



PANORAMA

THE JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PANORAMIC PHOTOGRAPHERS

Volume 28

Great Smoky Mountain Stream



The International Association of Panoramic Photographers is the premier organization dedicated to creating a membership network to educate, promote, exchange artistic and technical ideas, share information, and expand public awareness regarding Panoramic Photography. For more information go to our website at www.panoramicassociation.org.

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**2011 CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PANORAMIC PHOTOGRAPHERS**

Gatlinburg, Tennessee | October 2011

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Left to Right, top row: Dawn and Bryan Snow, Glenn Cope, David Orbock, George Pearl. Second row: David Nichols, Mark Segal, not in attendance: David Lawrence.

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Cover photograph: Bryan Snow, Falls in Great Smoky Mountain.



P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

—David Orbock

With my term as President coming to an end, I would like to share some of the highs and lows of my presidency and offer some suggestions for the future of our organization.

Our Tucson 2010 meeting in conjunction with the IVRPA was extremely successful. Attendance was very good, the technical presentations were very informative, and the visual displays of panoramic images from both groups were impressive. In addition to photographing in the Tucson area I had the added pleasure of visiting Big Bend National

Park with my son just before the meeting. Camping and hiking in this park is fantastic and the ever changing terrain lends itself to many successful 360 degree images.

Our just completed Gatlinburg 2011 International Conference was another highly successful meeting with members from Mexico, Canada and the USA in attendance. All

attendees thoroughly enjoyed the presentations, the HDR workshop, and the early morning outings to Elkmont, Clingman's Dome, Cades Cove, and Laurel Falls.

Even though the above meetings were enjoyed by the many attendees, it was the efforts of just a few members that ensured the meeting arrangements & program were successfully completed. One future objective of the Board is to have increased member participation in all I.A.P.P. activities.

The banquet which followed the above meeting gave me an opportunity to present Life Membership Awards to Will Landon and Michael Westmoreland. Both individuals have made significant contributions





George Pearl gives a surprised David Orbock a plaque of thanks for his fearless leadership during this time of change.

to the I.A.P.P. for many years. Exhibitions of their photographs along with those of Life Member, Michel Dusariez, were displayed at the conference.

During the last 18 months we have been very fortunate to have had Dawn and Bryan Snow on the I.A.P.P. Board. Both have taken their jobs as treasurer and secretary, respectively, very seriously and both will be sorely missed on the next board. In addition to her treasurer's responsibilities, Dawn has taken on the added burden of Webmaster. With the help of a generous donation from an anonymous member, Dawn has been able to upgrade our web site. There is still more to be done and she has volunteered to continue as webmaster. Bryan initiated the *e-Monitor* and has been extremely punctual with its publication. He has also volunteered to continue as publisher of both the *e-Monitor* and journal. Many thanks to both Dawn and Bryan for their support. You can help make Bryan's job easier by contributing panoramic images and articles for both the *Journal* and *e-Monitor*. Also, suggestions for improving our web site should be sent to Dawn. We are currently and desperately trying to find candidates for Secretary, Treasurer, President Elect, and four Directors. If you have been a member for at least one year, you are eligible to volunteer to fill these vacancies. Our bylaws also call for many standing committees which,

in most instances, have been staffed by members of the board. If after reading the bylaws, you would like to be a member of a specific committee please contact a board member to volunteer.

Several of our members are going ahead with plans for international workshops. These include venues in:

- Burgundy, France – Summer 2012
- Havana, Cuba – May/June 2012
- Mexico City, Mexico – 2013
- Peyresq, France – 2014 (this will be our 3rd meeting in Peyresq)

The 1 Jan 2012 *e-Monitor* will have more information on these outings.

PPA members recently received a notice that the PPA insurer was going to cover equipment damage (up to \$15K) for all PPA members. If you have equipment to insure, you should consider joining the PPA just to get the "free" insurance. The I.A.P.P. also benefits in that we can become an affiliate of P.P.A. if we have enough members. This affiliation carries lots of benefits for I.A.P.P. members.



Of course, David had a few words to share!

