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Member of the PSSA

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2006

Helderberg Photographic Society
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AGENDA

Club Evaluation Meeting
Wed. 14th June

Club Audio Visual Meeting
Wed. 28th June

In this Issue

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Last Word

The Deadline for the July 2006 Newsletter
is Friday, 30th June, 2006.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Interclub competition: 2006 we have received the date for this year's competition from the hosts at Tygerberg Photographic Club. Earlier this year I made an appeal to all members to enter their images as often as possible, to increase the number of possible images we can select from at the end of the year. We have many very talented members who attend our meetings but who are also affiliated to other clubs. These members will enter the competition through their "home based" club. This leaves us with an urgent need for more entries because the base from which we select is then so much smaller. With the date set for this year's competition, please keep this in mind and participate as often as you can. Please remember that images used for Evaluation evenings are also eligible for this competition.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Just back from an amazing trip to China – hence the June newsletter is a little late ...
Please feel free to send any contributions you think suitable, as well as any subjects you would like to see discussed or advised on by experts – it's ***your*** Newsletter!
The Evaluation Meeting on Wednesday promises to be really interesting – please make every effort to attend! (See *Noticeboard*)
Kind regards,
Nettie

NOTICEBOARD

Evaluation meeting 14th June: As for the last evaluation evening we ask that each member submits only **one** image. This allows more time to be spent on discussing each of them.

Besides evaluation being offered by Nicole, Wicus and Brian Preen -

- Nicole Palmer will show some of her AVs
- Irmel Dunaiki will do *What Makes Me Click* and show an AV
- Correne Coetzer will talk about her trip to Great Slave Lake and show some pictures

The date for this year's Interclub has been set for 10 November 2006.

News from Marisa Baschiera who is now living in Sydney, Australia, with boyfriend Luke. All going well – she has two interviews lined up for photographic work. She send love to everyone at the Club.

TAKE YOUR CAMERA TO.....

16-18 Junie Greyton Winterfees

Tel. 021 – 214 1466

www.greyton.net

Tulbagh Xmas in winter 24-25 Junie

023 – 230 1348

Napier Patatfees

17 Junie

028 – 424 2584

30 Junie – 02 Julie

Fees van die Ganse in Gansbaai se hawe, asook **Fynboskou**.

Skakel die Hangklip/Kleinmond toerismeburo by 028 271 5657

15 & 16 Julie

Franschhoek Bastilledag. Skakel 021 876 3603 of kliek op www.franschhoek.org.za

Competition Results:

Date: 10.05.06

		Name	Title
<u>Prints:</u> Set subject	1	Neels	'Sailing into the Sun'
'People in Action'	2	Paul	'Paraglider and Friends'
	3	Neels	'Windsurfer'
<u>Prints:</u> Open	1	Neels	'Brander'
	2	Paul	'Cosmic Wind'
	3	André	'Whiskers'
<u>Film Proj:</u> Set subject	1	Paul	'Alone Together'

'People in Action'	2	Elsa	'Gliding'
	3	Birgit	'Going Out'
Film Proj: Open	1	Birgit	'City in Zoom'
	2	Paulette	'Golden Web Spider'
	3	Paddy	'Kokerboom Motion'
Digital Proj: Set subject	1	Neels	'Flipping Over'
'People in Action'	2	Irmel	'Spoed'
	3	Neels	'Jump'
Digital Proj: Open	1	Bryan J	'Braking the Silence'
	2	Michelle	'Chameleon'
	3	Steve	'Broken Old Face'

WORKSHOPS

Overberg Photographic Workshop presented by Wicus Leeuwner and JJ van Heerden

at Volmoed, Hemel en Aarde Valley, Hermanus from 25 – 29 October 2006.

For bookings and enquiries please contact **Johan van Zijl** (HPS Country Member) at
Telefax: (023) 625 1593 or e-mail johanvanzijl@telkomsa.net

For equipment and queries please contact **JJ van Heerden** (HPS Committee Member) at
Tel: (021) 888 1500 or Cell: 083 366 1515

Digital Photography Weekend Workshops

L'Auberge Chanteclair in Franschhoek is pleased to announce that during July, August and September we will be running "Digital Photography Weekends"

This will enable digital photographers the opportunity to enjoy a great weekend in the country and to enhance their knowledge of digital photography.

A programme has been put together by Alan Marlowe – founder of the Creative Camera Club – add to this the great ambience of L'Auberge Chanteclair renowned for its hospitality to make this a memorable weekend.

