



Poly Speaks

Edited by Jim Mildice

**Poly Photo
Camera Club**
San Diego, California



The Editor
and Staff of Poly Speaks
wish you all

Happy Holidays
and a
Happy and Successful
New Year



Happy Holidays!





Voting Results!

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There have been two important votes that occurred at the end of this year. We elected our new Club Officers for 2012; and we voted to revise the Poly Bylaws concerning our competition rules and methods to try to make them more appropriate to the interests of our evolving membership.

The **2012 Officers** are:

President:

- Ernesto Corte

Vice-President:

- Shelly Britton

Secretary:

- Darlene Elwin

Treasurer:

- Diane Patterson

Congratulation to all of you, and a big **Thank You** for standing for election. We're all looking forward to a great year.

The timing of the yearly elections has also been changed a little, so the election can be held at the first meeting in October (when meeting attendance is greater) rather than the second meeting in October. As before, the new Officers will be installed at the first meeting of November, and be in place to take over the management of the Club for the beginning of the following year.

Competition

The second major vote was for changes to the Bylaws governing our monthly Competitions. Since those Competitions have the highest attendance of any regular Club meeting, we must be doing something right. Therefore, the Competition Committee decided not to recommend any revolutionary changes. Instead, we elected to just "tune things up" and make only incremental improvements.

I know we have discussed the changes at Club meetings, and published the actual text of them in Poly Speaks, so the following summary (in the order the changes appear in the Bylaws) will be our last reminder.

1. Voters have added a Third Place monthly award to our former First and Second Places for the Open Competition.
2. We have formalized the custom of not collecting and displaying the scores of members who elect not to compete for the year-long, cumulative, High Points Award.
3. We have changed the (film-oriented) definition of a duplicate picture that cannot be submitted in more than one monthly competition. Until now, the requirement has been referenced (*continued, see Vote, on Page 3*)

Vote – continued from Page 1

to the image in the camera (that is, the slide, negative, or digital file). It is now referenced to the image that is actually displayed and projected during the competition. Therefore, there is no restriction on how many different displayed images can be derived from the same digital file, as long as they are clearly not “near duplicates” of one-another.

4. The membership also voted to allow the photographer to “improve” an image accepted in a monthly Competition before it is again submitted to the year-end Competition. The improvement can be based on what the photographer has learned from the judge’s

comments at the monthly competition, or on the photographer’s own judgement; as long as the submitted image is clearly an “improved” version of the original image.

You are expected to use your own judgement about what is an acceptable improvement. But here’s an example for some guidance. Imagine you entered an image with two pelicans flying home at sunset; and the judge commented that it is better if the birds are in groups of three. Even though Photoshop could enable you to do it, adding another bird would not be an appropriate improvement.

High Points Results

The High Points Competition for the year 2011 is now complete and the results have been published on the Poly Web Site.

In other years, we reported the winners as part of our coverage of the Best of the Year Competition (since the awards were actually presented then). But this year, since we have a December edition of Poly Speaks, and the winners are not secret, we can give these awards the attention they deserve with a story of their own.

In addition, as you might have already surmised (if you already looked at the list of winners), your editor was more interested than usual in who had the highest totals this year.

Enough explanation! Counting the scores for the nine highest months (as specified in the Bylaws), the winners are:

1. **Jim Mildice** – 218 points
2. **Byron Aughenbaugh** – 216 points
3. **Dorothy Mildice** – 213 points

Because of the overall excellence of our judges, and the scoring system’s ability to ignore results wherein the photographer and judge were totally out-of-sync, there was little controversy this year; and we can look at the other interesting aspects of the Competition.

First of all, the spread between first and third was only five points; and fourth and fifth were tied, and just one more point behind. Also, in the competition for first place, the score was tied going into the last month. This presents compelling testimony to the overall excellence and commitment of Poly photographers.

This year’s results and the differences between them also provide confirming evidence that Poly Photo Camera Club lives up to its commitment to diverse photo specialties.

