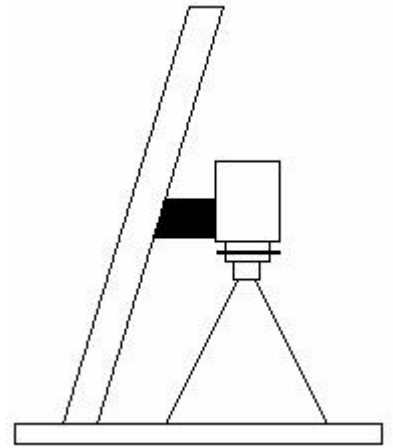


Contact Sheet

Journal of the Eastern Idaho Photographic Society
Vol. 18, No. 6

June 2006



Catharsis and Aftermath

It may not have been the explosion that was heard around the world, but there was a major rift created in the photographic community in the Idaho Falls region since the last newsletter. In December 2005 we elected new officers just like we did every other year since our inception eighteen years ago. Usually, they meet with the old club board, decide if any new agenda is needed, report back to the club their findings, and general body decide whether any of these changes are applicable and would improve our club for our membership. We vote on the changes necessary and then enjoy the programs and field trips for the rest of the year. This year went differently.

Changes were made without the input of the general membership, something that had never happened in the past. Communications between the general body of members and the officers became more strained, and any suggestions from the general body were basically ignored. What had worked for eighteen years with a proven track record was abandoned with the effort to take the club in a new direction that had been determined by the board with virtually limited input from the club. Committees were set up to oversee all aspects of the club's functions, reporting all of this to the board and not to the club in general. Again, the chairmen of these

committees were appointed by the board of directors with very limited input from the general membership.

Since we had just approved new bylaws and had not had any election of officers under those new bylaws, a large group of the membership decided to vote on what was happening to our club. The vote was close, but there was a removal of the existing board. We then met at the regular Advancement Program meeting to discuss where to go with the club, hoping to have some discussion with the board members. Such ideations were quashed since in the meantime, they had met and formed a new club, High Desert Photography, and had voted themselves back in to power. With this reality in place, our dream of repairing the rift was virtually eliminated. We wish them well with their endeavor.

Where to go from here?

So, what happens now? The Advancement Program was cancelled, and in its place we had a very protracted conversation where all members were given input and time. Questions were asked. Answers were given. No decisions were expected and all aspects of the club were up for review.

What are our strengths?

By the exiting officers' quick formation of a new club, this meant that they felt we had no potential and did not want to help with our existing structure. But we have some incredible resources

in our club members: people who have lived in this region for most of their lives, people who know those little nooks and crannies where the special images hide, people who have enjoyed photography for many years, people who have given many lectures to our group, people who have given many of those precious hours to helping others understand the art and the practice of photography. All of us enjoy this craft and hobby. None of us have the false notion that we are the reincarnation of Ansel Adams, but we can help the next new member appreciate his images - - why are photos taken in certain light, why we may wait for 10 to 60 minutes for the light to change, or a cloud to move, or a bus to drive away, etc. We want to share our joy and revelations that we have found over the years. An old time member reminded us of the sharing of knowledge when he listed exactly where certain images could be found. Yes, we may get an image that could rival his photo, but he will share in our joy as we grow in our craft.

We enjoy being the next stop for people in the community who take classes at EITC and want to continue their growth in photography. We have always been a good venue for new photographers since we grow with their questions. Their need for answers about all the various aspects of photography keep you sharp and prevent you from becoming lazy in your craft.

What are our weaknesses?

Obviously, we lost a major asset to our club when our former members formed a new club. We have never had such dominate and forceful leadership before since we have been so democratic in our structure. It was easy to just sit back and let all decisions be made for us for a while. By nature, we have never

been very aggressive at promoting any of our individual members, but we do allow our members to sell their prints at our juried show and other outings. We have not found a gallery to replace the gallery we had in Perk's Photo. Most of us enjoy the feeling when someone has purchased our prints, and we will share this joy with other club members; but this has always been secondary to teaching and learning the craft and sharing this info with our community.

