



THE IMAGE

View From the Boardroom

By Susan Frechette

July 2019
Summer Issue

Everyone knows that the best way to master a skill is to practice it, and practice it often. Photography is certainly no exception. I think all of us have busy schedules; even those who are retired. I myself find it very hard to put aside time to practice my photography. There always seems to be something more pressing that needs to get done.

This past year the board has tried to come up with some ideas for club photo shoots. Last summer we enjoyed a lighthouse and a sunset cruise. Both cruises offered unique opportunities for photos. In the fall we did the Photo Safari and a nighttime shoot. And in June we watched Daryl Smith, a local glass blower, demonstrate his craft for us while we took pictures. It was really an experience for me to watch Daryl make beautiful objects right before my eyes.

Each of these 'photography meetups' turned out to be more fun and interesting than I had expected. I would do every one of them again. We have a whole list of photo shoot ideas that you as members have provided to us. Going into the 2019-2020 season, we want to offer a club photo shoot every month. I know your schedules are packed, but I'd like you to give each of these photo shoots some consideration. It may be something that you feel you're not interested in doing. Maybe the location of the activity is further than you'd like to travel. Or maybe you've already been there before. If any of these issues come to mind, please give it another thought. These activities will provide you with an opportunity to practice using your camera, or try out that new lens or filter you may have just bought, or even offer just a chance to collaborate with other club members on how to get the best shot under whatever conditions we're faced with.

I hope to see many, if not all of you at some of the photography meetups we have planned for this summer (see page 3 for dates) and throughout the upcoming 2019-2020 season.



Daryl Smith, glass blower, at our photography meetup in June. Photo taken by Allison Maltese

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Meeting Schedule2
- Exhibit Schedule.....2
- Help Wanted.....3
- Annual CCC Project.....3
- Meetups3
- CCC Flickr Page3
- Gladeview Slide Shows3
- Fall Events4
- Determining ISO Threshold.....4
- Gladeview Winning Photos.....6
- Joint Competition Winners.....10
- Message from the President.....11
- Cartoon11

“What makes photography a strange invention is that its primary raw materials are light and time.”

.... John Berger

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2019—2020 PRELIMINARY MEETING SCHEDULE

September 18 —Meet and Greet; Show members summer project photos

October 2 —TBD

October 16 —Opening for Senior Center Fall Exhibit

November 6—TBD

November 20 —Critique Meeting

December 4—Pot Luck Christmas Party

January 15, 2020—Print Critique Meeting

February 5, 2020—Mark Janke Presentation on Lenses

February 19, 2020—Critique Meeting

March 4, 2020—Mini Workshop Night

March 18, 2020—40 Slide Review

April 1, 2020—Joint Competition with SECCC

April 15, 2020—Presentation by Hank Paper on Street Photography

May 6, 2020—Gladeview Show Opening Reception

May 20, 2020—Club Annual Project review

June 3, 2020 - Annual Business Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner

2019—2020 EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

October 9, 2019—Senior Center Fall Show hang 5-7 pm

November 24, 2019—Senior Center Show take down 8:30am -4pm

January 11, 2020—Connecticut Hospice Drop off 12:00—2:00pm

February 29, 2020—Connecticut Hospice take down

March 2, 2020—Senior Center Spring Member’s Show hang 5-7pm

April 10, 2020—Senior Center Show take down 8:30am—4pm

May 2, 2020—Gladeview Show drop off 12:00—2:00pm

June 27, 2020—Gladeview Show take down

MEETUPS

We had a great photo shoot on Saturday, June 15th at Daryl Smith's glass blowing studio in Killingworth. Twelve members took pictures while Daryl told us all about his craft, how he learned to blow glass, where he went to school and his custom glass blowing job at Yale, all the while demonstrating how it's done. We have two meetups scheduled for the summer that are listed below. Other ideas are listed also but not yet scheduled. Contact Sue Frechette at wfrprs@att.net for more information.

