



Focal Point

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



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Announcement!

The Newsletter has a new email address:
eccmacombnewsletter@gmail.com

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New Members

Group Meetings

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

Howell Ballon Fest 2026 -
Glen Suszko

Group Outings:

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

August — Finding Inspiration Close to Home

You don't need to travel far to find great photos. Some of the most compelling images come from familiar places—parks, streets, and neighborhoods we pass by every day. The challenge is learning to see them with fresh eyes. This month, stay local and look closer. Pay attention to details, patterns, and light you might normally overlook. Inspiration isn't always about new locations—it's about new perspectives. What have you been walking past that deserves a second look?

Pete - eccmacombnewsletter@gmail.com

Reminder: Print Competition

Print Competition Mounting night is ONLY **2** months away! That gives you 2 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, be sure to check the box on your upload this month. 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

- [Basics of PhotoPills](#)
- [Create a Realistic Fan Flag Mockup in Photoshop](#)
- [New Photoshop Camera Raw Features \(July 2026 Update\)](#)
- [How to Create a Pixel Stretch Effect in Photoshop](#)
- ["Lightroom" Couldn't Do This - Until Now](#)
- [These Masking Techniques Made My Photos Better \(Luminar Neo\)](#)

Articles

- [Adobe camera app's new feature will critique your photos using AI](#)
- [Lessons From 20 Years Photographing Wildlife in Extreme Weather](#)
- [Pixel Pitch: Does Camera Pixel Size Actually Matter?](#)
- [How to \(Digitally\) Paint Your Own Gorgeous Backdrops](#)



Reminder:

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

New Member Spotlight

Ron Crichton (on the left)

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

I am on the left. First professional photo I took - 1967 in the US Navy with a 4X5 Speed Graphic. Crime scene and traffic crash pics during a 40 year career in Law Enforcement. Shot weddings on film in the 70s.

What camera or gear are you currently using?

Now I use Nikon camera bodies to shoot events, musician portraits, and whatever I think looks interesting.

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

I live in Fenton but come East for a son in Warren and a daughter in The Clem. I also come East to photograph bands.



Previous Monthly 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](#)

Previous Monthly Trainings

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

New Upload Feature

Jeff has added a new Feature to our website! **File Upload!** Just go to our [Upcoming Events](#) page, click the "**click here to submit your photo(s) for the meeting**" link on the bottom line of the of the upcoming meeting, and fill out the form.

Photographing Waterfalls

by Bill Buchanan, HonPSA

Photographing waterfalls can be challenging, and when done properly it can be rewarding. Some will argue that the smooth, silky look isn't natural — but I prefer that look.

I recently saw a post on Facebook where the photographer had seen an image of a waterfall with that smooth, silky look and wanted to know how to reproduce it. I responded with a detailed description, as if I were teaching a photo workshop. What follows is that description, expanded a little.

Start with the right accessories

The first thing needed is a sturdy tripod. The second is a cable release, which prevents any camera movement while you press the shutter. The third is at least a 3-stop neutral density filter — it may not always be necessary, but if you're going to be photographing in bright sun it will come in handy. I'd also pack a 6-stop ND filter for those brightest conditions, when a 3-stop can't slow the shutter down far enough on its own. A polarizing filter, to reduce glare and lengthen the exposure slightly, is also recommended.

Keep notes

If you're photographing your first waterfall, I would strongly recommend keeping notes. Some will argue that notes aren't necessary because your digital image already carries its metadata. But metadata won't tell you which ND filter you used, the angle you set your polarizer to, or your own impression of what worked at a particular spot. A few written notes fill in exactly the gaps the camera can't record.

Continued

Cont'd

Photographing Waterfalls

by Bill Buchanan, HonPSA

Find your settings

My starting point begins with the lowest ISO your camera offers — I'd suggest ISO 100. Next, adjust the f-stop to allow slow shutter speeds. This is where the fun begins, because you'll want to experiment. Start at around 1/25 second and work your way slower, up to a second or two.

You'll quickly learn that the shutter speed that looks best changes with the size and height of the falls.

