



The Currents



January, 2009

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

Happy New Year!

With the start of a new year we start our last half of the year. And this is when your board starts looking at next year.

We'll have a new President and Treasurer next year since Roger VandeKieft and myself are stepping down from our long-held positions. I have one person who has volunteered to be nominated for President and I need a volunteer for Treasurer.

Serving on the board is a great way of ensuring the camera club continues on as a viable organization. It requires a couple of extra meetings through the year, but there's food involved and they're actually fun.

Also, I am going to ask the current board and anyone interested in serving on the next board—and frankly, everyone who attends club—to consider the following proposal. I need everyone's feedback so I can relay it to the board. The board will consider the proposal at its January 14 meeting and we'll bring our recommendation to the full membership in February.

The proposal is this---move our meeting nights from Saturday to the first Wednesday of the month.

We have always met on Saturday night, however, our membership is shrinking and I believe much of that can be attributed to the meeting night.

I miss 1/3 of the meetings a year due to weekend job commitments. I see several other members who miss quite a few meetings due to conflicts also. We have lost at least a dozen potential new members—including one just this month---because they can't attend Saturday night.

I'm proposing the first Wednesday of the month for two reasons. One, it doesn't conflict with Grand Rapids Camera Club which meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month. They have hit nearly 100 members after having the

Upcoming Events

2009:

January 14 – RCCC Board meeting @ Kelly Walkotten's home, 7 PM

January 14 - Deadline for January Digital Competition

January 17 – RCCC meeting
Assigned: Holiday Related

February 21 – RCCC meeting

March 4 - WorkShoot

March 21 – RCCC meeting

April 18 – RCCC meeting

April 29 - WorkShoot

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
lawrence@heibelmedia.com

Vice President:

Brian Gudas 616-846-7393
bmg5@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Elaine Christrup 616-667-2826
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Treasurer:

Roger Vande Kieft 616-669-4535
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kind of membership numbers we currently have. They are doing a couple of things differently than us, but they also are meeting on a weeknight which we are not.

Second, Westside Christian has our room available Wednesday nights—the only night of the week we could get it.

So while changing the night, we wouldn't have to change location.

I know this may be the most drastic change proposed since going from five judges to three or adding digital. But, both those changes have been good for our club.

I believe it's time we consider a change. No change would be made until September 2009—however, we are also going to consider a mid-week year-end awards banquet this year.

Let your voice be heard. If there is an overwhelming opinion that we stick to Saturday's, that's what we'll do. If we get overwhelming support for the change or no opinion one way or another, the board will take that into consideration too.

Please contact me by email Lawrence@heibelmedia.com or phone 616-868-6790 and let me know what you think. I will not be at the January meeting due to a work commitment, however, feel free to pass on your thoughts to Kim at the January meeting.

And think about serving the club on the board in some capacity.

Larry

RCCC Meeting January 17, 2009

The meeting will begin at 7 PM and will be held at West Side Christian. We will be holding our Competition as usual. The Assigned Topic is Holiday Related.

January Cookie Brigade

Sharon Vander Boon
and Lori Wysocki

BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting is going to be 7 PM

Wednesday January 14
at Kelly Walkotten's house,
901 Brentwood St., Jenison
Please RSVP Kelly for that.

ASSIGNED TOPICS FOR THE 2008-2009 MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

2009:

January Holiday Related – You can take a pick of which holiday to shoot, because this doesn't just mean the Christmas holidays. But if you choose Christmas time, you have numerous events and décor to shoot from Thanksgiving to New Years Day. There are parades, craft shows, Christmas decorated goodies, and family gatherings. Portrait shooters could photograph someone in a holiday sweater, patriotic attire, or military clothing. One could photograph a veterans' cemetery or flags decorating grave markers around Memorial Day. There are parades that celebrate nearly all the holidays, costumes, and sometimes fireworks. You can dress your pet up in a holiday outfit and use what you do not enter in September's competition in this month's competition. Nature lovers can enter pictures of turkeys or reindeer.

February Chrome-This is pretty self-explanatory, and you would not have to leave your premises to get what you need. However if you are looking to shoot chrome that does not belong to you, there is ample opportunity. I have found that nearly every festival I went to this summer had a car show as part of it. There are bicycles and vehicles all around us to take advantage of for this. Visit the Gilmore Car Museum near Kalamazoo or a car dealership. Portrait shooters can have a model posed with a cycle or car in it, just remember, the main emphasis should be on the chrome.

