

ESSEX PHOTO NEWS Oct 2009

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ESSEX PHOTO CLUB
IN OUR 60TH YEAR
GUESTS ARE WELCOME

Meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month @ 7:30PM
at the Caldwell United Methodist Church
8 Academy Road, Caldwell, NJ
at the corner of Bloomfield Ave. & Washburn Place
Visit Our Website at: <http://www.essexphotoclub.org/node/1>.



DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

President Nath Kaplan
Vice President Todd Boressoff
Secretary Stacey Lindley
Treasurer Bart Costello
Delegate-At-Large...Caroline Ades

Newsletter Editor

Nancy McMurtrie (973-239-4843)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

October 1, 2009

Photo Lab:

Todd Boressoff will present "Woodstock" at 7:20. Please be advised that the church has moved the room for the Photo lab to the downstairs room. This room is just to the left and down the stairs as you come into the church.

Program: Phil Echo: The Eagles of Homer, Alaska

October 15, 2009

Competition:

Judge Ben Venezio NJFCC

SUPPORT EPC AND B&H



If you are ordering anything at B&H, including cameras, electronic gear, or even TVs, it will benefit our club

financially by ordering through our **Essex Photo Club website** at: <http://www.essexphotoclub.org/>
Click the B&H icon. You will go straight to their website & EPC will get 2-3% on the sale. If you have friends who are not in the club, you can ask them to also order through our webpage. Our club will get the benefit.

Phil Echo

The Eagles of Homer Alaska

Famed nature photographer and fantastic and humorous judge, Phil Echo will be our guest speaker on October 1, 2009. Homer is a city located on the Kenai Peninsula in the U.S. state of Alaska. According to 2005 Census Bureau estimates, the population was 5,364. One of Homer's nicknames is "the cosmic hamlet by the sea"; another is "the end of the road". A popular local bumper sticker characterizes the town as "Homer - A quaint little drinking village with a fishing problem." Phil will certainly have tales to tell about this little town in Alaska.



Caldwell Public Library Photo Exhibit

Janet Markman

Set up will be Sat. Oct 3rd at 9 AM at the Caldwell library, 268 Bloomfield Avenue. Anybody attending the EPC meeting Thursday Oct. 1st who cannot make it on Saturday Oct. 3rd can bring their prints for us to hang on Saturday. Our reception will be Tuesday Oct. 13th at 6:30 PM at the Caldwell library. The exhibit will come down Sat. Oct. 31st 9 AM. If you cannot be there on set up or break down days, you can contact Janet, Debbie or Frank to make arrangements for your prints. Please continue to send your titles to Janet M.- janserves@aol.com or Debbie G. pooch778@earthlink.com or Frank I. ingo1943@optonline.net. Let's have a nice showing for our club.

Thanks to everyone who has already responded and offered to help.

The photo must adhere to the following:

- 1) At least two framed photos for each member
- 2) Black frames are preferred, but will accept any color
- 3) The frames must have a wire for hanging
- 4) Mark your name and the photo name on the back of each photo. Not the front!!!
- 5) Please wrap the photos to prevent breakage and for ease of handling.

Place to Photograph in New Jersey: Caldwell

The rolling hills and valleys of the Watchung Mountains and the abundance of forests for lumber, streams and productive farmland first attracted early settlers to Caldwell and western Essex County. In 1702, a group of colonists from Newark purchased nearly 14,000 acres from the Lenape Indians for the equivalent of \$325. This area, comprising most of northern Essex County, was known as "The Horseneck," due to its unique configuration. They were joined by Dutch settlers from Bergen County. But clear title to the land was disputed several decades later by the original English Proprietors, resulting in "The Horse Neck Riots" in the 1740's, one of the earliest Colonial American challenges to British authority. In 1798, after the American Revolution, "Horseneck" separated from Newark and became the "Township of Caldwell" consisting of what is now known as Verona, Cedar Grove, Fairfield and the Caldwells. The construction of the "Big Road," Bloomfield Avenue, up from Newark through Bloomfield and Montclair brought increased population and commerce as it reached Caldwell by 1808. By the 1870's it had also become a summertime destination for city residents looking to escape the heat in those days before fans and air conditioners. People came to enjoy the clean air, pure water and beautiful scenic views. Promoting itself as "The Denver of the East," Caldwell's economy was considerably helped by its influx of seasonal visitors, who stayed in boarding houses.



Have you photographed or visited this Caldwell landmark?

Focal Point How Does Photography Impact My Life *by Valerie Wolfson*

Back in 1992, my husband, Jeff, was in need of a new agent for his commercial photography business in SoHo. Since I had a background in hotel sales I thought I could transfer that experience to the world of advertising. What an adjustment! Over time I began to understand up close, the weird but wonderful world of visual expression. In addition to representing Jeff, I took on several other photographers here and abroad each specializing in different areas of photography. That gave me the opportunity to see the world's top cutting edge photography, meet with art buyers and art directors, and truly appreciate how much work and effort went into a great photograph. I was flying high on that creative wave and enjoyed it all. Then came 9/11, and my creative spirit flatlined so that I gave up NYC and the world of art overnight.

Then one day, I decided to take a course entitled, "Imagine 21." Basically, it was a course that helped one get to what one really wanted to do in life. After the course, I picked up my Olympus point and shoot, went to Verona Park and started taking pictures. When Jeff saw the photos he said in amazement, "You took these?" I decided then, that I wanted to be a photographer. But, being married to Jeff, I was somewhat intimidated by his life long experience as a professional photographer, so I kind of fumbled around on my own taking roll after roll of photos – and the addiction set in. I took a course at the adult school of Montclair taught by Joe Thomas. That helped me feel more capable of composing a shot and also gave me a hunger to venture out into nature to capture its beauty. Then, I met Howard Knauer, who at the time was a real estate client. I remember the first time I went to Roberta and Howard's home. I could not stop looking at his photos on the walls. They were just fabulous! He told me about the club and I decided to stop by. I was so intimidated after sitting through the first competition that I didn't come back until the following year! By this time I had gone through a lot of money shooting a roll of film a day! Jeff encouraged me to switch to digital and I did so with much resistance – but, boy was it the right move!

So, Sept. rolled around and I was now ready to expose myself through my work to the club competition. I was sooo scared – but I knew the only way I was going to learn was to allow my work to be critiqued. I was stunned when I won my first top award – just stunned! I remember not being able to breathe when my shot was one of three on which the judge was making the final decision. When I won, I felt worthy to be a participant in the club. It gave me a boost of confidence that I was surely lacking. And then, the new level of challenges began. My impulsivity began to waiver as I became self-conscious of what I was choosing to shoot. It was, and is, so helpful to be able to discuss my insecurities with the members of the club and work out the problems. Going to members' homes to participate in mini-seminars on digital and composition, is also tremendously beneficial. It encouraged me to take my work to greater limits than I thought I was capable of reaching. At times, shooting can be very therapeutic. Last year, when I lost my dad, I went out shooting from morning till night. It was the only thing I could do that made me feel connected to the world. It helped me work through the sadness and the creative aspect enabled me to regain my balance.

Each month, I look forward to the competition so much, not just because I have the opportunity to compete, but because not being able to travel (which is something I yearn to do), I get to see the world through the eyes of our members. It has been a very exciting experience for me on that level. I am still very much at the beginning of my photography experience, but I can say overall that photography has made me very happy and I am grateful that I discovered the Essex Photo Club and the incredibly talented club members that make it such a worthwhile experience.

The Caldwell landmark on the left is Grover Cleveland's Birthplace
207 Bloomfield Avenue

http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/historic/grover_cleveland/gc_home.htm