

Grand Rapids Camera Club

Lights & Shadows

JUNE 2021 Vol.122 No.6

GRCC President Letter

My Thoughts and Your Feedback



Jan Lewis

Because the club takes a summer recess from program meetings, it has always felt to me that our meeting year runs from September through June (even though our competition, and membership/fiscal year actually runs from January through December!) The last 12-16 months have brought a whole new perspective to everyday life for everyone and every organization each of us are involved with, including Grand Rapids Camera Club. We have all had to adjust and improvise to navigate the changing Covid landscape, and for GRCC that meant moving to an online format with meetings by Zoom. As things begin to open up, GRCC is trying to plan for how to move forward.

As with any challenge we face in life, there are positive and negative spinoffs. As I reflect on the programs that Evie Carrier has arranged for us over the past 12 months, one of those positive spinoffs is that the virtual/online format opens the doors of who we can invite to present a program for us. Location is no longer a constraint, and as a result we have had excellent speakers from all over North America who have enlightened us on various aspects or types of photography.

Another positive has been the shift to judging our monthly competitions remotely. It isn't perfect, but neither was in-person judging. Competition VP Jeanne Quillan has found it easier to find 3 individuals willing to judge when it can be done from their home, on their time rather than requiring another night out for a judge. It also allows a judge more time with the images rather than giving a quick 3-5 second look and a score. As a result, the competition committee and board have decided that we will continue with the remote judging process for digital entries, refining it even after we return to in-person gatherings.

Of course, the negatives are that we aren't gathering as a community IN PERSON, making it is easier to retreat into our own spaces and worlds and not interact with others who share a common interest – which is why most of us joined the club in the first place. In addition, our print competition has been on a lengthy hiatus. We hope to start that up again this fall. As Covid restrictions have dragged on, many of us have become more accustomed to the virtual form of meeting. Some love it and would be fine to have it continue, while others don't. It allows people who live farther away from GR, or may be out of town temporarily to still attend the meeting... or watch or review the program after the fact. But others have problems with computer connections, slow WiFi, or inadequate spaces where it is difficult to join an online meeting.

We are currently in conversation with our pre-Covid meeting location, Grace Episcopal Church in East Grand Rapids. At this writing we have not gotten clarification if they

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will be changing their rental guidelines and fees and how that will affect us. We will also be investigating whether we can meld the best of in person meetings with online formats when we do start meeting in person. For example... our September 2021 speaker is not local, so IF we are meeting in person, the presentation will be made live online and projected on a screen for everyone to watch.

Everyone has a different comfort level as to when they are OK gathering in groups again. I would very much like to hear your thoughts. Would you attend an in-person meeting? Or do you prefer the online format? Would you be OK with an in-person gathering where the program was projected live online? Please email me at info@grcameraclub.org and let me know what you think.

Summer Time

Though GRCC is officially on summer recess during July and August, Board members Evie Carrier and Steve Port are cooking up some ideas for a few summer Zoom gatherings that will allow club members to stay connected while learning and discussing some new techniques. The idea is that those interested would all watch the same photography related You Tube video then gather to discuss the ideas presented in the video. Keep an eye on your email inbox for information and links.

The 2022 Assigned subjects have been selected and are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. You can use the summer to get started on shooting images to for those categories. It's a great way to get your creative juices going. Many of us anxiously await the joys of summer in the Great Lakes State. Since we have been inside and isolated for what seems like forever, it is time to get out there with your camera and restock your image portfolio!

Election Results

The votes are in.

Your 2021-23 Board is:

President – Jan Lewis*

Vice President Programs – Evie Carrier*

Vice President Competition – Jeanne Quillan

Secretary – Della Landheer*

Treasurer – Christine Mooney

Board Members:

Russ Barneveld*,
Richard Coombs*,
Mike Bergeon,
Kathy Kendall*,
Steve Port*,
James Zeman

*Elected in May 2021
Others elected in 2020



Our June Meeting

June
16
Wed.

Basic Night Sky Photography

Presented by Robyn Porteen, GRCC Member



Learn the basics of night sky photography including:

- What gear to use
- Location scouting
- Single image milky way
- Foreground composite
- Light Painting and more



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ROBYN PORTEEN PRESENTATION - Continued from previous page.



About Robyn Porteen

From working as a staff architectural photographer to creating award-winning, fine-art-composite photography, my journey in photography has bought me to capturing the night sky.

For the past 6 years, I have been chasing stars and learning their stories. The night sky is my meditation; and being out at night to see the full glory of the universe and beyond, has become my life's passion.

