

In This Edition: Greetings to all our readers, we are pleased to bring you the March edition of our club's newsletter. This month, we are proud to tell you about a wonderful visit a few members made to the West Virginia Veterans Nursing Facility. We hope you take time to read the account of the visit as well as the latest news on our Operation Thank You. We have another treat in our WV150 Book Contributor of the Month section, where you will meet Dennis Govoni, a loyal friend of the club. The remainder of the newsletter is dedicated to our special feature on "barns." Again, our readers have sent us a wonderful selection of photos for your enjoyment.

Most Were Boys, Young Men; Some Were Girls, Young Women: They Became... the "Greatest Generation."

Every once in awhile, you get to do something really special, something that makes you feel proud, something that makes you stand a little taller, something that warms your heart. On January 28, club members Bonne Riffle, John Simons, and Al Tucker got to experience that special feeling when they visited the West Virginia Veterans Nursing Facility in Clarksburg. They went there to present our WV150 books to the residents, all veterans mostly from the WWII era. They left humbled and proud to have been in the presence of heroes.

Seventy-three years ago, these veterans were in their youth graduating from high school, getting that first job, working on the farm, planning for college, getting engaged, getting married, playing ball, dancing the jitterbug... Then on January 7, 1941, that terrible "Day of Infamy," their plans, hopes and dreams changed dramatically forever. According to Charles Pringle, a 30-year Marine veteran, "we did what we had to do." Their country needed them and they answered the call. They were proud to do so and they still have such pride in their country.

They became "Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, WACs (Women of the Army), WASPS (Women of the Air Corps), and Coast Guardsmen." Their lives were defined by places like Normandy, the Ardennes, Sicily, "Pearl," the Pacific, Iwo Jima, Corregidor, Okinawa... They served with great men like Ike, Patton, McArthur, Nimitz, and other WWII leaders. Those that came home were combat veterans, "Purple Heart" winners, prisoner of war survivors, and all eager to get on with their lives. Yet forever, they are linked to their years of service from 1941 to 1945.

Meet Staff Sergeant Robert Murphy – Robert was a B-17 Flying Fortress crew member. His plane was shot down over Germany and he became a Stalag-17 POW from April 1944 to June, 1945. "It wasn't too bad for me, it was the non-comms (lesser ranked) who had it rough."



Next Meeting

March 27 @ 6:30 p.m. – Mark Poore: Mark, a professional photographer from Snowshoe will speak on "Winter Photography."

Near Term Club Schedule

Apr – Dr. Mike Kirk, HDR Photography
 May – Walter Scriptunas, Cass RR
 June – TBD (We need to confirm our target speaker before publishing the name.)

Upcoming Photo of the Month Topics

March – Animals
April – April Fools
May – Geometric

Photo Trips

Tentative 2014 Photo Trip Schedule.

March 15-16 – WV Maple Syrup Festival, Pickens
April 20 – 75th Feast of the Ramson, Richwood
June 20 – West Virginia Day Celebration Blennerhassett Island, Parkersburg
July 19-20 – Phipps Conservatory and Pittsburgh at night
September 19-22 – Golden Delicious Festival at Clay
October 1 – Bridge Day at Fayetteville
December 6-8 – 18th Century Christmas Market, Prickett's Fort State Park, Fairmont

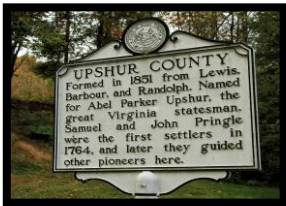
Special Newsletter Features

Here are the topics of our newsletter special feature for the remainder of the year. All are welcome to submit photos.

April – Spring-time
May – Heritage
June – Strawberry Festival Contest
July – Landscapes
August – Old & Abandoned
September – Nature
October – Autumn Splendor
November – Black and White
December – Favorite 2014 Shots

Strawberry Festival Photo Contest

Check out www.bucameraclub.com and our Facebook page for details of this year's contest. The entry deadline is April 25, 2014, 12:00 p.m. The photo exhibition will take place May 14 -17 at the Upshur County Senior Center



Seaman First Class Clara A. Eaton



Private First Class Miriam McCaw

Clara served in the Navy during WWII. She started as Apprentice Seaman, was promoted to 2nd Class and finally to a Seaman First Class. Miriam is 94 and is still serving. She performs the "Last Honors Ceremony" for veterans who pass away at the nursing home. During WWII, she was a clerk in the Army with the rank of Private First Class. Miriam is holding a flag that for three days was on the bed of a departed veteran.



