



THE CURRENTS

River City Camera Club



“White Flowers” ©Joy Hein

OUR MISSION

We seek to promote the knowledge and enjoyment of photography through education, programs, activities and Competition.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

“HOW TO PREPARE PHOTOS FOR PRINT”

What do you need to know in order to turn your photos into great prints? What in computer preparation must you complete to ready your photos for printing, if any? Will you print on photo paper, canvas, metal or other material? Why? What should your photo be mounted on to prepare it for matting and/or framing? What coatings if any should be considered to protect your work?

Marianna Yost and Alyssa Drew from ProLab Express will give practical information for preparing and turning your digital photos into prints.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

It is a pleasure to welcome the following new members to RCCC:

- Jim Lukas
- Bob Bayer
- Dan Gomer
- Linda Hulst
- Joe Hempstead
- Bill Empey
- Curt Kipen

RCCC MEETING DATES:

- November 6, 2013
- December 4, 2013
- January 8, 2014
- February 5, 2014
- March 5, 2014
- April 2, 2014
- May 7, 2014

SCHEDULED PROGRAMS 2013

By Marilyn Keigley, Vice President River City Camera Club

DECEMBER 2013: Christmas Party/Food & Competition

JANUARY 2014: Member Mini Programs

FEBRUARY 2014: Gert Wallis, Elements of Composition & Lightning Photography

MARCH 2014: History of Photography/Fine Art, James Cook

APRIL 2014: Wayne Pope, Digiscoping Photography

MAY 2014: Year End Banquet and Competition



The Cookie Brigade

NOVEMBER MEETING

LORI WYSOCKI
AUDREY ADAMS
JOY HEIN

DIGITAL COMPETITION COORDINATOR NEEDED: *To work with and/or replace current Coordinator - Kelly has graciously agreed to continue as our Coordinator for the time being, but travels extensively – so we need a back up. Position involves receiving digital images from RCCC members for the monthly and year-end digital competitions; preparing images for projection during competition, being the caretaker of the RCCC club computer, projector and supporting equipment; prepare the score sheets for each competition prior to the meeting. Requires about 3 hours per month outside of club to prepare images scoring sheet for monthly competition. Also requires about 10 hours in April/May for year-end competition preparation of images.*

Contact: RCCCDigital@RiverCityCameraClub.org or President@RiverCityCameraClub.org

ASSIGNED SUBJECTS 2013-2014

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 a new non-judged Fine Art Showcase Category

NOVEMBER: Awesome Autumn

DECEMBER: Contrast

JANUARY: Brilliant Color

FEBRUARY: Pairs

MARCH: Bridges

APRIL: Magnified

2013-2014 ASSIGNED SUBJECTS

By Sharon VanderBoon, Competition Chair, River City Camera Club

November 2013: AWESOME AUTUMN

The Michigan is one of the most beautiful places to be in the fall in the United States. Colors can be seen from late September through early November, depending where in the state you are. Every year is different. There are fall festivals with autumn décor, pumpkins, colorful and interestingly shaped gourds, fall fruits, brilliant colored trees, domestic plants that turn lovely colors in the fall, Halloween decorations and events, and pumpkin or Halloween parades. Objects and nature (barns, bridges, colored tree reflections in water) take on a charm in the fall that they do not have in other seasons.

December 2013: CONTRAST

This subject is not just about lighting techniques, but includes contrasts of various sorts such as: Tall and short, fat and thin, big and small, dark and light, smooth and rough, distinguished and dowdy, pretty and ugly, sharp and dull, happy and sad, soft and hard, and sweet and sour. Maybe make your own tabletop setup of the contrasts of your choice.

January 2014: BRILLIANT COLOR

In the winter we can use more color in our life, so let's bring it out with this subject. Bright colors are all around us. Here are some possibilities: Candles, Christmas decorations, clothes, household objects, cameras, cell phones, ribbon, signs (neon ones especially), flowers, reflections in water, birds, rocks and gems, carnival rides, pottery, store fronts, cars, tractors, trucks, motorcycles, jewelry, murals food, sculptures, toys, fish, dune buggies and paper objects.

February 2014: PAIRS

This subject includes two of a kind, or something that comes in pairs like shoes and socks. This could include twins-animals, birds or people, fish, trees, leaves, mushrooms, flowers, bushes, cars, toys, marbles, technical devices, feet, hands, legs, mittens, fruit, vegetables, insects, pens, pencils, paint brushes, dishware, jewelry, headlights or taillights on a vehicle, a duplicated design in a sculpture or pottery.

