



3D News

From the Stereo Club of Southern California

Volume XLVII #11

November 2002

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My First Competition in the Stereo Club

by Philip Steinman

*“If they see it in 3D,
they will come.”*

When I got back from New York in 1998, I started coming to the SCSC monthly 3D exhibitions and even started entering some of my Realist format images in the B Group competitions with **Dave Porfiri**, my friend from USC Film School. Dave went on to win Rookie of the Year, and unfortunately for us, moved to Washington DC, where he is teaching cinema-television production. I was very proud to win the All Creatures Great and Small Award for my image of *Mountain Goat's View of the Grand Canyon*.

SCSC has provided a continuing forum for exploring 3D photography since the emergence of (the now classic) 5 perforation 35mm stereo cameras like the Realist, Kodak, Revere, TDC, and Illoca that arrived in the 1950s. SCSC also provides a great forum with its well-programmed monthly 3D slide show exhibitions.

I particularly enjoy the 5 Competition Exhibitions throughout the year which provide the best venue in Los Angeles for seeing current 3D photography being done by stereo photographers. It is also a great pleasure for me to also serve as Competitions Director for the current SCSC club year.

Everything I have learned about the medium of 3D photography, from aesthetics to hardware, can be traced back to my initial exposure of 3D at SCSC's 3rd Thursday in July of 1998. So I am indebted to all the people that have come before me and given to the Stereo Club of Southern California to make it what it is today.

Now, it's my turn to give something back.

The Stereo Club of Southern California was founded in 1955 to promote the art, enjoyment and science of stereo photography. Meetings normally include 3D slide projection and are held monthly. Visitors are always welcome. Annual dues are \$30/single or \$40/dual (send to Membership Director). The 3D News is sent monthly to all members. Annual subscription for those not wishing to participate in club activities is \$20, and foreign subscriptions are \$25 (send to Treasurer). Everyone is encouraged to submit stereo-related news items, art or photos and articles. Deadline is the 25th of the month. Send to: r3dzone@earthlink.net

Calendar of Events

November 21 - Club Competition & Judging of ISCC
Wild Life of North America by Paul Milligan

December 12 - Annual Christmas Banquet at TAIX
Member's Pot Pourri Slide Show
Surprise 3-D Program

~ 2003 ~

January 16 - Club Competition
Hollywood 3-D Slide Program

January 18 - Hollywood Slide & Card Exhibition

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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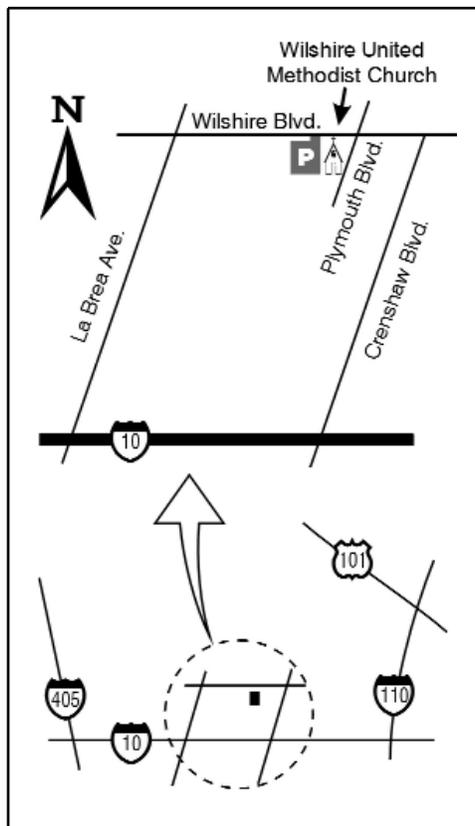
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If not otherwise stated the **Stereo Club of Southern California** meets at 7:30 pm the third Thursday of every month at the United Wilshire Methodist Church at 4350 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90010.

