



Focal Point

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



Contents:

Group Outings

Group Meetings

Member Spotlight

Members Photos

Members Articles

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

Karen DeCoster

Group Meetings

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](#)

September 17th:

Special Assignment: People at work, [Negative Space](#), [Group Shoot](#) & [Very Best](#)

Mentoring

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

[Eastside Mentoring Program](#)

Cover Photo

Ken Suddick, Bardstown KY

Group Outings:

April 18th [Eastern Market Murals](#)

May 14th [Stahls car photo shoot](#)

May 16th [Edsel/Eleanor Ford Estate](#)

June 27th [Howell Balloon Fest](#)

July 25th [Detroit Polo Club](#)

August 15th [Jackson Civil War Muster](#)

September 12th [Detroit Night Shoot](#)

Nikon Recall

Technical Service Advisory for users of the Nikon Z6III and Z5II mirrorless cameras and the Nikon ZR cinema camera

Check your serial number here: [NIKON](#)

From the Editor

April: Slowing Down in a Fast World

In a world where we can take hundreds of photos in minutes, it's easy to forget the value of slowing down. Sometimes the best images come when we pause—when we wait for the right light, the right moment, or the right composition. Instead of rushing to capture everything, try being more deliberate. Take fewer shots. Study the scene. Let the image come to you. Photography isn't just about capturing what's there—it's about recognizing when it matters most.

Pete

New Member Spotlight

Our Newest member in the spotlight is Karen De Coster.

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

I'm an odd jack-of-all-trades as far as photography goes. I shot my cousin's Argus 35mm when I was 14 and I took high school photography classes, including doing the darkroom work. I purchased a Canon AE-1 Program 35mm shortly after high school. I started off shooting using the 'evil green box' (fully auto mode), but I was a kid, so all is forgiven.

I like shooting historic and small towns; street photography; barns, farms, and any dilapidated structures; landscapes; circuses + stage performances; wildlife; cemeteries; Great Lakes freighters; festivals and events; road trip stuff; and candid and environmental portraits. Sports photography may be my best work (motocross, rugby, basketball, rodeo, soccer, etc.).

Also, I love to photograph kitschy stuff when I see something iconic or nostalgic where other folks may just see an everyday "thing." An example would be the tractors, steam engines, and machines at The Henry Ford, where one can find opportunities for bokeh, focus challenges (foreground and background), colors, textures, leading lines, rust, stark contrast, logos, and cool "things & stuff." Also, shooting photos at cool bookstores and libraries can be interesting.

I have also done paid shoots, as time allows, around real estate, events for organizations, and dog trainers at work. I've studied under Bryce Denison at his Midwest Photography Workshop for the last 8 years. I credit him with my uptick in skills.

What camera or gear are you currently using?

Canon R6II, R7, and R mirrorless cameras. I also still have my DSLR, a 7D II.

I buy too many lenses! I have the holy trinity of Canon L lenses + many other supporting lenses. To be fair, for many years I shot with only two or three lenses, and not the "L" types. My latest is the Rokinon 135mm 2.0, manual focus lens. This may be the sharpest lens I have ever used.

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

I'm a Certified Public Accountant with a graduate degree in Economics who recently left a job as a COO and CFO for a free-market economics organization that promoted teaching and research in the fields of economics, history, and individual freedom. After high school, I was supposed to go to art school to study illustration and photography, but my parents couldn't pay for my schooling. So, I worked at starving artist jobs for twelve years while going to business school. My life is a right brain-left brain conundrum. I've always said that the left brain makes the money, and the right brain spends it and has all the fun.



Correction:

I missed Joe's name in the New Member Spotlight. Joe Gazzarato, say hello when you see him.