March 2014: BRIDGES

Downtown Grand Rapids can supply your need for bridge pictures, either by day or lit at night. To shoot covered bridges, visit Ada, Lowell (Fallasburg), or Smyrna (Whites Bridge near Belding) in Ionia County. They take on a different flare in the fall and winter. Most of us probably have a picture of Mackinac Bridge, but the bridges can be a smaller garden variety as well. Train trestles over land or water qualify as bridges. Experiment with shooting the bridge at different angles and with different types of lighting, or do an abstract, focusing on one aspect of the bridge.

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.

MONTHLY COMPETITION – PHOTO'S DUE BY:

DIGITAL SUBMISSIONS: WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 30, 2013 by Midnight
RCCCDigital@RiverCityCameraClub.org

PRINT SUBMISSIONS: (Night of Competition)
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2013 by 6:50pm

****PRINTS MUST BE IN BY 6:50PM ON MEETING
NIGHT IN ORDER TO BE PREPARED FOR
COMPETITION.**

Please submit prints to Sharon VanderBoon

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I love Autumn – the harvest, the colors and the cool yet sunny days. Like many, it is also my favorite time for photography. The Golden Hours seem to be at their best and there is so much beauty to capture:

Farms with overburdened fruit trees and golden cornfields; landscapes blanketed with multicolored foliage against a blue-sky background; clouds tinged with purples and grays; vivid leaves floating and piled across the earth; lakes and ponds full of colorful reflections; migrating ducks and birds; apple cider, hot chocolate, pumpkin donuts and cinnamon spice; scampering squirrel gathering ripened acorns; scarecrows, corn shocks, mums, sunflowers, gourds and jack-o-lantern smiles; football games and tailgating parties; harvest moon; crisp air, frosty plants, the first sprinkle of snow and brilliant red-orange, purple-pink sunrise and sunsets.

In November the assigned subject is “Awesome Autumn”. Indeed it is!

Happy Shooting,
Julie Tamblin

*“Fall has always been my favorite season.
The time when everything bursts with its last beauty,
as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale”.*
- Lauren DeStefano



“Storm Clouds On Farm” © Mike Mitchell

2013-2014 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



“I Fly Away” © Linda Greer

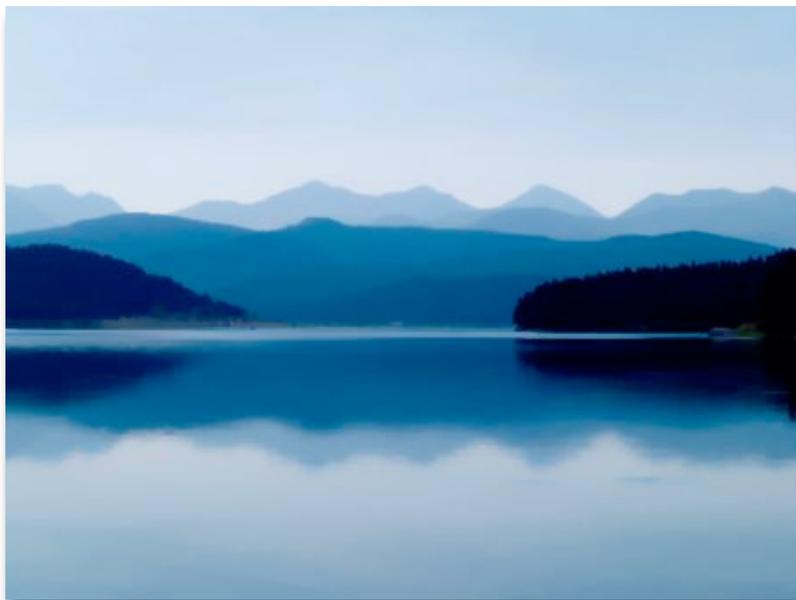
Fine Art Showcase

The Fine Art Showcase is a new non-judged digital category.

The reason for this category is to allow our photographers personal development beyond the requirements of typical camera club guidelines and technical “rules.” Each summer SWMCCC hosts fine art photographers from around the country, such as Andre Cabuche who develop personal visions and styles beyond the standards of a technically “correct” photo. In fact, SWMCCC gave a special award this summer at Hope College (\$150) for a winning photo ***“...its strength will be its originality and its artistic interpretation and expression of the artist’s emotions or feelings.”***

Galleries sell photos for thousands of dollars that might not do so well in camera club [soft focus might be a reason, breaking the rule of 3rds, or added filters.] As a camera club, perhaps we should not limit creativity and personal development. Most of us have been through galleries containing photos that make us gasp with awe, and other photos we would not hang in our basement. However, they are selling for lots of money.

