

The Lights & Shadows

Grand Rapids Camera Club

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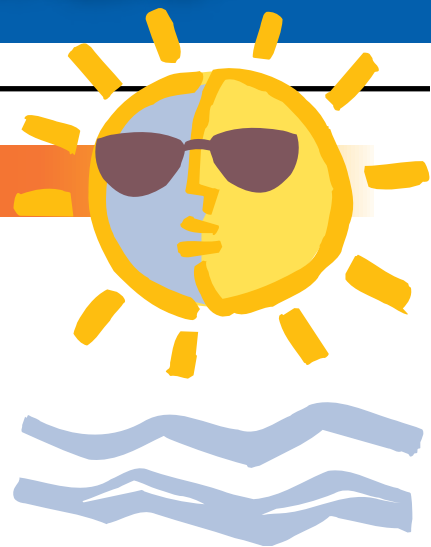


Diane Durand,
GRCC President

From Our President

Summer

Summer is upon us and the Grand Rapids Camera Club will take its usual break from meeting for July and August. But, for most of us, it does not mean a break from photography. In fact, many members shoot all of their images for the next competition year during the summer months. You may even have entries for all the assigned subjects by the time we reconvene in September.



Summer is a very busy time in West Michigan. It seems there is a fair, festival or event every weekend. They offer many opportunities for photography. So, if you have not taken any pictures recently, dust off the camera, review the manual again and get shooting!! Don't forget the vast array of educational opportunities offered at the SWMCCC Summer School of Photography in late July. Go somewhere you have never been before. Shoot a subject you normally would not. Be creative. Be safe. Enjoy your summer.

See you all in September.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane".

Election Results

Diane Durand, Mike Mitchel and Kris Andrus were all re-elected for two more years. New board members at large are Mike Koole, Steve Port and Ron Porritt.

Feedback Requested

by Greg Ferguson,
GRCC Lights & Shadows Editor

With this issue, we are trying something new for our Lights & Shadows...member interviews. Jim Shearer agreed to be the first one interviewed to see what the club thought about this (see Jim's interview on page 3).

I was thinking about doing an interview every couple of months and keeping it rather simple (not a lot of questions). I think this may help people (especially the newer members) get to know us, feel more comfortable in the GRCC, and possibly become more active as a result.

Email me at: gcferguson@mac.com and let me know your thoughts on this!
Thanks, Greg.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & WORKSHOPS

Mike Mitchell, VP of Programs

June
15
Meeting

Shooting Action Sports

This program by Mike Mitchell will give you an idea what is involved in action photography. He will discuss basic equipment considerations, what to look for as you are shooting, and provide you with valuable tips to help you get the best possible shot. Mike is our VP of Programs and works for Meijer as a Senior Photographer.

Aug
14
Workshop

Beach Shoot Planned

Mark your calendar. We will have another beach shoot on August 14. We will put details on the website as we get closer to the date.

Assigned Subjects Through 2012

2011

June Parallel Lines
September Tattoos
October..... Glorious Skies
November..... Bridges
DecemberRandom Ruins

2012

January Humor
March Patterns
April Stormy Weather
May Hands & Feet
June Cell Phone Usage
September ...Pure Michigan
October..... Action
November....Rust, Rusty Stuff
DecemberTime / Long Exposure

See our website for more info on the 2012 Assigned Subjects.

Recent Club Pics



Duane Weller explained how to work with old photos at a recent club meeting.



Interview: Jim Shearer Jr

by Greg Ferguson,
GRCC Lights & Shadows Editor



Jim, can you give our GRCC members some background information on yourself?

Yes I can... I came to Grand Rapids from Buffalo, NY in 1967 to work as a Controls Engineer at Rapistan, a privately owned material handling company. Caroline and I met a short time later driving the loop in downtown Grand Rapids. One thing lead to another and we now have been happily married for 43 years. Retirement came in 2004 after 43 years with the same company and we are enjoying it! Caroline has finally come to understand the true meaning of 24/7. We recently became grandparents for the first time thanks to our only son James and Heather. It was a great feeling holding our grandson Ethan for the first time!

What made you decide to join GRCC and when?

We learned about the Grand Rapids Camera Club in a rather unusual way. My son was looking for a job and started a conversation with the receptionist at a company he was interviewing with. During their brief encounter, she suggested that he might be interested in the Grand Rapids Camera Club. He thought it would be great if he and I bonded while enjoying our mutual interest in photography, so off we went to our first meeting. We liked what we saw and joined along with Caroline in June of 2008. Soon after that, my son got his job; but his hours of work conflicted with the camera club meetings, so Caroline and I had to fend for ourselves.

How did you get started doing the GRCC website?

The club was a lot smaller when we joined and it needed volunteers. Needless to say, our hands went up and our involvement with club activities increased. I wiggled my way into developing our club website and soon after became the Digital Coordinator as well. Both jobs are enjoyable and require a fair amount of time.

I really like to work with our members helping them get their images in for the monthly competitions. I learn and I trust they learn from our interactions.

Our website is probably my most satisfying activity. It is extremely important to keep the site current so that when members or people looking for a camera club visit the site they sense our club is alive and well. It is very gratifying when our President introduces visitors or new members at our monthly meetings and they indicate they found the club through our website.



What are some of the things you would like to see done within the club?

I would like to see more of our members ask how they could help with programs, workshops, workshoots and the general work it takes to run our club. Things just don't happen. They have to be planned, manned and executed to get the most out of our time and efforts. More volunteer help from our members would go a long way to make our club even better.