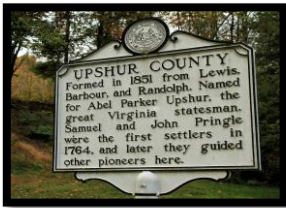
First Sergeant Charles Pringle, USMC



Corporal Clarence E. King, US Army

Charles is a 30-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps. When asked about his rank, he replied with a chuckle "I was a First Sergeant, but I had it taken away from me many times." Clarence is one of the last living members of Merrill's Marauders. Led by Brigadier General Frank Merrill, the "Marauders" were an all-volunteer group of soldiers who fought in the jungles of Burma. Clarence was a "muleskinner" who took care of 21 mules during 1943 to 1945. Of the 700 mules who supported them, Clarence said "we took better care of them than we did ourselves." "Without the mules, we could not have waged a successful campaign." Everyone we met was so grateful that we came by to visit.

We are grateful to Pam Hedrick, Social Service Director/Admissions Coordinator and Jodie Everson, Activity Supervisor, for the tour of their excellent facility. Their staff does a wonderful job of caring for our veterans. The smiles, hugs, tears of pride and stories of sacrifice will stay with us a long time. While old age has ravaged their bodies and diminished their faculties, patriotism and love of country still abide in their hearts and minds. We are fast losing the heroes of WWII, if you can find the time, seek out a vet and tell him how proud you are of him or her and how much you appreciate what they selflessly did for you. You will not regret it, you will cherish the moment. Bonne, John and Al do.



Operation Thank You

Club members have continued to support the West Virginia National Guard's Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program events for soldiers deploying to and from Afghanistan. On February 1, Bonne Riffle and John Simons traveled to Morgantown to present our WV150 books to 93 members of the 154th Military Police Company who will be deploying to Afghanistan this year. Then on February 8, Michael Cowger, John Simons and Melissa Toothman went to Morgantown to present books to 30 returning soldiers of the 753rd Explosive Ordinance Disposal Company. Bonne was struck by how young the soldiers looked and how well behaved all their children were. Both groups of soldiers and their families were very appreciative of being remembered. First Sergeant Bradley Murphy summed up everyone's sentiments. "Small things are important," Murphy said, adding that the book was like "a grasp of normalcy" and "being back home, having an affiliation of home again." "It gives a piece of home. A lot of times, that's all anybody wants."

