



# Photographica Digest

Western Photographic Historical Society

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www.wphsociety.org

June 2015

## WPHS Board of Directors Meeting Notes

*R. A. Suomala*

The Board of Directors 2nd quarter meeting for 2015 was held on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The board voted to certify the bylaws amendment approved by the membership, allowing the current treasurer, secretary and consignment director to be remain in office.

Robert Suomala vacated the office of president due to personal reasons. Vice President, Mark Sawyer will perform the duties of president for the remainder of 2015.

The board discussed the possibility that the Pima County Medical Society may not be available in the future for our monthly meeting. The board is actively looking for an alternate location. Any suggestions would be helpful.

The board voted to eliminate the July and August meetings. Monthly meetings will begin again in September.

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## High School Photo Contest

*Jerry Day*

This year's high school photo contest ranked as the third best over the 20 year period. Eight high schools with 99 of their students participated in the contest. The theme this year was "The World of Nature" which generated a variety of exceptional photographs. All of the photos were displayed at our April 12<sup>th</sup> annual camera show where the judging also took place. Judges this year were Joann Garrett, Robert Koons and Gary Larson. They selected the following five winners: First place award to Chase Alloway from Sabino, second place to Ivanna Arizpe from Salpointe, third place to Alyssa Forbes from Sabino plus two honorable mentions Tori Sweeker and Sada Pias both from Flowing Wells.

All of the students were honored and awarded their prizes at our monthly meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Four students and their families were able to

attend the meeting. One student, a senior, could not attend because of graduation obligations, but her photo teacher came to the meeting and accepted the award on her behalf. Such teacher's support is greatly appreciated.

For the last 20 years I have mailed out letters and contest rules to 25 or more high schools in Southern Arizona. However, the participation by high schools has been disappointing. This year only 8 high schools out of a mailing of 28 entered the contest. That is less than a 4 percent response.

There are probably a number of factors that have influenced the poor showing over the years. The one obvious problem now has been the decline of photo teachers and dark room facilities. The timing of our photo contests may sometimes conflict with a high school's curriculum or the photo teacher's lesson plans. This year two teachers who came to the show reported they made the contest a class project and submitted 25 prints each or half of the total prints entered. I know of five high schools with photo teachers who did not enter the contest this year. My plans are to contact these schools to see what we can do differently that might help them be a part of our contest in the future.

I would like to thank Jones Photo for their support and dedication to our annual photo contest. They have graciously been the collection site for photo entries submitted by the students and teachers.



Left to right: Jerry, Tori, Ivanna, Chase, Alyssa

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## 2015 Spring Camera Show

*Martin Kebschull*

Final stats:

5 memberships (half of last year which was less than the year before). We have less than 90 members, currently.

We had **double** the attendance of last year at 109 attendees, (92 of them paid to get in). We did a much better job getting the word out to the attendees.

31 vendors (least in the last 3 years). About ¼ of the dealers were new, but a large number of previous dealers didn't come because of conflicting shows or marginal success from previous shows.

The show expenses were just under \$1400. The show paid for itself between the gate and the table sales, with \$300 to spare to go towards the club's expenses.

While we physically sold a lot of items, the amount we grossed from the sales was just a bit over \$2k (the lowest in 4 years). 28 consignment items grossed \$934, the education account getting 20% of this. Much of these sales came from 2 recent consignments. The 74 donated items sold brought in \$1127 (100% of this goes into the education account). Jones photo was kind enough to facilitate the donation of a very complete Nikonos V outfit (including 2 of most everything, including bodies), which we were able to sell for a very nice price in the first 5 min of opening. Thanks Jones Photo!!

### **My Observations:**

Great response to the wet plate demonstration put on by Mark and Garrett. I believe that to have been a real asset (and draw) to the show. There was a buzz of activity all day there. One new dealer, brought his kids specifically for this. I know this because when he came in to check in, before he asked where his table was, he asked where and when they were going to start so he could tell his wife.

Kudos to the sales staff for an incredible improvement in the way the money and receipts matched up. The discipline there helped make the accounting much easier than usual.

The Depozsgay's decision to rent a truck made the loading/unloading so much faster and efficient. It also allowed us to bring everything

in from the storeroom. As such, there was a lot there that sold that had been hanging around for some time. We probably could have used a few more club tables to spread things out a bit better.

