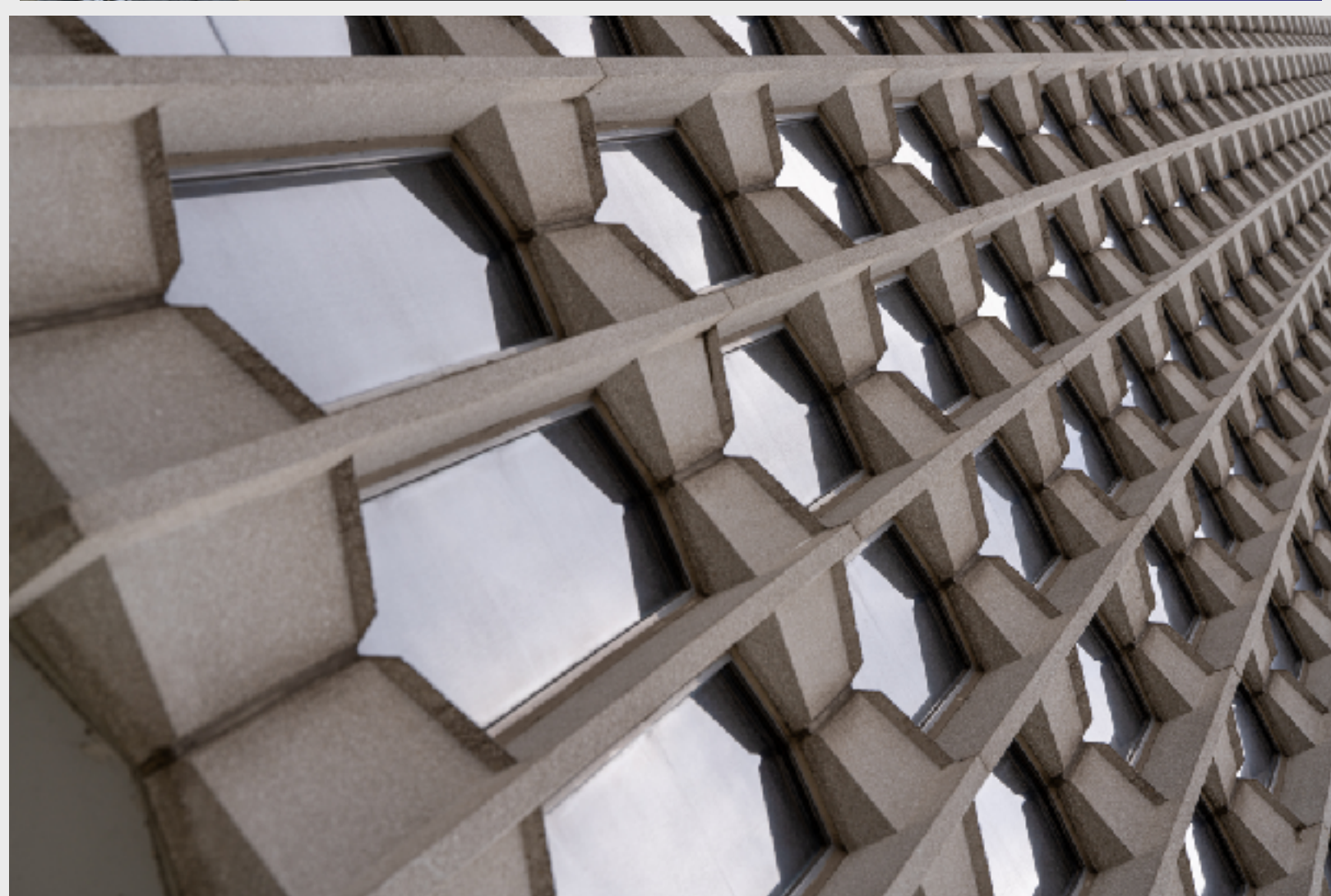




Focal Point



The newsletter of the EASTSIDE CAMERA CLUB August 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

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

New Members

Group Meetings

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](#)

Group Outings:

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

September — From Snapshot to Intentional Image

We all start by taking snapshots—quick captures of moments as they happen. But over time, photography becomes more intentional. We begin to think about framing, timing, and purpose before pressing the shutter. This month, challenge yourself to slow down and plan your shots. Ask yourself: What am I trying to capture? What makes this scene interesting? Moving from reaction to intention is one of the biggest steps in growing as a photographer.

