



THE IMAGE

April 2021
Spring Issue

View From the Boardroom

By Anne Mele

When Sue asked me to write for *View From the Boardroom*, I didn't think that I had any expertise to contribute. I'm not an expert (or that knowledgeable) about cameras, lenses, shutter speed, aperture, composition and on and on. But for a wannabe photographer, this club has inspired me; and I am a better photographer for it. As I think back, I had always been interested in photography, but never really seriously. I had an Olympus OM-1 manual focus for my first camera - took a lot of pictures but they were not very good and had an "unfocused" look. In my first photography class, I made a darkroom in my closet and developed black & whites - that was cool but time consuming. I did a lot of looking at what photographers photograph, their style, composition, lighting, subject and often went to NYC to see exhibitions. I was drawn to black and white photography but didn't know how to capture those effects. I took lots of photographs on vacation, but with no thought to composition. The purist in me insisted on film cameras but I was struggling and frustrated and then life got in the way. Much later, my husband, with the help of my friend, decided to buy me a digital camera for my birthday. This was in preparation for my dream vacation to Africa the following year. It was a Nikon DSLR camera with a 70-200 2.8 lens. I was wholly disappointed when I opened the gift. They convinced me to "*just try it*". It took about two minutes and I was hooked. How great was it to see my photos instantly in the camera. Best gift ever. So, now that I had the technology, I needed to be able to use it. I took classes, read more about composition, lighting, ISO, bracketing and I started taking lots and lots of photographs. And Africa turned out better than I could have expected. I took some 5,000 photographs, and now knew that I wanted photography to be a part of my life. When I came back home, I retired and bought more camera equipment. But that turned out to be only the half of it. Then I found LightRoom and saw how I could correct and enhance my images. Brilliant!!

But, how to take great photos? My friend asked me to join a photography club with her. And here we are now as part of the Coastal Camera Club. I have to say that there is nothing better than a community of people that have a passion for the same thing you do. I have learned so much from this club. You all are most generous with your time and sharing your knowledge. I love looking at all the photos and hearing the stories behind them. This club helps makes me a better photographer, so thank you all.

My husband has taken up photography now as well, although he does prefer video. We travel often to photograph and we take photo workshops. My husband used to ask me: "How do you remember all those details from our trip?" and I remind him that I was shooting that day. I find that taking photographs, particularly when traveling, pulls you into the place where you are; you're not just sight-seeing. The lens helps me to see the small details, the people, the bits before you see the whole. For me, in the end, it makes the whole experience vivid and more rewarding.

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“The best thing about a picture is that it never changes, even when the people in it do.”
 Andy Warhol

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2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

April 7, 2021—Virtual Competition Night

April 21, 2021—40 Slide Review for 2021

May 5, 2021—Peter Chow program on personal projects and his Marsh Project

May 19, 2021—Review of Annual Club Project; 5x5

June 2, 2021—Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Supper

2021 DEADLINES

May 7, 2021—Deadline for submissions to ccc.images@gmail.com for the annual club project. Theme 5x5.

MAY 5: PETER CHOW: PERSONAL PROJECT

For our May 5th meeting, Peter Chow will be doing a program about a personal photography project that he has been working on this year. Peter has been photographing the marsh view from his back deck. He'll explain how the images were captured and how he processed them in LR and PS. In doing this project, Peter has developed a technique to create "time lapse" photos. He'll show "normal" images as well as his "time lapse" photos. He will also discuss photo projects in general and his own experience working on his personal photo project. Below are two images of Peter's backyard marsh view.

If you don't know Peter, he has been a member of the Coastal Camera Club for the past three years and is an accomplished photographer who has won many awards in international and national photo competitions.



ANNUAL CCC PROJECT

The theme for our 2020-2021 Annual CCC Project will be "5x5". This is a combination of a 'scavenger hunt' and 'working the subject' theme. Below is a list of five items. The assignment is to make five images of each of the items in the list. It MUST be the same item in each of the five images. For example: #2 Flower—all five images must be of the same flower, not five different flowers or fives images of the same type of flower. Here is the list.

1. Kitchen Tool/ Utensil
2. Flower
3. Bridge
4. Rock (pebble, stone or boulder)
5. Book

FLICKR

Our club has a Flickr web site. Whenever you have an image that you'd would like to share with the club, consider adding it to the Flickr site. If you are not familiar with our Flickr site, here is the link. <https://www.flickr.com/groups/coastalcameraclub/>

We look forward to seeing your images.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

For now dues have been waived but starting in the fall we will be reinstating dues for the year. If you decide you want to drop your membership, either permanently or until we start meeting in person again, please send a note to Dave Rathbun.

