

Housatonic Camera Club Newsletter

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©Lazlo Gyorsok

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<http://www.housatoniccameraclub.com>

Co-Presidents: Dawn Dingee and Jeff Breitman Webmaster: Lazlo Gyorsok

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President's Message

by Dawn Dingee
Jeff Breitman

Only 3 more meetings for this season. Last meeting, Jeff did a program on street photography. He shared many useful tips for capturing candid shots of people and places. For April's meeting, we will be sharing some of our own photos for critique. These can be candid shots, posed shots or anything that you would like some feedback on. On page 3 and 4, you will find some good tips on how to critique other people's photos. Before the next meeting, it would be a good idea to review these.

With the warmer weather finally upon us, we would like to schedule some field trips before our season is over. Have any ideas? Let Jeff or I know and we will arrange it. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Welcome to the April issue of the Housatonic Camera Club Newsletter. The following is included in this month's issue:

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HOUSATONIC CAMERA CLUB
presents MEMBER

Print CRITIQUE

Members will submit 1- 2 Prints,
and participate in a
club print critique

For April, we have chosen
for the Assigned Topic
WINDOW REFLECTIONS
You will show your skills
by submitting your best
image (ONE) that best
represents the topic.

HCC Meetings are free and open to the public so please join us.
Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00 pm (Wagner Bldg)
Noble Horizons, Salisbury, CT.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 2019

Hudson Valley Photography Network – Saturday, May 11, 2019

On Saturday, May 11, 2019, HVPN will host a conference at Mt. St. Mary's College in Newburgh, NY. The topic is "Raw Wars: Battle of the Landscape Pros". Featured speakers are Greg Miller, Nick Zungoli and Carl Heilman. Sign-in begins at 8:15 and the conference ends at 4:00 pm. Fee is \$39. I have attended these in the past and they are very good and informative. Anyone interested in attending?

If you know if any local events that may be of interest to photographers, please let me know.

Skill of Critiquing Photographs

During the club season, we have a number of competitions – PSA, NECCC, Recorded Commentary, Digital Circuit and a Print Competition. For all of these, we elicit feedback from members so that we can get valuable feedback on our photos. Too often though, the feedback wasn't too useful. Right?

One reason for this is that the reviewer didn't understand the rules. Or perhaps the reviewer didn't understand what you were trying to convey. I think we all like to hear why our photo works or even why it doesn't.

There are different ways to give critique but the reason for the critique is usually the same...the photographer wants to receive feedback that s/he can take back home and act upon. The overall purpose of the critique is to help improve the photographer's skill so the critique should be well thought out...and honest.

<https://www.lightstalking.com/critiquing-photographs/>

1. Critique with the Intention to Help

There is no better way to critique than with good intentions. This allows you to be objective at the same time be able to point out what can be improved in a given photo. It is true that the truth can hurt and that negative feedback is necessary at times, but everyone is in the position to receive feedback that will help them get better.

2. Give a "Why" When Commenting on Technique

While it's alright to comment on technique, be careful how to do it. Since some are more experienced than others, those on lower level skills can get lost in translation. If possible, try explaining why one should follow a certain technique because not knowing the how isn't too useful. For example, you can say to someone, "I think this photo isn't using the rule of thirds. You should use the rule of thirds." Although this can be helpful, it is only a temporary approach since it doesn't really help the photographer assess the situation and improve their workflow. Instead, when commenting on technique, mention why a certain technique works better. For example, "I immediately see this flower as your main element but since it's positioned at the center, my eyes wander at the sides and I get distracted with the things around."

3. Avoid Personal Bias

Your personal need may come in the way of effective photo critique. A photographer with a strong interest in HDR will probably want a lot of contrast and dynamic range in their images.

For the competitions we participate in, another good tip related to avoiding personal bias is to consider the type of competition – try not to be too critical of a photo just because you don't personally like the subject matter. If the subject matter fits the competition rules, we should look at it more objectively.

4. Avoid altering the message

Not all suggestions are helpful. Some can sometimes be confusing even if the intentions are good. For example, when you ask a photographer to crop a photo, there is risk in altering the message the photographer wants to convey. Does that mean suggesting to crop is a bad thing? Certainly not. The elements in a frame are there to create an idea. When you crop, you don't necessarily change the message, but removing and even adding key elements in a frame will.

