Have you ever wondered how some folks get those amazing travel photos? Is it skill or luck - or something else entirely? How do they get an image to really stand out? Where do they go to find the best pictures?

Our May program presentation by Joe Lapeyra will begin to answer these questions and more by providing attendees with a new perspective on travel photography. It’s no secret that persistence and legwork really pay off with most things in life, including photography. But this presentation is all about balance, and how making a few key choices before, during, and after shooting will help you create better images anytime, anywhere.

Joe will show you how he breaks every situation down into just a few deceptively simple choices that enable him to have more fun shooting while still allowing him to create successful images.

He’ll go over the key elements present in every successful photograph, and more importantly - where to find them! It takes a little practice, but with the help of some real-world examples and location tips that he has learned over the years, you’ll be off to a great start.
Our Upcoming Program Schedule

Here are the program speakers for 2019. Listed below are those currently scheduled. As always, schedules can change, so be sure to check your Lights & Shadows and the website to confirm the scheduled speakers each month.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Joe Lapeyra</td>
<td>Travel Photography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun. 12</td>
<td>Toren Prawdzik</td>
<td>Printing Options – Get Your Pictures off your Computer and on the Wall</td>
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Guests are always welcome at our meetings, however there is a nominal $5 guest fee. Please bring cash or check. Members are always free.

About Joe Lapeyra

Joe is a retired Photojournalist, Architectural Photographer and Educator who recently moved to Grand Rapids. With a degree in Commercial Photography from the Art Institute of Ft Lauderdale, he began shooting professionally as a freelancer for the Miami Herald, covering spot news, human interest, and sports.

A keen interest in architecture led him to specialize in Architectural and Interior Photography, and for three years he apprenticed with one of the most renowned Architectural Photographers in the world. Joe learned the trade from a true master, working his way up to First Assistant and then Second Shooter before venturing out on his own.

Known for his dramatic lighting style and clean composition, Joe has over 250 published editorial features and over 40 major magazine covers spanning a 20-year career. Using his images, Joe’s clients have won virtually every major Architecture and Interior Design award in the industry.

Late in his career Joe began creating both large and small-scale photographic artworks. His photographic art has been represented in galleries in New York, Miami, Atlanta and Austin, and has since sold out.

Joe has traveled extensively both on assignment and for pleasure, and his travels have taken him to more than 15 Caribbean Islands, Europe, Africa, South America and the Middle East.
The deadline for the PSA International Exhibition (PSA 2019-100), one of the largest and prestigious exhibitions in the world, has been announced as Monday, July 8, 2019. This exhibition consists of 10 Divisions with a total of 20 sections with each section allowing 4 entries each. All interested parties have about 3 months to gather and prepare their entries.

The Divisions include the Projected Image Division (PID), Nature Digital Division (ND), Photo Travel Digital Division (PTD), Photojournalism Digital Division (PJD), Theme Division Prints (Nature Prints, Photo Travel Prints, Photojournalism Prints), Pictorial Prints (Large & Small Prints), 3D Digital, and 3D Print Sections. Each section of each division allows up to 4 entries.

Details are available on-line at www.psa-photo.org/psa-international/

I plan on entering a total of 8 digital images in the Color & Monochrome sections of the Projected Image Division plus 16 prints in the Large Color Print, Large Monochrome Print, Small Color Print, and Small Monochrome Print sections of the Pictorial Print Division. My total entry fee for 8 digital entries and 16 print entries will be $24.

Hopefully, when I go through the public showing of the 2019 PSA International Exhibition when I visit the PSA International Conference in Spokane, WA, the end of September, I will see some of my entries along with a bunch of others from GRCC members. (Come to the International Exhibition WorkShop in May to see how easy it is to share your talents with the world. My last scheduled Workshop is May 29, 2019 @ 7:30pm. Contact me at photogeek03@comcast.net if interested.)
True Life or Fake Imagery

The photograph, true-life or fake? Is it a real time, accurate rendition of the subject or an interpretation conjured up in the mind of the practitioner in post processing? The answers to these and other persistent questions may never be known. Criticism of post-processing techniques are as old as photographs themselves. The follow-up question may be, “Does it matter?” A poll could be taken to see where the numbers fall out.

I often watch a TV show on the Travel Channel called Mysteries at the Museum. On April 3 they aired a segment showing the first claimed pictures of dramatic WWI aerial battles (you know, like The Red Baron, etc.). In the 1930s, a woman claimed her husband had clandestinely mounted a camera on his military bi-plane and linked the shutter to his machine gun. She sold 34 pictures in the USA for $20,000. It wasn’t until 1984 that these photos were declared to be fake. They were actually miniatures shot in a photo studio and superimposed onto aerial backgrounds.

