



The Currents



December, 2008

River City Camera Club Newsletter

Check out our club's website
www.rivercitycameraclub.org

Inside This Issue

- 1** President's Message
Upcoming Events
RCCC Officers
- 2** December RCCC Meeting Info
Assigned Subjects, 2008-2009
WorkShoot News
Fridays at Sunset
- 3** "Check These Out!"
SWMCCC Fall Competition
APP Shoot
November 08 Competition Results
- 4** November 08 Competition Results
Cont'd

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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

Last month I sat on the panel of judges and we faced an issue that doesn't come up too often. A Nature image appeared in competition, which I immediately recognized as manipulated.

As a judge, I scored the image a 5—a score deserving of an image that has an obvious technical flaw and should not have been entered, especially in that category. Based on the total score, the other judges gave it a 7 and an 8.

Toward the end of the competition, an audience member asked if this image could have a revote. The reason for the request was not because of the digital manipulation, but because he saw that one judge gave it a 5 and another gave it an 8.

When one judge says an image is superior and another says it is flawed, the revote question was and is appropriate. The image should be reconsidered because it's possible one of the judges hit the wrong button, one of the judges missed something or one of the judges saw something the other judges didn't.

The image was recalled and at that point I informed the other judges of my score and the reason it was given. Then, under the club rules, we had a decision to make—disqualify the image for breaking the rule of submitting a Nature image with the hand of man clearly present in the image—namely, obvious digital manipulation of the image (see page 7 of the RCC Members Guide). This would allow it to be properly entered into the Open Category at a later date. The second option was to re-judge the image and let the score stand.

The judges opted to give the maker the benefit of the doubt and re-judge the image. All three judges gave the image the same score and we moved on.

So why bring this up now? We are a social group, however, we also have a competition with rules and regulations. It's not often we have to consult our rule manual and judges are called on to make

Upcoming Events

2008:

December 6 – APP Shoot

December 10 – RCCC November

Digital Competition Deadline

December 13 – RCCC meeting,

@ Jenison Christian School.

Assigned: Predominantly Blue

2009:

January 17 – RCCC meeting

Assigned: Holiday Related

February 21 – RCCC meeting

March 21 – RCCC meeting

April 18 – RCCC meeting

May 16 – Banquet

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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some serious judgment calls. However, that is a responsibility of judging. For our competitions to have any merit, credibility, integrity and value, rules must be followed, images must be judged fairly and critically. And that means at times we have to give out scores of 5 or even disqualify an image.

The maker of the image in question did admit to me later that the image had been manipulated but felt it was an appropriate manipulation in the Nature category. I disagreed since the rules state that any obvious manipulation in the nature category is not allowed.

I stand by my score and I also support the other two judges I voted with because they used their judgment to score the image based on their level of expertise and knowledge.

This is what we ask of judges. Score an image based on your knowledge and expertise, not your likes and dislikes. No matter who submits an image, we must score their image appropriately or we devalue the entire competition process.

I ask that club members follow the rules in submitting their images and judges follow the rules in judging those images. And I welcome audience members questioning a score when there is a gap in scores as with a 5 and an 8.

It may be a case of hitting the wrong button, but it could also be an opportunity to learn if there is a reason for such a disparity. Sometimes we forget that we don't compete just to score points, we submit to gain wisdom and insight and knowledge about what makes an image great. And we can only learn if the scores awarded an image are valid.

So I urge our members as they are called to judge to be courageous enough to award points to an image based on what it deserves whether it be a 5 or an 8.

Happy Holidays everyone!

Larry

RCCC Meeting December 13, 2008

Note that we are meeting on the **second** Saturday of the month. The meeting will begin at 7 PM and will be held in **Jenison Christian Middle School's Band Room**. We will be holding our Competition as usual. The Assigned Topic is Predominately Blue. We plan to view our club's own Fall Images as our program.

Directions to Jenison Christian - ,
7726 Graceland in Jenison
Turn north off Baldwin between
20th and 28th Avenues – onto
Greenfield, then veer to the left
on Graceland. The school will be
on your right. Parking is behind
the Middle School wing.

December Cookie Brigade

We also will have a special
Social Time with refreshments
during the December meeting.
We ask **everyone to bring an**
appetizer or finger food to share.

ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR THE 2008-2009 MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

December Predominantly Blue –
The sky is the limit on this one!
Blue accommodates all of our
divisions in competition. One can
use water bodies, models dressed in
blue, painted pottery, glassware,
black light images, clothing, jewelry,
Michigan's state flag or other flags,
motor vehicles, some birds, flowers,
buildings, part of a mural, or even
Blue Moon ice cream. Be sure blue
is the emphasis of the picture on this
one.

2009:

January Holiday Related
February Chrome
March Weather Moods
April Flowering Vines,
Bushes and Trees

Fridays at Sunset

Anyone who has a show
they would like to share
with residents at Sunset
Manor, please contact Lori
Wysocki at 616-498-0159 or
loriwys@yahoo.com.

WORKSHOOT NEWS

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

Table Top WorkShoot Saturday, November 8th Review

The Table Top's WorkShoot was well attended. That Saturday was a cold wet day but inside it was warm – both the air and the camaraderie. Five stations were set up for everyone's use and there were many props provided. Seth and I made use of some of these props, but also brought in some of our own things we'd been wanting to shoot. Watching some of the others work and getting tips on lighting and composition was what it was all about. Seth especially shot a number of images, so watch for them in coming competitions! We'd never worked with a black light before and didn't have much time to do so that day – hope to attend another Table Tops to continue the learning curve.

Thanks to Kelly for all of her work, for sharing and setting up the equipment and attention to detail...right down to cider and cookies!

Elaine and Seth Christrup

HERE ARE TENTATIVE WORKSHOOT PLANS -

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

(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.)

CHECK THESE OUT!

Tutorials and tips:

If you are new to photography, or just need a refresher, Media College has beginner-level tutorials on everything from the basics of your camera to picture composition. The site also provides definitions and examples of more than 40 types of photography. www.mediacollege.com/photography

Talk about it:

Get photography advice by calling Photo Talk Radio, an internet talk show devoted solely to the craft. Tune in every Saturday from 8 to 9 a.m. Pacific time, to hear live discussions on photography news and techniques, or to ask questions of the show's two hosts. If you miss a broadcast, go to the website to download a recorded version at no cost. www.phototalkradio.com

SWMCCC

FALL COMPETITION –

The SWMCCC Fall competition took place on November 15 at West Side Christian School. The competition was well attended and there were many entries. A print category was added to this competition and the number of print entries was overwhelming! The judges were past or present Camera Club Presidents including our own Larry Heibel.

Congratulations to the following members:

*Marian Carter, 1 Acceptance, Digital Nature *Tom Carter, 2 Acceptances, Digital Open
*Kelly Walkotten, 1 Acceptance, Digital Open; 2 Acceptances, Digital Portrait; 1 Honor, Digital Nature; 3 Honors, Print Nature; 1 Acceptance and 1 Honor, Print Portrait.

Start planning now for the Spring Competition. Watch the web-site for the date and location!

The Association of Portrait Photographers

You're invited to attend a portraiture photo session on Saturday, December 6, 2008, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, presented by the Association of Portrait Photographers. Many of the top scoring portraits in club and SWMCCC competition have been taken at the APP's meets, and they are open to all photographers.

There will be several professional studio quality lighting setups and plenty of photogenic models waiting to pose for you. The APP's knowledgeable and experienced personnel will be available to help you and answer your questions.

The cost is \$10.00 for advance registration or \$15.00 at the door. It will be held at the Calvin Christian School Gymnasium, 601 36th Street SW, Grand Rapids, Michigan. The school is located just west of the US 131 expressway on the north side of 36th street. Send advance registration to:

Marian Carter
2707 Garfield NW
Grand Rapids MI 49544

Bring a camera capable of accepting a PC cable for the electronic strobes (or an adapter). A lens in the 80 to 125mm range is best for portrait photography, and a tripod is optional. For more information call Tom Carter at 616-453-8975.

RESULTS FROM November 2008 COMPETITION

JUDGES: Larry Heydenburg, Larry Heibel and Lori Wysocki

SUMMARY and HIGHLIGHTS

- 17 members submitted a total of 136 images in the three divisions.
- More people entered prints this month than in any other month since October of last year
- Only one Perfect 24 Score was awarded in the three competitions or 0.70% of all entries.

