



Photographica Digest

Western Photographic Historical Society

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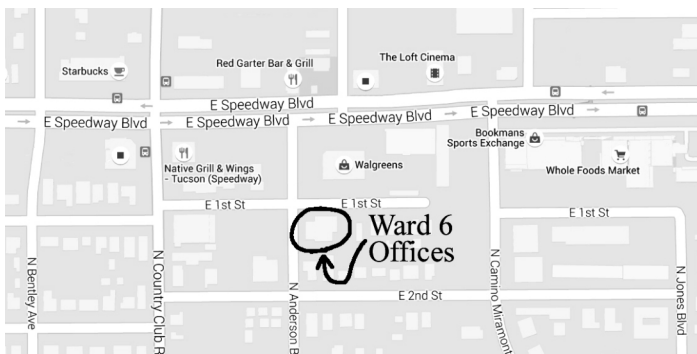
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November 2015

Notice

Meeting Location Change

We are now meeting at the Ward 6 Tucson City Council offices at 3202 E. First Street, Tucson. Our November and December meetings will be moved to the first Tuesdays, Nov. 3rd and Dec. 1st. Hopefully, we can resume first Thursdays as a regular schedule thereafter.



Upcoming Program by Dr. Brien Harvey

Dr. Brien Harvey will give a presentation at a future meeting (December or January). The following description was submitted by him:

Dr. Brien Harvey moved to Tucson in October, 1986 to open his dental specialty practice and he is happy to report that he has had the same office address and phone number for all of these ensuing 29 years.

Eight years ago began taking local nature photography more seriously. Brien is pleased to offer assurances, though, that he is the laziest amateur nature photographer. His motto: "If they don't come to me, they don't get photographed." Every photo in his presentation was taken within 100 feet of his front door.

A few years ago, Brien noticed that there was a pair of American Kestrels hanging around his backyard. A bit of sleuthery revealed that the Kestrels were living in his house, a surprising fact that Brien will explain. He will show a few Kestrel photos to illustrate his Boy Scout-like motto of "be prepared and give yourself a

chance".

Brien grows Penstemon in the rocky soil along his driveway, having long been a fan of these striking semi-arid tolerant wildflowers. The Penstemon bloom for four or five weeks, in spring, attracting many hummingbirds. This gave Brien ample opportunity to hone his skill photographing hummingbirds in flight.

Brien is looking forward to sharing the challenges of and his techniques for capturing images of hummingbirds in flight feeding in flowers in his yard. The title of his presentation will be: "Hummingbirds in My Front Yard".

Ho, Ho, Ho, Santa is Coming to Town!

CAMERA CLUB MEETING

December 1st, 2015

Time: 7:00pm

Place: Ward 6, Tucson City Council Offices



Is he going to find out that you've been naughty or nice??

Yes, the jolly fellow, along with his helper, will host a Camera Club Gift Exchange. Please be sure to bring a wrapped

gift valued at a minimum of \$20 — bring something you would like to receive for yourself!

Numbers will be drawn during the program; when your number is called you will be able to choose a new gift from Santa's bag or take one already opened — Santa's helper will explain the rules in detail before the program begins! Let's make this fun!! Refreshments (light snacks) will be provided.

RSVP before or during the November meeting to **Gary Sivertsen** (253-278-2776 or by email to cameracol@seanet.com)

Rain, snow or SUN will not keep Santa from this meeting!!

The Marvelflex

Ron Kuykendall

The Ciro Company was started in 1940 by an ex-Ford factory worker in Detroit. The prototype resulted in an early 1941 contract with Sears for 30,000 cameras. The Sears Marvelflex was a stamped steel bodied TLR with uncoated 83mm F4.5 lenses by Wollensak in an Alpex 10-200 self cocking shutter. Both the shutter and the three element cooke lens were fairly standard for the era. The lenses were shortly upgraded to F3.5. Focusing was by a



large knob on the right side driving dual cams attached to the lensboard which mounted both the viewing and the taking lenses. Shutter speed and aperture were both set from the front of the lens unit. Film travel was from front bottom up to the top rear by a knob and a red window in the back for the usual 6x6 frames on 120 film. Camera back was L-shaped hinged at the top back with a spring latch at the bottom front. The Marvelflex was a solidly built well designed camera of the era. Sears marketed the camera at \$34.75.

