Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

January 2023 Newsletter

Plaids and Checks and Flannel - Oh My!!

Photo credit Dave DeGuiseppi

There were no ugly sweaters at the CCCC Holiday Party this year, but there sure was plenty of warm and toasty flannel! Members were encouraged to wear their favorite flannel garb. As you can see by the photo above, most folks sported their favorite comfy shirts, but others took it up a notch and came all decked out in flannel shirts, PJ's, hats, and scarves! Who has that much flannel?? CCCC members, of course!

As usual, the food shared by club members was delicious. Appetizers, main dishes, sides, and a wonderful variety of desserts, many with a holiday theme, provided a delightful smorgasbord for all in attendance. And CCCC members enjoyed the chance to gather and share stories and laughter, and pose with the many props that were available like Sally Loken and Judy Smith who are sharing a fun moment here.

We're all looking forward to more fun and exciting photo opportunities in 2023. *Happy New Year Everyone!!*

More images below, and be sure to check all the images in the CCCC gallery.

December Highlights:

Club Outing: Newlin Grist Mill

Nature and history merged to provide endless photo opportunities for CCCC photographers to capture intriguing images. The Newlin Grist Mill and the surrounding 160-acre park is a place for exploration of both history and the environment.

Douglas Cinoman captured this dramatic image celebrating art in nature. And thank you to new member Marc Horton for taking a great group shot!

Click here to see more images from this club outing,

Committee Meeting -Workshop Committee

Although there are fewer presentation meetings during December, that doesn't mean that CCCC members are not at work helping to create meaningful programs and benefits for our members. The Workshop Committee met at the Wilson home in December to plan hands-on workshops for our members for the new year. Pictured are Jim Samanen, Wayne Dixon, Connie Snyder, and Committee Chair Jim Wilson. Also on the committee is Peter Guman, and everyone has contributed to create wonderful opportunities for CCCC photographers to practice what they learn.

Interested in joining a committee? Check out all the committees here, and just raise your hand! Our club thrives due to our wonderful volunteers!

Holiday Party - a Celebration of Friendship and Flannel

A few highlights from the festive gathering that included a goofy game of passing saran wrapped prizes, lots of silly flannel photos, delicious food and lots of laughter!

More fun photos in the gallery.

Sally and Eric Loken are all smiles in their matching plaid ensemble - and they were awarded the best flannel shirt prize!

A great big thank you to the party planning committee! Shown here are Denise Molzahn, Connie Snyder, Carolyn Mead, Wendy Summer, and Ginia Apostolacus.

Holiday Party Photo Contest

The theme for this year's party challenge was "Warmth of the Season". CCCC members voted on their favorite images. All of the beautiful submitted images can be enjoyed in the gallery.

Betsy Wilson was awarded first place for her image "Marshmallow Heaven", Sheila Fredericks took third place for "The Warmth of Christmas Music", and Sue Hare was voted to win second place for "Hot Chocolate Warms the Heart". Congratulations to all!

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Critique Group - January 8

Is one of your New Year's Resolutions to improve your photography? Did you know that one sure way to improve is to get constructive critiques on your work? Another way is to view the work of others and learn from critiques of their work. Good News! You can achieve both at the Monthly Critique Group! This members only group meets both in person and via zoom. Interested? Contact Jim Samanen; he'll get you all set up!

CCCC Post-Processing Group - *January 8*

Twenty-five club members were quick to join the newly formed Post Processing Group led by Buzz Mossholder. They had an organizational meeting in December and decided to meet the second Sunday of each month at 7 PM via Zoom. Buzz will cover a variety of topics, including layers, selections, masking, and more; in fact, participants are already learning some new things in Photoshop. If you'd like to up your post-processing game, there's still time to join in. Contact Buzz at buzzmossholder@gmail.com and he'll get you into the group.

Members Forum - *January 11* - ***Via Zoom Only!***

Let's Get Creative!

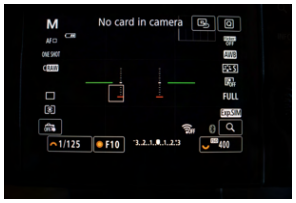
In this interactive discussion led by Sue Hare, we'll share our personal experiences on how we get inspiration and new ideas for new and creative images. We'll be sharing some of these images, which may also help inspire some of the participants!

Monthly Meeting - *January 11* - ***Via Zoom Only!***

Street Photography UNFILTERED!

Join us from the comfort of your own home as we welcome **Phil Penman** via zoom! Phil will share his experiences of the past 25 years shooting the gritty streets of NYC as well as his work on the September 11 attacks and more recently, the Covid Pandemic. If you want to read more about Phil and his amazing photography, check out his website.

Mentor/Mentee Meeting - January 18 - **Via Zoom Only!**



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Take the Confusion Out of Camera Settings

Deciding which camera setting to use in different situations can sometimes be confusing! What shutter speed should I use? How far should I stop down? What about if I want blur? ISO is another factor to consider! Mentor, Carol DeGuiseppi, will try to take some of the confusion out of it. She'll give a brief presentation on which settings she uses for different types of images and also solicit input from other mentors. Afterwards, we'll open it up for a Q&A session.

January Outings:

Railroad Museum of PA and Strasburg Railroad *January 7*

All Aboard!! The first outing of 2023 is sure to be a treat, especially if you like trains! Old engines, carriages, cars, and even an old-time hearse as shown in the image shown here by Joe Hare, provide many great indoor and outdoor photo opportunities. If that's not enough, you'll have a chance to take a lunchtime ride on the Strasburg Railroad! Read more about the museum ahead of time so you'll know what to expect.

