



Focal Point

The newsletter of the EASTSIDE CAMERA CLUB March 2026
Shelby Township Activities Center, 14975 21 Mile Rd



Contents:

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Announcement!

The Newsletter has a new email address:

eccmacombnewsletter@gmail.com

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



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New Members

Joe Gazzarato

Group Meetings

March 19th:

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](#)

August 20th:

Special Assignment: Car Details, [Diagonal](#), [Monochrome](#) & [Very Best](#)

Mentoring

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

[Eastside Mentoring Program](#)

Cover Photo

Finley Germaine
Eagle Cliff Falls

Group Outings:

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

August 15th Jackson Civil War Muster

Shutter School: @ Shelby Township Activities Center

February 5th Composition

March 5th Milky Way / Night Sky



Shutter School

Join us on March 5th, 2026 at 6:30 pm **Introduction to Milky way and Night Sky photography**. Learn about various tools and Apps to use to plan your shoots. Planning is paramount for this type of photography. If this is a genre you are interested in learning, this will give you a good start. See how to find the great locations anywhere you might be going. We will guide you through the process of calculating the exposures needed for this type of shooting. Finally, see the steps to use to begin your post-processing. Prime Milky Way season starts in May, so let's get ready.

Sessions will be at the Shelby Activity Center.

If you plan to attend, please email t12griffin@gmail.com. Add Shutter School as the subject line in your email.

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

- [What's NEW in the February 2026 Lightroom Updates?](#)
- [Topaz GIGAPIXEL now in LIGHTROOM](#)
- [You're Missing This in Your Landscape Photos](#)
- [TWO NEW Adjustment Layers in PHOTOSHOP!](#)
- [Masking From A-Z in Luminar Neo](#)
- [The Ultimate Guide to Generative Credits in Photoshop & Lightroom](#)
- [Affinity vs Photoshop: Time to Switch... Really?](#)

Articles

- [Film Cameras Made in 2026!](#)
- [A simple Framework to Critique Photos like a Pro](#)
- [The Art and Science of Photography: Color Theory](#)

Example of edited Milky Way Photo.



Milky Way Tim Griffin

Member Spotlight

This months member in the spotlight is Jeff Bondono.

Favorite Style/Genre: Architecture

How did you get started in photography?

My best friend in High School, Marc Lehmann, who subsequently became my roommate in college and the best man at my wedding, was deep into film photography and darkroom techniques in high school and college while I was deep into my future career in software engineering. He inspired me to make photos of my young family back in the 1980s with a manual Canon AT-1.





Previous Monthly Trainings

- [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](#)
- [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](#)

Member Spotlight

Continued from Pg 3

Jeff Bondono

He recommended this manual-mode-only camera so I could learn to select appropriate shutter speed and aperture by myself rather than relying on a camera to do so. Thanks, Marc, (born 1957, died in the 2024 North Carolina Floods from Hurricane Helene) for inspiring me.

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

I love to take photos that have the potential to expand what I see in my viewfinder, in a creative sense, during post-processing.

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

Oh come on, Pete, we all have 50 photos that are our favorites. But I suppose if I had to pick one, it would be my [night-time shot of the RenCen at the end of Brush Street](#). This is a shot I've seen several times over the years, but nearly always during sunrise, daytime or sunset. So I wanted to try to get one at night, and made this photo this during our [9/14/2024 Detroit-At-Night Group Shoot](#). Most members thought it was not worth photographing at night, and some warned me that the 'proper' time to shoot this was at sunrise or sunset, but I set up my tripod and camera in a striped-off part of the center lane of Brush Ave and shot a 6-photo HDR (120mm, f/4.5, ISO100, 1/160 to 4 sec), then a 5-photo HDR (1/160 to 2 sec - just in case they'd be needed). I ended up using nearly all of those photos to create my final image. The 6-photo HDR merged in Lightroom was my base image, with the RenCen masked and brightened considerably. Then I used Photoshop to mask in small parts of photos from the second set to remove foreground cars and tone-down the GM logo at the top of the RenCen. The photo was well-liked during our September 2024 meeting and on the [Detroit Photography Facebook Group](#) with 2400 likes, so I chose it as my 2024 ECC Print Competition color photo and it won first place.

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

Learn to use your camera in Manual mode, become an expert in Lightroom, and learn the basics of Photoshop. Ignore everything else. That's all you need to make great photos.

Previous Monthly Articles

- [COLOR THEORY IN PHOTOGRAPHY](#)
- [LIGHTROOM COLOR GRADING](#)
- [Photo Competition Prep](#)

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 Spotlight

Continued from Pg 4

Jeff Bondono

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

I've spent 6 weeks in Italy, mainly Rome, and photographed a ton which you can see on my Tourist In Rome webpages. But at that phase of my life, I just wanted to do documentary photography. I'd love to go back to Rome to photograph it in a more artistic fashion, along with Sicily, Tuscany, Paris, London, Chicago, Toronto, Montreal, and of course, our hometown Detroit.

