

Staten Island Camera Club

Serving the Staten Island community since 1954.

THE
Clix



September 2022

Up Coming Events: Next Competition - October 20th on Zoom

Oct 6th Image Critique Member Images critiqued by our Members

Oct 13th Zoom Discussion Photoshop Highlights Video Presentation - Dennis Arculeo

Oct 20th Monthly Competition Assigned Subject is "Any Animal" - Nick Palmieri is our judge.

Nov 3rd Image Critique Member Images Members

President's Message by Dennis Arculeo

Welcome to the new season of the Camera Club. We start the year off with some good news and some bad. We have two returning members who recently rejoined us. We would like to welcome back Herb Goldberger and Sue Iverson. We know you both will soon become valued club members.

The sad news is we lost our dear friend Carol Messina, who was so looking forward to her trip to Europe. Unfortunately Carol passed away while on that trip. She will be sorely missed, as she was a frequent and valuable participant at all our meetings.

The new season promises to be a very exciting one with the return of our print competitions. There will be three print

competitions this season, beginning in November. Every member who makes prints is encouraged to participate in these contests. Mike Miglino and Charlie DeBartolo has stepped up to the plate and have volunteered to run them. You will hear more from them in the coming weeks.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Len Rachlin who worked very hard to secure our judges for our monthly competitions. Thank you Len, you did a great job!

I want to encourage our members to make the effort to attend all our meetings and events. There is a sense of community when we gather. We share ideas and experiences and we form relationships with one another. Here's hoping we see more of you attending.

Why do we have assigned Subjects? By Dennis Arculeo

You may ask us why do we have Assigned Subjects?

The answer isn't as complicated as you might think.

The main reason is to stimulate our members to go out and photograph things they may not normally consider when they create images. It forces photographers to think outside their comfort zone and makes them better at their craft.

Let's face it we all get stuck in a rut, when it comes to finding subjects to photograph. Being challenged by an assignment helps us use our little grey cells to come up with something different and pleasing. At the same time it can make us more aware of different techniques and processes. All in all we become better photographer for these experiences.

The Assigned subject for the Oct. 20th: Competition is:

"Any Animal" - This category is broad and wide open, which means your subject can be any creature that can be considered an animal. It should be a living breathing example from the animal kingdom. This would exclude **insects, taxidermic or man made or fabricated animals** from your selection.

Here are some thoughts on capturing animals.

Flash photography often isn't the best way to take pictures of animals. However, if you are taking pictures during the middle of the day you can use your flash to add a little more light on your subject to avoid those dark shadows. This technique, using your flash even when there is plenty of light, is referred to as fill flash.

If your focus is off just a little it can spell doom for your pictures. Doom I tell you! Animals move fast and often. And animals and have no care whatsoever that you are trying to work. The same can be said of "baby pictures" as for animal pictures.

If you think focusing can be a challenge in animal photography, try taking pictures of bugs and other creepy crawlies when your depth of field becomes razor thin. I've seen before articles dealing specifically with insect photography tips, where focus is essential.

To get tack sharp focus on your moving beasts (or kitties) think of yourself as a sports photographer. Many of the same sports photography tips can be used for animal photography tips.

First, don't shoot in manual focus mode. It will only drive you mad. Use your camera's auto focus mode to keep up with the action. Be

Assigned Subject Digital Awards Gallery – Silhouettes



Len Rachlin - Yoga Girls in Silhouette



Scott Allen - Waiting For My Best Friend

Award - First Place (9)

HM - Honorable Mention (8)



