



# Twin City Camera Club

## ViewFinder

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

December 2011 Roll 75, Exposure 12

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**We wish you the Merriest and Joyous Holiday Season!**

**Merry Christmas**

**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 !**

**Our Competition Season:** continues on January 9<sup>th</sup>. with the Select Subject of “Creative”.  
(Please review the Select Subjects definitions)

**Digital Entries:** must be in by **Midnight**, Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. (72 dpi, Not to Exceed 500 kb)

**Remember:** No program will be held in December due to the Holidays.

**Report on the November Program:** Rob Shellhamer presented his program on Exposure Basics. Rob said it is all about light and how the camera sees the light. How to use three (3) exposure controls, **Shutter Speed**, for how long the shutter stays open. **Aperture**, for how large of a lens opening is set to control how much light enters the camera and **ISO**, which is set for the camera sensor’s sensitivity to the light. Rob spoke about how the camera meter averages the light to 18% gray reflectance and how you can use the in-camera light meter to correctly determine the proper exposure you want to achieve. Rob also explained how the Histogram can be used to determine if you have the correct exposure. Rob said you have to learn to outsmart the camera and use the controls to override what the camera sees to get the exposure you want. Rob explained some creative aspects, like how a fast Shutter Speed can be used to stop movement or a long Shutter Speed can be used to show movement. How Aperture can control depth of field and can be used for selective focus to isolate your subject. How you can increase the ISO to be able to get photos in lighting situations that normally wouldn’t permit it. He said to remember that higher ISO means more noise in the photo so try to keep as low as possible.

He said when he goes out to photograph something; he first determines a Metering Mode of Center, Evaluative or Spot. Then the Exposure Mode of AV (Aperture Preferred), TV (Shutter Preferred) or Manual. Then he selects his Shutter Speed and/or Aperture, depending on the mode selected. He said he guesses at the ISO because he can adjust it later for the correct exposure.

### **November Program Continued:**

Rob said to remember that the three (3) exposure controls are like a triangle or three-legged stool, how changing one makes it necessary for you to change at least one more to keep the same exposure. Some other options if it is too dark, are to use faster lenses, a tripod and cable release or add more light with reflectors or flash. Rob also spoke about White Balance and how it is all about the color (temperature) of light and how different light sources are different color (temperature) of light. He explained how to set the White Balance for the type of light source and how to compensate for mixed light sources.

Rob's programs are always informative and we appreciate him taking the time to come and share his knowledge with us. Thanks, Rob. Check out his website at [www.ShellhamerPhotography.com](http://www.ShellhamerPhotography.com)

**The passing of a Life Member:** We are saddened to report the death of Life Member Herbert Hein, 91, of Benton Harbor. Herb passed away Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011, at Caretel Inns of Lakeland in St. Joseph. Herb joined The Twin City Camera Club in 1963 and was very active in TCCC, serving as the Club's President in 1968 and 1977. Herb was the Travel & Adventure Series Chairman from 1983 until 2001. Herb was very passionate about the Travel and Adventure Series, including negotiating for the Talent, the publicity and the preparation of the T&A Series Brochures, during his time as Chairman, Herb's wife Anna served as the Secretary to the T&A Series. Herb received the Club's Man of the Year award in 1979. Herb competed in the print and film slide competitions over the years and was still competing in prints during the 2010 -2011 season. He will be missed. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends. See the Shadow and Highlights page on the TCCC website for Herb's obituary.

**Healing thoughts:** go out to Jackie Volker's husband Sam, who was hospitalized for several days and is now home. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Sam for a complete and speedy recovery. We'll be keeping all of our members in our thoughts and prayers this holiday season.

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

**December Honor Images:** Some of the December Honor Images have been added to a new Album in the Honors for 2011 - 2012 Season Galleries on the TCCC website.

### **December Honors:**

#### **Class B Monochrome Prints**

Cindy Lee – Enough Yellow

#### **Class A Monochrome Prints**

Dick Lyon – Driving Wheel

Kathleen Mendel – Lakeshore View (Revised and added on 12-25, due to a scoring omission)

Sherry Saenz – Library at the Alamo

Jim Thompson – Grease Fitting

Jim Thompson – Road Side Stream

#### **Class B Color Prints**

Cindy Lee – From Abby's Garden

Dave Zizkovski – Fall Reflections

## **December Honors continued:**

### **Class A Color Prints**

Elaine Harju – Yellow Texture

Jim Lynch – Bass Harbor Head

Jacquelyn Volker – Dirty Dahlia

Dave Wheeler – The Tree (Revised and added on 12-22, due to a scoring omission)