March Weather Moods

April Flowering Vines,
Bushes and Trees

WORKSHOOT NEWS

For more information on future WorkShoots stay tuned to the website.

The March WorkShoot is going to be Studio Lighting Simplified by Larry Heibel. It will be 7 to 10 p.m. March 4 at Larry Heibel's house, 6050 Buttrick Ave. SE, Alto. Larry will have a model and will demonstrate how to create portraits using studio lighting. Participants will be able to photograph the model while experimenting with the lights! Event is limited to 6 people on a first come, first served basis.

The April WorkShoot will be Shooting Outdoor Portraits in Downtown Grand Rapids on Wednesday April 29 at 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. In case of inclement weather, we'll meet Wednesday May 6. This will be held outside in the environs of the Gerald R. Ford Museum. We will use natural light, reflectors, on camera flash and outdoor studio flash to photograph models with an urban backdrop. You'll learn how to balance natural and artificial light and how to photograph after dark. A tripod is REQUIRED! We have three leaders and will have three models and will limit participation to 15 people on a first come, first served basis.

Cost for each one of these WorkShoots is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members payable in advance to River City Camera Club. Your reservation for one or both WorkShoots will be held with your non-refundable payment. RSVP to Larry Heibel, lawrence@heibelmedia.com or 616-868-6790. With your reservation, payment should be made out to RIVER CITY CAMERA CLUB, but mail your check to Larry Heibel, 6050 Buttrick Ave. SE, Alto, MI 49302.

May 09 Kalamazoo Nature Center

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.

Did You Know That... Larry Heibel was named a Top Ten Photographer and Outstanding Member of the Year 2008 by the Professional Photographers of West Michigan

RESULTS FROM December 2008 COMPETITION

JUDGES: Cal Dyk, Roger VandeKieft, and Sharon VanderBoon

SUMMARY and HIGHLIGHTS

- 13 members submitted a total of 108 images in the three divisions.
- This month saw the fewest entrants and competitors this year
- This month saw the fewest number of competitors this decade.
- Six Perfect 24 Scores were awarded in the three competitions, 2 in each category or 5.5% of all entries.

PRINT COMPETITION

4 Members Submitted 16 Prints
15 HONORS (21 to 24 points) (93.8%)
1 ACCEPTANCE (18 points) (6.3%)
Average of all Print Scores 22.06 points

The One-Twenty Club

1. **Kelly Walkotten, 132**
2. **Cal Dyk, 130**

Honor Prints

Cal Dyk: (Great Horned Owl, 24; Spreading Wings, 21; Mesa Arch at Sunrise, 23; The Blue Angels, 23; Blue Heron, 21)

Larry Heydenburg: (Karly, 22; Bond Falls, 23; Proud Showie, 23)

Sharon VanderBoon: (Great Horned Owl, 23)

Kelly Walkotten: (Peek-A-Boo, 21; Patient Heron, 23; The Clipper Butterfly, 22; Meal Time, 24; Blue Colombine, 21; Blue Wildflower, 21)

Kudos

Kelly Walkotten received honors on 6 of 6 entries including a perfect 24 score; Cal Dyk received 5 honors on 6 entries including a perfect 24 score; Larry Heydenburg received honors of 3 of 3 entries; and Sharon VanderBoon received an honor on her single entry.

SLIDE COMPETITION

4 Members Submitted 24 Slides
20 HONORS (21 to 24 points) (83.3%)
4 ACCEPTANCES (19 to 20 points) (16.7%)
Average of all Slide Scores 19.66 points

The One-Twenty Club

1. **Tom Carter, 136**
2. **Marian Carter, 130**
3. **Cal Dyk, 127**
4. **Sharon VanderBoon, 127**

Honor Slides

Marian Carter: (Brandy, 22; Iguana, 22; Dewy Katydid, 22; Twilight at Arches, 21; Petite Dayflower, 24)

Tom Carter: (Summer Shades, 22; Cocky Cowgirl, 23; Sunset Ride, 23; Colorful Setting, 23; Levi Jacket, 22; Brilliant Birds, 23)

Cal Dyk: (Mushroom & Acorn, 24; Tri-Colored Heron, 21; Portage Glacier, 21; Blue Morph, 21)

Sharon VanderBoon: (Seaquarium Whale Show, 21; Perched in the Mangroves, 21; Muskegon Harbor, 21; Pretty Turkey, 21; Cottonwood Borer, 23)

Kudos

Tom Carter received honors on 6 of 6 entries; Marian Carter received honors on 5 of 6 entries including a perfect 24 score; Sharon VanderBoon received honors on 5 of 6 entries; and Cal Dyk received honors on 4 of 6 entries including a perfect 24 score.