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“Lake McDonald ” by Julie Tamblin



“Iris” by Kim Heibel

Fine Art Showcase continued...

The Fine Art Showcase category will be shown without judging at the end of the regular digital competition. One or two photos (maximum 2) can be submitted each month by members, regardless of how many images entered or not entered in regular digital. Showcase photos will not be judged and will be shown for the approximate time an average photo is visible for judging; name and title will be read.

LIMITATION: *A showcase photo cannot be shown later in the regular competition*, but could be submitted in SWMCCC fall or spring competition. This new category could be used to “test” the waters for unique or artistic photos for other competitions.



“Footprints” by Steve Scherbinski

The content of the photo is up to your definition of “fine art.” It could be from nature, photojournalism, portraiture (including environmental portraiture), creative, and so forth. An example that might be different from club competition would be Todd and Brad Reed’s photo of a ‘soft focus’ doe jumping across a country trail, as seen in their new “Tribute to Michigan” book. Other ideas: abstract, macro, out of focus, swirled, painted, filters, and so on.

SUBMITTING AN ENTRY IN ‘FINE ART SHOWCASE’ is the same as entering a regular digital photo, maximum 1024 pixels W or H. Use this format with your *name before the title*: **S_MSmith_EagleInNest.jpg**.

A “Critique” of the Double Critique Program--Jeanne Quillan and Larry Heibel

By Marilyn Keigley

One word comes to mind regarding the “Double Critique” program for River City Camera Club this October by Jeanne Quillan and Larry Heibel. It’s simply this-- “beneficial.” Jeanne and Larry had not seen the photos beforehand and this gave us the opportunity to get their first impressions, simulating the judging in competition.

Sometimes during the critique, Jeanne and Larry disagreed on points, which happens every month in competition but we don’t get to hear “why”. I’ve been in competition in two clubs for over three years and have continued to try to figure out why some photos score higher. While judging includes technical and compositional elements, part of the judging is the impact of a photo. I think we are all trying to capture this wow factor. Another part of our score appears to be personal impression of the judge (although we don’t usually want to verbalize that!)

Just when I feel—sometimes—that I want to give up, I catch a photo that is “wowish” to me and can’t wait to see how it scores. Sometimes we are pleasantly surprised and sometimes we find out it was just more “wowish” to us personally. For example, a bird image that is not a close-up might wow me (though I so enjoy the close ones). But, birds in the environment seem to score lower. There are times I like to see their surroundings. And, even though I have a hunch they won’t do so well, I still sometimes enter them. It was validating last month hearing Ed Post presenting at GRCC. He used to fill the frame with the bird, but has done more lately with birds in their environment.

I wonder also in competition, if we get caught up in the “wow” factor and forget the beauty of a simple photo, even one that is not saturated at all. The same affect happens in Art Prize. I have heard from many people, that the BIG entry gets the attention and votes. We live in a drama world, things need to be bigger and better. One reality show is always trying to outdo another reality show. What ever happened to Ed Sullivan that I used to dread as a child? I could go for that now, along with the Smother’s Brothers. Do we go too far on saturation? What’s wrong with soft focus? What’s wrong with breaking a few composition rules? Maybe the Showcase division will allow people to explore personal visions and preferences. There have been some amazing photos already. It’s relaxing to end on a few photos with no judging, and to enjoy them for just the photo! (Like the end of Sunday Morning with Charles Osgood, a short video of nature.)

In my own photographic world and vision that I am working on, I continue to define what I’m about and what I’m trying to reflect in my photography. It’s ongoing, and I’m sure it will continue to change. But, after three years of competing, I would like to think I’m photographing and entering what I want and not just what scores well. Scoring used to come first in my mind, but what is the point of that being first? If you produce what you love, that truly is the most rewarding. If we learn new things along the way, bonus!

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A “Critique” of the Double Critique Program--Jeanne Quillan and Larry Heibel Continued

Sometimes we learn that we entered a photo in the “wrong” division. I entered an image of a boy on the pier with giant waves at Grand Haven. The boy had set his bike down at the end of the pier. I entered it as assigned for “modes of transportation.” To me, the “small” bike in the photo was a “big” wow. The boy rode his bike to the end of the pier in dangerous winds. Larry thought it was a very good photo and would do well in photojournalism, as it told a story. It did not score well in the assigned category, as the bike was small. I think this part of assigned still does not settle with me, but perhaps I will change my mind sometime. Although the bicycle was small in the photo, to me, it was the point of the photo. Without the bike, the image was just another Grand Haven big wave-splashing photo.

