



# Twin City Camera Club

## ViewFinder

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

January 2011 Roll 75, Exposure 1

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**“I'm always mentally photographing everything as practice.”** - Minor White

**Our Competition Season:** continues on February 14<sup>th</sup> with the Select Subject of "Song Titles" (Please review the Select Subjects definitions)

**Digital Entries:** must be in by Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. (72 dpi, Not to Exceed 500 kb)

**Digital Workshop Class:** We have set a date for the next Digital Workshop Class on Wednesday January 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be an hour and a half workshop from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. For those of you that attended the December 4<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**January Program Night:** Pete and Susan Mathews will be presenting a program about Yellowstone National Park. The presentation is a narrated photo tour of Yellowstone National Park undertaken in January 2008. The trip involved staying in the park for five days and photographing the park and it's wildlife in all it's midwinter beauty and majesty. Staying near the center of the park, in yurts and "yurtlets" (small canvas covered sleeping shelters) and traveling in "snow coaches", vans converted to tracks and skis, enabled them to travel to various scenic parts of the Park, at any time of the day, and where the wildlife were that day. It's a look at Yellowstone most people haven't seen and only available through this trip.

Pete and Susan Mathews are life long travelers. Pete is also a photographer since high school and put the two together when he started traveling and visiting foreign ports, all expenses paid compliments of the U.S. Government, in the 1960's. Susan has been traveling for her own benefit and work for an equal number of years. Between them they have traveled to most of the continents of the world, Susan all but Australia, Pete all but Australia and Africa (so far). Since teaming up and traveling together 10 years ago, they have traveled together to places of interest to them, some common, some exotic and some remote. They now combine their talents to present narrated slide shows to various groups both as a way to share with folks the places they've been, and relive the experiences themselves. They continue to travel and photograph around the world. Come join us and enjoy the trip.

**Healing thoughts:** go out to Mark Parren who had open heart surgery in Ann Arbor last week. The reports are that the surgery went well and that Mark is home recuperating now. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Mark for a complete and speedy recovery.

Healing thoughts go out to Justine Drake who is recovering from a mild stroke and is continuing aquatic therapy and rehabilitation in the Coloma area. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Justine for a complete and speedy recovery.

**The passing of a Life Member:** We are saddened to report the death of Life Member Ernest Kramer, 86, (1924 – 2010) on December 26, 2010, in Pensacola, Florida. He joined The Twin City Camera Club in 1968 and was active in the club, ushered for the Travel and Adventure Series and competed in the print and film slide divisions during the 1970's and early 1980's. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends. See the Shadow and Highlights page on the TCCC website for Ernest's obituary.

**Put on your thinking caps:** It's not too early to start thinking about suggestions and ideas to discuss at the February Business Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Think about what kinds of things the membership might be interested in doing, what improvements we could make to the competitions, programs, building, etc. your ideas are appreciated.

**A Cautionary Note:** Please be careful when photographing on or around the ice on our lakes and rivers. Recently a person broke through the ice at Tiscornia Beach Park while taking photographs of the ice cliffs. The U.S. Coast Guard, police and firemen rescued him after he called 911 because he couldn't get back onto solid ice. He was very fortunate that he wasn't injured. In the years of photographing the St. Joseph Lighthouses and piers during the winter, I find it very uncomfortable when I observe people taking chances by going out on the ice cliffs or piers beyond what can be considered somewhat safe. All of it can become very dangerous just from slips and falls. However, by going beyond the blue rails on the piers and walking or climbing on the ice cliffs along the beaches without the proper equipment and training it can be life threatening. I don't know of any photograph worth that.

**TCCC Newsletter "ViewFinder":** We are looking for a new editor and assistant editor for the ViewFinder. I will work with anyone that is interested to learn how it is done and continue to be there to assist if needed. I held the position the first time in the 1980's and it's much easier now with word processors like Microsoft Word and web searches on the internet. (The club used a mimeograph machine in the long ago days) We actually have a printed version and an online version of the ViewFinder. For the most part they are identical, however, we can expand on what we do with the online version to include more information and photos if that would be your interests. I will continue to do the statistics and compile the information from the competitions, including the honors, to go in the newsletter. I'm the webmaster, so I'll be providing that information to the editor also. 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.

