Focal Point

The newsletter of the EASTSIDE CAMERA CLUB February 2026

Shelby Township Activities Center, 14975 21 Mile Rd

Contents:

Announcement!

The Newsletter has a new email address:

eccmacombnewsletter@gmail.com

Eastside Camera Club, a club member of the Photographic Society of America

New Members | Group Outings | Group Meetings | News | Calendar

New Members

Carmelo Cupelli
Matt Lijewski
Anne Johnson

Group Meetings

February 19th:

Special Assignment: Initial of Last Name, Leading Lines, Nature & Very Best

March19th:

Special Assignment: Macro, Patterns, Color Creative, Very Best

April 16th:

Special Assignment: Throw Back to Years Ago , Fill the Frame, Monochrome & Very Best

May 21st:

Special Assignment: Music / Singing, Rule of Odds, Group Shoot & Very Best

June 18th:

Special Assignment: Head Stones, Frame your Subject, Nature & Very Best

July 16th:

Special Assignment: Woods, Symmetry, Color Creative & Very Best

Mentoring

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

Eastside Mentoring Program

Cover Photo

Bill Buchanan
Bodie-Church-Painting

Group Outings:

February 7th Stahl's
March 14th Detroit Detroit Historical Museum
April 18th Eastern Market Murals
May 16th Edsel/Eleanor Ford Estate
June 27th Howell Balloon Fest
July 25th Detroit Polo Club

Shutter School: @ Shelby Township Activities Center

February 5th Composition
March 5th Milky Way / Night Sky

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.

Eastside Camera Club - Years in Review (after December 2025 meeting)

Club Membership:

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
	42	39	31	17	18

Finances:

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
	$797	$1058	$650	$442	$579

Group Shoots:

2025   10   136 members attended & 8 guests

(Harley Ensign/Lake St Clair MP, In-door, Velodrome, Cuyahoga Falls, Shelby Twp Fire Station, Flint, Armada Fair, Detroit night, Belle Isle, Eastern Market/St. Joseph Shrine)

2024   12   142 members & 10 guests attended

(Stahl's, In Door, Velodrome, Windsor, Ren/Cen People Mover, Eastern Market murals, Michigan Central, Detroit Night Shoot, Belle Isle, Tillson Street, Detroit Parade Co, Belle Isle Conservatory/ Aquarium)

2023   12   95 members & 6 guests attended

(Pere Marquette 225, In Door, Stepping Stone Falls, Harper Cruise Night, Michigan Central Station at Night, Lansing, Detroit City Walk, Port Huron, Orchid Show, Stahl's, CRAMBA Bike Fest, Detroit Historical Museum/Fisher Building)

2022   10   39 members & 2 guests attended

(Kirk in the Hill church/Oak Hill cemetery, Cuyahoga Valley NP/Marblehead Lighthouse, Detroit walk, Woods N Water, Detroit River walk, SANG Airshow, Cars R Stars, Detroit Zoo, The Henry Ford, Lake Michigan Frozen Lighthouses)

Pictures Shown at Meetings:

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Total	1,339	1,260	909	809	638

Print Competition Winners:

2025	Color:	1st Steve F	2nd Lou P	3rd Sue G
	Mono:	1st Tom V	2nd Jeff M	3rd John M
2024	Color:	1st Jeff B	2nd Chet J	3rd Pete D
	Mono:	1st John M	2nd Glen S	3rd Germaine F
2023:	Color:	1st Jeff M	2nd Pete D	
	Mono:	1st Paul P	2nd Lorell	

Who to Follow?

Kieran Hayes

John Greengo

Hudson Henry

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

Monthly Training

• AI Edit Status and LIGHTROOM

• Making Good Light Even Better in LR or PS

• How to Sculpt Light in Luminar Neo

• This Mask Changed How I Edit in Luminar Neo

• 2 Ways to Remove Anything in Photoshop

• Photoshop generative partner model is at restoring old photographs

• How to Remove Distractions With the Clone Stamp in Photoshop

Articles

• COLOR THEORY IN PHOTOGRAPHY

• LIGHTROOM COLOR GRADING

• Photo Competition Prep

Member Spotlight

This months member in the spotlight is Bill Buchanan.