DIGITAL COMPETITION

13 Members Submitted 68 Digital Images
49 HONORS (21 to 24 points) (72.1%)
19 ACCEPTANCES (18 to 20 points) (27.9%)
Average of all Digital Scores 20.46 points

The One-Twenty Club

1. **Marian Carter, 135**
2. **Cal Dyk, 130**
3. **Tom Carter, 128**
4. **Sharon VanderBoon, 128**
5. **Larry Heibel, 127**
6. **Kelly Walkotten, 126**
7. **Bob Talsma, 123**

Honor Digital Images

Marian Carter: (Blue Bonnet, 24; Salt River Canyon, 22; Well Balanced, 24; Leaf Full O' Leaves, 22; Peony Center, 23)

Tom Carter: (Classy Lassie, 22; Hues of Blue, 22; Lily Pads, 21; Summer Lily, 21; Red Umbrella, 22)

Elaine Christrup: (Superior View, 22; Scary in Blue, 21)

Seth Christrup: (Bumpy Ride, 21; Autumn Flowers, 21; A Classic Gone Wild, 21)

Cal Dyk: (Blue Angels, 23; Blue Heron, 21; Flaps Up, 21; Kestral, 23; Alex, 21; Stacy, 21)

Sandi Hansen: (Blue Globe, 21; Princess, 22; Roxy, 22)

Kim Heibel: (Interior, 22; yellow Pistals, 22; Young Love, 21)

Larry Heibel: (Blue Senior, 21; Champ in Blue, 21; Looking to the Future, 21; Sunset Beach Beauty, 22; Haley, 21; Hannah, 21)

Larry Heydenburg: (Blue Glassware, 21; Blue is the Color, 23; Proud Showie, 22; Bond Falls, 22; Karley, 22)

Bob Talsma: (Blue Pearls in Black Light, 22; Klaas Corvette, 22; Karen, 21)

Sharon Vander Boon: (Mighty Mac after Sunset, 23; Arizona Owl, 21; Side Lit Brown Pelican, 21; Queen Butterfly, 23)

Rosemary VanHouten: (Three Blues, 21)

Kelly Walkotten: (Bell Flower 2, 23; Blue Clipper Butterfly, 21; Pink Flamingo, 23)

Kudos

Cal Dyk and Larry Heibel received honors on 6 of 6 entries; Marian Carter received honors on 5 of 6 entries including two perfect 24 scores; Tom Carter received honors on 5 of 6 entries; Sharon VanderBoon received 4 honors on 6 entries; Bob Talsma and Kelly Walkotten received 3 honors on 6 entries; Larry Heydenburg received 5 honors on 5 entries; Sandi Hansen and Kim Heibel received 3 honors on 4 entries; Elaine Christrup received 2 honors on 4 entries; and Seth Christrup received 3 honors on 3 entries.

At the December meeting Kelly promised to share the recipe⁷ for this Almond Pastry that was such a hit...ENJOY!

Almond Puff Pastry

Serves: Many

1/2 cup butter, softened
1 cup flour
2 tablespoons water

1/2 cup butter
1 cup water
1 tsp. almond extract
1 cup flour
3 eggs

Confectioners' Sugar Glaze
Chopped nuts or other decorative topping such as colored sugars

Heat oven to 350-degrees. Cut 1/2 cup butter into 1 cup flour. Sprinkle with 2 tablespoons water; mix with a fork. Round into a ball; divide in half. On an un-greased baking sheet, pat each half into a strip 12x3-inches. Strips should be about 3-inches apart.

In a medium saucepan, heat 1/2 cup butter and 1 cup of water to a rolling boil. Remove from heat and quickly stir in almond extract and 1 cup flour. Stir vigorously over low heat till mixture forms a ball (about 1 minute). Remove from heat. Beat in eggs, all at once, till smooth. Divide in half; spread each half evenly over strips, covering completely. Bake about 60 minutes or till topping is crisp and brown. Cool. Frost with glaze and sprinkle with nuts or colored sugars.

Glaze:

Mix 1 box (1 pound) powdered sugar with
3/4 stick butter, softened
1-1/2 tsp. almond extract
1/4 cup minus 1 tablespoon of milk

Blend all together until very smooth and light. Divide frosting between strips.

Note: I like to make this dessert for gifts so I will make 3 strips instead of 2 and reduce the baking time to 50 minutes.