



Focal Point

The newsletter of the EASTSIDE CAMERA CLUB January 2026
Shelby Township Activities Center, 14975 21 Mile Rd



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Eastside Camera
Club, a club member
of the [Photographic
Society of America](#)



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New Members

Group Meetings

January 15th:

Special Assignment: Trains/Trams
Busses, Rule of Thirds, Group
Shoot & Very Best

February 19th:

Special Assignment: Initial of Last
Name, Leading Lines, Nature &
Very Best

March 19th:

Special Assignment: Macro,
Patterns, Color Creative, Very Best

April 16th:

Special Assignment: Throw Back
to Years Ago, Fill the Frame,
Monochrome & Very Best

May 21st:

Special Assignment: Music /
Singing, Rule of Odds, Group
Shoot & Very Best

June 18th:

Special Assignment: Head
Stones, Frame your Subject,
Nature & Very Best

Mentoring

Here's a link to the list of
topics and mentors:

[Eastside Mentoring Program](#)

Cover Photo

Gregg Smith
Lost Creek Falls

Group Outings:

January 22nd Indoor @ Shelby Township Activities Center

February 7th Stahl's

March 14th Detroit Detroit Historical Museum

April 18th Eastern Market Murals

May 16th Edsel/Eleanor Ford Estate

June 27th Howell Balloon Fest

Shutter School: @ Shelby Township Activities Center

January 8th Get To Know Your Camera

February 5th Composition

March 5th Milky Way / Night Sky



Shutter School

Join us on January 8, 2026 at 6:30 pm for our first session of Shutter School. This session will help you understand features in your camera that you might not be sure of how or when to use them. Bring your camera, lenses and any owner manuals you might have. The session will start with a short explanation on updating the firmware in your camera or lenses. After that, it will be an open forum with members available to help with your questions.

Sessions will be at the Shelby Activity Center.

If you plan to attend, please email t12griffin@gmail.com. In your email, please include your camera model and who is attending. Add Shutter School as the subject line in your email.

Community Events

Fire & Ice Festival

Jan 16 & 17

Downtown Rochester

Blake's Bavarian Winterfest

Jan 17 & 18

Glow Stick Nights @ Dodge Park

Jan 3, Jan 10, Jan 17,
Jan 24, Jan 31



Monthly Training

- [Luminar Neo's Newest Tool](#)
- [How to Select and Change Colors in Photoshop](#)
- [The BEST Way to IMPROVE a LIGHTROOM Sky Mask!](#)
- [Lightroom Landscape Masking – DEEP DIVE](#)
- [Rule of Thirds in Photography: The Essential Guide](#)
- [The AMAZING LIGHTROOM HACK that takes intersecting masks to a new level!](#)
- [How to Photograph Snowflakes](#)

Member Spotlight

This months member in the spotlight is David Gzesh!

Favorite Style/Genre: Outdoors

How did you get started in photography?

As a young child, I saw my mother and her sister (Aunt) taking pictures at family events and on vacations. As a 10- or 11-year-old I also wanted to take pictures. My aunt had a early Polaroid and I was amazed that pictures could be seen in 60 seconds! I started with an inexpensive, plastic camera shooting B&W film eventually graduating to a Minolta SRT 101 SLR in my early 20's (1970's) after friends showed me the virtues of using a SLR with interchangeable lens.. I have not looked back since then.



What inspires you most when you're behind the camera?

Natures beauty and wanting to capture its uniqueness.

Do you have a favorite photo you've taken — and what's the story behind it?

As a relatively new father, I saw my 3-year-old son teasing his 1-year-old sister. The expressions on their faces, his, "look what I am doing", hers, "so what" melted my heart. The picture was taken in early 1980 when my son was about 3 and my daughter was about 1.