As a charter member of I.A.P.P. and a professional photographer, I have attended numerous workshops and all of our international conventions. I look forward to meeting other photographers and old friends to share our photographic visions. I encourage all members to make plans to attend the mentioned workshops and our next international convention in 2013.

FULL PANORAMIC 360° PAIRS OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN 3D TAKEN BY KITE

—Michel Duxariez, I.A.P.P. Life Member, www.pano360.org - Belgium

Most readers of I.A.P.P. publications know my experiments about full 360° panoramas in 3D, made years ago, for which I received in 1996 the DE BOELPAEPE prize from the ROYAL ACADEMY of BELGIUM - Science Class - for my work in full 360° panoptic stereoscopic 3D photography.

Official description: For a new process combination to produce panoramic photographic images covering 360° horizontally and 110° vertically, on the same film, in one single take, with a special prototype camera, allowing the reproduction of complete stereoscopic relief in 360° with the help of a special viewer.

Before catching the “panorama” virus, I gave, by the creation of the “Kite Aerial Worldwide Association (KAPWA)”, new life to “the modern practice of using a kite to make aerial photographs”, invented by Arthur BATUT in 1888 in *Labruguière -Tarn-France*. (Quarterly French/English publication during 10 years).

As a (now retired) optician, at that time, I practiced 3D stereo photography as a matter of course. What was bound to happen, happened: the three disciplines, kite aerial photography, full 360° panoramic photography and 3D technique combined.

To achieve these experiments I chose to work with two CANON IXUS 55 cameras triggered by the CHDK procedure.

I made a 90cm wide rig, rotated by a small electric motor. Thanks to a programming disc it takes 15 pairs of pictures - one every 24° during each 360° rotation. The two cameras in portrait position are attached at each end



The machine





3D aerial panorama made by kite by Michel DUSARIEZ with the help of Stanislas ELENIS on September 13, 2011

of the rotating rig. An automatic timer allows it to make 4 complete rotations (60 pictures) in each flight. The start is delayed by 30 seconds to 6 minutes to give the rig time to stabilize at the right altitude. This rig rotates at the end of a 2 meters rod for the ascension, the rod being attached to the kite line at approximately 75m from the kite. The total weight is less than 2 kg.

For an additional 100 gr. I can add a radio remote control to allow me to start the rotating procedure at the best time.

The kite used is a very stable Rokkaku kite of about 2 square meters.

After taking the two series of pictures I stitched the best matching 15 photographs in each series - the left and right ones - with a stitching software.

To show the results, I can print anaglyphs, or much better, use the

Viewmagic - over/under viewing system, in which the two picture prints - left and right (each 10 cm high) - are placed one above the other and viewed in 3D with the device.

Quite a long time elapsed between the emergence of the idea and its realization, because I was unsure about the feasibility of the flying device and the final results of the process.

Feel free to ask questions if you attempt to try the system on the field.

Owners of a Viewmagic over/under viewer or of a red/green anaglyph viewer may request files of "Over/under photo pairs" or "Anaglyph" to see them in 3D on their computers. Here is my email address: dusariez@pano360.org

Regards.





CONFERENCE CONTEST

BEST OF SHOW



Jeff Orbock

CITYSCAPE CATEGORY



1st place, Paul Speaker



2nd place, David Nicholas

LANDSCAPE CATEGORY



1st Place, Bryan Snow



2nd Place, Jeff Orbock

OTHER CATEGORY



1st Place, Bryan Snow



2nd Place, Fran Stetina

These images are shown as we saw them with their awards. For full versions, go to our website. www.panoramicassociation.org

A big thank you to all the entrants. The images were all wonderful. And a huge thank you to Fran Stetina for the planning, organizing and setting up all the displays for this year's conference.

THE PHOTO CONTEST OF 2011

... and why we didn't have one!

When a good idea comes to us, we should try to grab on to it. In 2011, this great idea occurred to us. One of our members holds a great, well run, well accepted panoramic photo contest.