Gardens at Elizabeth Park—Sunday July 21st. Meet to carpool at 4pm.

Shoreline Trolley Museum Photographer's Night—Saturday, August 24th

Weir Farm National Historic Site in Wilton

Ray of Light Animal Rescue in East Haddam

Hammonasset State Park Night Shoot

Mystic Seaport

Indoor Antique Mall

HELP WANTED

First, we are very happy and grateful to have Janet Rathbun take over hospitality. This function has needed a dedicated chairperson for several years. Thank you Janet for volunteering! We still have openings on committees. Many of our board members are currently filling more than one role or could use help on the committee they chair. If you are interested in helping to steer club activities and are willing to take on a few tasks throughout the year, we would welcome your help. Please contact Maryann or any board member if you have an interest.

GLADEVIEW SLIDE SHOWS

We continue to share our photos with the residents at Gladeview Health Center. These shows help the residents stay in touch with the outside world and often invoke memories. We've received very positive feedback from the facility. We will need volunteers to do slide shows through the upcoming months. Travel is always an enjoyable topic as well as local scenes and events, but other topics are also welcome. The presentation should take about thirty minutes or less. Our experience is that 50–60 images will usually fit into that timeframe. You can use the club projector as well as the club laptop if you need it. The facility is flexible on scheduling a Tuesday that will work for you. Please consider volunteering. It's fun, the audience is enthusiastic, and it's a nice way to show some of your great images. If you would like to do a slide show but need help with creating or presenting it, let Maryann know and one of us will be happy to give you a hand. We will also accompany you during your presentation, if you'd like a little extra support.

ANNUAL CCC PROJECT

The theme for our 2019-2020 Annual CCC Project will be "Monochrome". This can include photos in black & white, sepia, or any use of one color. Most processing/post-processing software such as Adobe Lightroom includes simple one click conversions. In the case of Lightroom there is a suite of different B&W styles to choose from. Sometimes you can improve an image further by tweaking the settings after you use one of the templates. Here is a tutorial that you can look at for some tips.

<https://digital-photography-school.com/using-color-temperature-in-black-and-white-conversions/>

FLICKR

We have noticed that the images loaded to our Flickr site has been diminishing. In order to make it easier for members to contribute, we've decided to no longer request images that fit a theme. Instead we'd like members to load their images to our Flickr site whenever they have an image they would like to share with the club. If you are not familiar with our Flickr site, here is the link. We look forward to seeing your images.

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/coastalcameraclub/>

SUMMER EVENTS

NECCC Conference 2019; July 12,13 and 14th. Held at UMass Amherst. For details go to <http://www.neccc.org/p/2019-conference.html>

New Britain Museum of American Art: Expanded Field: Photography from the Collection of the NBMAA: August 2nd – September 29th. For more info go to <http://www.nbmaa.org/exhibition/expanded-field-photography-from-the-collection-of-the-nbmaa>

Bauer Farm Photo Contest: Entry form available for download on our website www.coastalcameraclub.org

Elizabeth Park Club Photo Shoot: Sunday, July 21st: Meet to carpool at 4pm. Weather permitting, we will do an early evening shoot of the gardens at Elizabeth Park. Optionally we can have an evening meal together at one of the restaurants in the area.

Shoreline Trolley Museum: Photographers Night August 24 from 7-9 pm. This will be our club photo shoot for August. There is a \$10 admission. Antique trolley cars will be on display with their lights on. A number of short run-bys and stills will be set up on the Branford marsh trestle curve area and in the carbarn-yard area. This is open to the public so you may bring your family and friends. For more information go to <http://http://shorelinetrolley.org/event/photography-night/>

Connecticut College Arboretum: Potential photo ops with ongoing summer programs. Go to <https://www.conncoll.edu/the-arboretum/programs-and-activities/>

DETERMINING YOUR CAMERA'S ISO NOISE THRESHOLD

By Mike Frechette

In photography, correct exposure means getting the right amount of light to the camera sensor so that we can capture the image that we see. There are three elements that control exposure; aperture, shutter speed and ISO.