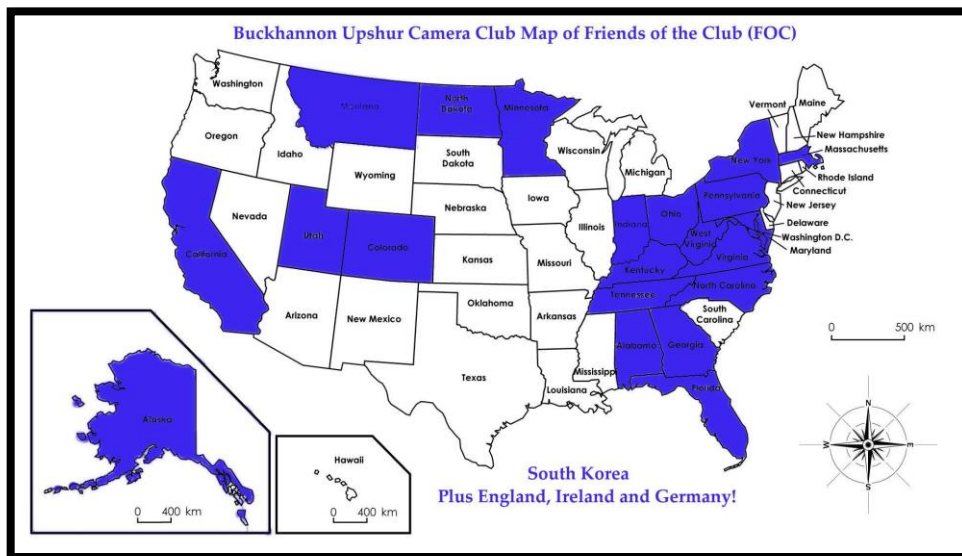


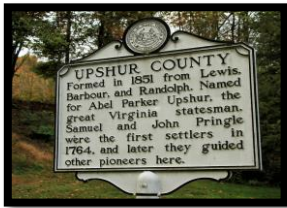
Bonne w/ a soldier of the 154th MPC & his family Melissa, John and Michael w/ 1st Sgt Bradley, Iris, & Krystyana Murphy

Our club is so very appreciative to all the photographers who contributed to our book, to those who worked so hard to sell our books, and to those who purchased a book. We have touched the lives of so many wonderful West Virginia heroes and their families these past few months. That small act of kindness will long be remembered by those who sacrifice so much for our freedom. Be proud that you made a difference!

Friends of the Club

We added a new country, South Korea, and a new state, Montana, to our Friends of the Club map this month bringing our total to 21 states and 4 countries. Please share our newsletter with your friends and help us grow our readership to all fifty states and more countries. Our total readership stands at 345. We invite our friends to submit photos for the newsletter. This month's special feature, barns, contains many wonderful photos from our friends. We welcome your "springtime" shots from the past couple of springs for the April issue.





Club News

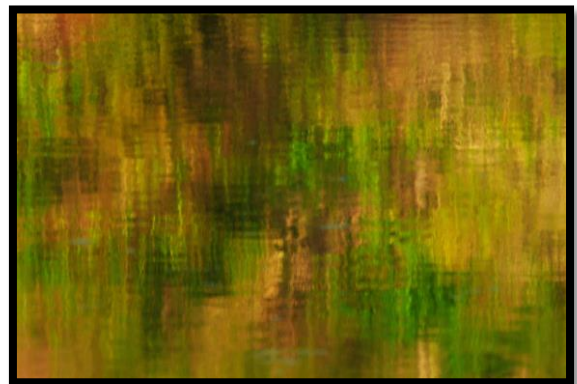
President's Corner: When I first became enamored with photography, I became obsessed with black and white. I shot with only black and white film, and only in gray scale with digital. This allowed me to work in the darkroom with my film, but obviously I was gaining more as evidenced by my digital use. I was learning from this method. I was learning how to shoot better images through working in only black and white. Yes, even color images. Color is, of course, only one aspect of artistic aesthetics. Taking photos in gray scale teaches you how to see the aesthetics of an image without the distraction of color. Color can often mask the textural quality of an image. The shadows and highlights show better in black and white as the light plays across rise and fall of a plane. Line, shape, and perspective also become clearer when the element of color is removed. Additionally, seeing the world in black and white will help a photographer to assess the quality of value--that is dark to light scale--even in color. When studying black and white imagery, we are taught to achieve a full scale of value from the darkest black to the lightest light, and everything in between. This translates to seeing the value range in color images as well. New perspective on photography: shoot your files in black and white right in the camera. Teach yourself to have a gray scale eye, even when shooting color. Then later, when you do shoot in color, remember what you appreciate in black and white. Laura

February 27, 2014 Club Meeting: With twenty-five attendees, we had a great turn out for the February meeting. Items discussed:

- Strawberry Festival – (1) Judging – We have two confirmed, Allan Jones from Morgantown and Amanda Haddox from Charleston. We have a third identified and Al Tucker will contact the recommended third person. (2) Pick-up points – John Simons will confirm them this month. (3) Publicity - John will be working this item in the next few weeks.
- Upshur County Citizens' Fire Academy – The club has been asked to support the Academy with photographers. Melissa Toothman is coordinating the photo taking for the Academy. She will send out an email with details and will be seeking volunteers.
- Strawberry Festival Horse and Buggy parade: We have been asked to support the parade by taking still photos and putting together a CD of the event. There was interest by several members. Al Tucker will send out an email with details and to seek volunteers.
- New Arts Gallery – Melissa asked if the club is interested in sponsoring a display at the new gallery. She will send out an email with details and seek volunteers for this initiative. It appears to be a very worthwhile activity if we can get enough people to participate.
- Maple Syrup Festival Photo Trip – Al will send out an email on the trip and see if there is interest in attending on March 15.
- The highlight of the meeting was an outstanding presentation on the "The Art of Black and White Photography" by Amanda Haddox and Ron Gaskins, President and Vice President of the Charleston Camera Club respectively.
- We closed with the photo of the month contests for January (Christmas Joy) and February (Abstracts). Al Tucker's "A Festive Downtown Buckhannon" took January honors with Bonne Riffle's "Beautiful Ornaments" taking second. Al's "Florida Swamp Reflection" nipped John Simons' "Snow on the Tree" abstract for the February photo of the month.