Delegate to the International Dark Sky Association

Co-founder of Women in Astrophotography - a global network of women astrophotographers sponsored by the International Dark Sky Assoc.

Founder of West Michigan Night Photographers - currently a meet-up group and will become a network of local photographers for learning and shooting together.

Member of Newaygo County Astronomers

President of Porteen Gear, Inc. - Custom camera bags and travel gear
www.porteengear.com



June 16, 2021 at 7:15 PM

Club members will receive the Zoom meeting link by email prior to the meeting. Guests are welcome to attend the meeting and may request the Zoom meeting link by sending an email to programs@grcameraclub.org or info@grcameraclub.org

Meeting Starts at 7:15 PM (So ask to join 5-10 minutes before 7:15 PM).



GRCC Has YouTube Recordings of Meetings

Recordings of many of GR Camera Club's Zoom programs can be found on the club's YouTube channel [here](#). This link can be found on the club's website at www.grcameraclub.org if you need to access any recording later. It's easy to find...it's on our club's homepage under "Upcoming Events".

You can also go to YouTube.com and search for Grand Rapids Camera Club.

Talent from the North

By Greg Ferguson, GRCC Member



On Twitter? Here's a talented Canadian photographer that I think you will enjoy following. His name is Stan Collins, and he lives in Rocky Harbour, Newfoundland, Canada.

His Twitter handle is @stan_sdcollins



Our Assigned Subject List For 2021-2022

2021

Odd Or Unusual

June Odd Or Unusual



September . Rivers
October..... Nautical
November.. Harvest Time
December .. Curves

2022

January Something from your childhood
March Athletes
April Pairs
May Music



September . In the Garden
October..... Night Street Scene
November.. Barns
December .. Glass

The Assigned Subject List is available on our website on the Competition Corner page.



Competition Corner

By Jeanne Quillan,
GRCC VP - Competition

photobug49@comcast.net or competition1@grcameraclub.org

Manual and Competition Guidelines Changes

The following changes are effective immediately for the Monthly and Year-End Competitions.

To see the Revised May 2021 GRCC Membership Manual click here:

<http://grcameraclub.org/assets/pdf/documents/GRCC-Membership-Manual-May-2021.pdf>

- 1 The definition of Scapes has been rewritten to clarify what qualifies for that category. (Section 3.8 Category Definitions).
- 2 The criteria for Manipulation and Enhancements (Sections 4.1 through 4.5) has been updated and clarified.
- 3 You may now enter more than one Assigned Subject entry in any given month. You may enter your 4 images in any combination among all the categories as long as at least one entry is in the assigned category. If you choose not to enter in the assigned category, only 3 images are allowed.
- 4 We will now allow you to re-enter a disqualified image in a proper category **as a 5th image** the following month. The VP of Competition will contact you of such disqualification (DQ). No score will be applied the month of the DQ, however, the score will be applied the following month when it is re-entered and judged properly in the correct category. If a member does not re-enter the image in the competition month immediately following the DQ, his or her score will be forfeited.

The judges will be instructed to disqualify any image they feel does not follow the criteria for the given category, rather than simply lower the score. The three judges will discuss the image before deciding on the final disqualification. The reason for this is twofold. First, it serves to reinforce the guidelines about what should or shouldn't be entered in a category. And second, members who re-enter the image the next month will not lose a score that would compromise their yearly total.
- 5 To qualify for Photographer of the Year, the number of images needed to be entered in each category has been reduced to 5 of the 7 remaining categories (other than assigned), rather than 6. (Section 5 Awards End-of-Year Photo Competition)

Jeanne

Workshop Planned

By Rebecca Humes

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. I am planning to have an outdoor portrait shoot on Sunday evening, June 27th. Send me an email if you would like to attend.

Becky

beckyhumes1@yahoo.com



Steve Port's **Timed Exposure** A Bit of Photography History

Is Photography Post-Processing Like Dynamite?

I have some software that is a plug-in to Adobe Lightroom Classic. It does a whole bunch of stuff once only dreamed of by photographers 10 years ago. They sent me a survey inquiring as to how I would react to some new options they are considering. There were many items on this list.

At first I thought it might be an elaborate ruse just to get me thinking about the future of photographic post-processing. Quickly it became apparent that their recent sky replacement module was just the tip of the iceberg of future possibilities.

Imagine a photographer 100 or more years ago sharing a pint with fellow camera club members. And, of course, one pint leads to another before the conversation gets really weird. "What if I could take a negative and just brush away the background and brush in background from last week?" "What if I could brush in or out every important element of a portrait?" I think you see the trend here. Much of this is easily doable today on multiple processing platforms if you own it, if you understand it, if you have the experience and practice for it, and if you have the vision in your head of where you want to take it.



