

# Focus

## The Delaware Photographic Society

The *Journal* occasionally features one of its many member-clubs or members and this month it is the Delaware Photographic Society, established in 1931 and identified as one of the original members of Photographic Society of America (PSA). When PSA was formed, the club was known as the Delaware Camera Club with Dr. Merlin C. Brubaker as its first president. *The American Annual of Photography* often listed the club as one of the charter members of PSA

History of this well-known group shows that it was quite small in the early years with its focus on learning more about photography through sharing and they scheduled meetings and events in Wilmington with well-known photographers of the time including Ansel Adams (who offered a 5-day lecture series in 1941), Edward Steichen, John W Doscher, Paul Yarrows and Adolf Fassbender as presenters.

Perhaps what is most well known about the Delaware Photographic Society is its exhibition, The Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography (WIEP), which will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> run in 2008. An impressive exhibition by any standard, the competition is held each winter with an array of fine judges from around the world.

A terrific 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party of the Delaware Photographic Society was held by the group in September to celebrate the many years of an active camera club with an impressive souvenir booklet giving the record of history with lots of photos. A large club, the Society has approximately 200 members, aged 10 to 92. PSA Club Representative is Herb G. Sargeant, PPSA, of Newark, DE, a PSA member since 1983.

Perhaps the most unusual and interesting fact about the Delaware Photo Society is that it has competitive members as young as 10 years old! A November issue of the *Delaware News Journal* covered the story of one such young member, 13-year old Jacob Pivonka who joined the club to be with his dad, Don Pivonka. The father-son duo often goes out shooting together. Jacob started his photography with his mother's 25-year old manual camera; he borrowed his grandfather's lenses to go along with Mom's camera. He has since graduated to a digital SLR camera which he uses manually. While he goes out shooting with his father, the two



Jacob Pivonka, a 13-year old member of The Delaware Photographic Society

of them shoot independently. But here is the thing: Jacob competes at the Delaware Photographic Society, especially on print competition night, against any and all members and in October he outscored his father and he earned the highest score of the night.

The Delaware Photographic Society has taken many "field trips" (perhaps outings might be closer to the truth) to such destinations as Bermuda, Vermont, Martha's Vineyard, Canaan Valley in West Virginia, Mexico, New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana—as well as Europe and the US Virgin Islands. Education seminars have been many as have competitions with other organizations. In the 1930s dues were just \$3 a year and today's club has even arranged for PayPal to handle payments to the club via the internet. In the last calendar year the group became a "sister club" to the Watford Camera Club.

**A vital, very current photo group, PSA not only puts the *Journal* FOCUS on the Delaware Photographic Society, PSA congratulates this lively, active photo group for all of its accomplishments and for its vision for the future.** 🌱

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