

The Newsletter of

The Puget Sound Stereo Camera Club



CLUB COMPETITION THEMES



JANUARY
Animals



FEBRUARY
Architecture &
Interiors



MARCH
Seascapes &
Water

APRIL
Flowers, Plants &
Fruits



MAY
Portraiture &
Children



JUNE
Open



Making New Year's Resolutions? Remember to Include PSSCC on Your 2013 List of Resolves.

Happy New Year from your editors. Last year at this time we were in Las Vegas where Mart got to wrap a boa constrictor around her neck, thus fulfilling one of her 2012 resolutions: "Don't wear fur." Frank stopped making resolutions long ago. Just too much self-re-creation from all those broken promises.

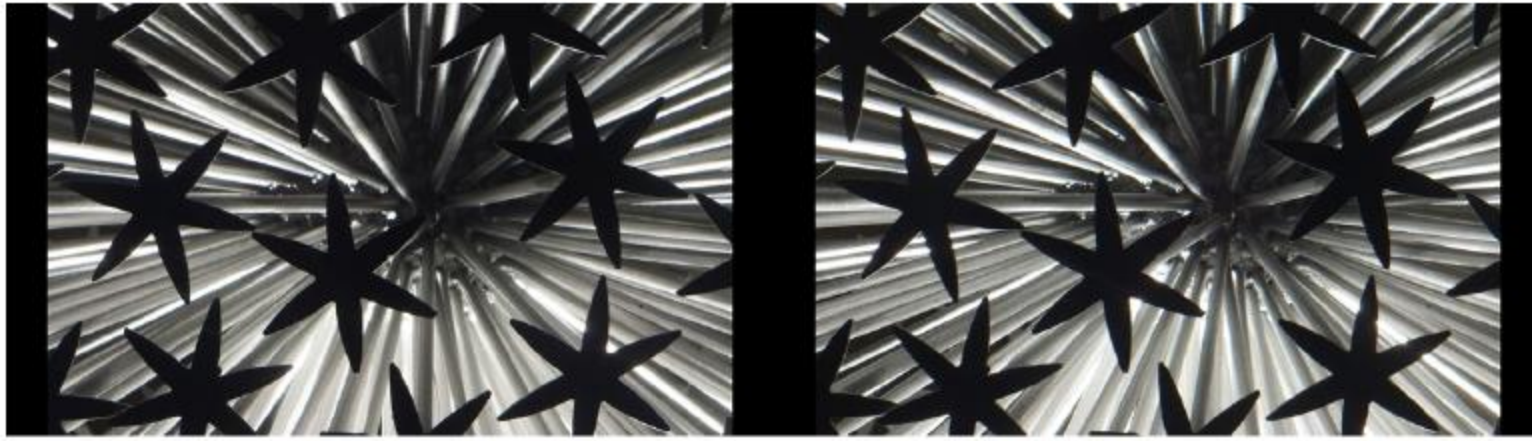


Here are some easy resolves you can make that will be a snap to keep: (1) If you haven't attended a meeting in a while, show up at next week's gathering.

(2) Enter the next club competition and join the winner ranks with your best 3D animal image. (3) Sign up to bring food for the meeting on February 9th. (4) If you can't bring food, pop for a \$5 donation to the kitty to help pay for supplies.

Mart & Frank 

The PSSCC exists to provide a venue for the promotion and enjoyment of stereo photography through education, presentations, and critiques. The Club meets on the second Saturday of the month at noon, September through June, at the Federal Way Senior Center in Auburn, WA. Back issues of this newsletter can be viewed by joining the PSSCC Yahoo Group at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/PSSCC>. Please join us at our next meeting.



First Place: Bob Venezia for “Dark Stars”



Second Place: Stewart Turley for “Vintage Cameras”



Third Place: Shannon Milner for “Glass Ornaments”

HEADS UP: Images to represent PSSCC in the next InterClub Competition will be selected at Saturday’s meeting. Bring your best or be ready to vote.