The programme will be of interest to both the new comer and the more experienced digital photographer. There will be informative talks and the opportunity to practice what one has learnt.

L'Auberge Chanteclair will be offering a free weekend to the person who submits the best photograph taken on one of the weekends.

The package price of R1450.00 per person sharing includes superb accommodation, breakfasts and dinners and runs from the Friday evening to the Sunday lunch time.

Dates 7th/8th/9th July

28th/29th/30th July

11th/12th/13th August

8th/9th/10th September

We are sure that a number of your members would be interested in these workshops and would ask you to please pass this information on to them.

For further information please check out our website www.chanteclair.co.za and for bookings please e mail us at Chanteclair@mweb.co.za.

Bob and Leslie from Chanteclair look forward to welcoming you and are sure that this will be a weekend to remember.

With best wishes and kind regards

Robert & Leslie Maginley
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CONGRESSES AND CONVENTIONS

PSSA 2006 NATIONAL CONGRESS AND WILDLIFE CONVENTION IN VELDDRIF

Only 90 minutes from Cape Town on the R27, the seemingly remote town of Velddrif will be host to the 2006 PSSA ANNUAL CONGRESS AND WILDLIFE CONVENTION. Here life drifts on giving you time to unwind, to relax, far from the madding crowd, noise and traffic and to surround yourself with and photograph the wonders all around us.

Our venue will be the Town Hall and the Riviera Hotel on the banks of the meandering Berg River. A photographers mecca, wader hotspot with fishermen, fynbos, bakkoms and beaches - this is what life is about!

Join us for a week of photographic "relaxation" with sunrise and sunset photo shoots, lectures and workshops, art, craft, good food, good company and good fun. Everyone is welcome.

[Details](#)

Venue

Velddrif

Dates

24 - 29 September 2006

[Fees](#)

PSSA Members - Early Bird

R600 per delegate

Non PSSA Members - Early Bird

R700 per delegate

PSSA Members registering after May 2006

R700 per delegate

Non PSSA Members registering after May 2006

R800 per delegate

PSSA Lunch for Non PSSA Members

R60 per delegate

[Agenda](#)

The proposed agenda is available on the [conference brochure](#). Please be sure to book early as there will be session overlaps.

Go to: <http://www.pssa.co.za>

Please note: Nettie is unable to go to the congress, and unless another member takes it upon him/herself to organize Accommodation for the club, HPS delegates will have to look for places themselves. Paddy has accommodation at Pelican's Nest – a smart backpackers in town, and Kina, MC and Jeanne Human also have place already. The young Lady at the Velddrif Info office is very helpful. Her phone no. is 022 7831821. She can send you a list of available Accommodation by e-mail. Don't delay if you intend going to the Congress (Paddy will be one of the lecturers!).

PSSA NATIONAL CONGRESS 2007

In De Doorns from 28th May to 1st June, 2007.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

The Photographers Gallery za &
Galerie van der Straeten, Amsterdam

invite you to attend

Hereabouts / Nabijheid

an exhibition by Dutch photographer

Joke van Katwijk

Opening reception on Monday **5 June** at 6pm

We thank our sponsor **Great Grapes Wine** for their support

Exhibition closes on 15 July

Joke Van Katwijk was born in Den Helder, Holland in 1953. She studied photography in Den Haag and Haarlem. Since 1988 she has worked as a full time artist specializing in lens based work and more recently also video. Van Katwijk has participated in numerous solo- and group exhibitions throughout Europe. She is an award-winning photographer and is represented in many private and corporate collections in Holland.

Hereabouts/Nabijheid comprises a series of dream images. Visual interpretations of the dreams of people close to the photographer. She refers to these images as visual telegrams. In order to capture these dream images Joke developed a new etching technique, to enable her to create a continuous flow of images onto one sheet of paper.

Searching for a certain result, she also used silk-screening for some of the images. However, the basis for all the works on this exhibition remains the photo- negative.

PLEASE RSVP **HEIDI ERDMANN**

THE PHOTOGRAPHER GALLERY za
63 Shortmarket Street
Cape Town
T. 021 422 2762 F. 021 422 3278
www.erdmanncontemporary.co.za

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi Nettie,

'Ashes and Snow'

I came across the following reference in the latest TIME Magazine which you or fellow members might already have seen.

If not take a look at Gregory Colbert's exquisite work on the following website

<http://www.ashesandsnow.org/en/portfolio/>

He has apparently spent 14 years on this project that is still ongoing.

Best regards,

Giorgio Guasco.

Lots of Links Steve Crane

Microsoft aids student photographers

Microsoft has announced it is now accepting submissions for the inaugural Future Pro Photographer photo contest.