Dave Evans runs a tight ship at the Epson PanoAwards. His entry fee is attractive and his user interface is fabulous. Speaking from a judge's perspective: the virtual workspace he set up for each judge was easy to use. Since we are all photographers & we'd rather be shooting, why should the I.A.P.P. try to build an interface that is workable, attractive and easy to navigate when one of our members already has this process working and is successful. Heck, his whole process is just better than what we can imagine! The other aspect of our decision to support Dave's contest was the idea that we should support each other. After all, that is one of the benefits of membership. Several long-time panoramists and members volunteered their services as judge: Tom Bleich, George Pearl, David Nicholas, Michel Dusariez, David Lawrence & Dawn Snow. Christian Fluery was a returning judge from the previous year's contest. The I.A.P.P.

also welcomed 19 new members to our organization as part of their awards packages.

The judging was intense. The images were breathtaking. And I have to say, that through judging, my own imagery has taken on a new life. But words fail.

Benefits of participating in activities such as contests include critical improvement in your technical skills and the honing of your personal vision. The entries were all presented to the judges as anonymous. I had no idea whose image I was seeing. But, I noticed when I approached the 400 image mark, I could recognize styles. I could say, without a doubt, that "these two (three or four) images" were taken by the same person. It was an interesting exercise for my own photography as well, making me realize that I, too, need to enter more contests. From nature contests to fine art contests, niche photographic contests to very generalized photography, contests are a way of making you a better photographer, a better documentarian of the world found around us.

If you Google "Photo Contests" you will find many contests. Sometimes the return is great. But sometimes, like the I.A.P.P., the

really good ones do not return with wonderful search engine results. David Orbock alerted me to Cafe: Call for entries (clearing house for many fine art contests), and The International Color Awards. The Nature Conservancy has a monthly contest as do your local art museums (San Antonio does!). Personally, I really like the Epson PanoAwards. As I mentioned before Dave Evans, a kindred spirit, really does a fine job. I know he currently working on next year's contest, wrangling better prizes and I think its going to be bigger and better than ever. I cannot wait to judge again.

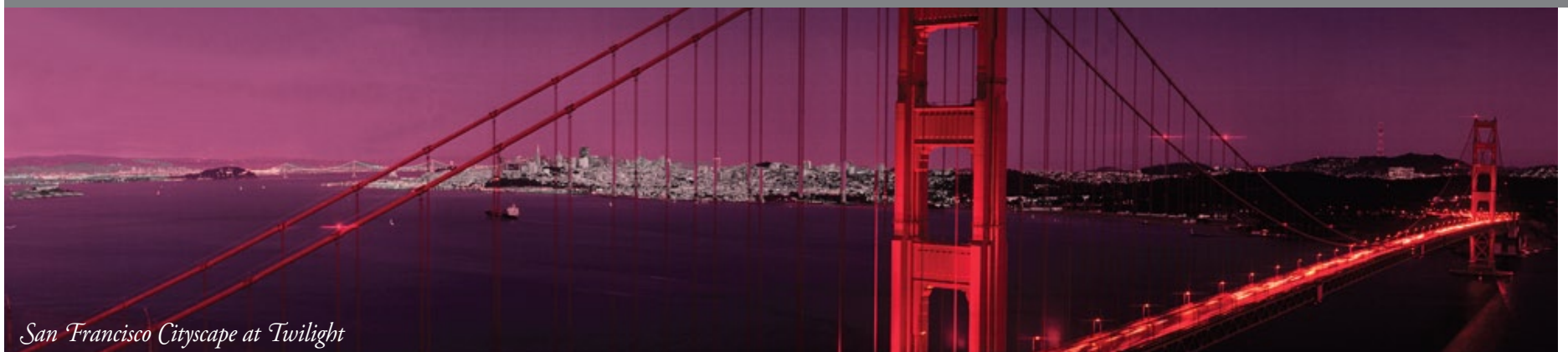
Final words? Enter a contest, any contest. It will improve your photography, it will improve your art, it will improve you! (We received so many award winning images we couldn't run them all here. Some hard choices had to be made and we could only run one image from each photographer who submitted their winning images to us. In order to see all the images they sent us, head over to the website.) So, with no further ado: here are the winning images entered by our members — in no particular order!

