

Through My Electronic Viewfinder

In Focus, October 2006 Issue

Westchester Photographic Society Newsletter

It's traditional for the President to write a column this month about the importance of the Annual Dinner to our club. I should encourage you to attend to enjoy a good meal, to enjoy the companionship of your fellow members, and if you receive an award, to enjoy the accolades of your fellow photographers. I should point out how our Annual Dinner serves as the culmination and the climax of our competition year.

For many our members, their competition year starts not with our first competition in September but much earlier as they begin to plan their vacations looking for unique photographic opportunities. What better vacation activity than finding and capturing those great images that will draw wows from the audience, great scores from our judges and lead to a plaque at the Annual Dinner and bragging rights for another year. Ah, the thrill of competition. By god forgive us but we do love it.

What is it that makes competition so appealing that it turns us all into competition junkies? What does it take to capture or create a great winning image.

Does equipment really matter? We tell our spouse's it does. We are willing to drop several thousand dollars every couple of years for the latest model digital camera with a few more mega pixels or a new image stabilized lens. Heaven forbid, that we might lose to a lesser photographer who has better equipment.

How better to maintain a competitive advantage than attending a few photo workshops to improve our techniques. We all know that as good as our images are right out of our Nikons, they can always be improved in Photoshop. Add a course on image processing in Photoshop and a course in photo manipulations for those Open Mind winning entries. Invest in a quality printer with custom profiles and custom hardware for calibrating your high resolution, LCD, flat panel monitor. You will have no excuses for not receiving your winning plaque at the Annual Dinner.

The cost of a new digital camera, \$500 - \$5000.

The cost of a new image stabilized lens, \$500 - \$8000.

The cost of a weekend workshop, \$500.

The cost of your photo vacation, \$3000.

The cost of a new computer and software, \$3000.

The cost of a Photoshop course, \$500.

The cost of a new printer, \$700.

The cost of a WPS membership, \$40.

The cost of our Annual Dinner, \$35.

The cost of receiving a plaque at our Annual Dinner, Priceless.

How can anyone pass up such a deal?

Dick Budnik

