



Focal Point

The newsletter of the EASTSIDE CAMERA CLUB December 2025
Shelby Township Activities Center, 14975 21 Mile Rd



Contents:

[Group Outings](#)

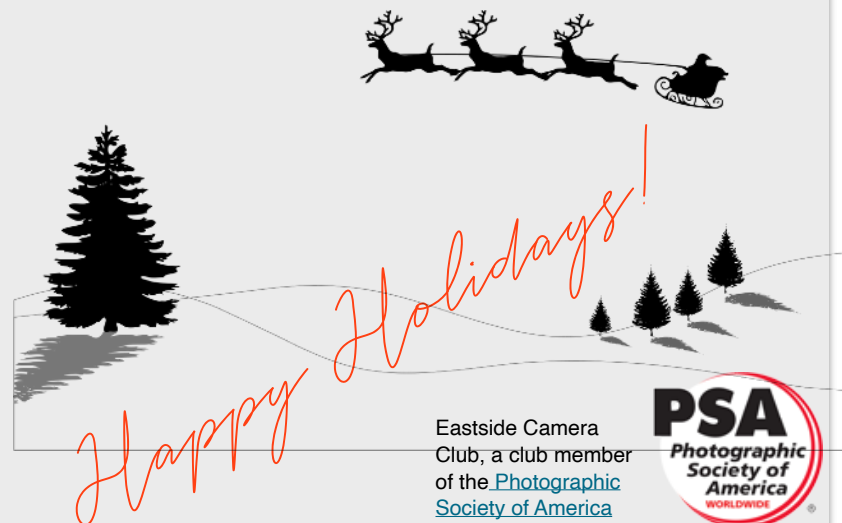
[Member Spotlight \(new!\)](#)

[Group Meetings](#)

[Member Photos](#)

[Member Articles](#)

[2026 Calendar](#)



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



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

New Members

Group Meetings

December 18th:

Best 10 from the year

January 15th:

Special Assignment: Trains/
Trams Busses, Group Shoot &
Very Best

Mentoring

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

[Eastside Mentoring Program](#)

Group Outings:

December 6th Pere Marquette 1225 (Maybe)

Member Spotlight

This months member in the spotlight is John Mattarella!

Favorite Style/Genre:

Landscape/Wildlife/Nature

How did you get started in photography?

I I have been photographing
since high school using a
Canon AE-1

What inspires you most when you're behind the camera?

Capturing a moment in time and
creating a post image that elicits
an emotional response from the
viewer.

Do you have a favorite photo you've taken — and what's the story behind it?

Photographing the Chapel of the Madonna di Vitaleta in Tuscany
Italy as the early morning light made for a very spiritual and
emotional moment.

What's one tip or lesson you've learned that you'd share with other photographers?

KNOW YOUR CAMERA settings and menus.

If you could photograph anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

National Geographic Explorer Photo Expedition for wildlife and
exotic landscapes.

Where can we see more of your work?

Instagram: [jmattarell](#)



Cover Photo

Lorell
Clinton River Rusty Bridge

Community Events

Kris Kringle Market

Dec 5th 4-10pm

W 4th st Rochester

Ford House - Drop in

Studio: Decorate an

Ornament Dec 6th

10am-2pm

Holiday Market @

Eastern Market

Dec 14th 10am - 4pm



Monthly Training

- [3 Questions That Make Every Photo Better!](#)
- [This NEW LIGHTROOM TOOL easily fixes a BIG PROBLEM!](#)
- [New AI Assisted Culling Feature in Lightroom](#)
- [Don't Make These Beginner Flash Mistakes](#)
- [FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY: Flash Power Settings For Beginners](#)
- [Light Depth Instantly Improved my Editing \(Luminar Neo\)](#)
- [STOP Fighting Photoshop Layers! The 1-Click BLENDING MODE You NEED](#)



