



Eastside Camera Club News Letter

Shelby Township Activities Center, 14975 21 Mile Rd

Website - <https://www.eccmacomb.com/>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/eastsidecameraclub>

Flickr - <https://www.flickr.com/groups/1033583@N21/>

Hash Tag: #eastsidecameraclub



[New Members](#) | [Group Outings](#) | [Group Meetings](#) | [News](#) | [Calendar](#)

New Members

None

Group Outings

July 12th Applewood Estate

August 18th Armada Fair

September 13th Detroit Night

Group Meetings

June 19th:

Special Assignment: [1st Responders/Patriotic](#)

Color Creative & Very Best

July 17th:

Special Assignment: [Street Photography \(with people\)](#)

Monochrome & Very Best

August 21st:

Special Assignment: [Flowers/Floral](#)/ History/Old

Group Shoot & Very Best

September 18th:

Special Assignment: Rural/
Country,
Nature & Very Best

UPDATE!

For members that cannot attend a monthly meeting in person, are encouraged to submit pictures. If you do submit photos please put a "Z" at the start of the file name.

We are doing this for time reasons. We have run out of time during some of our meetings and would like to make sure we get through the photos of the people that are present at the meeting.

By putting a "Z" at the front of the file name, your photos will be loaded last in the sequence and if time allows we will review them during the meeting.

Mentoring

Our mentoring list is live on our website. Feel free to head on over and use the resources for single questions or for some full on one on one mentoring.

Here's a link to the list of topics and mentors:

[Eastside Mentoring Program](#)

Group Outings

July 12th Applewood Estate - Flint:

Applewood is the historic home of automotive pioneer Charles Stewart Mott and family.

August 16th Armada Fair - Armada:

Details coming.

September 13th Detroit Night Shoot

October 4th Belle Isle



Community Events

[New Center Walking Tour](#)

Sat, June 07, 2025
12:00 PM EDT

[Blakes Strawberry Festival](#)

Sat June 21st -22nd

[Detroit Fireworks](#)

Wed June 25th

[Shelby Fireworks](#)

Fri June 27th



Monthly Training

- [Photographing Fireworks](#)
- [Photographing Star Trails](#)
- [4 Photography Composition Tips](#)
- [Portrait Mode in iPhone's Camera](#)
- [Add Text Behind Object in Photoshop](#)
- [Change Background Color in Photoshop](#)

Composition Simplified

Our second installment of Composition Simplified.

The Circle

Round objects of every description lend themselves admirably to the circular type of composition.

Brooks, pools and pleasing vistas can be framed with overhanging branches. Keep the interest centered as much as possible. Failure or success is sometimes determined by the amount of interest attached to the foreground. If the background is the most pleasing feature of the picture, keep the foreground simple and unobtrusive. The foreground is the most interesting part, the background should be kept simple.

