

# MANHATTAN FOCUS

## Manhattan Miniature Camera Club

Vol. 45, No. 1

mmcc-nyc.org

September, 2005

**MMCC meetings: 6:30 pm sharp!\***

**Monday, September 12** (2nd Monday)

Competition Judge: Leon Hertzson

**Monday, September 19**

Program. John Brokos: "Are You Ready to Compete?"

**Monday, October 17** (3rd Monday)

Competition Judge: Neil Berzak

Plus assigned theme: "Water"

**Monday October 24**

Workshop. MMCC Members: "Matting, Framing, Slide Mounting"

\* Competition entries must be in by **6:15 pm**; put your assigned number on prints and slides.

### Met Camera Club Council

Met Council will hold a Board meeting on Friday, September 9. You are welcome to attend along with Council officers and club delegates. Its first regular competition of the season is on Friday, October 21. We will choose slides and prints for inter-club competition, but individual sponsors can also enter their own photos. Lila Pollinger and Larry Yates will collect slides and prints for Met Council competitions. To attend or bring your own sponsor entries, arrive at the Staten Island Institute of Arts & Science, 75 Stuyvesant Place & Wall Street, by 7:00 pm. The Institute is less than a 10 minute walk from the ferry terminal. Get directions from Larry.

### Competition No. 1: September 12

We are pleased to have Leon Hertzson again. Leon is first vice president of the Photographic Federation of Long Island and PFLI representative of the Huntington Camera Club. He has also helped to establish a small club, C-Arts, which operates on new principles for expanding the creative process in image capture and printing. Also, he is past president of five area camera clubs. He has given ten one-man-shows, has been awarded best-in-show at the Long

Island Arts Council, and is a master exhibitor in color slides, and black-and-white and color prints. Leon has judged at various clubs and teaches select students.

### Program: September 19

John Brokos, a regular presenter and judge at MMCC, will show us his newest program: "Are You Ready to Compete?" His intent is to teach us the essential ingredients of award-winning photographs: lighting, composition, texture, color, impact, and other factors. With top PSA rankings, John has judged many international salons, earned three Galaxies in the PSA Color Slide Division, and a Diamond Star in Nature. He was listed No. 12 in the world in the 1984-85 "Nature Who's Who." He now produces and markets digital prints which you can see on [www.imagesfordecor.com](http://www.imagesfordecor.com). If anybody can teach us to get all 9's, it is John.

### Club news/member news

#### Annual Awards Dinner

By Karen Anderson

On Saturday, June 4, fifteen club members and guests came together at La Petite Auberge to indulge their appetites and love of photography. Satisfied by delicious French fare, we shared conversation on various subjects that certainly included photography, but also allowed for more relaxed and personal communication not always possible at our meetings.

We then delighted in each other's kudos as awards were given for outstanding performances during the year. We glimpsed what we are about through members' shows produced and directed by each of us personally.

Along the way, the winning entries from our field trip competition were featured, showing us what we missed on the trips we didn't take. Prizes galore were awarded. We even had a raffle, so everyone went home with something.

The evening ended with a special treat: a digital presentation of two members' shows set to music, a delightful surprise that left us anticipating with excitement our new category this year: Digital Images.

### Club exhibits

Michael Sofia, Exhibits Committee

This year our club has experienced two very successful photographic exhibits. We had a winter exhibit at the Weill-Cornell Medical Library in February and another at the Manhattan Borough President's Office in June. A combined twenty-four members exhibited 130 prints between the two exhibits. We have scheduled another exhibit for 2006 September in the lobby of the Empire State Building.

The exhibit committee wants to extend a hearty thank you for all the people who gave of their time, energy and creativity. Special recognition goes to Betsy, Karen, Rita and Barbara. The cumulative effect of our presenting quality work will eventually pay off in increased membership and will solidify our club's fine reputation in the city of New York.

A final thanks to all the members who were able to show their work.

### Tuesday Evening Hour 2006-07 shows

MMCC members will show their slides regularly at the Tuesday Evening Hour, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, at St. Margaret's, 49 Fulton Street. On October 11, Larry Yates will revisit the Marquesas Islands out of Tahiti. On February 14, Rita Zimmerman will take her audience to Lisbon and Southern Portugal. Our newest member, Bob Burns and his companion Julie LaFontaine will have a two-part program on February 28 and March 7 from their extensive travel and shooting in the American Southwest. On March 14, Vlassios (George) Pырpyris will explore again northeastern Italy and Slovenia. On April 11, Larry will reveal the secret beauty of his home state: Idaho.

Director Marjorie Grim, might still be taking

applications for 2007 programs (January through May, and September through December). You can call Marjorie at 212-385-3650 to get a form and calendar of available dates. Besides slide shows, you could give a digital presentation if you bring your own equipment.