Where can we see more of your work?

Flickr: [jeff.bondono](#) Instagram: [@jeff.bondono](#) <--- I rarely post to either of these

Website: [jeffbondono.com](#) <--- this is where I post everything I'm proud of.

Other: Facebook

New Member Spotlight

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

I started taking pictures with a 35mm Minolta camera in the late 1980s, but it was mostly just for snapshots of places I visited and family events. I became an early adopter of digital when it started to take hold in the 1990s (and it was really not very good). I tried several point and shoot digital cameras from Olympus, Kodak and Cannon.

I bought my first DSLR in 2006, mostly because I needed a long lens that was fast enough to capture pictures of my boys in their swim meets (if you've never tried it, the lighting in most high school natatoriums is terrible). So I sold my 35mm Minolta body and lenses to come up with enough money to buy a Fuji FinePix S2 Pro DSLR body which used Nikon F-mount lenses.

Around that same time, another parent of one of the boys in the swim club happened to be a member of Eastside Camera Club, and he invited me to join. This was 2009, the rest as they say, is history. I learned a ton from the club, and now enjoy all forms of photography. I have to say my favorite things to shoot are wildlife, sports and portraits.

What camera or gear are you currently using?

I currently own a Nikon Z9 and a variety of Nikon lenses from 16mm out to 600mm. I have some studio strobes, speed-lights, backdrops, and enough miscellaneous gear to fill a small closet in my basement.

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

I am a member of the last graduating class of the University of Detroit, before it became U of D Mercy. It is also where I met my wife LeeAnne almost 38 years ago. We married in 1992, bought a home in Macomb Township, and raised two sons that are now age 26 and 28.



How to Contribute to Your Camera Club

By Pete Drellick

A great camera club thrives on participation, and the good news is there are many ways to contribute—no matter your experience level or available time.

One of the easiest ways to get involved is through the club newsletter. Submitting a short article, photo series, tip, gear review, or recap of a recent shoot keeps the content fresh and member-driven. If writing isn't your thing, consider sharing images or suggesting topics you'd like to see covered. Behind the scenes, the newsletter team (AKA Pete) also welcomes help with proofreading, light editing, or brainstorming ideas.

Our leadership team also benefits from member support. While we already have a dedicated Treasurer and IT lead, there are many ways to assist them.

Our treasurer and membership coordinator Lorell, keeps the club financially healthy—tracking dues, managing expenses. Members can help by volunteering to assist with yearend dues collection or even helping organize new member contact lists can lighten the load.

Jeff does a great job keeping the digital side of the club running smoothly—from the website to shared galleries and online tools. If you're comfortable with technology, you might help test new tools, troubleshoot minor issues, or assist members who need help navigating our digital platforms. Small contributions behind the scenes make a big difference.

Group shoots are another great way to contribute. Leading a shoot doesn't mean teaching—it can simply mean choosing a location, setting a date, and bringing members together. Sharing a favorite spot, theme, or idea strengthens the community and creates opportunities for everyone to learn.

Ultimately, a camera club is only as strong as its members. Whether you contribute creatively, administratively, technically, or socially, your involvement helps everyone learn, connect, and grow behind the lens.

Member Photos



Turk JoAnn 1225

March 2026



Vol 2 #3



David Gzesh Permaquid Lighthouse

6

Composition Simplified

Proportion

Nature has provided all living things with members varying in shape and size. It is essential that we become cognizant of this law in order that we may carry out the same principle in picture building.

The only way that emphasis can be secured is by varying the size of shapes and areas. Nothing is large or small except by comparison. Unless we know the law of contrast, we cannot impart a feeling of bigness to the thought or theme we are trying to express.

In a landscape, the feeling of bigness is intensified by placing the horizon line low.

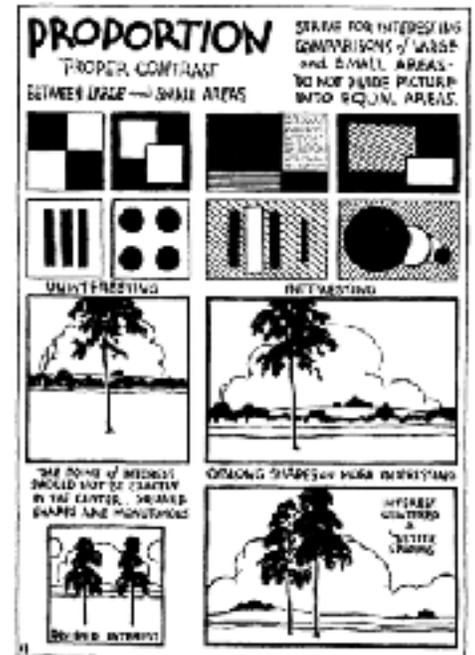
Small areas should be distributed in such a way that their appearance does not distract from the principal area.