5. Avoid Short Statements That Offer No Direction

Let's be honest, we've done this, or at least, most of us have. Statements like "It's nice", "It's beautiful", "It works for me" are nice to hear, but may be too lacking. Unless the photographer just wants a compliment rather than a critique, you would want to give more information.

<https://fstoppers.com/critiques/how-properly-critique-photograph-82407>

6. Be Polite

I'm general a fan of being considerate of others all the time, but I think it's particularly important in this context. If someone has shown the requisite bravery to put their work and creative mind in front of you, reciprocate that with respect for their courage. There should be no reason a photographer walks away from a critique with lower self-esteem, even if that critique was mostly negative. Be sensitive to how you say things and remember that we all experience the words of others differently. A little kindness can go a long way.

Other references available:

<https://photofocus.com/2011/11/21/photo-critique-guidelines/>

http://www.photozo.com/download/Critique_Guide.pdf

For the competitions we participate in, take the time to consider the rules of the competition. For example, the NECCC Nature competition takes into consideration the "story" more than the technical aspects of the photo. We should remember that when providing feedback. Also, we need to stick to the rules when it comes to the "hand of man" so for the NECCC Nature photos, we should be looking for this and pointing it out when we see it. Sometimes the 'hand of man' is so far in the background that it is difficult to see – but the judges will probably find it so if you see it; point it out.

Lastly, try to provide feedback when reviewing photos for a competition, not just a score. There are typically 25-20 photos per category so not every photo needs a comment; however, it would be helpful if you could take the time to add some comments. As a photo club, we want to provide fellow members with the skills and knowledge to improve.



NECCC **Nature** Competition Submissions

The following photos received the highest scores in the club voting and will represent the Housatonic Camera Club in the NECCC Nature competition. The top 4 scoring images are sent to represent the camera club.



Beaver at water level © Niel Nourse



Black Mantled Tamarin ©John Landon



Half Moon ©Lazlo Gyorsok



Waiting out the Storm ©Jane Rossman



NECCC Pictorial Competition Submissions

The following photos received the highest scores in the club voting and will represent the Housatonic Camera Club in the NECCC Nature competition. The top 4 scoring images are sent to represent the camera club.



Misty ©John Landon



Weathered Barn ©Dawn Dingee



Only in New York ©Lazlo Gyorsok



Screech Owl Portrait ©Neil Nourse

Announcements

HOUSATONIC CAMERA CLUB REPRESENTATIVES for 2018/2019 season

Co-Presidents	Dawn Dingee Jeff Breitman housatonic_camera_club@yahoo.com
Vice President	Open
Treasurer	Judy Becker
Membership/Dues	Judy Becker judybecker40@att.net
Publicity	Jeff Breitman
Special Events Coordinator	Jeff Breitman
Program Director	Jeff Breitman sylvan4570@comcast.net
Webmaster	Lazlo Gyorsok lazlo1@optonline.net
Newsletter & Hospitality	Dawn Dingee d1295@aol.com
Secretary	Denise Rueger rrueger2@roadrunner.com
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Salon Committee	Brian Wilcox ctphoto@comcast.net
	Lazlo Gyorsok lazlo1@optonline.net
	Bill DeVoti abundancehill8@gmail.com
Projector Coordinator	Brian Wilcox ctphoto@comcast.net
Liaison Representatives	PSA - Jane Rossman jrossman222@gmail.com
	NECCC - Bert Schmitz bschmitz@att.net

Proud member of:



www.psa-photo.org



www.neccc.org



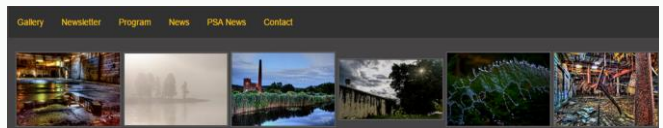
The New England Camera Club (NECCC) will be having their annual conference July 12, 13 and 14, 2019 at UMASS Amherst MA. There are over 90 sessions to choose from, 27 workshops, 13 Photo walks, 45 hands-on photo ops – animals, flowers, food, still-life, glass, and models. There are also print and digital competitions.