<http://www.digitmag.co.uk/news/index.cfm?RSS&NewsID=5764>

There is no such thing as a “perfect” histogram

John Watson writes, on PhotoDoto;

“Histograms are a very useful tool for evaluating an exposure. You should activate the histogram display on your camera and learn to use it. But you must remember that a histogram does not, by itself, say anything about image quality. Histograms must be evaluated within the context of the image that they represent for them to have any value.”

<http://photodoto.com/index.php/2006/05/11/there-is-no-such-thing-as-a-perfect-histogram/>

Keeping Photography In Perspective When Travelling

Don't spend your whole trip with your camera to the eye.

<http://digital-photography-school.com/blog/keeping-photography-in-perspective-when-traveling/>

Watchful at all times

Jim Zuckerman writes "When shooting action, I never take my eye away from the viewfinder. I've learned too often that in those few moments when I relax my concentration, something great happens and I've missed the shot."

http://www.betterphoto.com/blogs/insights/archives/2006/05/watchful_at_all.html

Adobe Lightroom podcast #4

The Unofficial Photoshop Weblog mentions this podcast, featuring some big names in the Photoshop world.

<http://photoshop.weblogsinc.com/2006/04/20/adobe-lightroom-podcast-4/>

Tripod Leg Wraps and Padding Solutions

Tripods aren't very soft. No surprise there of course. After all, the main purpose in having a tripod is to hold your camera steady, so people likely wouldn't be very happy if theirs were to bend or something. But if you tried carrying one very far, your shoulders probably wished they were at least padded or something. Some tripods come with a form of leg padding, but Gitzos and many others do not. If you want to add some padding to yours, here are a few ways to tackle this problem.

<http://www.earthboundlight.com/phototips/tripod-leg-wraps.html>

Photoshop Levels versus Curves: Which Should You Use?

Curves and Levels in Photoshop can both adjust white point and black point as well as overall brightness, which should you use?

<http://www.earthboundlight.com/phototips/photoshop-levels-versus-curves.html>

Adobe Camera Raw 3.4 Update

This new version of the Camera Raw plug-in replaces the original Camera Raw plug-in that was installed with Adobe Photoshop CS2 and Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0 and 4.0 software. Visit the Camera Raw page for a complete list of supported cameras.

Support for the following cameras has been added in this update.

- Canon EOS 30D
- Leaf Aptus 65
- Leaf Aptus 75
- Olympus EVOLT 330
- Olympus SP-320
- Pentax *ist DL2
- Samsung GX-1S

<http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop/cameraraw.html>

Adobe Photoshop 9.0.1 (CS2) Update

The Adobe Photoshop 9.0.1 update fixes a number of problems discovered after Photoshop CS2 (9.0) software was released.

The most significant fixes in the 9.0.1 release include the following:

- Photoshop no longer hangs for several seconds when using painting tools with quick strokes.
- A runtime error that could appear when mousing over a high-res document with the Brush tool has been fixed.
- Documents containing a large number of text layers now open more quickly.
- Problems related to palettes (slow redraw, palettes go white, possible crash) have been addressed.
- TIFF files from certain scanners can now be opened correctly.
- After editing an image in Photoshop CS2 via the TouchUp tool in Adobe Acrobat software, the image no longer gets repositioned.
- XMP metadata from AI and PDF files is now retained in Photoshop.
- Slow performance when toggling layer visibility has been fixed.
- Info palette numbers are now displayed and updated when moving a curve point in Curves via the cursor keys..
- Problems opening certain TIFF and PSB files greater than 2GB have been resolved.
- The Merge to HDR command now functions properly when using high-ASCII characters in user login.

<http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/product.jsp?product=39&platform=Windows>

<http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/product.jsp?product=39&platform=Macintosh>

Luminous Landscape with big megapixels

The Luminous Landscape has published an article titled 'Measuring Megabytes' which compares a range of high end digital SLRs, medium format backs and 4x5 medium format film drum scanned. The medium format backs range from 22 to 39 megapixels, digital SLRs are represented by the 16.6 megapixel Canon EOS 1Ds Mark II, 12.7 megapixel Canon EOS 5D and the 11 megapixel Canon EOS 1Ds. If you want the ultimate resolution and money is no object there will be plenty of interest here.

<http://www.luminous-landscape.com/essays/back-testing.shtml>

Photographing the Smaller things in Life when You Travel

A short article from the Digital Photography School weblog.

