



Twin City Camera Club

ViewFinder

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

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Seasons Greetings

Wishing you and yours

Happy Holidays and a very

Happy New Year!

Our Competition Season: continues on January 10th with the Select Subject of "**Creative**" (Please review the Select Subjects definitions)

Digital Entries: must be in by Monday, January 3rd. (72 dpi, Not to Exceed 500 kb)

Report on the November program: A competition workshop class was conducted by Tom McCall that included a review of how to prepare your images and correctly size, title and submit images for competition. All digital images must not exceed 1024 pixels wide by 768 pixels high, saved as a JPG, set at 72 dpi/ppi and the file size is not to exceed 500 kb. **NOTE:** Testing determined there is very little difference in the image quality between 350 kb and 500 kb, so saving it anywhere in that range is fine. The file name of digital images should look like this example: **Ted Sample – In the Night Sky**. Please note, it starts with the First name (space) Last name (space) (dash) - (space)Title of Image. Again please note the capitalizations and that the spaces and the dash are in the correct places. Do Not include underscoring, extra spaces or dashes. With so many entries, we had over 2000 entries in each of the last two years, it is essential that this process be followed because any errors or omissions will result in a lot of extra work for someone else. The information used on Prints and Digital Slides must also be identical on the Entry Card and in the body of the email for proper scoring, reporting and displaying of the images. Please PRINT the information so that it can be easily read for scoring. Please consider that someone other than you will be announcing the information so think about making it easy on them as they may not be familiar with scientific names and/or unusual pronunciations. As a suggestion, have fun with your titles.

To give you an idea of just how important it is to have the correct information, let me explain just how it is used during and after a competition season. In digital, the image file names are compared to the email and that information is copied and pasted into a PowerPoint program with the images. That file is converted to a word document to be printed into a thumbnail sheet to be used during competition. The entry cards are scored with acceptances and honors during competitions and the entry cards are later scored once again for points and that information is typed into an Excel program to compile the statistics. The information is used in the newsletters and on the website and for the images in the galleries. It is used again for the annual competitions, more newsletters and the website. Several months later it is used once again to prepare the annual show and for the Print labels that are prepared for the prints displayed on walls of the clubhouse, at the banquet and other functions.

November Program Continued:

Prints need to be clearly labeled with the Makers Name and image Title in the upper Left hand corner on the rear of the print so that it is clear on how the print is positioned for judging. Again Please PRINT the information so that it can be easily read for scoring. Please consider that someone other than you will be announcing the information so think about making it easy on them as they may not be familiar with scientific names and/or unusual pronunciations.

NOTE: It is the Entry Cards that are used for almost everything except announcing the makers name and title during competition, so PRINT them accurately and easy to read. (lots of us will like you forever)

Prints need to be placed in the proper bins for competition. The bins are labeled on the left side indicating Class, A on the upper level, Class B on the lower level, starting with Select Monochrome, Open Monochrome, Select Color and then Open Color. It is very important that the prints are placed into the correct bins so if you have questions please ask.

All of the information is on the TCCC website's Competition page and if for some reason you can't figure out how to do or prepare something or still have questions, use the phone and call either Jackie Volker or Tom McCall so that we can help. A lot of people send us questions via emails but it is a lot quicker and easier for us, and better for you, if you just call with your questions, so that we can explain it and if necessary talk you through the process.

As you can see the information has many uses by different people and most importantly, we want you to receive the proper credit for your award winning efforts.

One of the most important things is the timely submittal of images for the monthly competitions. You definitely do not want to submit images late and you can submit them early, months early in fact. All monthly submissions are placed in the respective folders when they are received and normally checked at that time for correctness in file size and image size. If they are in early, it provides time to notify the member if there are problems, which usually provides enough time to correct the problem and re-submit the entry. Last day or late entries may not be able to be corrected. The Digital Chairperson has the authority to remove entries from the Select Category and place them in Open if it is obvious they do not fit the subject. However, if entries are submitted in Open and they could be in Select, we Do Not move them as that is your decision. We want the competitions to be an enjoyable experience for you and we enjoy seeing your images.

Report on December 4th Digital Workshop Class: Conducted by Dennis Hafer, Dan Brant and Tom McCall. This was a 4 hour class all about the Camera. Tom McCall explained and demonstrated about camera sensors and megapixels. Revealing that all pixels are not the same and the sensors in compact digital cameras are 15 to 22 times smaller than a DSLR with the same amount of megapixels.

Dennis Hafer, using a Canon 7D connected to a computer and projecting the camera controls and view, explained and demonstrated Histograms, White Balance, setting Custom White Balance, Depth of Field and other camera settings. Histograms work like a graph displaying where all of the brightness levels contained in the scene are found, from the darkest to the brightest. A histogram can tell you whether or not your image has been properly exposed and is representative of the tonal range in the scene. A histogram can also show the amount of contrast. It shows differences in brightness between light and dark areas in a scene. Broad histograms reflect a scene with significant contrast, whereas narrow histograms reflect less contrast. Dennis also demonstrated the RGB or Color Histogram. For what could be the most useful tool available to us today in digital photography, the histogram could be the least understood.

Report on December 4th Digital Workshop Class Continued:

Another useful camera setting is for “Blinkies” or the Highlight Warnings that indicate blown out highlights. With this setting turned on, areas with overexposed highlights will blink in the LCD giving you a visual clue that you could have exposure problems. Dennis demonstrated this tool and we assisted the members in finding and turning it on for their type of camera.