A spotted or checkerboard appearance is very distracting and should be avoided.

In still-life pictures, objects should vary in size and tone.

group pictures avoid a stiff arrangement. The heads should not be placed on the same level. Have some seated and others standing; this will give the necessary variation. The principal figures in the composition should be kept away from the exact center.

Emphasis can also be secured by lighting the principal figures more strongly than the other.



Peacock Sheri Piet



I'm out Timothy Griffin

Click Outside the Lines



Germaine Finley, Me in a Peugeot



Tom Vezina



Glen Suszko



Lorell Leon



Steve Wormlight

Member Photos

Click Outside the Lines



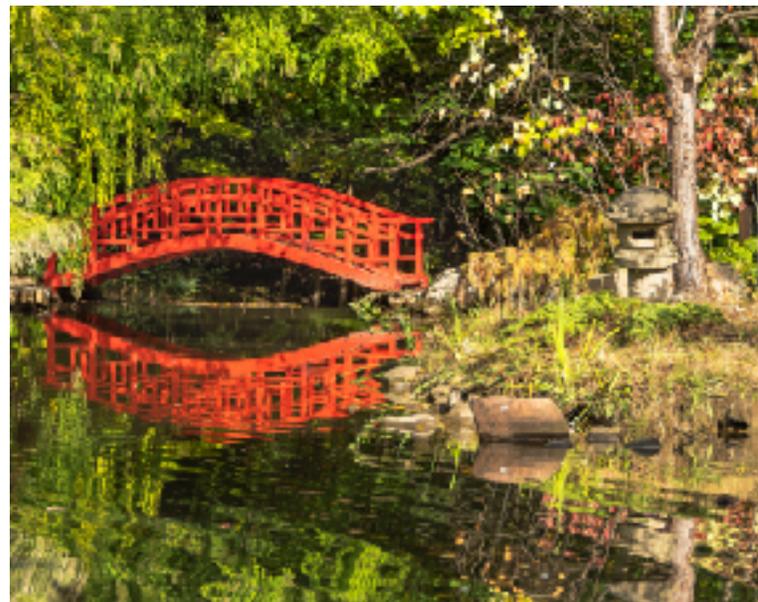
Jukebox Sheila Jakel



Sunrise Over DC Joe Gazzarato



Royal Tern



Pete Drellick

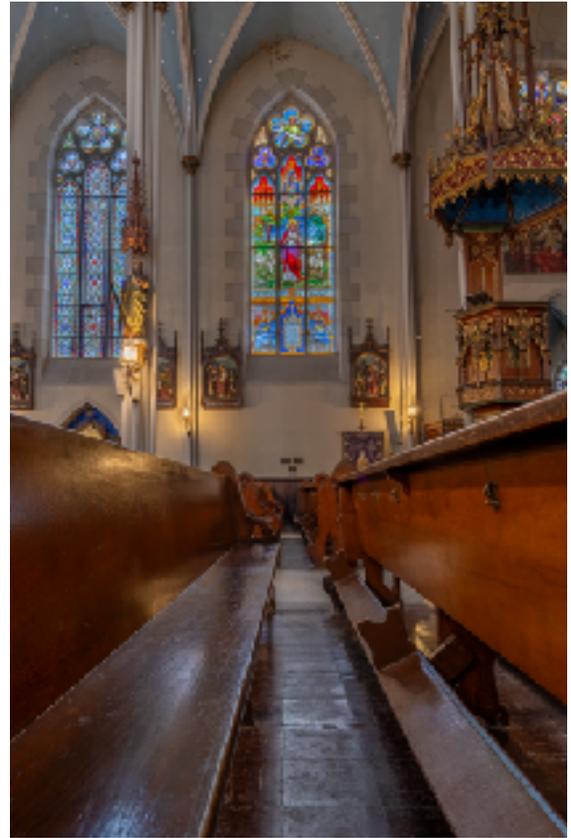


Lines-and-Curves-Buchanan

Member Photos



Moray Eel Diane Kaluza



St Joseph Shrine Jeff Bondono



Train George Norkus

**Contribute to your
newsletter!**

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



looking Up Vezina Tom

Click Outside the Lines

Newsletter **only** challenge!

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.

Member Photos



Devil's Tower Tom Barr



Carter Shields Cabin - Cades Cove Glen Suszko



N scale Ken

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

** = 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 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



Parting Shot



Tree Tunnel Jeff Meurer