MEETUPS

We are extending the theme of "Connecticut Parks" for the spring virtual meetup activity. The weather is better now so get out and visit some of our wonderful state parks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Connecticut College Arboretum. The Arboretum is open to visitors all winter. Go to <https://www.conncoll.edu/the-arboretum/> for more information.

NECCC 2021 Online Event: Saturday, July 17. This year the NECCC is holding a one day online event. Registration is now open. Go to <https://neccphotoconference.org/neccc-2021-online-event> for more information.

NECCC Spring Pandemic Photo Showcase. Free and fun activity. Submit photos to the NECCC between April 5–April 21. Go to <https://photo.neccc.org/> for more information.

The Value of Authenticity in Modern Photography: Short YouTube worth watching. Go to <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/the-value-of-authenticity-in-modern-photography/>

Understanding Diffraction and its Effects in Photography. Short YouTube worth watching. Go to <https://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/diffraction-in-photography/>

WHAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM YOUR GRANDCHILDREN

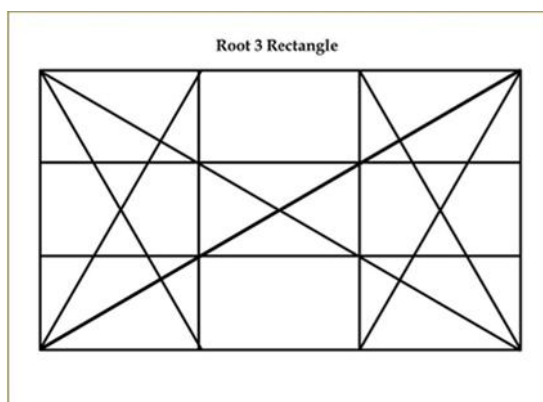
By Archie Stone

While most of the time my grandchildren view me as a living dinosaur, there is an occasional, 'GP is cool and with it.' My grandson took a photography course as an elective his senior year. The camera he used was an iPhone 10. If you have not been following the change in camera sales and development, the cell phone has put most consumer point and shoot cameras into the realm of antiques and no longer available for sale.

I was glad to see the teacher covering some advanced subjects, as on the day my grandson came to the house, he was trying to figure out how to shoot a low key and high key image. For those who have not googled it yet, a low key image is one with all the data below the midtone on the histogram, i.e., mostly blacks with some grays. A high key is just the opposite with all of the data above the midtone, mostly whites with a little gray. Knowing my camera knowledge, he thought I would just show him how to do it, but this dinosaur reared its ugly head and said "look it up on the internet." After he did and we discussed what it was and how it could be accomplished, he successfully shot both images with found objects in my basement.

As our discussion of photography progressed with talks about rules and the rule of thirds, I learned a new phrase "dynamic symmetry" which he threw at me. While I have been using this in my photography, I did not know what it was called so it was my turn to google it. Of course the dinosaur waited until he had gone home.

larmonu.larmonstudios.com › [dynamic-symmetry](https://www.larmonstudios.com/dynamic-symmetry) **Dynamic Symmetry** is an armature which is geometrically designed to promote continuity, flow, rhythm and balance within artistic design.



If you look closely at the lines, they are a series of diagonals, right angles and connecting points. It also includes the rule of thirds. The goal of dynamic symmetry is to place the primary subject on or parallel to one of the lines with supporting parts of the image at 90 degrees or parallel on another line to the main subject, as in the example below from [pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com).



Now if I can only figure out my new cell phone and how to get to the internet on it. I think I will try and muddle my way through with the 168 page manual before I call my grandson.

GLENNIE NATURE SALON COMPETITION SUBMISSIONS

Here are the images that were selected by our club members for submission to the Glennie Nature Salon Competition this year. Categories were Botany, Landscape, Mammals, Birds, Invertebrates, and Reptiles. This is a club competition. Each image is scored and the club with the highest score wins. Clubs are allowed to submit up to ten images.



‘Coastal Shells’ by Pat Anderson - Landscape Category

REQUESTS

Products: If you have made a photography related purchase in the past year or two, please consider submitting a brief review of the product. This includes gear and software. Some things you might want to include: why did you purchase this product, does it replace something you already own, is it user friendly? Send the review to Sue Frechette at wfrprs@att.net and she'll publish it in the newsletter.

Photo Workshops and Tours: Have you recently participated in a photography workshop or tour? Please consider writing a brief review of your experience. Please comment on the leader/instructor, the location, the photo opportunities, the learning experience in general would you recommend it to others, and anything else you'd like our members to know. Send it to Sue Frechette at wfrprs@att.net. She'll publish it in the newsletter.



