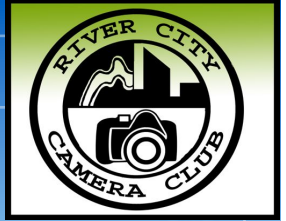


FEBRUARY 2014



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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APRIL PROGRAM:

In April we will hear a totally different approach to "getting closer to birds!"

Wayne Pope will bring all of his digiscoping equipment to show us



MARCH PROGRAM

James Cook presents:
SEEING THINGS

"What makes photography art?"

"Creating great images is a matter of seeing them in the first place. Practiced observation plus awareness of light and composition is what enables some photographers to consistently turn seemingly ordinary scenes into exceptional images. This program is about creating art rather than photographs. It starts with a dialog in defining art and what makes a photograph art. The discussion moves on to how to be more observant and to thoughtfully explore visual opportunities. Then it turns to how to work out the best angles and compositions and why one may work better than others. Thoroughly non-technical, this seminar is designed to stimulate your eye and imagination; the key elements to seeing what others overlook."

James Cook <http://www.jamescook.biz>



THE COOKIE BRIGADE

FEBRUARY MEETING

Jack Eichner

Tom Finazzi

Jim Lukas

MARCH MEETING

Seth Christrup

Elaine Christrup

Vern Vaandrager

SUNSET MANOR PRESENTERS

February 7 – Cal Dyk

March 7 – Sharon VanderBoon

April 4 – Marilyn Keigley

Get Ready for the Meijer Winter State Games Great Sports Photography Opportunity

By Marilyn Keigley

Coming up the weekend of February 14-16 are the Meijer Winter Games of the State Games of Michigan. Opening ceremonies will offer some interesting night photography opportunities. Get out your old notes from Steve Scherbinski's past presentation on night photography. Also, you might want to YouTube "how to photograph fireworks" if you have never done that. Come out and enjoy the opportunities that the weekend offers. Events will be in many area locations so be sure to check the website for locations.

BE SURE TO email Nicole Chase to register for the photo contest. Two \$100 gift certificates will be offered from Marks Photo. One for opening ceremonies and the other for best action shot. Volunteer photographers please contact Nicole Chase at nchase@westmisports.com for information on how to receive a media credential if you would like to take pictures at the Winter Games events. You must register to be eligible for the prizes.

Friday night will offer some great opportunities at the opening ceremonies. There will be a parade of athletes, torch light parade featuring many skiers coming down the slopes, a "Big Air" exhibition by Professionals, and fireworks.

If you don't want to be outside there are several indoor events. The lineup of all events includes: Archery-Indoor, Basketball, BMX-Indoor, Bowling, Fatbike (outside on snow), Hockey, Racquetball, Rowing-Indoor, Skiing, Snowboarding, 4 Freestyle Ski Events (Rail Jam, Big Air, Slopestyle, and Cross), Snowball Softball, Snowshoe, Speedskating, and Wrestling.

For additional information visit the website of the State Games:
<http://www.stategamesofmichigan.com/winter>

Schedule of events:

<http://www.stategamesofmichigan.com>

RCCC MEETING DATES & PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 5, 2014: Gert Wallis, Elements of Composition & Lightning Photography

MARCH 5, 2014: James Cook, History of Photography/Fine Art

APRIL 2, 2014: Wayne Pope, Digiscoping Photography

MAY 7, 2014: Year End Banquet & Competition

2014 ASSIGNED SUBJECTS

By Sharon VanderBoon, Competition Chair, River City Camera Club

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.

"In the right light, at the right time, everything is extraordinary."

-Aaron Rose

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 Tip of the Month

By Kelly Walkotten

Adding Contrast to the Eyes

To add contrast, duplicate the Background layer, and change the layer blend mode to Soft Light to add contrast to the entire image. Option-click (PC: Alt-click) then Add Layer Mask icon to hide this contrasty layer behind a black mask. Press D to set your Foreground color to white; choose a small, soft-edged Brush (B); and paint over the irises and pupil to bring in the contrast.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Have you ever experienced “photographers block”, the close cousin to “writers block”? Inertia settles in. You aren’t excited about going out and shooting and/or you have creative burn out and are not feeling inspired? Hmmmm, could it be the gray, bitter cold Michigan winter blues or the common struggle many photographers have at one time or another-how to keep photography fresh in an ever-changing industry?