Member Photos



Smoke
Michael Gleason

Member Photos



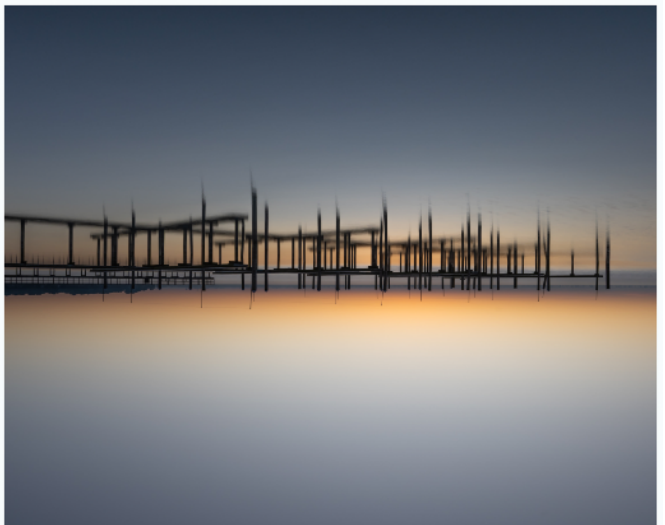
Palouse-Trees-Infer Red
Buchanan Bill



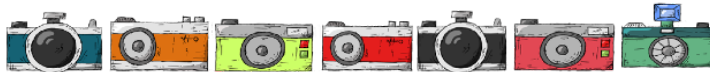
Dow Gardens Bridge Tom Vezina



Cat Tread Chet Jankowski



Docks Pete Drellick



Previous Monthly Trainings

- [Prepare an Image for Print in Photoshop - Step-by-Step](#)
- [5 HIDDEN HACKS in LIGHTROOM you NEVER KNEW existed!](#)
- [Lightroom's Darkest Editing Secret for Stunning FALL COLORS](#)
- [Welcome to 30 Days of Lightroom](#)
- [You'll Never View Dodge & Burn the Same After This \(Luminar Neo\)](#)
- [10X Your Masking in Luminar Neo \(3 Killer Tips\)](#)
- [5 Creative Tasks That Will Make You a Better Photographer](#)
- [CAMERA Stuff that's Actually WORTH the MONEY!](#)
- [One Click to Better Selections](#)
- [The NEW Actions Panel in Photoshop](#)
- [Cool New Stuff in LUMINAR NEO](#)
- [How to Capture Awesome Night Photos Handheld — No Tripod Needed!](#)
- [5 Quiet Photoshop Updates You May Have Missed](#)
- [30 Days of Photoshop with PHLEARN](#)

Composition Simplified

Our Ninth installment of Composition Simplified.

Opposition

The principle of opposition plays two important parts in picture building. First — it helps to establish harmony and balance; second — it gives depth to the picture.

The eye is always attracted to places where lines cross, or meet. Street corners are good illustrations of this principle. People instinctively congregate, or meet, at corners. Corners act as Focusing points in the picture. These corners, or intersections, Furnish the element of mystery, surprise or interest in pictures, the same as they do in life.

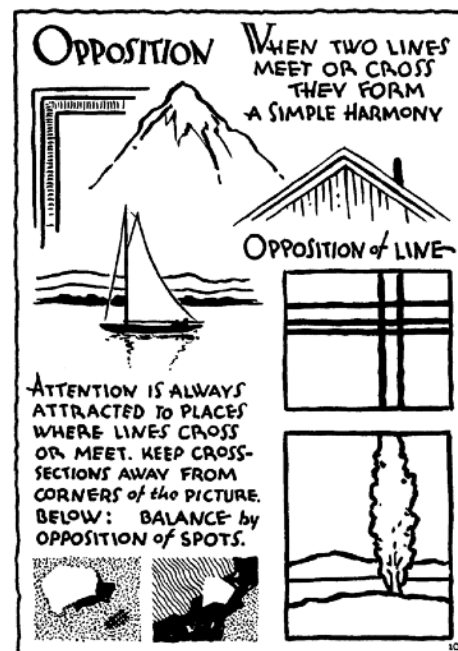
There must be a main cross-section, or point where lines meet, around which everything else centers.

