



Twin City Camera Club

ViewFinder

Member: Photographic Society of America
and The Southwestern Michigan Council of Camera Clubs

December 2017 Roll 81, Exposure 12

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We wish you the Merriest and Joyous Holiday Season!



Merry Christmas

Feliz Navidad

Seasons Greetings

Happy Holidays

Happy New Year!

Whatever greeting you choose, offer it with love.

Whatever greeting you get, receive it with love.

May your holidays be decorated with love and joy!

Believe in the magic of Christmas and keep kindness in your heart ...

January competition: The Select topic for January is “Creative.” The criteria are where the image is manipulated or enhanced within camera techniques or with setups or with photo enhancement software, filters, plug-ins or actions showing the maker. Digital images are due Jan. 2 because the regular due date, Jan. 1, is New Year’s Day. Email to digital@twincitycameraclub.com. Prints can be turned on competition night, Jan. 8.

December Honors: Congratulations go to the club photographers whose works were selected by judges as deserving of honors. They were:

Class A Color Prints

- Barbara Kirby – Peaceful

Class A Black & White Digital

- Jim Lynch – Civil War Troops

Class A Color Digital

- Tom McCall – A Column in Red

The December Honors are on the new Monthly Honors page on the TCCC website.

December POM: Selections are now open for members to pick the December Photo of the Month. The December Honors are on the new Monthly Honors page on the TCCC web site. Select one color photo and one black & white photo and send your picks to POM@twincitycameraclub.com. This month may be a bit easier because, as you can see above, judges picked only one black & white and two color photos as Honor images.

Thanks judges: Judges for the December competition night were:

- Graham Dingman, retired, Graham Photography, Niles.
- Lee Browndorf , retired, Lee Browndorf Photography.
- Joshua Nowicki, photographer for Holt Bosse of St. Joseph.

Many thanks to them all. We appreciate that they took the time to judge for us on that cold, snowy night.

November POM: Congratulations go to Dennis Hafer and Tom McCall whose photographs were selected as the November 2017 Photo of the Month in the Color and Black & White categories. Here are the images and their explanation on how they came to be:



Color Photo of the Month

Dennis Hafer - Spinning Wheel

The photo was taken in May during the "Blue Hour" in Pigeon Forge, TN. He used a Canon 7D Mark II with a Tamron 18-270 mm lens at 18mm. Exposure was 10 seconds, f22, ISO 100.

Processing: Adobe Camera RAW for highlights & shadows. Photoshop plugins (Topaz Studio, ON1 Effects) for contrast, HSL (Hue, Saturation, Luminance), and vignette.

B&W Photo of the Month

Tom McCall - From Waves to Mist

The photo was taken south of Lions Beach as waves interacted with old wooden pilings and the jumbled rocks dumped there to provide erosion protection.

Post processing was in Photoshop CS6 and On1 Perfect Effects 10.

Canon EOS D30 Exposure ISO 400, f45, 25 sec., Canon 75 – 300 mm at 300 mm on a tripod.



Thoughts and Prayers: Club member Jim Long reports that his partner and fellow club member Will Hayes' health is deteriorating. We offer our thoughts and prayers for the comfort of Jim and Will and their families.

Healing thoughts: Healing thoughts go out to Ralph Harju who has had recent surgeries and is recovering at Pine Ridge Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Stevensville. We wish him a speedy recovery with lots of good warm healing thoughts and prayers.

No program night: That's right. There will be no program night this month because the second monthly meeting has been canceled due to Christmas. Let's be honest. Would you rather be unwrapping all your new camera bodies and lenses or sitting in the clubhouse listening to someone drone on about how Nikons are by far the superior camera? Happy Holidays to all.

January program: Pete Mathews will present his program, "Taiga, Tundra and Bears" on Jan. 22. Pete says the presentation will be about spending a week in Churchill, Manitoba, shooting tundra, taiga, northern boreal forests and, of course, polar bears and other subarctic critters. More information will be posted soon on the website.