QUEEN
ELIZABETH **IN 3D**

Yes, Those Are 3D Glasses On Her Majesty the Queen

A Christmas message from the British monarch has been a tradition since 1932. And this year, Her Majesty enthusiastically embraced a 3D broadcast to her nation. Underscoring the importance of the Diamond Jubilee commemorating her amazing 60 years on the throne, as well as the Summer Olympic Games and Paralympic Games held in London last summer, the Queen narrated a broad-

cast that featured 3D clips from the summer games, the Armed Forces Muster, and a regatta on the Thames where she was joined by Prince Philip and her family. The broadcast opened with the British Paraorchestra playing, of course, “God Save the Queen.”



A long tradition – here a young Queen Elizabeth II broadcasts her Christmas message from New Zealand in 1953.



In Spite of its Depthiness, Colbert's Latest Volume of Silliness Lacks an Important Dimension: The Author's Actual Voice.

By Frank Barnett & Mart McCann

There are at least three audiences for the latest title by political satirist, Stephen Colbert: (1) fans, known as "Colbert Nation," (2) Don Munsil and other collectors of every 3D book published, and (3) seventh graders on the lookout for their next civics class quip.

This is a book that requires a real dedication to plowing through a plethora of admittedly well-done graphics to reach the author's faux conservatism. While we confess to sharing most of Colbert's political sentiments (his real ones), there is one very important dimension missing: Colbert's actual voice and delivery. *Hey, Stephen, why not include a DVD along with the anaglyph glasses for your third book?* That would open up yet another potential market – audiophiles. While *America Again* is funny, it feels like a lot of work, something one doesn't experience watching "The Colbert Report" on Comedy Central.

But why the 3D? Well, it got your reviewers to buy it, didn't it? For the official answer, we turn to the author himself.

"...I wanted this book to be bigger and better and bigger by doing all the important things to make books good, like adding full color, upgrading the photos to HD, and most important, bringing them to you in EYE-POP-PING 3D. It's like THE PAGES ARE TURNING RIGHT AT YOU!!!"

In our past movie reviews, we've always asked the question, "So, was the 3D really worth the extra three bucks?" It may surprise you to learn that, in this case, we actually did spend time viewing the anaglyphs and here's our conclusion. For likely conversions, they were well done and, more to the point, they added to our pleasure and, unlike movies,

the 3D didn't cost us anything extra. During an interview with *Fresh Air's* Terry Gross, Colbert observed that news pundits find it difficult to be authors as well. Since Colbert was loathe to being bested by his political nemesis, Bill O'Reilly, he admitted that commentators "...don't have time to write a book and feed and wash ourselves, so something has to go out the window. And (for me) it was family, friends, and hygiene for the past year."



ELECTIONS

“The rustle of the voting booth curtain. The musty aroma of the elderly volunteers. The hushed oaths of the guy jimmying open the voting machine with his belt buckle. And through it all, the majestic bunt of the bunting. It's election day, and Americans from all walks of life are eagerly lining up to ask their bosses for an unpaid afternoon off to vote.”



We've dodged another bullet!



Or have we?

Wrap Your W3 in Aluminum Foil – The End May Be Near (Again)

December 21st has come and gone, and terra firma is still firma. So, we can all heave a big sigh of relief. Or can we? (cue sounds of impending doom). Forecasts predicting the end is nigh no doubt date back to mankind's first sighting of a solar eclipse. That must have really scared the daylighters (no pun intended. Well, maybe just a bissel) out of the locals.

Not all of the predictions of doom are based on superstition or psychotic flirtations with the supernatural or paranormal. Some are actually based on rather solid science. But for now, let's trip down memory lane and visit a few that had no basis in fact.