Jump to today or maybe tomorrow. It's here. It's coming. And it's amazing! But then again so was dynamite when it was invented in 1867 by Chemist Alfred Nobel.

Most people remember Alfred Nobel for the Nobel Peace Prize, a celebration of humankind's best intentions. Most do not connect him to dynamite and what it does!

I see great hope for tomorrow's post-processing software, but I also imagine a potential downside. Will we lose focus on the art of the original capture? Will the original picture matter at all? Can any old "snapshot" be elevated to the rank of "fine art" with just a few clicks on the keyboard?

I do think the future has always been like this. I mean, "Who would stick an ELECTRIC toothbrush in their mouth? Wouldn't you be electrocuted?"

Well, good luck er, I mean keep shooting!

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

scharlesport@comcast.net

May Image of the Month

Compiled by Jeanne Quillan

The Image of the Month is chosen by one of our members as the image that appeals to them the most. Each month, the honor of choosing the image is assigned to a different GRCC member. This month's favorite image from our May competition was chosen by Della Landheer.



"Cousins Confrontation"
by
Jan Lewis

Chosen
by
Della Landheer

ABOUT MY IMAGE:

This image was captured at the Laguna Seca Ranch in far south Texas near McAllen, Texas. I spent 3 days there in mid-April photographing with Ruth Hoyt, a friend I met through Instagram who guides at a number of the local photography ranches in the area. The ranch has 5 different photo blinds with water features (most below ground level so that images are captured at eye level with the wildlife) and it is a common location for many South Texas Bird photography workshops. The birds and animals are all wild, though they are certainly aware that food and water is consistently found in these areas. This image is of a male Pyrrhuloxia (pronounced "Peer-who-locks-ia" - sometimes referred to as a Desert Cardinal) on the left and a male Northern Cardinal. The Cardinal landed on the perch first and the Pyrrhuloxia flew in and let the Cardinal know who was boss! I was using my new Canon R5 mounted with my 500mm f4 lens. I had set my shutter speed to 1/2500 in anticipation of catching some action or flight shots. The camera has a very fast frame rate which allowed me to capture a number of sequence shots of the encounter - this being my favorite. Other settings were f/7.1 3200 ISO at 500mm. Minor modifications were slight cropping and tweaks to the highlights, shadows and vibrance in Lightroom.

- Jan

WHY I LIKED IT:

The photo took my breath away. The color of the birds is spectacular showing good contrast, the muted background assists the subject to stand out, the birds are focused and tack sharp while the highlights in the eyes give the birds life, expression and personality. The composition is striking, filling the image but cropped just enough to leave space for action. What really sets this nature image way above most is the story it tells as depicted by the action. The story is conflict, the emotion of the moment is evident, it's easy to fill in the blanks. Congratulations to the photographer!

- Della



Treasurer Reports

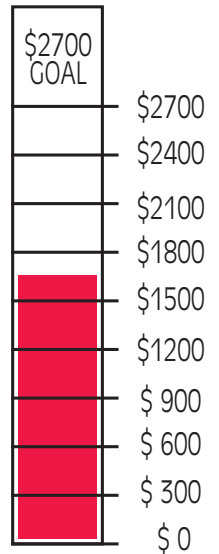
Christine Mooney,
GRCC Treasurer

Member Changes

If your email or other information has changed, email me at treasurer@grcameraclub.org to help keep our membership list up to date.

New Digital Projector Fund

Thank you to members who have donated to our fund. The total collected so far is \$ 1,643.48 .



We're at
60.8%

This goal is based on the Sony VPL-PHZ10 Laser Projector. See November L&S for more details.

New Digital Projector Fund

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation by check payable to GRAND RAPIDS CAMERA CLUB, you may send it to our Treasurer at:
Christine Mooney,
4280 Brooklawn Lane SE,
Kentwood MI 49512

Membership Dues

Membership runs January through December. Dues are just \$35 for each member. Please check the website for additional information regarding dues. We also have PayPal available on our Grand Rapids Camera Club website for your convenience (a small PayPal processing fee will be applied). Click on "Join" tab to find the PayPal link.

Christine

If you prefer to pay dues with a check, make it payable to GRAND RAPIDS CAMERA CLUB. Send it to our Treasurer at: Christine Mooney, 4280 Brooklawn Lane SE, Kentwood MI 49512

Deadline For Sept. Issue



by Greg Ferguson
GRCC Lights & Shadows Editor



August 19, Thursday, Noon

Please add this date to your smartphone calendar.

Before is much appreciated!

GREG

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