Monthly Training

- [A More Creative Way to Blur](#)
- [The NEW Rotate Object in PHOTOSHOP!](#)
- [The NEW Layer Masking in On1 Photo Raw](#)
- [THIS IS WHY YOU "BLOW OUT" YOUR HIGHLIGHTS.](#)
- [Fix UNDEREXPOSURE Without BLOWING OUT Highlights in Lightroom!](#)
- [Try This Little Used Feature of Luminar Neo](#)

Articles

- [13 Photographer Personality Types You Meet at Every Shoot](#)
- [Interview with Sigma CEO Kazuto Yamaki](#)
- [A Beginner's Guide to Bird Photography:](#)

The Best Camera Strap: Comfort, Security, and Speed

If you ask photographers about the most overlooked piece of gear, the answer is often the camera strap. Yet it's the one accessory that carries your camera all day, protects it from drops, and can even affect how quickly you get a shot. The "best" camera strap ultimately comes down to comfort, security, and how you like to carry your camera.

Today's straps range from simple padded neck straps like [Peak Design](#) to cross-body sling systems designed for quick shooting. The right choice depends largely on your shooting style and the weight of your gear.

Sling-style straps have become especially popular in recent years. These allow the camera to hang at your hip and slide up the strap when you bring it to your eye. Systems like the [BlackRapid Sport Breathe](#) are favorites among sports, wildlife, and event photographers because they keep weight off your neck while allowing fast access to the camera.

For photographers who prioritize comfort above everything else, padded neoprene straps such as the [OP/TECH Pro Loop](#) remain a long-time favorite.

These straps absorb weight and reduce fatigue, which can make a big difference during long days of shooting or travel photography. Some photographers also prefer traditional leather straps for their style and durability. While they may lack some modern quick-adjust features, they offer a classic look and excellent longevity.

Ultimately, the best strap is the one that fits your shooting style and keeps your camera secure without getting in the way.



Camera Strap: Editor's Pick

Peak Design Slide Camera Strap

If there's one strap that consistently appears on "best camera strap" lists, it's the Peak Design Slide. This versatile strap can be worn as a neck strap, shoulder strap, or cross-body sling, making it adaptable for nearly any shooting situation.

One of its standout features is the **Anchor Link system**, which allows the strap to attach or detach from your camera in seconds. Each anchor is extremely strong—rated to handle over **200 lbs (90 kg)**—making it secure even with large camera and lens combinations.

The Slide also includes quick-adjust aluminum buckles that allow you to shorten or lengthen the strap instantly with one hand. The webbing is reversible as well: one side slides smoothly across clothing for sling use, while the other side grips your shoulder to prevent slipping.

With excellent build quality and thoughtful design touches, it has become my favorite strap so far.

Pete

Thanks, Lorell!

Lorell, put this handy little chart together for our last group shoot at the Detroit Historical Museum. It is a nice easy way to know all of the pictures required for Special Assignments, Composition Rules and the Newsletter.

Also if you still have the original from Lorell, flip it over! Nice touch Lorell.

	SA	Comp Rules		News Letter
Mar	Macro	Patterns	CC	Mirror, Mirror
April	Throw Back of Years Ago	Fill the Frame	MO	Get a grip on Grit
May	Music	Rule of Odds	G5	Flip the Script
June	Head Stones	Frame your Subject	NA	Mini but Mighty
July	Woods	Symmetry	CC	Wait...What?
Aug	Car Details	Diagonal(s)	MO	Lost in Space
Sept	People @ Work	Negative Space	G5	Photo Rembrandt
Oct	Street People	Rule of Space	NA	Pocket Giants
Nov	Windows	Contrast	CC	Triple Shot Story



Previous Monthly Trainings

- [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?](#)
- [AI Edit Status and LIGHTROOM](#)
- [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](#)

My Photographic Life

By George E. Norkus

My parents told me that my photographic life started quite unexpectedly back around 1957 while in the first grade. Back then tiny cars were my toys that I played with and I kept talking about needing a garage to pretend working on them. The problem was that I didn't have a box that I could modify into a garage. A few days later when I walked to my school bus stop, I found a small box that a neighbor was throwing away on top of their trash can. Knowing that I could not bring the box to school, I hid it to be retrieved afterwards.

That night at home I proceeded to disassemble the box looking for a good way to modify it for my needs. As I took it apart, There was a small roll inside that unraveled as I removed it. Rolling everything back up I reassembled the box and put it aside. When my father soon came home and walked passed, he asked me where I got the camera. "What's a camera?" I responded. He then briefly told me what they were. That really got me interested and was the basic beginning for me to become a photographer.

