



The Currents



September, 2008

River City Camera Club Newsletter

Check out our club's website

www.rivercitycameraclub.org

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Please let me know of any events or pictures that you would like published.

This newsletter is available on the website in a PDF downloadable and printable format.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WELCOME BACK!!!

It's hard to believe a new year of camera club is upon us, but it's here. Looking back we have seen a major decline in the number of entries in all categories—especially prints and slides.

The board recently discussed this issue and is committed to maintaining competition in prints, slides and digital as long as there is a demand.

So how do you determine demand? For one, you need more than one person entering the competition. The past couple of years in the print competition, there was no competition for first place due to the lack of entries leaving the winners feeling like they won by default—simply entering more entries than anyone else—that's not competition.

But do we discontinue a competition due to the lack of entries? Do we change how we award places? Do we continue on business as usual?

Those are questions the board would like answered. Please give me your feedback at 616-868-6790 or Lawrence@heibelmedia.com.

The board is very interested in promoting our club through our Workshoot programming. Programming is slow to come together, but bear with us and support us by attending these events. Better yet, participate in the planning or organizing of an event!

It may take us a year or two to really get a handle on the programming and scheduling, but we are working to make this club something attractive to potential new members and current members alike.

Finally, I want to thank Lori Wysocki for taking over the coordination of the Sunset Manor programming from Bob Talsma who did an outstanding job the past several years and is retiring from that position. Our club earned \$1,000 last year from

Upcoming Events

2008:

September 17 – Digital

Competition Deadline 11:59 PM

September 20 – RCCC meeting.

Assigned: Animals – Domestic or wild

October 18 – RCCC meeting,

Assigned: Unusual Camera Angles.

November 15 – RCCC meeting,

Assigned: Effects of Time

December 20 – RCCC MEETING

LOCATION TBD. Assigned: Predominantly Blue

2009:

January 17 – RCCC meeting

February 21 – RCCC meeting

March 21 – RCCC meeting

April 18 – RCCC meeting

May 16 – Banquet at location TBD

Meetings are the third Saturday of each month, September thru May. at West Side Christian School, 955 Westend NW, Grand Rapids, MI (except as noted).

Officers Corner

President:

Larry Heibel 616-868-6790
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Vice President:

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Treasurer:

Roger Vande Kieft 616-669-4535

putting on programming at Sunset Manor. It is our only significant fundraiser and has allowed us to maintain our equipment and meeting room. If you have slide or digital shows you would like to show, please let Lori know.
Larry

ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR THE 2008-2009 MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

September Animals-Domestic or Wild

Animals are a huge category and found nearly everywhere. The images can take the form of an action shot, portrait, or the animal in its own habitat doing what it normally does. Zoos are an excellent and easy source. People take their pets, especially dogs, nearly everywhere these days, parks, events, and shopping. You can attend a nature workshop such as the one(s) Ed Post and John Dykstra host at The Discovery Center. Howell Nature Center in Howell, Michigan, puts on a couple special photography workshops each year which are excellent. One can also visit a farm, nature preserve, or go on a safari.

October Unusual Camera Angles

November Effects of Time

December Predominantly Blue

2009:

January Holiday Related

February Chrome

March Weather Moods

April Flowering Vines,
Bushes and Trees

Cookie Brigade

**Kelly Walkotten, Kim Heibel
and Roger VandeKieft**

WORKSHOOT SCHEDULE

For more information on future WorkShoots stay tuned to the website. Here is what we have scheduled so far.

If you're interested in putting together a workshop or shoot, please let Larry Heibel know. We have no programming scheduled for January and February.

September 2008 WORKSHOOT

Register NOW for the first River City Camera Club WorkShoot.

The program entitled "Nature—Wildlife and Beyond" will be Tuesday September 23 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the home of Jack Carter, 2707 Garfield Ave. NW. Grand Rapids

Cost is \$20 for River City Camera Club Members and \$25 for non-club members. Space will be limited to the first 12 to register. Contact Jack Carter at 616-784-0103 or by email jcsnap22@aol.com.

Snacks will be provided during a break.

The program will cover how to photograph:

*Butterflies in your garden and in the wild. *Small birds and other nature subjects. *Wading birds, birds in flight. *How to attract wildlife for pictures. *Capturing desert wildlife images from a blind and other places. *Landscapes and panoramas.

The program will wrap with a slideshow: "Wildlife---Southern Style" to show the results.

HERE ARE TENTATIVE WORKSHOOT PLANS -

October 08 Gilmore Car Museum
Shoot

November 08 Table Top Shoot

January 09 WORKSHOP to be
Scheduled

February 09 WORKSHOP to be
Scheduled

March 09 Studio Lighting
Workshoot with Larry Heibel

April 09 Evening downtown G.R.
model shoot with Larry Heibel and
Kelly Walkotten

May 09 Kalamazoo Nature Center

Where Are The Prints?

Camera Club has monthly competitions in three major categories; Prints, Slides, and Digital. The digital entries are at the highest participation ever, which makes it not surprising, as most of us have switched to digital cameras and it is easy to e-mail in the entries in advance.

It also makes sense that our slide entries are at the all time lowest, as most of us are no longer shooting film. With that said, where are the prints?

Entries are at an all time low. Prints can be made from film, slides, and digital formats. I have heard comments such as, it is expensive, what do I do with them after competition, and I don't have time. Let's take a look at each of these issues.

Let's start with the "it's expensive" issue. Club allows entry sizes from 5x7 to a 16x20. Most of us have printers at home from which we can print.

Once a month, and usually more, Office Max offers a buy one and get one free Photo Paper sale. They switch around with Canon, Epson, Kodak, HP, and their own brand of digital photo papers.