### **Class B Digital Slides**

Steve Campbell – Lemon Drink

Fred Summerfelt – Ginko Yellow

### **Class A Digital Slides**

Dennis Hafer – Ready for the Skillet

Tom McCall – A Yellow Dot

Ken McKeown – Hand Held

Ken McKeown – A Touch of Yellow

Ken McKeown – Grab your Paddle

**Judges:** Tami Miller, Director of Exhibitions and Collections (Curator) Krasl Art Center, Julia Gourley, Executive Director Krasl Art Center, and Wanda Schaffer, Whirlpool. 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 36 members submitting 215 entries, 157 in Select, 58 in Open, that received 150 Acceptances, 17 Honors and 48 Rejects. That's an acceptance/honor rate of 78% and a rejection rate of 22%.

**Corrections:** Kathleen Mendel informed me that her listing in the November Honors of "Morning Lion" should have been an Acceptance. Thanks Kathleen, the scoring for November will be changed. We inadvertently missed a November Digital entry from Juanita Attard, so it was added to the December competition entries, received an acceptance, the November scores reflect that correction also.

**Notice:** Someone inadvertently picked up a color print titled "Truck Parts" by Amber Tibone when they picked up prints after the competition. Please check your prints from Monday night and return it to the clubhouse. Thanks.

**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.

**Evening Digital Workshop Class:** We have set a date for the next Digital Workshop Class on Wednesday January 11th. This will be an hour and a half workshop from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Primarily geared for the newer members this workshop will also be helpful as a refresher for all of the members that participate in the competitions. We will cover getting your images ready for competition with tips and techniques on some of the methods of preparing them, including working in Photoshop and/or Elements to get the best out of your images and then sizing and emailing your entries. Most of the information should apply to Prints and/or Digital Slides. We will try to keep it as simple as possible. We want to start on time so try to be a little early. The Digital Workshop Classes are limited to TCCC members only please.

**Saturday Digital Workshop Class:** We have tentatively set Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> for a Digital Workshop Class from 10 am. Until 2 pm. This will be conducted by Dennis Hafer, Dan Brant and Tom McCall and it will be all about the Camera. This is somewhat of a repeat of last years classes when we covered the digital camera operations and settings. With demonstrations to help you understand Histograms, Setting the White Balance, Custom White Balance, ISO speed, depth of field preview, etc. These are the things that everyone needs to be reminded of and/or learn to get the best out of your camera. I know I need to refresh my memory from time to time and especially when I haven't worked with some of it for a while. For those of you that participated last year it's a way to reinforce what you learned. We plan to have a camera connected to a computer so that we can project onto the screen what the camera is doing so that everyone can experience it. You need to bring your camera and make sure you also bring the camera manual. Since there are many different makes and models of cameras we might not be able to answer specific questions about a particular camera but we hope to be able to point you in the right direction to find any answers you might need. For TCCC members only please.

**Annual Competition prints:** Please pick up your prints that were not used for the Club's wall display.

**Turkey Run Wildflower Field Trip Reminder:** Don't forget to make your reservations for the spring photo trip that has been set for Friday April 27 to Sunday April 29 at Turkey Run State Park in southern Indiana. Lodging will be in the Turkey Run State Park Inn. Go to the Members Only page and click on the Fieldtrip Information tab and you will find more information including the telephone number and a group code for the special rates. Ted said once you make your reservations to please let him know so he can keep track of who will be going. Check out these web sites: <http://www.turkeyrunstatepark.com> and <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2964.htm>

**An Answer to an Email:** Many times I'm asked about the Judging, why it was the way it was or how certain images fit the Select Subject or why the Judges didn't remove an image if it didn't fit the Select Subject. So this is a response to an email that I received after the December Competition of "Yellow". I thought it might be appropriate that everyone see my answer.

This is the Email; I'm not identifying the sender other than to say it is from one of our newer members:  
**Tom, I was surprised at some of the pics. If yellow was the theme, some of them were far from yellow. I assume we had liberal judges. I also noticed they did not like pictures of cars.....**

Select Subjects. At the top of the Select Subject list it has these words: General Rule (Applies to All) The select subject must be prominently displayed and the PRIMARY focus of the image, so that an ordinary person would recognize it as such. Then in each of the Descriptions: "The object that is the focus of attention in the image must be predominantly the..." what ever the subject is.