Type of Waterfall	Typical Shutter Speed	Effect
Small cascade, fast water	1/8–1/4 sec	Shows texture and detail
Medium waterfall	1/2–1 sec	Silky but still recognizable water
Large waterfall	1–2 sec	Smooth ribbons of water
Very tall falls (200+ ft)	2–5 sec	Misty, ethereal appearance
Extremely long exposure	10–30 sec	Water flattens into a smooth veil; most texture is lost

Many photographers are surprised that 1/4 to 1 second often produces the most pleasing result. Going much longer doesn't necessarily improve the image — it can remove the very texture that gives water its character. Treat the numbers above as starting points rather than rules.

Don't forget the surroundings

A long exposure affects more than just the water:

- Windy trees and leaves will blur.
- Clouds may streak.
- Reflections become smoother.
- Foam patterns may disappear.

Sometimes a waterfall looks stronger with a little texture left in the water.

The takeaway

The "correct" shutter speed isn't determined by the waterfall — it's determined by the story you want the water to tell. That's the answer I gave the photographer on Facebook, and it's the one thing I'd want any first-timer to remember.

Happy shooting.

Through Their Eyes

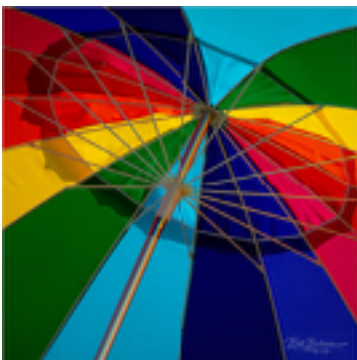


Norwegian Lakeshore Tom Barr

What Moved Me About This Image

This photograph reminds me that composition is about far more than following rules. One of the most common guidelines suggests placing the horizon on the upper or lower third of the frame. Here, however, the centered horizon feels exactly right. The image is built on balance. The dramatic sky and its reflection are equally important, with the band of green trees acting as the visual bridge between them. The colors, symmetry, and quiet mood create a sense of peace that would be diminished by forcing the composition to conform to a rule. As I've been writing *Composition My Way*, I've become increasingly convinced that the best photographs are not those that follow every guideline, but those in which every compositional decision strengthens the photographer's vision. This image is a wonderful example of that principle.

Bill Buchanan



Howell Umbrella Bill Buchanan

Through Their Eyes Steve Wormlight

What Moved Me About This Image

CR 01 Headed Home Lorell
Lorell has a great way of telling a story with her photos. This particular shot can be interpreted quite differently by each observer. There could be a feeling of sadness seeing the woman and her dog as they leave someone behind and then disappear into the morning fog. Maybe they are simply on their way home after a long walk on a chilly, late winter morning. With the cool colors of the image, you can feel the chill in the air and the dampness of the fog. Well done, Lorell.



What Moved Me About This Image

VB 02 mountain Paul Roman
During the meeting I heard a lot of quiet chatter about how people were surprised to find out that this was not a mountain, but, instead the remains of a tree. I, too, was caught by surprise as I was certain that it was a mountain, seeing the light play off of the sharp rocks on the face of the cliff. We have many travelers in the club who have seen mountains all over the world and I'm sure that in the short time it took to initially assess the image, people were running through their mind trying to figure out what mountain range this was from. Much to our surprise... no mountain at all. Nice job, Paul.



Composition Simplified

Divided Interest

If two figures are posed looking in opposite directions, divided interest will be the result. The eye will be forced to continually jump from one to the other; it would be like trying to listen to two stories at the same time. Figures should be shown looking in the same direction, or at the same object. Pose them in such a way that one occupies more area than the other; this will create interest by showing contrast in areas. Another way is to have one more strongly Lighted than the other; this will create interest by showing comparison of tone.

If a single figure is posed on the side of the picture, it would be bad taste to have it looking out of the same side. It would look better if facing into the picture. This would direct the attention to the larger area and help to even the balance.

In still-life studies, where objects are all the same size, they should be arranged diagonally, one behind the other, or tied together with interesting shadow effects. Perspective will then give the necessary variation in size. Keep the strongest area of light away from the sides and corners. Lights and shadows are the binding elements that hold the picture together and prevent a scattered appearance.

In family groups, elderly people and babies should be given preference as to position of importance in the picture.



