



ViewFinder

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



June 2023, Roll 88, Exposure 6

Contact: editor@twincitycameraclub.com **Website:** twincitycameraclub.com

521 Elm Street, downtown St. Joseph, MI 49085

Year-end competition: The results of the year-end competition will be revealed at 7 p.m. June 26 at the clubhouse. Members were invited to submit 10 color and 10 black & white images that were accepted or received honors during the 2022-23 competition season, which ran from September 2022 to June 2023.

Butterfly photo shoot: Club members are invited to the third annual Sarett Nature Center Butterfly House photo shoot at 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 19. The club will pay the admission fee which normally is \$5 for adult Sarett members and \$11 for nonmembers. The butterfly house features hundreds of butterflies from a variety of species as well as a fishpond, flowers and a window chamber where guests can view chrysalises and watch them emerge as butterflies.

Summer picnic: The club's annual picnic will be held Monday, Aug. 28, at Baroda Township Park Pavilion, 600 W. Lemon Creek Road. Social hour starts at 6 p.m., with the meal beginning at 6:30 p.m. The club is paying for the meal. Year-end awards will be handed out after the meal.

Summer hours: No regular meetings are scheduled in July and August. The 2023-24 season starts in September. Don't be surprised, however, if you receive an email or are notified on the club Facebook page and website about summer outings.

Ponder of the Month: An interesting question was raised by a photographer earlier this month. Would your photography change if no one would ever see your images? The question was raised as the photographer reflected on whether he took photos for himself or for others to admire and praise. Would you even take photos? Do you do both? As members of a photo club that holds competitions 10 times a year (11 if you include the annual year-end competition), we naturally take photos that are designed to gain approval of at least three people – the judges. But if no one were to see our work, would we take the same kinds of photos?

Exhibitions: Here's a reminder of the exhibitions that are still open:

- Selected works by Ansel Adams will be on display through July 16 at the Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart, Ind. The museum is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m., weekends. For details, visit midwestmuseum.org.
- Clyde Butcher's America the Beautiful exhibit will be on display through July 16 at the Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart, Ind. The collection celebrates the beauty of the American landscape from the Redwood forests of California to the Everglade swamps of Florida. The museum is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, and 1-4 p.m., weekends. For details, visit midwestmuseum.org. You can meet Clyde and his wife, Niki Butcher, at a VIP event from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 28. He will speak and sign books available for purchase. Entry is \$25 per person for MMAA members and \$40 for non-members and limited to 75 participants. RSVP by calling 574- 293-6660.

Photos of the Month: Congratulations go to Marguerite Eichelberger, whose photo, "Boys just want to have fun," was selected as the Black & White Photo of the Month. Congratulations also go to John Kubicek, whose photo, "Aurora Borealis 3," was selected as Color Photo of the Month. Marguerite received a high score of 14 for her image in the May competition. John received a perfect score of 15 in the color category.

Marguerite Eichelberger – Boys just want to have fun



John Kubicek - Aurora Borealis 3



Quote(s) of the Month: We have three quotes this month that peer into the meaning of photography.

"Photography is an art of observation. It has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them." – Elliott Erwitz

"What do we feel when we look at a good photograph? We just want to be there, right at the exact moment that photo (was) taken!" – Mehmet Murat Ildan

"When a moment in front of me appears to be particularly special, whether it be by beauty or experience, I capture it. I usually find a reason to justify taking that photo - symmetry, or color or contrast - and it's my hope that my photography sheds light onto what I see and do on a daily basis." – Connor Franta

Photo opportunities: In the 2023-24 Select Subject list farther down in this edition of the ViewFinder you will notice that the Select Subject for September is Street Photography. In the spirit of capturing life on the fly, here is a list of photo opportunities that may help you hone your street photography skills and even help you with images you deem worthy of competition.

- Wednesday Night Market, 4-8 p.m., through Aug. 30, at Court Place Plaza, St. Joseph.

