



# Photographica Digest

Western Photographic Historical Society

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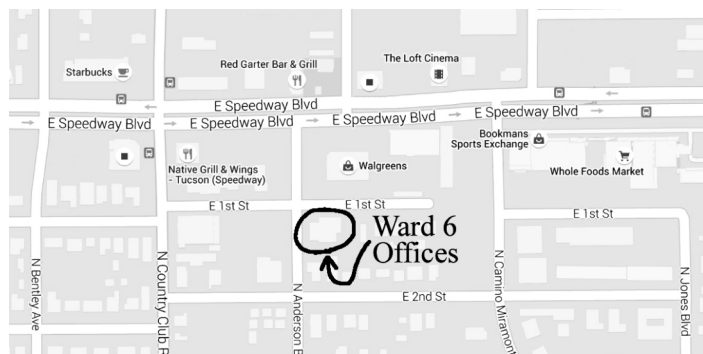
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December 2015

## Notice

### Meeting Location Change

We are now meeting at the Ward 6 Tucson City Council offices at 3202 E. First Street, Tucson. Our December meeting will be Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Hopefully, we can resume first Thursdays as a regular schedule thereafter.



### The Reid Park Darkroom

*Martin Kebschull*

For those of you that are unaware, Tucson Parks and Recreation holds photography digital and film photographs classes here in town. In addition, there is a very complete, extensively equipped darkroom for black and white film developing and printing.

I heard about this by word of mouth some years back. I had wanted to learn about the darkroom for some time so I signed up for the class. I liked it so much, that I became a darkroom regular for a few years, mostly on Saturdays. I stopped going about 7 years ago as my life started to have too many conflicts. However, I really enjoyed that experience and hope to return there as a regular at some point in the future (when life isn't as much in the way).

The following are some of my observances:

The classroom/darkroom is tucked away in the back of one of the three small class room type buildings that are part of the Reid Park's Randolph Recreation Center, on the east side of Reid Park.

The film class is offered on Wednesday nights

between 6 and 9. It's called a class, but in reality, it more like a workshop. There is a resident instructor Raymond, who will instruct you on the process of taking pictures, as well as developing. Most of the class members are regulars, and use the class time for darkroom time. If you already understand the process, Ray will check you out on the process and let you loose to create. Keep in mind, this is a public space so you have to respect everyone's needs.

On Saturdays it's open lab. It's stated intent is for the photography class members, but non class members can work in the lab with Ray's approval. He won't let anyone that isn't checked out on the process/equipment work on Saturdays, as it is intended to be mostly unsupervised. The hours are 9 am to Noon.

The digital class runs from 1-3:30 on Saturday, but I don't know much about it. Just judging from the pictures posted in the class room, they do some good work in there.

The classes run for 6 week semesters, with a break in between. According to the current fee schedule, the registration fee is \$101 per semester for Tucson Residents.

FYI, in my experience, once the instructor, Ray, has checked you out, you can get a punch pass to use the facility, space permitting (and with his permission). Class members are given first priority though.

For more information you can look up Tucson Parks and Recreation on the web, call 791-4877, or go by the Randolph Rec center office and converse in person. The rec center also has a catalogue that explains the course (as well as all the others that are offered there and all over Tucson). And, you can get to that online as well.



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

### CAMERA CLUB MEETING

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 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!!

**Please bring a refreshment (light snacks) to share.**

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

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## Sputnik Stereo

*Ron Kuykendall*

Some time ago, I saw several listings on eBay for the Russian Sputnik stereo camera, at the time possibly the only stereo camera in production for the amateur market. I have a 35mm Revere and an Eho Stereo Box that I use occasionally-but this was interesting. I exchanged email and bought a Sputnik from a seller in Pakistan who identified himself to be the younger son of an American-Pakistani news photographer who was one of the founders of the APA — an association of American news photographers. The APA was having a national convention in Tucson that spring and we agreed to look for each other at the display area. The

camera itself arrived in a Toyota parts box, wrapped in canvas and sealed with wax — very interesting.



The camera necessitated a lot of research; I knew it had a poor reputation. The lens was the better quality T-22 from the Lubitel series—three element cooke anastigmat 3.5. This one tested to be of low quality — similar to the first anastigmats on wooden roll film cameras. The camera body is no more sophisticated, basically a large shiny black Bakelite box derived from placing two Lubitel's base to base. The backs of each Lubitel are hinged at the front-right and left-and meet in the center of the back. A thin metal attachment is supposed to prevent light entering the camera at the center. The Lubitel backs fit into grooves in the body to form light traps, usually not totally successfully as there is no felt to block bouncing rays of light off the shiny black surfaces.

On the internet I found a series of modifications to improve image quality. The inside of the film chambers were painted with flat black paint, reducing internal reflections off the glossy black Bakelite surfaces. I also added lens hoods to protect the protruding first lens elements. With several rolls of film I noticed no evidence of light leaks, I also took the precaution of using the high quality cardboard carry case to keep light away from the camera back. A ¼ inch screw adapter for the tripod socket and a cable release were used — highly recommended for close stereo work. The focus and aperture controls are not difficult to use, but the shutter release is miniscule and often obstructed by the case.

The shutter is 15-30-60-125, the lenses coated

F3.5, focusing to 1 meter. There were some difference in the two images, so I dismantled both lenses and reassembled them. One element seemed to not be tightly secured in place and images were much better after correcting this. Reflex focusing is the latest version – no ground glass. A field lens with a small ground glass focusing spot worked very well. There is an eyelevel finder in the hood. At this point the camera responded rather well, although I found very little difference between Sputnik close-ups and those from my Eho Stereo Box camera with rectilinear lenses fitted with standard auxiliary close-up lenses. The difference is apparent in mid-range subjects; focus with the Eho is a little softer overall but only the very close and the very distance subjects seem to be out of stereo range. The Sputnik will focus selectively but of course very distant subjects will not be in stereo. Stereo effect of distant subjects is much more responsive to the distance between the lenses.

Anyway, an interesting item — but not exciting. I decided to return to my Eho Stereo Box for stereo close-ups – it's more fun to use.



**The WPHS is always accepting Consignment  
or Donations for our upcoming**

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Western Photographic Historical Society

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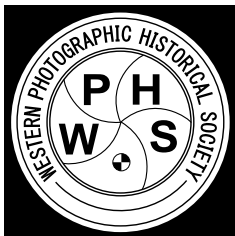
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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Monthly meeting (Tuesday)  
Holiday Gift Exchange.  
Program: "Hummingbirds in My Front  
Yard" by Dr. Brien Harvey.

Mar 20<sup>th</sup> **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 December 1<sup>st</sup>

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