

MARCH/APRIL 2014



THE CURRENTS

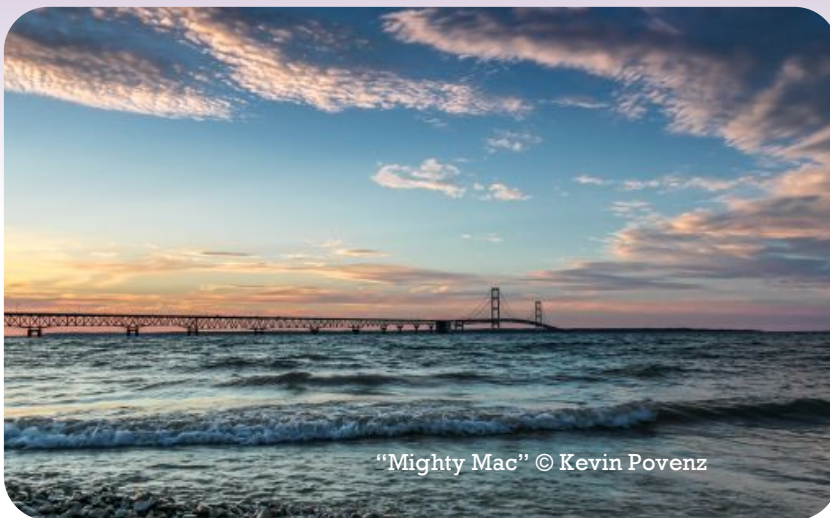
RIVER CITY CAMERA CLUB

OUR MISSION

WE SEEK TO PROMOTE THE KNOWLEDGE AND ENJOYMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY THROUGH
EDUCATION, PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES AND COMPETITION.

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"Mighty Mac" © Kevin Povenz

APRIL PROGRAM

Wayne Pope
Photographing Birds – a different approach

Wayne Pope will share his approach to "getting closer to birds". He will show us how he his digiscoping equipment to get super zoom photos of all kinds of birds.



"Snowy Dunes" © Joy Hein

MAY PROGRAM

Year-End Banquet & Competition Wed. May 7, 2014

Pizza Banquet 6:00 pm
Competition 7:00pm

RSVP: President@RiverCityCameraClub.org



THE COOKIE BRIGADE

APRIL MEETING

Kevin Povenz
Kendall Thompson

SUNSET MANOR PRESENTERS

April 4 – Marilyn Keigley

**June 6 - Presenter Needed:
Please contact Wayne Walkotten –
treasurer@RiverCityCameraClub.org
If interested

**2014/15 RCCC BOARD ELECTIONS
to be held at our April 5 Meeting**

**Please send nominations to:
President@RiverCityCameraClub.org**

**Nominations will be accepted up until
voting begins**

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Time to start thinking about which images you will enter in Year-End Competition. May is our annual member banquet and end of year competition. Please note that our meeting will begin at 6:00pm (an hour earlier than normal) with a pizza dinner followed by Competition. All costs for members are covered. Members planning to attend please RSVP President@RiverCityCameraClub.org.

Year-End Competition Guidelines: Digital Images for year-end competition are due by midnight on Wednesday April 30, 2014 to RCCCDigital@RiverCityCameraClub.org email and Print Entries are due on the evening of Competition – May 7th.

-ENTRIES: Only those images entered previously in RCCC monthly competitions from September 2013 through April 2014 are allowed/eligible.

-CATEGORIES & FORMAT: A total of **up to 10 entries** in each of the following categories is allowed: Nature, Open, Creative, Portrait and Photojournalism. Same for Print Entries. If you enter an image that was in the **Assigned** category you will need to change the file name to enter it in the correct category –

Example: A_imageName_photographerName.jpg may be

O_imageName_photographerName.jpg or

N_imageName_photographerName.jpg, etc. File sizes and dpi are also the same as current standards.

-INCLUSION/ELIMINATION OF CATEGORIES: Categories with fewer than 3 entrants (entrants being individuals/photographers) will be eliminated and/or moved to another category.

