

snap

Volume 18 Number 2



shots

October 2012

*On the Road to Rhode Island:**Sunday, October 7th, 10:00 A.M.*

Planetary Data Center and Ladd Observatory at Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design Museum

October's PHSNE meeting will take us to Providence, RI to visit some very interesting photographic resources. Planetary geosciences, a highly interdisciplinary and visually oriented field, has been an active area of research at Brown University for a half century.

Our first stop will be at the Planetary Data Center at Brown, hosted by Prof. Peter Schultz. Established long before the Internet, its mission has been to provide planetary geology data to researchers in the form of photographs, maps, mission support documents, and digital data. Its onsite archives contain collections of mission products dating back as far as 1962 which are an important resource for the history of space photography.

After lunch at Brown, we will head to the museum at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) for an exhibit called *America in View: Landscape Photography 1865 to Now*, and its companion exhibit, *Looking at the Land: 21st-Century American Views*. The RISD press release describes *America in View* as “a broad panorama of our country’s topographies and correlating narratives” that “reveals a nation’s ambitions and failings, beauty and loss, politics and personal stories through about 150 photographs spanning nearly 150 years.” The exhibit includes 19th century albumen prints and contemporary digital images.



Laura McPhee,
Smoke from a Wildfire Ignited by Sparks from a Burn Barrel, Champion Creek, Custer County, Idaho, 2005.

To complement the *America in View* exhibition, RISD commissioned Andy Adams, creator of *FlakPhoto.com*, to curate a digital projection of contemporary landscapes. Adams’ digital images will be projected in the lobby of the Museum’s Chace Center. Additional information, accompanied by an online exhibition, can be accessed at flakphoto.com/content/looking-at-the-land-21st-century-american-views.

At the RISD Museum we will be given an in-depth guided tour of the photographic exhibitions, which will last approximately 45 minutes. There will be seating for the show and gallery stools provided. After the tour, there will be time to see the rest of the museum’s five building complex.

Our third stop will be at the Ladd Observatory. Opened in 1891 for programs of star transit observations and time-keeping, its public mission continues to this day.

The instrument collection features a 12" Brashear refracting telescope with the original mechanical clock drive, still used for public observing. The transit room has recently undergone restoration, and its telescope is now functional. The clock vault contains a state-of-the-art (for 1902) Riefler chronometer. Also being put back into use is an 1891 Brashear spectroscope in excellent condition. The kit included a photographic attachment in ¼ plate size that takes a film or plate holder, and while PHSNE has offered the Observatory film holders that can be made to work, we have yet to find one that is an exact fit.

There will be no admission fee for PHSNE members, but for group admission, we must arrive at the same time at each location for a head count. The Planetary Data Center program begins at 10A.M. in room 216 in the Lincoln Field Building. For directions visit geo.brown.edu/BrownNASADataCenter/content/directions.php. The RISD admission will be at 1:15pm sharp at the Chace Center entrance, 20 North Main St. We will go to dinner at a moderate priced restaurant before heading back to Boston.



Behind transit telescope room at Ladd Observatory, Brown Archives

Getting there can be half the fun—while you save on gas and parking. See p. 4 for details.



Tri-Purpose Cane

A recent acquisition I find quite fascinating, is a multi-purpose cane. It's old and made of metal with paint applied to look like wood. The handle is removable as is the bayonet mount thimble at the base, allowing one to convert the stick to a monopod. Splaying the legs out makes it a tripod.

The tripod bushing is the old continental 3/8 inch. The fine thread fitting that allows attachment of the curved handle is unique in that the threads were cut on a lathe with appropriate screw machine attachment. I believe it may have been accomplished before the screw was milled into three equal segments, without a doubt, admirable machine work.



The unit is heavier and sturdier than if it were made of wood. The trapezoidal cross section shape of the

legs seem to resist flexing. Personally, I would not use it with a valuable camera or heavy item, but it might prove very handy with a small P&S camera, light weight telescope, monocular or binocular.