ISO is the sensitivity of the camera's sensor in detecting light. The higher the ISO, the faster the sensor will capture light. Cameras are able to achieve higher ISO settings by boosting the amplification of the signal coming from the individual sensor cells. As with any electronic amplification, the more you boost the signal, the greater the noise. Think of a radio that is very faintly picking up a radio station. If you increase the volume, the station will be louder but you may also hear a lot of static that makes it harder to hear. Your camera is similar to that radio; as you increase the ISO, you will get more noise.

All cameras are different when it comes to noise thresholds. It can be very useful to know how high you can push the ISO on your camera before the level of noise becomes unacceptable. Here I will explain how you can test the ISO for your camera and determine where that threshold is.

First, you'll need to know your camera's base level ISO. The easiest way to find this out is to look it up on the internet for your specific camera. Next, compose an image that has very high contrast; usually an outdoor image shot at noon will do. Set your camera to its base ISO and then set the F-stop and shutter speed to settings that will expose for the light areas in your picture. Adjust the F-stop and shutter speed until you are satisfied with the exposure. Then start increasing the ISO setting and adjust the shutter speed to keep the exposure the same. As your ISO setting doubles, this is the equivalent to one F-stop. So if your starting image was taken using F-11 and a shutter speed of 125th of a second with the ISO set at 100, then changing the ISO to 200 will mean that you must set your shutter speed to 250th of a second in order to keep the exposure the same. Keep taking pictures, doubling the ISO setting each time and increasing the shutter speed accordingly, but keeping the aperture the same. Getting to ISO 3200 is good but even getting up to ISO 1600 should be fine.

Now that you've taken the series of pictures, load them into Lightroom, Photoshop, or whatever processing software you use. Examine all the dark areas in the photos of each of the ISO settings. As the ISO is increased, the graininess of the image should become more apparent. At some point this graininess will be unacceptable to you as a photographer. The ISO at this point becomes your maximum acceptable ISO. If you are at this maximum and still need to adjust the exposure, change your aperture or shutter speed.

Here are a few other caveats to take into consideration. Long exposure times will create more noise. This is because the creation of noise is time dependent, meaning that the possibility of "overloading" a pixel with bad light data increases as the exposure time increases. Also, smaller sensors will create more noise. A micro 4/3 sensor at ISO 800 will produce the same amount of noise as a full frame camera at ISO 3200. This is one of the advantages of a full frame camera. It is also a why photos taken with a cell phone tend to have more noise than photos taken with a DSLR.

The following photos provide a good illustration.



ISO 100



ISO 1600



ISO 400

I took these at midday; the sun was bright and the contrast was high and I forgot my tripod. I set my ISO to 100 (left photo), my shutter speed was set to 1/80 of a second and the shutter stop was set to F11. The picture on the left is the result. As you can see, this was just a little too slow to prevent blur from the camera movement. I then gradually increased the shutter speed and ISO. The middle picture was taken at ISO 1600. Clearly there is too much noise here. Browsing through all the pictures in Lightroom, I felt the photo taken at ISO 400 (on the right) and a shutter speed of 1/320th of a second was the best compromise. This image has some noise but very little blur.

These pictures were pushed for sharpness in order to illustrate the differences in noise. Also the pictures were “magnified” far beyond normal so that the noise could be clearly seen.

Every camera is different. Take a few minutes and try this with your own camera in order to find out the camera’s maximum ISO that you are comfortable with as a photographer. This information will only help in creating your best images.

GLADEVIEW PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW WINNERS

Our spring show at the Gladeview Health Care and Rehab center was a great success this year. We had a total of fifty eight images submitted by fourteen members. Gladeview hosted an outstanding reception for us on May 1st which was well attended by club members and their family and friends. Here are the first place winners in each category.



