



## **Ohio Valley Camera Club of West Virginia**

President's Message  
Year in Review  
December 2009

Another year has passed and there has been so much going on in the Club it is hard to recall it all. So if I missed something please forgive me.

This year the Club has experienced growth. Members with amazing talent and energy have joined the Club. Many of the 'older' members also continue to improve their talents and have progressed to higher levels in the Club rankings. I would like to say how proud I am of Rick Jackson, our second current member to reach Master status in Color. Rick's photography has steadily improved over the past couple of years and he is now a formidable opponent in any Club competition he enters.

I would like to personally thank the executive board members for their hard work and dedication to making the Ohio Valley Camera Club something we can all be proud of. Through the board's efforts there were major changes made to the Club's Constitution and Bylaws, as well as the Rules of Competition. These documents were severely outdated and needed to be revised. Though there are still a few changes needed, the major part of the work has been accomplished.

The Club has now transitioned almost completely into the digital world but welcomes those photographers who still have a passion for film. The addition of digitally projected images and the Club's licensing of the "Photo Club Services" web site are working out great. Without the anonymous donation of a digital projector, the digitally projected image competitions would not have been possible. I would like to give credit to Kathy Smith, Mark Hamilton, Mike Hensley, and the other board members who formed a team to make this transition smooth and successful. A lot of work went into this and it showed as

there appeared to be no real problems for anyone who wanted to enter images into this new competition format.

Several photo outings were sponsored this year but I hope they continue to grow in participation in the future. The outing to Canaan Valley and Black Water Falls has become a yearly event. Once a year I open up my cabin in Canaan Valley to all Club members who want to attend the OVCC photo outing. This is always a lot of fun and we have had as many as eight Club members take advantage of this weekend event. Another outing was the Scott Kelby Second Annual World Wide Photo Walk. Though this was not just an OVCC local outing there were a lot of Club members who participated. Locally this was organized by our Club member, Mark Hamilton, and I feel it was a great success. There were approximately 50 participants in the Huntington part of this photo event.

The Club has also continued the tradition of offering classes and programs to help members expand their knowledge of photography. My class, Introduction to Photography, was successful with 30 participants attending during the two 6 week sessions. The only requirement for the class was to be a member of the Camera Club. As a result some of the students became new members. There may be a repeat of this class in the future. Some of the other programs this year were Mat Cutting, High Dynamic Range Photography, Table Top / Still Life Photography, Studio Lighting, Macro Photography, Photographer's Rights and Hot Shoe Lighting.

Some of our members have done very well in competitions outside of the Club. I believe that the Club offers a unique opportunity to help prepare members for professional photo competitions. Congratulations to all of the members who won in these events. I think I can speak for the Club in saying how proud we are of you for your great accomplishments.

As the Club continues to grow we must work hard to retain members as well as drawing new members in. Part of the reason the Club is growing is though the efforts of Kathy Smith and her hard work on our Club web page and her help in getting the Club brochure completed. Mark Hamilton advertised the Club in the local papers and on Flickr. More important is the word of mouth advertising each member can and does offer. Many of our new members this year have listed current members as their reason for hearing about the Club. All of this helps promote the Club. We will continue to build on these efforts with new initiatives.

So, it has been a great year and there is more of the same planned for the upcoming year. Here are some of my goals for 2010.

- Provide more educational programs on photography for the membership.
- Develop a civic photo contest that will serve as an annual fund raiser for the Club.

- Develop a local Photography Art Show and Sale for the Club that will serve as a fund raiser and public awareness project. This will also be an annual event.
- Continue with the two annual civic projects that were established this year: the Annual Hot Dog Festival and the Safe Trick or Treat events. Both will serve as fund raisers and civic awareness projects.
- Continue to work to find a new home for the Club to serve as a meeting space and hopefully a gallery for the Club's images that will be accessible by the public.
- Update the Rules of Competition guidelines to allow for digitally projected images and an updated End of Year competition process.
- Initiate a mentor program where we team up a new member with an experienced member of the Club. This way the new member will have someone to help answer questions and provide guidance so he/she can improve their photography.
- Develop alliances with other organizations to help promote the Club and provide co-op events and projects that would benefit both the Club and the co-op organization.
- Continue to grow the Club and retain all current members. This will be accomplished through more promotions, civic events and ideas from the Membership and Publicity Committee as well as from all members. More members in the Club will bring diversity, energy and expanded talent.

I look forward to continue to serve as your President and want to thank the members for their support and help as without that my job would be impossible.

Have a great day and good shooting.

Michael Adkins  
President