



# Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

October 2022 Newsletter

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## *New Year – New Faces – New Technology!*

After more than two long and challenging years, we are happy to be able to re-connect live and in person! Our first meeting was a great success with about 30 people joining us at Westminster Presbyterian Church and about 15 more joining in remotely. Everyone present at the church was all smiles and happy to be reunited with their foto friends face-to-face and welcome some new friends, as you can see in the images below. Hopefully those joining in from home were smiling too!



On the left we have our new Membership Coordinator, Eva Connor, welcoming new member, Wendy Summer. The photo collage on the right is proof the folks in the room were happy and smiling. We're just not sure if it's because they're happy to be together again or if Bob Kelly is saying something silly! VP, Ginia Apostalacus mans the laptop while Cathy Kulman who presented the Members' Forum, looks on as Bob shares some important competition announcements. On the right we have the smiling faces of Stephen Williams, Eric Loken, and Sally Loken.

## Introducing Meeting Owl3

And now for the new technology! The Steering Committee met and had a discussion about club meetings going forward. Even though we were 'so done' with covid and ready to meet in person, it seemed that covid was not completely 'done' with us. We realized the hybrid meetings were successful and this was confirmed by responses to a survey sent out to members in July. The survey results clearly confirmed that hybrid meetings should continue. After some research into technology to make hybrid meetings run more smoothly, evaluating different options, and testing the preferred option at the church, "Meeting Owl3" was purchased for about \$1,000. This is the technology that was used during our first meeting and it delivered beautifully!

A few improvements included better audio for those zooming in remotely; better sound in the meeting room when the remote participants spoke, and it was no longer necessary for those making announcements to come to the front of the room to speak. The owl knew where they were and picked up their voice and video from where they stood!



Finally, it allows for much easier setup and teardown - there is no need for old heavy speakers, amplifiers, and a temperamental microphone. May they all rest in peace. It looks like the owl is here to stay! The photo below shows new president, Denise Molzhan behind the controls as the wise new owl looks on!

## Final Reminder for Dues!

Thanks to everyone who already renewed their membership and paid their dues for the upcoming year. If you've been procrastinating or just plain forgot, here's your final reminder. Remember, dues must be paid for you to be considered an active member and participate in competitions and members-only events.

[Here is a link](#) to all the info you need to renew and fill out your annual membership form.

# September Highlights:

## Members' Forum – “Embrace the Blur”

Lensbaby Ambassador, Cathy Kuhlman

What a way to kick-off the new club year! At our first Members' Forum, new member and Lensbaby Ambassador, Cathy Kuhlman shared her passion for blurs and gave us a glimpse into the world of Lensbaby and a variety of lens options. She gave examples of how to take our photography from the *ordinary* to the “extraordinary”



## Monthly Meeting –“Adventures in Bird Photography”



Irene Sacilotto shared many pointers to help birders capture a special avian moment and achieve good lighting and composition. Irene has extensive experience in wildlife photography and birds are her favorite. Her experience and enthusiasm gave us all new motivation to get out there and try this challenging genre of photography.

*Enjoy both presentations again!*

A [video of both September presentations](#) is available to watch on the CCCC website. This benefit is for members only with a password which is shared with the link. Be sure to login!



## Monthly Critique Group

The September in-person Critique group was hosted by Sue and Joe Hare at their lovely home in Rose Valley. As you can see from this image of Joe discussing a print, this monthly meeting provides an opportunity to share and comment on each other's images in a friendly atmosphere. There are usually two sessions - one group meets virtually via Zoom, and the other group meets in person at the home of a willing host. To participate in a future session, contact [Jim Samanen](#)



## Club Outing: John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge



A beautiful late September afternoon provided perfect conditions for photographing at this urban wildlife refuge located close to I-95 and the Philadelphia International Airport. While this may conflict with common expectations of where to find 'wildlife', we experienced the reality that John Heinz Wildlife Refuge has plenty to offer. The many well-maintained trails allow visitors to travel along - and over - tidal waters providing habitat and plenty of food for an abundance of fish, turtles and birds.

Things are looking up for Eric and Sally Loken and Jim Wilson!

We enjoyed the late afternoon 'golden hour' as the sun turned into a sunset. As with all CCCC outings, you can see images taken by members in the [website gallery](#).



## Club Outing: Battle of the Brandywine



A beautiful day set the perfect background for an exciting photoshoot to witness the annual reenactment of the Battle of the Brandywine, where the British 'Redcoats' sent George Washington's troops into a retreat.



CCCC member Dave Kiefer captured this dramatic explosion of the firing of British rifles. Many more fascinating images are in the [club gallery](#).



## September Competition

The assigned theme for the first competition of the year was “negative space”. Guest Judge Richard Lewis provided many learning opportunities as he thoughtfully commented on each image and provided positive suggestions.



Congratulations to the First Place winners.