The Stereo Club Annual Christmas Banquet

*You better watch out,
you better not cry,
You better not pout,
and I'm telling you why.
The SCSC's Christmas Banquet
is coming to town.*

Yes, on Thursday, December 12th, the Stereo Club of Southern California's Annual Christmas Banquet will be held at 7:30 pm at Taix's Restaurant at 1911 Sunset Blvd, just east of Alvarado. At the impossibly low price of \$25.00, the price includes your choice of Chicken, Beef, or Vegetarian Pasta for an entrée, Ice Cream with Chocolate syrup for dessert, drawings for door prizes and two spectacular 3D-slide programs.

For more information, contact **Mitch Walker** at 310-459-1030 or **email at: mitchbear@aol.com**.

New SCSC Members

The Stereo Club of Southern California extends a hearty welcome to the following new members:

Bob Chow
Zahir Alpaslan



News and Notes from the SCSC Clubhouse



by Lawrence Kaufman

SCSC Needs You!

Prior to writing a regular column for the *3D News*, I wrote many reviews and one-time articles. In January 1997 I wrote a guest editorial entitled "The Incredible Shrinking SCSC Membership". I am still concerned that while we have been able to keep the Stereo Club of Southern California's membership count pretty steady, we have not really been able to grow the count. We had levelled off in recent years. So the new members are just replacing the several members who have passed away, those who have moved away and others who have just not renewed their memberships for whatever reason. We must keep the membership rolls from rolling in the wrong direction. I think each of us should stop and ask ourselves "What have I done to get new members?"

We must continue to attract new members, if we are to remain a vital presence. This past summer we sponsored our most visible outreach possible - The NSA convention (for the second time). Were we successful in attracting new members? Time will tell. We handed out numerous SCSC membership flyers and we even had several individuals join at our September meeting. But since the convention was held 50 miles east of Los Angeles, it is likely that we will not receive many new members or subscribers from it. What else can we do? We still have SCSC flyers - pick some up and pass them around. Take them to local camera

shops or anywhere people interested in 3D might find them.

It is up to each and every one of us to spread the word; we all need to be Stereo Missionaries for our wonderful cause.

November SCSC Meeting

The November meeting is JAM-PACKED! **Ray Zone** our Program Director has lined up three programs for the evening:

First - Is our second club competition. All members are encouraged to round up their three best stereo slide images and enter them. The turn out at the first club competition was truly amazing. If we keep up that pace, we will have a tough group this year. You can enter three slides in both the convention and the non-conventional groups. Plus if you missed the first competition, you can enter make up slides for it at this competition. You can read the competition rules online at the SCSC Club Website.

Second - The first of three rounds of the Interclub Slide Competition. Our club will be judging this round of the International Stereo Club Competition, so we will not be entering until February. There should be some great slide entries from around the world in this competition.

Third - "Wildlife of North America" stereo slide program. This program is on loan from the National Stereoscopic Association's (NSA) Oliver Wendell Holmes Stereo Research Library. Award Winning Stereo Photographer Dr. Paul

Milligan put this program together with the help of several invited contributors. Now that he is retiring from stereo photography he had donated his fabulous programs to the NSA and the Photographic Society of America (PSA). This is a long program with over 200 images, we will only be able to see the entire program if time permits.

The Hollywood Exhibition

The Hollywood Stereo Exhibition will be held on Saturday, January 18th at 9:00 am in Glendale. Entry forms will be available at the November and December SCSC Club meeting. The Judges will be, **Cassie Kaufman**, **Charlie Van Pelt**, and **David Kuntz**. This exhibition consists of two separate sections:

5th Hollywood Int'l Stereo Slide Exhibition. Format: Stereo Slides. Closing date: January 16, 2003. **Mitchell Walker**, PO Box 581, Pacific Palisades, CA. email: mitchbear@aol.com. Fees: US & Canada \$8. Others \$10.

5th Hollywood Int'l Stereo Card Exhibition. Format: Stereo Cards. Closing date: January 16, 2003. **Lawrence Kaufman**, 1607 Mariposa Drive, Corona, CA. email: kaufman3d@earthlink.net. Fees: US \$8. All others \$10.