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 “Lost in Space”



Glen Suszko



Sunset Pete Drellick

Member Photos



In Memoriam John Mattarella



Pine Cone Pathway Karen DeCoster



Smoke Michael Gleason

Member Photos



Carnival Capers - Joe Gazzarato



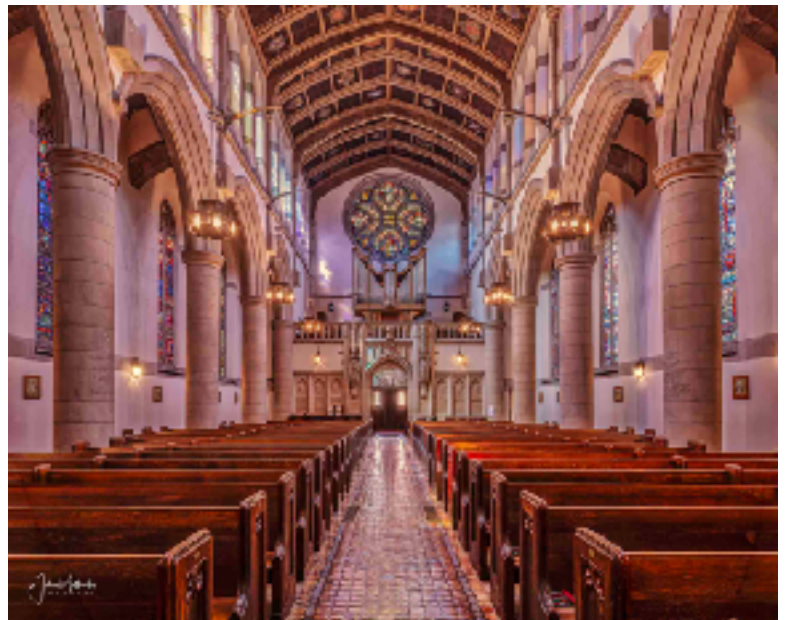
Prague Guard - Glen Suszko



Ennistymon Michael Gleason



Hit a wall Pete Drellick



The Cathedral Church of St. Paul John Mattarella

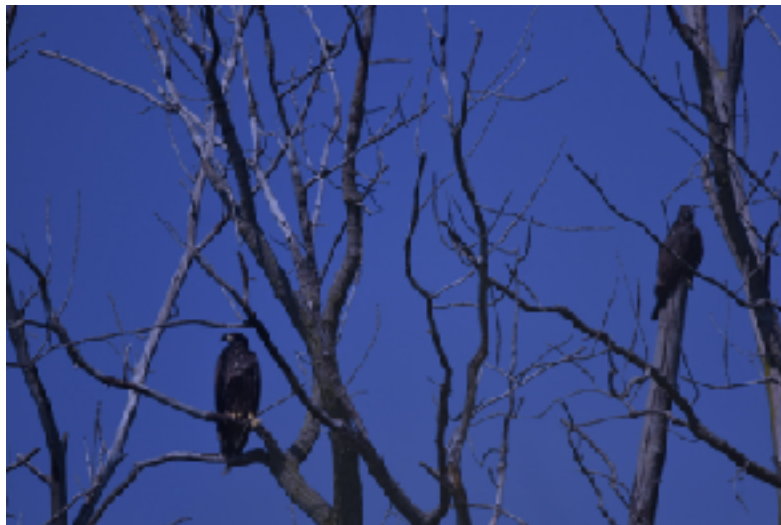


Parked - Jeff Bondono

Member Photos



Mark Carleton



Eaglets at LSCMP Kurt Roman



Ken Balloon Fest



FIFTY-ONE Caddy Lorell



Member Photos



Delicate Arch Germaine Finley



Tennessee Forest Tom Barr



Blue Flag Iris Robert McGarry



Tuscan Countryside In Spring Steve Folsom

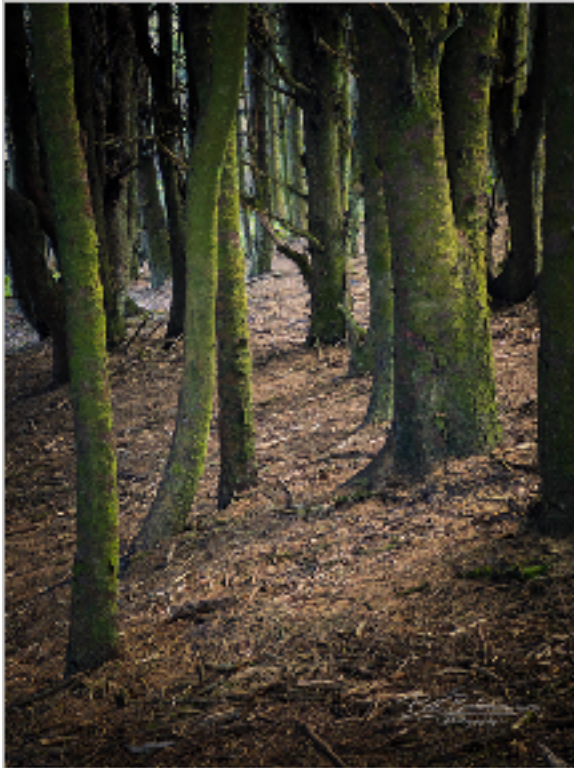
Member Photos



Howell Balloon Fest Gregg Smith



Sunset Horicon Marsh Steve Wormlight



Oregon Woods Bill Buchanan



Car Paul Roman



Spirit of Detroit - Jeff Bondono

Member Photos



Collared Lizard Side-eye Germaine Finley



Meter Mirror Karen DeCoster