The set up went extremely fast considering we were not able to come in the night before and do much pre-work. The folks that volunteer know how to do it and they really shined this time.

Thanks to all that helped make this show a reality. The volunteers put in lots of extra hours, getting there early on Sunday to set up, and staying till everything was packed back up in the truck.

By the way, we have tentatively set the date for next years show to be 3/13/2016, pencil in your calendars!

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## Ciro 35

*Ron Kuykendall*

Candid Camera Corp existed before WWII. The legend is that a salesman wanted Leonard Gecki to design a 35mm camera that had attached every accessory advanced amateur photographer would desire. The was a heavy plastic bodied monstrosity sold as the Speed Candid. Basically a large rectangular box with a long base rangefinder box on the top deck and an extinction meter in a long box attached to the bottom with a Wollensak lens between. The back was flat and removable, hiding America's first 35mm focal plane shutter- usually the first part of the camera to fail. Controls were not natural and the big body did not balance well- yet it sold moderately well.

After WWII, Gacki expanded the CCC line of cameras with a much better designed rectangular cast metal box and several models- all still prone to shutter problems as the metal curtain shafts had no bearings, just a hole in the casting. Economics of the late 1940's required a shift to stamped metal bodies and Wollensak



lens/shutter units. As CCC was dying in 1949, Gecki designed something uncharacteristically beautiful.

A cast metal, small for the time, round ended, beautifully cast metal, well designed, well balanced 35mm rangefinder camera known as the Cee-Ay. With a choice of two Wollensak lenses, but no accessories, the camera was equal to any in its market. Rangefinder was split image, separate window, flash shutter with possibly the first hotshoe on the top deck, helical focusing lens mount with a lever for the left fingertips. Shutter was Wollensak single stroke, film advance was by knob- but inside, the knob pulled the film across the film plane and a sprocket shaft that spaced the film and set the counter. There was a release button next to the wind knob but no double exposure prevention. Controls are natural and logical to use- but I found my right forefinger naturally blocked the right rangefinder window.

An attractive camera it might have reversed CCC's misfortunes. It appeared on the market in the spring of 1949 and CCC filed for bankruptcy at the end of the year. In a unique deal, Ciro Camera, a new company that had just moved from Chicago to Delaware, Ohio, obtained the camera, parts, assembly line, tools, and the executive to set up the new production facility in Ohio. In a few months, the Cee-Ay re-appeared as the Ciro 35. The only change was the name and the letters R, S, T, designating the level of Wollensak optics. Camera design and materials reflected those of the Ciroflex. Both were almost indestructible and above average performers.

When the twin lens (and 120 rollfilm) market began to fail, Ciro sold to Graflex in 1954. The Ciroflex became Graflex with only cosmetic changes. The Cee Ay/Ciro 35 sold unchanged for a few years, then morphed into the maddening Graflex 35 with its push-pull focusing buttons that few could master- especially as the mechanism became stiffer with use. The Cee-Ay design was able to compete with the American made Kodak Signet 35, Bolsey B, Argus C of the 1940's but when the better designed, better lensed, cheaper Japanese rangefinder cameras began to become available, the Graflex/Ciro cameras disappeared about 1973. For those interested, they all are available on ebay and are still solid

picture takers but of course film and chemicals are only available from a few sources.

Leonard Gacki went on to design processing equipment for film and x-ray applications.

## Summer Break

There will be no July and August monthly meetings. The "Summer Break" ends and the month meetings will start again in September.

**www.wphsociety.org**

Western Photographic Historical Society

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

### Board Members

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Mark Sawyer..... 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



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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

- Jun 4<sup>th</sup> June meeting; Ron Kuykendall and Ed Jackson will explore their camera collections.
- Jul 2<sup>nd</sup> No Meeting — Summer Break.
- Aug 6<sup>th</sup> No Meeting — Summer Break.
- Sep 3<sup>rd</sup> Monthly meetings resume! Ron Kuykendall and friends will present a program devoted to the Universal Camera Company and its products.

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 June 4<sup>th</sup>

Join us on the first Thursday of every month (except for summer months) at the Pima County Medical Society Building located at 5199 E. Farness Drive, Tucson. Take Grant to Rosemont (turn South), then turn East on Farness Drive to 5199 on the left.

Consignment and member camera sales, show and tell and a brief lecture are featured every month meetings run from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

**All are welcome!**

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