



Mid Michigan Photography Club Newsletter

October 2008

Volume 3, Number 10

In This Issue

- Coming up in November
- October Meeting Recap
- We're Two Years Old!
- Adopt-A-Photo 2008
- "Best of MMPC" Gallery Show News
- Tip of the Month
- Website of the Month
- Book of the Month

Contact Us

www.MidMichiganPhotoClub.com/Contact.aspx

Honorary Lifetime Officers

Chairman: Ron St. Germain

Chairperson: June Cooke

Officers

President: Mike Collins

Vice Presidents: Penny Verran and Gene Tatroe

Secretary: John Richard

Treasurer: Lisa Burgess

Program Directors: Rick Klingensmith and Scott Mulrooney

Advertising Director: June Cooke

Webmasters: Mike Collins and Rick Klingensmith

Coming Up in November

First up, we are holding the opening ceremony for this year's "Best Photos of MMPC" Gallery show on **Sunday, November 2**, from **12 – 4 PM**. The reception is being held at **Gone Wired Café**, located at **2021 Michigan Avenue**. There is parking in the rear and across the street. Be sure to bring your family and invite your friends and coworkers! Refreshments will be served and there will be a raffle. In addition, come and see the **Adopt-a-Photo** prints that will be going up in Woldumar's new visitor's center once it's built.

At our regular meeting, **Wednesday, November 5**, be sure to **bring your camera gear!** **Gene Tatroe** will be giving a talk: 'Get to the Point...a view on point of view.' Gene will be discussing point of view, and the impact that it can have on your images. Talking points will include the evil 'snapshot' look, angle of attack and distance.

There will be interactive 'hands on' exercises, so be sure to bring your cameras! Hopefully we will have good weather, but be prepared for possible cold temperatures.

Gene's cold weather tip: When shooting out in cold weather, take along a large zip-lock bag to put your camera in when you come back 'in'. This will help lessen effects like fogging and condensate from the extreme temperature change.

We're also asking members to come prepared to do one of their "**Photo Quest**" questions this month. If you're not up to speed on this or you weren't present when the questions were passed out, contact **Mike Collins**.

Gene's Bio:

'Do you remember the Polaroid Zip cameras that were popular in the 70's? Those garishly colored big boxy cameras that spit out a photo that had to sit and 'develop'? Gene received a bright red Zip Polaroid at about age 12, and fell in love with it. He dragged it along on a family vacation around Lake Michigan, taking dozens of blurry, out of focus, poorly exposed snapshots and loved every one of them. It's been many years, and many cameras since then (including a 110 Instamatic, and a Kodak Disc!) but the love of photography is still very much alive. Gene shoots all digital these days, and is growing a fledgling business, shooting portraiture, events and offering prints at art shows. Winner of MMPC's Best of '07 people's choice award, Gene has also won awards at online competitions with his images, and has had pieces displayed in local galleries.

October Meeting Recap

October's featured speaker was our own **Ron St. Germain**. Ron gave an abbreviated version of his talk: "Patience and Persistence". If you missed it or you want the full version, keep an eye on his website for future seminars (www.daphotodude.com).

We're Two Years Old!

Well, almost two years! The first meeting was held in November 2006, so we're almost there! We've come a long way since those humble beginnings. Starting with only a handful of people in the cold dark basement of Woldumar's visitor center, the club has grown to about 60 members, with new members signing up virtually every month. In the past two years, we've arranged two gallery shows, two "Adopt-a-Photo" charity drives, several "Big Cookie" photo contests, assignments shoots, portrait shoots, mini field trips, and even an art show! What will the next two years bring? Stick with us and find out!

Adopt-A-Photo 2008

For this year's gallery show, we have partnered with Woldumar Nature Center to help them raise funds for a new visitor's center they want to build. As part of that effort, members from MMPC, the St. John's Camera Club, and the Gladwin Artist's Guild have contributed photos to be displayed in the new visitor's center. The photos will be displayed during the gallery reception on November 2. Members of the public can adopt any of the photos by donating money to Woldumar.

Thanks go out to all the photographers who contributed prints:

Harold Anderson
Mike Collins
John Diephouse
Alan Jones
Cathy Keifer
Bill Rievert
Gene Tatroe
Lynette Van Wagenen
Tammy Vandermolen
Penny Verran
Rich Wyllis

You can view all the entries at

http://www.midmichiganphotoclub.com/Photoalbum_contents.aspx?Albumid=57. Final selections made by Woldumar are marked by an asterisk.