Sunset at Cheslen Preserve - *January 22*

What better way to spend a Sunday afternoon than a hike with fellow camera clubbers in search of a winter sunset! If not a sunset, then perhaps you'll get a lovely winter scene like the one here by Svenne Juul. Cheslen Preserve, owned and managed by Natural Lands Trust, is the largest privately owned nature preserve open to the public in Chester County. You can find out more about Cheslen and see their trail maps on their website.

Dates to Remember

Sat, Jan 7	Outing - PA Railroad Museum
Sun, Jan 8	Monthly Critique Group
Sun, Jan 8	Post Processing Group
Wed, Jan 11	Members' Forum and Monthly Meeting
Wed, Jan 18	Mentor Meeting
Sun, Jan 22	Outing - Cheslen Preserve
Wed, Jan 25	Monthly Competition

Longtime club member and volunteer, Mark Bergkvist is in the spotlight this month!

Mark joined our club more than 10 years ago and while he has not been in any "official" volunteer roles, he is always more than willing to help in any way he can. He's been especially helpful with technology issues and was one of our technical advisors for a while. He was instrumental in the research and purchase of a new club projector to ensure images accurately displayed on the screen for competitions.

Another area where Mark has been especially helpful is during the Indoor Creativity Workshops - he brought his flashes and ran the fishtank station as we dropped fruit for high-speed flash photos, and then he added ink for some amazing surreal images. As you can see in the image on the right, he gets involved and makes sure everyone is engaged and having a good time, even though we may be getting wet and making a mess!

Mark started in photography at the ripe old age of 7 with an ITT 110 camera. By age 10 his parents built him his own darkroom where he enjoyed developing his own film and has been hooked ever since. He says it's impossible to pick just one genre of photography as his favorite, but Creative, Night, Astro, and Landscape photography are at the top of his list.

As many other club members, Mark continues to be inspired by his fellow members. In his own words, "*Having the opportunity to see how other photographers "See" the world has been the biggest inspiration. They have taught me to have an open mind and share in another's vision. We can learn so much from each other and grow to incredible heights.*"

After college Mark sold computers for several years, then in 2008 he started teaching photography to some small groups and loved it so much that teaching photography is now his "real" job at The Photography Workshop. Mark offers a variety of classes for all levels of photographers - he even runs a kids photography camp in the summer! Find out more and check out his schedule here. He has been very generous and often donates gift cards or vouchers to our club to use as prizes at some of our parties.

Mark also volunteers his photography expertise by teaching, mentoring, and judging for other camera clubs and groups in the community. When he's not working, teaching, or shooting for his own pleasure, his five Labradors keep him busy. He also enjoys metalworking and woodworking in his free time.

Thanks, Mark, for all you do!

Learning Opportunities

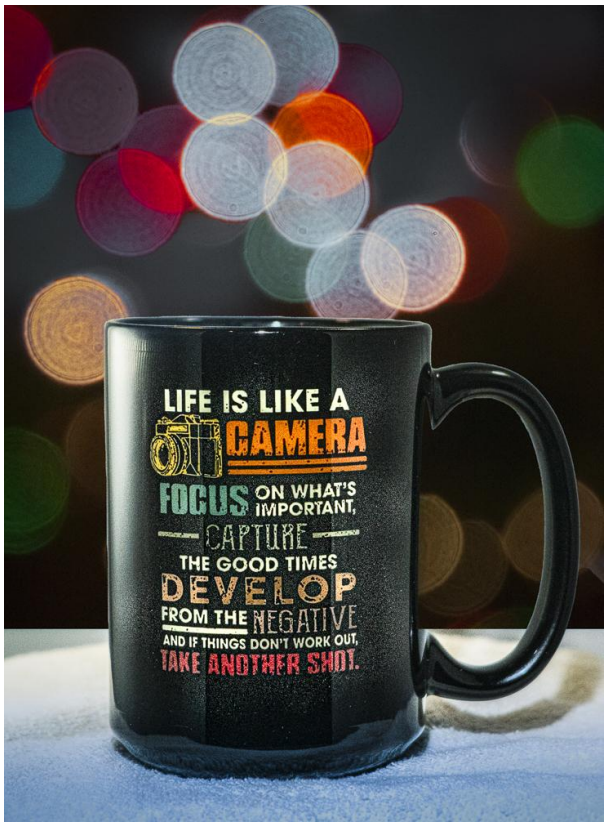
New Year's Resolution - learn something new! A sure way to keep your photography interesting and ensure you are growing your passion as well as your portfolio is to learn something new! Stretch the limits and get out of your comfort zone. Pick one technique, program, or photography genre - research it, find some on-line tutorials, books, or a person to help, and let your creativity run wild!

Competition Tips

"Bird's Eye View" is the assigned competition theme for January, so climb high up on the roof and shoot away! Or maybe you have some great shots from when you were flying through the air playing Santa for your kids or grandkids!! You can find helpful information and inspiration for all our monthly themes right here. **Remember, the January competition is via Zoom only!**

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 DeGuiseppi or Betsy Wilson.

A final thought.....



One of the prizes awarded at the CCCC Holiday Party may just present us photographers with a perfect New Year's Resolution.

Happy New Year everyone!