



# **Focal Point**

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



## **Contents:**

**Group Outings**

**Group Meetings**

**From the Editor**

**Shutter School**

**Member Spotlight**

**Members Photos**

**Members Articles**

## **Announcement!**

The Newsletter has a new email address:  
[eccmacombnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:eccmacombnewsletter@gmail.com)

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

## New Members

## Group Meetings

### 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](#)

### October 15th:

Special Assignment: Street Photography with People, [Rule of Space](#), [Nature](#) & [Very Best](#)

### November 19th:

Special Assignment: Windows, [Contrast](#), [Color Creative](#) & [Very Best](#)

### December 17th:

Best 10

## Mentoring

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

[Eastside Mentoring Program](#)

## Cover Photo

Night Mist Steve Folsom

## Group Outings:

July 25th Waterford Hills race track

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

September 12th Detroit Night Shoot

October 8th Print Competition Mounting

October 17th Detroit River Walk

November 5th Indoor Photo Shoot

December 5th PM1225

## From the Editor

### July — Making Critiques More Effective

Our photo critique sessions work best when everyone has an opportunity to be heard. Recently, we've occasionally seen multiple members offering feedback at the same time, making it difficult for both the photographer and other participants to follow the discussion. When comments overlap, valuable insights can be missed and newer members may feel hesitant to contribute.

Let's make an effort to allow one person to finish their thoughts before responding. Taking turns creates a more respectful and productive environment, ensures every perspective is heard, and helps photographers receive clear, thoughtful feedback they can use to improve their work.

Pete - [eccmacombnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:eccmacombnewsletter@gmail.com)

## Reminder: Print Competition

Print Competition Mounting night is ONLY 3 months away! That gives you 3 meetings to have your fellow club members provide critical insight on how to improve your photos for the print competition. If you'd like a more extensive critique on one of your submitted photos, add a space and the letter 'C' to the end of your photo filename. Since you can only have one critique per meeting don't wait!

You can submit one Color print and one Monochrome (Black & White) print for the competition and there is a monetary reward for winning!



### Monthly Training

- [LIGHTROOM MASKING TRICKS AND HACKS that took me forever to learn.](#)
- [How to Create a Light Effect in Photoshop](#)
- [The Truth About Depth of Field](#)
- [Sony Pre-Capture: Never Miss the Shot Again](#)
- [Fix Perspective Distortion Without a Tilt-Shift Lens](#)
- [Easily Create a PRO Selective Color Effect in Lightroom](#)

### Articles

- [Lightroom thinks my photos are missing—how do I fix it?](#)
- [Just Start: Getting out of a rut with your photography \\*](#)
- [Master the basics of scanning photos](#)
- [Curating Physical and Digital Photos](#)



## Shutter School

There have been numerous requests at our meetings on instruction for various skills and techniques. In order to discover the subjects our members are interested in, I have set up an online survey. This is similar to how we selected this year’s group shoots. Click the link below to submit your thoughts. The survey will be open until the week before the August meeting.

<https://testmoz.com/q/15469942>

Thanks  
Timothy Griffin

### Member Spotlight

#### Judy Gamache

**Favorite Style/Genre:** Landscape and Nature

**How did you get started in photography?**

My husband introduced me to my first 35 mm film camera many years ago and shared his photographic knowledge with me.

**What inspires you most when you’re behind the camera?**

Capturing shots of my favorite subjects.

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

I took a picture of a mountain landscape with a stream running through it, and I loved the composition.

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

When viewing a subject make sure you look at it from all angles to get the best perspective.

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

Brittany, France where my Uncle is buried to take photographs of that area and other WWII historical areas.



## Previous Monthly Articles

- [How legendary National Geographic photographer Paul Nicklen uses his '20-60-20 rule' to get impossible shots](#)
- [Just Start: Getting out of a rut with your photography](#)
- [Master the basics of scanning photos](#)
- [Curating Physical and Digital Photos](#)

## 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.



The Geometry of Escape - Jeff Bondono

## How I Found the Vacation Photos That Needed Noise Reduction

by Jeff Bondono

My recent vacation included a lot of outdoor photos at ISO 100, and also many interior photos where I couldn't use a tripod, so was forced to ISOs up to 6400. I use Lightroom's noise reduction, which takes a fairly long time, and locks out all other use of the program while running. I couldn't afford to do any of this noise reduction on my rather-slow laptop during vacation. So, once I returned home, I had 12 folders of 2000 photos, of which a few hundred required noise reduction. How could I find them easily?

