

Meeting of July 9th

August 2004

Monthly Newsletter
Southeastern
Photographic
Society

Exposure Notes

Meeting of August 6th

Our speaker and judge for the evening will be Larry Winslett. Larry is a nature



photographer who has chronicled the natural world in many parts of North America, with an emphasis on the Southern Appalachian Mountains. He has specialized in the region's

native wildflowers, rivers and streams, and granite outcrops such as Stone, Panola, and Arabia Mountains in Georgia. His photographs have been featured in a variety of publications and exhibits, including three permanent exhibits at Stone Mountain Park. In 2004, a new Environmental Education Center at Stone Mountain Park will showcase more of Larry's photography work at the park. Larry has used his photographs to help raise public awareness of environmental issues and concerns. He has organized and presented many slide shows for recreational and environmental purposes, including presentations to members of the Georgia General Assembly in support of environmental issues. Larry is also an experienced photography workshop leader and Photo-shop instructor. Many of his photographs are on file with the [LOOK-SOUTH Photo Agency of Atlanta](#).

As an advocate for environmental protection, Larry has held many positions with conservation organizations in Georgia. He is the CEO and co-founder of

the Friends of Georgia. He is the former State Conservation Chairman and the current Endangered Species and State Lands Issues Leader for the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club. He was elected four times to the Georgia Environmental Council. Larry's environmental work and photography has focused on the protection of native biodiversity and its habitats. He has helped write, and successfully lobby for, legislation to protect natural areas at Stone Mountain and Jekyll Island. He is currently producing several educational materials for the Georgia Sierra Club, including a brochure and slide show on Georgia's National Forests.

Larry and his wife, Julie, have recently completed the book, "Wildflowers of Stone Mountain Park." They are currently working on a photo book of nature scenes for Stone Mountain Park. Larry's work can also be seen in the books, "This is Stone Mountain Park" and "Stone Mountain Park – a Pocket Guide Book," published and distributed by I.D. Gear.

Larry's program will deal with the subjects of macro and wildflower photography and will also serve as the judge for out theme competition, **Flowers**. The competition committee says that this can be any natural flowers, whether wild or cultivated, arranged or growing naturally in the wild.

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Southeastern Photographic Society Members Eddy Hensley and Roy Gordon each have 15 images in the Gallery at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation located at 1911 Cliff Valley Way. The exhibit, which features two other photographers, Al Johnson and Valerie Fleming, will be up through August. The show includes 60 images total.

Change in Competition Rules

In an effort to make the meetings somewhat shorter, the Executive Committee has amended the competition rules to provide that when there are 20 or more entries in any category, only the **Primary Images** will be shown and judged. (The previous cut-off point had been 30.)

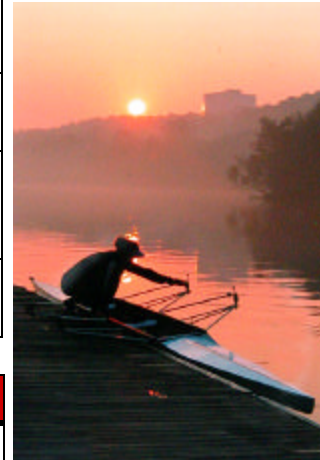
July Competition Results

Margaret Ann Shulman



Slides		
First Place	Margaret Ann Shulman	Early Light
Second Place	Tom Wilson	Chattahoochee Sunrise
Third Place	Paul Shimek	Church of the Immaculate Conception
HM	Bob Ogle	Water Drops on Glass

Theme: Open
Judge: John Mariana



Tom Wilson



Color Prints		
First Place	Ron Holt	Alex
Second Place	Jeff Mitchell	Sweetgum Caterpillar
Third Place	Tom Wilson	Darien Shrimp Boats
Fourth Place	Elton Saulsberry	Office Magnolia
HM	Elton Saulsberry	Chihuly Curves



Tom Wilson

Paul Shimek



Ron Holt

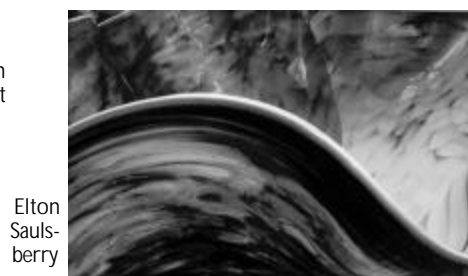


Jeff Mitchell

Black and White Prints		
First Place	Ron Holt	Kary
Second Place	Elton Saulsberry	Chihuly
Third Place	Roy Gordon	Piazza dei Popolo
HM	Bob Jones	Model A



Ron Holt



Elton Saulsberry



Roy Gordon

Home on the Dynamic Range

By Michael H. Reichmann

(Excerpted from an article on Reichmann's outstanding website, [www. luminous-landscape.com](http://www.luminous-landscape.com))

Let's assume for the purposes of illustration that a digital SLR has a dynamic range of 5 stops (*it's usually closer to 6 stops, but let's not quibble*). When working in RAW mode, which you should be, most cameras record a 12 bit image. (Yes, we say it's in 16 bit mode, but the reality is that it's only recording 12 bits in a 16 bit space. Better than 8, but not as good as a real 16 bits would be).