Ranger Steve at the scoring table getting ready to call out the scores.



Kris and Bill Andrus enjoying a cup of coffee during the break.

Photo Contest Reminder Meijer State Games of Michigan

The West Michigan Sports Commission, a non-profit 501 (c) (3), works to identify, secure and host a diverse level of youth and amateur sporting events to make a positive impact on the economy and quality of life in the region. Fulfilling its founding strategic objective to establish a "signature" event, the West Michigan Sports Commission is launching the Meijer State Games of Michigan, an event that will provide opportunity for healthy competition among athletes from throughout the state, enhance West Michigan's reputation as a premier venue for amateur sporting events, and make a significant positive impact on the economy and quality of life of the region.

The Meijer State Games of Michigan is a multi-sport, Olympic-style event for all residents in the state of Michigan and will be held June 24-26, 2011. Athletes and coaches will come to Grand Rapids to compete in 25 different sports for gold, silver and bronze medals. To kick off the event, there will be an Opening Ceremonies on June 24th at 7:00PM at the Fifth Third Ballpark. The Opening Ceremonies will feature family entertainment, event tailgating, a Parade of Athletes and the lighting of the cauldron.

Photography Contest: The purpose of this contest is to produce two photos (Opening Ceremonies & Sports Action Photo) that best represent the Meijer State Games of Michigan. A \$250 gift card will be awarded to the top picture in each category. For more information and to sign up, please visit our website at: <http://www.stategamesofmichigan.com/sponsorship/volunteer/photo-contest>

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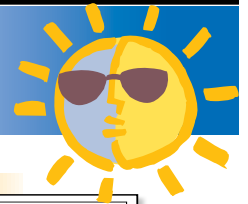


What's Happening

Newsletters are planned for every month except July and August. If you have news, information or photos for the next Lights & Shadows, please get these submitted on or before the last day of the month prior. You can send them to Greg Ferguson, the Lights & Shadows editor at: gcferguson@mac.com

The deadline for the September issue is August 31.





A Bit of Photographic History

by Stephen C. Port, GRCC Member



One function of the GRCC is to provide a forum to evaluate member photos via a panel of three judges in our monthly competition. Some members find this potentially intimidating while others welcome a chance to have their work judged by others. Gutsy as this may sometimes be, it pales in comparison to the courage of some of history's most famous photographers.

Take, for example, the work of Diane Arbus that was prominent 50-60 years ago. Diane explored and expanded a photographic style avoided then and maybe today by a lot of us. She worked in black and white like most photographers of her era, and used the camera as a photojournalistic portrait tool. Diane was known to center her subjects in the frame often with a full gaze directly into the lens. So far, no big deal; but it was her locations that drew special attention. Diane Arbus boldly



Diane Arbus
1923 - 1971

went where other photographers feared to go and extended the reach of her gender in the process. How many of us, male or female, would seek and receive permission to photograph inside mental institutions, circus and carnival back lots, nudist colonies, etc.? Voyeuristic – not so much. Diane's portraits had a starkness and intensity that shined a disturbing light on subjects traditionally and carefully tucked away from public view. Diane was not without her critics, but she was also not to be ignored. Check out the work of Diane Arbus on YouTube and try to imagine cranking up the nerve to document worlds still avoided by most.

By comparison, entering your work in our monthly competition suddenly doesn't seem nearly as intimidating. While there is probably a good deal of material inappropriate to monthly competition, why not jump in. I think our judges can handle the excitement as well.

Famous Arbus quotes:

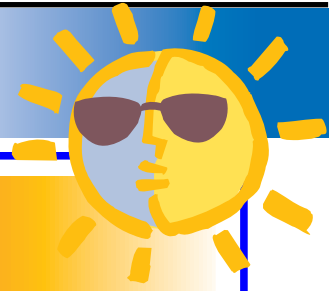
"My favorite thing is to go where I've never been."

"A photograph is a secret about a secret. The more it tells you the less you know."

A Big Thank You!

FOR BRINGING IN THE TREATS TO OUR MAY MEETING

Garnette Port, Steve Scherbinski, Joel Lloyd, Rosemary Van Houten, and Danford Richmond

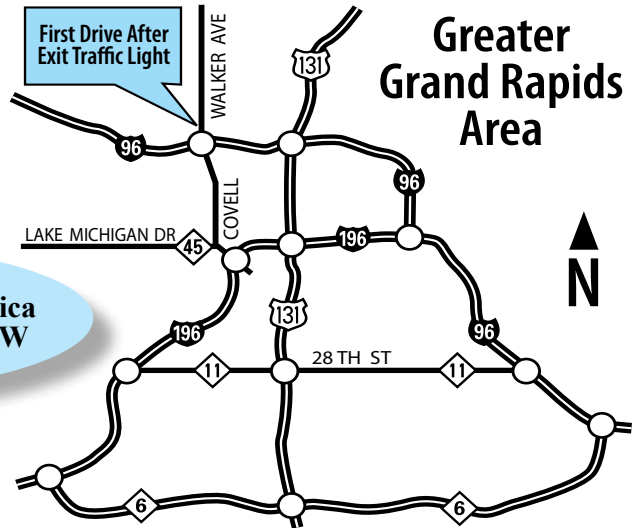


Visitors are Welcome at GRCC Meetings!

Regular Meetings
are held the
3rd Wednesday of the month
except February,
July, and August.

Time: 7:15 PM
Location: Boy Scouts of America
3213 Walker Ave. NW
Walker, MI

Visitors are always welcome!
The meetings are fun
and informative.



Officers, Board Members and Support Positions

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