The strongest lights and deepest shadows should lie close to the main intersection. Intersections should be kept away from the corners or sides of picture.

In order for a horizon line to appear distant, it should be crossed in some way by an oppositional tone or line. In sea pictures, vessels and smoke act as an oppositional line; in landscapes, trees act as oppositional lines.

Oppositional lines can cross at any angle. The closer they resemble a right angle, the more attractive they are.

You should try to avoid equal division of spaces.



COMPOSITION SIMPLIFIED By Hermon Gabriel



Who to Follow?

[Ben Willmore](#)

[Blake Rudis](#)

[Brendan Williams](#)

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

DUES!

Reminder, if you did not pay your dues at our October meeting please reach out to Lorell and make arrangements to pay your dues.

leongang2@comcast.net

Reminder

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



December 2025

Ten Foot Circle

By George E. Norkus "How and Why" Series

This is the Fifth of a 5 part Educational Series.

Back a few years, I was instructing photographers about being creative. It seemed they always came up with common pictures that were seen in various places, mainly on television and in magazines. A couple students wondered why I was not pleased with their work. Then I changed an assignment.

After telling them about the lack of creativeness in their photos, a new teaching method was enacted. We went out on a field and I told them to find something around here to come up with. Although it was better, it still wasn't as good as I wanted. Then it came to me. A ten foot circle!

Each person had a fresh roll of 24 exposure B&W Tri-X film. (Sorry I didn't mention that was back in the analog days.) Then we went to another field, I instructed each one of them to remain in the circle and obtain as many photos as they feel is necessary, then bring back negatives for me to examine.

Most of the negatives still didn't look that creative except I could tell that several had basically run out of "standard" ideas. Then the real creativity came out. Some negatives were of grass, some bugs, then others were part close and part farther away.

A few of the grass and bug photos looked very good. Everything was in an organized fashion and look very good. Many others showed an excellent views of close and far away objects combined.

I was very pleased with the outcome of this assignment. It made them think about what to photograph and their creativity was well noted.

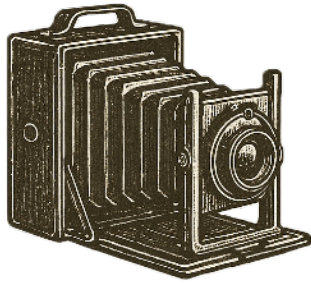
Now a days with digital cameras, you can take numerous pictures instead of the smaller number my past students did. I've mentioned this same thing to several others in the past few years. This does not need to be in a field either. Virtually anywhere on the planet will work just fine. So give it a try and get creative. Hopefully it will help.

Here is the link to the Story: [Ten Foot Circle](#)



Vol 1 #12

6



Shutter School



Join us on January 8, 2026 at 6:30 pm for our first session of Shutter School. This session will help you understand features in your camera that you might not be sure of how or when to use them. Bring your camera, lenses and any owner manuals you might have. The session will start with a short explanation on updating the firmware in your camera or lenses. After that, it will be an open forum with members available to help with your questions.

Sessions will be at the Shelby Activity Center.

If you plan to attend, please email t12griffin@gmail.com. In your email, please include your camera model and who is attending. Add Shutter School as the subject line in your email.



Reminder!

Click Outside the Lines

Newsletter only challenge for next year!

The Holidays are a great time to capture some of the first six month challenges. Remember, these will only be displayed in the newsletter.

January: Color Quest – Pick one color and let it guide your lens for the day.

February: Blur-tastic – Play with motion blur or intentional camera movement.

March: Mirror, Mirror – Capture reflections in water, glass, or anything shiny.

April: Get a Grip on Grit – Hunt for bold, unusual textures up close.

May: Flip the Script – Take a photo upside down and make the familiar feel strange.

June: Mini but Mighty – Turn small objects into heroes with clever framing.

