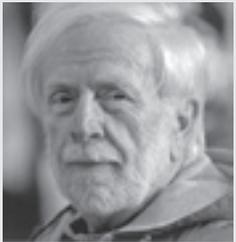


Focus

The Ridgewood Camera Club

This month the *Journal's* occasional article entitled *Focus*, which features a member or member-club, turns to the **Ridgewood Camera Club (RCC)**, which celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2007. New Jersey's largest camera club with 100 members can boast that approximately twenty-five percent of its membership belongs to the Photographic Society of America (PSA).

Hazel Meredith,
Stratford,
Connecticut



Vinnie Kempf
PSA Representative

Twelve men attended the first club meeting held on September 15, 1937 at the Elk's Club in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Two weeks later, at the second meeting, attendance had increased to twenty-two. Newly elected president, Lloyd Mackenroth, quickly went public to dispel a widely held assumption that the club was for men only: women joined and membership continued to increase over the years.

The most striking characteristic of the club is its continuing emphasis on education. From the beginning it has offered the amateur photographer "a triple-lane superhighway to learning.

Outside authorities have regularly lectured and demonstrated their expertise, as well as contributed to the learning process as judges of member competitions. And veteran members freely and willingly share with newcomers their knowledge and experience in workshops and on field trips." (from the RCC Website).

The club contributes to the civic and cultural life of a number of New Jersey communities. They prepare exhibitions to be shown at many local libraries and companies, as well as present slide presentations to numerous local groups at churches, women's clubs, libraries and senior citizen groups.

Camille LaPlaca-Post, President of the club states, "We have a very strong and enthusiastic Executive Committee who meet once a month to discuss and plan new ideas and resolve issues for the club. Everyone does so much to make the club what it is today. There is much to learn in this growing field of new technology and we enjoy sharing our creative talents with our members."

In February, the club held the judging of the 25th

*RCC
member's
reflections*





Camille LaPlaca-Post, Marianne Badala, Alice Gunther, Nancy Lamb, Vinnie Kempf, Joe Placer and Marie Kane.

RCC International Exhibition: a PSA-recognized competition. **Chick Chakarian, FPSA**, a thirty-seven year member and one of the most active members, is the International Exhibition Chairman. Last year there were 324 entrants from around the world. The winning entries were presented in a dual-projection exhibition at six area camera clubs in the month following the judging.

The club schedules field trips once a month to such varied places as Coney Island, Harriman State Park for autumn foliage, Fort Lee Revolutionary War Reenactment and Rockefeller Center for “Christmas in New York.” They are planning a weekend in Washington, D.C., this spring for the Cherry Blossom Festival.

RCC meets on Wednesday evenings from September through May. The first meeting of the month is for the Executive Committee, while the remaining are a combination of competitions and programs. The calendar for this season includes four nature competitions; four pictorial competitions; four print competitions and two



Vinnie Kempf, photo © Camille LaPlaca-Post

assigned subjects. Programs held on meeting nights include various members’ journeys as well as outside speakers who encourage, teach and share creativity. Once a month a workshop is hosted at a member’s home, with subjects such as Digital Imaging for Beginners; Panoramas and Hi-Resolution Landscapes; Histograms; Layers and Plug-In Filters – just to name a few.

Vinnie Kempf, the club PSA Representative, is also the club Webmaster. Along with **George Garbeck**, they have created a new website that they would love to have everyone visit www.ridgewoodcameraclub.org.

Congratulations to the Ridgewood Camera Club on their longevity and community pride. Here’s to the next 70 years! 🍷



Raptor field trip