I created a "Smart Collection" to contain all the high-ISO photos that hadn't yet had noise reduction applied. A Smart Collection is actually a set of rules a photo needs to fulfill in order to be included in the collection. Once you've created a Smart Collection, it looks just like a normal collection or a folder. When you select the Smart Collection, you see all the photos that meet the collection's rules, as if they're simply photos inside of the collection. But the evaluation of which photos belong in the Smart Collection happens dynamically and without any intervention on your part. For example, if you program a Smart Collection to include only photos with 4 or 5 stars, and change one of those photos to have 3 stars, it is magically removed immediately from the Smart Collection.

Here are the details. In the "Library Module", under my list of "Folders" is a panel called "Collections". I right-clicked within that "Collections" panel and picked "Create Smart Collection...". I gave my new Smart Collection a name of "high ISO". Then I had to specify which photos in my entire Lightroom catalog I wanted to include in this Smart Collection. I knew I only wanted photos from my vacation, so in the first rule, I opened the first drop-down and selected "Date --> Capture Date". Then the next drop-down is where I specified the operation I wanted to perform on Capture Date. I picked "is after". Finally, the third column of the rule is where I specified the value to compare against. I entered 2026-04-19, the day before my vacation began.

I clicked the Plus Sign at the right edge of the first rule, to add a second rule, and for that second rule I specified "Capture Date is before 2026-04-28", the day after my vacation ended. My third rule was "Camera Info --> ISO Speed Rating" "is greater than" "100.0". And my fourth rule was "Develop --> Has Denoise" "is false".



## Previous Monthly Trainings

- [Photoshop 27.6: 7 New Features You Need to Know](#)
- [Lightroom's Yellow Warning Icon Explained](#)
- [How to Color Grade in Photoshop using Camera Raw](#)
- [Are Ears the Secret to Better Wildlife Photos](#)
- [Making Your Photos Sharper Is Making Them Worse](#)
- [Easily Create a PRO Selective Color Effect in Lightroom](#)
- [Masking From A-Z in Luminar Neo](#)
- [Great New Feature in Photoshop!](#)
- [4 Tips & Tricks for RAZOR SHARP Photos in LIGHTROOM!](#)
- [Lightroom Classic 2026: Everything You Need to Get Started! \(Photo Editing Tutorial\)](#)
- [Tip to Get the Best Edit Possible in Lightroom](#)
- [Simply the BEST PHOTOGRAPHY ADVICE Gary Gough](#)

Cont'd

## How I Found the Vacation Photos That Needed Noise Reduction

by Jeff Bondono

I made sure that above the rules, "Match ALL of the following rules" was selected so the collection would only contain photos that matched all four rules. Then I clicked "Save", and what do you know, my vacation photos with ISO over 100 that hadn't yet been denoised were shown inside the Smart Collection. I selected all those photos, ticked the "Denoise" checkbox in the "Detail" panel of the "Develop Module", then went to bed. In the morning, all of the noise reduction had completed and I could continue working on my photos.

When I want to use that Smart Collection again someday, I'll right click it, pick "Edit Smart Collection" and change the dates.

This is just one example of what I use Smart Collections for. For example, I have a simple one that shows photos that are missing my copyright info. When a photo appears in that collection (usually an iPhone photo), I know to add my copyright to it. I have another that I use when developing a day's photos which only includes photos that still require more work. This declutters my workspace, removing photos I've already finished working on.

## Through Their Eyes

### New newsletter section

Photography is personal. Every image tells a story, and every photographer sees something a little different. That's the inspiration behind our newest newsletter feature, **Through Their Eyes**.

Each month, we'll invite one or two club members to select a couple of photographs submitted at our monthly meeting and share why those images stood out to them. Rather than offering a critique or judging technical perfection, they'll simply explain what caught their attention—whether it's the light, composition, emotion, creativity, or the story the photograph tells.

The goal is to celebrate the many ways we experience photography and to encourage us to look at images from different perspectives. You may find yourself noticing details you hadn't seen before or appreciating an image in a completely new way.

I hope **Through Their Eyes** inspires conversation, encourages learning, and reminds us that one of the best parts of being in a camera club is seeing the world through someone else's lens.