Today this story would shock no one. Conspiracy theorists today debate whether we really landed on the moon or shot the pictures in a studio. Public outcries questioning whether fashion models really look that good or if Photoshop was involved persist. We want our food to be “clean”, our politicians to be honest and transparent, news to be real, advertising to be accurate, our water to be clean, and, sometimes, our photos to be real.

As a club member, all this may have some relevance to you, dear friend. Many of us freely admit to being practitioners of the Dark Art of photo manipulation. Maybe you just tweak colors for accuracy’s sake or “shop” the beer can from a Nature entry. We will probably never know. Does it matter? This question and your answer to it, fortunately, is up to you.

By Steve Port, GRCC Member
scharlesport@comcast.net
As social media coordinator, I want to be sure I have permissions to freely use member images to post on social media to promote our club and our members without having to contact them each and every time. I am asking you to agree to the following...

“By submitting an image into the Grand Rapids Camera Club competition, I do hereby grant permission to the GRCC to publish my image as part of promotions on our website and all GRCC social media sites.

I understand that the above uses may include but are not limited to the GRCC website, GRCC Facebook and Instagram pages and PSA interclub competitions, and used solely for the promotion and advancement of the club. I understand that I as the photographer retain all copyrights to my images and recognition will given when possible.”

You may opt out of this if you prefer we do not use your images. Email any of the officers and we will be sure that your images are not used for this purpose.

Beckyhumes1@yahoo.com  photobug49@comcast.net  jklewis52@gmail.com

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By Becky Humes

Images for Social Media Promos

Our GRCC Wyoming Library Exhibit

Has Been Extended To May 4

By Jeanne Quillan,
GRCC VP - Competition

If you haven’t had a chance to stop in and vote for your favorite image, you should do so soon. The winning image will be announced at the May general meeting. If you have images on display, please be sure to pick them up from the Library prior to that date.

The Library address is
3350 Michael Ave. Wyoming, MI 49509

Be sure to check it out!

Questions? Contact Jeanne Quillan at:
Photobug49@comcast.net
Competition1@grcameraclub.org

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By Daniel Sak

Thank You!

Thanks to the following people who brought treats to our April meeting:

Caroline Shearer
Cathy Keifer
The Image of the Month is chosen by one of our members as the image that appeals to them the most. Each month, the honor of choosing the image is assigned to a different GRCC member. This month’s favorite image from our April competition was chosen by Richard Coombs.

**April Image of the Month**

WHY I LIKED IT:
The high skill level shown by the members of the Grand Rapids Camera Club makes choosing a favorite monthly image a daunting task for me, but I am very honored to do so. After much consideration, I have selected Randy Nyhof’s “Sturgeon Bay Sunset” as my personal favorite image of the month. My taste leans toward scapes in general, but seascapes are my favorite overall subject in photography. This particular photograph appealed to me for the following reasons. I feel the “in focus” depth of the image, front to back, is perfect. The fast shutter speed used to catch the breaking wave movement suites the picture. The leading lines shown by the rocks (stepping stones) in the foreground, taking our line of sight out to the sunset in the background, is great technique and enhances the power of the image. I thought that another highlight of this image was the sun’s faint reflection coming into the foreground in a very pleasing way. In my opinion, Randy Nyhof’s photograph “Sturgeon Bay Sunset” is a true wall hanger.

- Richard

ABOUT MY IMAGE:
My photo “Sturgeon Bay Sunset” was taken on October 8, 2014. Technical information: f/16, 1/125th, ISO 400, EF24-70mm lens at 35mm, full frame Canon EOS 5D Mk II. I processed the raw image file in Adobe Raw and Photoshop CS6 and did some enhancement with a Topaz Clarity Filter. I had hoped to get some fall color photos that day but ended up getting very few as nothing seemed to catch my eye. I did get some up by the Mackinac Bridge. I was disappointed with this photo excursion at first, but as time went by, I realized that the print sales of the images taken on that day were much more than enough to cover gas expenses.

- Randy

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- Richard
A list of assigned subject suggestions was made available at the April meeting for you to vote on your favorites. A list of the winning subjects for 2020 will be available at the May general meeting, just in time for your summer travels.

The May assigned subject is “Macro” Here is a definition of Macro to help you with your selection.

“Macro photography is extreme close-up photography, usually of very small subjects and living organisms, in which the size of the subject in the photograph is larger than life size. By definition, a macro photograph is one in which the size of the subject on the image sensor is life size or greater, however, in some uses, it refers to a finished photograph of a subject at greater than life size” (borrowed from Wikipedia)

Here are some of the things that are often overlooked:

1) The photo entered in competition must have been taken by the member (via camera or smartphone) and not one borrowed from the internet or other sources. (see Entries Page 1).