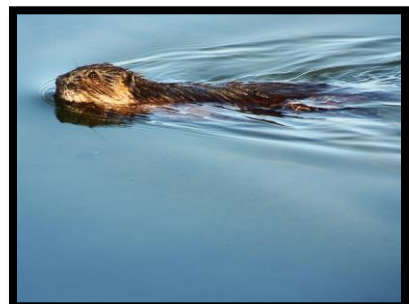


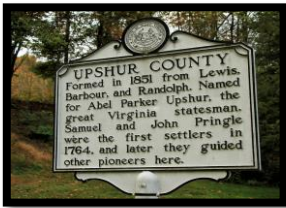
President Laura Meese (C) w/ Ron & Amanda Festive Downtown Buckhannon



A Florida Swamp Reflection

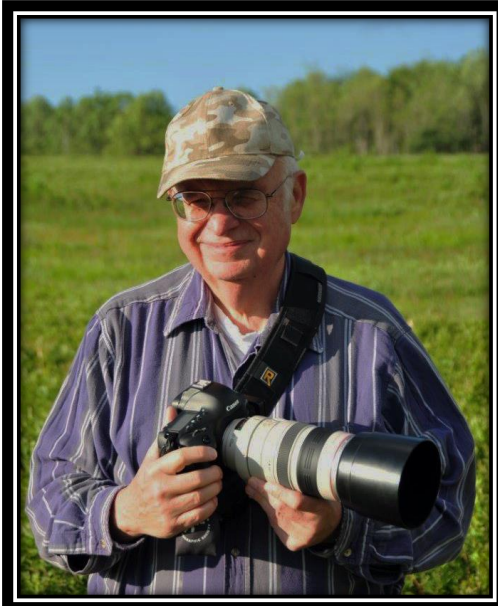
April's Special Feature – Spring-time: After this dreadful winter, we need spring to arrive. Help us celebrate its arrival. Send photos please.





WV150 Contributor of the Month

This month, we are pleased to introduce a special friend of the club, Dennis Govoni. Dennis provided several top-notch photos for our WV150 book. He traveled from Vienna, Virginia last April to be a guest speaker at our monthly club meeting. His presentation, "Shooting the Light," was a highlight of last year's programs. He joined us for a club photo trip and spent most of the time coaching a couple of our members. Finally, he is a regular contributor to our monthly newsletter special features. As you will see by his background and photos, he is an excellent photographer.