<http://digital-photography-school.com/blog/photographing-the-smaller-things-in-life-when-you-travel/>

Macro Photography without Hurting Yourself

From Earthbound Light; "I love shooting macro out in the field. It requires a combination of skill, creativity, accuracy, patience and obviously a bit of luck. But all that crawling around on sharp rocks, sticks and other obstacles can hurt. But there is an easy answer: knee pads."

<http://www.earthboundlight.com/phototips/knee-pads.html>

Are You A Photographer, Or Photographist?

Michael J. McNamara asks Photographer, Or Photographist? The path to becoming a great photographer lies between two extremes: the pure photographer, and pure photographist. The former snaps away with reckless abandon (made easier and less costly in this digital era) with no concern for exposure accuracy, depth of field, or any of that "technical" stuff that would interfere with the creative process. Ok, so their photos are often blurry or flat, but they capture the moment! The latter is someone

who knows what every button and menu item on his or her camera does, and starts thinking about the lens focal length, aperture, shutter speed, white balance, and a long list of other variables before they even take their camera out of the bag. They can find every technical flaw in someone else's Pulitzer Prize-winning photo, but mostly they bore you to tears with their incredible photographic expertise and mediocre photos.

The DSLRblog goes on to discuss this.

<http://dslrblog.com/blog/chris/are-you-a-photographer-or-photographer>

How to Judge Amateur Photography

As part of John Warton's evaluation of photographs at photography laureates, he has a basic rule. The photograph must speak for itself; regardless of the photographer, the equipment, or the history of the shoot.

John Warton actively works at reviewing and evaluating photography submissions for a photography association called photography laureates (<http://www.photolaureates.org>). He sometimes reads skeptical comments in Internet forums, some from professional photographers, which sometimes doubt his ability to judge photographs. Does photography only belong to professionals? Can professionals decide what is publishable or not on behalf of amateurs? John says, "The answer is a resounding 'no!' Inflexible and rigid professional photographers have laid down certain 'rules' and then, being a certain sort that they are, call them 'guidelines' and see themselves as rule-makers of some sort. I say to them: Diversity is a source of creation. I embrace the diversity of the creations of my fellow amateur photographers, their passion and interpretation of the thousands of daily instances that make our lives memorable. They deserve the promotion and exposure that I work on getting for the most talented of them."

Perhaps a more interesting and relevant question for John Warton then, would be the following: can photography be judged?

http://www.photographyblog.com/index.php/weblog/comments/how_to_judge_amateur_photography/

Photography Laureates

The About page on their web site says.

- The mission of Photo laureates is to provide a platform of artistic expression for amateur and professional photographers to gain exposure and recognition. We promote photography and photographers through technical workshops, improvisation sessions.
- An independent panel of experts reviews photographs based on the following criteria: technical quality, composition, flow, texture and light.
- Our manuscripts are distributed internationally. Photographers retain all rights to their photographs. We have more than 30,000 members and a 98% satisfaction rate.

<http://www.photolaureates.org>

Indoor flash tip: point the flash the wrong way

John Watson writes in Photodoto; "One of my favorite techniques when using a camera mounted flash indoors is to point it behind me."

<http://photodoto.com/index.php/2006/05/18/indoor-flash-tip-point-the-flash-the-wrong-way/>

Shooting in overcast conditions

One thing you can count on during the Spring and Summer months in southern California is the marine layer: a cool, foggy layer of air blown ashore each evening that doesn't burn off until around noon. Every morning starts out cool and overcast. Overcast conditions aren't typically what photographers talk about when they discuss beautiful light. The "golden hour" (dawn and dusk) is only golden if you can see the sun. But overcast conditions have their advantages as well and you can still take great photographs under a gray sky as long as you choose your subjects carefully.

<http://photodoto.com/index.php/2006/05/17/shooting-in-overcast-conditions/>

We find the best photo shiz anywhere

Photojojo is a twice weekly newsletter, whose home page says;

Congratulations. It's your lucky day! You just found one damn fine photo newsletter.

You probably own a digital camera and you've probably taken a bajillion photos with it. You may have printed a few.

Well, it turns out there's a whole world of things you can do with your photos and with your camera that nobody ever told you about. We find the most kick-ass photo tips, DIY projects, and gear and bring them to you.

Turn a photo into a mural at home in 5 minutes, print your friends' faces onto cupcakes, or get a bottlecap that turns any soda bottle into a tripod... subscribe and we'll show you how.

It's all free, we never spam, and we make it easy to unsubscribe if you change your mind. What have you got to lose?