2011 EPSON PANOAWARDS: TOM ANTHONY



Surfers Paradise

2011 EPSON PANOAWARDS: FRAN STETINA

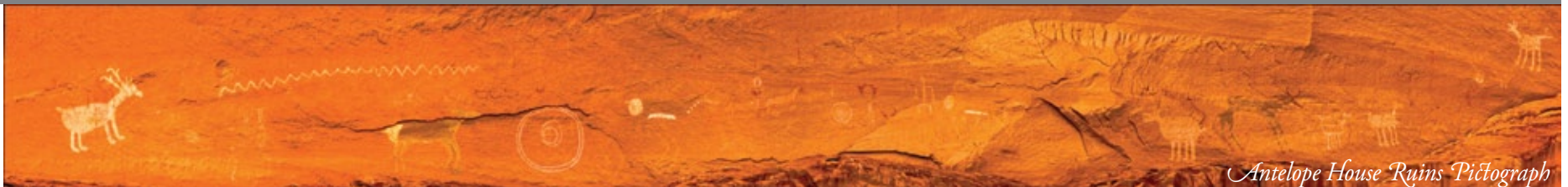


San Francisco Cityscape at Twilight

2011 EPSON PANOAWARDS: LUDWIG FRANZ



2011 EPSON PANOAWARDS: N. VIJAYAN



2011 EPSON PANOAWARDS: FRAN GARDINO



2011 EPSON PANOAWARDS: UGO RATTI



2011 EPSON PANOAWARDS: JIM RUFF



2011 EPSON PANOAWARDS: GRAHAM LEGGATE



2011 EPSON PANOAWARDS: GRAHAM MACFARLANE





EDITOR'S NOTE

In the past the I.A.P.P. published its PANORAMA *Journal* four times per year. It was eagerly awaited by the membership because it contained articles about a subject that was dear to us all - panoramas! It contained articles about far-away places and panoramic photographs that made us all want to pack up our photo gear and get out and shoot. It told the membership about upcoming workshops and about the happenings at workshops and conferences that we might not have been able to attend. It made us all feel a part of something larger than just the familiar locales in our immediate neighborhoods. It was a physical entity that bound the members of the International Association of Panoramic Photographers together no matter where they were or how far the nearest member was to us. It was a member-benefit that was eagerly awaited every three months.

Then, as with many other organizations, the I.A.P.P. fell on hard times. With the information age exploding during the past two decades, the internet connected members and non-members as never before. Information on panoramic photography was instantly at the fingertips of all who wished to search for it. Not surprising, the information on panoramic photography that used to be found primarily by becoming a member of I.A.P.P. was now available to anyone and everyone who had access to a computer and a connection to the internet. Membership dropped. From what once had been an organization of nearly 600, the numbers fell to less than 200. With the drop in membership came an identical drop in revenue, and with less money in the coffers, there was less money to pay for the item that cost more than anything else to our organization – *The PANORAMA Journal*.

What once came out four times per year, now dropped to three times. Then

twice per year. Then sadly, sometimes, not at all. This is where we found ourselves at the end of the Tucson conference in April of 2010. Our website was woefully out of date, and we needed to get another issue of *The PANORAMA Journal* out as quickly as possible. What could we do?

In the summer of 2010 we created and sent out to all of our members a questionnaire, asking them to tell us what they wanted; what was important to them. We asked necessary questions of our membership – were they professional photographers; where would they like to go for the next I.A.P.P. conference; which aspects of the I.A.P.P. were most important and which were least important; these and more questions were asked of the membership in the hopes of finding a way to rejuvenate this organization. And the results came in. Out of the entire membership we received less than one third of the questionnaires returned. That was rather disheartening, but not surprising. It was about an average response for most organizations. So we began to analyze what our membership told us. Most important to the membership was communication – *The PANORAMA Journal* and the website. This is what our members wanted – to have some sort of communication about panoramic photography, and not just once per year or less. They wanted a working website that they could turn to without seeing the same out-of-date information on the front page that they had seen 4 months ago. We learned many things about our membership (see the full analysis in the October 2010 issue of the *e-Monitor*) and it was time to try to give them what they wanted.

