

HypoCheck



Feb. 2008

Oklahoma Camera Club, Inc
founded 1931

Vol. 64 Issue 8

Editors Doug & Jaci Finch APSA's

Ouray Ice Fest by Charles Taylor, APSA

Charles Taylor and John R. Key are compelled to venture out several times a year to address a condition called "Wanderlust." Each evening Charles carefully journals the days activities (or makes something up to write about). This is from their most recent venture. Editor's Note

Ouray, Colorado is a beautiful little town in a bowl on the northern edge of the San Juan Mountains. It bills itself as "the Switzerland of America," and it's not an unreasonable choice. The town is reached by US-550, the "Million Dollar Highway," from Durango to the south or from Montrose to the north. A nice destination at any time, it gets particularly interesting in January.

Travel planning this time of year requires some flexibility. US-550 north of Durango had been closed by an avalanche just before the event, and the town could only be reached from the north. It is a good idea to keep in touch with the Colorado Department of Transportation web site.

Ouray literature indicates that a local group had the idea to create an ice climbing park



The Venue: Ouray Ice Park in Box Canyon

February 12, 2008

Competition: Prints - Color A & B, Monochrome A & B, Assigned: *Expressions of Feelings*; Nature & PJ
Judges: James Pratt, Brad Smith, Carl Bell

Program: "Tabletop Creations" by Jackie Bartel

Refreshments: Tom & Carol McCreary

February 26, 2008

Competition: Projected Images - Open A & B, Creative A & B, Assigned: *Expressions of Feelings*; Nature & PJ

Judges: Ward Conway, Ed Lamb, TBA
Program: Your "Hands-on Tabletops" - **Bring your Cameras, Tripods & Items to Photograph**

Refreshments: Debbie Devonshire

Board Meeting:

February 19, 2008

Home of Jan Lee at 7:30 p.m.

All members are always welcome

Continued Page 2...

HypoCheck

Ouray Ice Fest

(Continued from page1)

in a nearby slot canyon. The owner of the property was willing to lease it to the sponsors during winters and it mushroomed from there. The canyon is natural, but the ice is not. An elaborate sprinkler system has been built along one cliff. Every evening about 7 pm, they turn it on and pour water on the cold rocks until 4 am the next morning. Every year, they dump about 10 million gallons of water over that cliff. It makes some interesting icicles, several feet thick and several hundred feet long.

This would be the 13th annual Ice Fest and climbing enthusiasts come from around the world to participate, or so the literature says. Last year's winner was from Ukraine.

Interestingly, the ice fest has no admission charge. Contestants pay some sort of entry fee, but mere spectators get in free. Donations are accepted, of course, and souvenir merchandise is available, but costs are covered by memberships in the sponsoring organization and donations from local merchants.

Ice climbing is a very popular sport in Europe and a substantial contingent from that continent attend this event every year. Last year's winner Evgeny Kryvosheytssev from the Ukraine returned to defend his crown

this year. One of his chief competitors was expected to be Ines Papert, a woman from Germany who is a three-time world champion. Ice climbing is not a gender-specific sport.



Continued page 4...

HypoCheck

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PSA's 75th Anniversary Book - featuring PSA Member's Images

Every member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) is invited to submit no more than two images to be considered for possible publication in a coffee table-sized book celebrating the 75th anniversary of PSA. One of the two images may be selected for publication. Images may be slides (no glass mounts), prints (max. 8 1/2 x 12 in. no frames) or digital sent on CD in Tiff format, 300dpi. Entries must arrive by February 28, 2008. Check out the latest issue of the PSA Journal or the website at: www.psa-photo.org.

New Club Member - Kimberly K. Weiss (Kimberly@birdvet.org)

joined the club this last Tuesday night. Welcome Kimberly, we are pleased to have you join us. We look forward to seeing your work.

Club Visitor - Amelia Adams (amadams@ou.edu) visited the club meeting this last Tuesday night. We are certainly pleased to have you visit and you are welcome to visit our club meeting or any of our workshops at any time.

Memories - The club lost two long time members and friends recently. **Charlotte Mansfield** joined the club in 1963 and has been an active member ever since. She competed in print and slide competition even when she was on assignment in Germany. Charlotte was a fine photographer spending many hours in the darkroom. It will be difficult to imagine a camera club meeting without Charlotte.

Fred Mayer joined the club in 1977 and was an active member until a couple of years ago when he could no longer drive. Fred competed in slide competition and organized and led many overseas trips returning with enough slides to present travel shows of the adventure.

Spring Photo Outing - Jan and Wally Lee organize a trip every spring to the Smoky Mtns.; this year it is scheduled for April 19 thru April 26. We meet a group of photographers there from a number of other clubs and have a great time taking pictures and enjoying the flowers and beautiful scenery. Everyone is welcome; please let them know if you have an interest.

