



"Heading Home" by Ian Buchanan

Friday 7 December **Meeting features** **slide show/demo**

The camera club has another busy and informative program lined up for its 7 December meeting. The meeting starts at 9:15 sharp in Mlacak Hall C.

We will start with a slide show of the submitted photos from the "open" category. This will be followed by a presentation of rodeo photos from our own Dianne Helmus.

John Williamson will provide an overview of his experience with Corel Painter Essentials. Marg Jackman will again outline some of her Hints and Tips. Ken Wilson will provide a hint of some of our upcoming speakers and lead a discussion on Shootout locations and monthly assignments.

Before each meeting and at the coffee break our mentor group is there to help answer your questions.

We need you to send in photos

This month's photo assignment is an easy one. In fact anything goes into the "Open" category as long as it was taken within the past 3 months.

Just send them in by the deadline and they will be in our slide show

and also in the photo gallery on our web site. There is a limit of 3 photos per person.

Our January assignment is "Children" so if you have any of those you may want to save them until next month. (See article on page 4)

How to submit photos

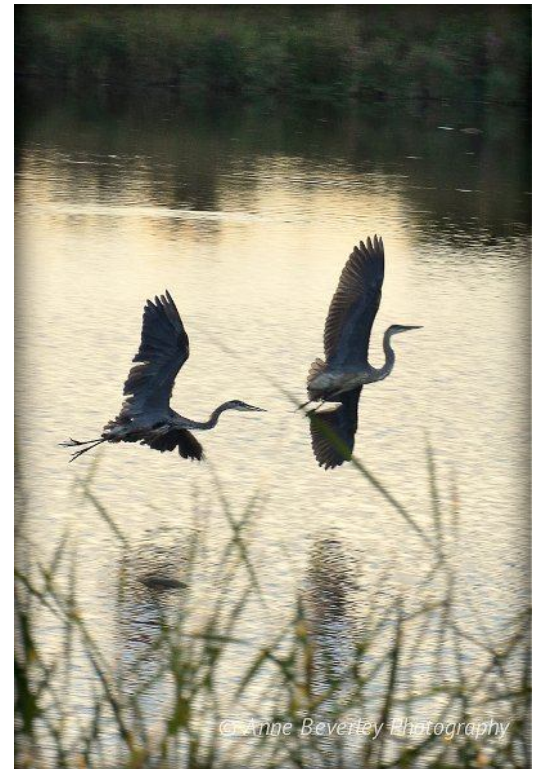
We want you to send in your pictures for the monthly assignments and also for inclusion in our gallery on the Club website. So how to do that and what are the "rules"

1. The photo should be at least 1MB for clearer projection
2. Use an email program and "Attach" your image directly
3. Send your images to cameraclub@kanataseniors.ca
4. If you want your pictures included on our Photo Gallery, you must include your name as part of the image name

Shot as: **IMG0912.jpg** (straight out of the camera)

Renamed as: **Snowdrifts by John Smith.jpg**

5. Photoshop adjustments allowed



© Anne Beverley Photography

"Herons in Flight" by Anne Jones

Month	Assignment	Deadline	To be shown
Nov.	Open	2 Dec.	7 Dec.
Dec.	Children	30 Dec.	4 Jan.

Ideas for taking Christmas photos

From Michael Carr, former About.com Guide

It's inevitable. On Christmas, the camera comes out. Be sure you capture the best Christmas memories with these tips on taking great Christmas pictures.

Get Your Camera Christmas-Ready

Want to annoy the kids? Make them sit in limbo Christmas morning while you fumble with memory cards and batteries. If you'd prefer Christmas pictures with smiling faces, anticipate events like Christmas morning gift opening by having your camera prepped and ready to shoot.

Think Outside the Christmas Present

There are so many amazing Christmas moments that don't happen Christmas morning and don't involve opening presents. What about the night before when the kids place the cookies and milk out for Santa? Or the afternoon your child spends making a homemade gift for the grandparents? Or the fun get-together with friends?

Have your camera on you during the holidays, and there will probably be many special occasions or even unique and fleeting moments to capture with your camera.

Be the Christmas Present

When you are shooting the typical Christmas morning gift opening extravaganza, don't force everyone to hold up a gift and smile. This isn't very genuine.