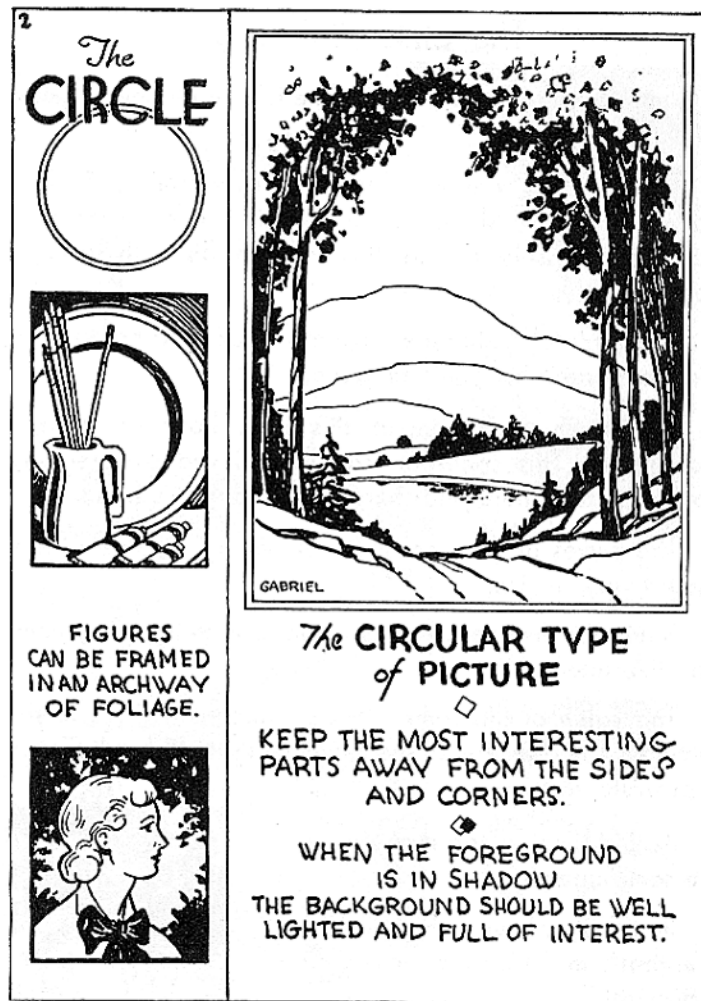
Circular compositions have the same psychological effect as gun targets. The center or bull's-eye is always the chief point of attraction. In pictures, however, the center of interest should be kept away from the exact middle. The reason for this is that the eye would become glued there and other parts would suffer for want of attention. The most interesting parts should contain the strongest lights and deepest shadows. The eye should have easy access From one point of interest to another. Keep distracting lights away from the sides and corners.

Wheels and rings of various descriptions can be arranged into pleasing modernistic designs.



Previous Monthly Trainings

- [Why Aperture Affects Depth of Field](#)
- [Photoshop Elements Brighten and Add Color](#)
- [Tips for composition and framing to create better street pictures](#)
- [Lightroom on Mobile for Beginners](#)
- [How to add a white border](#)
- [One Click to better Selections in Lightroom](#)
- [Delete you old Lightroom Catalogs](#)
- [Remove Electric Lines](#)
- [Lightroom Basics: A Beginner's Guide](#)
- [How to Create Presets in Luminar Neo](#)



COMPOSITION SIMPLIFIED By Hermon Gabriel

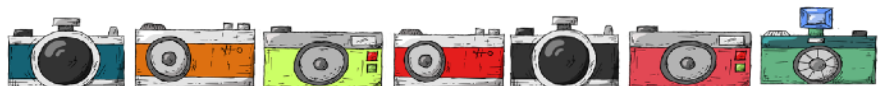
Photographing the Milky Way

Last month's meeting we had a discussion about photographing stars and the Milky Way. Bill Buchanan took some time and put together the following information.

Recommended Settings for Photographing Stars

1. Shooting Mode:

- Manual (M): Essential for full control over exposure settings, as automatic modes struggle in low-light conditions.



Who to Follow?

[The Other Photo Guy](#)

(YouTube)

If you have someone you think we should be following let me know and I will add them to the newsletter.

Fun Photo Apps:

Distressed FX

Snapseed- Free

Lightroom Mobile w/
subscription

Touch Retouch

Image Blender

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2. Aperture (f-stop):

- Use the widest aperture your lens allows, ideally f/1.8 to f/2.8, to gather as much light as possible. For example:
- If using the RF 50mm f/1.8, set it to f/1.8.
- If using the RF-S 18-150mm f/3.5-6.3, zoom to the widest focal length (18mm) for f/3.5.
- A fast lens (low f-number) is critical for capturing faint stars.