Many photos gave us hints for future ideas. Kevin Povenz had a great photo of railroad tracks filling the front and most of the image. It was interesting to hear how he took that image and that it was so fully in focus.

Knowing little about portrait images, it was also interesting to hear the discussion on vertical vs. horizontal and other elements of lighting. Someone mentioned that beautiful people sometimes get good scores even though the photo is average regarding lighting and composition. Maybe we should accept the challenge of middle-age people portraits? One judge liked a reflection in a portrait image, while another judge thought it was distracting. Larry would have cut the head off of one image and put the male, muscular body in “open” division. Interesting. We heard a lot of different perspectives. That’s what makes it all dynamic and challenging and drives us to see what else we can come up with.

So, to some extent we are at the mercy of “what people like” regarding judging. But, knowing this makes us keep trying to make better images that would “*without a doubt*” wow us all, and that most judges would score very high.

Although I collected the photos for critiquing, the judges saw things I did not see at all. I think the experience will make me look closer at details, especially backgrounds! Thank you Jeanne Quillan and Larry Heibel for your time and expertise.

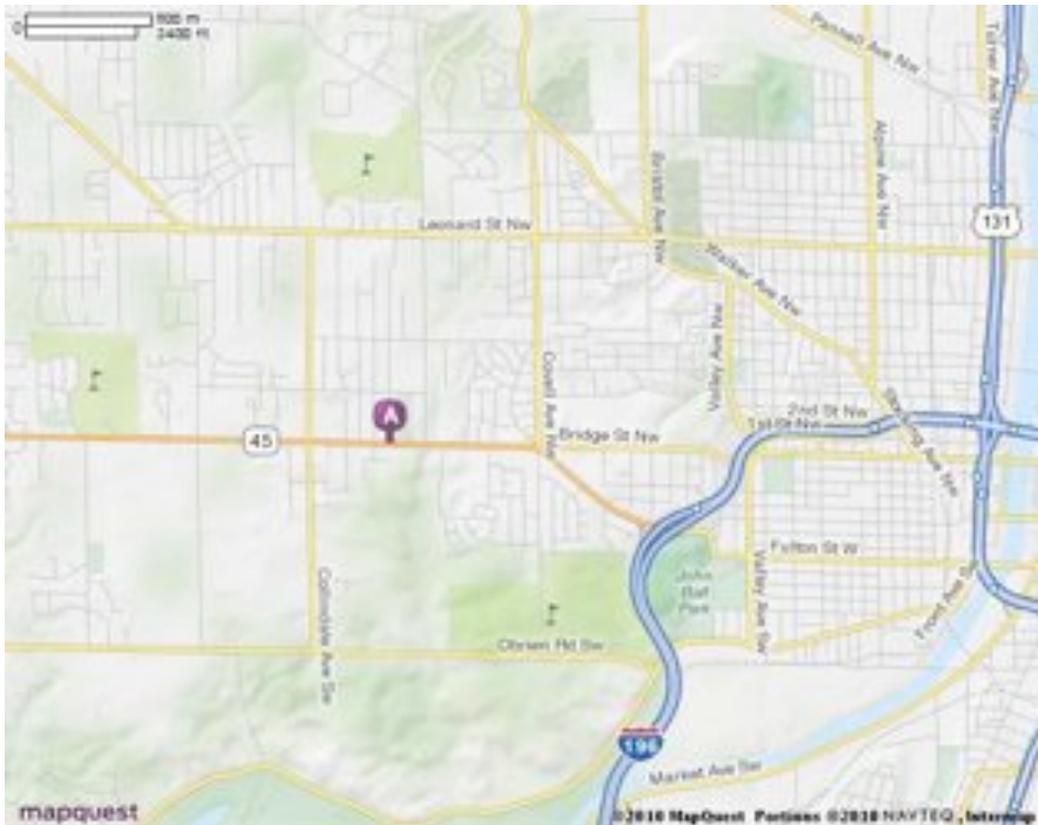


Photo Tip Of the Month

by Kelly Walkotten

Puppet Warp For Lens Correction

Press Command-J (PC:Ctrl-J) to duplicate the layer you want to correct, and navigate to Edit>Puppet Warp. Now, click to drop a pin in each corner to “lock” the image. Having done this, you can now lift horizon lines, straighten leaning buildings, etc; you have exact control on small pieces of the image in a way you didn’t before. This is great for user-driven lens correction (useful for multi-image panos or images shot in perspective).



Map:

We meet at

**Covenant Village of the
Great Lakes**

www.covenantgreatlakes.org

2510 Lake Michigan Drive N.W.

Grand Rapids, Michigan

Meetings begin at: 7:00pm