2) Nature: Some have been disqualified recently, and I never like to see that. Be sure if you are entering in nature it cannot show ‘the hand of man’. Also be careful of too much editing or over processing. Computer manipulation and enhancement of digital images should not call into question the integrity of the image. Visibly manipulated images should be entered in the Open, Creative or Monochrome categories, or risk being disqualified. (see Category Definitions).

3) You may enter a photo only once in digital and once as a print. If entering in both divisions, both images must share the same title. You may not change or alter the image in any way (change to monochrome, or alter it creatively for instance, and enter at another time. (see Re-entry of Images).

4) Titles: Your title should be limited to 28 characters. The category code, your name, and file format information are not included in the 28 character limit. They are rarely disqualified, but when a title is too long, I am forced to shorten it to fit on the necessary spreadsheets. (see Submission of Entries for Competition).

5) New this year, we now only allow one image in the Photojournalism Category. (This change is not yet in our manual.)

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The deadline for digital images for the May competition is May 1 at midnight. Remember that judging is now held one week earlier.
Focus Your Subject and Blur the Rest in Photoshop

1. Open a photo.

2. Filter > Blur Gallery > Iris Blur

3. Filter > Blur Gallery > Iris Blur

Here we will use the Iris Blur to define the focal point in the photo while blurring the rest. There is a large blur preview ring and several control points (dots) on the photo. In the middle is a pin or a target. In the center of the target the image is sharp or clear. Further away from the target or pin, the image increases in blurriness. Click on the center pin or target and drag it onto your subject. Releasing the mouse will place the pin.

Inside the blur preview ring is four larger white dots. These define the blur transition area. Between those larger dots and the blur preview (outer ring), the blur effect goes from 0 to 100 percent blur. Click and drag the white dots to adjust the size of the blur transition area. Moving the dots closer to the focal point will make the blur transition smoother. Moving the dots away from the focal point will make the blur transition sharper. I moved the white dots a bit closer to the owl to make the blur transition smoother.

About Kelly
Kelly lives in the greater Grand Rapids area and her images have been exhibited in many venues around West Michigan including ArtPrize and Festival of the Arts.
Her work can be viewed at: www.KellyWalkottenPhotography.com

Continued on next page
Focus Your Subject and Blur the Rest in Photoshop

4. Adjust the blur amount as desired using the Blur slider in the Blur Tools panel on the right of your screen.

5. The blur amount can also be adjusted by dragging the blur file clockwise to increase the blur, or dragging the blur dial counterclockwise to reduce the blur.

6. Click on the OK at the top of your screen.

7. Try using this effect to frame a face in a portrait, or highlight a specific area in a landscape.
From the Pres
By Becky Humes, GRCC President

Elections
Becoming a Board Member is a Great Way to get more active in the club!

1. Upcoming Elections
If you are interested in becoming more active in the club, here is a way to do it. These positions below are up for renewal. Contact me if you are interested, or have questions.
- President
- Secretary
- VP of Programs
- Board Member at large*

*Board members need to attend 5 meeting per year, listen/provide input during discussions, and cast votes when appropriate.

2. Club Dues / Visitor Fees
We will be changing the dues structure - beginning immediately there will be no discount for couples. Dues will be due each year in January. If dues are not paid before the March deadline for submitting images, members will not be able to enter in the March competition.

Also beginning immediately we will be asking that non-members make a $5 donation to attend each meetings.

beckyhumes1@yahoo.com

From the Editor
by Greg Ferguson
GRCC Lights & Shadows Editor

Deadline for June Issue
May 24 L&S
Friday Evening
Before is much appreciated!

Some you may want to help, and that is good when it comes to our club newsletter. So, a couple of things I would like to mention...

1. We Need Reporters
News about our members, and what is going on in the various positions in GRCC is important. It helps both current and new members a lot.

2. We Need Timely Input
Deadlines are important, and they need to be met to maintain the Lights & Shadows quality and timeliness. I usually need a full weekend prior to the publication time (usually the last week of the month before).

Please add it to your smartphone calendar.

Thank you so much!

gcferguson@me.com
When Changes Occur
If you have any changes to your email address or other information (to keep our membership list up-to-date), email Christine Mooney at treasurer@grcameraclub.org.

Welcome New GRCC Members
We have two new member who joined our club recently:
Linda Burnette shoots with her phone.
Kathy O’Driscoll shoots with a Canon and Sony.
Please welcome Linda and Kathy when you see them.

2019 Membership Dues
Membership runs January through December. Dues are $35 for each member.
We also have PayPal available on our Grand Rapids Camera Club website for your convenience (a small PayPal processing fee will be applied). Click on “Join” tab to find the PayPal link.

Our May Meeting
Guests are always welcome at our meetings, however there is a nominal $5 guest fee. Please bring cash or check. Members are always free.

Meetings are usually held the third Wednesday of the month except for February, July and August. Meetings start promptly at 7:15 PM (so it’s best to arrive by 7:00).