Previous Monthly Trainings

- [3 Questions That Make Every Photo Better!](#)
- [This NEW LIGHTROOM TOOL easily fixes a BIG PROBLEM!](#)
- [New AI Assisted Culling Feature in Lightroom](#)
- [Don't Make These Beginner Flash Mistakes](#)
- [FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY: Flash Power Settings For Beginners](#)
- [Light Depth Instantly Improved my Editing \(Luminar Neo\)](#)
- [STOP Fighting Photoshop Layers! The 1-Click BLENDING MODE You NEED5 HIDDEN HACKS in LIGHTROOM you NEVER KNEW existed!](#)
- [Lightroom's Darkest Editing Secret for Stunning FALL COLORS](#)
- [Welcome to 30 Days of Lightroom](#)
- [You'll Never View Dodge & Burn the Same After This \(Luminar Neo\)](#)
- [10X Your Masking in Luminar Neo \(3 Killer Tips\)](#)
- [5 Creative Tasks That Will Make You a Better Photographer](#)



January 2026

Member Spotlight Continued from Pg 3

David Gzesh

What's one tip or lesson you've learned that you'd share with other photographers?

Starting with film, it was important to understand what story you wanted to convey and then compose it with little required editing. Typically, you had 1 or 2 chances of getting the right image because of the cost of film and processing. Today with modern digital cameras, photos are inexpensive which provides the opportunity to shoot multiple images until it is closed to your requirements. In addition, software makes editing easier with color corrections and cropping.

If you could photograph anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

Alaska. Alaska shows serenity with its snow-covered mountains, forests, lakes, rivers, and wild life. In summary, its quiet scenery.

Composition Simplified Transition

Since time immemorial man has followed the path of least resistance.

Short-cuts soften and eliminate sharp angles from our everyday existence. The illustration of the fence shows how we follow the path of least resistance by cutting across corners. The eye, like the rest of the body, seeks -short-cuts too, so that it can wander about more easily.

A picture can be an eye-sore, or a thing of beauty, depending upon the way it leads the eye to wander through its boundaries. Pictures that are made up of sharp angles are more striking or sensational than those made up of graceful curves.

The purpose of transitional lines or tones is to gradually lead the eye from one point of interest to another without jarring or straining the optic nerves.



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Continued from Pg 4

Reminder

For members that cannot attend a monthly meeting in person, you are encouraged to submit pictures. If you do submit photos please put a "Z" at the start of the file name.

