



# Mid Michigan Photography Club Newsletter

January 2009

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## Contact Us

[www.MidMichiganPhotoClub.com/Contact.aspx](http://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

"Big-Cookie" Contest Chairs: Scott

## Coming Up in February

February is the month we hold our club election. We expect this to be a fairly short. This will be followed by a slideshow by Scott Mulrooney about his trip to Alaska last year.

Following the regular meeting, the officers will hold a separate meeting. The Events Committee will not meet.

## January Meeting Recap

The club held an Open House during the January meeting. The event was listed in the Lansing State Journal and there were somewhere between 50 and 60 participants, give or take. The open house was run as a round robin discussion forum where people were encouraged to bring in their cameras to get help on different features and so forth. All in all, it was well received and we hope we can keep offering the event every year.

## Annual Election

The election will be held during the February meeting. Voting is only open to positions that need to be filled. There are three open positions:

- 1. President**
- 2. Secretary**
- 3. Program Director**

Nominations are accepted by email, but last minute nominations will also be accepted at the 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**

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## 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](mailto:lena@woldumar.org).

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## Tip of the Month

“Backing up is hard to do”...

OK, sorry for the inept song reference! At any rate, backing up your digital photos can be a chore, but it's an important one. Leaving your images on a single hard drive is a recipe for disaster. The hard drive can crash, files can be misplaced or erased by accident, or the files may become corrupt because disk sectors go bad. Fire, flood damage, wind damage, electrical surges, and theft are other ways you can lose your files.

So, if you intend to keep your pictures for the long haul, you need a backup strategy. There are several options. You need to evaluate what you need and then follow through with due diligence. So, here are the basic options:

1. Back up files to a secondary hard drive. This could be an extra internal drive (one built into the case of your computer) or an external drive (one that you might sit on top of the desk, for example). The advantages of using a second hard drive include the low cost per byte and the fact that hard drive technology has been around a lot longer than CD/DVD technology. In other words, the technology is stable. Portable hard drives also make it easier to backup your files when you're on the road.
2. Burn copies to CD or DVD. Most computers come with a CD/DVD burner these days, so this is an option that is readily available and inexpensive in the short term. However, burning CDs and DVDs is time consuming and error prone. In addition, the inexpensive blank disks have a relatively short shelf life. Don't expect them to last more than a few years. Archival CDs and DVDs are more expensive, but have a much longer shelf life. To better ensure the life of your CDs or DVDs, make sure you use acid-free ink when labeling them. Sharpies are not acid free! You must also store them safely in cases or a specially made binder that won't scratch the surface of the disk. If you choose to backup to CDs or DVDs, it's best to make multiple

copies and store them in different locations.

3. Store your files online. Many online services are offering file backup from your home PC. The online service uses hard drives to store your files. In addition, these services do their own nightly backups, so there will be a backup even if the primary hard drive fails. In addition, you'll be able to upload and download your files anywhere you can get Internet service. On the downside, the cost may be prohibitive, and you have no long-term guarantee that the company won't fail and you will be unable to access your images.
4. If you upload your files to an online printing service, many of them will keep your images available for you indefinitely. As with paid services, this option isn't guaranteed for the long term.
5. Make prints and put them in albums or boxes, just as you did with film. This comes with all the same advantages and disadvantages of making prints from film. Prints fade over time. They can become scratched, creased, or torn. They can become lost, burned, or damaged in other ways. On the other hand, you have something physical you can look at any time and it's not tied to the same problems computer storage has.

In short, there are several options. Your best bet is to actually store your files in multiple locations, even off-site if you can manage that. It also helps to make your backups automatic. There are several backup programs available, including programs that come with your operating system (i.e., Windows or Mac). Programs such as Lightroom also offer a way to make a backup as you load the files onto your computer. Downloader pro is another option if you don't want to shell out the money for Lightroom.

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## Website of the Month

If you prefer watching instructional videos to reading websites or book, you might want to check out Best Tech Videos:

<http://www.bestechvideos.com/>. This free site gathers up all kinds of instructional videos, mostly about computers and programming, but also on PhotoShop and other topics of interest to photographers. Click on one of the tags from the home page to get started.

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## Book of the Month

A number of readers probably have old slides and/or negatives from their film days. Of course, some are still shooting film, to boot. You may want to consider scanning your slides and negatives for a couple of reasons. First, you'll be able to store those images electronically, just like your digital photos. Secondly, you'll be able to process your images in photo editing software like PhotoShop or Lightroom. This will give your old images a new life! There are several scanners on the market and at least three good software packages you can use to make your scans. To get a jump start on selecting and using these

packages, check out "Scanning Negatives and Slides", by Sascha Steinhoff. The book covers the main dedicated film scanners available today, plus it compares the main software packages that are available. The author also discusses tricks and traps, establishing a workflow, and how to back up your images. The book also includes a companion CD with trial versions of many of the software tools discussed in the text.

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## Meeting Cancellation/Postponement Policy

Especially during the winter months, there's always the chance that the weather will be so bad a meeting has to be cancelled. In general, if the Waverly schools cancel evening classes and events, the club will also cancel its meeting and move it back one week. The officers will make every attempt to post the cancellation on the website as well as send out an email. It's always a good idea to check your email and the website, anyway, just in case of any other last minute reason for cancelling a meeting.