In the assigned category, Svenne Juul won the blue ribbon in the color category for “Living Out the Battle of the Brandywine” , and Arvid Bloom took first place in monochrome for “Guitar”



Dean Grantham was awarded first place in the color open category for “Window”, and Valerie Dunn got the blue ribbon for her monochrome image “Bright White Dahlia”  
Congratulations to all!

To see all images in the competition, go to [Competitions / Competitions Results](#) on the CCCC website, then choose the competition (four categories) and be sure to check the little box “Display all images”.

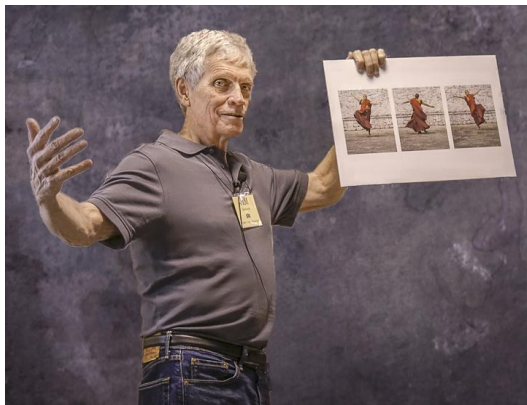
# Upcoming Events:

## Monthly Critique Group – October 9

Here's your chance to share your images and get some feedback from your peers! This supportive group, exclusively for club members, typically meets the first Sunday of each month, both in-person and/or virtually. If this appeals to you, simply let [Jim Samanen](#) know; he'll get you all set up!

## Members' Forum – October 12

“Another Conversation about Printing” with Jim Samanen



Join Jim Samanen for a conversation about the why's of printing, or obtaining prints of your photographic images. Whether you do it commercially or with your own printer is of secondary importance..

## Monthly Meeting – October 12

“Finding Your Creative Voice” by Guest Speaker Rich Lewis

Every photographer needs to find their unique creative voice. Join us as our guest, Rich Lewis, will discuss the most powerful word in photography and how asking 4 basic questions will help you craft your own unique photographic style. A must see for anyone looking to improve their photography or move past a photographic slump!



# October Outings:

## Washington DC, Under the Full Moon – October 8



Late afternoon and evening light can produce compelling photographs, especially when the setting includes amazing architecture. What better place than Washington DC as the sun sets behind the Lincoln Memorial. Here's one you won't want to miss!

## Jim Thorpe– October 22

As photographers, we love color and an October day in Jim Thorpe is the place to be! Nestled in the Lehigh Gorge in Carbon County, this quaint mountain town has something for everyone. An historic steam railway, mansions, winding streets with amazing architecture, and amazing views, just to name a few. Hopefully Mother Nature is cooperative and we'll be able to get some colorful images like the one shown here by Carol DeGuisseppi that was taken exactly two years ago, on October 22, 2020! To read more about Jim Thorpe and plan your day, click [here](#).





# Workshop:

## [“I Don’t See Color” - A Black and White Photography Workshop](#) October 15 - Full - wait list only!

We all see colors, shapes, tonal values and texture everyday, and they can affect us all differently even if we are looking at the same thing. Join Wayne Dixon and 20 club members for an interactive collaborative workshop that will challenge how you see the world. For more details and registration information click [here](#). Note: This workshop is for active CCCC members only.

## Dates to Remember

Sat, Oct 8	Club Outing - <a href="#">Washington DC, Under the Full Moon</a>
Sun, Oct 9	<a href="#">Monthly Critique Group</a>
Wed, Oct 12	<a href="#">Members Forum</a> and <a href="#">Monthly Meeting</a>
Sat, Oct 15	Workshop - <a href="#">“I Don’t See Color”</a> (Full - Wait list only)
Wed, Oct 19	<a href="#">Mentee/Mentor Meeting</a>
Sat, Oct 22	Club Outing - <a href="#">Jim Thorpe</a>
Wed, Oct 26	<a href="#">Monthly Competition</a>
Wed, Nov 2	<a href="#">Mentee/Mentor Meeting</a>
Sat, Nov 5	Seminar - <a href="#">“Getting Your Best Prints”</a> - (Full - Wait list only)
Sun, Nov 6	<a href="#">Monthly Critique Group</a>
Sun, Nov 6	Club Outing - <a href="#">Stoneleigh</a>
Wed, Nov 9	<a href="#">Members’ Forum</a> and <a href="#">Monthly Meeting</a>
Sun, Nov 20	Club Outing - <a href="#">National Dog Show</a>
Wed, Nov 30	<a href="#">Monthly Competition</a>

# Volunteer Spotlight

This month the spotlight is shining on long-time club member, volunteer, and Photographer of the Year for 2016-2017, Jim Samanan!!



Jim joined the club in 2009, and has been active in many volunteer roles during this time. In 2015 he assumed responsibility for managing the Print Critique Group, and his creativity and flexibility during the pandemic made for an easy transition to what is now the Monthly Critique Group. Additionally, Jim has helped manage the print categories of our monthly competitions and has been an active member of the workshop committee for several years.