Member Photos



Mike Schany Sales Display

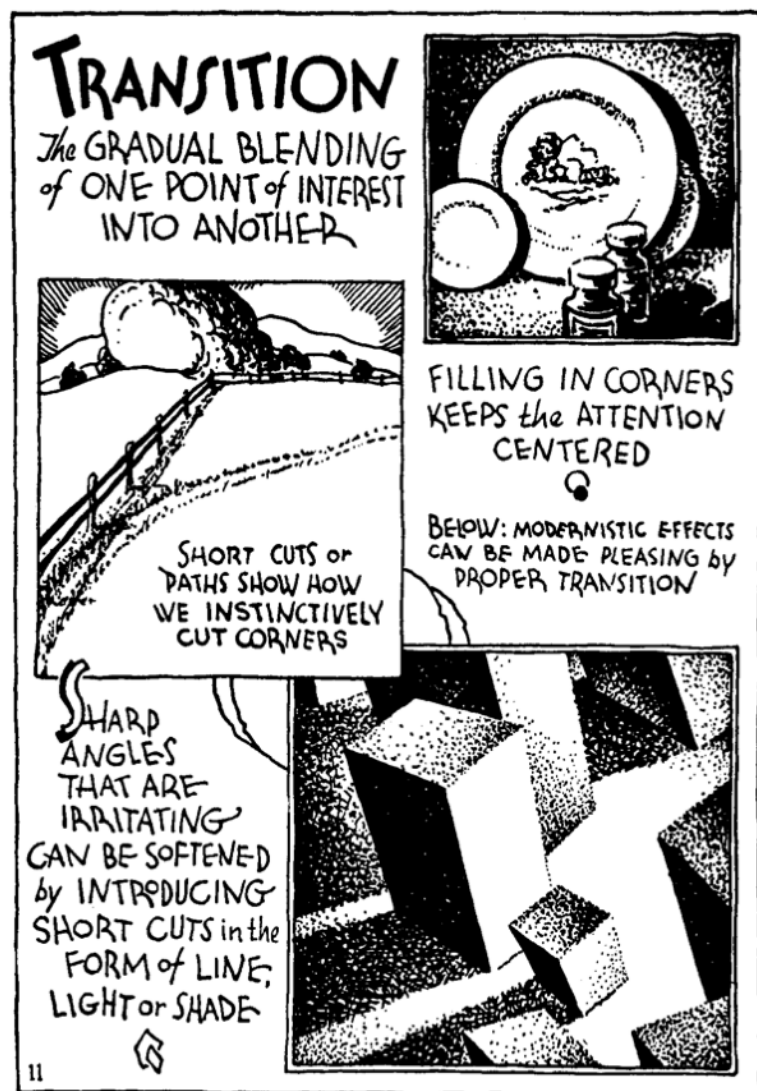


Kurt Roman Ultimate American Eagle

Composition Simplified

In modernistic pictures, sharp angles are desirable, as their purpose is to make a quick impression. The quickest way to make an impression is to jar the sensibilities.

Transition, like repetition, if over-emphasized, leaves the picture Flat and uninteresting. A good picture is one that is a happy combination of curves and angles. It is like music that is made up of sharps and flats — it supplies the necessary variation.



COMPOSITION SIMPLIFIED By Hermon Gabriel

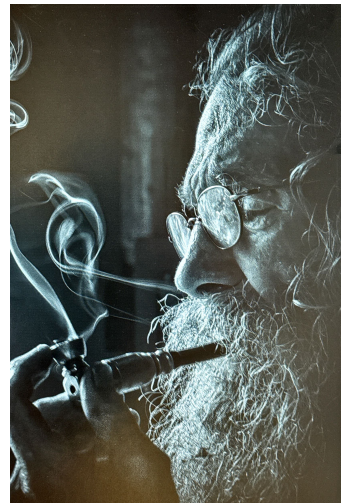
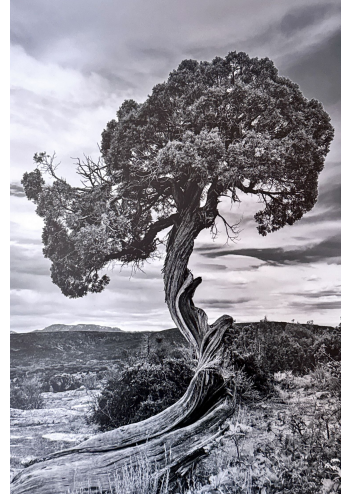


2025 Print Competition Winners!

Eastside Camera Club - 2025 Print Competition Results

Color: 1st: Blood Moon Eclipse - Tom Vezina
2nd: Crystal Mill - Jeff Meurer
3rd: Painted Sunrise - John Mattarella

Monochrome: 1st: Solitary Sentinel - Steve Folsom
2nd: Donald - Lou Pilot
3rd: Anchor Bay - Sue Gentry



Congratulations to this year's winners of our
annual print competition!