3. Shutter Speed:

- Use the 500 Rule to avoid star trails due to Earth's rotation: $500 \div \text{focal length} = \text{maximum exposure time in seconds}$.
- Example: For a 24mm lens, $500 \div 24 \approx 20$ seconds.
- For the R7's APS-C sensor (1.6x crop factor), adjust for effective focal length: e.g., a 24mm lens is 38.4mm equivalent, so $500 \div 38.4 \approx 13$ seconds.
- Start with 10-20 seconds and check for trailing. If you want pinpoint stars, shorter exposures (e.g., 8-15 seconds) may be needed.
- For longer exposures (e.g., star trails), use a star tracker or stack multiple short exposures in post-processing.

4. ISO:

- Set to ISO 1600 to 6400 as a starting point. The R7's APS-C sensor performs well at high ISOs, but noise increases above ISO 6400.
- ISO 1600: Good for bright stars and low noise.
- ISO 3200-6400: Captures fainter stars but may need noise reduction in post.
- Test shots and check the histogram to ensure stars are visible without overexposing bright ones.

Eastside Camera Club, a club member of the [Photographic Society of America](#)



"YOUR FIRST 10,000 PHOTOGRAPHS ARE YOUR WORST."
Henri Cartier-Bresson



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5. Focus:

- Use Manual Focus (autofocus struggles in the dark).
- Point at a bright star or planet, use Live View, and zoom in (5x or 10x) on the R7's touchscreen. Adjust focus until the star is a sharp pinpoint.
- Alternatively, set focus to infinity (∞) on your lens, but fine-tune as the exact infinity mark varies.
- Use Focus Peaking (if enabled) to confirm sharpness.
- Tape the focus ring to prevent accidental shifts.

6. White Balance:

- Set to Daylight (5200K) or Tungsten (3200-4000K) to approximate the natural color of stars.
- Shoot in RAW to adjust white balance in post-processing (e.g., Lightroom or Canon DPP) for accurate colors and to correct for light pollution.

7. File Format:

- Shoot in RAW for maximum dynamic range and flexibility in editing exposure, noise, and colors.
- If using JPEG, select Fine quality, but RAW is strongly preferred for astrophotography.

8. Image Stabilization:

- Turn off both lens IS and the R7's In-Body Image Stabilization (IBIS). Stabilization can cause issues with long exposures on a tripod, as it may misinterpret Earth's rotation.

9. Metering Mode:

- Metering is irrelevant in Manual mode for astrophotography, as the camera's meter is unreliable in near-darkness. Use the histogram to check exposure.

10. Long Exposure Noise Reduction:

- Disable in-camera Long Exposure Noise Reduction to avoid doubling exposure time (it takes a dark frame after each shot).
- Handle noise reduction in post-processing (e.g., stacking or software like Topaz DeNoise AI).

Equipment Setup

- Tripod: A sturdy tripod is essential to keep the camera steady during long exposures. Weigh it down (e.g., with a bag) if it's windy.
- Lens Choice:
 - Wide-angle, fast lens (e.g., RF 16mm f/2.8, RF 35mm f/1.8, or a third-party lens like Samyang 14mm f/2.8) for capturing large star fields or the Milky Way.
 - A wider focal length (14-24mm) allows longer exposures without star trails and covers more of the sky.
- Remote Shutter or Intervalometer:
 - Use a remote shutter release or the R7's 2-second self-timer to avoid camera shake.
 - For multiple shots (e.g., for stacking), an intervalometer or the R7's built-in interval timer (in the menu) is useful.
- Star Tracker (optional): For exposures longer than the 500 Rule allows, a star tracker (e.g., Sky-Watcher Star Adventurer) compensates for Earth's rotation, enabling sharper stars or deep-sky objects.