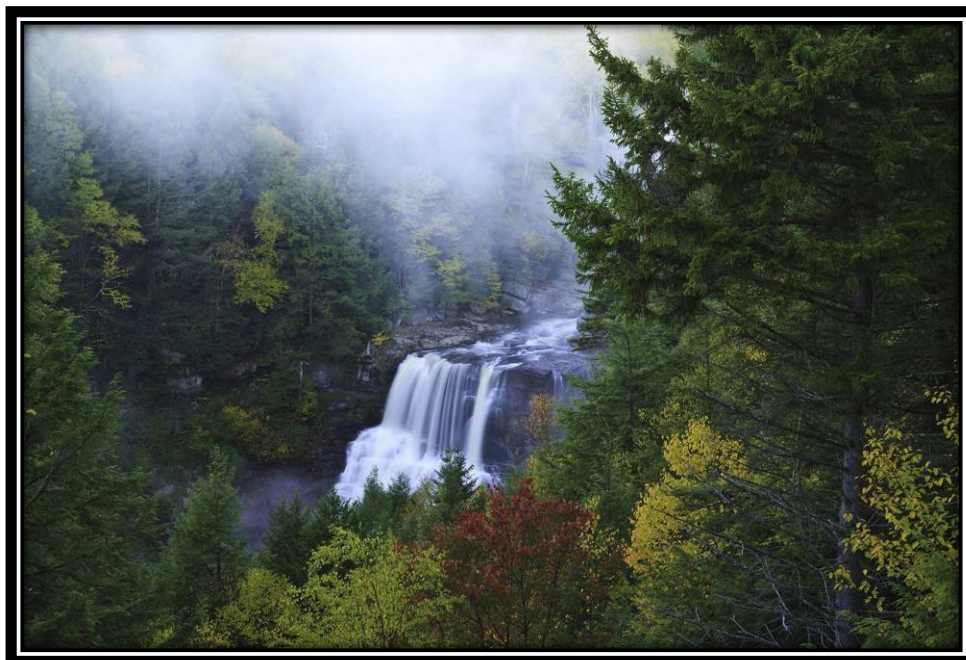


Dennis doing what he loves!

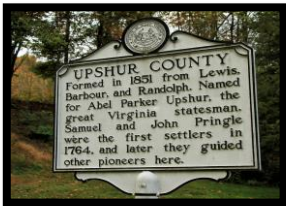


"Water Tank Drive-by" at Cass Railroad

Dennis has been doing nature photography for nearly 50 years. He is a trained biologist and botanist and started his photographic journey in the great state of West Virginia while an undergraduate at Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio. His photographic interests are in macro, landscape and wildlife photography with an occasional dapping in non-nature photography of interesting subjects related to architecture, history and general pictorial subjects.



Blackwater Falls



After receiving his Ph.D. in Botany, Dennis began teaching at Virginia Wesleyan College near Norfolk and Virginia Beach. He taught courses in biology, botany and computer science as well as a yearly 2-week course in photography as part of the college's January Term experience. He left teaching after 10 years and entered a career in the computer industry working for companies such as Sun Microsystems and IBM. Here he got to travel and photograph places around the world including the Middle East, India and the Far East (during the film days).



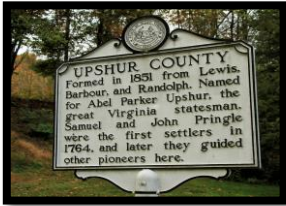
"Ruffled Feathers" - A Yellow-Crowned Night Heron



"Gull Collides with Ibis"



"Promethea Caterpillar"



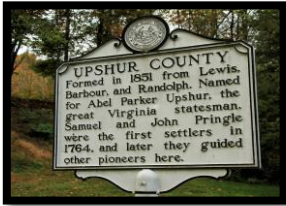
Dennis has also been a primary photographer for a children’s book series, “Exploring Wildlife Series” (<http://www.a-childs-book.com/>). He has a recently published image in the digital magazine, Photography Week, is a contributor to a smartphone application on national wildlife refuges as well as being a Getty Image Contributor with 15 images contributed to their stock portfolio.



“Morning Colors at Tidal Basin”



“Rue Anemone”



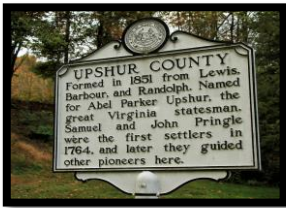
His current equipment consists of a Canon 1D-X, 1D Mark IV with 65mm macro, 100mm macro, 70-200mm f2.8, 100-400mm f4.5-5.6, 16-35mm f2.8, 24-105mm f4.0 and the 500mm f4.0 with Telextenders. Attend a Bill and Linda Lane workshop, or visit places like Chincoteague Island, Bombay Hook, Bear Rocks, J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, or any scenic spot in West Virginia and you just might run into this generous person. You might just want to check out his flickr site, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dngovoni/> to see more of his stunning work.