- St. Joe Farmers Market, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturdays, until Oct. 14, Lake Bluff Park.
- Lake Bluff Artisan Fair, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., July 15, Aug. 19 and Sept. 2, Lake Bluff Park.
- Fourth of July Fireworks, dusk, nearly every community. (Check for actual dates because July 4 is on a Wednesday.)
- Third annual Pickle Festival starts at 11 a.m. July 4 at the History Center at Courthouse Square and the Berrien Springs Community Library.
- Krazl Art Fair, July 8-9, Lake Boulevard. (Be cautious about photographing artists' works. They may not like it.)
- St. Joseph Municipal Band Concerts, 7 p.m., Sundays, July 4 and Labor Day, from June 25-Sept. 4, John E.N. Howard Bandshell.
- Friday Night Concert Series, 7-8 p.m., July 14-Sept. 1.
- Mike Yore Memorial Car Show, 4-8 p.m., July 14, Lake Boulevard.
- Chalk the Block, Aug. 4-6, downtown St. Joseph.
- Berrien County Youth Fair, Aug. 14-19, Berrien Springs.

Select Subjects: Here are the Select Subjects for the 2023-24 competition season:

- Sept. 11 – Street photography: The image must tell a story that occurs in public places involving people going about their daily lives.
- Oct. 9 – Macro/Closeup: The object that is the focus of attention in the image must be smaller than a mailbox. For example, a closeup of fruit, flower, bug, etc., or a macro view of just a small part of an object.
- Nov. 13 – Decay: The object that is the focus of attention in the image must be something that has been derelict or neglected or decaying in nature. For example, abandoned buildings, rusting vehicles, signs, wood, logs, etc.
- Dec. 11 – The Color Blue: The focus of attention in the image must be predominantly the color blue. For example, a blue door, blue flower, blue car. The black & white Select Subject is anything with circles.
- Jan. 8 – Creative: The image is manipulated or enhanced with in-camera techniques or with photo enhancement software, filters, plug-ins, or actions showing the maker's creativity. The image should be unique and different, out of the ordinary.
- Feb. 12 – Sports: The object that is the focus of attention in the image must be predominantly something to do with sports.
- March 11 – Anything goes: The image can be anything the rules permit. Everything qualifies as Select. Use your imagination and creativity.
- April 8 – Shadows: The dark shape that appears on a surface when an object blocks light.
- May 13 – Architecture: Anything related to architecture, buildings, parts of buildings. You may isolate aspects of the subject to emphasize design portions.
- June 10 – Nature: The image must be naturally present in nature. Techniques that enhance the presentation of the photography without changing the nature story or the pictorial content are permitted. Digital enhancement and manipulation must not be obvious. All adjustments must appear natural. Must not contain any presence of the

“hand of man.” Unacceptable examples include cultivated or domestic plants, pets, farm animals, mounted specimens, or set arrangements.

Trip to Wellfield: Club members visited the Wellfield Gardens in Elkhart, Ind., on June 14, where they were treated to a beautiful day and the opportunity to capture stunning photos of the gardens. The Wellfield Gardens is a 12-acre botanical garden that features a variety of plants and flowers, as well as sculptures and fountains. Club members were able to explore the gardens at their own pace and take photos of their favorite spots. (Photo by Dennis Hafer)



Dronology program: Many thanks go to Nathan Voytovick who presented the May program "Dronography." Club members learned about the skill of taking photographs using a drone, as well as safety and practical issues and the legal dos and don'ts.

Nathan has his own Facebook page, YouTube channel and online store. You can find the links by visiting the club website, clicking on the “Club Activities” pull-down menu and selecting "programs." Meanwhile, here are a few photos of his program taken by our own Dennis Hafer, who kept his feet firmly on the ground.





Feedback wanted: Club members are invited to make comments, ask questions, give suggestions and voice concerns about club offerings. The board wants to know what the club can do to improve and expand its services and programs to benefit members. The feedback will be used by the board of directors as it plans its programs for the coming year. Contact information for board members is available on the club website.

Member Spotlight: Check out the club website to learn more about club members. Webmaster Jasmin Bretana has created a Member Spotlight section under the “announcements” link on the main page.