The year is 2800 B.C. and it's the Fourth Egyptian Dynasty, ruled by its third king, the Pharaoh Khafra. Slaves are toiling to complete the third pyramid at Giza, not the largest but certainly the most perfect. Civilization is working up an unstoppable

head of steam and already the end is being prophesied. An Assyrian clay tablet from the period warns, "Bribery and corruption are rampant. Children no longer obey their parents. Every man wants to write a book. The end of the world is approaching ..." Sound familiar?

Jump ahead a couple of millennia to early Rome. Its first king, Romulus (twin brother of Remus), believed he had heard the bad news from 12 eagles that Rome's number was already up. Once again during the course of civilization, The End was being predicted: the city would perish just 120 short years after its founding. When the appointed time came and went, Doomsday was pushed up a few hundred years. We've all heard those cries before, "The end is upon us. No wait, we just got the wrong date!"

In more modern times we're still at it. Thanks to scores of Puritans who were bent on taking the Bible literally, the 18th Century was an apocalyptic heyday. Using astronomical observation and numerology as well as scripture to predict the end, the

Puritans were continually updating one termination date after another.

In our contemporary era, many "rational" minds among us still held to the belief that the end was near, right up to December 21, 2012, when the Mayan "prophecy" popularized by the History Channel, and based on the fact that their calendar ended on the Winter Solstice, failed to materialize. We humans just seem to be wired for a belief in the fragility of an enduring existence.

Certainly, there is much in the collective human experience to reinforce beliefs in the temporary nature of life on earth – floods, pestilence, droughts, volcanic eruptions and manmade holocausts such as WWI and WWII that ended with Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In fact, a belief in The End is seeming more and more rational. With the dawn of the 21st Century came the Indian Ocean earthquake and subsequent tsunami that killed

nearly a quarter of a million people in 14 countries. That natural disaster, coupled with the spectre of global warming and the growing number of "super storms" should have us all thinking about stocking our cellars with barrels of water, plenty of Skittles, and enough beef jerky to see us through until aliens can muster their forces to rescue us.

Why would evolution wire us to embrace one prediction of doom and gloom after another? Does it serve a function like the fight or flight mechanism? Remember Henny Penny, the little chicken who thought the sky was falling? That folk

tale has been around in one version or another for at least 25 centuries. Over the centuries, Chicken Little has been politicized and come to symbolize fear mongers who promulgate hysterical and mistaken beliefs that disaster in one form or another is imminent.

But what if we were occasionally willing to view Chicken Little as the canary in the





3D SURVIVAL KIT

coal mine instead of always casting him as the alarmist in our midst?

It's just unrealistic to expect that mankind and his myriad of toys and gadgets will last forever. After all, we don't see a lot of dinosaurs around, do we? We take our stuff for granted: our computers, our 3D cameras, and the worldwide web that allows us to share images at the speed of light. It all feels so tangible, so real.

Recall that earlier we mentioned that some predictions of impending doom are based on solid science. Unfortunately, we humans, for the most part, are just not willing to face some difficult truths. Global warming? "There's always been climate change. It's cyclical." "Oh sure, there's global warming alright, but it's not caused by man. It's caused by the sun!" Yeah, right. In spite of the mounting evidence, nations around the world show little appetite for change.

Now that we've made it safely to 2013, let's take a look at what might be in store for

humankind according to some very real scientific speculation.

Imagine, if you will, a world in which north and south have gone haywire. Our communication satellites are no longer whirling in their low-earth geosynchronous orbits. Civilization's world-wide electrical grid has been destroyed, and it will be a year before any of us can turn on a light bulb. Our computers are now sitting on our desks with darkened screens, our GPS devices have become useless amalgamations of circuitry, and our W3s are as useful as hockey pucks. As a species, we're back to cooking over open fires and our canine companions are once again relegated to the perimeter of our campsites listening intently for possible intruders.

Sound impossible? It's not, and global warming doesn't even play a part in these doomsday scenarios. It may just be time to break out those canisters of film that we've been hoarding in the back of the fridge: Memory cards will be useless.



