



Mid Michigan Photography Club Newsletter

December 2008

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Chairperson: June Cooke

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President: Mike Collins

Vice Presidents: Penny Verran and Gene Tatroe

Secretary: John Richard

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Coming Up in January

We've got a lot going on in January! We're holding an open house that we hope will attract some new members. The open house will feature a round-robin discussion concentrating on hands-on learning. Different stations will cover various aspects of photography, with an emphasis on digital photography. The meeting is open to the public and we're hoping for a mention in the Lansing State Journal.

In addition, we're also in the process of accepting nominations and volunteers for open positions. The election will take place during the February meeting. There's more information below.

Finally, we'd like to remind members that most of your dues are up for renewal in January. Please check with **Lisa Burgess!**

December Meeting Recap

The annual holiday feast went over well. There was a pretty nice assortment of goodies and more than enough for everyone. We were also treated to a couple of Ron's slide shows as well as a slide show of images taken by our members at Woldumar's American Heritage Festival. All in all, it was a good time to kick back and mingle with other members.

The theme for the last "Big Cookie" contest of the year was "Fall Colors". Sheri Ten Eyck was the winner of both the People's Choice Award and the Judge's Award. Sheri decided not to take both cookies, so the second cookie went to the runner up, Alan Jones. As always, Penny's daughter Krystin did a fantastic job creating the big cookies. Congratulations to Sheri and Alan!

"Best of MMPC" Gallery Show Pick Up

We had originally planned on setting a specific time to pick up our prints from Gone Wired. However, they are in the process of doing renovations, so we strongly urge everyone to pick up their prints as quickly as possible. To do so, just show up at Gone Wired anytime during normal business hours and let one of the staff members know

Klingensmith and Scott Mulrooney

Advertising Director: June Cooke

Webmasters: Mike Collins and Rick Klingensmith

"Big-Cookie" Contest Chairs: Scott Mulrooney and John Diephouse

you're there to pick up your print(s). You don't need to call ahead. If you cannot make it down there anytime soon, please contact Mike Collins at president@midmichiganphotoclub.com and we'll make arrangements to pick up and hold your print(s). Email address

We should also mention that at least a couple of sales were made from the gallery show, which really is pretty good for a show like this! If you sold a print, please let us know so we can keep track of how well these events do!

What's the Open House All About?

The Open House is designed to attract new members, provide some guidance for existing members, and provide a little community outreach all in one evening. The idea is to have different learning stations, each centered around a general area of photography. Each station has a moderator who leads a short discussion about their topic area. People given the opportunity to ask questions, learn some tips, and get a little hands-on instruction at each station. After 10-15 minutes, everyone moves to the next station and the process starts all over again. Stations include:

- **Camera basics** – buttons and functions
- **Exposure basics** – how to get the shot right in the camera
- **Composition basics** – learn some techniques for making your images more compelling
- **Computer basics** – get pointers on downloading, organizing, editing, and backing up your images
- **Potpourri** – accessories, tripods, flash, etc.
- **Troubleshooting/Film** – bring your pictures to Ron's station for help in figuring out why they aren't coming out the way you expected. Also see Ron if you have questions about film photography.
- **Photo Books (tentative)** – learn about options for printing your photos in a book

Open Positions/Annual Election

Nominations are being taken up to and including the February meeting. The election will be held during the February meeting. Elections are held for open positions, which means those positions that are either new or those which have been vacated. There are three positions that are open this year:

1. **President**
2. **Secretary**

3. Program Director

Nominations are accepted by email, but you can also submit nominations during either the January meeting or the February meeting. Likewise, if you are personally interested in one of the positions, you may submit your own name as a nominee.

In addition to the elected positions, there are also two volunteer positions:

- **Assignment Shoot Chairperson**
- **Portrait Shoot Chairperson**

If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact any officer.

If you did not receive the email that detailed what each position involves and would like to know more, please contact **Mike Collins**.

Harris Nature Center Silent Auction

Harris Nature Center, located in Meridian Township, is holding a silent auction on January 31 during their Winter Wonderland event. The auction is to help raise funds for the nature center. They are seeking donations of matted and/or framed nature photographs that can be auctioned off. If you are interested in donating something, please contact **Gene Wasseman** at esw1216@msn.com.

Thanks to Tammy VanderMolen for passing this on!

Woldumar Summer Program

Woldumar Nature center is planning a summer program for Saturday, June 29, 2009 and they want to have one or more photographers teach a basic class on nature photography. The classes will be open to people of all ages. This is strictly a volunteer operation. Penny Verran and Mike Collins are already planning on helping out, but there is room for more. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Lena Swehla at lena@woldumar.org.

Tip of the Month

This month's tip is all about extras: extra batteries, extra memory cards, and extra hard drives! When travelling and/or on an important shoot, it's always good to have plenty of extra batteries and memory cards on hand. Even if your camera and/or flash takes a special rechargeable battery, it's a good idea to purchase an extra and keep it fully charged – then make sure it's in your bag or on your person so

it's easily accessible at a moment's notice. Make sure the contacts are covered with a non-conducting material so you don't drain or short the battery!

Likewise, running out of memory is a frustrating experience, so try to have extra cards with you. The prices keep dropping and the amount of memory on cards keeps increasing, so buying extra cards can be a worthwhile investment. In addition, it's always good to have an extra card in case your primary card suddenly goes haywire.

Finally, if you're on the road, having an extra portable hard drive gives you the ability to back up your important files to two drives, not just the drive in your laptop. Backing up files to two drives is a wise strategy in the event that one becomes damaged or fails for any reason. Some programs, such as Downloader Pro, allow you to simultaneously download your images to two separate locations, thus freeing you from the extra task of performing the backup yourself.

Website of the Month

Let's face it: camera equipment is expensive! That said, many photographers like to build their own equipment to save a few bucks. Building something otherwise unavailable or with special features tailored to your needs might be another reason for making equipment yourself. This month's website offers a number of projects for the do-it-yourself photographer: <http://www.diyphotography.net>. In addition to some great projects, the site also includes many tips and tutorials you might be interested in.

Thanks to **Gene Tatroe** for suggesting this site!

Book of the Month

"Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink". Well, the ancient mariner may have had his particular drinking problem to deal with, but as photographers, we definitely like to photograph water! Tony Sweet has compiled a book dedicated to the subject, called *Fine Art Photography: Water, Ice, and Fog*. The book consists of pictures along with detailed descriptions of how the pictures were taken as well as the interpretive choices Tony made in order to come up with the shots he took.