# Composition Simplified

## Entrance and Exit

A good novel or poem is constructed with due regard to the importance of one person. Scenes, plots and subordinate characters are merely accessories that help to draw attention to the chief character, and bring the story to a perfect ending. The artist should exercise the same judgment when constructing a picture. The exit in his picture is analogous to the ending in a story. The entrance to the picture is very much like the beginning of a story. It helps to lead the eye and draw attention to the superior importance of one object or Feature. This Feature must be so strong that it rules every other Feature in the picture. Light spots in the picture are like words. Arrange them in such a manner that they tell the story with the least amount of effort.

The entrance to any picture should always be inviting to the eye. The Foreground in landscapes should be void of anything that suggests a barrier, such as swamps, rocks, closed fences, or debris of any kind.

There should be a Feeling of space around objects. This allows the eye to explore and discover things for itself. It is reading between the lines, so to speak.

The natural exit in landscapes is the horizon line. Arrange the tones and details so that the eye is not drawn out of the sides of the picture.

In modernistic still life arrangements where the swing or movement is diagonal, it does not matter if the eye is drawn out of the corner. Buildings or houses appear best with doors open.



# 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.

# Click Outside the Lines

## Photos “Wait...What”



Calla lily in smoke Timothy Griffin



Mr. Snuffleupagus Pete Drellick

# Click Outside the Lines Photos "Wait...What"



Blush brush tip with blush powder Germaine Finley



There's a Dog in my Birdbath! Lorell

## Member Photos



A Little Broken Up Here Germaine Finley



Summertime Shade under the Bebb Oak - Jeff Bondono



Luxembourg Ken

# Member Photos



Down-the-Path Bill Buchanan



Duty and Honor Karen DeCoster



Circular Congregational Church graveyard Glen Suszko



Packard tower Paul Roman



Exiting Fort Jefferson Tom Barr



Duck Weed Mask Pete Drellick



Pine Paul Roman



Shinola Clock from the Belle Isle Casino Robert McGarry

# Member Photos



Deer in a Field Mike Schany



Edsel Ford House Window Kurt Roman



Eye on the Ambassador Karen DeCoster



Duomo Pete Drellick



Through The Canopy John Mattarella



Cape May Warbler Gazzarato

# Member Photos



Timothy Griffin



Edinburgh Ken



Out of Bounds Lorell



Pemigewset River Glen Suszko



Cannon Plot Tom Vezina

# Member Photos



Smile David



sorano olive ri Steve Folsom



Bee at the Ford Estate Diane Kaluza



Tricolored Heron and Snowy Egret Steve Wormlight

# Member Photos



Little Friarbird AUS John Mattarella



Indigo Bunting Robert McGarry



Let's Celebrate LORELL



Laurel Creek - Smokey Mountains NP Glen Suszko



The Dreaming Stone Head - Jeff Bondono

## Member Photos



The Golden Thread Between Eras - Jeff Bondono



Zoo train Paul Roman



Spruceglen Tom Vezina

## Contribute to your newsletter!

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

@ [ecmacombnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ecmacombnewsletter@gmail.com)

# 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	<u>15</u> Trains / Trams / Busses Ex1 Ex2	<u>Rule of Thirds</u>	<u>Very Best</u>	<u>Group Shoot</u>	Education - <u>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: <u>initial of last name</u>	<u>Leading Lines</u>	<u>Very Best</u>	<u>Nature **</u>	Education - <u>Composition</u>	<u>5</u>	Tim G
					<u>Stahl's</u>	<u>7</u>	Lorell L
March	<u>19</u> Macro Ex1 Ex2	<u>Patterns</u>	<u>Very Best</u>	<u>Color Creative</u>	Education - <u>Milky Way / Night Sky</u>	<u>5</u>	Tim G
					<u>Detroit Historical Museum</u>	<u>14</u>	John M
April	<u>16</u> Throw Back to Years Ago Ex1 Ex2	<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 Ex1 Ex2	<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 Ex1 Ex2	<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 Ex1 Ex2	<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 Ex1 Ex2	<u>Diagonal</u>	<u>Very Best</u>	<u>Monochrome</u>	<u>Jackson Civil War Muster</u>	<u>15</u>	Pat R
September	<u>17</u> People At Work Ex1 Ex2	<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>15</u> Street Photography (w People) <u>defined</u>	<u>Rule of Space</u>	<u>Very Best</u>	<u>Nature **</u>	<u>Print Competition Mounting</u>	<u>8</u>	Glen S / Pete D
					<u>Detroit River Walk</u>	<u>17</u>	Pete D
November	<u>19</u> Windows Ex1 Ex2	<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</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



Port Huron Heart Tom Vezina



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