“Best of MMPC” Gallery Show News

This year’s gallery show is off and running. MMPC members and members of three other area photography clubs met at Gone Wired on October 15 to hang up prints. The other clubs included the MSU Photography Club, the St. John’s Camera Club, and the Eaton Rapids Photography Club. We pretty much filled the walls of the first floor with a ton of great photos! Most are available for purchase, so please pass the word on to friends, family members, co-workers, and neighbors.

On the downside, Ron took a hard fall and cracked four ribs and bruised his kidney. He’s doing OK, now, though.

Tip of the Month

Keeping with the theme of Gene’s cold weather tip, here are some additional tips for taking cold weather shots:

- ❖ Batteries will lose power faster in cold weather. Bring extra batteries and keep them close to your body. Rotate your batteries as needed.
- ❖ Keep your camera close to your body as much as possible to keep it warm.
- ❖ Likewise, if you are using an external flash unit, keep it close to you body as much as possible.
- ❖ Lithium batteries and rechargeable batteries generally perform better in cold weather than regular batteries or alkaline batteries.
- ❖ In many systems, it is possible to purchase external battery packs specifically designed for use in cold weather. If you plan on doing a lot of cold weather photography, an external battery pack may be well worth the investment.
- ❖ Use a lens hood to help keep snow and rain off the lens.
- ❖ If it’s snowing or raining, cover the camera with plastic or a towel to keep moisture out of the camera body and the lens.
- ❖ If you want to do a lot of shooting in very snowy or rainy conditions, consider purchasing a plastic housing normally used for underwater shooting, such as those made by Ewa. Likewise, you may want to purchase a camera body that is specially made to be waterproof, such as an underwater model. Some single-use cameras are also waterproof, so consider using one if you just want to experiment.
- ❖ Keep an old all-cotton t-shirt handy to dry off the lens if it gets wet. A microfiber cloth also works.
- ❖ For snow scenes, you’ll need to adjust your exposures up. Usually, depending on the brightness of the scene, you may have to adjust upwards 1 to 2 stops. Keep an eye on your histogram. Be sure to reset your exposure compensation once

you're done.


- ❖ Rare, but it does happen: in film cameras, it is possible to build up static electricity while advancing the film. This can build up, causing a flash inside the body and thereby fogging the film. For manual cameras, advance each frame slowly. For automatic cameras, shoot only one frame at a time (in other words, don't use the burst mode or the equivalent).
- ❖ Rain and snow can play havoc with the auto-focus feature. Use manual focus.
- ❖ Likewise, your flash may have trouble determining proper exposure in rain and snow, so try to set everything manually.
- ❖ Dress in layers. Some photographers extend this to dressing in things with zippers that can be opened and closed as needed.
- ❖ Wear mittens that have a flap that can fold back to allow you to use your bare fingers when needed. These can be found in sporting goods shops, often in the hunting and/or backpacking areas. If possible, wear thin silk gloves under your mittens to avoid directly exposing your skin to freezing cold air.
- ❖ Use hand warming packets such as those used by skiers and hunters. Some people also use these inside their boots.
- ❖ Wear warm boots with good traction. If you like shooting on icy piers or other icy places, consider using the ice cleats such as those used by fishermen.
- ❖ A thermos full of hot soup will help you keep warm better than coffee or alcohol.
- ❖ Avoid touching metal camera or tripod parts with exposed fingers.
- ❖ Tripod legs can be wrapped with neoprene covers or electrician's tape to help insulate the legs. Some tripod manufactures offer fitted leg covers, and there are after-market versions, as well. In addition to protecting you in cold weather, they help keep the legs cooler during hot weather. The padding is also nice if you like to sling your tripod over your shoulder.

Website of the Month

If you are the type of person who enjoys making things, try <http://www.diyphotography.net>. This site has tons of do-it-yourself articles for making photography equipment, including light modifiers, backgrounds, stands, ring flashes, and much, much, more! Thanks to gene for suggesting this site!

Book of the Month

Some of you may be familiar with Scott Kelby's books and workshops about PhotoShop and LightRoom. He has also undertaken a couple of short books on photography: The Digital Photography Book and The



Digital Photography Book 2. Scott has a very easy-to-read style and his sense of humor helps spice things up from time to time. The books have a very simple format, consisting of a series of tips and how-tos that are very straight to the point, avoiding any theory. As he tries to explain, his idea is to talk to you as if you were standing right there during a shooting session. He just gives you his best advice without any embellishments!