HypoCheck

Ouray Ice Fest

(Continued from page 2)

As a matter of fact, Ouray hosts a “Chicks with Picks” event after the festival, both to encourage the sport among women and to support several women’s causes. Posters for this event feature a cartoon lady in a minuscule bathing suit, but I doubt they actually climb that way.

The venue is Box Canyon, a classic slot canyon, maybe a couple hundred feet deep and hardly more than fifty wide at any point. (See picture front page) It slices down the side of a mountain for about a mile. One cliff is watered to make the ice, and provides dozens of climbs with completely different obstacles. One area was marked out for preliminary competition, another for the finals, but the rest of the canyon was available to anyone who wanted to have a go at it. There is even a small, easy slope in one area where children can learn the sport. The opposite wall of the canyon has several good vantage points for photographers or just spectators.

Ice climbers are strange people, but at least in Ouray, they’re not totally crazy. The park requires helmets, crampons, harnesses, and belaying ropes so no one can fall very far even when things go wrong. Still, climbing ice has to fit in there with the other extreme sorts of sports. For one thing, it’s expensive! Equipment

has grown considerably more sophisticated, and hence more costly. Crampons cost 100-200 bucks a pair, ice axes run \$200-\$250 each and you need two. A local brochure for the festival says the total gear needed by each climber can run \$1500 - \$2500. Not much by NASCAR standards, I suppose, but it sure eliminates the peasantry!

The organization prides itself on making the competition tough. The two routes, preliminary and final, are designed to guarantee that only a few of the entrants actually complete them, most fall off somewhere along the way. Only four climbers had completed the route on the first day.



Continued page 5...

HypoCheck

Ouray Ice Fest

(Continued from page 4)

Technically, this is mixed, rather than pure ice climbing, with sections of bare rock to be covered as well as the huge icicles. The finals route would include “tuna logs,” huge chunks of wood dangling vertically from the lower bridge which would have to be clambered onto and past in order to reach to end of the course. The preliminary course wound up a rock face behind an ice flow, around and onto the ice, then a traverse across it to the final slope.

Unlike a lot of sporting events, this one got underway with minimal fanfare. No one even shouted “Let’s get ready to tumble!” Some climbers not involved in the competition began rappelling down into the canyon and climbing back out here and there. Others formed belaying teams to assist the climbers.

When the competition began, the first three climbers failed before a woman from Slovenia made it to the top. She was followed immediately by last year’s champion who made it look easy.

Friday was demonstration day at the ice park. Preliminary competition was completed, with only a dozen of the fifty-odd competitors qualifying for Saturday’s finals. Various experts were on tap to show newbies how it was done. This actually made some of our better pictures, since



these guys were working without benefit of all the safeguards in place for contestants. The demo guys had remote microphones, so they could talk to the crowd as they went, explaining what they were doing.

The first demo was a guy setting the anchors for others to follow. This meant, obviously, that he had no safety rope above him. Theoretically, he couldn't fall any farther than his most recently planted anchor, but as he was constantly reminding us, the anchors weren't foolproof. That's because fools are so inventive. It didn't matter, since he was as expert as advertised and made it to the top without undue difficulty.

Continued page 7...

HypoCheck

Competition Results - Prints

Name

First	Last	Entry No 1	Place	Entry No 2	Place
Color A					
Doug	Finch	Co. River, Dead Horse Pt.	2	South Africian Sunset	1
Esther	Key	Palette Sprin	3	Upper Mesa Falls Rainbow	2
Color B					
Randy	Carr	I've Been Nailed	2	Palm Beach	1
Monochrome B					
Randy	Carr	Caddy Shack	1	One Red Flower	2
Nature					
Doug	Finch	Kudu Cow in Bush	1	Leopard at Rest in Bush	2
Esther	Key	Old Faithful #100	3	Mt. Moran and Lake	HM
Photojournalism					
Randy	Carr	Don't Drive Into Water	2	Street Dancer	1
Esther	Key	Walking the Oxen	3	On the Santa Fe Trail	HM

Competition Results - Digital

Creative A

Danny	Corn	Just a little Blue	3	Water Color	2
Jan	Lee	Cabin in the Woods	HM	Sunflowers	HM
Carol	McCreary	Night Memorial Sketch	3	Structure Gradient	2
Tom	McCreary	Red Sails at Sunset	1	Posterized Indian Dancer	HM

Open A

Danny	Corn	Soft Landing	1	Fruit Plate	3
Jan	Lee	Nigel Three Quatters Light	2	Simplicity	2
Wally	Lee	Getting Her Attention	3	Warter Fall & Rocks #3	3
Carol	McCreary	The Wink	1	Over the Shoulder	1
Tom	McCreary	Tabletop Trumpet	2	Tabletop Flowers	3

Continued Page 7...