I've been involved in photography for most of my life, and over the years it has become much more than a creative pursuit — it's been a way to teach, mentor, and connect with others who share a love of the medium. Teaching has always been especially important to me, and I've been fortunate to spend many years presenting programs and leading seminars throughout the Detroit area, as well as at regional and national photography conferences.

I'm a strong advocate for digital photography and electronic image capture, and I've enjoyed being part of that evolution within camera clubs and the Photographic Society of America (PSA). I previously served as Chairman of PSA's Electronic Imaging Division and have been an active PSA member for more than 52 years. Along the way, I've remained deeply involved in PSA Study Groups and the Portfolio Distinctions program as a trained Assessor.

I've been honored to receive several PSA awards for service and leadership, including the Stanley B. Ashbrook, Jr. Memorial Award, the PSA Service Award, election as an Honorary Member of PSA, and the PSA Scales Award for Long-Term Service. I currently serve as Chairman of the PSA Society Recognition Awards Committee.

When I'm behind the camera, I'm especially drawn to architecture and landscapes. I enjoy exploring how light, structure, and a sense of place come together to tell a story. Photography, for me, is both a creative practice and a form of quiet reflection—a way to be attentive to God's creation, to see with intention, and to share what I've learned with others. The emergence of iPhone photography has opened exciting new opportunities in creativity and technology, and I continue to be inspired by how these tools have changed the way I see, create, and teach. I'm grateful for the opportunity to share that journey and encourage others as they explore their own photographic paths.

Previous Monthly Trainings

- [Luminar Neo's Newest Tool](#)
- [How to Select and Change Colors in Photoshop](#)
- [The BEST Way to IMPROVE a LIGHTROOM Sky Mask!](#)
- [Lightroom Landscape Masking – DEEP DIVE](#)
- [Rule of Thirds in Photography: The Essential Guide](#)
- [The AMAZING LIGHTROOM HACK that takes intersecting masks to a new level!](#)
- [How to Photograph Snowflakes](#)
- [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 NEED5 HIDDEN HACKS in LIGHTROOM you NEVER KNEW existed!](#)

Member Spotlight   Continued from Pg 4

Bill Buchanan

New Member Spotlight

Matt Lijewski

How long have you been into photography, and what do you love shooting most?

I have been in photography for 10 years but have taken it more seriously in the past year. I love shooting wildlife the most, large mammals are my favorite especially apex predators. Kenya and Svalbard were my favorite safaris that I have shot on.

What camera or gear are you currently using?

Nikon Z8 & DJI Mini 5 Pro drone.

Share one fun fact about yourself (photography-related or not!)

I have traveled to all 7 continents.

Composition Simplified
Repetition

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.

Member Photos

Dashboard Dancer Lorell Leon

Before the science of speech was developed, man expressed his Feelings with crude images carved on stone. These images are the earliest examples of story telling in picture form.

Later on, as man developed his intellect, these forms became more varied and expressive. Man's concept of form, as an expression of beauty, gradually developed until he was able to express his thoughts and Feelings in words as well as in pictures. The repetition of letters in words have meanings — and similarly repetition of Forms give meanings to pictures.

Repetition gives rhythm or swing to the picture. It can be made to express moods, thoughts or feelings.

Repetition plays an important part in modernistic art. It helps to establish a definite pattern and decorative quality. By its use, emphasis can be created in any part of the picture.

Too much repetition is disastrous, and should be avoided.

Its use in the decorative arts is invaluable. By repeating forms and arranging them into interesting patterns, one can create beautiful designs for wall papers, Fabrics, and advertising illustrations.

Once knowledge of this principle of repetition has been mastered, the Field for its decorative use is unlimited.

Improve Your Photos Displayed on Our Website

(EccMacomb.com)
by Jeff Bondono

You might have noticed the slide shows on our __https://www.eccmacomb.com/indexPastEvents.html Past Events Page__ have been improved recently, on your Desktop, Laptop, Tablet, and especially, your Phone. When you click a thumbnail on that page, all the photos submitted to that meeting or pertaining to that group shoot are displayed. If you click one of those photos, it enlarges to fill much of the screen and lets you move from photo to photo, or startup an automatic slide show. But I'd like to draw your attention to the text below the enlarged photos. Here is __ Feb 20, 2025 Meeting Photos&ImageFolder=/MeetingPhotos/202502 __an example of what can potentially appear using the 3 tips below__.