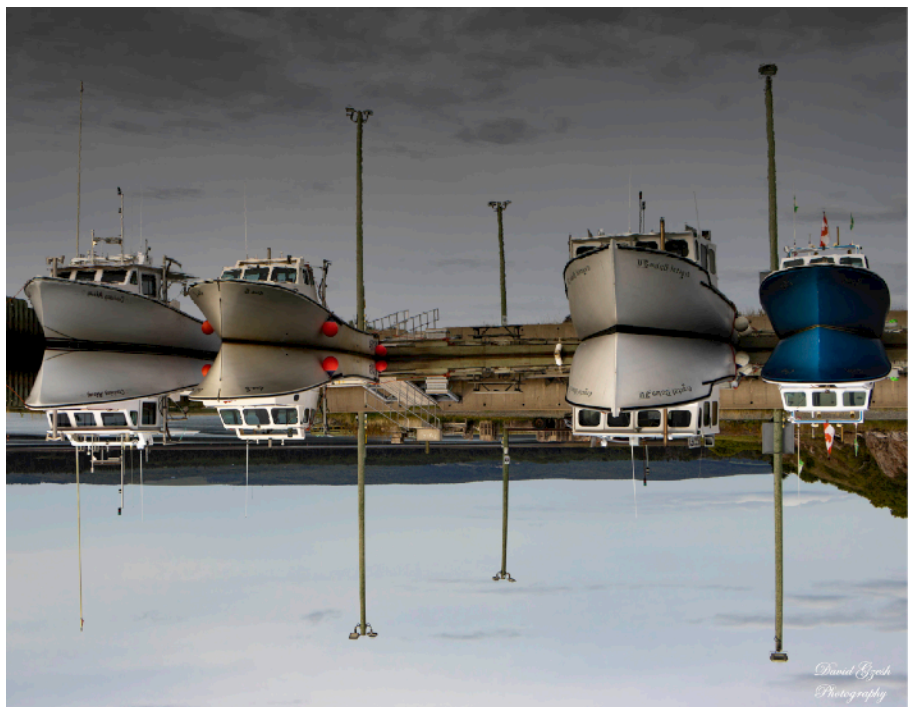
Just email your photos to peter.drellick@gmail.com prior to last week of the month.

First photo due the end of December 2025





Zebra Jeff Meurer



Fishing boat Dave Gzesh

Contribute to your newsletter!

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

Pete Drellick @ peter.drellick@gmail.com

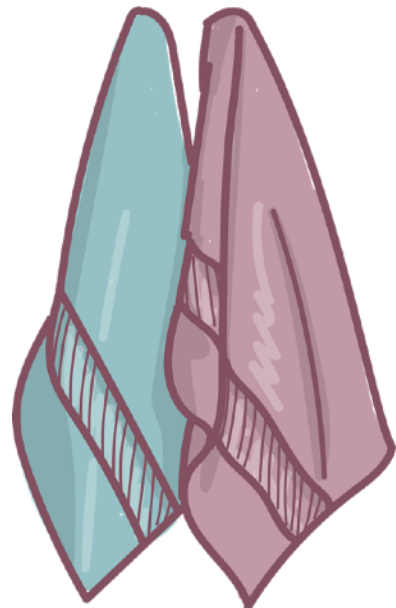
Behind the Lens Hacks

If you are planning to use your camera outside during the winter, here are a few things you should consider taking along.

Some type of lens cloth for wiping the water drops that form from the snow hitting the lens and melting.



The other item you might want is a towel for wiping off your camera body and lens once you back to your car or maybe have it handy for when you return to the cabin after a long walk in the woods.