Middle East journey: We thank Steve and Callie Campbell for their fascinating November program, "17 Days in Israel and Jordan." The couple traveled to Israel and Jordan to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. They returned with great photographs and interesting stories about their travels and the area's history. They even shared with club members a sampling of the delicious foods they encountered on their travels. We hope they go on more adventures and return to share their photos and stories with the club.

Copyrights: Confused about how to copyright your work? Find comprehensive information by clicking on the [Links](#) tab on the club webpage and scroll down to "What is copyright protection?"

Joke of the Month: A photographer was showing his friend who'd invited him to dinner some photos she'd recently taken. The friend liked them and said, "You have a good camera." After dinner, the photographer said, "That was a good meal. You have a good oven."

Free photo software: Visit the club website for a link to free, photo editing software – Topaz Studio. If enough members download it and try it out, we will have a class on it. Dennis Hafer says it saves him about 50 percent in his post processing time.

Judges needed: Members are asked that if they know of active photographers who aren't in the club but who might like to be a judge to please forward their information to Gary@twincitycameraclub.com.

Visit the Website: Remember to visit the club website – twincitycameraclub.com – often. Tom McCall updates the site regularly, so don't miss the news and tips.

Street photography: Here is a list of festivals and whatnot that would be prime opportunities for street photography:

- 5-9 p.m., 16 and 22-23, also 4-8 p.m. Dec. 17: Eden Springs Park Festival of Lights, Miniature Train Rides, 793 M-139, Benton Harbor.

Night photography: Here's a partial list of night photography opportunities.

- Jan. 1, 2018: full and supermoon.
- late night Jan. 2-dawn Jan. 3 and late night Jan. 3-dawn Jan. 4: Quadrantid meteor shower peaks. The shower can produce 50-100 meteors per hour. The full moon may make it difficult to see some of the meteors.
- Jan. 31: supermoon

Tom's Take: Here is Tom McCall's take on the December's competition

A word about December's competition could be "disappointing," or should we also consider "good enough." I know for me it would have to be good enough. I waited until I was almost out of time and just looked through images, finding some that were okay. I told myself that one was good enough, so that's what I submitted. I had zero for 4 in B&W and 2 for 4 in Color. Couple that with judges that were a little tough and the results were a lot of rejects. We had about a 50 percent rejection rate, which is a little higher than what I'd like to see, I prefer it to be under 30 percent because it gets a little discouraging to members who are spending the time and effort to prepare images for competition.

Remember that the judges are instructed to consider composition, interest, impact, technique and technical quality when they judge our images. They expect the image to stand on its own regardless of the Select subject, and they will look for the exceptional and outstanding images, not just the good enough. So, keep that in mind when selecting and preparing your images for competition.

How soon we forget. Look at the December 2016 ViewFinder, with the Select subject of Food & Drink. We had 21 members submit, 128 entries – 68 in Select and 60 in Open – that received 67 acceptances, 3 honors and 58 rejections. That's an acceptance/honor rate of 55 percent and a rejection rate of 45 percent. Pretty close to this year, wouldn't you say.

Good stuff, cheap (mostly): Looking to buy or sell camera equipment? Visit the club's Website at twincitycameraclub.com and click on the "classifieds" tab. Buyers will find good deals (haggling allowed), and sellers will find a captive audience. This month's featured items are tripods.

Quote of the Month: This month as a Christmas present I bring you two quotes for the price of one:

"Passion is in all great searches and is necessary to all creative endeavors." – W. Eugene Smith

"Ultimately, simplicity is the goal – in every art, and achieving simplicity is one of the hardest things to do. Yet it's easily the most essential." – Pete Turner

We exist to encourage and develop an interest in photography.

We hope you are "Focusing on Photography" and having fun.

Keep those shutters clicking ...

(Remember: Photographers who don't take photos go mad.)