Dennis Arculeo - Sunset Cruise

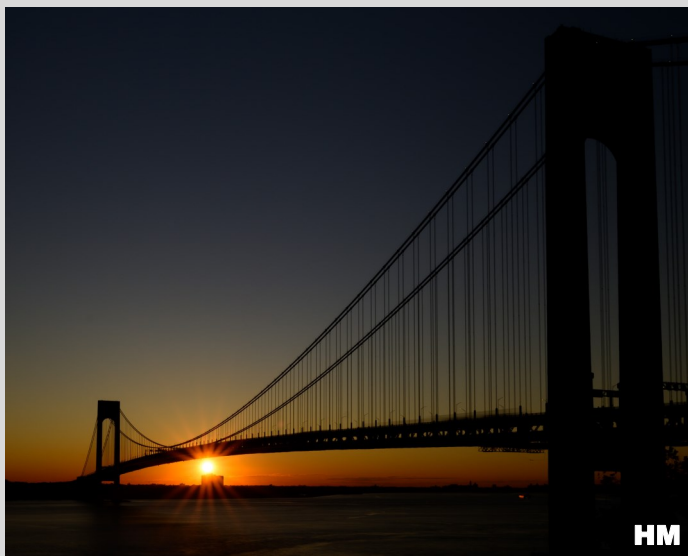
Assigned Subject Digital Awards Gallery – Silhouettes



Len Rachlin - Silhouettes on the Third Floor



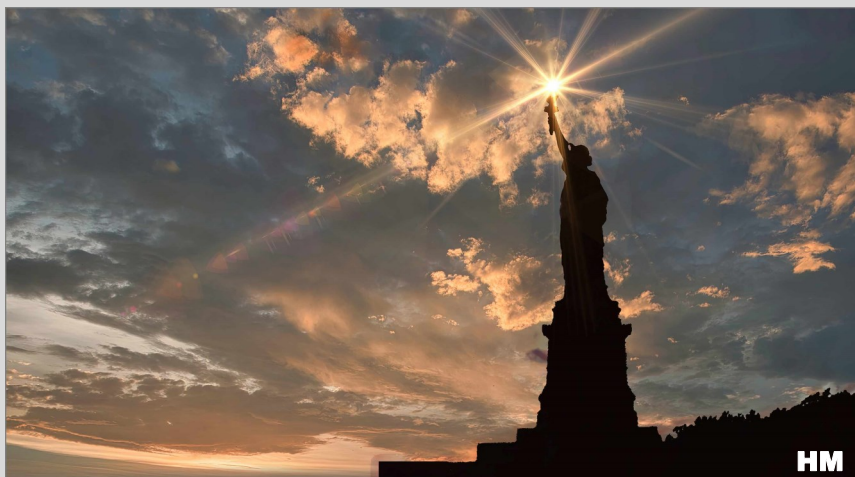
Lauren Arculeo - Fireman Matt



Scott Allen - Verrazano Bridge at Sunrise.



Sue Svane - Pre-Dawn at the Pier



Award - First Place (9)

HM - Honorable Mention (8)

Dennis Arculeo - Lady in the Harbor-

Here are some thoughts on capturing animals

Continued from page 1.



prepared to constantly tap your shutter to acquire and re-acquire focus.

If your subject is moving toward you, use the AI Servo mode in your camera's menu. This will lock the focus on the subject and track it even as it moves toward you. AI Servo isn't as necessary when your subject is moving from side to side. You will also need to use a faster shutter speed. Start at 1/250th of a second and go up from there depending on how fast your subject is moving.

Keep in mind that when you use a faster shutter speed you are limiting the amount of light that comes through the lens. You can increase your ISO and/or widen your aperture setting to compensate for the lack of light that hits your camera's sensor when you use a fast shutter speed. By doing a little research you can read more about the exposure triangle and how ISO, aperture and shutter speed work together in every picture you take.

Unlike food photography, animal photography requires patience if you want to nail down that incredible shot. Wildlife photographers are known to spend months living and hiding in the bushes waiting for that perfect prize that awaits them. The same can be said if you are taking pictures of your pets or at the zoo. Except the part about staying in bushes for months on end. Be patient and let moments unfold and be ready with a quick mind and a quick shutter finger.