~Story and photos by Paul Nisula

PHSNE Membership

PHSNE membership is \$15 for students, \$35 for individuals and institutions, \$40 for a family, and \$45 for foreign membership. Join or renew online at phsne.org/paypal or send a check in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar denominated international money order.

Members should check the expiration date on the *snap shots* mailing label before sending in dues.

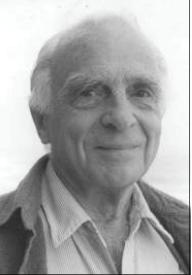
Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to Joe Walters Jr, PHSNE Membership Chair, P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465. (Call: 617-826-9294; email: membership@phsne.org; or use the Web form at phsne.org/contacts).

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Remembering Richard Searles Kendall

PHSNE Life Member Richard Searles

Kendall passed away on August 5, 2012 at the age of 95. He was an accomplished cameraman and special effects artist.



Richard purchased his first motion picture camera at the age of twelve and began filming family trips. He worked for 30 years for Fox Studios, followed by 20 years at the Walt Disney Company, working on more than 50 movies and television shows.

He retired in 1975 but continued to be active in photography related endeavors. He was very involved with preservation of films, including his own personal collection and that of the town of Templeton in the Los Angeles area. He taught lighting techniques at the University of Southern California, using classical music to educate students about the timing of light and shadows. He was a lifetime member of the Cinematographers Union and SMPTE, as well as PHSNE.

His interests and accomplishments included stone mason, carpenter, pianist, and railroad enthusiast.

~obit.fletcherfuneral.com/obitdisplay.html?id=1102991

Kodak Sells Personal and Document Imaging Businesses as part of Restructuring Efforts

Stating that the company, as it emerges from Chapter 11 next year, will be "primarily focused on commercial, packaging and functional printing solutions and enterprise services, the Eastman Kodak Company announced the sale of its film divisions, the Personal Imaging and Document Imaging businesses." A decision is pending about whether to sell or retain the patent portfolio. Chairman and CEO Antonio Perez announced that "we continue our initiatives to reduce our cost structure and streamline our operating models in an effort to return the company to profitability. We are reshaping Kodak."

Important Membership Notice: Update Info Now

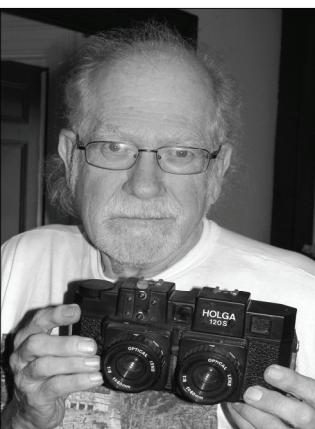
The membership year is now September to August, and the PHSNE Board extended all calendar year 2012 memberships in good standing until August 2013. Check your *snap shots* mailing label for this change. No dues are required at this time for current members! However, please be sure to update membership information as needed on the form that was sent with the September *snap shots* or online at phsne.org/update.

~Joe Walters, Membership Chair

Ed Shaw's Favorites: 3D Treasures

Ed Shaw, long-time PHSNE member and auction manager for many years, has an impressive collection of stereo cameras and viewers, both hand-held and large wooden table top models.

A few years ago he created a stereo camera by combining two Diana plastic cameras, removing and gluing the sides. A long plastic



Custom Holga Stereo Camera

bar provided a dual release to fire both cameras at the same time. The prints were used to make stereopticon cards.

Ed's interest in stereo photography traces back to the stereopticon viewer that belonged to his grandparents. As a teen, he worked part time in a drug store and was given two 127



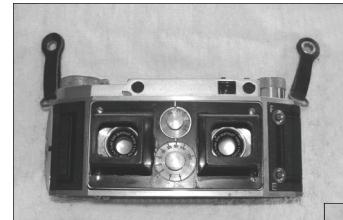
cameras as premium items. He promptly put them on a bar to shoot stereo pictures – most likely scenics because of the difficulty of getting two cameras to fire simultaneously.