For the next few weeks my dad told me a bit about cameras. I proceeded to take a few photos that only a mother could love. My father work for an Naval aircraft manufacturer and was assigned to compile reports on a new jet and sending them back to the factory for any needed modifications mentioned by the test pilots. One of those days he happened to mention that I was starting to learn about photography and one of the Navy test pilots took an interest in me. His name was Walter (Wally) Schirra, an avid photographer. Wally taught me a lot about photography. I don't think I remembered very much after that but little by little many things stuck with me. A couple years later Wally Schirra became one of the "Original 7" Mercury astronauts for the America's "Space Race". That was one of my claims to fame.

Fast forward to my school years. Other than Nature, Friends, Cars and a variety of other things, my Junior High School days were less than I really wanted. A bunch of birds, trees, and generally anything that caught my interest. Then came High School. I applied to the school yearbook as a photographer. After being accepted, they handed me a Yashica D, a large battery and Honeywell flash, nearly unlimited rolls of Black and White 120 film, and a photo assignment which covered just about everything dealing with the school.

My Photographic Life

Continued from Pg 4

Previous Monthly Articles

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

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.



Phone Call Pat Reed

It's surprising how many subjects a school really has besides your normal sports like football, basket ball and baseball. When I added a few of my slightly humorous and crazy looks, they loved it. This is something they previously never had. Once in a while, a local newspaper "borrowed" some of my sports photos.

One night after covering an away basketball game, I stayed to obtain a few pictures of a band representing my school. As it turned out the other school had an excellent band called The Bob Seger System. It put my School's band to shame. This was around Halloween of 1969 or 70. After going through three or four rolls of film on their band, I brought them in for normal processing. A couple days later only the basketball game photos were returned and the others were just thrown away. That got me extremely mad since I wanted those photos!

After graduation, motorcycle racing became my latest photo fad then came the US Navy. Since I did not want to be a Navy photographer I was able to maintain my personal style of photography. When our ship traveled to the Mediterranean Sea, I had lots of things to photograph. These included parts of Portugal, Italy, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Africa, and of course lots of ships. Although the Navy was interesting, I did not want to make a career out of it.

Car shows, special events, and weddings kept me active for the next few years. This is also where I came up with a good practice photographing mailboxes and shadows. That kept my mind active for things most people never seem to notice. Later I added calk boards and boots just for fun.

After marriage it was decided to move to Tennessee. I loved living nearly 20 miles from so many subjects. This is where I worked with a local newspaper. Several politicians and schools were the norm and I was still able to photograph most of the other things that I grew up with like a lot of my own nature photography which included the basic trees, birds, mountains, river rafting and orchestras that played classic music.

Here's something I highly advise everyone to look for, a solar eclipse. I was extremely fortunate to have a 100% eclipse travel over my house and nearby mountain tops. From atop the mountain I was able to watch the eclipse approach directly towards me.

A few years later I moved back to Michigan. This is where I still retained my newspaper photography, and joined a local camera club. Photography is something I'll likely take to the grave with me.

George



Major Industry News!

In a major announcement shaking the photography world, industry leaders have unveiled a series of groundbreaking innovations set to change how we shoot forever.

First up: the long-awaited **Auto-Composition Mode**. Using advanced AI, your camera will now automatically reframe your shot to follow the rule of thirds, eliminate distractions, and even improve your subject's expression. Early testers report the camera occasionally suggesting, *"Maybe try again."*

Also generating buzz is the new **Lens Cap Filter™**—a minimalist feature producing rich, deep black images that experts are calling "bold," "thought-provoking," and "surprisingly consistent."

For those tired of carrying extra gear, manufacturers are introducing the **Invisible Tripod**, utilizing next-gen stabilization technology to keep your camera perfectly steady... as long as you don't move.

Finally, smartphone users can look forward to **Authentic DSLR Mode**, which adds realistic focus hunting, accidental exposure shifts, and the occasional missed shot—just like the real thing.