It can be frustrating to wait and wait and wait...and wait for a specific action to take place only to miss it because you were interrupted by your cell phone. Be patient. Stay focused and sharp. Think of yourself as a hunter. Only your kill shot goes on the wall inside a frame.

Good composition is another photography tip that is inclusive to all of photography. One photography technique you can employ is to apply the rule of thirds to your composition.

Don't just put your subject in the center of the frame. Move your subject around your frame to create a sense of balance in proportion. Sometimes this balancing act is more like a balancing action. You don't necessarily want everything to be equal.

Maybe one side of your photo has more "weight" than another. This imperfect balance allows your viewers' eyes to more readily move around the entire photograph. If everything is completely balanced our eyes may not be triggered to move around.

Give your viewers what is needed so that their eyes are led around your entire picture and not just fixated on one spot. Another technique is the use of lines in your pictures. And this doesn't mean lines in the literal sense, although literal lines do work. If there are repeated patterns that move from the foreground to the background, this will naturally lead our eyes "into" your picture.

Good composition makes a photograph more interesting and it can help to convey a story. When taking pictures of animals you can find your focus while they are in the center of your frame. Then, before pressing the shutter, just move them over to the side a bit. You can also create a better sense of composition after the shot simply by cropping your picture. Remember cropping is not a sin!

Always consider your background. It is an equal part of your picture even if the focus is somewhere else. Your background can often times define your picture. It will let your viewers know more about your subject. It can tell a back story, if you will.

Many times your background may be blurred out without any recognizable objects to be seen. That doesn't mean that your background becomes irrelevant. The colors and shapes in the background will still play a vital role in how we interpret your picture.

Remember this, everything within the borders of your frame is your responsibility. If something isn't looking right or if something in the background is too distracting, move!

You may need to move just one step over to remove something in the background that is annoying your picture. Then again, you may need to get in your car and drive to the other side of the lake.

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Color Digital Image Competition Awards Gallery



A Wild Leek - Sue Svane



Strawberry Blossom - Sue Svane



Hidden Valley Creek - Scott Allen_



Composition with Hosta Flowers - Len Rachlin

Award - First Place (9)

HM - Honorable Mention (8)

Color Digital Image Competition Awards Gallery



Diner - Scott Allen



The Great Escape - Herb Goldberger



Nesting Heron - Dennis Arculeo

Award - First Place (9)

HM - Honorable Mention (8)

What are your Camera's METERING MODES?

Depending on your particular camera model, these are the most common metering modes:

- Spot
- Center-weighted
- Averaging
- Let's look at each one more closely.

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Color Digital Image Competition Awards Gallery



Peggy's Cove Day Brake - Dennis Arculeo



Vintage Fire Hydrant - Joe Sorge



Osprey - Herb Goldberger

Award - First Place (9)

HM - Honorable Mention (8)

Here are some thoughts on capturing animals continued from page 4

Action shots combine all elements of animal photography. You need patience. You need to pre-see your shot like a sports photographer.

You've got to use a fast shutter speed and, when you can, you need to ensure that your background is helping to define the picture in the best possible way.



Let's not forget about the eyes of the animals we shoot. Much like the people we photograph the eyes are a very important element of the image. Eyes that are not sharp dull the impact of the portrait of both people and animals. An eye without a catch light shows no sign of life. Its that shining spot of white or sky that tells us that what we are seeing is a real life breathing subject.



Dennis Arculeo

For measuring impact I use a five second rule for photography. Everyday we see hundreds of pictures as we scour the internet.



picture-power.com

Even excellent photos only get a few seconds of our time. If you can make someone stop and give you five full seconds to view your picture, you can be assured that you have a picture worth remembering.

A picture of a lion just sitting there probably won't stop people in their tracks (unless it is an extreme close up). This takes us back to patience and being ready to get that shot that will stand out above all others.

The Challenges have been put forth; it's up to you to make your images stand out and become winners. Doing the necessary and appropriate preparation is the most important part of any photograph. So let's get started.