While in the military, stationed in Germany, he got professional instruction and good advice from several German photo technicians. He purchased a German 3D camera. Fortunately, film was readily available for experimentation.

Ed's collection includes fine wooden table viewers. Some use special size stereo images and others can be loaded with stereopticon cards. Among his many 3D cameras is a View Master 16mm used to create View



Exakta Camera with attached Stereorefex viewer



View Master 16 mm

Another of Ed's favorites is the Russian made FED Stereo camera which uses 35mm film and has a programmed auto exposure.

Ed's latest toy is the digital Fuji stereo camera. Whenever he is out and about, you can be sure he will have one of his stereo cameras with him.



*Above: TriVision 828
Below: the Russian FED*



~Story and photos by Lew Regelman

Coming Attractions: Photographica 78 *Show Dates are September 22, 23*

By the time you read this, over 500 media outlets in New England have received information about the show, and the eighty dealer tables are all rented. The Dollar Tables will have the most and the best stuff they've ever had. The auction for Saturday evening, like the previous one, will feature very high quality cameras and photographica. There's a big buzz out there about this show already. I hope that we'll see you there.

We're still looking for more people to help us out. If you can work even for an hour or two, contact John Dockery at john_dockery@hotmail.com or 781-592-2553.

Generous Donation Honors Jack Naylor

Last month PHSNE received an anonymous donation in memory of one of its most notable members, the late Jack Naylor. Jack remains an important presence in PHSNE, and we would like to thank the donor for this very generous gift.

This donation will be used to bring in meeting speakers, fund field trips, and support other member activities. We suspect that Jack would have approved of and very much liked that.

Area Exhibit: Lasting Light: 125 Years of Grand Canyon Photography

The Museum of Our National Heritage, located in Lexington, MA, will feature *Lasting Light: 125 Years of Grand Canyon Photography*, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the Grand Canyon Association. Consisting of 60 color photographs, the exhibition will be on display from October 13, 2012 through January 6, 2013, after which it will leave on a national tour.

The exhibit includes images of early photographers dangling from cables to get the perfect shot, their cumbersome camera equipment balanced precariously on their shoulders. More modern images are bold and dramatic, revealing the canyon's capricious weather, its flora and fauna, waterfalls and wading pools, and awe-inspiring cliffs and rock formations. The stunning contemporary images were selected by representatives from Eastman Kodak's Professional Photography Division and *National Geographic*. See monh.org for more information.



Jack Dykinga
Snow Covered Ponderosa Pine
North Rim, 1992

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. at the Americal Center, 467 Main St., Wakefield, MA, preceded by a mini trade fair at 12:30 and an open meeting of the PHSNE Board at 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming meetings:

November 4 - Jim Dow, photographer for *National Geographic*

Directions to Planetary Data Center can be found at geo.brown.edu/BrownNASADataCenter/content/directions.php, **but here's a better idea.**

We've hired an air conditioned bus with restroom accommodations. Coffee, donuts, and muffins will be served during the trip. The cost for this "luxury" ride is only \$9.00, less than gas and parking. The bus leaves from the Waltham High School parking lot (617 Lexington Lexington St, Waltham) at 8:00 A.M. and will return approximately 8:00 P.M. Please contact John Dockery for information and sign up at johndockery@hotmail.com or 781-592-2553. Bring a Show'n'Tell to share on the bus.

PHSNE Online

PHSNE's Web site is online at phsne.org. George Champine is the Webmaster.

Join the PHSNE Forum online discussion moderated by Joe Walters; sign up and log in at phsne.org/forum. For an archive of back issues of *snap shots* and meeting presentations, visit phsne.org/archive.

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Photographic Historical Society of New England
Next Meeting: Sunday, October 7th, 2012, 10:00 A.M.
Planetary Data Center at Brown University, RISD Museum
Bus Leaves Waltham High School at 8:00 A.M.

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