



FOTOFAX

The Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Photographic Society

Monthly Program

Enjoy "Winter Photography" with John Stier on Feb 3

What could be more fitting in early February than a "Winter Photography" program? That's what **John J. Stier** will present to us on Tuesday, Feb 3. He will inspire us to keep shooting through the winter months by providing helpful tips on how to prepare for and approach photographing in cold weather and snowy conditions.

His slides will show how he has applied his winter photography expertise to city snow scenes, icy abstracts, moonlit snowscapes, wonderful shadows, and spectacular landscapes. The locales of the images include area lakes and streams, Canadian Rockies' back country, Colorado ski towns, distant Norway, and the Yellowstone wilderness. John and his wife, Barbara, are avid cross country skiers. It is his love of skiing that provides the opportunities to photograph these beautiful and often remote settings.

Originally a native of Florida, **John J. Stier** is now an accomplished photographer residing in Columbia, MD. His publishing credits include: Peterson's Photographic Magazine; the prestigious Stephenson Calendar—10 photos in 7 different years; BlueRidge Country Magazine; and various other publications via stock photography sales. The 2004 Cystic Fibrosis Calendar will feature his work in December. He has also been published in textbooks and newspapers, including the Baltimore Sun.

John has won numerous awards in local and national competitions. Highlights include: First Place Photography in the Nov. 1992 Art League Member Show (Torpedo Factory); Grand Prize Winner in the April 2003 Apogee Photo Magazine "Winter" contest.

We will take John to dinner before the meeting at Chili's Restaurant, Tysons Corner, at 6:00 p.m. on Feb 3. If you'd like to join us, let me know at 703-878-2882. From 495, take the Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) exit west. Turn left at the first traffic light and an immediate left again onto the service road. Go about 20 yards, then turn right into Chili's parking lot.

Ralph Edwards, VP Programs



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NVPS Calendar

03 Feb	Program
10 Feb	Workshop
17 Feb	FOTOFAX Deadline
17 Feb	Competition
24 Feb	Forum
28 Feb	Field Trip
02 Mar	Program

"Your PSA Award
Winning Newsletter"

"The aims of the Northern Virginia Photographic Society shall be the enjoyment, mastery, and furtherance of photography through cooperation, effort, and good fellowship."

NVPS Executive Board

NVPS website: www.nvps.org

Elected Officers:

President	Mary Ann Setton	703-658-7122
VP Programs	Ralph Edwards	703-878-2882
VP Competitions	Drew Smith	703-585-3894
Treasurer	Carl Zelman	703-404-4769
Secretary / Historian	Tom Brett	703-642-1595
Past President	Janis Boyce	703-313-9346

Appointed Members:

FOTOFAX Editor	Erwin Siegel	703-960-6726
Workshops	Fred Chitty	703-493-8530
Field Trips	Chaitan Kansal	703-627-9113
Exhibits	Suzanne Tillman	703-461-0369
Forums	Sherwin Kaplan	703-941-1145
Website Mgr	Ed Funk	703-971-6183
Membership	Jenifer Elliott	703-931-8769
Equipment Mgrs	Curtis Gibbens	703-802-6283
	Glenn Bernstein	703-455-6053
Meeting Facilities	Andy Klein	703-641-0845
Members' Gallery	Judy McGuire	703-978-3759
PSA Representative	Tom Hady	703-569-9395
NOVACC Contact	Joe Miller	703-754-7598

FOTOFAX is published 10 times a year from September through June for the members of NVPS. All rights are reserved. NVPS is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of education and enjoyment of photography. For information contact any Board Member. NVPS is affiliated with the Photographic Society of America (PSA), The Arts Council of Fairfax County (ACFC), and the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs (NOVACC). Reprinting an article from Fotofax is allowed as long as credit is given to this newsletter as the source.

While NVPS's FOTOFAX primarily serves to inform members of club activities, it also publishes the NOVACC events calendar and other announcements of interest to members. Fotofax encourages members to send in articles, .jpg photographs, activities, opinions, awards won, and Letters to the Editor. The best way to submit articles is to "e-mail" them to: NVPSEditor@AOL.COM - We welcome your articles. NVPS is associated with:



PSA Photographic Society of America
and **NOVACC**
Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs

Dunn Loring Fire Station Meeting Place This Season

We will be meeting in the Dunn Loring Fire Hall on Gallows Road, in Vienna, VA for the near future. Please keep an eye open for other possible meeting spots centrally located between Springfield and Falls Church. It's nice if we don't have to pay for meeting space; there must be some available. If you find a place that is of interest please contact **Andy Klein**. Directions to our temporary meeting place are:

Going north on Gallows Road, turn left just at the entrance to the fire station onto Wolf Trap Road. If driving south on Gallows Road, turn right on Wolf Trap Road. Drive about 100 feet to the back of the station and there is parking in the lot or on the street. Entrance to the hall is from the lot at the back of the firehouse. Please check out spots near your home if you're located in the areas mentioned above.

Editor

Please note the NEW DEADLINE date for FOTOFAX articles. It is the 17th of each month because Joe Miller needs the info for NOVACC by the 17th. All NVPS chairpersons should send their material to this Editor and to Joe Miller by the 17th of every month. Also send a copy to Ed Funk for the website. As usual, the Competition results come in the day after the Competition.



Board Members E-Mail

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Tom Hady	Thady@att.net

Members' Gallery

Members' Gallery on Feb 24 will feature **Lois Long** displaying Botanic Impressions of Brazil in prints and **Jessie Harris** presenting slides.

Would you like to participate in Members' Gallery but don't have enough photos for a full presentation? The April meeting will showcase a variety of members if there are enough volunteers. Please call or e-mail **Judy McGuire** or sign up at a meeting in February.

**Judy McGuire, jkmcguire@cox.net
703-978-3759**



Field Trips

Date: Feb 28, 2004
Location: Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center near Dulles International Airport
More information: <http://www.nasm.si.edu/museum/udvarhazy/>

Address: 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly, Virginia

Parking: Yes, public parking is \$12. (It will be a good idea to carpool) - Admission costs: Free for museum

Equipment: please carry as little equipment as possible, tripod usage might be allowed but we would only be able to do it for the first few hours, after the crowd arrives it might be difficult.

Time: The Museum is open 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., we should be there at the opening so that we can beat some of the crowd while taking pictures.