Timothy Griffin



Black Swan Judy Gamache

2026 Calendar

[Link to Calendar](#)

2025 / 2026 Eastside Camera Club Calendar

Revision #8 Nov 2025

| Meeting Date | Special Assignment (SA) | Composition Rules (CR) | Very Best (VB) | Rotating (MO GS CC NA) | Group Shoots / Education | Date | GS Coordinator |
|--------------|--|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--|-----------|-----------------|
| January 2026 | <u>15</u> Trains / Trams / Busses <u>Ex1 Ex2</u> | <u>Rule of Thirds</u> | <u>Very Best</u> | <u>Group Shoot</u> | <u>Education - Get To Know Your Camera</u> | <u>8</u> | Tim G |
| | | | | | <u>In Door</u> | <u>22</u> | Glen S |
| February | <u>19</u> Subject: initial of last name | <u>Leading Lines</u> | <u>Very Best</u> | <u>Nature **</u> | <u>Education - Composition</u> | <u>5</u> | Tim G |
| | | | | | <u>Stahl's</u> | <u>7</u> | Lorell L |
| March | | | | | <u>Education - Milky Way / Night Sky</u> | <u>5</u> | Tim G |
| | <u>19</u> Macro <u>Ex1 Ex2</u> | <u>Patterns</u> | <u>Very Best</u> | <u>Color Creative</u> | <u>Detroit Historical Museum</u> | <u>14</u> | John M |
| April | <u>16</u> Throw Back to Years Ago <u>Ex1 Ex2</u> | <u>Fill the Frame</u> | <u>Very Best</u> | <u>Monochrome</u> | <u>Eastern Market Murals</u> | <u>18</u> | Tim G |
| May | <u>21</u> Music / Singing <u>Ex1 Ex2</u> | <u>Rule of Odds</u> | <u>Very Best</u> | <u>Group Shoot</u> | <u>Edsel/Eleanor Ford Estate</u> | <u>16</u> | Tim G |
| June | <u>18</u> Head Stones <u>Ex1 Ex2</u> | <u>Frame your Subject</u> | <u>Very Best</u> | <u>Nature **</u> | <u>Howell Balloon Fest</u> | <u>27</u> | John M |
| July | <u>16</u> Woods <u>Ex1 Ex2</u> | <u>Symmetry</u> | <u>Very Best</u> | <u>Color Creative</u> | <u>Detroit Polo Club</u> | <u>25</u> | Tim G |
| August | <u>20</u> Car Details <u>Ex1 Ex2</u> | <u>Diagonal</u> | <u>Very Best</u> | <u>Monochrome</u> | <u>Jackson Civil War Muster</u> | <u>15</u> | P Reed |
| September | <u>17</u> People At Work <u>Ex1 Ex2</u> | <u>Negative Space</u> | <u>Very Best</u> | <u>Group Shoot</u> | <u>Detroit Night Shoot</u> | <u>12</u> | John M / Tim G |
| October | | | | | <u>Print Competition Mounting</u> | <u>8</u> | Glen S / Pete D |
| | <u>15</u> Street Photography (w People) <u>defined</u> | <u>Rule of Space</u> | <u>Very Best</u> | <u>Nature **</u> | <u>Detroit River Walk</u> | <u>17</u> | Pete D |
| November | <u>19</u> Windows <u>Ex1 Ex2</u> | <u>Contrast</u> | <u>Very Best</u> | <u>Color Creative</u> | <u>In Door</u> | <u>5</u> | Glen S |
| December | <u>17</u> Best 10 | | | | <u>PM1225 or Lansing State Capitol</u> | <u>5</u> | Jeff B |
| January 2027 | <u>21</u> | | <u>Very Best</u> | <u>Monochrome</u> | | | |
| February | <u>18</u> | | <u>Very Best</u> | <u>Group Shoot</u> | | | |

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

2026 Calendar Categories

For each meeting starting in January you will submit a total of 5 photos. One photo for each category (Special Assignments, Composition Rules, Very Best & Rotating). Your fifth photo can be a photo from any of the 4 categories. Yes you can submit 2 Very Best photos if you would like!

Jeff has put hot links into the calendar (anything underlined) these links will take you to examples of photos for each category or an article pertaining to Composition Rules. (Click the Calendar to go to the website)

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

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

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

Hash Tag: #eastsidecameraclub

