

# Photo Journalism by Ralph Wilson

Ralph Wilson was first exposed to news photography in the early 60's when his father published the Randolph Register, a weekly paper in western New York. He started working in the darkroom when he was thirteen and formed a love affair for editorial photography as it emerged from the 4x5 Speed Graphic to 35mm and now into electronic photojournalism.

His career got a late start in 1991 as a "stringer" for the Williamsport Sun-Gazette. For the past three years he has shot full-time for the paper. As a regular contributor to the Associated Press his work has appeared on the front pages of the San Francisco Chronicle, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and other papers across the United States and England. His photographs have also appeared in Time, Oprah and US Kids magazines.

Ralph will unpack his camera bag Monday and show what a news photographer carries with him every time he leaves home whether on the way to work or a trip to the grocery store.

He will demonstrate how images are transmitted from the field and the workflow needed to get them "on the page" as well as how photos are received from the Associated Press.

Also planned for the evening is a slide show of local digital photographs that will give insight to some typical and not so typical events in the Williamsport area. The show will feature those warm & fuzzy feature shots as well as very sober hard news events.

During the days that followed the terrorist attacks of September 11, the Associated Press moved nearly 1000 related images per day. Some have already become icons of the event; others have slipped through the cracks. A selection those images will also be presented.

**MANY THANKS TO HOYER'S FOR THE LOAN OF A  
VIDEO PROJECTOR FOR THIS PRESENTATION**

## MONTHLY THEME CONTESTS

SEPTEMBER  
RULE OF THIRDS  
COURAGE

OCTOBER  
FOOD  
NEGATIVE

**President  
Erent Shirk**

**Vice President  
Wayne Calmer**

**Secretary  
Kathy Etzel**

**Treasurer  
Elizabeth Cowney**

Please ↓ Read

## A Few Words from Your Vice President

Lisa McNerney, our president, in pursuit of her teaching certificate had to take a class that conflicts with our monthly meetings. In the best interest of SVS, she has decided to step down. As stated in the by-laws, the president has the ability to appoint a successor with Executive Committee approval.

**Brent Shirk is now our president.**

**Please note:** We will now be using a **new entrance** to gain access to the museum instead of coming through the double glass doors. When you are facing the double glass doors, there is a solid metal door to your left. Enter directly into the meeting room through that entrance. I plan to have a sign on the door.

Lastly, I would like to thank all those who submitted items for the newsletter. It's



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## SVS MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

TREASURER ELIZABETH ANSTADT DOWNEY

### September 2001

August Meeting - Balance in Account		\$850.35
9/17/01 Mail Boxes, Etc. for Aug newsletter & mailing	(\$22.93)	
September Meeting - Balance in Account		\$827.42

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## **News from the North Country by Christine Heiny**

The Grand Canyon Photography Club's next meeting will be Tuesday, October 9 at 7 p.m. at Gmeiner Art and Cultural Center, 134 Main Street, Wellsboro. Our speaker will be Rob Colley of Hoyers Photographic in Williamsport, sharing his knowledge on "What's new in photography equipment and accessories." He will have examples of and/or information on the latest point-and-shoot up to advanced digital cameras. This will be a very interesting and timely presentation. Rob has been involved with photography all his life and is a consultant to the amateur or professional photographer, helping each to choose the right equipment, film and accessories.

Our September speaker was Danielle Goodyear, Assistant Professor of Photography at Lycoming College. In spite of the tragedy that occurred on our meeting date, September 11th, 35 persons were present to hear her presentation: "A Photographic Journey" on her life experiences as seen through the eye of a camera. She had examples of her early work at Alfred University and of several trips abroad, to Italy, Thailand, Viet Nam for example; and also work in Southwest United States and in Georgia. Her photos ranged from the sentimental (her grandmother's house) and the morbid (graveyards) to the beautiful (balloon festivals) and the dramatic ("constructive" landscapes) and more.... All images captured an appropriate mood and were in a variety of formats and exposures -- color, black and white, sepia, even computer manipulated. Danielle's show was a hit and we hope she will come back sometime in the future. Following her presentation, she critiqued a dozen or more member photographs on the topic, "Night Images."