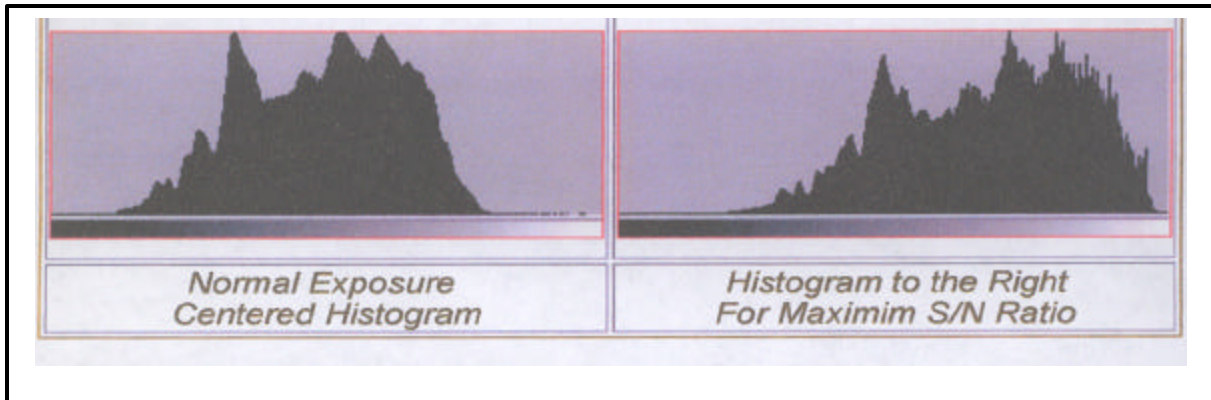
A 12 bit image is capable of recording 4,096 (2^{12}) discrete tonal values. One would think that therefore each F/Stop of the 5 stop range would be able to record some 850 ($4096/5$) of these steps. But, alas, this is not the case. The way that it really works is that the first (brightest) stop's worth of data contains 2048 of these steps - **fully half of those available**.

Why? Because CCD and CMOS chips are linear devices. And, of course, each F/Stop records half of the light of the previous one, and therefore half the remaining data space available. This little table tells the tale

Within the first F/Stop, which contains the Brightest Tones	2048 levels available
Within the second F/Stop, which contains Bright Tones	1024 levels available
Within the third F/Stop, which contains the Mid-Tones	512 levels available
Within the fourth F/Stop, which contains Dark Tones	256 levels available
Within the fifth F/Stop, which contains the Darkest Tones	128 levels available

This realization carries with it a number of important lessons, the most important of them being that if you do not use the right -hand fifth of the histogram for recording some of your image you are in fact wasting fully half of the available encoding levels of your camera.

But, we all know (or at least should by now) that the worst sin in digital imaging is to blow out the highlights - just as it was when shooting slide film. Once they're blown (past the right-hand edge of the histogram) it's bye-bye data.



The simple lesson to be learned from this is to bias your exposures so that the histogram is snugged up to the right; but not to the point that the highlights are blown. This can usually be seen by the flashing alert on most camera review screens. Just back off so that the flashing stops.

Basically the ideal exposure is to get your histogram as close to the right side as possible but not so close as to cause the over exposure indicator to flash. The ideal exposure ensures that you have maximum number of levels describing your image without loosing important detail in the highlights. The closer you get to this ideal the more of those levels being used to describe your shadows. If you underexpose an image to the extent that the shadows block, which is often what folk do to protect their highlights; then you will need to open them again to ensure the final image is as you require. The problem with this approach is that we only have 128 levels available to the shadows. If you start pulling curves to open the shadows and you'll get posterisation.

Exposure Notes

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Meeting Location: The Southeastern Photographic Society (SPS) normally meets in the Fellowship Hall of Briarcliff Baptist Church, 3039 Briarcliff Road, on the first Friday of each month at 7:30 PM.

Directions: Take the Clairmont Road exit from I-85. Go south on Clairmont Road toward Decatur/Emory. At first light, turn right onto Briarcliff Road. Turn left into the drive way adjacent to the wrought iron fence adjacent to Ed's IGA and park in the lot. An awning labeled 7'6" CLEAR covers the entrance to the hall that leads to the Fellowship Hall. For more information call 770-493-9494.

Newsletter Submittals: Information and articles for the newsletter should be submitted two weeks prior to the meeting date. Articles may be submitted either electronically or by hard copy and may be given to Roy Gordon in person, mailed to 24 Ivy Chase, Atlanta, Georgia 30342 or e-mailed to RRoyGordon@comcast.net.

Affiliations

Photographic Society of America (PSA)
Southeastern Council of Camera Clubs (SE3C)

Officers for 2004

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The Club's information HOTLINE number is 770-493-9494. Call this number for up to date information on programs and competitions. Also, any cancellations due to inclement weather or any other reason would be announced here.

Southeastern Photographic Society

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