That said, I think everyone in the club has said what you have at one time or another. We have each individual member's interpretation of what they think the Select Subject is supposed to be or more likely what they would like it to be, so sometimes they push the envelope. Most of the time it's interesting to see what comes up in the competitions, just because of how it's seen by someone else. Sometimes we say to ourselves, "Hey that's good, I didn't think of that". Then there are the times we just say "How did they get away with that" and just shake our heads.

Our Rules state: Any photo can be disqualified from the competition by the competition chairpersons for not meeting any rule or requirement and images can be moved from select to open if it is deemed that they do not fit the select subject and should be in the open category. Questionable images should be permitted to stay in select and left for the judges to determine.

### **An Answer to an Email Continued:**

For the most part that Rule comes into play mainly for the Digital Slide entries, because we see them before the competitions and have the time to contact the member and possibly have them submit something else that might fit the Select Subject better. Since Prints are only seen the night of the competitions and unless it is very obvious that it shouldn't be in Select they are not moved to Open.

Judging is very subjective and the interpretation of what they think the Select Subject is supposed to be applies to the judges too. For the most part, that night is the first time they have heard what the Select Subject is and for some that are first time judges, they have never had to think of it in that way. For several years now, I try to meet with the judges before the competition and review our criteria with them and advise them on what to do if they question something that they think doesn't fit the Select Subject.

They are advised to vote a zero (0) and then we stop the judging, poll the judges asking them to vote a zero (0) if they think it doesn't fit the Select category or vote a one (1) if they think it does. If we get two (2) judges voting it out, it is then placed into the Open category and will come up for judging in Open later. What I have seen for the most part, is that the judges just give it a lower score if they don't think it fits the category.

Membership in the club and participating in the competitions is supposed to be fun. That is not to say that we aren't serious about competitions, most of us are. You can approach competitions several different ways. If you're interested in people seeing your photographs to see what you liked about a particular subject and if the Judges like it, that's fine, if not that fine also, that's one way. If you are really into competitions and want to receive Honors, then you need to think about images that are taken, prepared and presented with the Judges in mind. All of the criteria must be clear and understandable, Composition (Easy to read, pleasing, but not necessarily rigid rules of thirds.) Impact/Interest (Easy to understand/interpret, clear message and interesting.) Technique/Technical Quality (Focus, exposure, color, contrast, neatness, etc.). Plus the images must be exceptional, the Judges are looking for the exceptional, something that catches their eye and is pleasing to them, all in a very few seconds.

Ask a photographer about a photograph they've taken and you are probably going to hear all kinds of things, where it was at, what was going on, what they had to do to capture it and maybe why they couldn't have taken it any other way, like if they moved any more to the right or left they would have fallen off the cliff or something. The one thing you are going to notice is that they are very emotionally involved in it, you'll see it in their eyes and hear it in their voices, it's their photograph and they are proud of it. So what happens when that photograph is put in front of someone to judge it? I think you get the picture, so to speak... That's when the photographer has to let go of all of the emotion (something that's not easy to do) and be open to how others see it. That's competition folks...

**From the May 2011 ViewFinder;** Select subjects: Before the close of each current competition year, the club's board of directors meets to choose the select subjects for the upcoming competition season. The process normally involves selecting a color and a monochrome subject for one month, using Nature for June and then selecting eight (8) additional subjects for the rest of the year. Suggestions and ideas come from several sources, Club Members, research on other club competitions, the board members and from past competitions. We try to include the SWMCCC Competition Select Subject so that our members have entries they can also use in those competitions. At the board meeting, all of the ideas are discussed, accepted or rejected, then assigned to a month and approved. The Select Subject descriptions that explain and define the parameters that are to be followed are added later. The purpose of having Select Subjects is to encourage and promote photographing a variety of subjects and to expand each photographer's photographic horizons. They can also provide inspiration for those days when you want to take photographs but just don't know what to take.

**From the January 1965 ViewFinder:**

THE THREE JUDGES

The room is dark; the projector hums  
There they sit with sharpened thumbs  
The judges three

The lights flash on, and there's the score  
To destroy the gorgeous shot that's before  
The judges three

Ugh, you can hear each shooter groan  
As in their hearts they all bemoan  
The Judges Three

Bestir our hope, one slide they keep  
The judges three

At least it's all over, the judging's done  
They're almost thru; they've had their fun  
The judges three

Up goes the count; they needed  
\*\*\*\* Nine \*\*\*\*  
Out of ten, they dropped mine.  
The judges three

But I'm not mad; I bear no grudge  
My revenge will come the day I judge....  
The judges three

By: Val Klepsa  
From The CHICAGO COLOR CAMERA CLUB

**May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through! ~ Unknown**

**Keep those shutters clicking...**