

The Image

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Meeting Notice

The February meeting will be held at the Paramount Arts District Parking Lot, 913 West St. Germain, St. Cloud, Minnesota. February 22nd at 7 p.m.

Please bring recent photos to share. This meeting's theme is "Holiday Celebrations", but if you have another good picture bring it too.

The executive meeting will be held at 6:30 pm to discuss administrative issues. All are welcome to attend this also.

No need to keep you copy of The Image! Barry has archived them on the camera club website! This will, little doubt, make many of our lives easier.

For those who don't use computers and email, LaVona Sherarts has offered to telephone members with information. Her phone is 320-255-1964. Let her know if you would like to be called.

Information:

The group met at 6:30pm for the January executive meeting.

The executive meeting was an abbreviated one, due to handing out photos from the Foley show, getting John Gregor's presentation set up, and so forth.

Issues discussed:

The camera club checking account will be moved to a St. Cloud bank. This should make the process of collecting dues and making payments easier.

Steve took down the Foley show and returned the photographs at the meeting. If you were not there to collect yours please contact me at steve@finesart.com or 320-266-0785.

Janice reported that we 'missed' the booking of our usual time slot at the US bank for January. This has been re-booked for May and June of 2006. Keep this in mind - each member can submit up to three photos to hang in the US Bank lobby for this show.

Barry will be changing member galleries on the web site when enough people submit images. Please bring in new galleries on CD to make Barry's job easier - please bring a full gallery and not only changes and additions as soon as possible.

Election of Chair: This clearly needs to be discussed. There just wasn't time at the January meeting, but hopefully it can be worked out at the February meeting. If anyone is interested please step forward.

Other Items:

John Gregor delivered what was felt to be an excellent presentation on his photography. If you were not there you can visit his website at www.coldsnap.com to learn more.

Help wanted: The Tri-County Humane Society is looking for a volunteer to take photos of animals as they come in to be put on the adoption web site. Anyone who would like to help please contact the Humane Society at 252-0896 or via their website at www.tricountyhumanesociety.org

Call or e-mail Carol Weiler with other suggestions for programs: 251-9083. If you have a short topic you would like to share / discuss this can be set up for just about any meeting.

Carol also sent this in "...Whitney Senior Center is looking for photography exhibitors. If you are interested, please contact: Reena Shetty 320-650-3074.

I (Steve) have had an exhibit there since December (it comes down at the end of February). While sales from it have not been brisk I've managed to sell about one per week, so if you're looking for a place to show your work give Reena a call.

Chuck Beronius was the lucky winner of the Time Life series on photography for the January meeting.

Some Photoshop thoughts – these are by no means all mine – I just make a point of collecting them as I find them:

In PS CS 2 there is a sharpening option called "Smart Sharpen". One of its options is an "Angle" at which the sharpening needs to be applied. You can use this to correct motion blur caused by camera shake if you apply the appropriate angle.

Another new feature in PS CS 2 is that you can drag (or copy) a layer mask from one layer to another. Pretty cool.

One tip I use all the time is finding the handles of a large image in PS (which are often off the screen). First hit Command T (PC Control T) for free transform and then press Command 0 (PC Control 0) to make the view fit the screen. This will bring the corners of an image into view.

When making a selection often a little feathering is needed, but the trouble is that there is no way to preview this. Here's the fix: Make a selection with no feathering, press Q for quick mask and then use the Gaussian blur filter. The amount you select for the Gaussian blur is equivalent to the amount of feathering that would be applied, and as a bonus it is on a mask!

I use this one daily and it's a big time saver – the [key makes your PS tool smaller and the] makes it

bigger. Add the Shift key to these to use bigger increments. Only caveat to this is that if you are using a round brush adding the shift key will change the softness of the brush.

And on the same note when working in PS, no matter what tool you are in holding down the space bar will give you the hand tool – invaluable for moving around an image quickly.

Really cool tip for CS2: You can use the healing brush on it's own layer. Add a blank layer above your image and in the Options bar, select the "Use All Layers" option. When you use the healing brush the changes appear on their own layer. What makes this really cool is that you can then change the blending modes or apply other universal changes as needed to this layer.

If you are shooting RAW the Camera RAW program in PS has a neat feature – when you crop the histogram updates to reflect the crop and not the whole image.

Quick (and very easy) B&W conversion – as you know B&W conversion from a color file is an art. Try this and see if you like the results: Convert your file to Lab mode, and in the channels palette just click on the Lightness channel and convert it to greyscale.

That's it for this month.

Hope to see you at the meeting! -Steve