<http://www.photojojo.com/>

Nikon Stunning Gallery

<http://www.nikonstunninggallery.com/>

"Life's an Adventure" Action Photography Contest

Send in your best action shot and you could win a copy of National Geographic's new photography field guide.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/photo-contest.html>

Strobist

A weblog whose goal is to promote more effective use of small, shoe-mount flashes.

<http://strobist.blogspot.com>

Concert Photography

Photocritic writes;

Of all the types of photography ever invented, I would claim that live concert photography is up there among the most difficult ones. You have five thousand fans behind you, and there is a band in front of you. Nobody stands still. In fact, even the notion of standing still ruins the idea of a good music photo. The bouncers hate you, because you are in their way. The crowd is jealous of you. Crowd surfers will kick you in the head. The band thinks you're annoying. The lighting is never bright enough, and changes so frequently that you're screwed even in the few moments that it is.

And nonetheless, concert photography is one of my all-time favourite pastimes. It's hard. It's unrewarding. But it's deeply gratifying on a personal lever. It's about capturing the mood. Capturing the looks. Capturing something the audience is feeling.

Of course, it's also something I know something about - I've done my share of concerts...

<http://www.photocritic.org/2006/live-band-concert-photography/>

Introducing the Rasterbator

So what is all this about then? Apart from a slightly risque name... Rasterbator takes an image and from it 'creates huge, rasterized images'. 'The rasterized images can be printed and assembled into extremely cool looking posters up to 20 meters in size.' Which may be handy to some.

<http://digitalphotography.weblogsinc.com/2006/05/27/introducing-the-rasterbator/>

Unsharp Mask: suggested starting values

Scott Kelby suggests using the following settings as starting points for Unsharp Mask (USM) in Photoshop. Give them a go:

Subject	Amount	Radius	Threshold
Soft subjects	150	1	10
Portraits	75	2	3
Moderate sharpening	225	0.5	0
Maximum sharpening	65	4	3
All-purpose sharpening	85	1	4
Preparing for Web	400	0.3	0

Remember that these are just guidelines – oversharpened images always look terrible. Try these as a starting point, but if you get symptoms of oversharpening (grain in the image, and “halos” around objects), back off a little bit. And always check the image at at least 100% zoom.

Photo Retouching – Skin

TutorialBlog writes:

This will be our first tutorial on the subject of re-touching a photograph in photoshop.

We will be working on a photo of a model and using a few techniques to smooth and even out the skin.

Photo re-touching is a fine art used mainly in the media for magazines etc, that doesnt mean though, that we cant get good results fairly easily using a few photoshop techniques.

<http://tutorialblog.org/photo-retouching-skin/>

Use adjustment layers for that perfect selection

Jennifer Apple over at The Photoshop Blog posted a great tip for getting that perfect selection when you're having a tough time with other methods, possibly due to backgrounds or surrounding elements that are stumping Photoshop and its various selection tools.

<http://www.photoshop.weblogsinc.com/2006/04/11/use-adjustment-layers-for-that-perfect-selection/>

CLUB MEETINGS 2006

Date	Competition/Evaluation	Talk	“What Makes Me Click”
14 June	Evaluation		
12 July	Competition: ‘Traces of Time’		

09 August	Evaluation		
13 September	Competition: 'The Blues'		Nigel, Paulette
11 October	Evaluation		James
08 November	Competition: 'Commerce'		
13 December	AGM + GALA EVENING		

AV EVENINGS are held on the **LAST** Wednesday of every month.

June 28th:

July 26th: **'Set Music'** : Any music played by the **Soweto String Quartet** or **Hugh Masekhela**. *All to Show!*

August 30th: **Open Night** for friends. *All to show!*

September 27th: **Nettie (China)**

October 25th: **'Set Subject'** : **Explore Your Creativity**. *All to show!*

November 29th: **Paulette (Zanzibar?)**

December 13th Gala Evening: *All can show!*

As you can see, this programme needs to be topped up in various places, especially by digital workers. Please contact Paulette (pauletter@paarlweb.co.za) and let her know of any AV's you might have in the pipeline. Let's get out of our little boxes and enjoy our creativity!

CLUB OUTINGS 2006

Month:	Date:	Outing:
June	June 25	
July	Fri 21 – Sun 23	Suurbraak, Swellendam
August	Sat 06 – Tue 09	
September	Sun 24 – Fri 29	PSSA Congress, Velddrif
October		
November		Rally

Any ideas for places to visit should be relayed to Paddy – 021 8762136

LAST WORD Unlike a painter, a photographer starts with something finished and works backwards -*Anonymous*