"Fidlers Mill"



"Great Blue Heron Returning to Nest"



Newsletter Special Feature – Barns and Other Farm-related Structures

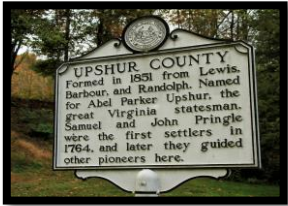
Oh how photographers love barns! From Mail Pouch barns to those with silos, barns make interesting photo opportunities during any season. Barns tell us about how important farming was to our culture and economy. They take us back to our childhood, when we played on the hay bales, chased butterflies around them or trapped snakes for our collection. Driving along the countryside, there is something serene and magical about old barns. Our photography club members and friends have sent a nice collection for your enjoyment. Hopefully, they will inspire you to go and shoot your own shots. Don't put it off as barns are disappearing from our landscape. From massive storms like Hurricane Sandy to the aggressive well drilling industry, these beautiful structures are vanishing. There are photos of barns in this feature that are no longer standing, the first one below no longer stands. Enjoy them while you can. We begin with two barns with a history. The first was shot by our friend of the club, Dennis Govoni. The Sharp's Barn was taken by club member, Mary Cameron



A Well Photographed Barn Near Harman, WV in Randolph County – It was destroyed by the Hurricane Sandy Blizzard.



Well Known Barn Next to Sharp's Country Store in Slaty Fork, WV in Pocahontas County



Barns by Jozette Spacht, A Friend of the Club



Near Alderson, WV in Monroe County



Near Morgantown, WV in Monongalia County



Near Alderson, WV in Monroe County



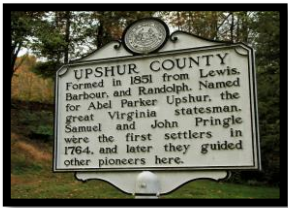
Near Summersville, WV in Nicholas County



A Barbour County Barn



A Virginia Barn



Barns by John Simons – A Founding Club Member



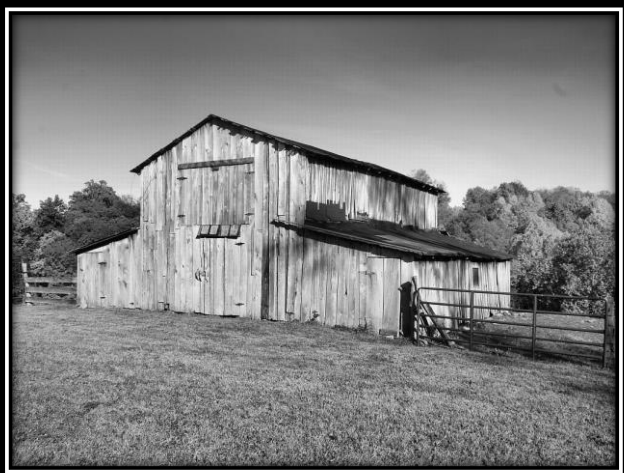
Near Buckhannon, WV in Upshur County



Near Stonecoal Lake in Lewis County



Near Stonecoal Lake in Lewis County



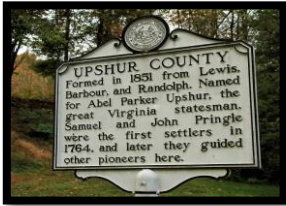
Near Tallmansville, WV in Upshur County



Near Pickens, WV in Randolph County



Near Buckhannon, WV in Upshur County



Barns by Ron Buckton – A Founding Club Member



Near Rock Cave, WV in Upshur County



Old Farm along Route 40 in Garrett County, Maryland



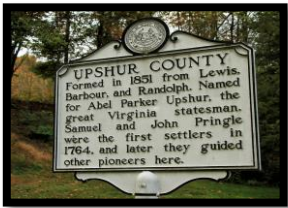
Near Rock Cave, WV in Upshur County



Near Rock Cave, WV in Upshur County



Old Farm Pitcher & Pump near Pittsburgh, PA



Barns by Jim Clark, Friend of the Club



"Barn at Sunset" - Marlinton, WV, in Pocahontas County



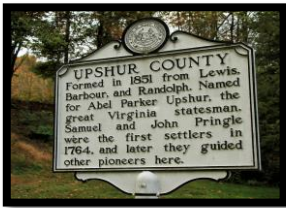
Barn near Harman, WV in Randolph County



A Rural Scene in Faquier County, VA



Old Barn Along a Back Road in WV



Barns by Charleston Camera Club Friends of the Club



Near Terra Alta, WV in Preston County - Amanda Haddox



Hermitage-Landscape in Pocahontas County - Tom Dean



Near Evans, WV in Jackson County - Ron Gaskins



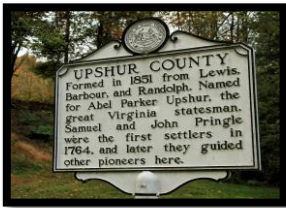
WV Farm Museum in Mason County - Amanda Haddox