For those who want to carpool, we will meet at the usual meeting place - Tyson's corner meeting spot: George Marshall High School, Leesburg pike, front parking lot. We will leave at 9:15 a.m. sharp, so please plan to leave your house accordingly. If you're running just a little late, please call me and we will wait a few extra minutes. **My phone number is: 703-627-9113.**

Chaitan Kansal, Field Trips

Competition Results

JAN 2004 NVPS Competition. Judge: Chip Clark

NOVICE COLOR PRINTS

First Place:	Seiji Kuniyoshi	Reflection, Pond
Second Place:	Gene Cheban	Sleeping Beauty
Third Place:	Seiji Kuniyoshi	Great Fall Splash
HM:	Charlie Custis	Audra

ADVANCED COLOR PRINTS

First Place:	Stephen Gawarecki	Guggenheim No. 1
Second Place:	Bill Prosser	Pink Rose
Third Place:	Jenifer Elliott	It Takes Two
HM:	Julio Barros	Cuban Wedding
HM:	Lee Phan	American Rural

NOVICE MONOCHROME

First Place:	Steve Hawthorne	Lily of the Valley
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ADVANCED MONOCHROME

First Place:	Bill Prosser	Dry Flower in Vase
Second Place:	Chuck Bress	Columns
Third Place:	Julio Barros	Black Water Falls

ENHANCED PRINTS

First Place:	Ed Funk	Reading Terminal
Second Place:	Bill Prosser	Cathedral Columns
Third Place:	Mary Ann Setton	Happily Ever After

NOVICE SLIDES

First Place:	Minnie Gallman	Turkish Boats
Second Place:	Minnie Gallman	Delicate Arch
Third Place:	Bill Von Holle	Pei's Angles

ADVANCED SLIDES

First Place:	Chuck Bress	Yellow Field
Second Place:	Judy McGuire	About to Land
Third Place:	Wayne Wolfersberger	Orangutang
HM:	Pat Bress	Sunflowers
HM:	Don Saunders	Little River Red Bud
HM:	Drew Smith	Cape Buffalo, Nakuru
HM:	Amie Tannenbaum	Crimson Glow
HM:	Amie Tannenbaum	Iridescent Reflection



"If you're a good photographer, you can shoot anything." - Ansel Adams

Workshops

Feb 10 Workshop

Creative Photographs Using Textured Glass

Ed Funk will explain and demonstrate how he creates his prize winning "impressionistic" slides using textured glass. Workshop attendees will then be given the opportunity to try it themselves. Bring your camera, tripod, cable release and several original slides. Your slides will be projected and you will re-photograph them through textured glass. Ed will also provide advice for creating your own textured glass set up. Time is Tuesday, Feb 10 at 7:30 p.m. Location is the Fairfax County Government Center, Meeting room Number 8. Questions - Call or e-mail **Fred Chitty, NVPS Workshop Chairman, 703-493-8530, chittyfc@bp.com**



March Workshop

"Photography Critique"

Our March workshop will be a critique workshop. If you are wondering what photographs are your best competition quality images or if you just want some pointers on what you could do to improve your images, this workshop is for you. No "judging", and no one saying "OUT" — just good advice. Please bring up to ten (10) prints or slides to the critique. Number of workshop participants will determine how many of your images are critiqued. **Joe Miller** will conduct the critique. Joe is an acclaimed competition judge. I'm sure you will find his comments instructive and helpful. Time will be 2:00 - 5:00 on either a Saturday or Sunday afternoon in late March at Joe's new studio, 4811 Catharpin Rd, Gainesville, VA 20155. Specific date and directions will be announced later. Questions - Call or e-mail **Fred Chitty, NVPS Workshop Chairman, 703-493-8530, chittyfc@bp.com**

Your Opinion -

What Do You Think?

Why do we make photographs? Is it only to capture a moment, a sense of place, or a feeling? Everyone has their reasons. Your **Editor** thinks we make photographs to satisfy an emotional need to create. Send us your thoughts on this and we'll print them.

Forums

Feb 24 Forum

The Feb 24 Forum will be presented by **Bill Prosser** and is titled, "A Digital Trip to New England." Bill will discuss how he prepares for his digital photography trips, share ideas about image-making and visual design, and discuss some of his after-trip Photoshop procedures for enhancing the images. He will show images of upper New York State and New England taken in October of last year, including some before- and after enhancement examples. (Many of these images, as well as other images by Bill, may be seen on his website <<http://www.pbase.com/prosserwm>>

Bill Prosser has been a serious amateur photographer for over 30 years. He has studied under a number of teachers and mentors: **Marty Kaplan, Joe Miller, Eliot Cohen, and Freeman Patterson** to name a few. He gave up the chemical darkroom in 1995 after learning Photoshop and has been working with it ever since in his digital darkroom, the computer.

For the last eight years, as a volunteer, Bill has taught Photoshop and visual design at McLean High School. For the last three years he has photographed exclusively with a digital camera. He is a founding member, and current President, of the McLean Photography Club and for the last 14 years has been an active member of the Northern Virginia Photographic Society (NVPS).

He is the one of two NVPS Digital Imaging Mentors. Several times in recent years he was the NVPS Digital Imaging Photographer of the year or received the Enhanced Image of the Year award. Anyone doing digital photography, or thinking of doing so, will learn a lot from this Forum. Even if you're still afraid of digital, you will see some wonderful images and get useful tips about visual design and the art of seeing. Come join us on Tue, Feb 24 at 7:45 p.m. for what promises to be a wonderful evening.



Sherwin Kaplan
(703) 941-1145
sherwin.kaplan@verizon.net

Welcome New Members

Welcome new members **Susan Mason, Gabriel Fiano, Julio Kipnis, and Louise Gibney.**

Call for Entries: PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2004 Juried Photo Contest presented byTCB-Cafe Publishing

The Photography Competition 2004 is an international photography contest organized by TCB-Cafe Publishing of San Francisco. The contest aims to develop and raise the visibility of photographic and creative talent, in the form of a competition and the resulting book publication and exhibition. The culmination will be a beautiful slip-cased photographic book, showcasing the competition winners, and gracing the libraries of museums, galleries, individuals and collectors. Part of the proceeds from this Edition will go to the Lighthouse Center for the Blind.

