

Through My Electronic Viewfinder

In Focus, January 2008 Issue

Westchester Photographic Society Newsletter

The 2008 Consumer Electronics Show has come and gone. The Photo Marketing Association's 2008 show is about to open with the latest technological improvements and marketing hype. So far 74 new cameras have been pre-announced for the show.

Is it time for us to put all our current cameras up for sale on eBay to raise funds for the next latest, greatest and soon to be obsolete uber-camera? Does equipment really matter? Are your images better with a new camera? Are you a better photographer if you have the latest state of the art equipment? With the best equipment, you certainly have no excuse for not being the world's best photographer.

Just for fun, I looked into the EXIF data of the winning digital photos from our last three competitions. This is the list of cameras used to shoot the winning photos:

Canon 20D	Minolta 7D	Nikon D70
Canon Rebel XT	Nikon Coolpix S10	Nikon E8700
Fujifilm Finepix S5000	Nikon D200	Olympus E-510
Fujifilm S2Pro	Nikon D200	Panasonic FZ50
Kodak LS443	Nikon D2X	Sony A100
Konica Minolta A200	Nikon D50	

The cameras ranged from current technology to digital cameras more than five years old. Five years is a very, very long time in the digital camera world.

I had just about given up waiting for my ideal digicam. I had even started considering opting for a DSLR to get the low noise levels of their larger sensors. The current trends in digicams with no viewfinders, tiny, noisy sensors and poor lens quality have turned me off current models which offered no image quality advantages over my four year old Konica Minolta A200. Just when the light in digicam world had grown dim, Fujifilm has announced a new digicam, the S100FS, that claims to offer almost everything I want in a digital camera. The most important features are a large 2/3 inch 11 megapixel Super CCD sensor, a new optically-stabilized 28-400mm manual zoom lens, a high quality EVF, a good burst shooting rate, and a new processor that incorporates the 100-400% wide dynamic range and film simulation options found in their excellent S5 Pro DSLR. The only bad features being the high weight (almost 2 pounds) and the price (\$800). If the image quality comes up to the expectations, I may have found an upgrade for my KM A200. Until, at least, the announcements are made for the next big trade show in the fall.

Dick Budnik