2022-2023 Assigned Subjects	Month
Silhouettes	September 2022
Any Animal	October 2022
Pier's or Jetties	November 2022
Interior Spaces	January 2023
Windows/Doors	February 2023
Any Macro with an insect	March 2023
Color: One color to bring out the Main subject	April 2023

Monochrome Digital Image Competition Awards Gallery



Fluffy Puppy - Sue Svane



Violinist Passau Germany - Herb Goldberger



Cartagena Woman - Herb Goldberger

Award - First Place (9)

HM - Honorable Mention (8)

Monochrome Digital Image Competition Gallery



Mr. Kool - Len Rachlin_



Bridge in the Midday Sun - Marianne Bury



Brittany - Scott Allen

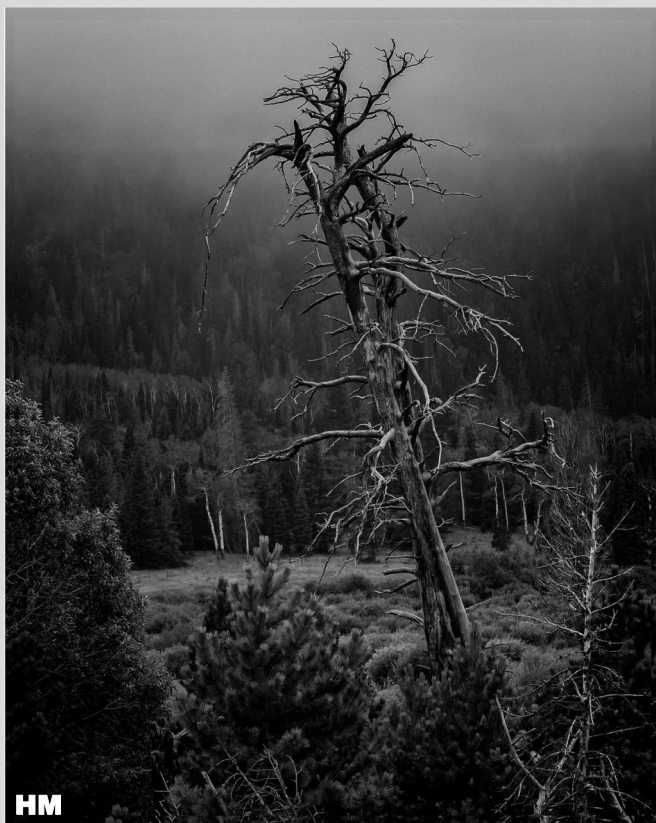


An Iris - Joe Sorge

Award - First Place (9)

HM - Honorable Mention (8)

Monochrome Digital Image Competition Gallery



Leaning Dead Tree- Scott Allen



At Silver Lake -Sue Svane

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What are your Camera's METERING MODES?

The metering modes of a camera are one of the most powerful, misunderstood, and under-utilized settings on a modern digital camera.

I have seen it happen over and over again; a photographer trying to capture an image and the camera is not producing what they expect. They snap the shutter button and then quickly review the photograph to see if it's too light or too dark. If it is, they'll erase the shot and try again - sometimes without changing anything! It's as if the camera will magically make a change for them. Or, and this is extremely common, they'll change the shooting mode (which may or may not change the image depending on the settings). However, that isn't the correct solution. What these photographers are missing, and what we are about to discuss, is an understanding of metering modes.

Let's be honest - how often do you change your metering mode? I'm guilty of this myself. We've come to rely on our modern cameras to make decisions for us.

But the best photographs always start with the best original file, and that can only happen when you get a proper expo-

sure, and getting a proper exposure relies heavily on your use of the correct metering mode.

Spot metering mode utilizes a very small section of the image area to create a meter reading. The metering area is typically 1% to 5% of the total image area that you see in your viewfinder. It's usually represented by a small circle and fixed directly in the center of the viewfinder image.