Selected images will be published in a book by TCB-Cafe Publishing. Selected images will also appear in a TCB-Cafe Publishing exhibit on the contest's theme. A total of 40 First and Second Place Finalists will be selected. To read more about the contest, go to the TCB-Cafe Publishing website of: www.cafeandre.com or go directly to the contest information at <http://cafeandre.com/PhotoContest2004.html>
Date: Jan 10, 2004 - Mar 28, 2004

SUBJECT: Photo Tour to Guatemala

When you enter Guatemala, you enter a magical world full of color, native crafts, and captivating ethnic communities. A stroll around the churches, ruins, and other architectural jewels evokes the splendor of Spanish colonial times. But that's just the beginning. Our 2004 Guatemala photo tour is scheduled to coincide with the Easter Week Processions. Although the people are Christian, the Mayan civilization left behind a deep spiritual imprint that is apparent in the processions. Throughout the week we bear witness to a wonderful confluence of Mayan and Christian traditions. For anyone interested in religious and cultural ceremonies this trip is a must. It will leave you humbled and awed by the devotion of the Guatemalan people.

Please visit <http://www.uncommonjourneys.biz>

If you prefer, we'll be happy to send you the itineraries by mail.

Best regards,

Debbie Jefkin-Elnekave

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Feb 2004 Competition

The judge for our Feb17 competition will be **Lillian O'Connell**. This Competition will be Time-Limited, meaning that all images entered in all categories must have been made within the last 2 years.

Lillian has judged for the Vienna Camera Club and also for NVPS and did a good job. She has been a photographer in the Washington, D.C. area since the 70's. After a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship in South America, she arrived in Washington in 1976 to cover the political scene. She covered Capitol Hill for Washingtonian Magazine and freelanced for national news services and magazines. Her other clients included the Smithsonian Resident Associates, the Organization of American States, and she was a contract photographer for Lensman Stock Photo Agency.

Ms. O'Connell has taught photography at Trinity College in Washington and for the Smithsonian Associates Program. Currently she runs a portraiture business and is also concentrating on nature topics in hand-colored b&w prints.

Drew Smith, VP Competitions

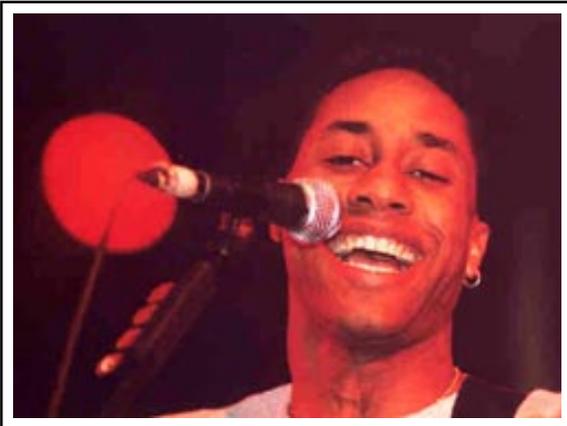
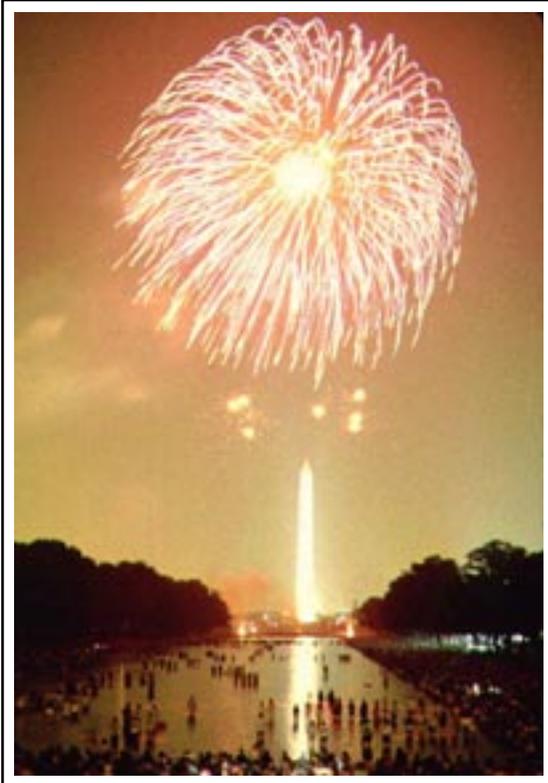
PSA

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) is the largest organization of its kind in the world, bringing together amateurs and professionals in all the varied fields of photography, including color slides, nature, pictorial prints, stereo (3D), electronic photography (digital), video/motion pictures, photojournalism, travel photography, and devotees of every process in which the worldwide membership is interested. Help from experts and educational programs is available to all members.

Find out more information about PSA from the websites of:

www.psa-photo.org or from www.nvps.org





**All photos by
Diane Williams**



Diane Williams Featured

I have always taken pictures, at least since I was about 8 years old. My first camera was a Kodak Instamatic—you know the one that uses a flashcube? I was often disappointed that there wasn't enough light for good results or that the subject was so tiny in the shot. I graduated to my parents' Polaroid when we lived on St. Croix in the Virgin Islands, and I shot a lot of B&W photos for my high school yearbook when



Diane Williams

Member Spotlight

I was a senior. But I was still frustrated that shots taken up close were out of focus.

I didn't even know what an f-stop was until I toured the northeast U.S. in 1981 with a girlfriend who had a Pentax K-1000 SLR. She showed me the markings on the lens and explained that basically you kept fresh batteries in the camera and trusted the light meter to get a properly exposed shot.

I got my first 35mm SLRs when my Dad bought me two used Ricohs in Mar 1982. I was already a reporter covering the Washington Bullets for UPI, AP, and some other media outlets. I sat at the press table next to Dr. Reed Tuckson, who took photos of the Bullets and Capitals for the African American newspaper. He became my mentor. I'd already photographed a men's club volleyball tournament the first weekend I'd had my cameras. I'd been advised by the folks at Falls Camera to use

Kodak Tri-X pan pushed one stop. Those volleyball photographs turned out really well despite having only 50mm lenses.

The next weekend at a Bullets game, Dr. Tuckson taught me to focus on the rim and wait for the action to come into the picture. ("White Men Can Jump" was born!) He also showed me how to develop B&W film in his basement darkroom in N.W., D.C. I was

able to develop my film and print shots after that in the darkroom of the apartment complex where I lived. Volleyball Monthly magazine was born in 1983, and I had B&W photos from East Coast collegiate and beach tournaments published throughout the 1980s.