Instead, get on the level of the gift opener (probably the floor for children) and just catch their natural actions: tearing or neatly opening the paper, the priceless look on their face when the gift is revealed, the casual and contemptuous toss

of unwanted clothes over the shoulder.

Candid Christmas pictures will probably look more natural, bring more laughs, and better capture the mood than any posed should would.

Christmas Portraits

You may still want to pose your subjects, but it doesn't have to be them holding up gifts. Christmas often provides unique opportunities to get group portraits of family and friends who may rarely be gathered together at once.

Take advantage by gathering everyone together somewhere with a nice and uncluttered backdrop. A Christmas tree can be a popular background, but even a wall that isn't too busy or a living room couch can work well.

Look at the entire frame to be sure everyone is well represented, as in no heads chopped off. Also be sure there isn't something distracting anywhere in the image. Stagger your subjects, perhaps with some standing and some sitting.

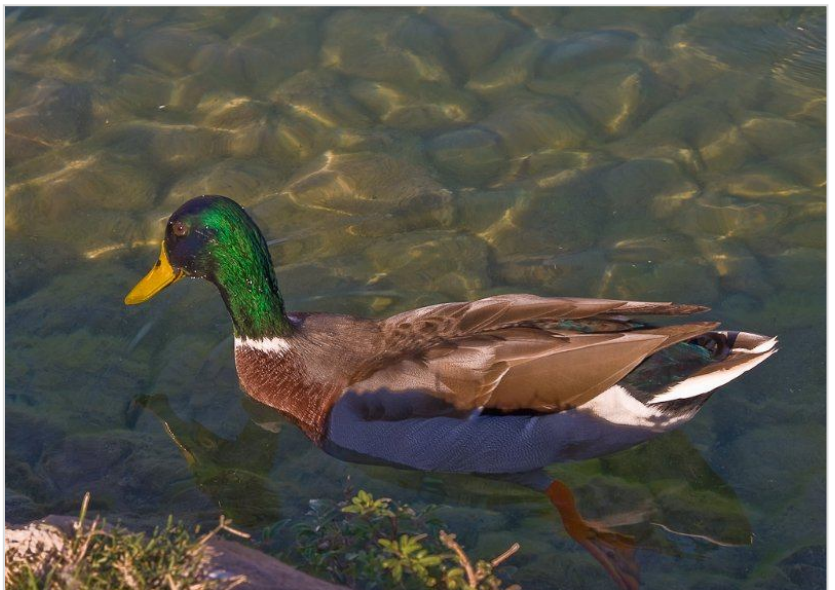
Take several pictures and experiment with the lighting. That way, if a person is blinking or yawning in one (something not so easy to spot on an LCD screen), you'll have a few choices.



"Morning serenade" by Marg Jackman



"Blue Heron" by Peter van Boeschoten



"Duck swimming in the lake" by Amy Lo



"Bird Reflections" by Adrienne Diorio

Memory cards explained

One thing all digital cameras have in common is a memory card. Most recently their memory capacity has evolved so that there's almost no market left for plain SD cards, which support only 2GB of storage. SDHC cards hold up to 32GB; SDXC cards are rated for up to 2TB, but few cards even offer 64GB of storage.

As to speed, the confusing old "6x, 10x, 13x" etc. ratings have gone out of style compared to the common sense Class 2, Class 4, Class 6 and Class 10 ratings.

Casual photographers won't even need to pay attention to the ratings of their SD cards, but pros shooting at high frames per second or capturing HD video absolutely have to pick the right card for the job. Here's how to figure out which memory card class is right for you.

Speed Class	Minimum Write Speed	Suitable For
2	2 MB/s	SD video
4	4 MB/s	Some video, stills
6	6 MB/s	HD video, HD stills
10	10 MB/s	1080p HD video, burst shooting

The proper speed isn't quite so easy to determine. The kind of shooting you plan to do matters, but so does the quality and performance of the camera. The more capable the camera, the faster it can write data to an SD card. That's when SD write performance can become a bottleneck.

With DSLRs, the camera's buffer can also be a bottleneck. That's where photos are temporarily stored for processing before they're transferred to the SD card. Continuous/burst shooting mode can fill up that buffer quickly, depending on how big it is (the better the camera, the larger the buffer likely is). This is your RAM, essentially. Thanks to the buffer, the speed of your SD card actually isn't all that important for simple photography. If you're snapping off a picture every few minutes--or even every few seconds--you're not going to overtax a Class 4 card.