There is also camera/lens loaning which is a great way to test out new equipment before putting out the expense.

Club flickr site:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/124371381@N07/>

Photos submitted to the club flickr site appear on the Housatonic Camera Club website on the HOME page



To all Club Members

Don't forget to submit your images (2) for the Recorded Commentary. This is a chance to get feedback on your images from a NECCC professional photographer. Please submit 2 images no bigger than 1024 pixels wide x 768 pixels high, with a title and your name. Due April 10th.

The results will be shown at our June meeting.

Upcoming Field Trip – Stone Church

We are still planning on a trip to Stone Church in Dover Plains, NY. A short, moderate walk on a well maintained trail will lead you to the main attraction – a cave with a cathedral like entrance. Inside you will find a waterfall. Trails are sometimes icy this time of year so we have not settled on a date yet. But as the weather warms up, more details will be sent. For more information on stone church:

http://townofdoverny.us/Stone_Church.cfm



Assigned Topic –HANDS

Each month we feature a topic of the month in the newsletter. Members are encouraged to submit 2-3 photos to select from. This month's topic was "HANDS". Below are some of the photos received from our members.



©Lazlo Gyorsok



©Lazlo Gyorsok



©Dawn Dingee



©Dawn Dingee

Next month's newsletter topic of the month:

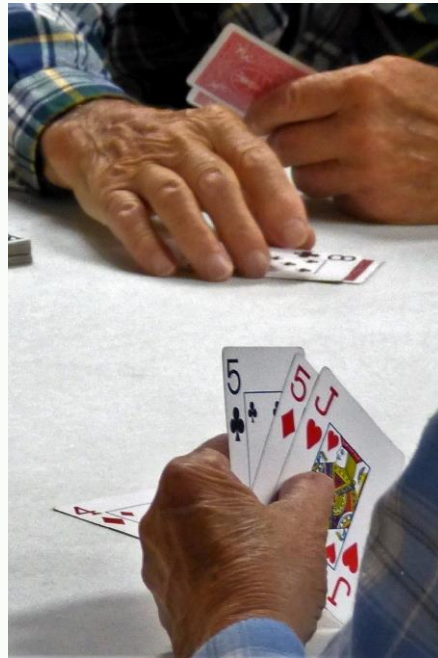
Consider sharing your photos with fellow club members. It's a nice way to share our work and to show our creative side. Next month's topic will be: "**High Speed**". Freezing fast motion (aka High Speed Photography), can give some pretty special photographic effects. High speed photography is used in physics, heal research, sports, wildlife, and more. Be creative!



Assigned Topic – HANDS



©Jane Rossman



©Jane Rossman



©Brian Wilcox



© Lazlo Gyorsok

Namibia

Photos by Birgitt Pajarola

Namibia is in Africa. It gained its independence from South Africa in 1990. The country is gaining in popularity as an attractive tourist location. The desert and mountainous areas, with species of classic African game animals, such as desert lions, zebras, and elephants are real highlights of safaris through the national parks. Namibians are proud of their country, and the myriad traditional villages, colonial German towns, and lively urban centers all deserve your attention. Birgitt recently returned from Namibia and she provided these wonderful pictures for me to share.



Namibia (continued) Photos by Birgitt Pajarola



Charlie





The Family, Haonib Riverbed



Charlie and sister, Haonib Riverbed



South African Oryx (aka Gemsbuck), Red Dune

Although not primarily a wildlife vacation, Namibia does offer some excellent wildlife viewings. The country offers dramatic scenery and has a lot to offer in terms of culture, adventure and unusual scenic experiences.

Housatonic Camera Club

Membership Enrollment 2018—2019

I wish to enroll as a member for one year. Season runs from September through June. Attached is the membership fee of \$35.00 (and \$15.00 for each additional family member).

Please hand or mail this form to the Treasurer, Judy Becker
13 Housatonic Ave. Canaan, CT 06018-2421; Email: judybecker40@att.net; Phone: 860-824-0561

PLEASE PRINT ONLY ... AND CLEARLY!

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

WE WILL SEND YOU OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS, SCHEDULES, AND CLUB INFORMATION