### NYC photo opportunities

To promote New York's potential for photo-magic, this newsletter will list each month places and events for us to get outstanding shots. Apparently, September is a month popular with people who love to march and eat. Though the splendid West Indian Day Parade finished at sundown on Labor Day, these are coming up:

9/15-17. Festival of San Gennaro, Little Italy, [www.sangennaro.org](http://www.sangennaro.org)

9/17. German American Steuben Parade, Fifth Avenue from 63rd St. to 86th St., [www.germanparadenyc.org](http://www.germanparadenyc.org)

9/18. African American Day Parade, 111th St. to 142nd St. on Adam Clayton Powell Blvd., [www.harlemlive.org](http://www.harlemlive.org)

9/30. NYC Concours d'Elegance [beautiful classic automobiles], Wollman Rink, [www.nyconcours.com](http://www.nyconcours.com)

All are free except for the last which requires a \$30 ticket to get close enough to shoot.

### BIG changes in competition [reprinted]

Larry Yates

MMCC's Board adopted new categories and procedures for our club competitions in 2005-06 at its regular meeting on June 27 and special meeting on July 11. Briefly, they are:

1. Allow judges to award half-point scores.
2. Initiate a digital images category.
3. Disallow make-up entries.
4. Base final rankings on averages of highest twelve scores.
5. Discontinue groups in all categories.
6. Combine all prints in one category.
7. Best of month for each category.

Now, let me explain each change. The first is easy to understand; we give judges the option of using half-point scores, such as 6.5, 7.5, and 8.5, if they choose. It will give them a finer gauge for assessing entries' quality.

The second is also easy. Probably for the first time in decades, the club will have a new competition category: digital images. As with slides, members doing digital images will have opportunity to see their projected images enlarged and brightly saturated, and to have judges assess them. Besides giving us a new medium, we believe this competition will help to attract new members doing digital photography.

The third change is not to accept make-up entries. Unfortunately, our allowing make-ups has led to some abuse but mostly to much complication and discomfort for members handling entries. However, we will continue to accept entries delivered before competitions when their makers cannot attend. In those instances, we encourage absent members to arrange for others to record judges' comments about their entries.

The fourth change relates to the third; it gives members who cannot attend competitions or arrange delivery a chance to place high in the final rankings. They need to submit only twelve of eighteen possible entries to achieve top rankings. Of course, the more scores, the more likely your top twelve will have many 8's and 9's, and thus raise the final average.

Using averages rather than sums of scores will not change the rankings but will give us a better sense of our photos' worth in judges' eyes. For example, if the total of your top twelve scores were 96, then your average would be 8 -- the equivalent of a honorable mention. If it were 106, then your average would be 8.83 -- almost a perfect record and definitely an award.

The fifth and sixth changes affect the structure of our competition rather than scoring and calculation of rankings. We will have three categories: slides, prints, and digital images, but no groups or classes dividing those categories. No Salon, A, and B slide groups, and no A and B print groups. Everybody who submits slides, for example, competes as one group. The same with prints and the new digital images. More-

over, there are no distinct print groups for lab-processed color, maker-processed color, and maker-process monochrome. In presenting to judges, prints will be separated only in sequence so that two entries by a member will not appear one after another.

Collapsing print categories could affect the number of your entries in regular competitions. In the future, you can submit only two prints regardless of kind whereas before you could submit four: two color and two monochrome. To compensate, you could now submit two entries in digital images category in addition to your prints. So, it is still possible to have six entries if you enter in all three categories including slides.

The seventh and final change is that judges will choose the best of the month in each category. Initially, only those with scores of 9 will be considered. If there are no 9's, then those with 8.5 will be compared. And if no 8.5's, then a winner will be chosen from entries with 8's. If there are no 8's, then there is something fatally wrong with the club or judge.

MMCC officers and chairpersons are working hard to implement these new changes. Undoubtedly, we will need to change some of the changes, but we believe that they will improve our competitions and make them more attractive to prospective members.

## *Dates at a Glance*

*details in this issue*

**Fri. Sep. 8 - Met Council meeting**  
**Mon. Sep. 12 - MMCC competition**  
**Mon. Sep. 19 - MMCC program**  
**Mon. Oct. 17 - MMCC competition**  
**Mon. Oct. 21 - Met Council  
competition**  
**Mon. Oct. 24 - MMCC workshop  
(details later)**



### Manhattan Miniature Camera Club Officers

President & Editor: **Larry Yates**  
Vice President: **Betsy Currier**  
Secretary: **Claire Gottfried**  
Treasurer: **Barbara Budzinski**

### Board of Directors

**Karen Anderson**  
**Pasquale Pascullo**  
**Michael Sofia**  
**Joseph Stuhl**

The Manhattan Miniature Camera Club of New York, Inc., founded in 1933, meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at First Presbyterian Church Hall, 12 West 12th Street (Fifth Avenue) at 6:30 pm. **Guests welcome!**

MMCC and many of its members belong to the **Photographic Society of America**. For information about joining PSA, its benefits, and its many events and competitions, go to [www.psa-photo.org](http://www.psa-photo.org).