Pete - eccmacombnewsletter@gmail.com

Reminder: Print Competition

Print Competition Mounting night is ONLY **1** month away! You still have time 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!

Cover Photo

Ascending Geometry -
Bondono Jeff



Monthly Training

- [Forced Perspective Photography Tutorial](#)
- [Tips to Get The BEST Edit Possible in On1 Photo Raw](#)
- [Stop Duplicating Layers... Do This Instead](#)
- [Don't Press The Shutter Until You Check This](#)
- [I bet You Didn't Know THIS MASKING TRICK - Lightroom Tutorial](#)
- [Use This TONE CURVE Trick for BEAUTIFUL COLORS - Lightroom Editing](#)

Articles

- [How to Correct Over Editing & Object Halos in Lightroom & Photoshop](#)
- [Create Stylish and Sophisticated Black and White Photos with Lightroom](#)
- [Vintage Lenses on Modern Cameras: Failed Experiment or Cinematic Gold?](#)
- [Lights Out in Scoresby Sund: Capturing a Total](#)

Through Their Eyes



Lady Packard - Germaine Finley

What Moved Me About This Image

A woman knows what makes a female look attractive, stunning, and sharp. That is why, when Germaine's photo, Packard Girl, appeared on the screen, the crowd began to cheer. This technically perfect image, with its striking highlights and intense contrasting elements, tipped the scales on the "wow factor meter" making it worthy of being on the front cover of a Classic Automotive Magazine. You nailed it, Germaine!

Lorell Leon



Previous Monthly 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](#)

Previous Monthly Trainings

- [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 \(Luminar Neo\)](#)
- [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](#)

Through Their Eyes



Howell Umbrella Bill Buchanan

What Moved Me About This Image

Simple. Colorful. Balanced. Sharp. Pop. Diagonal. Radial. Repetition.

This is a very good example showing us you don't need a perfect situation / subject to make an awesome picture. Like many of us at the Howell Balloon Fest Group Shoot, this subject was there for everyone to see, with only a few actually seeing its potential and splendor. Lesson learned: Look around you & keep things simple. This print should be 'big framed'. This print makes me happy. Awesome shot Bill!!

Glen Suszko

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.

Composition Simplified

Shadows

Shadows are the abiding place of mystery and charm. Shadows in pictures are like shady places on hot days. They invite one to loiter and enjoy the cooling atmosphere. Shadows can express many moods, depending upon their direction and luminosity.

If the center of interest is the lighted area, the shadows should be small in comparison. IF the shadows are the chief attraction, the lighted area should be small in contrast.

Many weird and interesting pattern effects can be obtained by proper handling of lights. Commonplace things sometimes cast the most interesting shadows. Stairways, wheels or things that have a mechanical appearance are best. Pattern is obtained by repetition of lines. Cardboard or paper can be cut into various shapes and used as part of the design.

Shadows crossing each other at various angles help to break the picture into interesting shapes. Strive for unity and consistency. Objects should show some relation to each other.

The best effects are those in which the shadows run diagonally across the picture.

Architectural subjects look best when made before eight o'clock in the morning and after four o'clock in the afternoon. It is then that nature produces the most alluring shadows. Shadows relieve the monotony of too much evenness of illumination.



Click Outside the Lines

Newsletter **only** challenge!

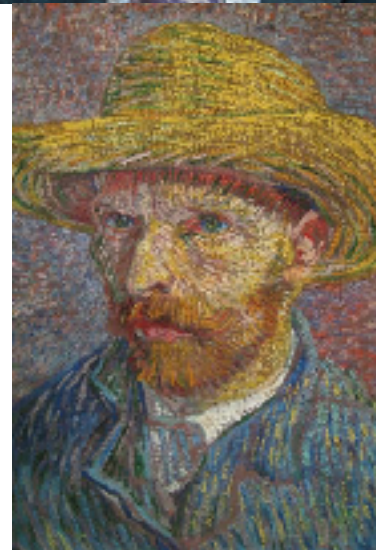
Here is a way to make our newsletter more interesting and fun to read by having a newsletter only photo challenge. These categories do not align with anything for our club meetings.

