

Focus

The Photographic Society of Chattanooga

PSA Camera Clubs and Community Service

This month the *Journal's* occasional article entitled *Focus*, that features a member or member-club, turns to the **The Photographic Society of Chattanooga**; Tennessee's oldest camera club.



Jim Hyatt with Chattanooga Discovery Museum kids photo by Lynn Mulligan

Starting in April 2008 the Photographic Society of Chattanooga (PSC) partnered with the *Chattanooga Division of Education, Arts and Culture* to organize the first Photo Fest at a local park. Photo Fest 2008 featured seven photography mini seminars, which were free to the public and included *Improving Your Photography* (presented twice); *Flash Photography*; *Tips to Make Your Photos Pop*; *How to Repackage Framed Artwork*; *Photography on the Internet*; and *Creativity*. During the event, three bands provided music from the Chattanooga Song Writers Guild. **Mary McClain**, editor of PSC's award-winning newsletter *The Contact Sheet*, reports that the group has an extensive commitment to community service. For the past three years, the Society has operated the only all-photography gallery in Chattanooga. The Gallery at Blackwell is a unique partnership between PSC and Blackwell Automotive. The

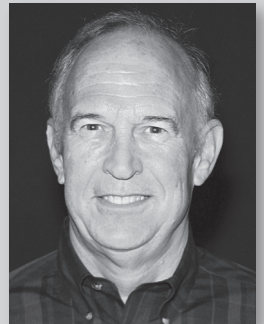
large customer reception area provides a perfect exhibit space for the quarterly, all-member exhibits and opening receptions. In addition, PSC also manages the exhibit space at the Jet Stream Grill, whose theme is extreme weather conditions and the photographs supplied by the Society reflect this topic. Society members have given "travelogues" to the senior citizen group at East Ridge Community Center, where the club meets and this was a very big hit with the seniors.

Starting this fall members will volunteer time at a center to work with youngsters in an after-school photography program. PSC already holds an Annual Youth Competition in February, which is open to all high school students and winning photographs are sponsored to the *PSA Youth Showcase*.

John L. Jackson, the PSC Publicity Chairman, has been very successful in getting these events publicized in local publications and on art calendars.

Chartered in 1952, the 172 member Photographic Society of Chattanooga meets year round. While most of the Society's funds are raised through membership fees, the club also raises money through the sale of the Adventures Dining and Entertainment coupon books. Please visit PSC's web site at <http://www.chattanoogaphoto.org> for additional information. ■

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WWII Buffalo soldier talks to the First-Centenary UMC kids about their efforts. Photo © Jim Hyatt. Jim Hyatt takes pictures and makes slide show in support of these kids from low income households.