PRINT COMPETITION

5 Members Submitted 23 Prints
10 HONORS (21 to 22 points) (43.5%)
13 ACCEPTANCES (17 to 20 points) (56.5%)
Average of all Print Scores 20.13 points

The One-Twenty Club

1. **Kelly Walkotten, 127**
2. **Cal Dyk, 122**
3. **Bob Talsma, 120**

Honor Prints

Cal Dyk: (Moulton Barn, 21; Loon Closeup, 21; Columbine, 21)
Bob Talsma: (Little Hawk, 21; This Old House, 22)
Kelly Walkotten: (Balance Rock, 21; Spotted Drumfish, 21; Hawksbill Sea Turtle, 21; Seed Pods, 22; Black Capped Chicka-dee, 22)

Kudos

Kelly Walkotten received honors on 5 of 6 entries; and Cal Dyk received 3 honors on 6 entries.

SLIDE COMPETITION

6 Members Submitted 32 Slides
11 HONORS (21 to 23 points) (34.4%)
21 ACCEPTANCES (16 to 20 points) (65.6%)
Average of all Slide Scores 19.66 points

The One-Twenty Club

1. **Marian Carter, 123**
2. **Tom Carter, 121**
3. **Cal Dyk, 120**
4. **Sharon VanderBoon, 120**

Honor Slides

Marian Carter: (Painted Lady, 23;

Busy Bee, 21; Hornworm, 21)

Tom Carter: (Bundled Up, 22; Wings of Gold, 21)

Cal Dyk: (Mountain Man, 21; Brunette Beauty, 21; Cecropia, 21; Icy Leaves, 22)

Florence Maciulewski: (Delicate Slipper, 21)

Sharon Vander Boon: (Out on a Limb, 21)

Kudos

Cal Dyk received honors on 4 of 6 entries; and Marian Carter received honors on 3 of 6 entries.

DIGITAL COMPETITION

15 Members Submitted 81 Digital Images

43 HONORS (21 to 24 points) (53.1%)

38 ACCEPTANCES (18 to 20 points) (46.9%)

Average of all Digital Scores 20.46 points

The One-Twenty Club

1. **Kelly Walkotten, 129**
2. **Tom Carter, 126**
3. **Brian Gudas, 126**
4. **Marian Carter, 124**
5. **Larry Heibel, 124**
6. **Lori Huff, 123**
7. **Elaine Chrstrup, 121**
8. **Cal Dyk, 120**

Honor Digital Images

Jack Carter: (Mexican Jay, 21; Mabry Mill, 22; Room Décor, 21)

Marian Carter: (Ancient Ruins, 21; Crowded Nest, 22; Green Heron, 21)

Tom Carter: (Western Sunset, 22; Thistle Blossom, 21; Wings Outstretched, 22; Naturally Curly, 21)

Elaine Chrstrup: (Autumn of Life, 21; Yesterday's Wares, 21; Spokes and More, 21)

Cal Dyk: (Resting Cardinal, 21; Columbine, 21; Teton Range, 21)

Brian Gudas: (34 Dodge, 21; Old Vegas, 21; Brian Gudas, 22; Up and Down, 21; Sadie Mae, 23)

Robert Gudas: (Iguana, 22)

Kim Heibel: (Big Red, 22; Marsh Yellow, 21; Music and Love, 23; Otherworldly Bloom, 22)

Larry Heibel: (Nine Months Effect, 21; Confident Model, 21; Young Angels; Laura, 21)

Lori Huff: (Bobcat, 22; Harris Hawk, 21; Siberian Tiger, 21)

Bob Talsma: (Barn and Restored 1965 Corvette, 21)

Sharon Vander Boon: (Blue and Gold Macaw, 21)

Rosemary VanHouten: (Top of Presque Isle, 21)

Kelly Walkotten: (Rusty and Warm, 21; Bald Headed Eagle Profile, 24; Merlin, 22; Little Kitty, 21; Oriental Lily, 22)

Lori Wysocki: (Falconers, Hawk, 21)

Kudos

Kelly Walkotten received honors on 5 of 6 entries, one of which was a perfect 24; Tom Carter, Brian Gudas, Larry Heibel, and Lori Huff received honors on 4 of 6 entries; Marian Carter, Elaine Chrstrup and Cal Dyk received honors on 3 of 6 entries; Kim Heibel received 4 honors on 4 entries; and Jack Carter received 3 honors on 4 entries.