We're excited to see how these innovations inspire your creativity this season. Be sure to update your gear before your next shoot!

Happy April Fools' Day—and happy shooting! 😄



Lunar Eclipse Gregg Smith



Heavens Radiant Rain John Mattarella

Upcoming Event

**54th Annual
POCI
International
Convention**

PONTIAC, MICHIGAN
JUNE 22-27, 2026
"Home for the Hundredth"
CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF PONTIAC-MOTOR-DIVISION

CONVENTION UPDATES AT WWW.POCI.ORG
FOR MORE INFO CALL THE CLUB OFFICE 763-479-2111

- TOURS
- SEMINARS
- SWAP MEET
- 100TH ANNIV. PARADE
- POINTS-JUDGED SHOW
- POPULAR VOTE SHOW
- GUEST SPEAKERS
- CAR RAFFLE GIVEAWAY!
(YES, IT'S A PONTIAC!)
- FREE ADMISSION TO
MUSEUM FOR REGISTRANTS
- CRUISE WOODWARD AVE.
- AND MUCH MORE

PONTIAC MOTOR DIVISION
1926 100TH 2026
ANNIVERSARY

WELCOMING ALL YEARS
OF PONTIACS, OAKLANDS
AND GMC TRUCKS!

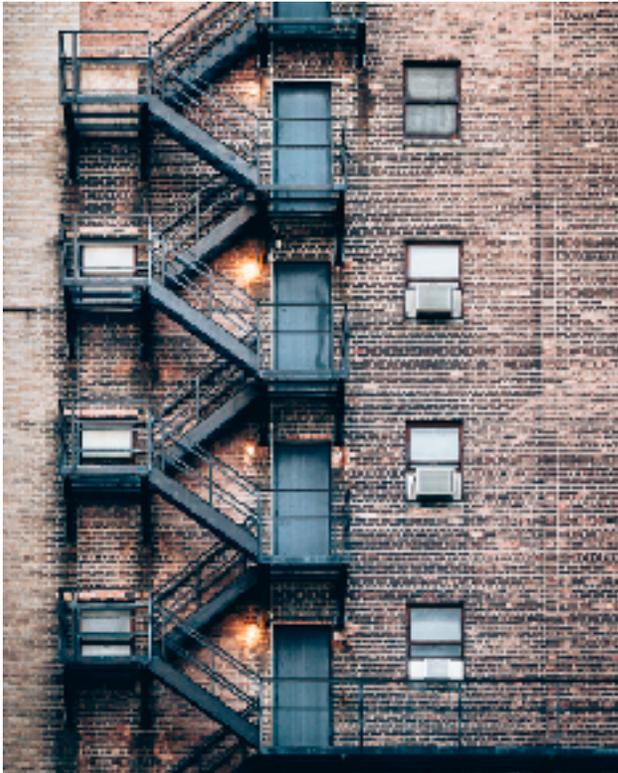
POCI
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
2026
HOSTED BY
PONTIAC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM

**HOSTED BY THE PONTIAC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM
AND THE MICHIGAN POCI CHAPTERS**

Valid POCI membership
required to register. Join or
renew now at www.POCI.org

Thanks Shelia for the heads up on this event.

Member Photos



Fire Escape Glen Suszko



Caps Pat Reed

Contrast of Tone

Pictures, like humans, have personalities. Every picture is a psycho-graph of the artist who made it. IF his personality is dull his pictures will correspondingly be the same.

Regardless of how good his compositions may be as far as line arrangement is concerned, if the relative degrees of light and shade appear weak and muddy, his pictures will be Failures.

Tone quality is what gives expression or sentiment to the picture. The most successful pictures in exhibitions are those which are sparkling and lively in their tonal arrangement.

In every picture there should be a definite all-over tone which should be either light or dark. This all-over tone should not look too flat, but should be broken up with intermediate tones. This general tone is what is commonly referred to as high key or low key.

In low keyed pictures the principal parts should contain contrasting accents of pure white and light grey tones. If high keyed, the contrasting accents should be black and dark grey.