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Shooting Tips

- Location: Choose a dark-sky site (Bortle 4 or lower) far from city lights. Apps like Stellarium or Dark Sky Finder can help.
- Timing: Shoot on a moonless night or when the moon is low to avoid sky glow. Late spring to early fall (May-September in the Northern Hemisphere) is ideal for Milky Way shots.
- Test Shots: Take a high-ISO test shot (e.g., ISO 12800, 5 seconds) to frame and focus, then adjust to final settings.
- Histogram: Ensure the histogram is slightly left of center (dark) but with a small peak for stars. Avoid clipping highlights (bright stars).
- Light Pollution: If light pollution is present, use a light pollution filter (e.g., Optolong L-Pro) or stack images to reduce sky glow in post.
- Battery: Bring extra batteries, as long exposures and cold nights drain power quickly.

Example Setup for Milky Way

- Lens: RF 16mm f/2.8
- Aperture: f/2.8
- Shutter Speed: 15 seconds ($500 \div 16 \div 1.6 \approx 19s$, rounded down for safety)
- ISO: 3200
- Focus: Manual, set to a bright star
- White Balance: 4000K or RAW
- Tripod: Stable, with timer or remote

Post-Processing

- Software: Use Adobe Lightroom, Photoshop, or free tools like DeepSkyStacker for stacking multiple images to reduce noise and enhance details.
- Adjustments:
 - Increase exposure and contrast to bring out stars.
 - Boost clarity and dehaze for Milky Way definition.
 - Adjust white balance to correct sky color.
 - Apply noise reduction sparingly to preserve star details.
- Stacking: Combine 10-20 exposures in software (e.g., Sequator or DeepSkyStacker) to improve signal-to-noise ratio and reveal fainter stars.

Additional Considerations

- Weather: Check for clear skies and low humidity. Avoid shooting through clouds or haze.
- Foreground: Include an interesting foreground (e.g., trees or mountains) for composition, but expose it separately (e.g., at lower ISO or during twilight) and blend in post.
- Practice: Astrophotography takes trial and error. Experiment with settings and review images on the R7's screen to refine.

If you're targeting deep-sky objects (e.g., nebulae) or using specific lenses, let me know, and I can adjust the advice. Want tips for editing star photos or choosing a dark-sky location?

2025 Calendar

2025 Eastside Camera Club Calendar

Revision #3 May 2025

	<u>Group Meeting</u>	<u>Special Assignment - 2 per meeting</u>	<u>Very Best - 1 per meeting</u>	<u>Rotating - 2 per meeting</u>	<u>Group Shoots</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
January	16	Kogarashi - A Cold Wind That Ushers In Winter	Very Best	Nature	11 - Harley Ensign / Lake St Clair Metro Park	Pete D
					30 - Indoor	Glen S
February	20	Table Top / Macro	Very Best	Color Creative		
March	20	Transportation	Very Best	Monochrome	15 - Lexus Dome	Germaine F
April	17	Action / Movement / Blur	Very Best	Group Shoot	5 - Cuyahoga Valley NP	Tim G
May	15	Long Exposure	Very Best	Nature **	8 Shelby Twp Fire Station #1 (23 Mile Rd)	Glen S
June	19	1st Responders / Patriotic	Very Best	Color Creative		
July	17	Street Photography (with people)	Very Best	Monochrome	12 - Applewood Estate (in Flint)	Glen S
August	21	Flowers / Floral / History / Old	Very Best	Group Shoot	16 - Aramada Fair	Glen S
September	18	Rural / Country	Very Best	Nature **	13 - Detroit Night	Jeff B
October	16	Detroit / City / Urban	Very Best	Color Creative	4 - Belle Isle	Pete D
					9 - Print Competition Mounting	Glen S / Jeff B / Pete D
November	20	Reflections (preferably upside down)	Very Best	Monochrome		
December	18	Best 10			6 - Pere Marquette 1225	Jeff B
January 2026	15	Trains / Trams / Busses	Very Best	Group Shoot		

** = Nature = no dogs, cats, farm animals, no hand-to-man.

Contribute to your newsletter!

If you have stories or other information for the club
please forward it to:

Pete Drellick @ peter.drellick@gmail.com



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