To have that information shown, you must supply the info within the photo you export for display during the meeting:

1. If you fill in the Caption field for your photo within Lightroom (Library Module - Metadata Subpanel), that caption will display directly beneath your photo, to the right of the filename. This lets you say a little (or a lot) more about the photo than the filename was able to convey.

2. Include your Metadata in the photos you submit. If you export from Lightroom with __https://www.eccmacomb.com/LightroomExportMeetingSettings.jpg these metadata subpanel settings__, the website will display the date/time the photo was taken, and the camera settings on the second line of text. If you exclude Metadata, your settings and caption won't be exported, so nothing will display. Also, since the date/time isn't supplied, I can't identify that your photo was taken during a group shoot, so it won't appear in any group shoot slide show.

3. Put your copyright info into the photos you submit. You can __https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uu-ugEdjD0 set lightroom up to do this automatically__, or use the copyright setting in many newer camera menus. Doing so will display your copyright info on the third line of text under your photo, asserting your legal ownership to every viewer.

Bonus tip: on the __https://www.eccmacomb.com/indexPastEvents.html Past Events Page__ type your name into the search box, then hit the Search button, and you'll see all the photos you've ever submitted to the club. Do this on your phone, and you can show your club photos to your friends! Search works for any exact-matching word, partial word, or phrase in the filename, like 'tuscany' or 'owl', not just people's names.
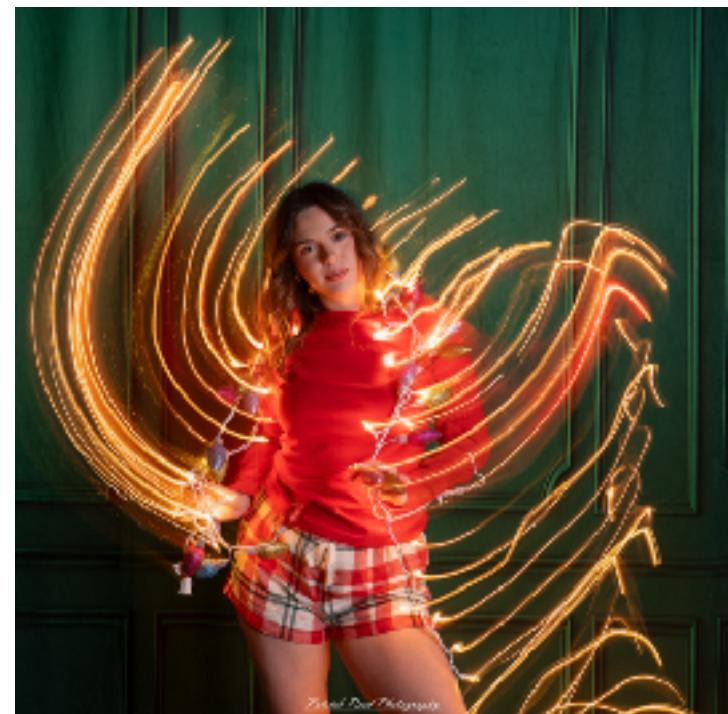
Click Outside the Lines