We started with the publication. We were late in getting the next issue of *The PANORAMA Journal* out, but not by much. We looked at the cost of creating

IT MADE US ALL
FEEL A
PART
OF SOMETHING
LARGER ...



Bryan Snow, Editor

and printing the Journal and the Board decided that we just didn't have the funds to print it and mail it out. So we made it into an electronic version and did a small printing run through LuLu for those members that just had to have a printed version to read. This saved us nearly \$3,000. To counteract the disappointment of not having a totally printed *Journal* we originated a new I.A.P.P. publication called the *e-Monitor*, and established it as a monthly electronic newsletter. As was stated in the first issue – this publication was not designed to replace the Journal, only to be a supplement to it – something for the membership to read while they awaited the Journal. Because of the cost of layout, printing, and mailing, the Journal was now about \$5,000 per issue and it was decided to make the Journal a yearly publication. In this way it would concentrate on giving the membership a look at the I.A.P.P. conference and the results of the yearly Photographic Competition and the conference Photo Contest. In other words – plenty of panoramic photography. This would be printed only if we made money on the I.A.P.P. conference and did not lose money as we had in the past. The good news for this year is that we did make enough money on the conference that it would fund the printed PANORAMA *Journal*. We could save money by not paying for the layout of the Journal but have members volunteer

to do it (the volunteer is an award winning graphic artist who has done this for a living so it will be first rate). The result is what you see in your hands.

The second part of the communication problem was solved by an anonymous donor who provided enough funds for the I.A.P.P. to hire a professional web designer who, with the stated goals from the Board, created the current website that we have now. It includes a members-only section where paid members have access to materials that are provided by their dues; a "Find a Photographer" section; a section for member galleries, and much, much more. In fact, it has so much capability that most of the Board members have yet to become familiar with all of it.

Over the past year the I.A.P.P. has responded positively to many of the concerns that the membership has had of our organization. We have put in place fiscal limitations so that we will no longer spend more money than we take in. We have limited the Journal to a once-per-year publication that does what many members wanted – show panorama photographs, and we have put in place an electronic publication, the *e-Monitor* that comes out monthly. And I am proud to announce that in the 16 months that it has been in publication it has been released ON TIME every single month. We are not resting our small amount of laurels. We have more things coming in the future for our members. Look for another questionnaire in the next few months and this time, PLEASE complete it and send it back to us.

In conclusion, there is one thing that the Board cannot do for the membership. It cannot do everything. Membership requires input from each and every member, whether it is the filling out and sending back of a questionnaire, or writing articles for the *e-Monitor* and PANORAMA *Journal*. It requires the membership to be more than lurkers. If you just want information on panoramic photography then you needn't be a member of the I.A.P.P., you can just Google the term on the internet (at last count there were 4,580,000 results, good hunting). If you want the best that panoramic photography has to offer then being a member of the I.A.P.P. is not just a privilege you earn by paying your dues. You earn it by participation, by writing articles, by volunteering as Board members or working on a committee. There are people in this organization who know more about panoramic photography than most of us will ever learn, and the only way you can get that information is to participate, ask questions, attend conferences and meet these amazing photographers. It is from this personal interaction that knowledge is passed down. You can read everything on panoramic photography you can find on the internet but that education will not be near as complete as spending several days shooting with some of the amazing photographers who have long been a part of the premier panoramic organization, the International Association of Panoramic Photographers.

CONNECTIONS ...

Sometimes a point is driven home by a story. Sometime in 2006 my husband found this strange new niche in photography. He had been an avid amateur photographer since the 70s. But with the ease of digital stitching in PhotoShop CS, the wide world of creating panoramas became available.

He is a joiner by nature... knowing that if one is interested and a little willing, one can learn from those who have come before and one can find those people in certain organizations. He found the I.A.P.P. around this time. His excitement suffered a set back because we could never get an officer to let us know the status of his membership, much less cash our check! I was ready to cancel the check and tell him to look elsewhere for help. But he decided to take matters into his own hands and called the current President to find out his status. I think one Journal came after he was "activated" ... and then only one again.