‘First Light’ by Anne Mele - Mammals Category



‘Widow Skimmer Dragonfly’ by Dave Rathbun - Invertebrates Category



‘Zabriskie Point’ by Peter Chow - Landscape Category



‘Mono Lake Sunset’ by Maryann Flick - Landscape Category



‘Lizard Getting the Last Rays’ by Peter Chow - Reptiles Category



‘Dew Drops and Leaf Veins’ by Allison Maltese - Botany Category



'Two Willets' by Allison Maltese - Birds Category



'Feeding Lioness' by Anne Mele - Mammals Category



‘Male Pileated Woodpecker’ by Dave Rathbun - Birds Category

CLUB MEMBER MIKE FRECHETTE WILL BE MISSED

By Susan Frechette

As many of you know, I lost my husband, Mike, in January to Covid-19. Mike was a very active member of the camera club and had been our Treasurer for the past four years. Mike became interested in photography starting in his teens. His uncle handed down to Mike an old 35mm camera and Mike got interested. That camera went with him to college and also to Germany where he was stationed for a year when he was in the army. When I first met Mike he often took this camera with him when we went places. Over the years he used it for all our family snapshots and vacation pictures. He only had one lens for it but it served the purpose.

In 2007, Mike started working and living in Washington DC. When he couldn't come home on a weekend, he went sightseeing and decided to buy himself a digital camera. The new camera was so wonderful and Mike really became hooked, going out whenever he could and taking pictures of all the monuments, historical buildings and other sights that Washington had to offer. When we retired, Mike saw an announcement about the Coastal Camera Club which was starting up its fall programs. He said one night that he was going to a club meeting. When he got home he told me that he'd joined as a member and that he signed me up too! I wasn't very enthusiastic because I didn't know much about photography but I started going to meetings with him and he turned into my personal photography coach, teaching me all about photography and how to use a camera (he bought a new camera and gave me his old one). Photography turned into a great hobby that were able to share. It gave us an excuse to take trips and participate in photography workshops together.



After a couple of years as active members of the club, there was a need for some new board members. Mike volunteered to be Treasurer. He was well suited for the job because he had just finished a forty year career in finance working for the Navy. I volunteered to be Secretary. Becoming members of the board got us both more involved in the club. Mike started exhibiting his images in shows and participating in critiques and competitions. He participated in everything the club offered and helped on committees as much as he could. He worked on club shows and exhibits, helping to hang images and sometimes picking up or delivering members' photos who could not drop them off or pick them up on the designated day. He developed and presented programs for the club and every year did a tutorial on getting images framed and ready for a club exhibit. He helped put together several Photo Safaris and organized a number of offsite activities including a field trip to Elizabeth Park and a night shoot. He also put together over a dozen slide shows that he presented to the residents at Gladeview Rehab in Old Saybrook and Aaron Manor in Chester.

In addition to photography, Mike's other passion was stamp collecting. He was very involved with the New Haven Philatelic Society and had been serving as president of the society for the past five years. He was focused on promoting the hobby of stamp collecting and did many presentations about the hobby at local libraries and senior centers. Mike also enjoyed scrapbooking; together we attended many weekend scrapbooking events. He scrapbooked our vacations and holidays and created custom hard-cover scrapbooks for our two grandsons every year highlighting some of the activities we enjoyed together throughout the year. He also played both the clarinet and guitar. He had been giving his grandson lessons on both instruments last year. Mike had many interests and delved into them with great enthusiasm. He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather and will be greatly missed not only by his family, but also by the camera club and the Philatelic Society. Below are some photos that Mike took last year.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

First I want to thank all the loyal members who have been joining the Zoom meetings. They have worked out better than I had hoped. I have not gotten word of any problems. Though it was unfortunate to have guest speakers and fewer than 20 members attending. But they are paid the same no matter how many are tuned in. What is missing is the chance to interact with other members, especially one on one. On Zoom only one person can be speaking at a time and the conversation involves the entire group. But we have made it work! Without the attendees at Zoom meetings we would not have a club. A big thank you to Sue for continuing as host. And thanks also to Louis for gathering images for our critique and for the upcoming competition.

Second, I don't want to discourage anyone from using online courses. They are a convenient tool. Just about every pro out there is trying to make up for not doing in person workshops by offering courses on-line. Some do seem rather expensive. But I have found so many free tutorials that are excellent and don't require time commitments. My bike is on a trainer for the winter and I can peddle and watch videos. Unfortunately I only have a mount for my phone not my iPad so I must watch them on a small screen which is not too bad. I've learned a bit and it keeps me from being bored while peddling. I recommend checking them out. Subscribe to PictureCorrect which emails a daily blog that usually includes one video as well as other tips and info for photographers. Many of the videos are on YouTube so you might search there for topics that interest you. If you find an educator you like you can subscribe to his/her channel and get reminders for future video posts.

Hang in there!

Maryann



Contributed by Paula Chabot