Lorell

Pat Reed
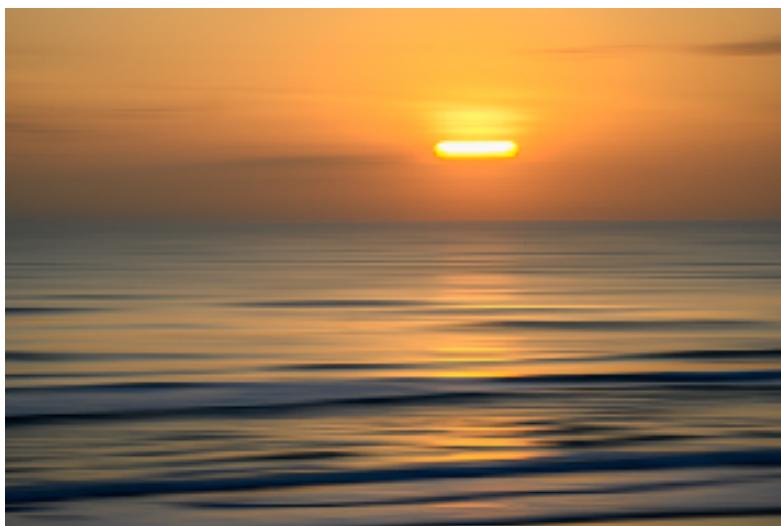
Glen Suszko

Jeff Bondono

Tom Vezina

Member Photos

Click Outside the Lines

Tulip Pete Drellick

Pete Drellick

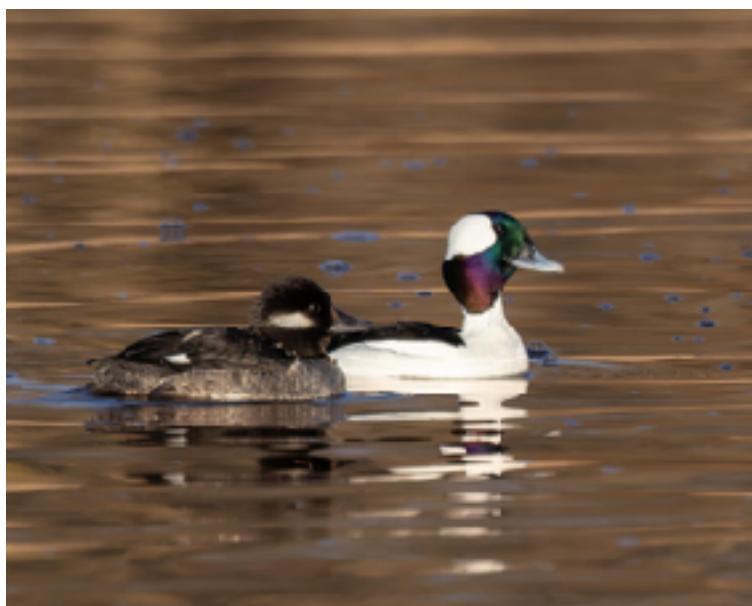Frog on a Log Tom Barr
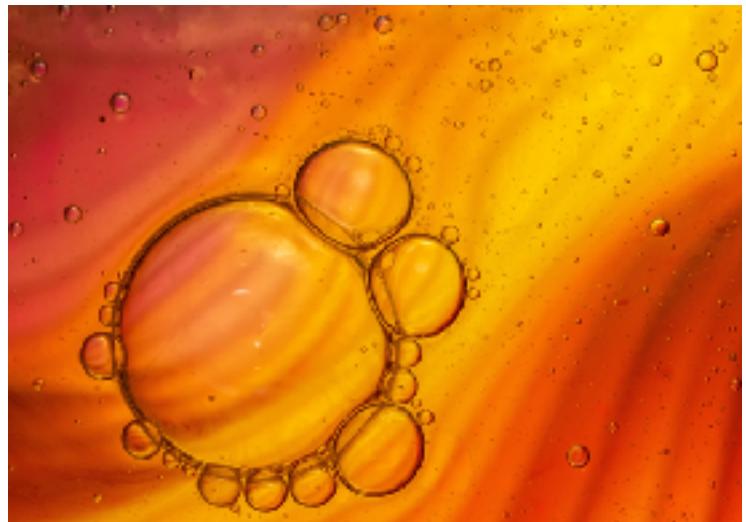
Oil & Water Chet Jankowski

QLine Tom Vezina

Member Photos

Detroit Pistoffs VS Detroit Funk Piet Sheri

Submerged Rose Diane Kaluza

Bufflehead Gregg Smith

Contribute to your newsletter!

If you have stories or other information for the club please forward it to: Pete Drellick @ eccmacombnewsletter@gmail.com

Zephyr David Gzesh

Click Outside the Lines

Newsletter **only** challenge for next year!

Here is a way to make our newsletter more interesting and fun to read by having a newsletter only photo challenge. These categories do not align with anything for our club meetings.

Forget coloring inside the lines—or photographing inside the rules. These photo challenges are here to stretch your imagination, flex your creativity, and possibly confuse your pets. (Seriously, try holding your cat up for forced perspective. Good luck.)