There was protracted discussion about the Advancement Program and how we critique images. The learning that is possible from showing your image to others just can not be duplicated in any other type of environment. But how to keep any hurtful comments under control was a major part of our dissection of the Program. Since I thought I was turning the administration of the Advancement Program over to another person at the May meeting, I had reviewed some of the different approaches we had tried over the many years. How did we select the number of images? In the past, photography has been a very expensive hobby. To present images for the Advancement Program cost the participant money, a limited resource to most hobbyists, the weekend photographers that most of us were. In our first year we had 283 images shown, 222 the second year, and about that many each year after that. This meant that we had between 10 and 30 images per session. (Some summer meetings only had 5 or 6 participants and we still never finished the night's sessions before 1 ½ hours.) With the advent of digital images and a digital projector, we can now offer the image to be viewed at virtually no added cost to the participant, and there has been an explosion of

images presented. At last month's session there were 95 images shown, almost half a year's prints in our formative years – even though we had the same number of members in the club. And this is our mixed blessing. More participation and more images to enjoy - - but there is very limited time to do a proper critique of the image and do a proper analysis. This becomes a disservice to the presenter of the image and a difficult situation for those who are judging since they must be curt in view of the time constraints imposed. Everything is rushed.

So, where do we go from here?

After about an hour and a half of input, we decided to rejoin with each other to continue the Eastern Idaho Photographic Society. Since we are operating under the new bylaws, we did elect the required seven board members, but we will probably change this component of the bylaws in the near future since this is a very unwieldy number for such a small group considering the amount of other time commitments that pull on all club members – Little League games, PTA meetings, grandkids and their recitals, etc. We want to look at the Rules and Regulations much more carefully since we want our club to stay a democracy, and not become an autocracy. We remain committed to photography education for the IF community.

Also, we are going to change the number of prints allowed in the Advancement Program to see if this will allow a better educational environment, and to improve our critiquing sessions since we will no longer be trying to cram so many images into such limited time.

Our newly elected officers are:

President: Sue Heng

Vice President: David Gale

Secretary: Jan Larcom and Mary Dunhour

Treasurer: Doug Jenson

Past President: Lisa Stephens

Board Members at Large:

Rodney Jack

Dennis Robinson

August Show Coordinator – Roger Heng

October Show Coordinators – Lisa

Stephens and Jackie Stephens

Monthly Speakers Coordinators –

Rodney Jack and David Gale

Field Trip Coordinator – Kathy White

From the Editor

What a difference a month can make! I went to the last EIPS meeting with a four page letter explaining the deadlines, etc. to get the *Contact Sheet* out on time and a disc containing the last year's newsletters to give to Jan Hughes who had volunteered to write some of the EIPS newsletters since I was planning to go on several trips in the near future. Ms. Hughes has elected to write the newsletter of the new photography group in IF instead. Well, to paraphrase Jack Nicholson from "The Shining", "- - I'm back!" I've explained to members that I will have to write some of the articles quite a bit in advance, but they don't see this as a problem. So bear with us please in those instances where the newsletter is not quite as current as it has been in the past. When in doubt, check the Internet web site since this can be posted on a day to day basis with fewer deadlines necessary. If someone has writing in their veins and wants to take over this position, I will continue to update the four page letter and the disc for my replacement. In the meantime, I would still appreciate forbearances when the newsletter is not quite as timely as it once was.

Monthly Meeting

Date: June 1, 2006

Time: 7:30 p.m.

**Location: 1900 Grandview
– Conference Room**

Program:

John Hoobler spoke at the May meeting about lighting. Now you get to see what you learned. Bring your camera and tripod. We will have a couple of softbox and umbrellas for a **lighting workshop**. Also, if you have something you want to photograph, bring those items also.

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!

Advancement Program topic will be: Wood (May's topic) and Photographer's Choice. Please bring two of each topic and join us on 15 June at 7:30 p.m. at 1500 Grandview Ave.

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