Special thanks: A special thanks goes to Webmaster Jasmin Bretana who has created a digital competition entry form that makes it much easier to submit images for competition and makes it easier during judging.

A special thanks also goes to Ted Post who is tasked with compiling the hundreds of photos that will be judged during the year-end competition. Each club member is allowed to submit the names of up to 10 color images and 10 black & white images for the final judging later this month. Ted is tracking down the photos that were submitted for competition in the 2022-23 season so they can be displayed on the big TV screen for our three judges.

Visit the Website: Remember to regularly visit the club website, twincitycameraclub.com.

Instagram: Webmaster Jasmin Bretana has created a club Instagram account. Visit www.instagram.com/twincitycameraclub/.

Facebook: Don't forget about the club Facebook page. Members are encouraged to post their images, report on photo opportunities and learn about up-to-date club news.

Corrections, omissions:

- Apologies go to Ken McKeown and Pete Mathews, who were two of the three judges for the May competition. Their last names were misspelled in the May edition of ViewFinder.
- Apologies also go to John Kubicek. His photo, Aurora Borealis 3, which received the highest possible score of 15 in the Color Select category for the May competition, was left off the list of Honors recipients in the May ViewFinder.

Thanks judges: Many thanks go to our June competition judges. They were Bill Langbein, Elaine Harju, and John Madill. We appreciate their time and effort.

June honors: Congratulations go to the club members who received Honors for the June competition entries. For an entry to be selected in the Honors category it must have received a combined score of 13, 14 or 15 from three independent judges who rate the photos on a scale from 1 to 5.

Special congratulations go to Marguerite Eichelberger and Bill Schalk. They each received four honors in the Black & White Select category, the highest number of Honors possible in a category. Well done!

Black & White Select

- Bill Schalk - An Early Bird (14)
- Marguerite Eichelberger - Birdsong (13)

- Bill Schalk - Catch the Sun (14)
- Bill Schalk - Hop Skip and Jump (14)
- Dennis Hafer - Jack in the Pulpit (13)
- Suzanne McDonough - Pink Poppy Turned Grey (13)
- Marguerite Eichelberger - Playful Foxes (14)
- Suzanne McDonough - Poser the Pelican (13)
- Marguerite Eichelberger - Rainy Day Stroll (13)
- Bill Schalk - Stare Down (13)
- Marguerite Eichelberger - Sweet Goslings (14)

Black & White Open

- Keith Sawyer - Storms Coming (13)

Color Select

- John Kubicek - Bald Eagle (13)
- Ted Post - Barred Owl (14)
- Leslie Surch - Birch Forest (13)
- Jim Lynch - Bluebird (14)
- Tom McDonough - Buzzard Landing (14)
- Jim Lynch - Cardinal (13)
- Marguerite Eichelberger - Cedar Waxwing Couple (13)
- Deb Chamberlain - Crocus
- Bill Schalk - Fish Out of Water (14)
- Keith Sawyer - Flyer (13)
- Marguerite Eichelberger - Great Blue Heron (13)
- Ron DeKett - Heron (13)
- John Kubicek - Kodachrome Valley (14)
- Sandy Hafer - Majestic Smoky Mountains (14)
- Chuck Kehoe - May I have This Dance (13)
- Lynette Braddock - Mr. and Mars. Bluebird (14)
- Deb Chamberlain - Parrot Tulip (13)
- Bill Schalk - Ruffled Feathers (14)
- Ted Post - Screech Owl
- Sandy Hafer - Smoky Mountain Daybreak (13)
- Suzanne McDonough - Summer Hummer Buzz (13)
- Sandy Hafer - Tennessee Sunset (13)
- Marguerite Eichelberger - The Little Foxes (14)
- Lynette Braddock Wind Creations (13)

Color Open

- Keith Sawyer - After Glow (13)

Keep those shutters clicking...

Take more pictures

*But don't
forget to*

Enter competitions



We exist to encourage and develop an interest in photography.