Jim often likes to create artful (and sometimes funny) compositions through composite combinations of images from different sources and digital files.

Byron’s preferences are for high-impact landscapes with vivid colors and cloud-filled (and often lightning-filled) skies.

Dorothy mostly photographs the small world. Macro and close-up images of nature subjects are her specialty. Worms, insects, birds, and plants are often her models.

Poly provides an artistic outlet for all of these approaches (and many others among our members). What other Photo organization could you find; in which you could see such different photographers and individual expressions embraced, and have all of them succeed at this level?

Coming Events

January 7: Competition

The Project Competition subject is “*Things that are Broken.*” Remember, you must have paid your 2012 Club dues to be able to participate in this competition.

January 21: Workshop

Subject TBA. (See the web site calendar for an update in January.)

February 18: 2011 Year-end Awards Luncheon

It’s not too early to put this date on your calendar. This is the biggest social event of Poly’s year. The people and conversation are great, the food is good, and the venue is spectacular.

This is also the time when all the awards for photographic image excellence, in Competitions during 2011, will be presented to Poly members.

Finally, we’ll all get to see another of Alan’s outstanding audio-visual presentations of the best Poly images of 2011.

Here is a preliminary list of the arrangements:

- Date: Sat. Feb. 18
- Place: Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel
- Time: 11:00 AM to 4 PM (Lunch will be served at approximately 12:00)
- Price: \$26 for members, \$30 for spouses and/or guests
- Cash bar
- Parking included for members and for guests riding in same car with members
- Guest Parking: \$5, if not in same car as member

The Committee is also planning some other interesting activities for the Luncheon, and further announcements will let you know more about them.

Photo Expo West (not)

Many of us have been waiting for this big, local Photo event, with two days of Seminars, equipment sales, and a Trade Show featuring many suppliers and manufacturers showing their latest photo equipment and accessories.

This year’s event has been cancelled; a victim of its own success. Until now, Delkin Devices, one of our local suppliers of memory cards, file storage media and hardware, specialized camera support hardware, and many other unique and hard-to-find digital accessories, has organized and hosted this event.

Here is their announcement:

“Delkin Devices created Photo Expo West in 2005 to bring local San Diego photography stores together with photographers, manufacturers, and world renowned professionals for a weekend of education and networking.

Each year, this show has grown in size and popularity and we’ve been amazed at the turnouts; growing from 500 attendees to well over 5,000 in its sixth year.

Throughout its six years, Photo Expo West has been lucky enough to be hosted on many morning news stations, featured within dozens of photography publications, and written about in countless blogs, club websites and local newspapers. We truly appreciate all of your support, enthusiasm, and loyalty.

As a flash memory and photography accessory manufacturer with customers all over the world, Photo Expo West’s popularity has outgrown Delkin’s ability to effectively plan and manage the event in conjunction with our daily operations. We hope to see this event continue down the road and are welcoming inquiries from tradeshow management operations that may be interested in hosting the event in the future.”



Editor's Desk

Well, we're now at the end of the year, and the holidays are upon us. Thanksgiving has past, and Christmas is rapidly approaching. After a retailer-satisfying "Black Friday," the shopping season is well under way.

Of course, that means that it is time to select, find, and purchase appropriate gifts for our friends and loved ones. Luckily for me, Dorothy is here to help. I've come to understand that she (and most women) are a whole lot better at this shopping and gifting stuff than I am.

But, we Poly members have a real advantage. Many of our friends, and sometimes our relatives, are photographers. And I can't think of a single photographer who doesn't have his/her eye on some new photographic gadget. And if they don't want you to pick out their "photo equipment," how about a photo-related gadget; like this photographer's watch. To the non-photographer, this watch face might not make too much sense, but a photographer will laugh, and understand it immediately.

On the receiving side, we can help our non-photographic friends and relatives by providing our wish lists, with as much specificity as we desire.

