

August 2008

Editor, Janet Cartwright

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METRO CAMERA CLUB MEETING

The Metro Camera Club meets the second and fourth Monday of each month (except holidays) at the Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Building, Will Rogers Park, 3400 NW 36th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Socializing starts at 6:45 pm. Meeting starts at 7:15 pm.
www.metrocameraclub.org

Just a reminder: Starting with the first camera club meeting in July (July 14), the meetings will start at 7:15 pm. On Competition nights, entrants will need to have their entries in by 7:00 pm and must be present to compete.

The End of Film?

By Richard Martin, NYI Contributing Editor

Film's death has been proclaimed ever since digital became a practical (and affordable) proposition. But recent shocking announcements in the media force us to take a closer look at this prediction. On January 11, Nikon, long a "big gun" in film cameras, informed the world via their UK web site that they will discontinue almost all 35mm SLR models and focus on their digital products. The two exceptions represent the cheapest and most expensive models — the FM10 (actually built by Cosina but Nikon branded) and the recently introduced F6. Their press release is quite frank as to where Nikon believes their future lies. Here are some excerpts:

"Following the success of our digital line-up over the last seven years, which has resulted in more than 95% of Nikon's UK business being within the digital area, Nikon Corporation has made the decision to focus management resources on digital cameras in place of film cameras. This decision will allow Nikon to continue to develop products that match the demands of an increasingly competitive market place.

As the film camera market shrinks and the popularity of compact digital cameras increases, demand for products that offer advanced features and extra value is continuing to grow. High performance digital SLR cameras are performing well as users shift from film-based SLR cameras or upgrade from compact digital cameras to digital SLR cameras.

As a result of the new strategy Nikon will discontinue production of all lenses for large format cameras and enlarging lenses with sales of these products ceasing as soon as they run out of stock. This also applies to most of our film camera bodies, interchangeable manual focus lenses and related accessories. Although Nikon anticipates that the products will still be in retail distribution up to Summer 2006.

In recognition of Nikon's commitment to professional photographers we will continue to manufacture and sell the F6, our flagship film model, as well as a number of manual interchangeable lenses. Sales of the manual FM10 will also continue outside Europe."

Nikon USA posted a similar announcement with different wording but the message is essentially the same. It's the end of an era, at least for Nikon.

The push to digital is not confined to Nikon. According to Kodak "For all of 2005, digital sales represented 54% of total revenue, marking the first time in the company's history that digital revenue exceeded traditional." That info highlights their [financial report dated January 30th](#).

What about overall sales of film cameras? Well, the Photo Marketing Association reported rather severe declines last year in their January 6th news release (up to 50% for October 2005, a critical pre-holiday month). APS cameras posted the worse losses — almost 75%. No real surprise there since the APS format had the misfortune of appearing on the scene just about the time digital became practical and economical. Who needs a film format even smaller than 35mm? On the other hand, digital sales continued their upward spiral.

InfoTrends, another market research outfit, reported last October that amongst professional photographers "the switch to digital has already transpired, with nearly 80% of pros owning a digital SLR and 52% planning to purchase a new one within a year."

Power has always been the Achilles heel of the digital camera industry. Digital cameras require a fair amount of power to operate.

A further development, though not exclusively about film, is Konica-Minolta's withdrawal from the camera and photo business altogether. Here's a pertinent quote from that [announcement](#):

"...we have been negotiating with Sony, and as a result, we have reached an agreement with Sony to transfer a portion of assets regarding digital SLR camera system to Sony. In this relation, we have decided to withdraw from camera business, such as film cameras and digital cameras, within Konica Minolta Group as of March 31, 2006."

Is there any good news for film users? Maybe. Fuji, perhaps in response to all the gloom and doom about film's demise, expressed their continued commitment to traditional materials. Here's a quote from a January 19th [news release](#):

"Silver halide photography, which is fundamental to photography, has advantages over digital in such areas as power of expression, long term storage capability, reasonable prices, easy handling and a highly established and convenient photo development and print infrastructure. We intend to continue our silver halide photography business and to further cultivate the culture of photography, and in so doing, continue to support our customers and retailers and all those who enjoy photography."

