

Focus On: Barb Gauche

What is your photography background?

Photography has always been an interest. I purchased my first 35mm SLR, an early Ricoh auto/manual model, in 1980. I took a few photography classes to improve composition skills and learn B&W print developing, but have not continued processing film. My photography has always been for personal, not professional interests, and was primarily applied to family and travel.



How did you get started in stereo photography?

In the winter of 2003 the Macomb Township Recreation Department conducted a series of Sunday evening concerts at the local town hall. The final night of the series was a performance by Blackthorn, and I was completely enthralled by their Irish ballads and pub music. Later, having questions about some of the song lyrics, I sent an email to the group's web master, and through a series of emails back and forth I ended up volunteering to take 3D pictures for DSS member Dennis Green, the group's bassist, since he was having difficulty playing and shooting pictures at the same time.

Dennis was very trusting, handing me, nearly a complete stranger, his RBT and letting me practice during the performance sessions. Shooting 3D was a new and exciting experience. After shooting several hundred pictures at various locations and under widely varied lighting and staging situations, I was hooked and wanted my own equipment. With Dennis' mentoring, for which I will always be grateful, I have learned many of the fundamentals, but realize I have a long way to go to fully understand 3D photography. I joined DSS in March of 2004 and have enjoyed the monthly meetings very much. For 2004-2005 I have volunteered to serve the group as Awards Chairperson.

I have now shot and mounted hundreds of my own slides and am intent on entering some slides in every DSS monthly competition

from now on. For experience and exposure to various competition formats, I recently entered the NSA Stereo Sequence competition with a set of slides that I shot in Canada. My sequence wasn't accepted, but the time spent carefully examining and selecting slides and writing the accompanying narratives helped me improve my awareness of the details of exposure, mounting, composition, and so on. I plan to continue to improve my skills and study the art of 3D photography.

What can you share about your personal life?

My husband Paul, also a relatively new member of DSS, and I have been married since 1980. I worked as a computer systems analyst for Michigan Bell for 10 years but abandoned that career in 1989 to pursue a new career as a professional scuba diving instructor. Diving for me is part job and part hobby. I teach evening classes in beginning, advanced, rescue and other scuba skills, and spend several weekends each summer at lakes checking out students for open water certifications. It's also part hobby, and I've had the opportunity to dive in the Great Lakes, inland lakes, an abandoned mine near St. Louis, the Caribbean, Pacific Ocean, Coral Sea and the Pacific Northwest. Since 1996 I have also been working part time as a "runner/office assistant" for a German robotics company in Sterling Heights. Working full time would deprive me of time for my other hobbies - basket weaving, beading, crewing for a powerboat racing team, travel, and now stereo photography. [][]

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