I'm sure you can think of many such gifts. So, now I can say that I have done my part to help relieve your Christmas-giving stress.

As is usual for many of us at this time of year, I have been thinking about the holidays and

the new year ahead. I've never been a fan of the classical "New Year's Resolution." But it does seem to be a good time to pause and review and reflect about how and where I want my

(photographic) life to go next year.

We can all say, "I want to work to shoot better pictures." But then, the real question is how to go about that. Maybe it will help you to set your own course if I use myself as an example.

Obviously, I like writing; and I have been a teacher. So I have decided that I would like to do more writing and sharing about photography and image processing next year. I think that will also help my own images. (I'll explain.)

Now I don't want you to think that I believe that I know all there is to know about any aspect of our photographic art. Quite the contrary. I've chosen these goals because they turn out to be synergistic. Experience

has taught me that if I undertake a task to write about or thoroughly explain something, the research into the details and the preparation required to put it into an understandable, logical presentation teach me a lot more about it than I actually knew before. It then becomes clearer, more logical, and more understandable to me. It's one of my own most effective learning tools.

So, Poly Speaks readers, I challenge you all to improve your images by selecting some limited, definable process that will help a particular aspect of your work; and then execute it.



Quote of the Month

"The big problem with Quotes from the Internet is knowing whether or not they are authentic."

. . . *Mark Twain*

Technology

Based on the latest reports, the **Lytro “Light Field Camera”** may soon be available for us to purchase and/or test for ourselves. It has been discussed in the photography press, among our members, and in these pages for the last several months. Finally, Lytro has provided some firm, detailed technical data and shown us their cameras.

After a lot of speculation, we get to see what it looks like. As shown by the picture, it certainly has a non-traditional form factor. Square from the front, its height and width are not much larger than the diameter of its f/2.0 lens. Actual dimensions are 1.5 x 1.5 x 6.0 inches. It looks like there is an LCD viewer at the back surface of the body.

To quote a release from Lytro, The camera’s features include:

- **Form follows function:** The Lytro’s compact design has an 8x optical zoom lens, which features a constant f/2.0 aperture. The Lytro’s anodized aluminum body is lightweight (eight ounces) yet sturdy.
- **Proprietary light field science:** Its innovative light field sensor captures 11 million light rays of data (or 11 megarays), including the direction of each ray. The light field engine then processes the data into a picture that is displayed in HD quality.
- **Unparalleled speed:** The Lytro turns on instantly and has an instant shutter. With no need to auto-focus, the Lytro has no shutter delays.
- **Low-light sensitivity:** By using all of the available light in a scene, the Lytro performs well in low-light environments without the use of a flash.
- **Significant storage:** The Lytro is available in both 8GB and 16GB models, storing 350 and 750 pictures respectively. (*Ed. Note: That’s almost 23 Mbytes per HD image.*) In addition, first camera owners will enjoy free storage for



the light field pictures they’ve uploaded to Lytro.com.

- **Seeing in 3D:** Coming soon! Captured as a full light field, all pictures taken with the Lytro are inherently 3D. Special light field algorithms, available in 2012, will be applied to the light field pictures to enable viewing on any 3D display and to enable viewers to shift the perspective of the scene.

The lens has no aperture control or focusing mount; and exposure is controlled

by shutter speed alone.

The Lytro camera will be available in two models: 8GB (\$399, 350 pictures, in Electric Blue or Graphite) and 16GB (\$499, 750 pictures, in Red Hot). It is now available to order at Lytro.com and will ship in early 2012. The Lytro desktop application will be available initially for the Mac operating system; a Windows version will be available later in 2012.



Lytro has been careful to

not talk about pixels or size of the recorded image; except to say it has HD resolution. Assuming that is the maximum, it would mean that the usual 3x2 digital sensor shape is only 1620x1080 pixels (for a total of 1.75 Mpixels). If it’s square, like the shape of the viewing screen, it would only be about 1.2 Mpixels. Exported as a JPEG, with the same resolution, would mean that it’s OK for viewing on a computer or HDTV; or for projecting with an XGA projector; but it could not be used for making anything but small prints.

