Smith on our web site. The web site resulted in at least five new members joining the club and continues to be a focal point of club information. And the other addition was the OVCC Yahoo Group set up by Mark Hamilton. This discussion group has been very active over the year and has proved to

be a valuable resource and communication tool with lively discussions going on almost all the time. Many thanks to Kathy and Mark for their work on these projects.

So the Ohio Valley Camera Club's fiftieth anniversary year was a great success and I look forward to 2009 as we continue to share our photography, learn new skills and become known by the community as the area's premier photography club.

Michael Adkins

President