-JUDGING: Judges will be photographers from the area and/or from other camera clubs. Instead of judging by numbers a in/out system is used with the judges choosing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

-AWARDS: Will be handed out with each category at the end of that competition with Year-End Aggregate awards handed out after category awards.

Please join us in May for the banquet/competition.

Have a great month!

Julie Tamblin

RCCC MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS

APRIL 2, 2014: Wayne Pope, Digiscoping Photography

MAY 7, 2014: Year End Banquet & Competition

2014-2015 ASSIGNED SUBJECTS

By Sharon VanderBoon, Competition Chair, River City Camera Club

April 2014: MAGNIFIED

Appearing bigger than life size is what is needed here. It can be an abstract of something, or anything that has been zoomed in on. Give us a good close up look at whatever it is you choose to shoot.

September 2014: Delving Into Details

October 2014: Revealing Sidelight

November 2014: Fascination With Fields

December 2014: Interesting Skies

January 2015: Dynamic Diagnosis

February 2015: Cubes & Squares

March 2015: Rope, Wire or Chain

April 2015: Wild About White

SUBMITTING IMAGES

In order to submit 6 images, 2 must be in the assigned category. You may enter up to 2 images in any other category for a total of 6 entries in both Print and Digital

Categories: Assigned, Creative, Nature, Open, Photojournalism, and Portrait and Non-Judged Fine Art

DIGITAL IMAGES: Due week prior to meeting: RCCCDigital@RiverCityCameraClub.org by midnight.

February Digital Images Due: Wed. Jan. 29, 2014

PRINTS: Due by 6:50 pm on night of Competition

FINE ART SHOWCASE NON-JUDGED CATEGORY

The non-judged digital image category is an opportunity to allow photographers personal development beyond the requirements of typical camera club guidelines and technical "rules". Photographers may show up to two (2) images. The content of the photo is up to your definition of "fine art".

**Images entered in this category may not be entered in monthly competition.*

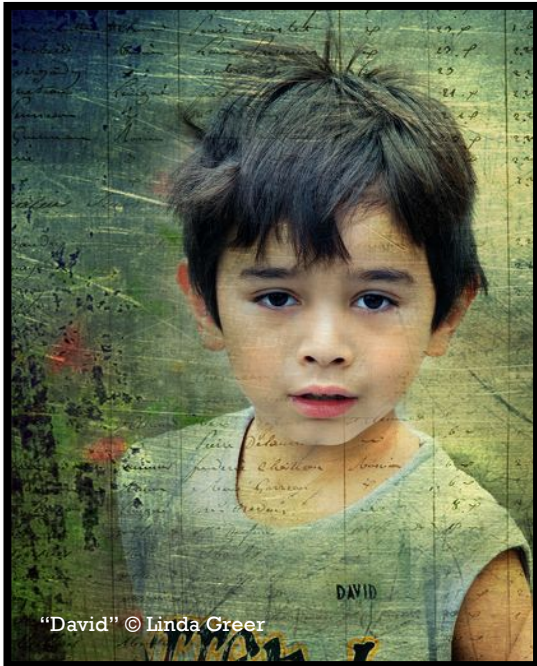


Photo Tips of the Month

By Kelly Walkotten

Blur Your Selection Edges: After selecting an object and placing it into a new composition, run the Blur tool around the edge of the image. Oftentimes, the edges of the selection are too sharp for the depth of field of the composite image. Set the Strength low in the Options Bar so that you have control over how blurry the edges look.

Selection Tool Control: When using the Selection tool, holding down the shift key while drawing the area and it will make a perfectly round circle when using the elliptical marquee tool and a perfect square when using the rectangular marquee tool.



"David" © Linda Greer

Photography
Is not about cameras,
gadgets and gismos.
Photography is about
photographers.
A camera didn't make a great
picture
any more than a typewriter
wrote a great novel.
- Peter Adams

2014 Board and Committees

President:

Julie Tamblin 616.490.4910

President@RiverCityCameraClub.org

Vice President:

Marilyn Keigley

VicePresident@RiverCityCameraClub.org

Treasurer:

Wayne Walkotten

Treasurer@RiverCityCameraClub.org

Secretary:

Kevin Povenz

Secretary@RiverCityCameraClub.org

Digital Coordinator:

Kelly Walkotten

RCCCDigital@RiverCityCameraClub.org

Fundraising Chair:

Steve Scherbinski

Steve.Scherbinski@gmail.com

Competition Chair:

Sharon VanderBoon

Competition@RiverCityCameraClub.org



"No Brakes" © Larry Heydenburg

Interview with February Speaker – Gert Wallis

By Marilyn Keigley

1. What is the number one thing photography has taught you about life?

I see photography as a visual journey which causes you to pause every now and then and appreciate your surroundings. Before photography I was blind and it taught me to see the beauty in everyday life.