So (as Popular Photography noted) it remains to be seen whether this is just the first practical demonstration of “*a technology that could reshape photography – or just be a very cool toy.*”

Duties of Appointed Officers / Committees

By Clark Winsor

In the last two months, we have taken an in-depth look at the duties of the Elected Officers of Poly and the duties of the Executive Board. Now that we have all these high-priced folks in place, it is time to look at another most important part of the puzzle. The Appointed Officers and Committees.

The Monthly Competition Chairperson is in charge of our competitions. It is the responsibility (which may be delegated) of our Competition Chairperson to obtain qualified judges and explain Poly's competition rules to the judge. At year-end, the Chairperson has the responsibility to collect year-end images from the membership, select a panel of judges for the year-end judging, have medals engraved, perpetual high point trophy engraved, and award ribbons inscribed. At the year-end Banquet, our chairperson shall award high point medals to the first, second, and third place winners. *The by-laws go into much greater detail on the duties of the Competition Chairperson, and I encourage you to read Article XI.*

The SCACC Interclub Competition Chairperson shall select images from the monthly competitions and enter them in the SCACC competitions in accordance with the rules and procedures specified by SCACC.

The Refreshment Chairperson shall coordinate and recruit refreshment hosts for the meetings held in the PAB. Right now, we are only asking for refreshments at the competition meetings. In my opinion, that's enough. In addition, the Refreshment Chairperson and all members present should clean up a little after the meetings. There is something in the by-laws about a "Feed

the kitty" can where donations are made to replenish refreshment supplies, but I haven't seen it in a long time; and currently, expenses for club supplies and host reimbursement come from the Club Treasury.

The Annual Banquet Chairperson shall make reservations, set the menu for the banquet, and arrange for the printing and sale of banquet tickets. In addition, the Chairperson shall arrange for a lectern, screen, and microphones to be provided by the facility.

The Equipment Chairperson is responsible for any required projection, sound and related equipment. The Chairperson will make sure that all equipment is stored at the completion of the meeting. In addition, the Chairperson has the responsibility for calibration of the equipment and oversight of the computer configuration. He or she also helps any visitor presenters in their equipment setup and tear down.

The President of the club appoints the chairpersons of all the committees, and the committee chairpersons appoint their committee members. As the need becomes apparent, the President and the Executive Board can and should develop new committees to help do the club's business. If the new committee is going to be permanent or long-term, I think it should be formally defined and written into our By-Laws. Between the 2003 By-Law revision and our 2008 revision, we lost or combined the following committees; Hospitality, Historian, Auditor, and Equipment. Maybe we need to reestablish some of them.

In the Bag

By Stan Bell

Wow! What a year. As we move through the holidays, I wish you and your family joy for the season and a wonderful New Year. I also wish to thank all of you for the kind remarks and support you have given me. It's your feedback that keeps me writing this column. If there is a topic you would like me to cover, email me at mstanb@sbcglobal.net. If I have it, or know anything about, I'll write about it.

In the last article, I talked about the software I use. This month I thought I'd cover a part of the system I just can't do without when I do use my software. It's my Wacom tablet. I specify



Wacom because in an attempt to save a little money, I've use several brands including VisTable and Genius, but the Wacom is by far the best. Wacom has worked directly with Adobe to ensure seamless integration with the Creative Suite. It will also work seamlessly with Elements, Lightroom, Aperture, and Paint Shop Pro, as well as other programs. After using the tablet in PS, using the mouse to draw is a lot like using bread to paint.