Twins - Timothy Griffin



The Weight of Time - Glen Suszko

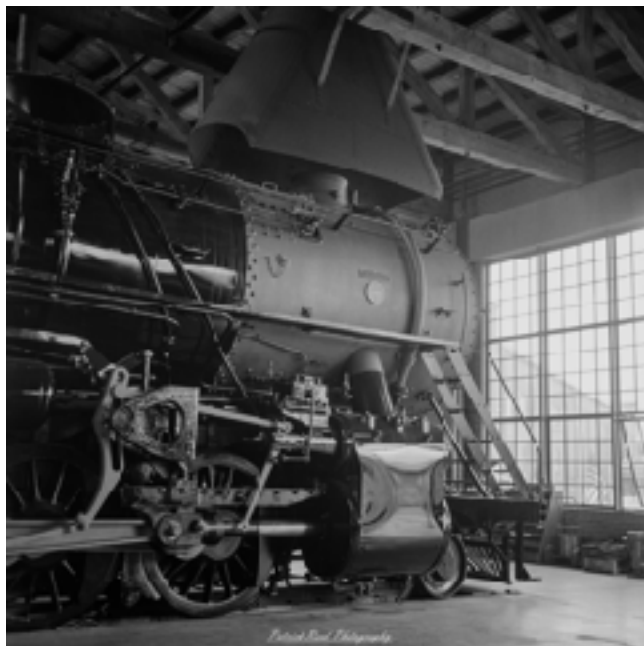
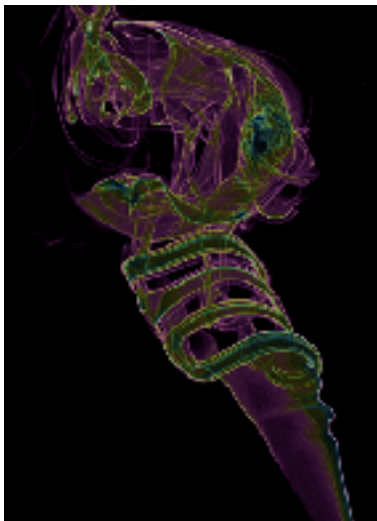


Truck Paul Roman

Member Photos



Timothy Griffin



Sleeping Giant - Pat Reed



Patriotic Packard Lorell



Contribute to your newsletter!

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

@ eccmacombnewsletter@gmail.com

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.

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
						In Door	<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						Education - <u>Milky Way / Night Sky</u>	<u>5</u>	Tim G
	<u>19</u>	Macro Ex1 Ex2	<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 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>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 Ex1 Ex2	<u>Contrast</u>	<u>Very Best</u>	<u>Color Creative</u>	In Door	<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



Railroad through the woods Gregg Smith



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Shelby Township Activities Center, 14975 21 Mile Rd