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 “*Photo Rembrandt*”



Germaine Finley

Click Outside the Lines

Photos “*Photo Rembrandt*”



The Singing Butler Tom Vezina

Precision and Presentation: A Beginner's Guide to Cutting Mats for Picture Framing

A well-cut mat can transform a photograph from a simple print into a polished piece of art. In photography and framing, mats do more than create a border around an image—they protect the print, improve presentation, and help direct the viewer's eye toward the subject. Learning how to cut your own mats is a valuable skill for photographers who regularly prepare work for exhibitions, competitions, gifts, or home display.

Why Use a Mat?

A mat creates space between the photograph and the glass, preventing the print from sticking to the glazing over time. It also gives the image room to “breathe,” making the presentation feel more professional. Different mat colors and border sizes can dramatically change the mood and visual impact of a piece.

White, off-white, and black mats are the most common choices because they complement a wide range of photographs without distracting from the image. Neutral colors are especially popular for gallery displays and camera club competitions.

Tools You'll Need

Before starting, gather a few essential tools:

- Mat board
- Straight edge or metal ruler
- Pencil
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Mat cutter or bevel cutter
- Cutting mat or protected work surface
- Utility knife (optional)
- Masking tape or artist tape

While it is possible to cut mats with a straight knife, a dedicated bevel mat cutter produces cleaner and more professional results. Entry-level handheld cutters are affordable and work well for occasional use, while rail-style cutters are ideal for photographers cutting mats regularly.

Choosing the Right Mat Board

Not all mat boards are created equal. Standard paper mats are inexpensive and suitable for casual framing, but acid-free archival mats are recommended for photographs you want to preserve long term. Acid-free boards help prevent yellowing and deterioration over time.

Mat boards typically come in standard thicknesses and sizes. Common full-sheet sizes include 32x40 inches, which can be cut down for multiple projects.

Precision and Presentation: A Beginner's Guide to Cutting Mats for Picture Framing Cont'd

Measuring Your Photograph

Accurate measurements are the key to a successful mat.

Start by measuring the exact size of your print. The opening in the mat should generally be about 1/4 inch smaller than the image dimensions so the edges of the print remain hidden behind the mat.

For example, if your photograph is 8x10 inches, you would cut an opening approximately 7.75x9.75 inches.

Next, determine the outer dimensions of the mat based on your frame size. If you are using an 11x14 frame, your mat's outer size should match those dimensions exactly.

Laying Out the Mat

Turn the mat board face down on your work surface. All measurements and cutting lines should be marked on the back side.

Using a ruler and pencil, carefully mark the borders around the opening. Double-check your math before cutting. Even a small measuring error can leave uneven borders that are noticeable once framed.

Many framers prefer slightly wider bottom borders to create a balanced visual appearance, especially on larger prints.

Cutting the Opening

This is where patience matters most.

Position your straight edge along one cut line and align the bevel cutter according to the manufacturer's guide marks. Most bevel cutters create a 45-degree angled cut, giving the mat its professional appearance.

Begin the cut slightly before the corner mark and stop slightly after it. This ensures clean corners without gaps. Apply steady, even pressure throughout the cut.

Repeat for all four sides.

Once complete, the center section should fall free cleanly. If it does not, carefully inspect the corners and finish any incomplete cuts with a utility knife.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Overcut Corners

One of the most common beginner mistakes is cutting past the corner marks, leaving visible "hooks" at the corners. Practice on scrap mat board until you develop a feel for the cutter.

Ragged Edges

Dull blades tear rather than cut cleanly. Replace blades frequently for crisp edges.

Incorrect Measurements

Always measure twice before cutting. Mat board is not cheap, and small mistakes can ruin an otherwise perfect presentation.

Precision and Presentation: A Beginner's Guide to Cutting Mats for Picture Framing Cont'd

Using Low-Quality Materials

Cheap mats may discolor over time and can even damage prints. Archival materials are worth the investment for important photographs.