In April 2007, we attended the Austin Conference. We listened to Denis Tremblay speak about book publishing, we saw some amazing LARGE printed panoramas, but very few people spoke to us. My husband, while he is a "joiner", he is also shy. And I was just recovering from a week's bout with vertigo - I was in no mood to meet and speak to new people. We were ready to kick it to the curb, when a wonderful thing happened. Will and Pat Landon saw us speaking only to each other and invited us to lunch. Then dinner, then breakfast the next morning. They took us under their wings. My husband talked about the amazing couple we had just met while we drove the 90 minutes home. He talked about them for months after.

But by the time came for the next conference, we couldn't find out where it was! Months went by, and I don't know how, but Bryan found out the conference was going to be in Boulder. We registered, and planned to tent camp in the Rockies and explore the southwest part of Colorado the week after. Remembering "the couple we met in Austin," my husband was getting excited about reconnecting with them.

We got checked in, and again, not too many people greeted us or even remembered us. We were bummed because we weren't sure where the Landon's were. If I remember correctly, I finally saw Will midway through the first day and we reconnected. My husband was too shy to ask a lot of questions of him, but we gleaned so much from conversation that asking direct questions really wasn't necessary. Both he and Pat were so willing to share any information.

The conference ended, and we went our separate ways. We spent 3 freezing days camping, hiking and exploring in the Rockies. We got too cold and decided to head south. My husband remembered some spots Will told him about, and we set out for Keebler Pass. We drove through so many picturesque places, stopping along the way and taking in all the color and glory. Living in central Texas, the only color in the Fall we get is brown. We were getting some great pans, and reminiscing about our reconnection.

We finally made it up to Keebler Pass and was amazed with the color. The color of the aspens could rival that of 18k gold and against that brilliant blue sky... God is good! The traffic was terrific - it was like spring time in Texas when the bluebonnets are blooming and everyone is out! So, we get to this fabulous stand of trees right on the highway. And up ahead of us, we see a light colored Yukon pulled off the road. We said, nah... couldn't be! We pulled off 100 yards ahead of them, and we hear a voice yelling "The Snows!" and we see Pat waving frantically!

We did some nice photography that day, had a wonderful picnic lunch with the Landon's at our next stop and spent the night in a place that they have stayed before in



Crawford, Colorado. We shot together much of the next day, too.

My husband and I retired 18 months ago and were planning a trip to meet up with them during one of their photography trips. Health problems prevented us from travelling at that time. We met up again in Tuscon... but we missed them terribly in Gatlinburg. We are so grateful to know them.

We aren't great letter writers. Like the song says, we're "poor, poor correspondents" but we talk on the phone occasionally and email sometimes. We appreciate what both Will and Pat have brought to this organization and more specifically to us. If it weren't for them, we wouldn't be here. To this date, my husband feels free to call or email Will, and just recently decided to build a large format camera with Will's encouragement. (*gee - thanks.*)

Go beyond your own ego or shyness. Greet someone that you have never seen at a meeting before. It may be very beneficial for everyone.

— Dawn Snow, CPP

I.A.P.P. GATLINBURG CONFERENCE

Glenn Cope, Ph.D

Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was selected as the location for the 2011 I.A.P.P. Conference on Oct. 3-5. After our search, we selected the River Terrace Resort and Convention Center in Gatlinburg as our site for the conference. Thirty-eight members and guests attended the conference and banquet.

Landon, and Michel Dusariez. This was a special showing by invitation only and was displayed during the entire conference.

We offered a pre-conference workshop for Sunday, Oct. 2, on *HDR Panoramic Photography* featuring Dawn Snow, Bryan Snow, and Glenn Cope as workshop leaders and instructors. The workshop allowed time to venture into Gatlinburg for some photography and later some computer time.

The conference officially began on Monday morning with our president David Orbock welcoming everyone, giving introductions, and getting the conference off to a great start. Caitlin Worth, a Park Ranger serving in the Great Smoky Mountains, presented our first program. She offered wonderful and entertaining insights into the National Park not only as a Ranger but as a native of the area.