**January Stats:** are posted on the TCCC website.

**January Honor Images:** All of the January Honor Images have been added to a new Album in the Honors for 2010 - 2011 Season Galleries on the TCCC website.

**January Honors:**

**Class B Color Prints**

Scott Isbrecht – Old and Stormy

## **January Honors continued:**

### **Class A Color Prints**

Kristine Sims – Rugged Sunset

Jacquelyn Volker – As the Train Buzzes By

### **Class B Digital Slides**

Rick Bauer – Dandelion Seeds

Rick Bauer – Mushroom Abstract 1

Rick Bauer – Mushroom Abstract 2

Randy Willis - Light Trails

### **Class A Digital Slides**

Ron Bonczkowski - What We Do Best

Bud Friesen - Walk on the Beach

Dennis Hafer – Old Red Ford

Ted Post – Lower Falls #3

Ted Post – Resting

**Judges:** Erin Zoet, BFA, working on her Masters, Art Teacher in the Watervliet Schools and Taver Zoet, BFA, MFA in print-making (Lithography). They own Rock 'n' Road Cycle of South Haven (bicycles) <http://www.rocknroadcyclesouthhaven.com>

Margaret Hogeboom, Artist/Photographer, see her work in the chartreuse co-op art gallery in downtown St. Joseph <http://www.chartreuseartgallery.com>

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 175 entries, 124 in Select, 51 in Open, that received 121 Acceptances, 12 Honors and 42 Rejects. That's an acceptance/honor rate of 76% and a rejection rate of 24%.

**Webmaster's Notes:** I'm in the process of updating all of the pages on the TCCC website. There are several places on the pages that include a yearly date, like the Celebrating Over 75 Years banner 1933 - 2011 or in the Copyright information at the bottom of the pages. The dates along with other changes have to be updated and all of the links have to be tested, corrected and/or deleted. For most of you, the first time you visit a website the pages are saved on your computer and retrieved for faster viewing the next time you visit the same website. So sometimes when you visit a website you aren't seeing the most recent information. On the browser you are using for viewing the web and seeing the pages is a "Refresh" or "Reload" button or text to click on that will reload the page using the most recent version. So from time to time you might want to use the "Refresh" or "Reload" button to make sure you are getting the updated pages.

**New Feature:** In addition to the regular resources and links on the TCCC website I am adding a new feature to the Webmaster's Corner and the ViewFinder called **Shared Recommendations**. This will have links to helpful information, tips and techniques, tutorials and websites that are now or have been used by TCCC members and found to be useful. *Psst...* Some of them even have **FREE** stuff. Considering that over time you would have to search many back issues of the ViewFinder to once again find the information or links, I have decided it will be posted on the Webmaster's Corner page. This will become a central location to find the links and by having it on the web we will be able to include more information.

**Shared Recommendations:** As the name implies, the following links are being recommended by other TCCC Members that have found them to contain helpful information, tips and techniques or tutorials that they would like to share with you. All of the listings will be posted on the Webmaster's Corner page and may include additional information about the recommendations. I hope that you will share your favorites by sending me an email with your recommendations to [tmccall@twincitycameraclub.com](mailto:tmccall@twincitycameraclub.com)

Bud Friesen recommended signing up for Free email newsletters from Tim Grey, a photographer and educator in digital photography, at <http://www.timgrey.com>. I did and now receive the Ask Tim Grey Newsletter, where he responds to questions on Photoshop, Lightroom, Bridge and Camera RAW. I also signed up for Elements Weekly, where he offers Tips and answers questions on Elements. I find them easily understood and informative.

This is one to get you started, look for more in future ViewFinder editions and on the TCCC website.

**Do It Yourself Ring Flash:** Ted Post has provided us with the parts list and instructions for a DIY Ring Flash. Ted built one and I observed it in operation during testing by Dennis Hafer and Ted after a TCCC meeting. The Ring Flash worked very well. Complete instructions and links to videos are included in the Tips & Techniques article on the TCCC website. See Tips & Techniques page 6.



Many thanks Ted for sharing your excellent DIY Ring Flash project with us.

**Classifieds:** we have plenty of room to list your FOR SALE and/or WANTED TO BUY items. Please review the Classifieds page for more information. Contact Tom McCall if you have questions.

**Keep those shutters clicking...**