If it's how to keep photography fresh:

- Go back to the beginning. Ask yourself what first inspired and motivated you to pick up a camera and take that first photo?
- Focus on and shoot what is meaningful to you and not what everyone else is doing.
- Set aside a specific time (hour, day) for photography only and have no expectations - just enjoy the process.
- Study some of the early photographers and their work – like Henri Cartier-Bresson, Ansel Adams, the Meade brothers, Jay Maisel, Annie Liebovitz, John Muir, Mary Ellen Mark, etc.
- Experiment with new/old photo techniques and/or styles.
- Challenge yourself to do something different, begin a new project: A photo essay, blog, book, exhibition or enter a contest etc.
- Slow down and practice looking & seeing. “Technique is important only insofar as you must master it in order to communicate what you see...the camera is a tool...in any case, people think far too much about techniques and not enough about seeing.” - Henri Cartier-Bresson

If it's the Michigan winter blue's:

- Eat some chocolate or your preferred dessert
- Reread above list
- Plan to attend a River City Camera Club meeting, meet other photographers and be inspired by our great program line-up the next couple of month's www.rivercitycameraclub.org

See the beauty in everyday; share your perspective of that beauty through your photography.

Have a great month!

Julie Tamblin

2014 Board and Committees

President:

Julie Tamblin 616.490.4910

President@RiverCityCameraClub.org

Vice President:

Marilyn Keigley

VicePresident@RiverCityCameraClub.org

Treasurer:

Wayne Walkotten

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Secretary:

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Digital Coordinator:

Kelly Walkotten

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Fundraising Chair:

Steve Scherbinski

Steve.Scherbinski@gmail.com

Competition Chair:

Sharon VanderBoon

Competition@RiverCityCameraClub.org



Oil Spots ©Dave Johnson

Aperture Priority vs. Manual Mode ~ Part II

By Marilyn Keigley

In response to the article on shooting in manual or aperture priority, several members added some information that might be useful to you all. Here are a couple of useful tips from Joe Hempstead and Steve Scherbinski.

A comment by Joe Hempstead regarding manual setting for landscapes follows: "I like to use manual for landscape shoots where shutter speed isn't an issue. I'll usually use ISO 100 and an f-stop to fit my depth of field preferences. I use a spot meter on the brightest portion of the scene and then back off 2/3rds of a stop from the right side with my shutter adjustment to make sure I'm not blowing out any whites. Tripod is essential for this procedure." In Joe's image seen here called Bryce Point Sunrise, taken in Bryce Canyon National Park, Joe exposed on the brightest part of the landscape. The highlights are not blown out and there is great exposure in the shadow areas.



In response to my comment about controlling ISO, shutter speed, and aperture combinations in both manual and aperture priority, Steve Scherbinski writes: "I would say that is true in Manual mode, though in Aperture, you are letting the camera select the shutter speed based on the reading from the light meter. This can be off in snow scenes or dark scenes and you have to use a compensation setting to get it right. In manual mode, I can compensate off the bat. For example, in a snow scene, I know I have to overexpose by a stop or a stop and a half. So the snow turns out white. It would be grey in Aperture unless you mess around with the compensation setting."

Thanks for your comments and insights. As dedicated photographers, we are always trying to get the best combination from that mysterious triangle of combinations (speed, ISO, & f) to produce magical images. Other insights and comments are welcome! Please email them to Julie at President@rivercitycameraclub.org.

River City 2014 Mini Program Review

By Marilyn Keigley

Thank-you to Kevin Povenz, Steve Scherbinski, Larry Heibel, Marilyn Keigley, Mike Mitchell, Kelly Walkotten, and Julie Tamblin, on seven excellent mini programs at River City Camera Club's January meeting. The photo programs showcased everything from horses to sharks, along with portraits, people, eagles, and landscapes of the southwest offering photographers an opportunity to show their work without the pressure of competition. The three-minute programs capture a theme or group of your favorite images, normally with music added.

Mini Program participants were entered in a drawing for prizes after programing commenced. Thank-you to Joy Hein of Allied Printing for prize donations – your generosity is greatly appreciated!

According to a show of hands, many members would like to enter a mini program next January, but have never put a program together. The question was asked, "What software is used to compile a mini-program?" The answers are as varied as photographers:

Kelly Walkotten used *Final Cut Pro* for her video, which can also be used for a regular show. Larry Heibel, Mike Mitchell and Kevin Povenz used *Pro Show Gold*, which is for Windows (not Mac). Larry uses this software often and feels he has complete control when putting the photos to music. Steve Scherbinski used *Lightroom*, finding it handy as his images were already in Lightroom. Marilyn and Julie used *PowerPoint*.

In addition to those mentioned above, there are several other software programs available. We will have to explore these options more as a club with regards to compatibility with our computer systems and ease of use for the photographer. Perhaps if we have enough interest we can hold an additional class/meeting on **Putting Together a Mini-Program?**



Meeting Location:

Covenant Village of the Great Lakes

www.covenantgreatlakes.org

2510 Lake Michigan Drive NW.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