Next month's topic will be "Architecture". The club's two-month show at the John White Gallery on Second Street, downtown Coudersport ends next week.

We are now preparing for a three-month club exhibit at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Hospital Gallery.

Congratulations to members who were prize winners at the Tioga County Fair Photographic show. Several members are preparing entries for the upcoming **Apple and Cheese Festival Photography Show**.

The club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Gmeiner Art and Cultural Center, 134 Main Street, Wellsboro. Photographers of all skill levels are invited to visit and to join our club. Membership information is available from Art Heiny, 104 Woodhouse Court, Wellsboro, telephone: 570-724-4504; email: troutfly@epix.net.

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# Susquehanna Valley Shutterbug Club Meeting Minutes August 27, 2001

Members present: 9, including guest: John Kendig WELCOME!

Program Report: Members' slide presentation.  
Six members participated.

Publicity: There is a need for monthly publicity in the Williamsport Sun Gazette.

News: Need for worthwhile programs.

Newsletter: Send any articles to Wayne a.s.a.p.!

Refreshments: Elizabeth graciously volunteered to supply refreshments for the September meeting.

Show committee: Stephanie, show committee chairman, plans a meeting 9/10 to discuss the upcoming show.  
Brent is involved with patron solicitations.  
Please thin of possible patrons and request donations. We hope every member will be a patron.

Monthly Theme Contest  
Winners:

50/50 Winner:

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kathy Otzel*, secretary

## Adventures at Camp With Polaroids and Kids

Submitted by Elizabeth Anstadt Downey

So you're an adult now but you long to experience those great days at camp when you were a kid without a care in the world beyond attracting the attention of the guy with long hair in Cabin Hiawatha. Boy Scout and 4-H Camp at Camp Kline, Girl Scout Camp at Camp Lycogis, church camp at Central Oak Heights, Camp Brule....oh yeah, believe it or not I was sent to a camp to gain weight. I not only lost weight both years but during a chase scene around a building that resulted in a collision with another camper, I lost a "permanent" front tooth at age 11.

Well, if you are yearning for your more pleasant camp experiences, call a kid's organization and volunteer to go to camp and teach photography (or some other needed workshop). Organizations are begging for people to work with kids. It's one week out of your year. You'll discover it's a week that will give you far more than you give the kids!

In July I taught a photo course for a week at the Pennsylvania State Junior Grange Camp in the mountains above Howard, PA. It was my sixth year volunteering at the camp and the third teaching photography. Last year's workshop was about basic photography concepts such as camera, subject, film, light, processing, composition, focus and planning. We were able to see the inside mechanisms of a camera and discuss its components. I turned the kids loose with a 12 image disposable camera for each. They were given six image categories to capture. The overall favorite assignment seemed to be the "trick" photo image and, of course, the self-portraits. It was delightful to see how creative the kids were! The kids completed all their shooting, I ran the 80 cameras to the Wal-Mart in Mill Hall for developing and then compiled the completed images into a Photo Exhibition for their Friday evening Coronation Celebration. They loved it!

Last year the kids had many questions about computer manipulated images. This year I took the laptop and the first photo workshop of the week was dedicated to a demonstration of turning a Photoshop guerilla into a stained glass window. In lieu of each kid having her/his own laptop to work on, at their second photo workshop of the week they were each provided with several Polaroid images to shoot and manipulate. Some of the techniques being currently used in the art photography world of Polaroid images include "emulsion life," "image transfer," "paper negatives," and just plain scratching the image immediately after it's taken from the camera using various scribing tools (pens, pencils, etc). In working with kids at camp, the easiest system is the last. Off they went in various directions about the campgrounds, camera in one hand and scribing tools in the other. In scribing a Polaroid, the photographer needs to apply the manipulation **immediately** after the photo is released from the camera and long before the image appears. Some of the results were well thought-out and creative: Troy had his buddy pose as if throwing a baseball. In the completed image he drew the ball along with lines that simulated movement of his friends body and the ball. For more information upon their return home, I referred the kids to [www.polaroidwork.com](http://www.polaroidwork.com). Once again this year, we had a photo exhibition Friday evening for all to enjoy before the kids took their photos home Saturday morning.