Auction Action

by David Kuntz

For this year's annual equipment auction, **Ray Zone** stepped up to act as auctioneer in the absence of **David Starkman**. Ray capably handled the sale of a total of 38 lots, which included some real gems, such as a Belpasca European Format Stereo Camera and a Stereo Realist Model 81 Stereo Projector. Perhaps it was the state of the economy, but this year's crowd drove some extremely hard bargains. Stereo Realist f/3.5 cameras went for a mere \$100, and a plethora of silver screens were practically given away. This year's event was a bargain hunter's paradise.

While the number of items sold decreased from last year, the proceeds to the Club were up this year. This is because the total value of goods sold was higher than last year, and also because of the generosity of a man who has virtually become the patron saint of the SCSC Equipment Auction - **Erick Purkhiser**. U2's Bono has become an active player on the international stage on behalf of a number of humanitarian causes, even working with conservative Senator Jesse Helms. Based on what he's done for the Club's finances, I don't think it's a stretch to propose that Lux Interior (Erick) of *The Cramps* provide fiscal advice to George Bush. It's a meeting I'd like to witness.

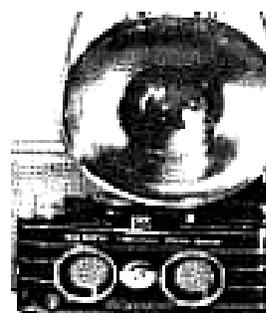
Running a successful auction requires the efforts and contributions of many people. Assisting as merchandise runners were **Lawrence Kaufman**, **Christopher Olson**, **Philip Steinman** and **Mitchell Walker**. **Cassandra Kaufman** aided me at the cashier's table to keep things running smoothly. And, of course, the auction only happens with sellers and buyers.

The Club extends its thanks to all those who participated.



Auction Results

Belpasca Stereo Camera	\$675.00
Stereo Realist Model 81 Projector	\$380.00
Triad Stereo Projector	\$300.00
140 Stereo Slides - Nudes	\$259.00
Alan Gordon Mirror Stereoscope	\$125.00
Stereo Realist f/3.5 Camera	\$100.00
Stereo Realist f/3.5 Camera	\$100.00
Kodaslide II Stereo Viewer	\$95.00
200 Stereo Travel Slides	\$90.00
200 Stereo Travel Slides	\$75.00
Stereo Slide Storage Boxes - 2	\$75.00
Pentax Stereo Adapter Set	\$70.00
Stereo Realist Red Button Viewer	\$65.00
Baja Stereo Slide Storage Box	\$65.00
Wood Stereoscope	\$65.00
Kodaslide I Stereo Viewer	\$55.00
Knox Commodore Silver Screen - 60"	\$50.00
Da-Lite Silver Screen - 40"	\$35.00
Stereo Realist Glass Mounts	\$33.00
Radiant Stereomaster Screen - 50"	\$30.00
Da-Lite Silver Screen - 40"	\$30.00
Civil War in Depth Vol. 2 Book	\$25.00
Civil War in Depth Vol. 2 Book	\$22.00
Touched by Fire Book - 2 copies	\$20.00
Stereo Realist Camera Case	\$20.00
Da-Lite Silver Screen - 5.40"	\$20.00
Stereo Slides of Seattle - 5 Boxes	\$19.00
Da-Lite Silver Screen - 40"	\$14.00
Stereo Projection Lenses	\$10.00
Bulk Film Loader	\$10.00
Erotic 3-D Stereograms Book	\$5.00
Holographic Dolphin Swim Goggles	\$5.00
2 Uncut Filmstrips of LA Marathon	\$5.00
2 Rail Bellows for Slide Bar	\$5.00
Stereo World Magazine	\$3.00
Magic Eye II Stereogram Book	\$2.00
Brownie Starflex Outfit	\$1.00
35mm Slide Sorter	\$1.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$2,959.00</u>
Club's Proceeds	\$659.30