In the fall of 1983, I got my first Nikon so I could use a strobe. I bought a used FM and a motor drive from Penn Camera in D.C., where I worked. Then I got my Tokina f2.8 80-200mm zoom. I still use that lens on my newer Nikon FA and F4. I recently got a Nikkor autofocus 70-200mm lens, but I'm not comfortable using it for action shots. And it's too slow to use indoors. So, I still rely on that Tokina.

I'm so thankful for the many quality camera clubs in the D.C. area, the people who make the clubs work, and their accessibility. The technical side of photography can be overwhelming. With each iteration cameras grow more and more buttons and dials! I just got an Olympus E-1 digital SLR outfit because my existing lenses wouldn't work on new Nikon digital cameras.

The Olympus package seems to allow me to do what I already know how to do for good action shots. I still prefer to shoot a pure image from the start and not have to tweak it in Photoshop, but I'm learning more about that side of do-it-yourself photography. It's great getting instant results with a digital SLR!

I don't make money from my photography any more, but I can benefit financially by giving pictures as noncash charitable donations to qualified institutions. Keep an eye on www.atlasarts.org for shots of the old Atlas movie theater in Northeast, D.C. as it is developed into a community-based performing arts center. There will also be space for exhibiting photographs in the lobby, and I've been told that I will be the first exhibitor when the Atlas opens in 2005!

Diane William, NVPS



Colorado Field Trip Planned

Would anyone in your club have any interest in a 3 - 7 day, Northwest Colorado, 4x4, guided, wild horse and landscape photo tour for either yourself or for one of your upcoming workshops? Using 4x4 vehicles makes it very easy on everyone. Contact me at: www.wildhorsetours.com

Thanks, **Jim Beall.**

Why PSA? One Member's Reasons

Tom Hady, PPSA, PSA Representative for NVPS (thady@att.net; 703-569-9395)

Last month, Dick Whitley gave you a good overview of the Photographic Society of America (PSA). I've been a member for 30 years and always renew without hesitation. Here are some of the reasons why.

The latest issue of the PSA Journal just arrived with a good example of the kind of news I often find first (and sometimes only) in the Journal: "New TSA Regulation Benefits Photographers. Thanks to the efforts of the American Society of Magazine Photographers (ASMP) photographers now may carry one bag of photographic equipment in addition to one carry-on and one personal item onto an aircraft for a flight entirely within the U. S. Details are on the TSA web-site at http://www.tsa.gov/public/interapp/editorial/editorial_1248.xml - The article goes on to suggest that since the word may not have reached all the TSA employees, it might be a good idea to print the web page and carry it with you. The TSA web site also points out that the air carrier can still refuse to let you bring that much carry-on.

Some other examples: Long before I found any useful information about digital photography in the general camera magazines, a series of articles in the PSA Journal helped me scramble up several steps on the learning curve for Photoshop. A recent issue revealed how to tell if your digital camera will do infrared photography, and how to do infrared with it.

While we're talking education, since I retired and have time to go to the annual conferences of PSA. They provide several days of meetings with skilled photographers talking about various techniques and showing examples of outstanding work. Kodak, Adobe and other suppliers often have representatives there to teach, and they always send their best, but the most useful sessions often are by amateurs like us, with interests like ours.

I have competed in International Exhibitions since the 1970's; they're one of my main photographic outlets. PSA recognizes exhibitions that meet certain standards (like sending your work back in a reasonable time!), and publishes lists of them in the Journal and on the PSA web site, together with their addresses. While I compete only in pictorial prints, there are

internationals covering just about any type of photography you like. Pictorial slide exhibitions are very active, as are nature slides and prints. Like travel photography? There were 70 exhibitions for you last year. You can find stereo, photojournalism, and electronic exhibitions. PSA will lead you to them all.

PSA also has an Award of Merit system, commonly called "star ratings," that recognize success in international exhibitions. I'm currently the Award of Merit Director for monochrome prints.

Want to get some comments on your work? Join a study group. Take the slide study group I was a member of for some years. About four times a year, a package of slides would arrive — four slides from each of about a dozen members. I'd read the comments on the slides I put in last time, comment on everyone else's slides, put in four new ones of my own, and send them on. It was an excellent way to get the reactions of others to my work, and to make some long distance friendships, too.

A similar activity is the monthly mail-in print competition. I have judged it several times. You mail your prints to the Chairman, who sends the package to an experienced exhibitor to judge and comment on the prints. Winning prints commonly find their way into the PSA Journal. That's just a sampling. Take a look at the PSA web site, <http://www.psa-photo.org/> or at the copies of the PSA Journal I'm leaving on the table at club meetings. You can find membership information in either of those places, too. Questions? Ask me!

Fashion Photographer Helmut Newton Dies at 83

The photographer Helmut Newton transformed fashion photography into a form of erotica. With his long leg models shot from below and lit like goddesses carved out of stone, Newton's vision of women was threatening and compelling.

Newton, 83 died on Jan 23, 2004 in Los Angeles, CA. He had just driven away from a hotel where he lived during the Winter. His main residence was in Monte Carlo. The news reported he had a heart attack and crashed his car. Newton, who was Jewish, was born in Berlin, Germany but lived a nomadic life after his family fled the Nazis. He had established a reputation for a style of fashion photography that was icy and aloof, and also erotic at the least.

Meadowlark Exhibit and Events

The Meadowlark Exhibit of nature photographs by members of the six camera clubs in the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs will be open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Mar 6 and 7. The exhibit will be in the Atrium, featured in the current issue of Washingtonian Magazine in an article on selecting a wedding site.

Exhibit sponsors will be offered the opportunity to select a print for a "Sponsor's Choice" Award and will select from prints other than the print selected by **Joe Miller** as the "Best in Show."

Volunteers will handle the sale of any exhibited prints that are for sale. On Saturday evening, from 6-8 p.m., a special reception (by invitation only) for exhibitors and invited guests will be catered by 3-Citron, another exhibit sponsor, with food on a New Orleans theme. A harpist will provide background music and the winner of the Bluebell Contest will be announced.