I assume the term "silver halide" here refers to all their films, not just the Neopan black & white emulsions. After all, color film contains silver halide too. Fuji's stance is somewhat reassuring to photographers like me who have used their products for years, especially since Velvia came on the scene. However, I find some of the wording in their statement curious and perhaps a little silly. Film "has advantages over digital in such areas as power of expression" (?) The PR geek who wrote this confuses materials and tools with creativity and personal vision. As for "reasonable prices", the economics of film can't compare to digital. Ask any consumer why they bought a digital camera and they'll tell you, "no film to buy or develop", and of course the instant feedback digital provides. Finally, the reference to film's "convenient photo development and print infrastructure" is misleading. Every

lab I've seen can print from digital files. Furthermore, most labs nowadays print digitally regardless of whether the initial capture was digital or film. Still, it's a hopeful sign from Fuji. I wonder if Kodak will make a similar commitment.

However, in another [press release](#) on January 31st Fuji announced it planned to cut 5000 jobs from their "imaging solutions segment" and shift some production to China. That doesn't sound so promising.

What does all this portend for the future? Obviously digital will continue to capture more and more of the photo market as new products are introduced almost every month. Personally I think we've seen the last new 35mm SLR from any major manufacturer. However, there are still plenty of models out there in the distribution channels and used cameras and lenses are easy to obtain. The big question is film itself. There is still a core of 35mm SLR users who are serious amateurs. They prefer the look of film and feel more comfortable with it. Will Fuji and Kodak keep making it?

Of course, some folks shoot both digital and film and I am one of them. It doesn't have to be an either/or question. Different tools for different situations. In my opinion film still performs better than digital in certain areas, like low-light photography. And I like having a camera that will continue to function even if the batteries die, albeit sans metering (Nikon FM3a).

I mentioned 35mm but what about larger formats? Well guess what? Plenty of wedding photographers still shoot color negative film (black & white too). Why? The wider exposure latitude makes it easier to deal with the contrast between that blazing white wedding dress on the bride and that coal black tuxedo on the groom. Then too, the proportions of the most popular medium format, 645, work better, composition-wise, than the 3/2 aspect ratio of digital SLR's (an exception is the Olympus E series cameras which have a 4/3 aspect ratio).



But it's in the most common large format, 4 x 5, that film really shows its superiority over digital. For landscape

work it's unsurpassed, whether in color or black & white. Furthermore, you can easily scan a 4 x 5 transparency on a decent flatbed scanner and make a really great print yourself, digitally. No darkroom necessary. On the other hand, you could mortgage your house and get the new 39 megapixel Hasselblad H2D-39. It's a steal at \$30,000 or so.

Well, I guess it's time to take out my crystal ball and have a go at predicting the future. Film will stick around for some time but as a kind of niche product, especially 35mm. APS will disappear altogether, as will single-use 35mm cameras, the latter replaced by cheap digital point & shoot models. There are a couple of digital single-use cameras out there but I see no advantage in these for the user. It's more of a marketing ploy on the part of certain retailers.

Film is dead? No, I don't think so. Personally I'll keep using it until I've reached the last frame on the last roll.

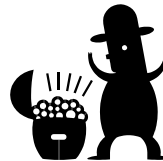
August 25,2008

Digital Competition

Images must be submitted via email by 12:00 midnight of the Friday before a Monday competition to: digitalcomp@metrocameraclub.org

