



# FIRST OSPS INTERNATIONAL STEREO EXHIBITION



## A Review — by George Themelis

With the first OSPS International Stereo Exhibition (almost) behind us, this is a good time to discuss what this exhibition means for us, the work requirements it imposes and if it is worth sponsoring every year.

### Why Exhibit?

In a stereo exhibition there are two groups of people involved: Those who submit stereo images and those who organize the exhibition. There are benefits for both groups. Those who submit images have the satisfaction of seeing their work accepted, admired and awarded. Those who organize the exhibition (usually a stereo club) are able to obtain a set of outstanding stereo images to exhibit locally.

### The Workload

From my involvement in this year's Exhibition, I have summarized the steps involved in setting up an exhibition.

This list can serve as reference for future Exhibition Chairmen.

### Months Before Selection

- Decide on Selection Date.
- Obtain commitments from 3 judges, plus key people (projectionist, etc.)
- Obtain commitments for showing the exhibition in at least two locations. (1)
- Clarify final details (awards to be given, etc.) and prepare a draft entry form.
- Apply to PSA for approval. (2)
- Finalize and print Entry Form.
- Distribute Entry Form. (3)
- Advertise Exhibition. (4)

Notes: (1) Showing the exhibition in two locations is required by the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and these locations (and times) must be listed in the Entry Form. Naturally, the more locations the exhibition is shown, the better it is for the organizers.

(2) PSA approval is not necessary but it is considered essential for a successful stereo exhibition. PSA approval assures entrants that the

exhibition is conducted with a certain set of standards and fairness. Also, entrants are entitled to participate in the PSA rating system of stars (*see Stereogram 3.9*), which makes it even more fun for some people.

(3) PSA supplies a list of active exhibitors, plus the organizers can mail this form to anyone they think might be interested (especially local enthusiasts) and also post in the Internet.

(4) The reason for advertising the exhibition is twofold: a) Get more people to enter, b) Get more people to attend the showings.

### Days Before Selection

- Accept & Organize Entries.
- Last minute reminders for judges, etc.

Entries arrive from different US states and countries, usually via the Post Office. Local entries can be hand-delivered. The process of keeping track of all entries is not trivial. There is a great responsibility involved when handling someone else's best work. A computer spreadsheet can simplify the process of organizing all the information.

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## A Word from the Exhibition Chairman Jim Motley

OSPS recently hosted our first PSA International Exhibition. We had 77 entries for a total of 308 slides. All were interesting and many were **absolutely great 3D**. The Selection Process was done Saturday, April 21, 2001.

I thought that it is interesting to note that the slide entries came from 18 different States of the USA and from 7 other Countries. The States were: Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, Wyoming. California led the list with 14 people who entered our Exhibition.

The other Countries (and entries) were: Australia (6), Austria (1), Belgium (1), Canada (1), England & UK (4), Germany (7), India (1).

Thanks to ALL who submitted slides for our first Exhibition and hope that you continue to do so for our next Exhibition. Thanks also are appropriate for our Selection Team:

- Selectors- **John Waldsmith, George Themelis, Ron Wilson.**
- Projectionists- **Ron Fross and Dennis Petti.**
- Scoring- **Mark Motley and Debbie Motley.**

My personal Thanks to **Ray and Nancy Moxom** of the Sydney Australia club for the technical assistance in setting up the Excel files which I used to record the entries and to manipulate the data to get various forms such as those used for the selection process. Thanks also to **Mark Motley** for his help in proofreading to catch errors in my typing, and to **Debbie Motley** for her assistance in getting the names and addresses from my Excel file and making the labels used for the mailing info and slides back to the entrants. If there is anyone else that I should have thanked and didn't, I thank you too.

*Jim Motley, Chairman—First OSPS Stereo Exhibition*

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### Selection Day

- Overview Selection Process.

Our 1st Exhibition was judged with our TDC projector and 70" screen. Two more people were needed at the projector. Two more people helped the chairman by summing and recording the scores, etc. There were no spectators (even though all OSPS members was invited to attend). With the 3 judges and the Chairman, it took 8 people and 4-5 hours to complete the selection. From the 308 slides entered, 149 were accepted and awards were given to 16 of them.