Every picture must show, somewhere within its confines, an area of pure white and an area of jet black. Besides these, there must be definite areas of light grey and dark grey.

Strive to build up the picture with broad masses of tone. This will give your compositions strength and power which is so necessary in exhibitions. The illustration shows a simple scale of three values. In photography a scale of four or more values is preferable.



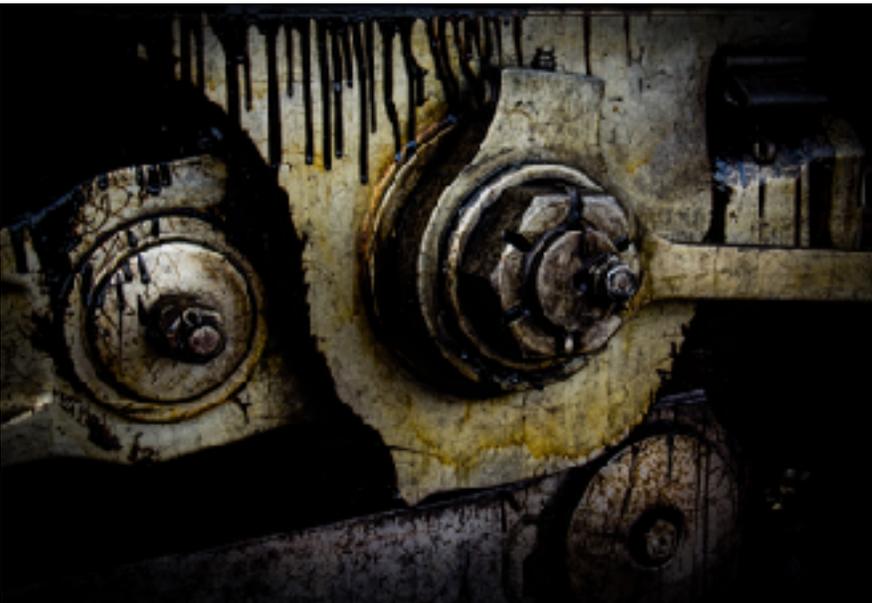
Click Outside the Lines Get a Grip on Grit