Click Outside the Lines

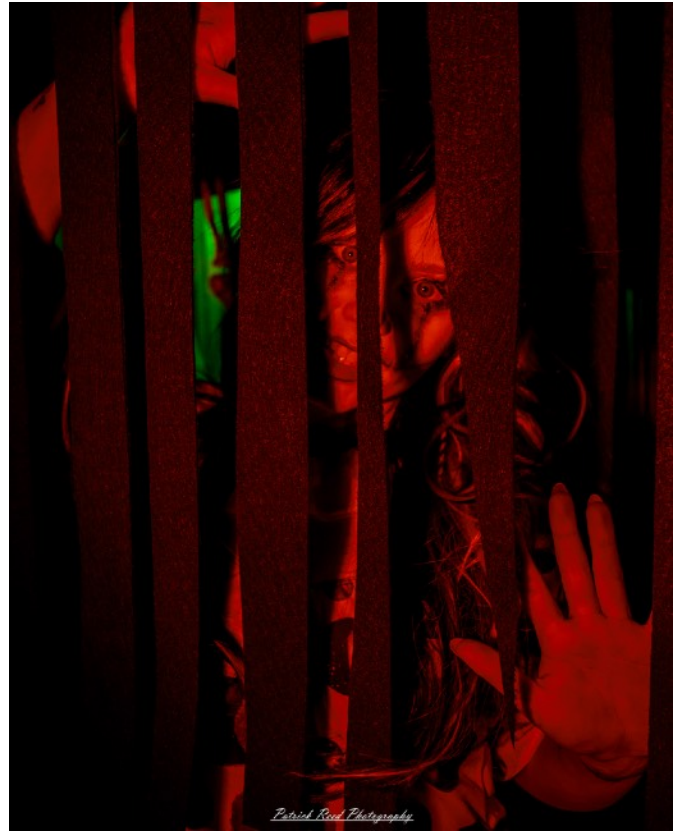
[Eastside Camera Club Newsletter](#)

January 1, 2026

Our first month of Click Outside the lines photos are in!



I See Red! Lorell Leon



Pat Reed



Glen Susko

January 2026



White on White! Pete Drellick

Member Photos



Gregg Smith Common Goldeneye



David Gzesh Canyon St Anne



Robert McGarry Calm Before Sunrise

Click Outside the Lines



Yellow! Germaine Finley



Piet Sheri Eva

Member Photos



Pat Reed Conneaut, Ohio



Glen Suszko 84



Thomas Chisako



George Norkus 100 Year Old WW2 Vet



Ken Suddick Reflection

Click Outside the Lines

Newsletter **only** challenge for next year!

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.

January 2026

Behind the Lens Hacks

With the colder months here, something you might want to add to your camera bag: Hand warmers!

I use a few different types of warmers depending on conditions and time outside.



Zippo
rechargeable
hand warmer



Small Rechargeable
Hand Warmers



Hot Hands
Hand Warmer

The Zippo hand warmer is really nice to have hanging around my neck just inside my jacket where it keeps me warm and I can pull it out to warm up my finger tips when needed.

I like to put the small rechargeable ones in the heat storage pocket of my gloves.

I use the Hot Hand Warmers to keep my spare battery warm in my pocket, I also keep a couple around just in case the rechargeable ones die.



Head Gloves with heat storage

Contribute to your newsletter!

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

Pete Drellick @ peter.drellick@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 <u>Ex1 Ex2</u>	<u>Rule of Thirds</u>	<u>Very Best</u>	<u>Group Shoot</u>	Education - Get To Know Your Camera	<u>8</u>	Tim G
						In Door	<u>22</u>	Glen S
February	<u>19</u>	Subject: initial of last name	<u>Leading Lines</u>	<u>Very Best</u>	<u>Nature **</u>	Education - Composition	<u>5</u>	Tim G
						<u>Stahl's</u>	<u>7</u>	Lorell L
March						Education - Milky Way / Night Sky	<u>5</u>	Tim G
	<u>19</u>	Macro <u>Ex1 Ex2</u>	<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 <u>Ex1 Ex2</u>	<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 <u>Ex1 Ex2</u>	<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 <u>Ex1 Ex2</u>	<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 <u>Ex1 Ex2</u>	<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 <u>Ex1 Ex2</u>	<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 <u>Ex1 Ex2</u>	<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 <u>Ex1 Ex2</u>	<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