HypoCheck

Competition Results - Digital

(Continued from Page 6)

Name

First	Last	Entry No. 1	Place	Entry No. 2	Place
-------	------	-------------	-------	-------------	-------

Creative B

Debbie	Devonshire	All Hung Up	2	Butterfly on Flower	2
Brad	Smith	Self-Protrait in Ornament	1	Snow-Covered Cherries	1

Open B

Debbie	Devonshire	Mexican Hat	2	Horses Grazing	1
Brad	Smith	Diving for Food	2	Snowy Pine	2

Nature

Debbie	Devonshire	Lion in the Grass	3	Fawn Has a Snack	3
Jan	Lee	At Rest	HM	Sensitive Briar	1
Wally	Lee	Spring Runoff	3	Mad Tiger	2
Greg	Mayberry	Giant River Otters	3	Coralus Enydris	1
Michael	Mayberry	Airplane Grasshopper	3	Spider on Leaf	2
Carol	McCreary	Bee on Lavender	3		
Tom	McCreary	White Sands Sunset	2	Summer Storm	3

Photojournalism

Danny	Corn	Hand Off	HM	One of Life's Big Holes	2
Debbie	Devonshire	The Skier	3	Just Want to Get Up	2
Carol	McCreary	Barrell Racer	2	Should I Throw in the Towel	1
Tom	McCreary	Cutting Oats	HM	Close Race	2
Brad	Smith	Ice Storm 07 #1	HM	Ice Storm 07 #2	HM

Assigned Competition

February is Assigned Competition Month. The purpose of assigned competition is to expand ones photographic world and challenge ones creativity. The Board selects two assigned subjects each year. The assigned subject applies to all divisions except Nature and Photojournalism. The subject for February is:

"Expressions of Feelings"

HypoCheck

Ouray Ice Fest

(Continued from page 5)

The biggest complication of the venue was the snow which had fallen in abundance before and during the event. Snow aggravates ice climbers. It hides and disguises the ice and rock, makes thoroughly unstable footing and generally causes grief. Several volunteers were seen rappelling with no apparent purpose other than to dislodge as much of the snow as possible.

A number of colorful tents on the climbers' side of the canyon held vendors of mountain equipment. One of these was giving away insulated mugs with one's choice of hot chocolate or hot apple cider. As might be supposed, they did a land office business.

Final touches were being made to the finals route for Saturday. The tuna logs were hung by the bridge with care, just before the final inverted 45 degree wall to the finish. It looked nasty. It was, too! Only one climber would make it all the way in the finals. The other places were awarded based on how far a climber got before he or she fell. Jeff Mercier was the eventual winner. Ines Papert, previously mentioned, was second, and last year's winner came in third.

Anything taking place 8,000 feet above sea level in the mountains in January is

going to be cold, but with reasonable preparation, it can be a delightful experience. Sports photographers don't get many chances to shoot ice climbing, and the Ouray venue is just about ideal for the purpose.

Charles Taylor, APSA



HypoCheck

Workshop Schedule

Photography 101 Workshop - The Photography 101 Workshop will meet the 3rd Saturday, February 16th, 10:00 am at 6309 N. Harmon Dr., Warr Acres. They will continue discussion of exposure and whatever topic comes up. For information/directions please call **Ed Lamb at 721-4714**.

Photoshop Workshop - The Photoshop Workshop will meet at 7:30 pm, Friday, February, 1st, at **Tom and Carol McCreary's**. The subject is edges and frames. For information please call **Carol or Tom at 634-1817**.

Programs for February

February 12 - Tabletop Creations: Jackie Bartels will show you how to set up, light and photograph tabletops. You have seen a lot of Jackie's work that she has done with the black lights, now come and learn how she does it.

February 26 - Tabletop Corners: Following Jackie's instructions at the last meeting, we will have four tabletops set up, one in each corner of the room.

Bring your cameras, tripods and any props you would like to photograph. This will be a great opportunity to try your hand at creating a tabletop to photograph. If you don't have a tripod, I am sure there will be one around for you to borrow. See you there.



Oklahoma Camera Club, Inc.
Meetings 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
Central Presbyterian Church
Charter Member:
The Photographic Society of America
Member:
Gulf States Camera Club Council

Oklahoma Camera Club, Inc. Board of Directors

President:	Jan Lee
1st VP:	Carol McCreary, PPSA
2nd VP:	John R. Key
1yr Director:	Debbie Devonshire
1yr Director:	Peggy McClanahan
2yr Director:	James Pratt
2yr Director:	Pam Meyers
Secretary:	Jaci Finch, APSA
Treasurer:	Brad Smith