During the time the exhibit is open to the public, other activities will be occurring next door in the Meadowlark Visitors Center. On Saturday only, Strauss Photo-Tech-

nical Services, one of the exhibit sponsors, will be cleaning cameras and doing 5-minute camera checks for the general public. On Sat and Sun, another sponsor, the National Academy of Photography, will be conducting critiques of photographs for the general public. On Fri, Mar 5, Meadowlark Park has invited senior citizens with Alzheimer's for a special showing of the exhibit in the morning and school students in the afternoon.

The publicity committee for the exhibit, including NVPS's **Corey Hilz**, has done an excellent job of getting these and other sponsors to help with the event. Flyers and posters have been developed and they are exploring other publicity opportunities. The list of sponsors and potential sponsors seems to grow daily and the committee is busy negotiating for door prizes, products to be given away, and other surprises.

NVPS will be collecting prints for the Meadowlark Exhibit and the Bluebell Contest at the Feb 3 and 17 meetings. And we hope to see all of you at the exhibit on Mar 6 and 7.

For more information, go to www.meadowlarkphotoexhibit.com or contact **Zanne Tillman, Exhibits Chairperson**, at 703-461-0369 or at: suzanne.tillman@ed.gov

Panoramic Photography Interest?

At the Jan 14 meeting, the Board discussed some questions from members about panoramic photographs. Panoramic photos are already eligible in the regular print categories, but the 20 inch maximum width means the height often will be pretty small.

The Board was skeptical of mixing wider prints into the current print competition categories, because of both fairness and handling issues.

However, we decided to find out if there is interest in an experimental, one-time competition. A 16 x 44 inch maximum size has been suggested. The competition might be coupled with a workshop on panoramic photography, if there is interest and if someone will volunteer to teach it.

If you are interested in the competition, tell **Drew Smith**. If you would like a workshop in this area, and especially if you could conduct one, tell **Fred Chitty**. Or tell **Mary Ann Setton** or any Board member.

Tom Hady, NVPS
thady@att.net



Members' Activities

- **Glenn Bernstein** is the latest winner in The Washington Post Funny Sign Contest. He received a Travel Section paper weight for his shot of a beach scene in County Donegal, Ireland.
- **Carla Steckley** will be exhibiting her work at Capital One, 1680 Capital One Drive, McLean, VA. 22102 from Jan 17-Apr 17, 2004. To view the show, contact Alice Webb at 703-642-0862 ext. 8 or awebb@artsfairfax.org
- **Diane Williams** has two photographs of one of her favorite musicians, guitarist **Michael Fath** of Fairfax, Virginia, in a feature article in the Jan 2004 issue of Loudoun Magazine. Michael plays every Thursday evening at the Eiffel Tower Cafe in Leesburg. The artist Fath has a site of: www.MichaelFath.com





Photo Tips

- When shooting photo jobs I prefer to use ISO 400 speed films for most of my location work so I can work at apertures of f/8 or f/11. The advantage of working around these f/stops is simple—most medium-format lenses perform better when they are stopped down a few f/stops. This ensures maximum lens performance and provides greater sharpness, contrast, quality, and depth-of-field. This will maximize lens performance.
- If you suspect a problem with some of the shutter cords that you use with electronic flashguns, take them over to a Radio Shack store and ask them to test the cords for you. This test will immediately tell if the cords are in good condition or have broken. The flexing of the cords over the years can actually break the wires inside. You'll suspect a problem when your flashgun fails to fire. Keep in mind that the shutter cords are the weakest link in the system. Of course, with hot-shoe connections you don't have this problem, but then who wants photographs with your flashgun so close to the lens. Remember the "red-eye" problem?



Jessie Harris has this picture in *National Geographic Expeditions Travel Catalog for 2004*, advertising a trip to San Miguel, Mexico.



Small Change in Notifications:

NVPS Chairpersons who send material to the Editor should also send it to the NOVACC contact: Joe Miller and to the Website Mgr Ed Funk at the SAME TIME. Chairpersons are: VP Programs, VP Competitions (judges name), Workshops person, Field Trips person, Forums person, and Members' Gallery. Joe Miller's e-mail address is: Furnfoto@aol.com - Ed Funk's is: ed@edfunkphotography.com - Please do not "BCC" (blind carbon-copy anyone). Only use the "send to" at each addressee so we'll know it was sent.

Editor

Photoshop/Photo Elements Tip: Alliance Photo Booklets

by **Bill Prosser, NVPS**

PROBLEM: How can I dodge shadows or burn high-lights in digital images to improve them?

SOLUTION: The dodge/burn tool is not a good way to solve this problem. It can change colors and cause pixelization. A better way is to: Go to Menu Bar <Click>Layer>New>Layer. A dialog box, New Layer, will appear. Change Mode: Normal (This is called a "Blending Mode.") to Mode: Softlight. A box, Fill with Soft-Light neutral color (50 % gray), will appear. <Click>Check the box and then <Click>OK. A new layer will appear filled with 50 % gray. <Click>Paintbrush from Toolbox and paint with



Remember, Valentine's Day is the day "between" a dozen roses costing \$ 80 a dozen and \$ 20 a dozen.

Photographers of Northern Virginia

Guests on Fairfax Public Access Channel 10 for February will be for the weeks beginning:

Feb 02 - Karen Rexrode

Feb 09 - Jim Carrell

Feb 16 - Peggy Fleming

Feb 23 - Rhoda Steiner

Each program is shown four - and sometimes five - times: Monday at noon and 7:30 p.m., Wednesday at 12:30 p.m., Friday at 9:30 a.m., and usually, but not always, Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

Luella Murri, Host
703-256-5290 luellamurri@aol.com

Erwin: You might want to include the following information in Fotofax: **Manuel Hernandez** is recuperating at home following surgery for an extremely painful back condition.

Luella Murri, NVPS

Editor's Note: NVPS member **Charlie Rawdon's** son-in-law told me he has been recovering from a recent long stay in the Alexandria Hospital.