SEPTEMBER 8, 2008: Dennis Burian

Treasure Hunt And Ice Cream Social



DPI Competition Results 6-23-08

Color DPI

Class	Title	Name	score	place
A	SMOKIES SUNSET #1	Derrell Dover	11	3
A	MACHU PICHU	Derrell Dover	11	3
A	WHALE 3	Janetta Clark	11	3
A	WHALE 1	Janetta Clark	11	3
A	WHALE 2	Janetta Clark	11	3
A	ELEPHANT FAMILY	Jeanne Fanning	11	3
A	LEO THE LION	Jeanne Fanning	11	3
A	COPPER CAT	Jerry Kincade	11	3
A	AFTER THE RAIN	Jerry Kincade	11	3
A	MANDRIAN DUCK	Joe Spence	11	3
A	DAY LILY 2	Joe Spence	11	3
A	RED AND YELLOW	Joe Spence	11	3
A	MOONRISE AT SUNSET	Joe Wilson	11	3
A	LEAF IN THE SUN	Joe Wilson	11	3
A	75 WATT SOFT WHITE	Joe Wilson	11	3
A	A SLIPPERY SLIDE	Leah Knipp	11	3
A	ARROW LEAF BALSAMROOT	Randy Poe	11	3
A	GAS IS HOW MUCH!	Rick Akers	11	3
A	BUZZ OFF	Rick Akers	11	3
A	SUNFLOWER	Rick Akers	11	3
A	WICHITA STREAM	Tommy Evans	11	3
A	FIRE FLOWER	Jerry Kincade	12	2
A	ORANGE N BRIGHT PINK	Leah Knipp	12	2
A	MORNING SILENCE	Rick Akers	12	2
A	RED CYPRUS REFLECTIONS	Tommy Evans	12	2
A	BEAVERS BEND DOCK	Tommy Evans	12	2
A	JAMES	Tracey Pruett	12	2
A	JUST A BIT DAMP	Joe Wilson	13	1

AA	DANDELION FIRE	Charles Grubbs		11	3
AA	MOOSE	Don Risi		11	3
AA	A FARRIES BONNET	Kathryn Grubbs		11	3
AA	FOREIGN QUACKER	Charles Grubbs		12	2
AA	LOG CABIN	Don Risi		12	2
AA	NBC	Don Risi		12	2
AA	CUP OF POSIES	Kathryn Grubbs		12	2
AA	GOLDILOCKS	Kathryn Grubbs		12	2
AA	SOFTLY BLOOMING	Kathryn Grubbs		12	2
AA	MR. AMERICA	Charles Grubbs		13	1
AA	EXTREME MACRO OF DANDELION	Charles Grubbs		13	1

Black + White PDI

A	BRIDGE	Jeanetta Clark		10	3
A	KENTUCKY FARM	Jerry Kincade		10	3
A	STORMY CROSS	Jerry Kincade		10	3
A	OLD HOUSE	Joe Spence		10	3
A	FENCE	Rick Akers		10	3
A	OVERGROWTH	Rick Akers		10	3
A	OLD WOUNDS	Rick Akers		10	3
A	SEEN BETTER DAYS	Rick Akers		10	3
A	CENTER OF POWER	Jerry Kincade		11	2
A	ASPEN HIGH	Peyton Osborne		11	2
A	BLACK & WHITE DANDELION	Charles Grubbs		12	1

AA	THREE WATERFALLS	Alta Srotyr		9	2
AA	I SEE YOU	Alta Srotyr		9	2
AA	OLD SPIRAL STAIRCASE	Alta Srotyr		9	2
AA	DOGWOOD CANYON STREAM	Alta Srotyr		9	2
AA	BILLY AT WATER WELL	Wayne Srotyr		9	2
AA	DISK GOLF TRAP	Wayne Srotyr		9	2
AA	MODIFIED TRIKE	Wayne Srotyr		9	2
AA	RESTING ON A ROCK	Wayne Srotyr		9	2
AA	UNUSUAL ENDS	Alta Srotyr		10	1
AA	ORNATE DESIGN	Wayne Srotyr		10	1


Competition Results 7-28-08 Black + White Print



A	FLYIN' AWAY	STEYER, CHELSEA		11	3
A	VISITOR FROM PENNSYLVANIA	SROTYR, WAYNE		11	3
A	SERVING SAINTS & SINNERS ALIKE	BURIAN, DENNIS		11	3
A	LOREN	STEYER, CHELSEA		11	3
A	THE LANDING	CARR, RANDY		11	3
A	PILLARS	PIRAINO, GAIL		11	3
A	COBBLER DREAMS	STEYER, CHELSEA		11	3
A	THE PORTAL	PIRAINO, FRANK		12	2
A	CLASS ACT	SROTYR, WAYNE		12	2
A	BIRDS OF A FEATHER	PIRAINO, FRANK		12	2
A	A GREAT REFLECTION	SROTYR, WAYNE		12	2
A	A GLIMMER OF HOPE	MCKINNIS, LEE		12	2
A	NEW GUN IN TOWN	PIRAINO, FRANK		13	1