As our title suggests, we may have dodged one bullet only to be taken out by another. Most of us didn't really take all that Mayan nonsense seriously, but there are at least two plausible events that loom large with the potential to redefine normal.

First, this year the sun's 11-year solar storm cycle reaches its peak, threatening to knock out our planet's electrical grids and orbiting satellites. Will massive solar flares destroy the earth? Sounds like a great plot for a Hollywood blockbuster. Oh, wait, they made that movie. It was called "2012" and starred John Cusack. Two thumbs down!

In 1859 a huge solar storm knocked out early telegraph systems. With today's dependency on electricity, the effect of a magnetic storm could be devastating.

Here's how civilization might be impacted. Imagine giant plasma balls blasting out from the surface of the sun, wiping out the earth's modern electricity grids that would take up to a year to rebuild. On the bright side, Floridians should be able to enjoy the Aurora Borealis.

The second scenario involves our earth's shifting magnetic field. The next time your airliner approaches SeaTac's Center Runway, you might give thought to our planet's rapidly shifting poles, giving headaches to navigators as well as migratory birds. In fact, the magnetic pole is moving faster than at any time in human history – 40 miles a year. Soon, the north pole will be over Russia instead of Canada's icy Ellesmere Island. Zdrah-stvooy-tee, Santa Claus.

Does all that really matter? The march of magnetic north has already become a major nuisance to the FAA. Across the nation, runways need to be renamed at least every five years since their numbers correspond to compass points. But that doesn't sound so bad. Where's the big problem? You know, the scary stuff. Some scientists believe the pole's rapid movement signals a complete "flip" in the earth's magnetic field. Compasses will point south instead of north. And some "Chicken Little" scientists warn of decades of earthquakes and tsunamis.

Now that's more like it! You may resume the countdown.



Photographic Society of America®

Founded in 1934, PSA has members in over 70 countries. Individual, Club, and Council memberships offer a wide variety of services and activities: a monthly magazine; online photo galleries, image evaluation, study groups, and courses; competitions; an annual conference; recognition; and discounts on photography related products and services. PSSCC participates in PSA's 3D Division that sanctions exhibitions for which points are awarded, and also sponsors the InterClub 3D Competition.

www.psa-photo.org



National Stereoscopic Association

The NSA is affiliated with the Stereoscopic Society of America. The annual NSA Convention/Trade Fair attracts members from all over the world, as well as many photographica dealers, photo historians, and experts in various state-of-the-art applications of stereo imaging. The convention is held in a different location in the United States each year, and is the high-point of the stereoscopic calendar.

www.stereoworld.org



The International Stereoscopic Union

Founded in 1975 the ISU is the only international 3D association in the world. The ISU is a club of individual 3D enthusiasts as well as a club of stereo clubs. The ISU's members currently number more than 1,050 and come from over 40 countries world-wide. Although the ISU caters mainly to the 3D amateur photographer, the ISU also has much to offer to members who are professional stereo photographers and cinematographers, as well as to those who are involved in the scientific aspects of the stereoscopic image.

www.stereoscopy.com/isu/



Federal Way Senior Center



4016 South 352nd Street
Auburn, WA 98001



Directions

From I 5, turn East at Hwy. 18 exit. Travel East and take the 1st exit at 32nd Ave. S (Sign reads Weyerhaeuser Road). Turn South on 32nd until you reach 344th St. (first left) and go East on 344th until you reach 38th Ave. S (1st right). Travel South on 38th to 352nd and turn left (East). Go 3 blocks, the Senior Center is on the North side (left) of the street.

JANUARY LUNCH VOLUNTEERS

The Food Providers

	Meat & Rolls	Cheese & Crackers	Fruit	Vegetables	Dessert
JANUARY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
VOLUNTEERS	MART	STEWART	JOYCE	JEFF	BRIAN

All right members! This is the second month in a row with all of the volunteer spots filled. Pat yourselves on the back and let's do it again next month.

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