The thing that makes the tablet indispensable is the control it gives. Normal, every day digital editing tasks become much easier and more precise. Typical tasks might be

- selecting
- painting
- working with menus
- using PS tools
- drawing dragging, or
- adjustments in dialogue boxes,

A graphics tablet makes them a breeze. If you doubt its usefulness, try drawing the line in the Figure below with a mouse. Good luck. I know that you may never need that line, but its value is that it shows the versatility of the pen. The ability to change any of a dozen or more attributes of a brush just by varying pen pressure or angle or both, in one stroke, simply cannot be underestimated. It gets into the corners and places that are very difficult to get to any other way. It also frees your creative side to do even more than you may have thought possible.

Wacom tablets come in many different versions. Their top of the line models are the Intuos4 line. I use the small model because I have limited desk space. The only difference between the small and other size models is the size and the number of express keys. There are many in-depth reviews in the web (e.g. <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2343763,00.asp>), so I'll just hit the high points that are important for me in the table below:

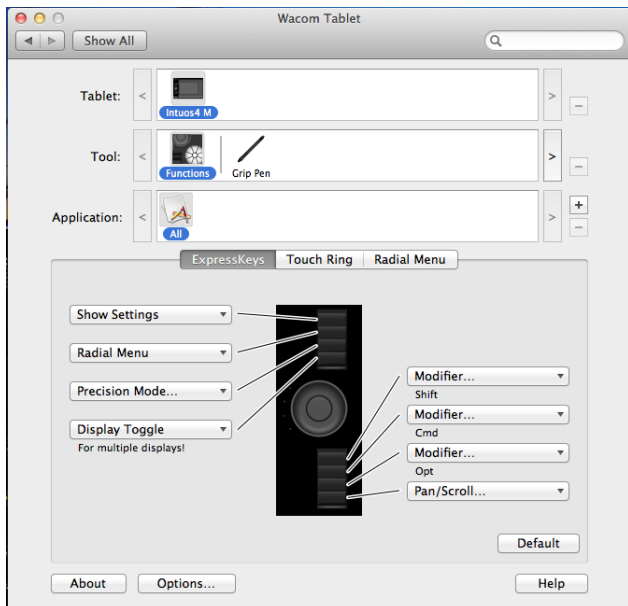
Feature	Value
Active Area	6.2" x 3.9" (157.5mm x 98.4mm)
Advanced Pen Tip Sensor	Yes
Application-Specific Settings	Yes
Compatibility	Mac and PC
Display Toggle	Yes
Express Keys	6
Finger Sensitive Input	User-defined
Touch Ring	Controls up to four functions
Mouse Included	Yes
Physical Size	12.2" x 8.2" x 0.5" (309mm x 208mm x 12mm)
Pressure Levels	2048
Tilt Sensitivity	±60 Degrees
Warranty	2-year in USA and Canada
Weight	1.54 lb. (700 g)

Here are the major things I love about the Intous. The pen performance is wonderful. It is capable of registering up to 2,048 levels of pressure starting with as little as one gram. Like everything on this baby, pressure response may be adjusted. Tilt control makes the pen feel natural. The fully programmable buttons keep key functions a touch away. A selection wheel gives control of things like brush size, screen zoom, or even an onscreen menu with items you set. A number of different pens and nibs are available.



The only thing I don't like is the mouse. I guess it works, but it seems limiting to me. It must be used on the tablet. Since I did not buy it for the mouse, it's no big loss.

The only reason not to get an Intous is the cost. The small model cost about \$200 and they go up from there. If that is an issue and you don't do a lot of photo editing, consider getting a more economical model like the Bamboo. It lacks the



wheel, has fewer buttons and only has 1024 pressure sensitive levels, but it works. I've used Bamboo and models like it for years. Prices start at about \$80. Now that I've used the Intous though, there is no going back.

Tablets are not limited to photo editing. Office as well as many other program, have special features and tools that are designed to be used with a pen. They allow you to handwrite email, enter text by hand anywhere typed text is accepted, navigate your desktop with a flick of the pen, and more.

That's what's in my bag, what's in yours?