Hinging and Assembly

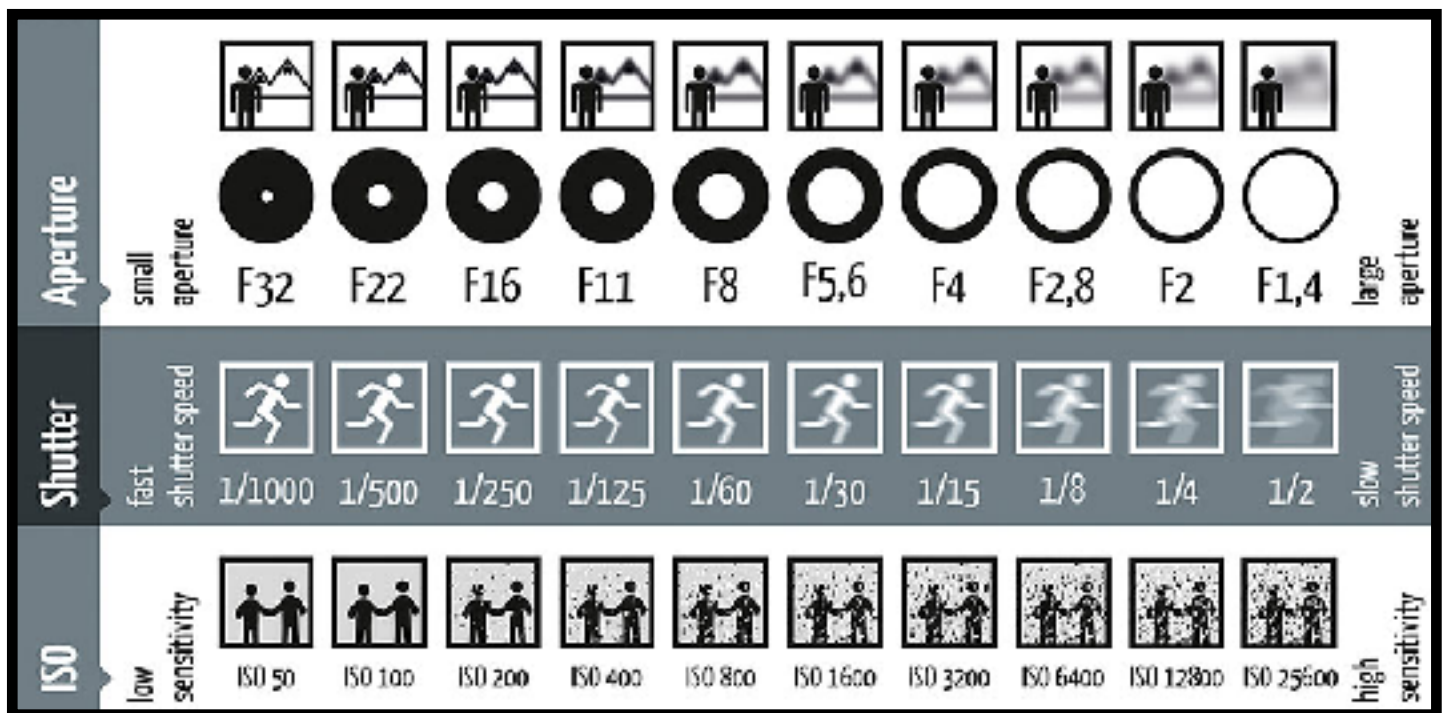
Once the mat is cut, attach the photograph to a backing board using archival tape. Avoid permanently gluing prints to the backing. A simple hinge method using artist tape allows the print to expand and contract naturally with humidity changes.

After mounting the print, place the mat over the image and check alignment before assembling everything into the frame.

Practice Makes Perfect

Cutting mats is a skill that improves quickly with experience. Your first few attempts may not be gallery-perfect, but consistency comes with repetition. Many photographers find that learning to cut their own mats not only saves money but also gives them complete creative control over presentation.

A thoughtfully chosen and precisely cut mat elevates your photography and demonstrates attention to detail. Whether preparing prints for a camera club competition, a gallery wall, or a gift for family and friends, mastering mat cutting is a worthwhile addition to any photographer's toolkit.