The center-weighted metering mode concentrates 60 to 80 percent of the metering sensitivity to the central 1/3 of the viewfinder. The camera then factors in the balance of the reading based on a feathered look at the remaining 2/3s of the viewfinder.

Average metering mode looks at the entire scene with no bias. It then creates an exposure recommendation based on the lightest to darkest value. This setting works fine for VERY average lit scenes with a propensity of average tonal values. The problem is that situation rarely presents itself. If you have a camera that includes this setting, I would recommend that it be your last choice.

Written by Kent DuFault.

General Information

Important SICC Websites

Staten Island Camera Club Website

<https://www.sicc-photography-club.com/>

Image Critique Meetup Website

<https://www.meetup.com/Image-Critique-Meetup/>

Staten Island Camera Club Meetup/FSM

<https://www.meetup.com/Staten-Island-camera-club/>

Email us at:

info@sicc-photography-club.com

Note: All Blue characters are Hyperlinks.

Ctrl Click with mouse or tap your stylist to follow the links on-line.

Competition Guidelines

There are six categories to submit into for a monthly competition. You can enter 2 Color Digitals, 2 Color Prints, 2 Mono Digitals and 2 Mono Prints, as usual (8). And now you can also enter in the Assigned Subject category two Digital and two in Print. (Which equals a total max of 12 images per competition)

You are permitted to make up One missed Regular competition in each of the categories that you are participating in; except for the Assigned Subject Competitions, which can not be made up.

Digital entries must be submitted by 11:59 PM on or before the Tuesday evening prior to Thursday's competition, using the upload procedures established by the Photo Contest Pro website.

All print entries must be submitted and ready for Competition by 7:45 PM on the night of the Competition. Print Entry Sizes: Printed images will be no less than 8x10", but not more than 13x19". Prints must be mounted on a board and can be single matted. Over all presentation size including the mat or backing board should not be less than 10X12" nor any larger than 17X22." Commercially available mats for 8x10" sized prints are generally 11x14" with an opening for 8x10" prints and are available in local stores or on-line.

The upper rear Left Hand corner of the print must contain our competition label filled in with the image's Title, Member's Name and the Color/Mono Category; checked in the appropriate box. Assigned Subjects are not numbered. The entry # on the Label (#1 or 2), must correspond to what is printed on the scorer's sheet.

All images, both Digital and Print, will follow the same scoring scheme. First Round entries that are scored a "6" or less will be dropped, any image scored a "7" makes it into the 2nd Round. During the 2nd Round the Judge will re-score the Photo and will either keep the "7" Score or raise it to an "8" gaining an "Honorable Mention" or a "9" which is the designation for an Best in show "Award".

Once a Photo receives an "Award" (9) it will be retired and may not be re-entered into any future regular Monthly Club Competition in the same or any other category. Any 9's earned during the season can compete with other photos in the Photo of the Year competition. Photo of the year winning images also will be retired and restricted in the same manner as above.

Any color Digital, or Print that received a 7 or 8 may not be re-entered into competition in the same season in the same category. However it may be re-entered in a succeeding season, only once, in a different category.

Competitions are held in the Harbor Room, Snug Harbor Building G, on the third or fourth Thursday of each month at 8 PM. (See our Schedule on our Website for exact dates and times.)



NJFCC News

For

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit NJFCC

<http://www.njfcc.org/>

The NJFCC is comprised of member clubs in New Jersey and surrounding areas. Its purpose is to bring together individuals and clubs who share a common interest in photography, to establish a learning environment and spread the knowledge, skills and the joy of photography. Affiliated club members may enter inter-club digital and print competitions scheduled throughout the year.

Club Officers for 2022-2023

President: Dennis Arculeo

Secretary: Debbie Killen

1st Vice President: Eric Mayr

Clix Editor: Dennis Arculeo

2nd Vice President: Len Rachlin

Competition Chair: Carol Mayr

Treasurer: Carol Mayr

Facebook: Charlie Di Bartolo