1. ~~**Color Quest** – Pick one color and let it guide your lens for the day.~~

2. ~~**Blur-tastic** – Play with motion blur or intentional camera movement.~~

3. **Mirror, Mirror** – Capture reflections in water, glass, or anything shiny.

4. **Get a Grip on Grit** – Hunt for bold, unusual textures up close.

5. **Flip the Script** – Take a photo upside down and make the familiar feel strange.

6. **Mini but Mighty** – Turn small objects into heroes with clever framing.

7. **Wait… What?** – Find look-alikes: shadows, clouds, or objects that resemble something else.

8. **Lost in Space** – Make negative space the star of your shot.

9. **Photo Rembrandt** – Recreate a famous painting or artwork with photography.

10. **Pocket Giants** – Use forced perspective to make people or objects huge (or tiny!).

11. **Triple Shot Story** – Tell a beginning, middle, and end in three photos.

12. **Face It!** – Discover faces hiding in everyday objects around you.

From Idea to Ending: A Story Writing Framework

By George Norkus

Writing a story is easier when you break it into parts. The outline below will help you organize your thoughts and develop a clear beginning, middle, and end.

A story must have: (These do not need to be in this exact order.)
Setting, Plot, Conflict, Character & Theme

1 What or Who is it about? (Character or Item)

2a What is "it" suppose to do? (or)
2b What does the "character" want to do?

3 Why can or can't they get or do whatever "it" is?

4 What they do about to answer the problem. (If there is a problem)

5 Why does or doesn't "that" work?

6 How does it end? (Hopefully a good ending)

Suggested Leverage Writing (Simple ways to expand on your story)

1 Show your "Human Side"

This will engage and create more loyal followers.

2 Share your backstory
Might tell others where I came from and history, etc.
What did I do as a pivotable moment in time?

3 Develop a Narrative
Tell about things happening, go into more detail and share more.

4 Inspirational Message
Be sure it is acceptable with my audience.

5 Use customer stories
Similar to a person writing about how they do something.

2026 Calendar

Link to Calendar

2026 Eastside Camera Club Calendar

Revision #9 Dec 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	15	Trains / Trams / Busses Ex1 Ex2	Rule of Thirds	Very Best	Group Shoot	**Education - Get To Know Your Camera**	8	Tim G
						In Door	22	Glen S
February	19	Subject: initial of last name	Leading Lines	Very Best	Nature **	**Education - Composition**	5	Tim G
						Stahl's	7	Lorell L
March						**Education - Milky Way / Night Sky**	5	Tim G
	19	Macro Ex1 Ex2	Patterns	Very Best	Color Creative	Detroit Historical Museum	14	John M
April	16	Throw Back to Years Ago Ex1 Ex2	Fill the Frame	Very Best	Monochrome	Eastern Market Murals	18	Tim G
May	21	Music / Singing Ex1 Ex2	Rule of Odds	Very Best	Group Shoot	Edsel/Eleanor Ford Estate	16	Tim G
June	18	Head Stones Ex1 Ex2	Frame your Subject	Very Best	Nature **	Howell Balloon Fest	27	John M
July	16	Woods Ex1 Ex2	Symmetry	Very Best	Color Creative	Detroit Polo Club	25	Tim G
August	20	Car Details Ex1 Ex2	Diagonal	Very Best	Monochrome	Jackson Civil War Muster	15	Pat R
September	17	People At Work Ex1 Ex2	Negative Space	Very Best	Group Shoot	Detroit Night Shoot	12	John M /Tim G
October						Print Competition Mounting	8	Glen S / Pete D
	15	Street Photography (w People) defined	Rule of Space	Very Best	Nature **	Detroit River Walk	17	Pete D
November	19	Windows Ex1 Ex2	Contrast	Very Best	Color Creative	**In Door**	5	Glen S
December	17	Best 10				PM1225	5	Jeff B

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

2026 Calendar Categories

1

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 to examples of photos for each category or an article pertaining to Composition Rules.

Website - https://www.eccmacomb.com/
Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/groups/eastsidecameraclub
Flickr - https://www.flickr.com/groups/1033583@N21/
Hash Tag: #eastsidecameraclub