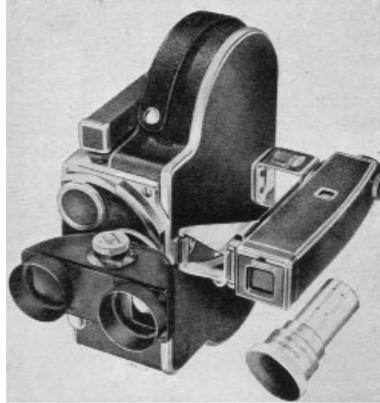
The 3D Movie/Video Division

by John Hart

A small number of 3D movie-enthusiast members of the Stereo Club of Southern California first met at **David Starkman** and **Susan Pinsky's** house in Duarte in summer, 1982. It was discovered that there was sufficient interest in this medium to create a separate division of the club. Since I was then principal of Longley Way School in Arcadia, I offered the school's youth center as a convenient place to meet, and thus the 3D Movie/Video Division was born. As far as I know, we are the only amateur 3D movie group in existence. Meetings have been held four times a year for the past twenty years.

Early participants in the movie group shot in a variety of formats. 16mm aficionados used Bolex and Elgeet attachments on their cameras. **Bill Shepard** had a super 8 rig featuring two mechanically synched super 8 cameras and projectors. My older setup used regular 8 cameras and projectors. Later, the Elmo attachment for super 8 cameras was introduced. It created a wide screen effect by rotating the images so that they were foot to foot on one tiny super 8 frame. **Owen Western** became the master of this device, creating movies that were the envy of the group and motivating David Starkman, Bill Shepard and me to have Marc Powell create add-ons to super 8 sound cameras for us that copied the Elmo optics. Another participant, **Scott Steffens**, experimented with the Spondon device, creating anaglyphic movies.

When the Olympics were held in Los Angeles in 1984, it was decided that a 3D group project parodying the event was in order. Using Arcadia High School's field as the venue, the group created a 16mm film with a Bolex camera and an Elgeet attachment. The film featured a series of lampoons joined by snippets of **Earl Colgan**, shown as a backward runner. **Daphne Shepard**, **Susan Pinsky** and **Holly Weisbach**,



Bolex 16mm Stereo Attachment on camera

competing athletes and wardrobe mistresses, decked out the participants in silk-screened tanktops. Earl wore a golden laurel branch, naturally.

Another group project, financed and produced by **Alan Williams**, was a tongue-in-cheek ripoff of several 3D science fiction films, especially *It Came from Outer Space* and *The Bubble*. Alan shot his 16mm film with a Bolex attachment. It featured the **Greg Hooper** family, terrified by invading aliens. Alan duplicated a hallucinogenic floating mask scene, first seen in *The Bubble*, by creating a swirling fog in the school auditorium with dry ice and double-exposing a number of horrific Halloween masks seen floating eerily off the screen.

The appearance of the Toshiba 3D camcorder and, later, the NuView attachment for video cameras, saw the group remove its polarizers and replace them with electronic shutterglasses. Movie meetings became a tangle of wires as participants plugged their LCD shutters into an electronic driver to see the flickering 3D image on the TV screen.

It was about this time that **Lawrence Kaufman** came onto the 3D scene. His enthusiasm for all things 3D breathed new life into the Movie Division. Soon it was decided to hold an international 3

3D movies/video competition. Lawrence managed to talk the Vrex company's management into lending a 3D projector to the group for the competition, as well as provide shutter glasses as prizes. Other prizes were donated by Movie Division members. This first competition brought entries from all over the United States and several foreign countries. Its success spawned a second and third competition.

After this flurry of 3D movie activity, the group seemed to lose its momentum. Attendance waned at the quarterly meetings and little new film/video appeared. SCSC president at the time, **Steve Berezin**, suggested that the Movie Division consider disbanding and showing films/videos from time to time at regular SCSC meetings. Realizing that wired shutterglasses would be impractical for a group as large as the SCSC, and impressed with the digital video projectors demonstrated by **Ron Labbe** at last summer's NSA Convention in Riverside, I decided to duplicate Ron's projection setup.

