

Contact Sheet

Journal of the Eastern Idaho Photographic Society

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Advancement Program Awards

The Eastern Idaho Photographic Society arose from the ashes of a photographic club that had been in Idaho Falls for many years. But toward the end of its life cycle, there was much internal fighting because of their program to show images to one another. Prints and slides were judged using standards proposed by the Professional Photographers of America. This system only allowed points to be awarded to the top 10% of the images seen each night - and this led to much infighting since it seemed that it was always the same 10% who were awarded points. Therefore, the 90% people dropped out and the 10% people fought to remain 10% people, a losing proposition. Eventually, there were only a couple people left and the club died.

But we photographers are a resilient group. Within a year EIPS was formed, having monthly lectures on some aspect of photography. However, something was missing. The best times were either before the meeting - - or after the lecture - - when everyone got their prints out and would share them with each other. We needed to find a way to include this fun in our club, hence the birth of the Advancement Program when we were about 1 ½ years old. We looked at other clubs programs; but since most were based on the PPofA model, we decided to try something a

little different.

This is what we came up with.

For those who are new to our club, these are some of the mechanics of how the Advancement Program is set up. We think it has been a good addition to our club. At each meeting of the Advancement Program, we ask the participant to bring three slides or prints (8x10 or larger) to be evaluated by other club members. Two or three judges are selected from the participants that session to critique each image rating the photo from 6 to 10 points. We ask the judges to comment on what they liked about the image and also ask them to suggest what could be done to improve the image. In other words, we are trying to have a positive critiquing session. Since all members see every image, we have the advantage of finding out what other images might be available for us to see in this locality. Every other month is a theme presentation so that we can find out how differently we each interpret that topic. This also makes a scenic photographer shoot some still life or people pictures and the people photographer look at other parts of their viewfinder. Additionally, we would like for the image to have been shot within the last two years so that you continue to shoot photos and not just dip into your archives of past photos.

We give each participant an additional 5 points for presenting to that night's session. (If a person does their own darkroom work - or works on the

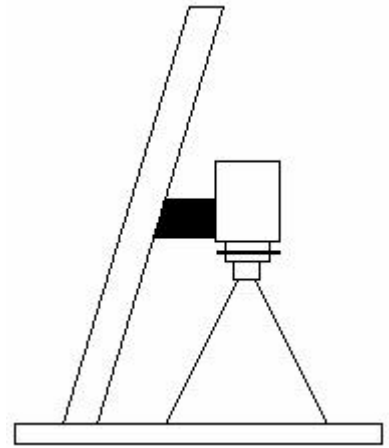


image with their computer, an additional 2 points is awarded per image.) From the above data, you can see that we will usually get from 23 to 35 points in a session. To encourage members to participate in club field trips, we also give bonus points if the image was taken on a club outing.

If we present about 30 images for judging, the participant will have about 300 points at which time will feel that they deserve recognition in the form of a Certificate of Achievement. We really encourage all members to come each third Thursday at 7:30 p.m. to the Conference Room at 1900 Grandview Avenue and share their images with other members. All people benefit by the sharing of this knowledge. Even if you don't want to show your images, please come and observe what others are doing with their cameras. You will **learn something new and exciting!** Every year our membership changes enough so that there is a very fresh view of the world as seen through our photographer's minds.

For 2006, the themes will be as follows:

January – Banquet
February – Photographer's Choice
March – Travel
April – Photographer's Choice
May – Wood
June - Photographer's Choice
July – Lights or Fire
August - Photographer's Choice
September – Nature
October - Photographer's Choice
November – Cityscape
December - Photographer's Choice

We photographers are a funny lot in that we enjoy taking pictures and showing them to others. But, we don't handle criticism all that well. After all,

every time we push the shutter, we are creating a masterpiece, right? We think the Advancement Program has found the right balance using positive critiquing to provide a nurturing environment to achieve growth in our potential. We all get better with each session.