Jim grew up with a father who loved the mechanics of photography, and taught him all about film and shutter speed, aperture, and depth of field back in the day when you guessed at the exposure or used an awkward light meter. His

love of photography really developed when he moved to California in the '70s. The natural beauty of the West and the work of Ansel Adams and Edward Weston led him to appreciate the value of capturing beauty in nature through photography. He originally worked with a Minolta SLR, and moved to digital in the 1980's, jumped to a DSLR in 2006, and finally to a Sony mirrorless system.

He enjoys outdoor photography of any genre – travel, landscape, seascape, garden or anything using natural light. He feels the best images include an animal or human in the scene and loves photos that tell a story.

When asked how he's inspired by CCCC members, his response was, *"How can you not grow and be inspired by our CCCC members?! Especially since so many of us enjoy sharing what we know. In our club you can grow quickly if you ask questions and are open to stretching your abilities as a photographer. That said, I am finding that I am not the type who needs to try every new thing in photography. I am comfortable with the way I shoot and the way I do post-processing. But if I see something that might fill a need I'll try it."*

Jim worked in pharmaceutical research for over 30 years, retiring from GlaxoSmithKline in 2008. He quickly learned he had two interests screaming for attention, Photography and Pilates. He currently teaches pilates part-time and loves it! He's also been involved in a local Men's group for several years. They've discovered they can gather together without beer





and have meaningful heart-felt conversations about the challenges in life. (Who knew!!) Newcomers are always welcome! In his spare time, he enjoys home maintenance projects.

In closing, Jim had two points he wanted to share:

1. To me a photographic print can be shared with others, gifted or sold. Images that are relegated to your personal hard drive aren't seen by anyone. Your family and friends will love your work because they love you. I sell my work in art shows because I feel my legacy as an artist is extended when someone who doesn't know me decides to buy a photo to take home and hang on a wall. The juror of an art show bought my framed photo from the show – that was cool! I encourage you all to risk putting your work up for sale. Not everything sells but when you get a sale it's a great feeling. The public needs to see that photographs are worthy of a spot on the wall next to a fine painting. The biggest compliment I get is when someone asks, "This is not a painting?" That would only be asked of a photographic print on matte paper.

2. I have heard about clubs where members are reluctant to share techniques, presumably for fear that others will get as good as they are. That is so ridiculous! I love the club shoots – there we all could shoot the same shots, but we usually don't. And even if that does happen, differences in post-processing make the final photos different. We are all very good at what we do. I can say that the level of photographic craft and art has increased significantly over the years! We have many excellent photographers!

You can view Jim's work on his personal website: [www.enduringimageworks.com](http://www.enduringimageworks.com)

## New Members

We are happy to welcome a new member, **Skylar Cole**, who joined us for the first meeting of the year. We all look forward to getting to know you and your photographic styles in the coming months. We hope you take advantage of all the benefits the club has to offer.

## Local Shows and Exhibits

[Kennett Arts Festival](#) - October 15-16

This two-day festival to benefit the new Kennett Library will feature photography and a whole lot more! Artists will display and sell their work in ceramics, glass, jewelry, painting and more. What a great way to spend a weekend afternoon – all for a good cause! Probably a chance for some good street photography too!

## Opportunities to Share Your Work

It's only the beginning of Fall, but not too early to think about submitting images for the 2023 Philadelphia Flower Show. The Photography Classes have been published and you can submit images beginning October 3. Get all the details [here](#).

## Learning Opportunities

[Virtual Lightroom Summit 2022](#) is quickly approaching and it's free. Register NOW for on-line access to 45 classes taught by the leading Lightroom experts. Don't delay, the summit is October 3-7.

## Competition Tips

The assigned theme for October is **Reflections**. You can Look for reflections in nature or create your own. Water, windows, shiny reflective surfaces, mirrors and more. Get creative!

You can find helpful information and inspiration for all our monthly themes on our website. From the homepage, click on club information, then competition info, 2022-2023 competition themes, or you can just click [here](#).

## Website Wisdom:

[Member websites](#) - Want to see more images by your fellow CCCC friends? Many have websites - to check them out , be sure to login, go to Club Information / Member Websites, or [just click here](#) and enjoy!

[Your Image History](#) - Don't remember what you entered into a previous competition? Maybe you won a ribbon but can't remember when? Check out your Image History by clicking on [My Account](#) / My Image History. Be sure you are logged in first!

Be sure to regularly check the [CCCC Homepage](#) for news and updates, as well as links to galleries from recent outings.

If you have any information you would like considered in an upcoming monthly newsletter, please contact newsletter editors [Carol DeGuiseppe](#) or [Betsy Wilson](#).



And the last laugh goes to... .

Svenne Juul

*'Can you hear me now?'*

*Back in 1777 it was really hard to get a good connection!*