Monday programming continued with Gary Pierpoint, *Infrared Photography: Then and Now*. Gary offered insights into infrared photography.

The Conference offered a members' Photo Contest that was managed by Fran Stetina and David Orbock. Winners were announced at the Banquet on Wednesday evening. In addition we had a special Photo Exhibition by Michael Westmorland, Will





After lunch, we were intrigued with Bryan Snow's program on *Heilicon Focus—What it is & How it can help your Panoramics*. The Heilicon software offers incredible depth of field by merging several images taken at different focus points.

Kent Durk demonstrated his fascination with old abandoned buildings that he photographs in HDR in his program, *HDR Panoramic Photography in Rural Missouri*. Glenn Cope wrapped up the programming by discussing his ideas for the future of the I.A.P.P..

Monday evening, we selected a location for dinner and everyone walked to the restaurant. Following dinner, David Orbock held an orientation session for the "Photo Safari" for Tuesday morning.

Early Tuesday morning we gathered before dawn and drove to the "little river area" that offered several old building and houses along with an exceptional view of a little stream. We broke into smaller groups and worked for the next couple hours.

Mid-morning the programming started up with Denis Tremblay offering his suggestions on *How to Turn Your Panoramics Into Money*. This was followed by Ben Porter showing photos on his latest trip to Cuba, *Panoramic Photography in Cuba*. Porter is planning a return trip to

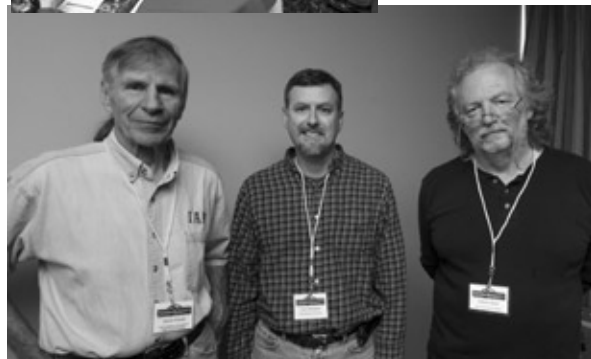
Cuba in May 2012, if you are interested in joining the group see our website.

After lunch Doug Segal continued the financial discussion with *Marketing Opportunities for Panoramic Photographers*. Brian Miller followed with *Getting the Most Out of your Digital Pans*. Bryan Snow continued with a discussion *The Pros and Cons of GigaPan Panoramics*.

John McCarthy, *Panorams: Big and Small*, discussed some of the history of the panoramic image. Jeff Rogers, *Publishing Your First Panoramic Photography Book*, discussed his books on Kentucky images.

Again we selected a location for dinner and enjoyed the social time together.

Wednesday Morning began before dawn—again! As the group selected various locations, but it seems we all wound up at the same place that was just past the highest point in Tennessee and to a great overlook in North Carolina. After watching and photographing the sunup we headed back for our last day of programming.



David Nicholas started us off with *Photographing in Turkey and southwest Asia*. George Pearl followed with offering insights into the business of group photography, *Building a Successful Group Photography Business*. Jook Leung followed with his take on VR photography, *Getting Started in VR Photography*.

David Orbock followed in the afternoon with *Ways You Never Imagined to Prepare your Images for the Fine Art Market* and Fran Stetina concluded the programs with *Colorization of B&W and IR Images*.

After a brief Member Meeting we adjourned

to prepare for the Banquet and Awards. After the Banquet Fran Stetina announced the winners of the Photo Contest: *Best of Show*, Jeff Orbock; *Landscape*, 1st Place went to Bryan Snow; 2nd Place, Jeff Orbock. *Cityscape*, 1st Place went to Paul Speaker and 2nd Place, Dave Nicholas; and *Other*, 1st Place, Bryan Snow, 2nd Place, Fran Stetina.

The conference ended with everyone developing many new friendships with fellow panoramic photographers and a renewed commitment to our craft.



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