2. What was the best photo that you didn't get (missed)? And your best photo that you did get?

My best photo is always going to be the next one I'm going to take. If you don't have your camera with you, you will miss every photo 100% of the time. I don't know what photo I missed, because I never took it.

3. What main points did you want the members to take away with them from your presentation?

To become skillful in photography you have to master the technical and know how to apply the principles of good design. Every photographer is at a different stage in this journey. You have to understand and master this intersection of art and science before you can creatively execute your vision.

4. As a judge (or as a photographer) what advice would you give to those who compete?

Understand the rules of design, use them to analyze your images. Ask the following questions:

1. What are the strong design elements?
2. Where are the distractions?
3. What can I do to minimize distractions and emphasize the design?

5. Why do you not compete in the clubs?

I reached a point where I didn't want to submit any images unless they are top honor quality. I always tried to enter fresh or recent images and if you don't shoot enough you rarely reach that bar. The reward wasn't always enough for the psychological anguish it put me through.

What is a Good Photo-Dare to Compete

By Marilyn Keigley

A good friend of mine, named John, keeps telling me every year, “a good photo is one you like.” John won a Detroit Free Press photo contest in High School and spent countless hours in the dark room at college, processing photos. And I respect his opinion.

Every year I compete, I get closer to believing John’s advice. Because judging is not an exact science, maybe this information will be helpful to any members starting to enter competition, and better yet, save you a bit of agony about the judging. Unlike the famous ski jumper Vinko Bogataj in Oberstdorf, Germany, in photography, the agony of defeat and the thrill of victory can come in a single photo! How special is that?

Here is how that can happen. In the Grand Rapids Camera Club, a 5 is a maximum score for each judge. Three judges can give a total of 15 points for a perfect score. Therefore, a three is a pretty low and average score for an image. Last April, a member submitted an image and got an 11 out of 15. That means someone scored it a 3 (pretty average). At the year-end judging for the entire year (using outside judges), this same photo won *FIRST* place in Nature Star Class. Now that is a remarkable difference.

Other club members have had wide variations in scoring between the River City Club and the Grand Rapids Club and SWMCCC and even national competition. Basically, it often comes down to who is judging and what they like. However, there is more consistency than inconsistency most of the time. When you first come into camera club and start competing, you might take the scoring quite seriously (or think that it is very scientific). There are often stories of judging discrepancies and even stories about poorly scored photos that sold for a decent sum of cash!

Even with the quirks of judging, I would definitely not be at my current skill level (whatever that is) without camera club competition. Competition pushes you to become better. There are a dozen plus River City Club members who compete in more than one club, just to keep practicing. The assigned subjects often force us to photograph things we never would have thought to photograph. And, the categories for competition (pj, creative, portraiture, assigned, etc.), allow you to explore different areas.

Through programs offered in the clubs, you can think *beyond* competition to what might be explored with the camera or processing--such as minimalism, abstract, aerial, architectural, and countless other possibilities. Everyone’s journey in photography is as unique as we make it; it’s kind of like all the different photos everyone gets at the very same location on the same day (which is always an eye-opener). Keep pushing yourself to shoot new images, to get outside and find new landscapes, and to inspire your friends as you progress.

So just perhaps, once a photo meets some technical, creative, and/or photographic criteria (or even breaks the rules in a creative way), a good photo is probably one you like.

Meeting Location:

Covenant Village of the Great Lakes

www.covenantgreatlakes.org

2510 Lake Michigan Drive NW.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Meetings begin at: 7:00pm



"Morning Sun on Ada Bridge"
©Sharon VanderBoon