Germaine Finley



Tom Vezina



Lorell Leon

Click Outside the Lines Get a Grip on Grit



Glen Suszko



Jeff Bondono

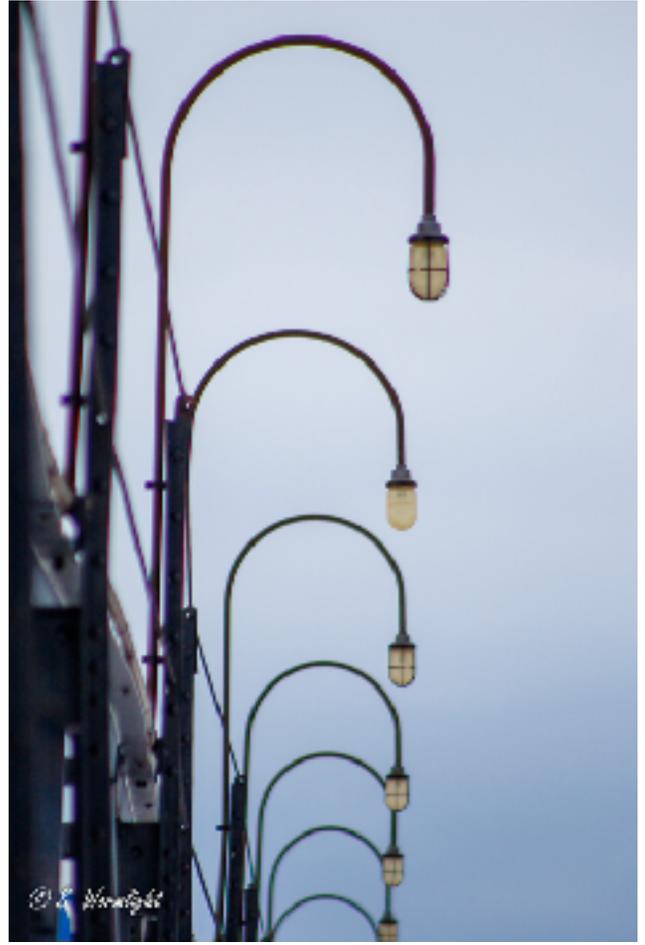


Pete Drellick

Member Photos



Let's Play Lorell



Steve Wormlight

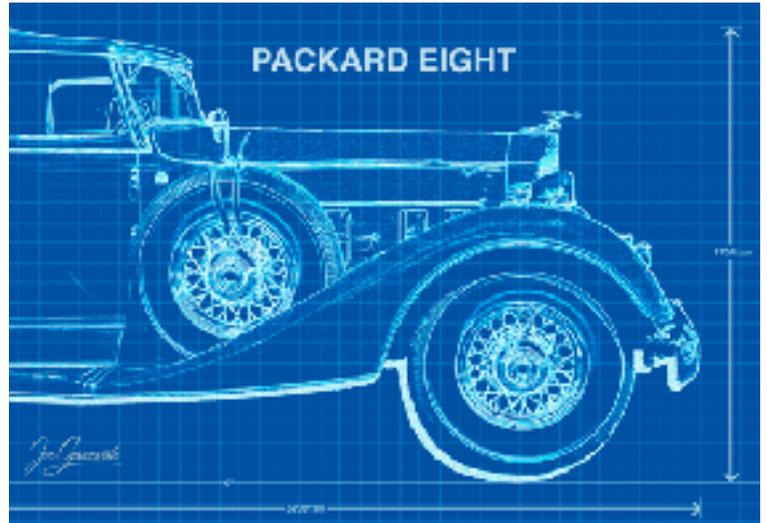


Throwback to 1893 Robert McGarry

Member Photos



Allesee Gallery of Culture Jeff Bondono



Packard Eight Joe Gazzarato

Contribute to your newsletter!

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



Garden Iris Mike Schany

Click Outside the Lines

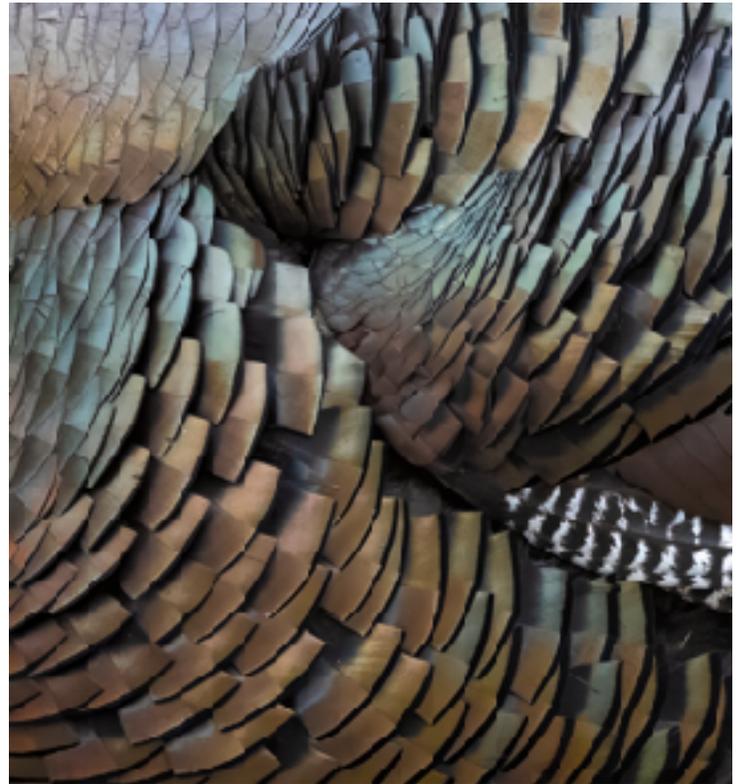
Newsletter **only** challenge!

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



Turkey Feathers Jeff Meurer



Child High Bicycle Tom Vezina

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



Winter Night Pete Drellick



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