Watters Smith Memorial State Park in Harrison County - Ron Gaskins



Greenbank Barn in Pocahontas County - Tom Dean



Barns by Carrie Mills, Club Member

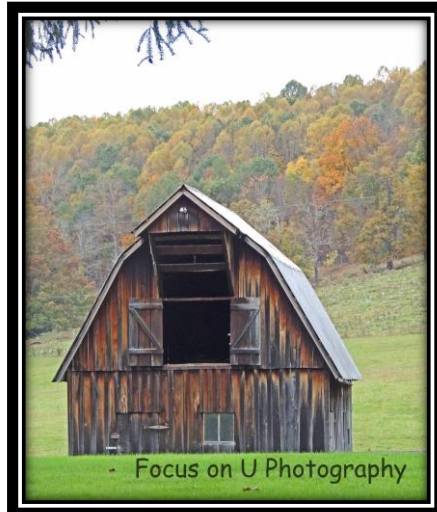


Near Walnut Creek in Ohio (Amish Country)



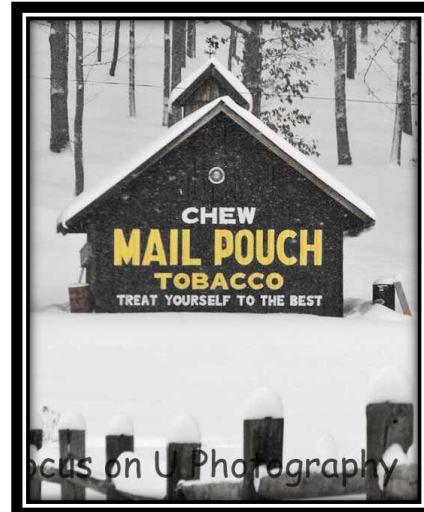
Focus on U Photography

Near Buckhannon, WV in Upshur County



Focus on U Photography

Near Buckhannon, WV in Upshur County



Focus on U Photography

Near Ellamore, WV in Randolph County



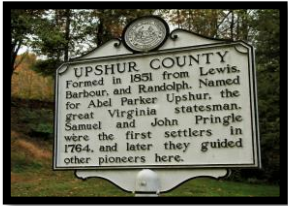
Focus on U Photography

Near Harman, WV in Randolph County



Focus on U Photography

Near Huttonsville, WV in Randolph County



International Barns by Barry & Diana Taylor – Friends of the Club



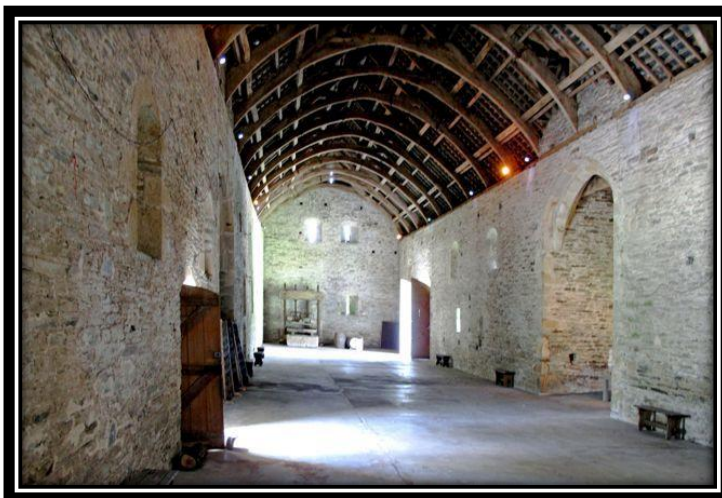
House with Attached barns, Saint Martin-des-Champs, Normandy, France - Barry