The equipment consists of two DSL projectors and a demultiplexer. The alternate-frame images are fed from a VCR, DVD player or computer into the demux box. The demultiplexer features a line doubler which helps to eliminate the flicker problem that plagues alternate-frame videos. From the demux box, left and right images are fed to their respective digital projectors. Each projector is fitted with a correctly-oriented polarizer.

This new system was demonstrated at an impromptu Movie Division meeting held on October 24th at my home. In attendance were three SCSC members who had not attended prior Movie/Video Division meetings: **Zahir Alpaslan**, **Sean Isroelit** and **Stella Berestetsky**, accompanied by a Russian friend. Also in attendance were **Ray Zone**, **Oliver Dean**, **Len May** and **Lawrence Kaufman**. Those movie club members who had not participated in Ron Labbe's Electronic Theater showings at the

NSA Convention were impressed with the large, bright 3D image, the lack of flicker and the fact that passive polarizers were used.

It was decided that the Movie Division would continue to hold separate meetings, but would also share movies at regular SCSC meetings from time to time as requested.

For additional information about the 3D Movies/Video Division of the Stereo Club of Southern California, call me at (818) 437-2523 or email me at: movies3d@aol.com.

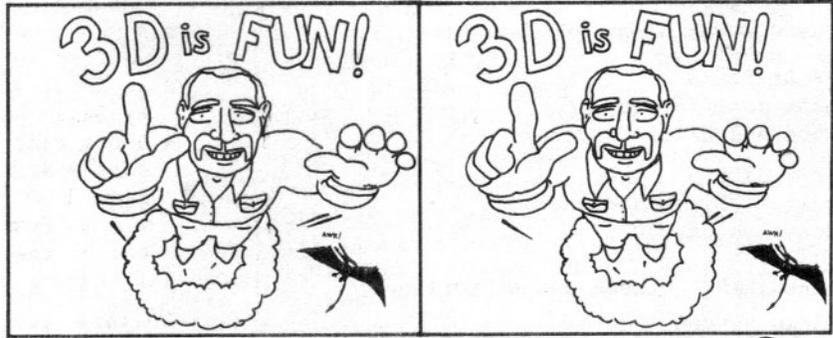
Synchronizing Digital Cameras

Much talk continues on joining or synching digital cameras for 3D. The latest issue of *Stereo Views*, the Cascade Stereoscopic Club of Portland, Oregon newsletter, has two articles about twinning digital cameras. One is by **Dale Rossi**, who synchronized two Nikon Coolpix 990 cameras; the other is by **David Allen** who synchronized two Sony Cyber-Shot DSC-F505V cameras.

The first uses external electrical cable, the second was done by actually opening the cameras and hardwiring. The second example is a set of step-by-step instructions for those brave enough to perform this operation. You might have seen some examples of 3D digital cameras at the NSA Riverside convention; **Takashi Sekitani** has a dual rig (Nikon Coolpix) with a flash with perfect synchronization.

You can read the newsletter online at Cascade's website: <http://www.cascade3d.org/>. Plus check out back issues there also. The direct link to the article in CSC's *Stereo Views* is: <http://www.cascade3d.org/newsletters/CSC200210.pdf>

--Lawrence Kaufman



Tony Alderson caricatured himself for his inaugural cover of 3D News, August 1983

Tony Alderson 1954-2002

By Ray Zone

At 48 years of age, Tony Alderson, stereographer, cartoonist, and ukelele player has passed away. Succumbing to liver and kidney failure in North Hollywood, California at 10:30 pm on Tuesday night, October 22, Tony went to the great 3-D drawing table in the sky.