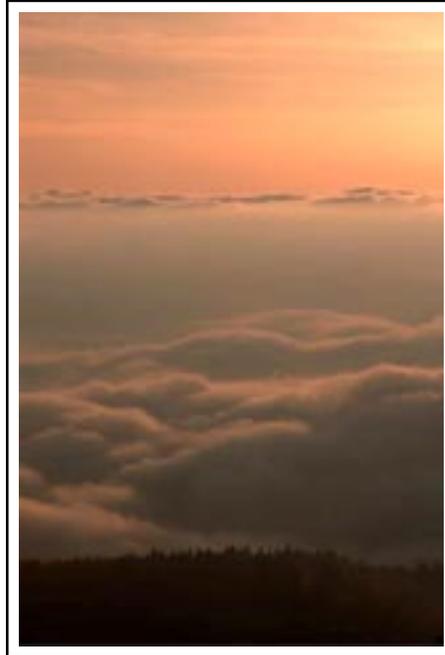
Thanks to **Ed Funk** for printing the Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs booklets. They will now be for sale at most meetings during the rest of the year. There are 22 different booklets on various photographic topics. The cost is \$1.00 for each one. We plan to have them on a table and use the honor system for payment. A container for the collections of money will accompany the booklets. Please make your own change if necessary.

Wayne Wolfersberger, NVPS

- | Book # | Titles |
|--------|--|
| 1 | Workshops Guide Book (1 given to Workshop Chair) |
| 2 | Notes on Visual Design |
| 3 | Important Principles of Composition |
| 4 | Getting the Most from Your Camera Club |
| 5 | Selecting 35mm Camera Equipment |
| 6 | Some Thoughts on Portriature |
| 7 | How to Stop making Good Prints & Make Great Prints |
| 8 | Photographing Wildflowers & Small Subjects |
| 9 | Black Light Photography |
| 10 | How to Judge Judging |
| 11 | Surviving Photographic Competitions |
| 12 | Night Photography |
| 13 | Multiple Exposure Photography |
| 14 | How to Improve Picture Sharpness |
| 15 | Black & White Infrared Photography |
| 16 | Tips for Better Photography |
| 17 | Breaking the Rules |
| 18 | Planning for Travel Photography |
| 19 | Special Effects Photography |
| 20 | Photographing Insects |
| 21 | Composition & Visual Design |
| 22 | Polaroid Transfer Process |

Ansel Adams once said: "If you're a good photographer, you can shoot anything." - Well, someone asked if I really believed that statement and I thought about it and said "No, I don't." For example, I feel comfortable shooting weddings, portraits, public relations, medical, and social functions. I would not feel comfortable trying to photograph many things like products, foods, aerals, insects, or photojournalism in a combat area. I think one really has to specialize in something and not try to be a generalist in all subjects. If you'll remember, even **Ansel Adams** specialized in fine-art B&W landscapes of the USA.

Editor



**All photos by
Corey Hiltz**

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is the most visited national park with over nine million annual visitors. Do you envision packed parking lots, backed up roads and crowded trails? Don't worry, that's not the experience I'm looking for either. By picking the right time of year you can avoid the crowds and find spectacular scenery to photograph.

The Spring and Fall are wonderful times to be in the Smokies, however, it is much more crowded in the Fall. The Spring offers a quieter park full of wildflowers, dogwoods in bloom, bright green leaves and rushing rivers and waterfalls. Visit from about mid-Apr through mid-May for the best of Spring.

The Smoky Mountains are only a day's drive from northern Virginia. The park, which straddles the North Carolina/Tennessee border is more developed on the Tennessee side. Here you'll find easier access and more facilities.

Cloudy days are perfect for most photography in the park. Rivers, waterfalls, wildflowers, and understory shots look better in the diffused light of an overcast day. Rain can be expected this time of year so bring protection for your camera and keep shooting in the light rain.

Cades Cove is a great location for landscapes, wildlife, and historic buildings. An 11-mile one-way loop road takes you through this valley on the west side of the park. Get there early as the gates open at sunrise and you may find a short line waiting. Check the park newspaper for which mornings the road is only open to bicycle and foot traffic.

This is a very popular destination for visitors. By late morning you can expect a fair amount of traffic on the road which can make for slow going. All the more reason to get there early when you can also capture the sun breaking over the surrounding mountains and find fog hanging in the valley. Fog can transform the cove into a magical location.

From the loop road you are also likely to see white tail deer and maybe wild turkey and fox. To get away from the traffic and explore the middle of the cove take one of two gravel roads (Sparks Lane and Hyatt Lane) which cut across it. They are two-way roads that allow you to cross Cades Cove and avoid going around the loop.

The Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail is a winding one-way road that runs through the forest. There are numerous pull-offs along its 6 miles which give you access to wildflowers, small rivers with moss covered rocks, and historic cabins. Pull-off numbers 8 through 13 provide easy river access. Two waterfalls,

Grotto Falls and Rainbow Falls, are accessible by hiking trails from the road. Near the end of the loop there is a pull-off with many small waterfalls called the Place of a Thousand Drips.

The best place for river shots is the Tremont area. A gravel road winds along the Little River and dead ends at a trailhead. You can pull off anywhere there is room along the road. Here you'll find trees with bright green leaves and dogwoods with white blossoms overhanging the river. High banks and river level access provide a variety of angles for your compositions. You will also find small waterfalls among moss-covered rocks on the non-river side of the road.

Wildflowers can be found along many of the trails and roads. Explore these locations: Porter's Creek Trail (Greenbrier area), Chestnut Top Trail (off Laurel Creek Rd), Chimney's Picnic area (along Newfound Gap Rd) and along Little River Road and Laurel Creek Road.

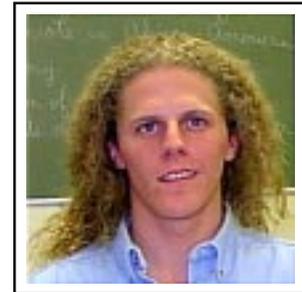
Take to the Newfound Gap Road to capture the sun rising or setting over the mountains. It's the main north/south road in the park. Stop at the Newfound Gap parking lot for sunrise or continue 0.7 miles further to the Oconaluftee Valley Overlook.

At Oconaluftee you'll see the sun rise over numerous ridges. Clingmans Dome provides a spectacular view for sunrise or sunset. Take the turn-off near Newfound Gap and you'll climb to the highest point in the park. There are great views of the overlapping ridges for which the Smokies are famous. Look for fog hanging between the ridges at sunrise. Sunset at Clingmans can turn the haze in the mountains magnificent colors. Another sunset spot is Morton Overlook, which is located 0.7 miles before Newfound Gap.

The only lodging available in the park are campgrounds. Gatlinburg is close to the park entrance, but lodging is expensive. For a price break stay in Townsend or Pigeon Forge which are a little further outside the park.