I've often referred to kids photography as "Up Your Nose Photography." Their perspective is wonderful. I enjoy their creative statements about their world and themselves and the refreshing glimpse of how each views the

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## A PHOTO EXCURSION.....

### by Lloyd Forcey

According to my GPS unit, sunset for Erie was to be at 7:33 PM on Friday, September 14. Recognized as one of the worlds top five sunset observation spots and considering the possible opportunity to photograph with out con trails had me 'set' up and watching and waiting for the magic moment.

I had spent the day bike riding and hiking the trails and roads of Presque Isle State Park and despite the reopening of the airports I had seen only one commercial airplane all day. The chance for a skyscape with out jet trails was an opportunity not to be missed. Gulls were resting on the breakers in an interesting pattern, a arm of the beach extended toward the west leading the eye into the scene, there were no interfering obstacles or beach walkers, and the day had been clear and boats could be seen at a great distance indicating the air was clear.

I had given much thought and some research in the determination of the appropriate exposure. Anyone that has photographed a sunrise or a sunset quickly realizes that the events take place in just moments. The time of greatest aesthetic appeal may only be seconds long and the opportunity to vary exposure must be accomplished very quickly. Since the sun is a light source a general meter exposure recommendation would greatly underexpose other parts of the photograph. Only if the air is clear and the water reflects the setting sun toward the photographer will the foreground be illuminated sufficiently to show detail in the water's surface. My plan was to silhouette the gulls on the breaker against the setting sun and the color carried by the reflection in the water. Using a 100 speed slide film swould (hopefully) yield an image of shapes and color which would project and elicit 'ooohs ans awwwsss' from any viewer fortunate to have the opportunity to view my work.

I could use the center weighting option of my camera's meter after reading a highlight then underexpose to insure detail in the shadowed water. I could use the spot metering option of my meter and just pick a middle tone illuminated with an 'average' amount of light. I could under expose the colorful sky to increase the saturation but then I would likely loose the detail in the foreground water. I could read the water surface and relegate the light level to 18%. With exposure unresolved I began to consider the depth of field. I wanted the horizon to be sharp but I wanted the gulls sharp in the foreground. According to the National Geographic Society, when one looks out over a large body of water one can see about 3 miles before the horizon appears. I was to determine that the gulls at 200 yards and the horizon at 3 miles were both to be rendered sharp. With that issue unresolved, I began to consider the focal length of the lens to be used for my project.

The wide angle showed too much minimizing the setting sun and exaggerating the beach in the foreground. After trying several options, I replaced the trial lenses with the 80-200 lens which I use for 85% of my pictures anyway. In one framing option I could catch the sun, the gulls, the water, and zooming slightly would include some trees and a breaker. Great.

I should mention at this point that I have been setting this up in my mind for about 3 years. Since most of my best work is the pictures I take with my mind, it is quite likely that the cerebrally generated images in this instance will far surpass what I would register on film. Anyway, I ruminated on the options till 7:30 and the

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## National Geographic Film Use

Putsee Vannucci submitted this story which appeared in the National Geographic Magazine. There was a picture of 400 rolls of film followed by this article.

All those film boxes and cans fill the camera bags of a Geographic photographer going on assignment. Why so many? And does that constitute a was of of film? No, explains Kent Kobersteen, our director of photography. There's a difference, he says, between amateur photographers and professionals, a difference in their goals.

