



# Photographica Digest

Western Photographic Historical Society

Volume XXIV No.2

[www.wphsociety.org](http://www.wphsociety.org)

February 2017

## ANSEL ADAMS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

*Matin Kebschull*

Please join us at the John P. Schafer Center for Creative Photography (CCP) at the University of Arizona on Saturday, February 18, 1:00-4:00 pm to wish Ansel Adams a very happy 115<sup>th</sup> birthday (Feb. 20, 1902 – Apr. 22, 1984) with a print viewing, lecture, cake, and more!

Chief Curator, Becky Senf, will present a look at Adam's life through her favorite pieces in the Center's archives. For those looking to dive deeper into the archives, Leslie Squyres, Head of Volkerding Study Center, will offer small-group tours of selections from the Adams in the 'From the Vault' exhibition (space is limited, please sign up day of to reserve your spot). Guests can also enjoy a very special Adams print viewing and experience the artist's work up close and unframed. There will also be vintage cameras on display, Adams books to peruse, limerick fun, and cake! Please visit the CCP web site for more details. (*The above was paraphrased from the CCP website.*)

We at WPHS have been exploring what we can offer from our expertise and experience to the CCP to benefit both organizations. WPHS is excited to be underwriting this event (and hopefully others in the future) to further our club's non-profit charter to sponsor educational activities. WPHS may have tables set up at the event, featuring typical equipment Ansel would have used, staffed by WPHS members who can explain and demonstrate items to visitors. We may also have a club table to publicize WPHS and our upcoming March 19<sup>th</sup> camera show.

## Meeting Notice

We are meeting at the Ward 6 Tucson City Council offices at:

3202 E. First Street, Tucson.

The meetings, for the foreseeable future, will be normally on the first Thursday of the month.

The next meeting will be on  
Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## THE NEW WPHS WEB SITE IS ON LINE

*Matin Kebschull*

It has taken some time, but the old web site has been replaced. Matt Cook has been working with the Web site developer and it is online. At present, it only has the most basic details, but we are excited about what is under the hood. We commissioned the web site in order to do a number of things.

**First:** We need to have it written on a platform that we can access readily. The old web site was made on an obsolete software package. It was so obsolete that the web master, Frank Zelis, had to maintain an obsolete computer to run the software needed to access the web site. It would not run on a more modern computer. He had been having problems keeping this computer alive. To make matters worse, as of a month or so back, the web site host (Earth Link) stopped supporting that software, and pulled it off their server. So, we have had absolutely no access to the web site for some time.

We plan to have several persons trained to be able to update content.

**Second:** We want to be able to post our articles to a wider audience than our newsletter alone will reach. This will fulfill part of our non-profit mandate (education). There is a wealth of experience already written up in past newsletter articles. We want to have them accessible by web searches. There will also be an ability to have links to photo sharing sites to store archival pictures of equipment as well

**Third:** We want to be able to host newsgroup(s) and blogs. This is a way that many clubs and organizations utilize the web in the today's world. This will help us broaden our club's member's experiences to the wider web audience of collectors and hobbyists locally (and beyond) that have never heard of us. Also, there will be have an extensive catalogue of links to other clubs, collections, photography sites, etc...

**Fourth:** We want this to be a good way of advertising events we hold as well as with other organizational partners. For instance, the Center for Creative Photography.

So, when you get a chance, please drop by the web site, and poke around. At this point it is pretty basic, but we will be loading it up in the coming weeks. If you have a suggestion, please drop us a line thru the web site, or contact one of the board members.

## EXPOSURE METERS

*Ron Kuykendall*

Paul Garrett frequently would show me his display of exposure meters, some very strange, nice and interesting — but I was more interested in American made cameras at the time. Especially Argus and all Vorseer's accessories for his line of little jewels. Then one day I found something listed as "Better Pictures" — an Argus Pocket Exposure meter. Information I was able to find, indicated it was a "stick of gum" sized advertising give away aimed at those buying one of the Argus A series in the 1930's.



Basically, it was a circular step wedge of blue film. You viewed your scene thru the blue film, rotating the circular dial to locate the best density — a number on the front of the dial could be matched to the Weston number of your film on a slide on the back. The slide gave you a choice of matching shutter speed/aperture combinations. A very interesting system: viewing thru the circular step wedge allowed the photographer to judge the density of the shadows, or the brightness of the highlights or whatever he thought was most important in the scene. This was not the read — the-number system for the whole scene, that the eye could adjust to and give you the wrong reading. Vorseer obviously "echo-vated" this device from the Zeiss Diaphot of the time-using the scientific principles much simplified. The alternative at the time was the printed "Exposure Calculator" — a folding card of tables of film speed, time of day, position of sun, latitude of scene, time of year and other such factors that required time and patience before arriving at the correct exposure. It's hard to understand why the Diaphot system gave way to the error prone read-the-number system in light metering, except that possibly the unsophisticated general photographic public would accept some error in exchange for a simpler no-thinking-required system. I

delight in using the Diaphot system, taking responsibility for the scene density. I have found the Argus Pocket Exposure meter to be accurate within one half stop of my Weston IV meter.

