

Good Morning!

Ah, 'tis April and color comes back to the landscape. Greens, yellows, and warm, fuzzy colors replace Browns and grays. We get dew instead of frost, and morning pictures start getting bluer because of the excess moisture. If you use an 81A or 812 filter over your lens, your photos will come out slightly warmer, especially after an April shower. A site I've enjoyed photographing in the early daylight hours is Clyde Potts reservoir in Mendham. The inclines along the roadway allow you to get near the surface of the water and give a different perspective of the dew (or fog) rising.

www.madisonphoto.com and www.photosummit.com are our sister websites. You'll find many helpful links, photo hints, our histories, and tidbits about our staff. Most of us have our photos on the staff pages, and clicking on a person's face should activate his or her e-mail address. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time.

We have frequently been asked about color inkjet printers for photography. Here's the slant as I see it. There are 4 manufacturers with any kind of credibility in this area: Canon, Epson, HP and Lexmark. With some of these printers, you must change from your day to day inks to different cartridges to print photo realistic pictures. Lexmark had created a printer (also available as the Kodak PM-100) that accepts smart media and compact flash (type 1). It can make proof sheets and prints and enlargements. I am not thrilled with the output, but it sure is simple to use. I have yet to see a good photo realistic print come from any model Canon bubble jet printer. The camera and computer divisions never seem to talk to one another at Canon, and it shows. The prints I've seen have had accurate color, but too much contrast, and short tonal ranges.

At the PMA show in Las Vegas during February, there was quite a duel between HP and Epson. The prints shown by HP looked good on the surface, but pixilation was evident even on 5X7s upon closer inspection. The prints were all on HP (Kodak) paper. The Epson prints made on their 6 color printers (and printed on a variety of papers) were the cream of the crop. They won each category entered in the show's Print Out competition. They showed very little pixilation, even when on 13X19 prints. It is interesting to note that (a) Epson 6 color printers were found making sample prints at almost all digital camera company displays, and (b) more independent companies were making inks and paper supplies exclusively for the Epson printers. One company, Sawgrass (www.sawgrass.com) even sells a dye sublimation output system for Epson printers only.

For these reasons, we have decided to carry Epson 6 color and the Kodak PM100 as our only inkjet selections.

In a subsequent newsletter, I'll discuss print longevity, papers and inks. I must say, however, that the Konica, Luminos and Ilford papers look incredibly good.

A couple of weeks back, I had the pleasure of addressing the Morris Photocolor Club, a color slide group that meets almost every Friday night in Florham Park. If you have any interest in a camera club, check their website at www.users.nac.net/jmp/mpc.htm. If you have troubles accessing their page, please contact me.

A glimpse of the future...

... Kodak had announced a new Advanced Photo System camera called "Preview". Not only does it take conventional film photographs, but also a LCD panel on the camera back displays the picture you just took and inquires as to how many prints you want of this picture, from 0-9. Imagine knowing that a shot is blurry or underexposed and not having to buy a print from that negative. The "Preview" should be out to coincide with this summer's Olympic Games!

We are still looking for places to go for one of our Photo Field Trips. We're looking for your input. Would the Baltimore Inner Harbor be too long a drive? What about the train museum in Whippany? The Intrepid? A medieval festival? A country fair? We'd really like your ideas.

You may wish to visit www.hyperzine.com, a website devoted to both traditional and electronic photography. The authors appear more objective than most, and discuss varied subjects.

We need your help, please. Our stores are low on personnel. If you know someone looking for a full time position, likes people and photography, please have them contact Lynne in Summit, or Jerry in Madison.

On a sad note, we mourn the passing of Steve Birch, a member of our Madison staff since 1984. He had been ill for the past year, and finally succumbed to cancer. We have missed him for over a year, and will continue to miss him.

Thanks for your interest in photography. Thanks for your business. See you soon

Jerry

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