



# Mid Michigan Photography Club Newsletter

June 2008

Volume 3, Number 6

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## Coming Up in July

We have a double feature this month. First up, **Rick Klingensmith** will go over some of the finer points of photographing fireworks.

In the second half, **Dale Sees** has a slideshow featuring his recent travels to China.

Both presentations are described in detail below.

The **Events Committee** will hold a brief meeting to get a jump on planning for the **Best of '08 Gallery Show**.

## Fabulously Easy Fireworks!

Photographing fireworks requires a sturdy tripod and a camera with manual settings or a "fireworks" setting. Beyond that, you'll need patience, excellent timing, and multiple exposures to increase your success rate. A great location is also essential, and Rick will share a couple of prime spots you may want to try. Rick will describe how to set up your system and he'll demonstrate images captured with two drastically different camera settings. He will also provide pointers on how to avoid losing your night vision when using digital displays.

Be sure to bring your camera if you want some assistance on how to set it up for fireworks photography. Rick and other members will hopefully be able to help! Also, if you have any fireworks photos you would like to show to the group or discuss how they could have been improved, please email copies to Rick at [klingen2@gmail.com](mailto:klingen2@gmail.com) so he can include them in his presentation.

Rick Klingensmith is a program Director with the Mid Michigan Photography Club, where his duties center on recruiting speakers for club meetings. Rick writes:

"My photography interest began in high school where our AV club advisor volunteered to demonstrate film developing

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

Photo Shoot Chairperson: Penny Verran

using a roll of 620 film I had from my father's Kodak twin lens camera. He then told us about contact prints and I was off to the races. When I found a friend in college with similar interests I graduated to his enlarger and 35mm film. Further along in college I took a course in basic photography where I learned how everything I was doing really worked. I also did some photography for the college yearbook using their Nikon FTn cameras and lenses. That Nikon 105 mm lens sure was great! While spending 3 years in Germany serving in the Army I took lots of slides while touring the continent. After taking a hiatus from photography for awhile I decided I needed a new body and lens to shoot a family vacation out west when I upgraded my old Minolta SRT boat anchors to a Minolta 600 xsi with a couple of Sigma lenses. From there I graduated to the digital era with several cameras most notably an Olympus 5060 point and shoot then an Evolt 500 DSLR and most recently purchased a 50mm macro lens with which I've been having a great amount of fun. My greatest interest is in macro work and I love to shoot outdoors mostly as well as show how much better it is to use a wide angle lens and get closer indoors. I've also taken Chad Sanders Photoshop class at LCC but have gotten pulled away to Adobe LightRoom for cataloging and processing my photos."

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## Dale Sees Travels to China

In recent years, Dale Sees has made two long trips to China, where he has made many wonderful friends and captured some awesome images in the process. During his latest excursion this spring, one of his friends enlisted him to help her teach English to teens and adults – despite the fact that he doesn't speak Chinese! Dale goes on to note, "With a few exceptions, most of my friends there do not speak English. One of the exciting things about the trip is just operating on faith that all will be okay and finding your way against the odds." Join us as Dale describes this two-month adventure in words and pictures. He'll begin his story in the capital city of Beijing, where the weather is very much like Michigan's. He'll integrate details about his stay in Nanning, which is situated in a tropical area in southwest China. What a difference!

Dale Sees is an experienced, self-taught photographer who especially enjoys traveling, flower photography, scenics, and portraits. In another life, he was also a Systems Administrator for General Motors, having retired in 2006. Dale's first quality camera was a Canon A1, which he purchased in 1976. After many years working with film, Dale gladly embraced the transition to digital capture in 2005. He really enjoys the fact that he can instantly review and edit his digital images without the cost and time involved in processing

film. Dale occasionally sells some of his prints and also hires out for portrait work and event photography.

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## June Meeting Recap

**Chad Sanders** was back again to demonstrate a couple of uses for layers in PhotoShop. Chad is a popular PhotoShop instructor at LCC. This time, we actually managed to have a projector for him!