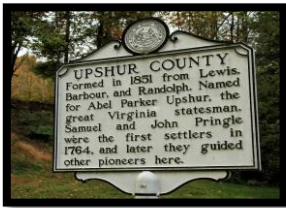
Swiss Barn in Mürren, Switzerland - Barry



Ramshackle Sheds, Le Val-Saint-Père, Normandy, France - Barry



The 700-year old Great Barn at Buckland Abbey, Devon, England – Once owned by Sir Francis Drake - Diana



Barns by Tina Bulka – Friend of the Club



"Chained Memories" Near Bridgeport, WV Harrison County



"Barnyard Friends" Near Bridgeport, WV Harrison County



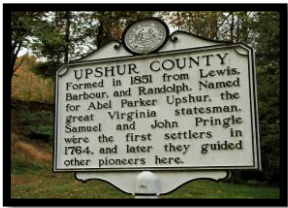
"The Morgan Farm" in Taylor County



"Hometown Proud" in Taylor County



"The Perfect Farm" Near Bridgeport, WV Harrison County



Barns by Dick Hepler _Friend of the Club



Near Arthurdale, WV in Preston County



Preston County Barn



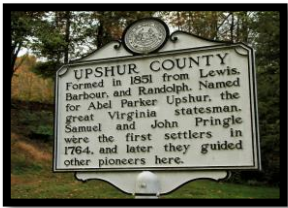
Near Reedsville, WV in Preston County



King and Sons Farm, Monongalia County



Near Morgantown, WV in Monongalia County



Barns by Friends of the Club



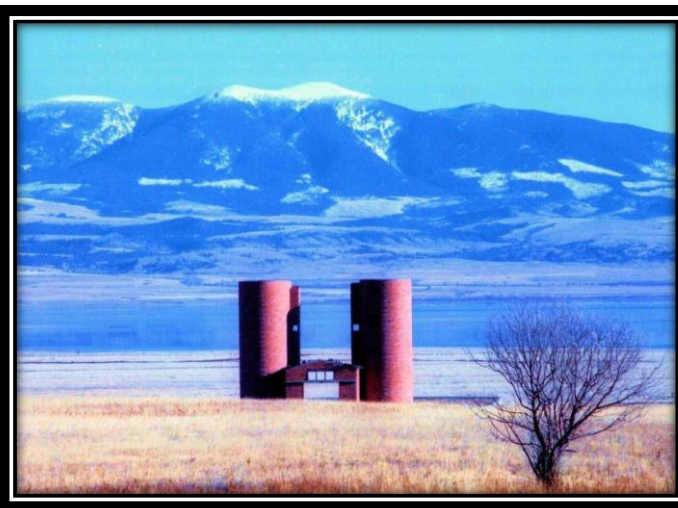
A North Dakota Sunrise - Howie Underwood



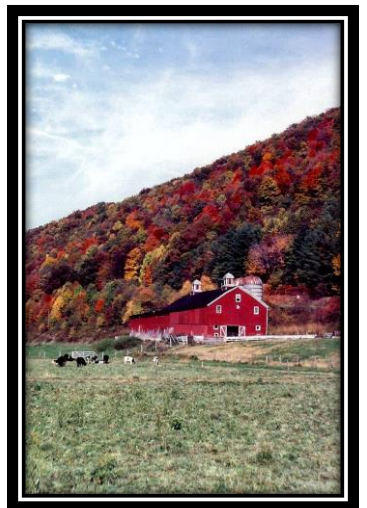
The Chicken Coop, Palmer, Alaska - Karen Kohlhaas



Barbour County Sunset - Jodie Everson



Montana Skyline - Troy Helmick



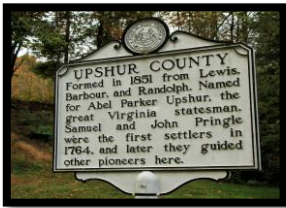
Tucker County Barn - Troy Helmick



Pocahontas County Barn - Bill & Linda Lane



Tucker County Barn - Bill & Linda Lane



Barns by Al Tucker – Club Member



Harper's Barn near Seneca Rocks



Near Walkersville, WV in Lewis County



Edray Barn near Marlinton, WV Pocahontas County



Balli Farm near Pickens, WV in Randolph County



Edray Farm near Marlinton, WV in Pocahontas County