Printable Sheet for Aperture, Shutter & ISO

Member Photos



Autumn color - Bill Buchanan



On The Fence - Lorell Leon



Portrait Painter- Glen Suszko



Bowtie - Joe Gazzarato



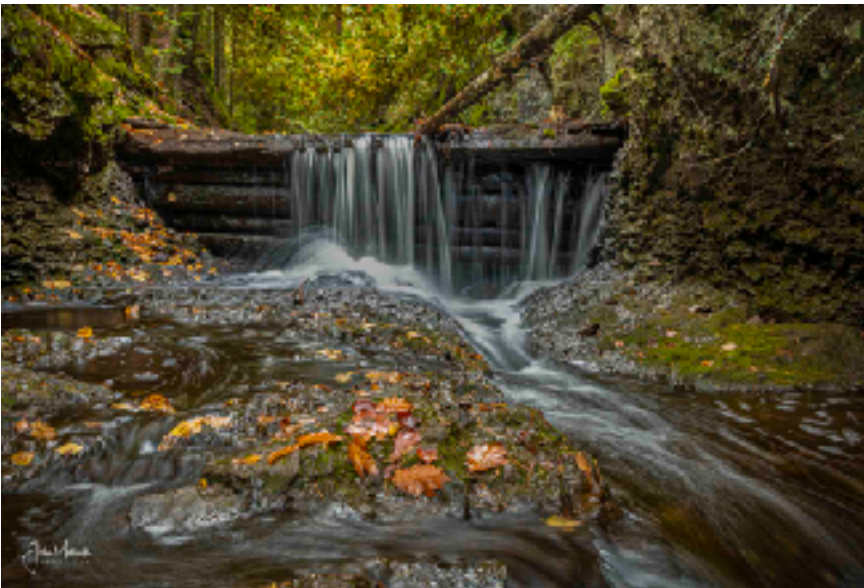
Oaks Garden Theatre Chisako Thomas



Stairs to Nowhere - Pete Drellick



Glow Walk Karen DeCoster



Whispers of Autumn - John Mattarella



Spotlight Tina Daniels

Member Photos



Carnival Vertigo - John Mattarella



Unique Hood Ornament - Robert McGarry



Liv - Pat Reed



Packard Hood Ornament - Bill Buchanan

Member Photos



1924 GMC KC116 Shifter and Brake - David Gzesh



Timothy Griffin



Graduation - George Norkus



Diamond T Hood Ornament - Robert McGarry



1950 Buick Special - The Last Ride - Steven Wormlight

Member Photos



Timothy Griffin



Ken GPSC Regatta



Flying High - Germaine Finley



Paddling Upstream - Joe Gazzarato



Get a Grip - Peter Drellick

Member Photos



U of M Blau Hall - Jeff Bondono



PPG car with wings - Kurt Roman



Nap time - Pat Reed



Choo Choo Train - Lorell Leon



No13 - Glen Suszko



Timothy Griffin

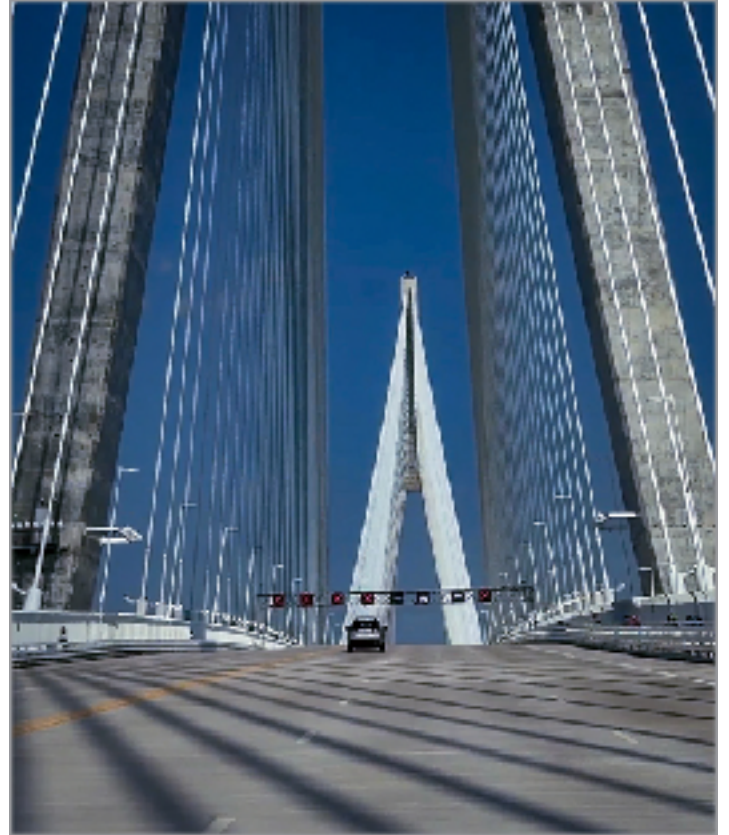
Member Photos



Cooling Off - Germaine Finley



Koala Judy Gamache



Gordie Howe Bridge - Bill Buchanan



Swimming in Blue - Peter Drellick

Contribute to your newsletter!

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

@ eccmacombnewsletter@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
						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



4 Hikers - Glen Suszko



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