The dominating system seen in almost all the exposure devices of this era, are read-the-dimmest-number-in-a-strip-of-step-film type (extinction meter). They came in all sizes and configurations. Most common were the numbers 1-6 viewed thru a small aperture-inside a hand-held device. They came in all sizes. A metal box about 1 inch long and ¼ inch square, made by Wirgin, was placed on the front of a TLR so you could read the proper number as you framed your image in the camera's viewer. A hump on the top of the top plate thru which you viewed the scene before using the viewfinder (as Verschoor did on his Argus A series 35mm cameras) or later cameras. A box placed under the bottom plate as on the Perfect Super Candid. Some later 35mm cameras had a small circular density disk in the viewfinder or next to it so you could view the scene and the exposure at the same time.

There were an incredible number of hand held exposure devices that used the step wedge/number system, many appear to have been made in basement or garage workshops. Names like Nibor, appeared everywhere — all with a strip of film with numbers and a dial or chart to indicate the exposure. Some of the numbered strips or circular dots appeared in rangefinders that measured the height of a subject's face, or split-image finders with an extra viewer for the exposure strip.

All of this ingenuity was replaced by the selenium meter, starting with the early Weston followed by GE and hundreds of copies. Bell and Howell first placed a meter in a camera that controlled the aperture in the late 1930's, instead of an indicator needle there was a disc with a slot aperture behind the lens — the first "automatic" camera. A nice idea but the disk was large enough, if the camera was dropped, the disk broke, which is the current condition of almost all B&H Automatic cameras.

### ATTENTION WPHS MEMBERS

The club is interested in purchasing your camera collection.  
Please contact me at:

Imre dePozsgay

520-544-7784

## CALL TO ARTISTS

ArtsEye Gallery and Photographics Works is holding their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Curious Camera Event 2017.

The Curious Camera Competition is a friendly photo competition calling on artists worldwide to embrace the unpredictability and fascination of photography using their favorite cameras and processing techniques.

Images must be made with one of the following camera categories or processing techniques:

- Pinhole: homemade or manufactured
- Plastic Lens: Holga, Diana, Blackbird Fly, etc.
- Vintage: older than 1960; ex: No. 2 Brownie, Leica II etc.
- Instant: Polaroid, Fuji Instax, Impossible, etc.
- Alternative Process: Cyanotype, Vandyke, Gum Bichromate, Salt, Lumen, etc

Submission deadline is Sunday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Midnight.

For complete details on the Curious Camera Competition, please visit:

[www.curiouscamera.com](http://www.curiouscamera.com)

*The above information was collected from the competition's web page.*



**Come  
Join Us!**



Hotel Tucson

475 N Granada Tucson, AZ

Hours: 9:30 to 2:00

Info: 520-544-7784

**March 19, 2017**

59<sup>th</sup> Annual WPHS  
Camera and  
Photographica  
Sale, Swap, & Show

Admission

General Admission: \$5.00

Students/Military Free

with ID

**www.wphsociety.org**  
Western Photographic Historical Society

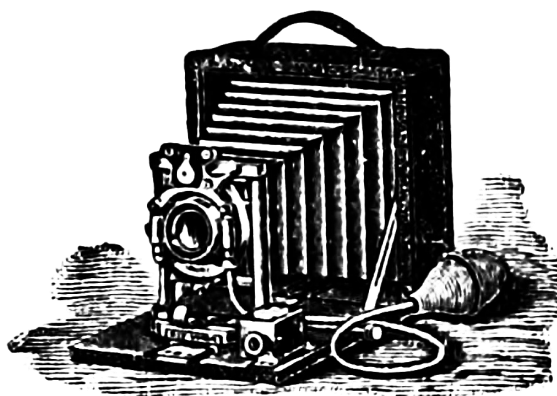
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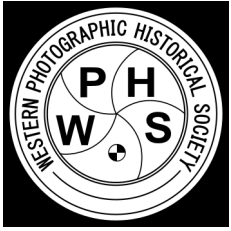
### Board Members

Mark Sawyer.....President  
(Open) ..... Vice-President  
Jozef Pacholczyk ..... Secretary  
Martin Kebschull..... Treasurer  
Imre de Pozsgay.....Consignments  
Robert Suomala..... Programs  
Matt Cook  
Candee de Pozsgay  
Ed Jackson  
Brian Nemetz .....*Photographica Digest* Editor  
Jerry O'Neill..... Ex Officio

### Committee Members

Jerry Day..... Student Support  
Clayton Wilson ..... Setup  
Mark Sawyer..... Education  
Ron Kuykendall.....Donations





## Western Photographic Historical Society

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Email: [postmaster@wphsociety.org](mailto:postmaster@wphsociety.org)

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Monthly Meeting

Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> Monthly Meeting

Mar 19<sup>th</sup> 59<sup>th</sup> Annual WPHS Camera and Photographica  
Sale, Swap, & Show

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 February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Join us at a new meeting place, the Ward 6 Tucson City Council offices at:

3202 E. First Street, Tucson.

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