# Contact Sheet

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# Pinch Hitting at the Balloon Festival

Roger and Sue Heng spent four days at the Teton Balloon Festival to try to get some good images for their portfolio. Little did they know they would have to select those images for a presentation. Our scheduled speaker was Lisa Kelley, owner of the Willowtree Gallery, who was going to show us how to select the proper mat color to complement our images. However, she had a death in the family and could not come. Hence, into the breach stepped Sue and Roger. They put together a PowerPoint show about their experiences.

When they set up this photo shoot for the club, they knew that there could be a lot of down time on their camping trip since the balloons were launched very early in the day when the wind was calm. By 10-11 a.m., the balloonists were usually back on the ground and getting their equipment ready for the next day's flight. But what to do with the rest of the day? Wildflowers near their campground! Antiques! Activities that the Chamber of Commerce had scheduled!

On the first day, there were only seven balloons that were going to be launched. The Chamber of Commerce called this "Press Day". Sue said that this was one of the most productive days with their cameras since they were able to get very close to almost every balloon.

In fact, a couple of the balloonists

even suggested good images to them since they had seen these shots done by other photographers in prior launches. They showed us several very interesting shots of the balloons being inflated, the flames of the burner heating the air, looking both up into the balloon and back down toward the burner through escape vents in the top of the balloon. There were several very unique images created.

Another advantage of this first day was that there were almost no other people around. They almost had all of the balloons to themselves. Both Roger and Sue stated that they learned a lot, especially about where they had to be to get effective lighting for their images. They literally set up an agenda of where they would go the second day to collect the images they wanted.

Day two arrived and they put their plan into action. They found they had much better images of the balloons taking off, much better juxtaposition of the Tetons in the background - - but still they wanted more. Hence, they made a plan for day three that would include some of the balloons landing. Roger got out his maps, something he just doesn't have enough of, and found several good locations. They found one location where they could get reflections of the balloons in a pond and still have mountains in the background. This created some very unique images. We see the balloons against the Tetons

frequently, but not with pond reflections thrown in for good measure.

Day four followed with even more variations of their plan. Roger stated that he wanted a good shot of the flame going up from the heater, and he only got this on day four. Both Roger and Sue commented that their images got better as the days went past. Their comments kind of prove the old axiom that the photographer rarely gets his best images on the first visit to an area. Later trips are usually far more productive of good images. It is almost like the first trip is just a scouting trip.

Are they burned out on balloon images? On the contrary, they both felt like they were just starting to get their best images at the end of the four days. They did not want to come back home and wanted the festival to continue. Already they have made plans to attend next year's event.

Thanks for sharing some truly amazing images with us, Sue and Roger. Hopefully, we will get to see some of the wildflower and other images in our Advancement Programs!

## Our Tax Exempt Status

On July 14<sup>th</sup> we received our letter from our application to the IRS for tax exempt status so that we could better obtain funds from businesses to use for prizes for our October Juried Show and Sale. This was sent by the IRS on 21 June 2006 to our former officers with a posted deadline in the letter of July 12. Their letter stated: "If we do not hear from you within that time, we will assume you do not want us to consider the matter further and will close your case." Fortunately, Sue was able to

convince the IRS officer why there was a delay and that we still want to continue our quest. However, their extension was very short - - 2 weeks.

One of the requirements that had to be met was a change in our bylaws which was accomplished at the Advancement Program meeting on 20 July. They require the following wording in our bylaws: "In order to meet the organizational test for exemption under section 501 (c) (3), your Articles of Association must be amended to include the following provisions:

"Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more of the exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes."

This amendment to our bylaws was passed unanimously and will be submitted to the IRS with the signatures of two officers, as required.

Their letter also required numerous other corrections to our original application. Jan Larcom wrote a two page letter to cover our mission, how we accomplish this, where we meet, how we accomplish the educational aspects of our mission statement, how much time we spend on each activity, what percentage of our time is spent giving back this to our community, etc. Doug Jenson did a spreadsheet of all of our finances for the past several years to complete these series of IRS questions to prove that we are primarily an educational organization.

The next concern of the IRS was that we stated that we were a private foundation that could generate funds to use for several types of activities. They suggested that we change several of our choices on their form to be "better classified as a public charity under sections 509 (a) (1) and 170 (b) (1) (A) (vi) or section 509 (a) (2), as it appears that organization plans to receive income from several various sources." (Bill Gates has his charity listed as a private foundation and we don't quite qualify for that status.) The club members agreed to those changes and this will be forwarded to the IRS.

A meeting at the IF Public Library was done on Saturday, 22 July 2006, to gather this information, review it for any alterations, and see if any further information was needed. We will try to fax this data to the IRS on Monday or Tuesday, to meet their deadline and to allow time so that if they require any further information, we can provide the info before their 02 Aug deadline.

The club officers thank all of you who have worked so diligently on this document. If we are allowed this tax exempt number, we will be able to approach businesses for donations to our Juried Show which should attract more photographs and improve the content of the show. This should allow an opportunity for more community education about the quality of photography in this area and how artistic our exposition can be.

### **Club Notes**

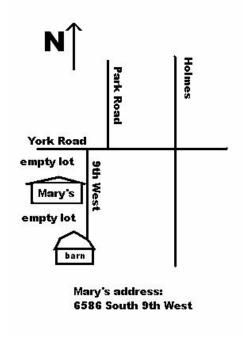
The August Show and Sale draws closer. Make sure you have all your information into Roger so he knows what area is required. We have several photographers sharing a single site, but we should be able to accommodate more people. This is a lot of hard work but has been very rewarding to those who have participated. Many prints have been sold in prior years.

Special thanks to Farr's Jewelry for the use of the digital projector at the last Advancement Program. We learned a lot!

See insert for entry forms for the October Juried Show. It's coming quick.

I told several people that I was going to include plans for the light box and light cube in this newsletter, but I felt the IRS forms took priority. I will bring several copies of the plans with me to the picnic.

#### **Directions to Picnic Site**



# **Monthly Meeting**

Date: Aug 3, 2006

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Note time change

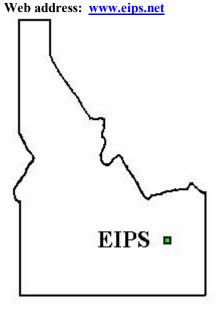
**Location:** 6586 S. 9<sup>th</sup> West

See map on Pg. 3

Program:

It's picnic time! Mary and Fred **Dunhour** have invited us to their house for our annual picnic. Bring a covered dish, your table service, and a chair and join us. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided by EIPS. Bring your entire family

Sue Heng – President 1501 Lowell Drive Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402 Membership Info:



### 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. in the 1900 Grandview Ave conference room. We all become better photographers!

Advancement Program topic will be: **Photographer's Choice.** Please bring three images of your choice and join us on 17 August at 7:30 p.m. at 1900 Grandview Ave.



Since such a large number of the images for the Advancement Program are being shown on the digital projector, Roger and I will endeavor to include some of the winners in each of the newsletters that appear online. The written newsletter will remain in **B&W** because of the expense of printing in Color; but since there is no added expense on the Internet, we will start to include some of the winning images on our site. If slides are the winners, we will scan these into our site also. Let us know how we can improve the site for your educational needs.