Visit our web site

www.kanataseniors.ca

select **Activites** and then **Camera Club**

Marg's Hints and Tips

How do you become a better photographer? One way to stretch as a photographer is to do self-assignments. There will be a series of exercises, guaranteed to stretch you and your thought process as a photographer. Of course, the best thing you can do is to take pictures - lots of pictures.

WORKOUT 1: LIGHT AWARENESS

Light is critical to photography, without which, you can't take pictures. One of the keys is to "see" the light. Certainly, the subject is important, but if the subject overpowers the mind, you might not see the light. This exercise will help you find interesting light.

EXERCISE: See the Light.

WHAT YOU NEED: A camera and a zoom lens, preferably one that goes from wide to at least moderate telephoto.. Do this at any convenient setting, but be there at a time of day when the light is low.

WHAT TO DO: Get out and photograph light. Don't look for a subject. Make a series of photographs, at least 20 to 30, where every picture is about light. Look for spots of light, coloured light, edge light, light contrasting with shadow, shadows (shadows are as much a part of light as the light itself) - anything that shows remarkable light.



REVIEW: Look at the light and what it does in your photographs. See how the light can be interesting in and of itself. Look at how the light and shadow are interacting throughout the image. Notice how your eye moves around the photograph, looking at the light and contrast.

WORKOUT 2: EDGE MANIA

Composition is an important part of photography. You can study all sorts of things to help you make better compositions, including concepts like rule of thirds and classic proportions. The key is to look for ways to use the entire picture area and get your subject out of the middle. There is nothing wrong with having a subject in the middle when appropriate, but most of the time you want to get your subject in other places so your pictures have variety and added interest. Here's an exercise to help you learn to use the entire visual area of your photograph.

EXERCISE: The Edges

WHAT YOU NEED: A camera and your favourite lens. Do this exercise in any convenient setting.

WHAT TO DO: Make a series of photographs, at least 20, where every picture keeps the subject out of the middle of the photograph. Don't even use rule of thirds. Take it so far as to make sure there's nothing important in the middle of the picture. Put your subject or important parts of your scene along the edges of the photograph.



REVIEW: Examine your photographs and look at that's happening to them, because important parts of the picture are out along the edges. Look at how visual relationships are occurring throughout the image. Notice how your eye moves around the photograph in an interesting way because there is nothing in the middle to cause the eye to stop.



“Under the rainbow” by Bob Douglas



“Hogs Back Morning” by John Williamson



“Above Hogs Back” by Stuart Moxley

Don't say 'cheese' when photographing children

Some of the most treasured things parents can possess are pictures of their kids (or grandkids).

Use Props

Kids tend to be more at ease when they're holding something in their hands. Think toys, teddy bears, books—or a candy cane or chocolate Easter bunny for holidays.

Choose Natural Light Over Flash

Open up those blinds and curtains and let the daylight in, then stand next to the window and aim your camera into the room. Or take the kids outside for pictures. If the kids are making a project that you'd like to capture, sit them at a table next to a window.

Take Pictures from a Good Angle

Get down on their level. Squatting or sitting to take a picture of your children will capture them at a much more flattering angle than pointing the camera down while standing over them.

Make Your Kid Laugh

Don't say "Cheese!" That typically makes kids look ... cheesy. If you can't get a real smile out of them, don't worry. Natural images of a child not smiling are a whole lot better than a fake-fake smile.

Take Close-Ups

Close-ups are another great angle for photographing kids. Can't stop marveling at your baby's teeny-tiny fingernails? Or how cute the little dimples on his or her knees are? These are the details you'll want to remember long after your little dumpling has grown into a stuffed cabbage. Snap pictures of your child's hands holding a sippy cup, or a close-up of her face when she's licking a lollipop or having a tantrum.

Take Candid Shots

Capture your kids brushing their teeth, eating their breakfast cereal, zoning out on the couch, hanging upside down off the couch, jumping up and down on the couch, or beating the stuffing out of the poor couch. Kids don't have to be posed and looking at the camera to get a great shot.

Take More Pictures

With digital cameras, there's no reason to scrimp. The more pictures you take, the more chances you have to get one great image.

Adapted from

<http://www.parentsconnect.com/parenting-tips/take-great-pictures-kids/take-more-pictures.html>