"Most people on vacation shoot photographs that serve to remind them of places they've been, of things they've seen," Kent says. "Our photographers use photography to communicate about places, people and animals with people who have not been there. They go into a situation and explore is visually, not unlike the way a write would explore a subject with a person in an interview. They're on a mission of discovery."

Our photographers do a lot of "sketching" with their cameras, Kent says, and, as with all artists, many of their sketches end up in the wastebasket. That's not a waste of film, Kent notes: "The amount of film is no different from the number of notebooks a writer uses. That's insignificant. It's what you end up with that counts."

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world through photography.

## Adventures at Camp - Continued

Share with kids this creative outlet we all enjoy so much and (as Jon Bogle, sculpting professor at Lycoming would say) pass along your skills to the next generation. Give yourself a gift – volunteer to teach photography at a kids camp

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sun was dropping fast to the horizon. I decided to go with program exposure! My camera's matrix

### **A PHOTO EXCURSION.....Continued**

metering has seldom left me down and closing the lens down showed that the sun and adjacent colored clouds would be suitably sharp. Hey, they wouldn't put P on the camera if you weren't supposed to use it would they?

Anyway, back to the picture taking. With the camera on a tripod a few preliminary pictures had been taken. I notice a bright spot above the dipping sun....a contrail! First just one, then another and another. The airports in Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago must be spewing airplanes. I zoomed in an attempt to exclude the trails but soon the sky held 8 different trails going in all directions. The sun back lit all the condensation making each trail visible.

After the kind of week it had been it was almost reassuring to see planes in the air again. Oh well, in case I didn't get the picture I wanted, I 'll just rethink the options and try it another time. While I haven't seen my slides yet, I'm quite confident the Program setting probably worked well. Maybe if I had more time to plan.....

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# Upcoming Events

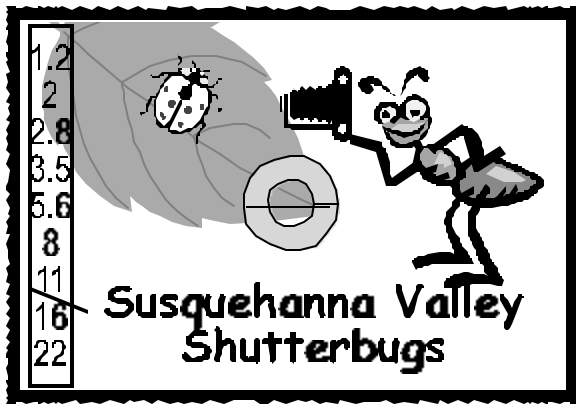
**"Artists in Education"** at The Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro showing work of art educators from regional five counties, including Lycoming, through September 28.

**Creative Memories** is having an all day (1-9 pm) event on Sunday October 21st at the Duboistown Fire Hall in South Williamsport. The day will be for customers to organize and place their pictures into our scrapbook products. Pre-registration is required. Call Chawn at 323-9644 for more information.

**Canton Apple & Cheese Festival - Photo Contest** is October 6 & 7. Deadline for entry is September 28. Cash Awards. For more information call 297-4841

## About The SVS Newsletter

The Susquehanna Valley Shutterbugs Newsletter is published monthly. The club meets monthly at the Lycoming County Historical Museum on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. The address of the museum and the club is: SVS, c/o Lycoming County Historical Society, 858 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA 17701. The newsletter is created by Wayne Palmer (321-9660) and Elizabeth Downey (435-2007) and assisted by Lou Hunsinger. Submissions for the newsletter are welcome and must be submitted by the 10th of each month. Past articles of interest and other club information can be found on the Web at: [www.palmermultimedia.com/SVS.htm](http://www.palmermultimedia.com/SVS.htm)



Place  
Stamp  
Here

c/o Lyco. Co. Historical Society  
858 West Fourth Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

*Next Meeting September 24 - 7:00 at the  
Lycoming County Historical Society*

**Ralph Wilson**  
**Photo Journalism**

Mail To: