

South Shore Camera Club of NY

We focus on the fine points of photography

The Shutterbug Monthly

From the President...

Gary Meyer



Welcome to the inaugural issue of our monthly newsletter. This new project is the result of a recommendation by Stuart Konecky, one of our newer members and editor, and is being published by Steve Friedman, another new member. This is a

clear demonstration of the growth of our club. We are adding new members who are eager to contribute to our success.

The newsletter will include several topics of interest, such as a member spotlight featuring interviews with various members discussing their involvement with photography. There will be "The 9er Gallery" displaying photos that scored a nine in our most recent competition. We will also include a step-by-step instructional column called "How I Did That". This will feature a photo of interest and explain the steps taken to achieve the final result from the original. Additional ongoing items each month will be a calendar of upcoming events and comments on those that occurred. We are also

encouraging member contributions that they feel would be of interest to the club.

Our club has fostered friendships started by the bond of a common love for photography and nurtured by camaraderie that has blossomed into a true enjoyment of being together. This has extended beyond our meetings at the JCC and on zoom and spilled over into sharing meals together after meetings and weekly Friday afternoon lunches.

A quick reminder that our annual holiday party is on Sunday December 8th at 2pm at the Imperial Diner. For those who have not sent an RSVP, please do so ASAP so that I can accurately advise the Imperial of how many guests to expect. Send your reply to: shuttrbug48@optonline.net.

We hope that the newsletter will evolve as we move ahead and look forward to contributions from our members. Based on the quality of the work displayed in our competitions each month, we are fortunate to have an extremely talented membership, and we should be proud to share our accomplishments

JUST A LITTLE NOTE TO OUR MEMBERS

Our newsletter will only be as good as we make it... we need all to contribute to it.

Send all suggestions, stories and helpful hints to either

Stuart Konecky (stuart.konecky@gmail.com)

or Steve Friedman (steve@PhotosBySMF.com)

Featured Photographer: Domenick Creaco

Interview by Stuart Konecky



1. What sparked your passion for photography?

I was about 11 years old when my older brother, Tony got briefly involved in photography, taking, then developing and printing pictures in our basement's makeshift darkroom. I was fascinated by the workings and when he got bored he gave me and I gladly accepted the meager processing equipment he had.

I was a paper delivery boy at the time and was earning about \$10 per week on my 100 customer paper route. I spent most of my money earned by building up additional camera and processing equipment. I would take a bus from my house to Jamaica, Queens and walk about a mile to the "Sunshine Camera" store. They got to know me pretty well. In the eighth grade my principal advised me that the High School of Performing Arts in NYC was opening a brand new

program for Theatrical Photography with the aim of promoting the school and for other reasons. While there I learned a great deal about the art and technical aspects of the trade which I loved. My teacher, Mr. Mel Saltzman was an inspiration to me. The city closed down the program after 2 ½ years but went on after High School to gain an Associate's Degree in Photographic Technology. After that I went further in my education to earn both a Bachelor's and Masters Degree in Electronic and Electrical Engineering, which combined with photographic science rounded out my understanding of today's digital photography.

2. How and when did you join the SSCC?

Around 1986 I got heavily involved into cycling and was in a bicycle club from 1997 until 2017. Age was advancing so I gave up the cycling but was still heavily involved in photography. My Son Chris introduced me to the Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area in the Summer of 2018 and when there I met a member of SSCC, Carole Meyers who noticed my gear an interest in Nature Photography and told me about SSCC. I was thinking about a club to join and this seemed perfect for me, so I joined the club in January 2019 and have been here ever since making many friends at the club and enjoying the experience.

3. Do you have a favorite type of photography or a signature style?

Two signature areas in photography are Wildlife and Landscape Photography. In traveling with my Son Chris to the Southwest and the West Coast, I got involved in landscape photography and did many trips with him perfecting that art. Sometime around 2011, while in New Mexico, I traveled to the Bosque Del Apache Wetlands and was amazed with the variety of wildlife there particularly the migrating Sandhill Cranes birds. From that point on I started my journey in Bird and Wildlife Photography.

4. Which cameras and lens do you like?

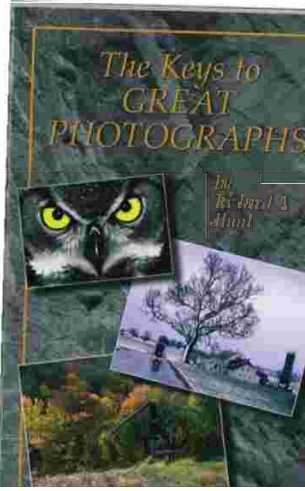
My favorite camera and lens is the Sony Alpha A1 and the Sony G 200-600mm lens.

5. How do you approach post-processing your images?

My workflow includes Adobe's Lightroom Classic and Adobe Photoshop. I use Lightroom to catalog my images, to convert the raw images then to do some basic image processing. After that I send and open the image in Photoshop using it with the application's many features, multiple and smart layers, with various plug-ins to complete the editing process. I subscribe to Adobe's photography program for \$10 / month which gives me Lightroom, Photoshop and Bridge with all the updates.

6. What advice would you give to new photographers?

My advice to new photographers is to be very patient and: Learn about the ingredients that make up a good photograph, impact, lighting, composition, storytelling etc. A good brief guide is Dick Hunt's tutorial on "The Keys to A Great Photograph."



b. Study the Masters to see their style by going to the library or online.

c. Get on the learning curve, work hard, you must put in the time to become better. Practice, practice, practice!, take many, many photos.

d. Learn about the workings of your equipment and how it affects your images.

e. Organizing your photographs on your computer.

f. Choosing an image editing program(s) and learning them in depth by studying the many tutorials particularly the videos available online

How I did that... NY Seaport

Steven Friedman

1- The original photo

2- I used the image/adjust/curves and brightened the entire photo slightly

3- I used the magnetic lasso to select the boat (settings: feather 0, check anti-alias, width 3px, contrast 50% and frequency 57) and inversed my selection by going to Select – inverse This way everything but the boat was selected

4- I used the Image adjust and selected black & white to convert to black and white (all except the boat)

5- For the final I lightened the black and white conversion using curves



1- original.jpg



2- brightened.jpg



3- black and white.jpg



4- combo.jpg



5- final.jpg

UNDERSTANDING BASIC CAMERA SHOOTING MODES AND CAMERAS SENSORS

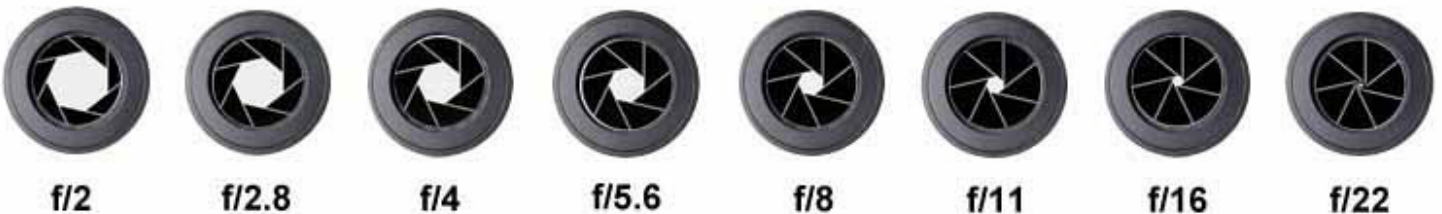
There are 5 basic shoot modes in today's digital cameras; Automatic (AUTO), Program (P) Shutter Priority (S), Aperture Priority (A) and Manual. (M). Automatic and program are the most popular used modes. But are they the best?

When you set your camera to AUTO the camera does everything for you... Selects the ISO (the sensitivity to light), the aperture, shutter speed, uses the flash if required and sets the white balance. The only thing you have to do is aim the camera, set the zoom and press the button.

Using Program (P) mode (or as some photographers call it " the Professional mode") will give you a lot more control... you can select the ISO if you are shooting in low light or want to freeze the shot. You can also lower the ISO to create a blur effect and lower the noise level. If you are photographing a person with back-lighting you can use the plus setting to compensate for this. (Generally 1 to 2 stops). You also have the option of having the flash fire or not fire as opposed to the AUTO mode where you don't have any choice. This comes in very handy when photographing in places like museums which don't permit flash. Another benefit is the ability to select an aperture setting for either less or more depth of field - the camera will select the shutter speed. You can also just let the camera do all of the work the same as in AUTO mode. I have heard that shooting in this mode yields better photos than AUTO, even if you don't do anything.

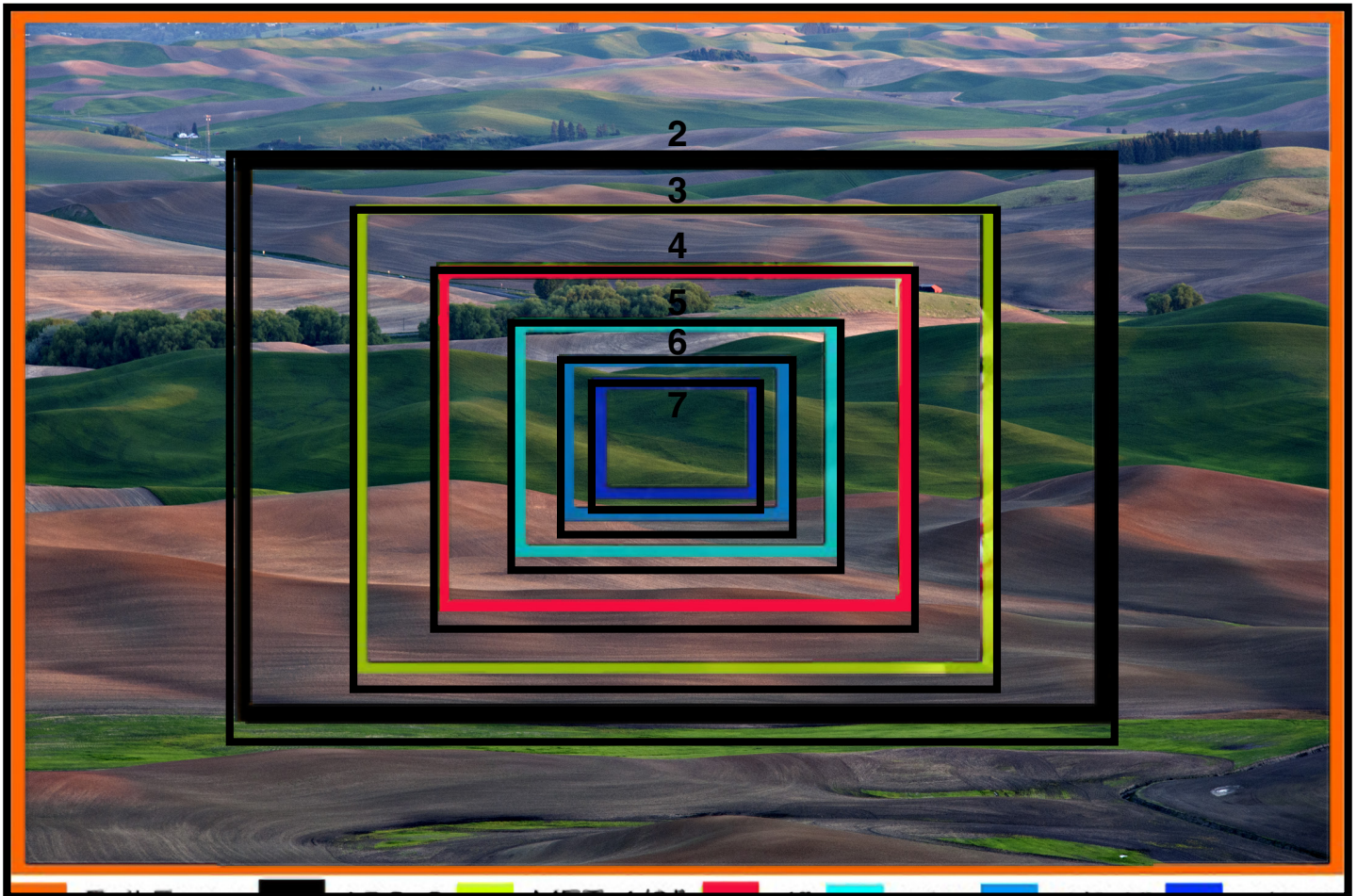
Next let's talk about Shutter Priority (S): In this mode you select the shutter speed you want and the camera will select the aperture. This is useful when shooting fast moving objects you wish to freeze - set a fast shutter speed. If you want to create a blur effect you can use a slower shutter speed. You also have the ability to increase the ISO. The higher the ISO setting the faster the shutter speed can be set to. Just keep in mind that the higher the ISO the more noise the photo may have.

Aperture Priority (A) mode is very similar to Shutter priority only you are now selecting the aperture and the camera will set the shutter speed. This is my preferred method to shoot in. Setting the proper aperture helps you to create the depth of field you desire. A larger aperture will create a shallow depth of field... you see this very often with portraits where the background is blurred. This is something that many photographers don't know: No matter what aperture you set your camera to - the camera keeps the setting at the largest aperture until you press the shutter release. Those funny numbers you are given as aperture setting F1.0, F1.4, F2.0, F2.8, etc. are really mathematical representation of the amount of light the lens is letting in. Each setting lets half the amount of light as the one prior to it. For general shooting apertures of F5.6 to F11 are the best to use. A little known fact is that using apertures of F22 and higher don't always result in sharper photos, you may actually get a slightly soft photo due to lens aberration.



Aperture settings create different depth of field on different cameras, depending on the sensor size. A simple example of this is compare the full frame sensor (which is what everything is based on) and a 4/3s sensor which is half the size of a full frame sensor. The 4/3s sensor will actually lose a full stop in depth of field. When shooting at F2.8 the 4/3s will have the same light transmission as the full frame but the depth of field will be at F4.0., on an APC-S the F-stop will be a half stop less, at F3.5.

Another important element to understand about the difference between full frame cameras and others is the cropping factor. Many of you shoot with an APC-S sensor and buy a zoom lens that is 18 to 300mm and think it is shooting at 25 - 450mm. This is not so! The focal length is the focal length! The area of the photo is being cropped as if it were a 25 - 450mm lens, see the chart for sensor size comparisons. The 1" through the 1/3.2 sensors are used on point and shoot cameras. A 2/3" sensor is approximately one quarter the size of a full frame and a 2.8 F-stop would act like a 5.6 F-stop losing 2 stops. When you buy a point and shoot with this size sensor and it lists the ranges as 24 to 400 (35mm equivalent) it is actually a 6 -100mm lens. Due to the small sensor most point and shoot camera are shooting at an aperture of F8 to F11 and that is why their photos appear very sharp.



Full Frame 2- APS-C 3- MTF (4/3s) 4- 1" 5- 2/3" 6- 1/2.3 7- 1/3.2

Manual (M) mode is exactly as it sounds. You set the aperture, shutter speed, and the ISO along with the white balance. You may ask; Why would I want to shoot in manual mode? This gives you the ability to select a more suitable combination of aperture and shutter speed for a given situation – such as using a high ISO to enable the use of both a small aperture and fast shutter speed when shooting landscapes in low light. Manual mode is often the ideal choice for photographing moving subjects in constant light. The important element is that the light stay constant! This mode is not designed for “grab” shots.

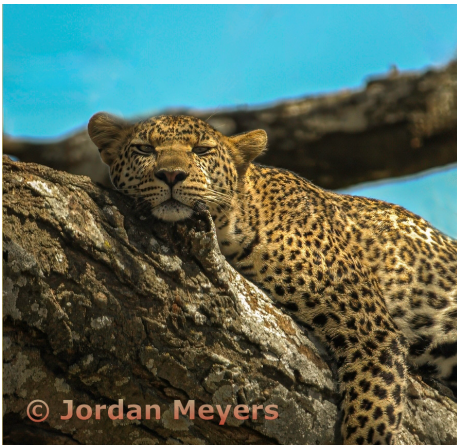
Lastly; many of today’s cameras have additional modes like scene and other special effects. If you shoot in RAW and use these special effects, they will record as a JPG and the RAW file will remain in full color.

One parting thought to better photography - take a step to your left and a then a step or two to your right before clicking - you will be amazed how different the same shot may look. Always buy the best equipment you can afford.

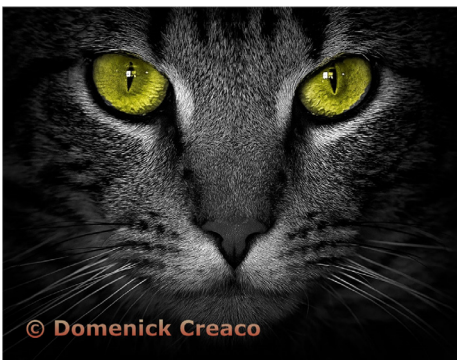
THE NINER

A COLLECTION OF PHOTOS THAT RECEIVED A 9 IN LAST MONTH'S COMPETITION

Check the club website to see all of the other photos entered this month



Check the club website to see all of the other photos entered this month



From the Publisher...

Steven Friedman



Welcome to the first issue of **The Shutterbug Monthly**. We will offer regular monthly features and are open to all suggestions. If you have anything you would like to sell or buy, we can create a classified page listing selling and looking for. We are open to all suggestions... It is our club's publication and will only be as good as we

all make contributions to it.

IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT THE 9s. Judging is a very subjective thing and sometimes they don't notice the small things that can make a difference. The same photo may get a 9 by one judge and an 8 by another. Don't personalize it if you get a lower score than expected, just enjoy the photos.

Feel free to contact me anytime with articles, comments and/or suggestions. Phone or text: - 516.317.0808; email: steve@photosbysmf.com.



I hope everyone had a great Halloween

THE STAFF

Officers

President:Gary Meyer
Vice President: Domenick Creaco
Secretary: Stuart Konecky
Treasurer:George Cutler

Publication

Editor: Stuart Konecky
Publisher: Steven Friedman



The End...

Stuart Konecky, Editor

Last February, as a new member, I suggested to Arlene Kyler that the club should have a newsletter as a way to announce social news, club events, and provide helpful photography tips. When Gary Meyer and Domenick Creaco approved the idea, Steve Friedman and I quickly teamed up with Gary to create our very first edition.



We hope you truly enjoyed this inaugural edition of South Shore Camera Club's newsletter, *The Shutterbug Monthly*! In our first issue, we had the pleasure of interviewing Domenick Creaco and featuring two insightful technical articles by Steven Friedman. Additionally, we showcased the stunning works of our talented members in *The Niner* gallery.

A personal thank you goes out to our publisher, Steve Friedman, who did a fantastic job designing *The Shutterbug Monthly*. His technical articles are top-notch.

Stay tuned for more tips, inspiration, and great photos in our upcoming editions. We also want to hear from you, our fellow club members, about your suggestions and what you'd like to see in future issues. If you have something photography-related to write about, please feel free to contact me. Email me at; stuart.konecky@gmail.com or text; 516.353.0409

Don't forget to continue visiting our website, <https://ssccny.visualpursuits.com>.