This year proves my point in that there were 11 certificates awarded - - some to people who have been in the club only a very short time, some who only can make a couple meetings each year, some who have been around since the inception of the program. This really does create a good learning mix.

300 Points – level 1

Kriss Russell
Krista Soderquist
Mike Woodhouse

600 Points – level 2

Dennis Robinson

1200 Points – level 4

Cathy White
Mary Dunhour

2700 Points – level 9

Roger Heng

3000 Points – level 10

Sue Heng

3600 Points – level 12

Marty Larcom

6000 Points – level 20

Jan Larcom

One change that we have tried to add this year is to present digital images with a projector. This should reduce the cost to the participant to almost zero since they can use a CD-rw, and then just use the disc at the next month's session. We are still working out some of the kinks in the adjustment of the projector to give the best presentation.

Thank you all for attending the banquet and sharing good times with your fellow photographers.

Club Notes

Roger Heng issued a plea for us to get our images into him for inclusion in the publication of the Eastern Idaho Magazine. The deadline dates for 2006 are as follows:

April 13 – summer

July 13 – fall

October 12 – winter

Roger also wants winter photographs of Yellowstone National Park since the Idaho Falls Visitor's Center is setting up a computer kiosk that will present images when people push the button on the computer screen. These need to be in to Roger in the next two weeks.

After the Yellowstone project, the center wants to do a larger project of images that can be found in the 50 – 100 mile range from IF. These would include: St. Anthony sand dunes, along the South Fork of the Snake, Birch Creek, charcoal kilns, Meadow Lake, Craters of the Moon, Harriman, Massacre Rocks Grand Teton NP, Elk Refuge, Henry's Lake, City of Rocks, Chesterfield, Tautphaus Park - - are you getting the idea?

They would emphasize that they would like to show people enjoying this area. However, if you can see the faces of the people in the photo, you must have a photo release for those people or they will not use the image. If you have people on snowmobiles - - or boats - - or cycles, it would be preferable if you can't see the brand of the sled, etc. since they do not want to seem like they are endorsing any particular product. They're asking a lot for a picture, aren't they!

The officers for 2006 are as follows:

President – Ken and Kriss Russell

Vice President – Bob Seidel

Treasurer – Doug Jensen

Secretary – Mary Dunhour

Web Master – Roger Heng

**Field Trips – Mike Woodhouse and
Joe Landon**

Publicity – Krista Soderquist

Public Relations – Sue Heng

Field Trip

Joe Landon arranged for a snow coach into Yellowstone National Park for January 14. All participants stated that they had a great time - - and they even took some photographs. Remember to show these images at the Advancement Program for extra credit.

Joe and Mike are setting up a trip to northern Utah for about 11 Feb to take photos of eagles. There is a stream that the forest service sterilizes each year to get rid of "trash" fish so that the trout they plant will survive better. The eagles know this will be a good food source for them and they come to this valley by the hundreds each year. Prepare for cold and fog! The people responsible for the injection of this chemical in the water have been very hard to reach and further details will be forthcoming at the February meeting. Also, we will post this info on our internet site.

Don't forget to get your dues check to Doug. Only \$25 for the family.

Monthly Meeting

Date: Feb. 2, 2006

Time: 7:30 p.m.

**Location: 1900 Grandview
– Conference Room**

Program:

You have all these images, slides, prints - - but no one to sell them to. What to do? **Kriss Russell** will give us information about the use of a stock agency to sell your photographic efforts. Come and learn whether this outlet is right for you.

Graffiti

EIPS is a group of amateur and professional photographers who have joined together to further the art and craft of photography. Please join us and expand your horizons. Sharing knowledge makes all participants better at their craft. We meet on the first Thursday of each month for our educational lecture. Then the third Thursday is our Advancement Program where we share some of the images we have done. We meet at 7:30 p.m. at 1900 Grandview Ave in the conference room. You will be a better photographer as you learn from us and we learn from you!

DUES ARE DUE!

Contact Doug! \$25 per family per year! What a deal!

Kriss and Ken Russell – President
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Membership Info:
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