Tony served as President of the Stereo Club of Southern California from 1983 to 1984 and its Program Director in 1985-86. Tony's monthly covers for SCSC's *3-D News* during his term as President were witty stereo-delights. His inaugural President's page was a side-by-side 3-panel "freevision" stereographic cartoon called *Toe Tappin 2-Step* showing him blasted out of a cannon straight at the reader. For his final cover Tony produced the very first and only anaglyph issue of the *3D News*. It featured a self-caricature and a visual joke about the "stereo" window.

Tony is the artist responsible for the National Stereoscopic Association (NSA) 2002 Convention logo and he also created the logo in 1986, the last time the convention was held in Riverside, California. Hired by Susan Pinsky in 1982 to work at 3D Cosmic Publications, a division of 3D Video Corporation, Tony converted Jack Kirby's art to 3-D for the "3D Cosmic" book *Battle for a Three Dimensional World*. Most recently, Tony presented a slide program which was a career overview titled "Make Those Lenses Swing" at the NSA 2002 Convention.

A Memoriam for Tony was held on October 26 at "Chez 3-D," the home of Susan Pinsky and David Starkman in Culver City, California.



Humorous self-deprecation was a part of Tony's personal style.

How Does 3-D Projection Work?

by David Kuntz

Stereo projection utilizes polarized light. To understand polarization, it is necessary to know that light is an electromagnetic wave. Polarization refers to the direction in space in which the electrical field of the light wave is oscillating.

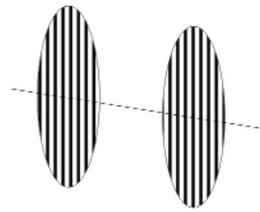
Most light sources, such as the light bulbs used in stereo projectors, produce unpolarized light. This means that the electromagnetic waves they emit do not all have the same orientation. This situation is shown in the drawing, which depicts the oscillating electrical field of a light bulb's light waves, together with an arrow to indicate the orientation of each wave in space. Notice that they don't all point in the same direction.

A polarizing filter, or polarizer, is a device that selectively absorbs all light waves not oriented in a specific direction. This process turns unpolarized light into polarized light.

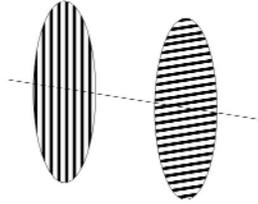
Once light is polarized, it will pass through a second polarizer oriented in the same direction as the first. Alternately, light will be blocked if it encounters a polarizer oriented at right angles to the first polarizer. This is shown in the drawing. It is this phenomenon that enables stereo projection.

In a stereo projector, there is a polarizer in both the left and right optical trains. One is oriented 45 degrees clockwise from the vertical, and the other is pointed 45 degrees counter-

Light Passes



Light is Blocked



clockwise from the vertical. Thus, they are at right angles to each other.

The polarized light from the left and right channels of the projector then reflects off the screen. In order for 3-D projection to work, it is necessary that the screen preserve the polarization characteristics of the incoming light. Only a silver screen can accomplish this (because it contains actual metallic particles). A non-metallic surface, such as a wall or a white beaded glass screen, scrambles the polarization and ruins the process.

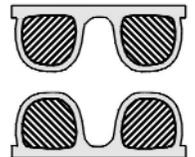
The polarized light reflected from the silver screen then passes through the viewer's glasses. These

contain polarizers oriented in the same directions as the projector's polarizers. Because these polarizers only pass one polarization, each eye only sees one of the projected images (e.g. the left eye only sees the left projected image). This is what makes 3-D projection work.

It should be noted that the polarizers can be placed either before or after the slide in the projector's optical system. Some films, such as ESTAR base films, depolarize light. If the polarizer comes before the slide (such as in the Club's TDC 716), the resultant depolarization prevents proper 3-D projection. In contrast, in the Club's 2x2 projectors, the polarizers come after the slide; here, the use of depolarizing slide films does not present a problem.

Useful Tip:

Because of the way the polarizers are oriented in 3-D glasses, they can be flipped left-for-right and



still operate correctly. However, if an image is projected pseudoscopically (left and right image reversed), the viewer can view it correctly by simply flipping the glasses upside down.