### Week after Selection Day

- Organize results.
- Mail report cards.
- Post results (acceptances & awards) in the Internet.
- Return "total rejects" (to makers with no acceptances in all their entries).
- Scan winners' entries (for Internet or catalog - optional).
- Organize accepted entries in an Audiovisual Presentation.

I was in charge of putting together a presentation for the exhibition and used my new RBT 101 stereo projector set to advance automatically from slide to slide. Based on input from the 3dSalon mailing list, I arranged the slides per subject, used a projection time of 8-10 seconds per slide and used only background music (with the help of **Dennis Petti**) for the general acceptances. For the awards, the title and maker were announced. I made title slides using MS Publisher (same program used for this newsletter) and photographing the computer screen (many thanks to **Lee Pratt** for the suggestion). The stereo effects were achieved by changing the spacing of words/sentences or pitch of the characters (this makes them go diagonally).

### Up to 2 Months after Selection Day

- Show the exhibition at the agreed upon locations and times.
- Order awards for the winners.
- Return all entries.
- Prepare a Catalog for the Exhibition.
- Mail out Catalogs and Awards.
- Prepare a report and financial statement.

As a minimum, the Catalog must list all acceptances and awards. A message from the Chairman and statistics are also common. Color reproductions of the awarded images are becoming more and more common.



"Shep" by **Ron Fross** won the best OSPS award. Pictures of the other award-winners will be published in the Exhibition Catalog.

### EXHIBITION AWARDS:

- Gold Medal - Best of Show:  
**David Kesner**, Spike
- Silver Medal - Best Creative:  
**Dennis Hanser**, Neon Hall
- Judges' Choices:  
**Debbie Williams**, Flower Power  
**Anil Agashe**, Above the Neck or Below the Neck  
**Dennis Green**, 3D Geometry
- Best OSPS Member:  
**Ron Fross**, Shep

### Is it Worth It?

Considering the workload involved, is it worth it for our club to sponsor this exhibition? The answer for me is an emphatic "YES", for the following reasons:

1. It puts our club "on the map"; it makes our presence known to the greater stereoscopic community.
2. By sponsoring an exhibition we are giving back to the stereo community. I am convinced these exhibitions are good for both the people who enter in them and those who sponsor them. By sponsoring one ourselves we are contributing to a system that benefits stereo photography.
3. We have a unique opportunity to put together a first class program and show it locally and get more people interested in stereo. Also, our club members benefit too from entering the Exhibition.

A few comments about #3. The group of stereo images that make up the exhibition is different from year to year because any image accepted in the exhibition, is not eligible to be entered again in the same exhibition. So every year we have a unique group of top-notch stereo images which we can show in as many places as possible. Note: I say "images" and not "slides". We should consider expanding the exhibition in the future to include stereo prints too.

### Future Considerations

Here are a few thoughts regarding future Exhibitions: First a question of timing. What is the best time of the year to conduct this? To answer this question we need to take into account the needs/concerns of the stereo community at large, our club and individual members. For our club I think it would be better if we do this early in the season (September or October) but such a switch is hard to do without skipping an entire season.

Regarding possible improvements, I have identified the following areas:

- Show the exhibition in as many places as possible. It obviously takes time to make the arrangements and conduct the showings, but most of the benefits for our club are derived from showing the exhibition, so I think we should put more effort into giving the Exhibition as wide exposure as possible.
- Using the RBT projector for the judging will simplify the process (less focusing, one person can operate the projector). A lap-top computer running a spreadsheet will speed up the process of deciding on acceptances and awards. A scoring machine that displays the total score will also help reduce the selection time.
- Put more effort in the AV presentation. There is room for improvement in selecting the appropriate music to match the images. The effort required for this will pay off at the showings. Once the music and narration is recorded on tape, the actual projection will be nearly automatic with the RBT projector.

### In Conclusion

Jim and I had been talking about this exhibition for at least two years before it became reality. There were a lot of steps to go through and they were all new to us. When we made the commitment to go ahead with the Exhibition, we saw this as an experiment. An experiment that proved successful. Now that have been through this process once, it would be easier to repeat it year after year. This is a benefit to our club and fits very well with our stated organization objective "to promote stereoscopic photography among our members and to the general public."

*George Themelis*