If you are interested in finding out more about Chad's classes, please contact him at [chadsanderslives@hotmail.com](mailto:chadsanderslives@hotmail.com).

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## "Big Cookie" Contest Winners

Befitting the theme of this month's contest, **Penny Verran** and her daughter **Krystin** baked a couple of awe-inspiring cookies that featured Michigan landmarks: the Mackinaw Bridge and a lighthouse.

The winning photos were equally awe-inspiring. The judging was intense enough that a tie-breaker had to be called. After the dust settled and the votes were counted, **Brian Koch** won his second "Big Cookie" award for a gorgeous spring-time shot of the MSU bell tower.



**Ron Holleman** won the People's Choice award for his night-time long exposure shot of the GM smokestacks that can be seen for miles around.



Congratulations to both winners!

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## Take Your Best Shot!

Our annual gallery show is right around the corner! For those who are new to the club, we assemble our best prints of the year and put on a wonderful gallery show. Details will follow, but don't wait – if you don't have a print ready to display, get out there and start shooting!

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## Do-it-Yourself Sessions

One of the ideas we've been kicking around is to create some do-it-yourself sessions. These could be done outside the regular club meetings or as part of regular meetings, depending on the time involved, as well as how many members are interested. For example, we might get together to create some backdrops for use in portrait shooting. Reflectors and diffusers are a couple of other useful tools that can be easily assembled yourself. We could even get more creative and make our own soft boxes, lighting tables, and other specialized equipment. The end result will be something you can take home and use.

If you are interested in participating in do-it-yourself projects as a club, please drop us a line! To

help us determine a basic direction, please let us know the following:

- Do you have any objections to doing these outside the normal meetings? What's your preference?
- Would you be willing to pay some up-front costs so that materials can be purchased in bulk? Obviously, this is something you won't pay for unless it's something you're interested in doing. We're not going to use club funds for these projects, so
- Do you have portable power tools that you can bring and perhaps share with others?
- What types of projects are you most interested in doing? (Feel free to mention anything that wasn't listed above).

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## Donations

The portrait shoots are a fun way to raise a few dollars for the club. In addition, members who participate get some practice and exposure for their budding careers! To help the club out, we are seeking donations for any equipment that might be useful for digital portrait shooting. Some of the things we could use include:

- Memory cards (any kind or size)
- Lighting equipment
- Reflectors
- Backgrounds

If you think you have something we might be able to use, please check first with Mike Collins or Gene Tatroe if it is a relatively large item (we need to secure storage space, first!)

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## Tip of the Month

Speed up your picture downloads by using a card reader. These are very inexpensive and easily hook into a USB port in your computer. You simply remove the memory card from your camera and insert it into the card reader. Multi-format readers are also available in case you use more than one type of card. Not only is this faster than downloading directly from your camera, it also allows you to keep taking pictures and it doesn't drain power from your camera.

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## Website of the Month

Suggested by Tom Rasmussen, the Photographic Society of America has a website that contains galleries and a number of educational resources. The society has an annual membership, although several resources on the site are available free of charge. The society sponsors conferences and competitions and it publishes its own journal. Clubs are able to join, as well. Please check out the site and let us know if you feel it is something the club should consider!

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## Book of the Month

If you consider yourself a budding portrait photographer and want a fast, easy guide to help you get started, you may want to consider ***Digital Quick Guide: Digital Portrait Photography 101***, by **Bill Hunter**. At less than 100 pages, this book is still packed with good tips and practical advice for getting started with exposure, posing, white balance, lighting, composition, and more.

The author keeps the discussion pretty basic when it comes to equipment. You won't find any information about advanced lighting setups, for example. Instead, he concentrates on using available light and then adds tips for enhancing your images by using inexpensive or easy-to-make items such as reflectors and diffusers.

Although the discussion is geared toward getting the shot right in the camera, a few pertinent PhotoShop recipes are thrown in for good measure. Some of these do assume a basic familiarity with PhotoShop, but they are brief and can easily be skipped.