'Winter Sunrise' by Jim Maresca —1st place in the Landscape/Seascape Category



'Wild Lupine' by Sue Frechette —1st place in the Nature Category and Best in Show



‘Rescued Draft Horse’ by Dave Rathbun —1st place in the General Category



‘Happy Spring by Anne Mele —1st place in the People Category



'Two Faces' by Mike Frechette —1st place in the Creative Category



'Juvenile Night Heron' by Allison Maltese —1st place in the Nature—Hand of Man Category



‘Old Town Vilnius’ by Anne Mele —1st place in the Architecture Category

CCC/SECCC JOINT COMPETITION RESULTS

Abstract: 1st place: Drea Koval (SECCC) 'In the Reeds'; tied for 2nd Place: Peter Chow (CCC) 'Spirit of Buddah'; Jacek Borkowski (CCC) 'Venice Reflections'; tied for 3rd Place: Brian Alpert (SECCC) 'Fire Dancer'; Allison Maltese (CCC) 'Water Wiggle; Paula Chabot (SECCC) 'Wind Flowers'.

Creative: 1st place: Drea Koval (SECCC) 'Love Letters'; tied for 2nd place: Jacek Borkowski (CCC) 'Roman Vacation'; David Candler (SECCC) 'Tiny Bubbles' tied for 3rd place: Drea Koval (SECCC) 'End of the Night'; Mary Tomasi (SECCC) 'Flower Lace'; Mary Ann Lewis (SECCC) 'Ghost Town'.

Color: tied for 1st place: Peter Chow (CCC) 'Grapes and St. George'; Peter Chow (CCC) 'Piazzo of St. Francis Basilic'; tied for 2nd place: David Candler (SECCC) 'Going Down'; David Candler (SECCC) 'Ponder Tranquility'; Allison Maltese (CCC) 'Tagged Monarchs'; Drea Koval (SECCC) 'Venician Gondola'; Mary Ann Lewis (SECCC) 'The Parting Glass'; tied for 3rd place: Mike Cohn (SECCC) 'Blue Teal & Black Suit'; Maryann Flick (CCC) 'End of Day'; Jacek Borkowski (CCC) 'Just Winter'.

Black & White: 1st place: Mike Cohn (SECCC) 'Osprey Catch'; 2nd place: Jacek Borkowski (CCC) 'Timeless Relationship'; tied for 3rd place: Brian Alpert (SECCC) 'Denali Pano'; Mike Cohn (SECCC) 'Owl'; Michael Frechette (CCC) 'Witch Way'; Mark Janke (CCC) 'The Elements'; Dianne Roberts (CCC) 'Calla'.

Nature: tied for 1st place: Janet Donch (SECCC) 'Nest Builder'; Mary Ann Lewis (SECCC) 'Hunter'; tied for 2nd place: Jacek Borkowski (CCC) 'Bird and Iceberg'; Peter Chow (CCC) 'Oxbow Bend'; Dianne Roberts (CCC) 'Thailand Monkey'; tied for 3rd place: Cathy Downie (SECCC) 'Courting Common Terns; Cathy Downie (SECCC) 'Hungry Cardinal'.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Unlike the school year for students, the end of the camera club year always seems to come too quickly. But I am glad that we take the summers off. Preparing for meetings is not trivial for myself and the board. I only hope that all of you continue making images and reading about photography over the summer so you don't lose momentum. And while you are out shooting, don't forget to include some monochromes for the annual member's project as well as a few images of summer through your eyes, to show at our first meeting in September.

I hope you found this year interesting and helpful to your hobby. Through the years, I've found that even programs I didn't expect to be interesting had at least one lesson that was useful or at least worth my time to learn about; even if I never have a need to use it. Often a lesson in one genre of photography is applicable to others.

Wishing you all interesting skies and good light.

Maryann



Submitted by Paula Chabot