After the first run of 30,000 cameras, Ciro marketed its own Ciro model A- first with the 83mm lens, then with an 85mm lens. Both lenses were marked Velostigmat ("fast" like Wollensak's large format lenses). A second Sears contract was entered late in 1941; the cameras were identical to the Ciro A except for the nameplate. No more Ciro A's or Marvelflex's

were manufactured. After the war, Ciro modified the A to the simpler to manufacture B, and Sears marketed import TLR's without rebranding the cameras. The B and apparently a few C's were manufactured in Detroit before Ciro moved to Delaware Ohio to avoid union demands. The later C's and D's, and E's and F's manufactured in Delaware had few variations- the fun of collecting Ciroflexes is mostly in the early models.

Olympus 35RC

Ron Kuykendall

I am sure most of my readers remember the third wave of Japanese 35mm cameras of the 1970's- those compact, pocket sized, feature packed, full frame marvels from almost every manufacturer. Have you noticed the progression of "pocket-sized" from the 6x9 folding rollfilm cameras that could only fit an overcoat pocket, to the folding 6x6 and 35mm cameras that fit jacket pockets, to the compact 35 and half frame truly pocketable cameras, to the current cameras now housed in cell phones? Petri, Canon, Olympus, Konica and others developed cameras with short focal length 5 to 7 element lenses, coupled rangefinders, meter controlled apertures, compact usually metal bodies, with a host of features. This was the death of the American and German camera industry. To the extent that Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, became the manufacturer for several brands including Rollei. The Olympus 35 series included the 35EC, 35RC, 34RD, 35DS, 35ECR, 35SPN, among others. Many of the internal systems were shared with the 1/2 frame Pen series as well



as several lesser 35mm cameras.

The RC series was marketed as an advanced amateur camera with sophisticated features (yet could be set at a point-and-shoot level for less ambitious users):

A 42mm 5 element coated Zuiko 2.8 lens

Olympus B-15, 30, 60, 125, 250, 500 two blade shutter with flash synched accessory shoe and self timer- set by dial on top deck

A 2.8 to 22 two blade aperture, manual or CDS meter controlled

Combined rangefinder-viewfinder with frame lines and both shutter and aperture readout and bright focus rectangle in the center

Manual 3' to infinity focus

Lever film advance/shutter reset

14 oz, 4x3x2 body

CDS sensor inside lens filter ring

Manual controls if battery dies

Full line of factory filters, close-up lens set, copy stand, flash units, cases. Among the first high quality accessory w/a and tele lenses were marketed by other manufacturers

The only negative I have found is that the seldom used f/stop ring next to the body requires some concentration to adjust.

I found it to be an excellent camera for both outdoor activities and indoor flash shots with the small synched strobe unit. I had three or four for my kids when we went hiking-all were able to obtain good results. My daughter took hers on a canoe trip - dropped it in the stream. She exchanged it with mine and sometime later I took it apart to repair it - found it to be in excellent condition and used it several times. I found the optics to be quite good. Sharpness extended to mountains on the horizon if focused in. I would rate the optics as better than any available at the time in the price range but of course not of professional quality. There were those at the time that would disagree with me — few recognized the quality of Japanese optics — until both U.S. and German camera industries collapsed.



The WPHS is always accepting Consignment or Donations for our upcoming

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Western Photographic Historical Society

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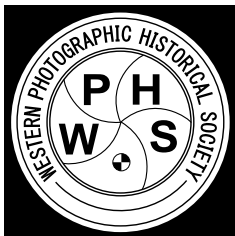
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UPCOMING EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

- Nov 3rd Regular monthly meeting at Ward 6 Offices. (Tuesday)
Ron Kuykendall will present a program about the history the Argus camera company.
- Dec 1st Regular monthly meeting at Ward 6 Offices. (Tuesday)
Holiday Gift Exchange.
Program to be announced.
- Mar 20th **2016 WPHS Camera and Photographica Show,**
Hotel Tucson City Center (Inn Suites),
475 N Granada Avenue, Tucson, AZ,
From 9:30 AM to 2 PM.

We'd like your help in developing new programs especially product presentations. Please contact Robert Suomala, Program Chair, at 520-399-2796.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Next WPHS Meeting November 3rd

Join us at a new meeting place, the Ward 6 Tucson City Council offices at 3202 E. First Street, Tucson (see map elsewhere herein).

Consignment and member camera sales, show and tell and a brief program are featured every month (except the last two summer months). The meetings run from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM with show programs beginning at 7:00 PM.

All are welcome!

**WPHS is a non-profit
501(c)3 organization**