In demonstrating White Balance and setting Custom White Balance, Dennis explained how important it is to understand white balance and to be able to control it to the type of light you are in. Setting the correct camera white balance takes into account the "color temperature" of a light source, which refers to the relative warmth or coolness of white light. Our eyes are very good at judging what is white under different light sources, but digital cameras often have great difficulty with auto white balance (AWB). With this in mind Dennis explained how to set a Custom White balance for different types of light. Dennis demonstrated how a Custom White balance setting could be achieved using a small tri-color white balance card. The card is 2 inches by 4 inches, has three color panels, white, grey and black. You can use it for setting the camera white balance or for post processing by placing the card in the scene to be photographed. All of the members attending the class were given one of the cards.

Dan Brant explained and demonstrated shooting in RAW vs. JPG format and the pros and cons of each. There are many reasons to use RAW format. One is that an 8-bit JPEG format image can only contain up to 256 shades of Red, Green and Blue colors for a total of 16 million and a 12-bit RAW image can contain up to 4,096 shades of Red, Green and Blue for an equivalent of 68 billion colors. Some DSLR's can do 14-bit RAW files, which is roughly 4.3 trillion possible colors. JPEG images are fully processed in the camera with settings for White Balance, Color Saturation, Tone Curve, Sharpening and Color Space already applied to the image. This means that JPG's are ready to use right out of the camera and do not require post-processing, but a lot of the information captured when the photo was taken is thrown away during the in-camera processing. RAW files on the other hand, contain the most amount of information, remain unmodified and you have the option to adjust all of the settings during the required post-processing.

Dan continued by opening a RAW image file in Adobe's Camera RAW program and demonstrated how you are able to work with the information contained in RAW files. Dan has developed a process of working with RAW files making it easier to understand just what you can do with them to achieve the results that you will like. Dan had just started with this presentation when we ran out of time for the class. Dan agreed to return at a later date to present the Camera RAW portion of the program

Digital Workshop Class: We have set a date for the next Digital Workshop Class on Wednesday January 19th. This will be an hour and a half workshop from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. For those of you that attended the December 4th Workshop you will know that Dan Brant had just started explaining and demonstrating some RAW image file processing when we ran out of time. Dan has graciously agreed to return and conduct a workshop on January 19th to show you the tips and techniques to easily work with RAW image files. Most of you work in Elements or Photoshop and by starting your work first in Camera RAW, you will find that it opens up many more possibilities. You have the ability to increase or decrease the white balance, exposure, contrast, color saturation, sharpening, and tonal range while being able to see the histogram during the changes. Also, you can open several images taken under one setting and make changes to one image, then apply those same changes to all of the images taken in that setting by using the Synchronize function. We'll be starting at 7:00 pm so come early so that we can all start at the same time. **TCCC members only please.** If you have questions please call Tom McCall at 983-5986.

Roster: The new Membership Roster is posted in the Member's Only section on the website. Please review your listing and report errors and/or omissions to Ted Post or Tom McCall.

Healing thoughts: go out to Mark Parren who was hospitalized and is to undergo heart surgery. That's all of the information I have at this time. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Mark for a complete and speedy recovery.

Healing thoughts go out to Bud Friesen in Florida, who has had knee surgery and is now actively involved in physical therapy. Bud says things are going well and hopes to complete most of the therapy this year.

Gorson Drake says he has completely recovered from the eye surgery and is doing fine. Justine Drake is recovering from a mild stroke and is now in aquatic therapy and rehabilitation in the Coloma area. It was a treat to talk with Justine for a few minutes when I called their home last week. Justine sounded great. We'll be keeping all of our members in our thoughts and prayers this holiday season.

TCCC Newsletter "ViewFinder": We are looking for a new editor and assistant editor for the ViewFinder. Our current staff took it over two (2) years ago on an interim basis and have other duties and responsibilities. It can be an enjoyable experience and you get all of the news first... If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Tom McCall at 983-5986.

December Stats: are posted on the TCCC website.

December Honor Images: The December Honor Images have been added to a new Album in the Honors for 2010 - 2011 Season Galleries on the TCCC website.

December Honors:

Class A Monochrome Prints

Kristine Sims – Into the Darkness

Class B Color Prints

Scott Isbrecht – Sunset Fishing

Class A Digital Slides

Mark Parren – Friends Goodwill Ship

Judges: Jennifer Mayo, Photographer, www.jmstudios.com. Pieter Damsteegt, Photographer and Jamie Keffer, TCCC Member. We appreciate them taking the time to come and judge for us.

CONGRATULATIONS: to all of the competitors. Thanks for all of your effort in preparing your entries and submitting them into competition. We had a good turnout with 32 members submitting 177 entries, 93 in Select, 84 in Open, that received 50 Acceptances, 3 Honors and 124 Rejects. That's an acceptance/honor rate of 30% and a rejection rate of 70%.

Closing Thoughts: Our competition year is from September through June, however all other functions of the club are on a calendar year of January through December. It's the contributions of members, volunteering of their time, ideas, energy and efforts, that make up the Twin City Camera Club. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big **THANK YOU** to all of the hardworking members that contributed their time and talents in keeping Twin City Camera Club one of the finest camera clubs in the state in 2010. Some of these members we see often but there are lots more behind the scenes, check out the club's By Laws and Organization Chart to learn about some of the responsibilities these volunteers have undertaken. Plus the many others that don't show up on a list or chart, they just help out when ever there is a need. To all, we offer our heartfelt thanks. You are the best...

Keep those shutters clicking...