This now makes your papers half price. If you do not have a photo printer, there are many brands available.

I just received an e-mail promotion that the Epson photo 1400 printer is on special for \$269.00. This printer offers True "BorderFree" frame ready prints on 4x6, 5x7, 8x10, 8.5x11, 11x14, 11x17, 13x19, and even 12x12 scrapbook-size papers.

It also allows you to print directly from your camera. Now that is a lot of options for less than three hundred dollars and this is an example from only one company.

I am sure others have similar pricing. I personally own this printer

Where Are The Prints? (cont.)

and find it does a great job printing my photographs. You have seen many of my examples at club competitions.

If you do not have a printer and do not want to invest in one, there are many options for having your prints made for you. I did a quick check and came up with some prices. M-Pix (www.mpix.com) have 8x10s for \$1.99 and 11x14s for \$6.99.

If you go on line they have a full price list and do run specials. Pictures are e-mailed to them and they send them back in the mail. I have used them and gotten my pictures in three days. Adorama (www.adorama.com) has 8x10s for \$1.95, 11x14s for \$2.49 all on special when I checked. They frequently run special pricing and planning ahead can save you money. Check them out on line as well for pricing.

The photos are also e-mailed in and returned by mail. Meijer, Target, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, COSTCO, and Walgreens also have photo services, run specials, and photos can be delivered or e-mailed and picked up.

This also addresses the "I do not have time" excuse, as I listed many easy solutions to getting your prints done, without leaving the comfort of your home, if you so choose.

Now for the "what do I do with them" issue; what better way to live than being surrounded by the things you love. Framed and hung in your home, photos are a constant reminder of places you've been, people you love, and the beautiful creation in which we live.

You can even rotate your pictures seasonally, monthly, or weekly if you so choose.

Give your Photographs as gifts to the special people in your life. I have cherished the gifts given to me by my loved ones and knowing I was

given something they love makes it even more special. I also know that someday I will leave behind a collection of work that my family can hold on to and pass on to their children.

There are also many nice photo albums available in assorted sizes to display your work. Portfolio books come in large sizes for your larger prints, as well.

With all the options available to us, hard copies, or prints are as easy, or easier than ever before. I believe everyone likes to see the print entries in club, but with the numbers so low, how long will we continue to hold a print category.

I miss seeing all of your prints and I am sure that I am not alone in this feeling. Let's not let the fine art of printing die within our camera club.

by Kelly Walkotten

A Word about Dry Bags...

I'd like to share my experience of May 2008. Kayaking is one hobby of mine and in May, for the first time, I took along my digital camera on a paddle on the Manistee River. I slipped my digital camera into my dry bag, attached it to the seat of my kayak and was off.

About an hour down the river I tangled with a fallen tree and had an "involuntary out-of-boat experience." My camera stayed attached to my kayak, but when I lifted the dry bag – it wasn't dry but full of water.

On closer inspection the tag in the bag read "This Dry Sack is made from high performance waterproof fabric, heat sealed tape seams with a roll down watertight closure. Use to keep contents dry in any wet situation where the bag is not submerged." Enough said!

by Elaine Christrup

COMPETITION DEADLINES: GET ENTRIES IN ON TIME OR MISS OUT ON COMPETITION

This year we are going to be strict on competition deadlines! Digital entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. on the Wednesday immediately preceding the competition. The digital competition coordinator WILL NOT accept any entries after that time and date.

Slide and print entries will not be accepted past 7:00 p.m. While it may not seem fair to reject entries that come in to club at 7:01 p.m., it actually is unfair for the volunteers to miss the opening of the club meeting because they are dealing with late entries. This can also lead to errors in organization and presentation of images in competition.

The RCCC Board unanimously approved this new time policy due to the number of late entries that continually come into competition coordinators.

We thank everyone in advance for adhering to this policy and recognizing the hard work our volunteers put in to give us a fair competition.

**RESULTS FROM
2007-08
COMPETITION**

PRINTS

First Place: Kelly
Walkotten
Second Place: Larry
Heydenburg
Third Place: Anne
Linburg

SLIDES

First Place: Tom
Carter
Second Place:
Marian Carter
Third Place: Cal Dyk

DIGITAL

First Place: Lori
Huff
Second Place:
Marian Carter
Third Place: Kelly
Walkotten

**2007-08 YEAR END
COMPETITION
RESULTS**

PRINTS Portraits

First Place: Kelly
Walkotten

PRINTS Open

First Place: Kelly
Walkotten
Second Place: Jack
Carter

PRINTS Nature

First Place: Larry
Heydenburg
Second Place: Kelly
Walkotten

SLIDES

Photojournalism

First Place: Sharon
VanderBoon

SLIDES Portraits

First Place: Tom
Carter
Second Place: Cal
Dyk

SLIDES Open

First Place: Les
Shoemaker
Second Place: Gerri
Shoemaker
Third Place: Cal Dyk

SLIDES Nature

First Place: Les
Shoemaker
Second Place:
Marian Carter
Third Place: Cal Dyk

SLIDES Best of

Botany: Cal Dyk
Still-Life: Marian
Carter
Zoology: Marian
Carter

Creative: Tom
Carter
Scenic: Cal Dyk

DIGITAL

Photojournalism

First Place: Lori
Huff
Second Place: Larry
Heibel

DIGITAL Portraits

First Place: Tom
Carter
Second Place: Larry
Heibel

DIGITAL Open

First Place: Howard
Hendrickson
Second Place:
Sharon VanderBoon
Third Place: Lori
Huff

DIGITAL Nature

First Place: Marian
Carter
Second Place: Lori
Huff
Third Place: Tom
Carter