



# *The Focal Point*

## *Happy New Year*

*January 2, 2006*

*This delayed issued was brought to you by  
the "flu".*

## *January Schedule*

*Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> – PRINT CONTEST*  
*Single judge, Leo Heppner*

*Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> – PROGRAM*

*Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> – SLIDE CONTEST*  
*Judges, Roger Miller, Spoon Popkin & Dan Van Allen*

*Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> – PROGRAM*

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*MFA Circle Gallery Presents*

*Tony Sweet*  
*Body of Work #3*

*January 7<sup>th</sup> – February 4<sup>th</sup>*  
*Opening January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1pm-5pm*

*What do these have in common?  
A wooden box, a sheet of film, a .012dia hole?*

*Answer: 3 crazy carpenters who take photographs.*

Well about a month or so ago Gordon Risk, John Davis and Gary Faulkner were discussing a photographer's black and white images that he had taken with his pinhole camera, very nice. As we continued to discuss the pinhole image and what we were finding on the web the craze took us over.

John and Gordon have made their pinhole camera out of birch plywood and I am building mine from solid maple, although I regret this when I add it to my camera pack. At this writing John has taken a few images, which he said are a little soft, adjustments are under way. John's camera has a focal length of 88mm with an approximate F# of 222. He used 100asa 4"x5" sheet film exposed for 3sec and 5sec exposures. Gordon's camera is  $\frac{3}{4}$  completed, he is making a back that will use either 4" x 5" sheet film or a roll film back. Mine is ready for cutting and assembling.

It seems that the fun is in the design and building stage. The next stage will probably be the frustration stage of getting a quality image. This means adjusting the pinhole size or the focal length to get a sharp image and coverage.

2 sites that we have found useful are: [www.mrpinhole.com](http://www.mrpinhole.com) and [www.pinhole.org](http://www.pinhole.org) . A "google" for pinhole will turn up more info.

So get an oatmeal box, a #10 sewing needle, black spray paint, duct tape and a sheet of film and "go make a photo"!

Gary Faulkner

## From the Prez..

**B**eginning a new year is like buying a new camera...filled with wonder about how you will be able to operate through all the new functions...anxious to see the results of your efforts, before you fully know all the effort you have to put into it....knowing it will be next year before you really get into this one, and never having enough time to do all things you want to get done.

So, having said that, we are all beginning a new year. Some of us will just let the year unfold in front of us, others will be pulled in directions they never imagined, and some of us will go into the year with a plan, that will have to be flexed as we move through the year when unforeseen events in life unfold.

I always make a list of things I want to accomplish each year whether it is painting windows, planting new plants, making new investments, taking new vacations, learning new things or just thinking differently sometimes about life. I never make the traditional New Years Commitments like...losing weight, I gave up on that, giving up smoking...gave that up decades ago and so I just decide to make it the best year I can.....and whittle away at that list of things to do. I find when I commit it to paper there is a better chance of it getting done.

This year I really want to spend more time developing my skills as a photographer and learn more about the digital opportunities that we now have at our fingertips to create images of our world. On Christmas Day I went down memory lane and thought about how wonderful an invention the camera was. How it enabled us to freeze images of time and people and place on film.



Baltimore Snowstorm 1958, my Parents House. I sure am glad dad was a photographer!

A record of our world, whether it be our "World" or our "world." Then I thought how wonderful it is that we can now

transmit those images instantaneously anywhere we want. We truly are living in a fast moving time and the digital image capture technology has changed dramatically the production and use of images. The talent of creating a fine image however still remains the same. It is just the difference in the artists tools.

And so I am learning, how to store digital files so that I can find them when I want to use them again..I don't know if I will ever get this one down.

I am learning how to shoot in different digital modes, just as I was getting the traditional modes.

I am learning that photoshop is constantly updating and as soon as I get one edition down there is a new edition.

I am learning that I really don't want to abandon my film camera, but it seems like my first choice now is digital as I crave that instant feedback, so that I can make in the field adjustments and further insure the quality image I am seeking to craft.

I am learning how to get my images posted to a website hosted by BetterPhoto.com. This so far has taken me 48 hours of trial and error. Mostly error. But I will persist.

I want to write another article and get published again.

I want to get the BCC to sponsor a Camera School to help foster the future of photography in Baltimore and inspire others to find a passion that will bring them some pleasure in life.

I really want to get the BCC into the digital era and I am working hard at learning for myself to make that happen. Consider that most of our youth today will never shoot a traditional camera in their life time...our future is in the digital world and I am trying to get there fast to make it happen. I never want to abandon the traditional work of film and transparencies as they have a place in the future as well.

So lets get there this year and make the digital projection of images a reality in our club. It will take some expertise at planning the process and working out guidelines for competitions as well as organizing, it will take some team work.

It's on the list! Happy New Year!

*Karen Messick*