Corey Hilz, NVPS 703-379-6435

Corey's photos on preceding page.



Corey Hilz

Pro Reports

Accepting New Equipment

It's all in the nature of being a professional. People who make their living taking photographs tend to be a conservative lot, loyal to the tried-and-true, wary of the newfangled. It's an essential part of the professional thinking. Whether it's a local wedding guy or a nationally known magazine shooter, "professional" means the same thing—the person gets the picture, period. No excuses. No blaming the camera, no blaming the film, no blaming anything else.

To this end, professionals tend to stick to the equipment they know, to films they know, and to techniques they know well enough to execute in their sleep. They are the "late adopters." Just about every major advance in 35mm camera technology of the past 35 years or so was embraced first by amateurs, not professionals: autoexposure, autoflash, then autofocus.

But when pros adopt something, they adopt it. If something works faster, or better, to get the shot that they want (or the one the client wants), they will use it—after testing the living daylights out of it, of course, and developing their own idiosyncracies.

Editor

Cold Weather Shooting Tip:

It's difficult to handle the controls of the camera with gloves on, and it's too cold to have to shoot without the gloves on. You can buy photo-gloves without the finger-tips for about \$10 to \$14. However, you can buy a set of \$4 work-gloves from the hardware store and snip off one inch of the finger-tips. Presto, now you can shoot in cold weather.



Erwin's cold finger-tips!

Snow Policy For Meetings

In case of snowy or icy conditions, NVPS follows the closing schedule for Fairfax County Public Schools as announced on TV and radio stations. If schools close early or cancel night activities, we do not meet that night. If in doubt, call a Board Member or check the website of: www.nvps.org

Humor!

- If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we know?
- If Webster wrote the dictionary, where did he find the words?
- Why do we say something is "out of whack?" What is a whack?
- Why do "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
- Why do "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
- Why do we sing "Take me out to the ballgame" when we're already there?
- Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?
- Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light?"
- Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?
- Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean the opposite things?
- Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
- If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?
- If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
- If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
- Why do you press harder on the buttons of a remote control when you know the batteries are dead?

Letter to the Editor:

Ref: photo art show

I am a fellow parishioner of **Steve Gawarecki** who suggested I contact you. I understand that you have an excellent newsletter that reaches a wide range of photographers. I am chairing an art show to be held Feb 24, 2004, at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. We would love to have your members' work present in our show.

I would be very appreciative if you could notify your newsletter readers about our show and invite them to participate by submitting their work. My daytime phone number is **(202) 663-6408**. I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks for your attention.

Louise Gibney

INVITATION TO EXHIBIT AT SAINT PATRICK'S ART SHOW

To be held in conjunction with the Shrove Tuesday Dinner Feb 24, 2004

Dinner will be served from 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church

3241 Brush Drive

Falls Church, Virginia 22042

(703) 532-5656

stpats@cs.net

The Art Show:

1. Conditions: Submit one entry blank with each piece of art. Artwork submitted by adults must be framed. Judges reserve the right to decline artwork not appropriate for the venue. Artwork submitted by children (12 years of age and younger) must be matted or framed.

2. Entry Categories:

- Oils, acrylics, mixed media, drawings & pastels;
- Water colors;
- Photography; and
- Pottery, sculpture, textiles, etc.

The number of entries is limited to 1 large (apx. 2' by 3') and 2 small for adults and 1 for children.

3. Fees: Adults will be charged \$3.00 per each piece of art submitted; children will be charged \$1.00. A 20% commission will be charged for artwork sold. Pictures will be available for sale during the dinner. Items not for sale may also be exhibited.

4. Delivery of Artwork: Artwork may be delivered to Saint Patrick's on Sunday, Feb 22, 2004, between the hours of 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. or on Monday, Feb 23. No artwork will be accepted after 12 noon on Monday.

5. Removal of Artwork: Artwork must be removed between 8:00 and 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb 24. No artwork may be picked up prior to 8 p.m. The church cannot be responsible for artwork not picked up during this time period.



Vienna Community Ctr Annual PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST AND EXHIBIT

Open to Metropolitan Area Amateur Photographers

Entries Accepted:

Mar 18 - Thursday - 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Mar 19 - Friday - 12:00 Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Exhibit Dates:

Mar 20 - Saturday - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Mar 21 - Sunday - 12:00 Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Entry fee: \$7 per person; limit five photos, with a maximum of two in any one category. Applications will be mailed out on Feb 3, 2004. Local professional photographers judge the show and MAY be available the next day on Saturday for comments. Ribbons will be awarded in eight categories in black and white and color divisions. The eight categories include: nature, pictorial, scenic, portraiture, architecture, animals, photojournalism and digital. The digital category will combine the black and white and color divisions.

There will be a separate Middle School and High School Section for students in grades 7 - 12. All categories will be combined for the Middle School and High School in the color and black and white division. ASSISTED BY VIENNA PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

Amy Jo Hendricks, Vienna Community Ctr

HIGHLIGHTS OF NVPS BOARD MEETING, Jan 15, 2004

1. The Board voted unanimously to increase the number of voting Board members by six with the addition of the following appointed positions: Exhibits Chair, Facilities Chair, Website Manager, NOVACC Contact, and Equipment Co-Chairs. This means that all members of the Board are now voting members.
2. The Meadowlark Exhibit will need volunteers. This is further explained in a separate FOTOFAK article.
3. NVPS web site will be simplified and redesigned.
4. The one Virginia Bluebell photo to represent NVPS will be selected during the competition on 17 Feb 2004 by the membership in attendance.
5. Competition: (A) There will be no "theme" competitions this year to allow more time for planning Workshops and Field Trips addressing a theme. A list of suggested themes will be developed by the Competitions VP and the Workshop and Field Trips Chairmen for consideration next year. (B) The Board voted "no" to a recommendation that a light table be used for competition judges to make final slide choices. (It would preclude members from "seeing" the process.) (C) The Board voted not to accept panoramic prints over the current limit of 16 x 20 inches in the Rules of Competition. But, we will query NVPS members' interest in panoramic prints. See separate article in FOTOFAK.
6. Meeting Facilities: (A) The year-end banquet will be held at our Dunn Loring FD meeting hall, Friday night Jun 4, 2004, at a cost less than recent banquets. (B) It was reported that on Jan 2, 2004, Washington Gas reaffirmed its earlier decision to not allow "outside" groups to use Washington Gas Facilities.