A	COASTLINE	PIRAINO,GAIL		13	1
A	BEANIE	BURIAN, DENNIS		13	1
A	THE DINGHY	PIRAINO, FRANK		13	1
A	ENGINE #29	PIRAINO, GAIL		13	1
AA	ALL TOGETHER NOW	ROBINSON, JAMES		9	2
AA	WITHIN HIS GRASP	ROBINSON, JAMES		9	2
AA	STONE CENTENIAL	ROBINSON, JAMES		10	1
AA	29 BELLS	ROBINSON, JAMES		10	1
AAA	JAVA BOATMEN LOADING CARGO	STEYER, JANET		9	3
AAA	CAREFREE ALLEY FUN	STEYER, JANET		9	3
AAA	HARD EARNED SNOOZE	STEYER, JANET		10	2
AAA	SITTING BY THE OLD DUTCH SQUARE	STEYER, JANET		11	1


Color Print

A	WHERE'S MOM ??	HARE, CORA		11	3
A	BIG CAT	SROTYR, ALTA		11	3
A	MR. T	PIRAINO, GAIL		11	3
A	LITTLE MERMAID	RICE, DON		11	3
A	MORNING SHOWER	RICE, DON		11	3
A	WALKS ON WATER	RICE, DON		12	2
A	AIRBORNE	RICE, DON		12	2
A	SUMMER SUNSET	BIDDLE, KEN		12	2
A	FANCY DANCER	HARE, CORA		12	2
A	TIGER LILY	PIRAINO, GAIL		12	2
A	HOOTER ON GUARD	SROTYR, ALTA		14	1

AA	THE CUB	PIRAINO, FRANK		12	3
AA	DELICATE ARCH-MOAB	JOHNSON, PAUL		12	3
AA	OUT OF SERVICE	DUDLEY, JIM		12	3
AA	REFLECTION AND URBAN ART	ROBINSON, JAMES		12	3
AA	GRAND CANYON VISTA	PIRAINO, FRANK		13	2
AA	SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW	PIRAINO, FRANK		13	2
AA	THE LOOKOUT	PIRAINO, FRANK		13	2
AA	HUSH...DON'T SCARE THE BIRD	DUDLEY, JIM		13	2
AA	NO MORE GOLD	DUDLEY, JIM		13	2
AA	REGAL POSE	ROBINSON, JAMES		15	1

AAA	THE CHAMP	CARR, RANDY		13	3
AAA	ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS	CARR, RANDY		13	3
AAA	GRAND CANYON	CORBIN, DENNIS		13	3
AAA	BOB WHITE QUAIL	CORBIN, DENNIS		14	2
AAA	ELK AT GRAND CANYON	CORBIN, DENNIS		15	1
AAA	CARDINAL FEEDS BABY	CORBIN, DENNIS		15	1

Color Slide

AAA	CALM WATERS	WILSON, JOE		13	3
AAA	SPLIT ROCK	SPENCE, JOE		13	3
AAA	AFTER THE RAIN	WILSON, JOE		13	3
AAA	GRAINS	BURIAN, DENNIS		14	2
AAA	EL CAPITAN & YOSEMITE FALLS	RANNEY, JUNE		14	2
AAA	TWO OF A KIND	WILSON, JOE		15	1

Please remember to go to the Metro Camera Club website to pre-register all entries before the competitions.

Anyone interested in having (great) large prints made for affordable prices should check out CPQ Professional Imaging Lab at www.cpq.com They also let you try them out for free with \$50 off your first order!

The new email address for the editor (me) is: jandjimages@cox.net I haven't received many emails lately, so if you have sent anything to the old address those are simply being deleted and not been forwarded to me.

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Our sponsors are large contributors to our yearly budget and special Events. Please support them when you can, and let them know we appreciate their support.

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