Tom Brett, Secretary
703-642-1595



Best Pictures of 2003

Use this URL to find some of the best photojournalism photos of 2003. I've seen them and the photos are great! Enjoy them.

<http://www.fifth-essence.com/archive/bestpix2003/index.htm>

Editor

NOVACC - The Alliance

Northern Virginia Alliance of Camera Clubs Feb 2004 Events

Loudon Photography Club

Contact: Laura Starego at 703-724-0725 or e-Mail loudonphoto@aol.com

Website: www.loudonphoto.com

Meetings held at 7:00 p.m. at the Ashburn library.

Program: Feb 3 - "Filters" by Bruce Furr

Contact Laura Starego

Competition: Feb 17 - Subject is "People" - Judge is Michael Geissinger.

Field Trips: Feb 21 - Double "O" Good Alpacas Farm in Gainesville, Va.

Manassas Warrenton Camera Club

Contact: Dee Akers 540-347-0006. E-mail: akers@mitre.org

Website: <http://www.mwcc-photo.org>

Meeting held at 7:30 p.m., Manassas City Hall, Old Town Manassas.

Program: Feb 5 "Abstracts: Why, How, and Where" - Speakers are Joe Miller, Amie Tannenbaum, Alta Harper, and Joe Harper.

Competition: Feb 12 "Open" (rescheduled due to weather.

McLean Photography Club

Contact: William Prosser at 703-821-2670 or e-Mail prosserwm@aol.com

Website: <http://www.McLeanPhoto.org>

Meetings are held 7:30 p.m.

Reston Photographic Society

Contact: Elaine Crowell at: ecrowell123@earthlink.net or Bill Moriarty E-mail: eyecon@erols.com, Phone/fax 703-620-3020.

Meeting held : 7:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center at Lake Anne.

Vienna Photographic Society

Contact: Bill Graybeal at 703-281-9619.

Meetings held in the main lecture hall, at 7:30 p.m.

Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna, Va.

Program: Feb 4th Images from South Africa titled "The Poetry Of Photography, Free Verse Written in Color and Tone" By Joe Miller

Competition: Judge is Steve Uzzell

Contact Bill Graybeal at 703-281-9619 or bgrabl@erols.com or

Visit website at www.safeport.com/vps

Camera Repair Problems ?

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- Authorized service station for over 50 manufacturers. In and out of warranty repairs by factory trained technicians.
- Free estimates on camera repairs.
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1240 Mt. Olivet Road N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002

202-529-3200

Fax: 202-526-6465



NVPS Chairpersons who send material to the Editor should also send it to the NOVACC contact: Joe Miller, and to the Website Mgr Ed Funk at the SAME TIME. Chairpersons are: VP Programs, VP Competitions (judges name), Workshops person, Field Trips person, Forums person, and Members' Gallery. Joe Miller's e-mail address is: Furnfoto@aol.com - Ed Funk's is: ed@edfunkphotography.com - Please do not "BCC" (blind carbon-copy anyone). Only use the "send to" at each addressee so we'll know it was sent.

Editor

THE MENTORS Program

The following NVPS members have volunteered to serve as mentors to help us all become more proficient in particular areas of photography. If you are having a problem in a particular area or just want advice (e.g., What film should I use? What's a good lens for this type of photography?) give them a call. They'll be happy to help.

Digital Darkroom: **Bill Prosser** 703-821-2670

Digital Darkroom: **Mary Ann Setton** 703-658-7122

B&W Printing: **Tom Hady** 703-569-9395

Color Prints from Slides: **Frank Mertes** 703-620-9382

Infrared Photography: **Carla Steckley** 703-476-6016

Polaroid Transfers: **Zanne Tillman** 703-461-0369

Color Slides: **Sherwin Kaplan** 703-941-1145

Sales, Marketing, Pricing, & Professional Info: **Erwin Siegel** 703-960-6726

If there are any other people who would like to add their name and a specialty item, contact the **Editor**. This gives beginning members a chance to get answers to their questions.



For Help

How to Contact the Editor

While NVPS's FOTOFAX primarily serves to inform members of club activities, it also publishes the NOVACC events calendar and other announcements of interest to members. FOTOFAX encourages members to send in articles, .jpg photographs, activities, opinions, awards won, and Letters to the **Editor**. The best way to submit articles is to "e-mail" them to: **NVPSeditor@AOL.COM** - Anything of a longer text message should be done by e-mail only, not on the answering machine. For short messages of changes of address, or phone numbers, they MAY be sent to the answering machine. The phone number for short messages is: **703-960-6726**.

Erwin A. Siegel, FOTOFAX Editor
2000 Huntington Avenue #1206
Alexandria, Virginia 22303
703-960-6726
E-mail: NVPSeditor@aol.com

NVPS website: www.nvps.org



First Class Mail



Things To Do

- **“Passionate Observer”** - Now to Feb 29, Photographs by **Eudora Welty** featuring the 50 works of the black and white photographer/author from Mississippi, now at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, 1250 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 202-783-5000.
- **“Stories of Home”** - photographs by **Bill Bamberger**, a chronicle of low-income first-time home buyers in Tennessee, Texas, and North Carolina, opens now to Mar 7, 2004 at the National Building Museum, Washington, D.C. 202-272-2448.
- **“The Beatles - Backstage and Behind the Scenes”** - Two related photo exhibitions opening Jan 16 at the National Museum of American History mark the 40th anniversary of the Beatles debut on U.S. television: The exhibit documents both of the Fab Four’s 1964 performances on The Ed Sullivan Show



while **“Mike McCartney’s Liverpool Life”** offers a glimpse of the city that gave birth to the group, courtesy of Beatle Paul’s photographer brother. Call: 202-357-2700 for days and times.

- **“George Washington’s Birthday Parade”** - Alexandria holds the nation’s largest parade celebrating the birthday of George Washington, with marching bands, floats, military re-enactors and other units, Feb 16 starting at 1 p.m. on the streets of Old Town Alexandria, VA. 703-838-4200.
- **“Cabin Fever Festival”** - More than 250 artists sell their wares, Feb 14 - 15 at the Frederick Fairground in Frederick, MD. 301-898-5466.