

The SPPC

# Perspective



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**December 2023**

*Photo by Tina Daniels*

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Currently, we are having meetings in person at Seven Ponds Nature Center on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. Keep checking the [7 Ponds Photography Club Website](#) for updates on upcoming meetings.

### **1-5-2024 – 1st Friday Competition & Focus Topic Review Meeting 7-9pm**

*\*\* Note – This was changed from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday meeting*

**1-19-2024 – [SPPC 2023 SPPC Holiday Kick-Off](#) 6-9pm @ Seven Ponds Nature Center  
Cost \$25**

**1-27-2024 – GDCCC EOY Banquet 11am-3pm @ Club Venetian Hall -29310 John R Road, Madison Heights**

**2-3-2023 – [Mike Moats Mini Macro Boot Camp](#) 10 am @ Seven Ponds Nature Center**



**SPPC is looking for members to help in the following areas:**

- ✓ **Judge our monthly GDCCC competitions.**
- ✓ **Newsletter Contributions** – submit articles on trips, techniques or product/gear reviews to [germaine.sppc@yahoo.com](mailto:germaine.sppc@yahoo.com)
- ✓ **Bring individually wrapped snacks.**
- ✓ **Setting up or taking down tables and chairs.**
- ✓ **Lead a photo outing, or fun shoot.**

Email [7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com](mailto:7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com) to volunteer



### **Focus Topics – 2024**

**After receiving feedback from the club requesting more frequent Focus Topic reviews, there has been a change.** For 2024 Focus Topics will be reviewed at the 1st Friday Competition Meeting.

All focus topic images need to be uploaded to [spnc.photoclubservices.com](http://spnc.photoclubservices.com)

Images should be entered via our website in Focus Topics. Use tab at top of page {competitions} (Submit Image to Competition) {Focus Topic}

Month	Due	Topic
January	1/3/2024	November 2023 Color Theory and December 2023 Zoom Burst and/or light painting
February	1/31/2024	Abstract
March	2/28/2024	Good for a Giggle
April	4/3/2024	Old Buildings
May	5/1/2024	Sunrise /Sunset
June	6/5/2024	Reflections
July	7/3/2024	Amphibians/Reptiles/Insects
August	7/31/2024	Lake/Water/River
September	9/4/2024	Vehicles
October	10/2/2024	Birds
November	10/30/2024	Dogs/Cats/Horses

Van Allsburg, first saw the locomotive as it sat on display next to Spartan Stadium. He later said that was his inspiration for the story, *The Polar Express*. Then 19 years later, in 2004, film director Robert Zemeckis led a team to create the feature-length film that we have all come to know and love.

'The Polar Express' was the first movie filmed entirely with motion capture. Sound crews were sent out to capture the sound of the actual No. 1225 locomotive and the locomotive's sounds and steam whistle were incorporated into the movie. Sounds from the Sierra Railway No. 3 were also used in the movie. More interesting info on the [Polar Express book](#) and [movie](#).



## About the cover photo

Congratulations to Tina Daniels for taking this beautiful shot of the **Polar Express** to earn a spot as the December cover image. Several members of the club went independently this year to shoot the 1225 Pere Marquette (also known as the **Polar Express**) which runs every weekend from Thanksgiving time to mid-December from Owosso to Ashley, Michigan. This year, it ran from Nov 18<sup>th</sup> – Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. It is a fun 4 ½ hour ride and tickets range in price. If you are thinking of going next year, book early as it fills up quickly. Check the Steam Railroading Institute [website](#) for dates & prices.

1225 Pere Marquette is owned by the Steam Railroading Institute. It is a class "N-1" 2-8-4 "Berkshire" type steam locomotive built in October 1941 for the Pere Marquette Railway by Lima Locomotive Works. No. 1225 is one of two surviving Pere Marquette 2-8-4 locomotives, the other being 1223, which was on display at the Tri-Cities Historical Society in Grand Haven, Michigan. The 1225 and 1223 locomotives are the only surviving Pere Marquette steam locomotives left in preservation. The No. 1225 was donated to Michigan State University in 1957 which is where the author of *The Polar Express*, Chris

## New Members

### Please welcome new member:

John Gill      Dennis Hanser  
Susan Hanser    Tim Okeefe  
Bob Ruby

### Welcome to the club!



## Member Sign Up

We have received a few questions on how to pay online. If you are unsure, checkout the following:

On the Seven Ponds website click on the [Pay Online](#) link. Then you will see the following and click on the button

Seven Ponds Photo Club Membership

05/01/2021 12:05 AM - 04/02/2023 11:55 PM ET

[Click here to register online](#)

It will bring you to your existing account with the Seven Ponds Nature Center. If you don't have one, create one or continue as a guest and fill out the required name, address, etc. fields. You will end up with a screen to check your info before pressing the **Complete Registration** button to proceed to the payment screen.

Press **Submit** and you will get a confirmation email

## Member Spotlight – Shannon Hintz



*Shannon & husband, Michael*

Shannon is one of our newer members but is very active in the club. She just joined the board this past November as the new Fundraiser Manager and she volunteers to help record scores on competition nights and organized the Fun Game

Night Photoshoot along with fellow club member and friend, Kristin Grudzien.

Shannon is a Math and Reading teacher for “young 5’s” (not quite Kindergarten ready) to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. All her students have special needs, and many are nonverbal. This requires such a broad range of curriculums to prepare. She teaches in small groups that change every 30 – 90 minutes. She also is the Day Camp Director for the Michigan Christian Youth Camp. Both positions require patience and creativity.

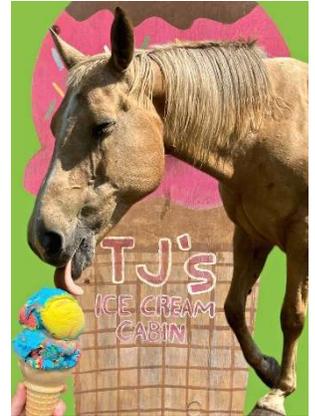


*Photo by Shannon Hintz – Peanut & Reba*

Outside of the 7 Ponds Photography Club, Shannon does musical freestyle with her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Reba. If you have not heard of

Musical Freestyle, it is alternately called Dog Dancing. It is a modern dog sport that is a mix of tricks, obedience training and dance moves choreographed to music. Shannon and Reba show with an internationally based venue called [World Canine Freestyle Organization](#). For more info, read about [Musical Freestyle](#) from the American Kennel Club. Shannon also competes in FastCAT with Reba. FastCAT (Coursing Ability Test) is a timed 100-yard dash where dogs run one at a time, chasing a lure. We have all seen Reba star in a lot of Shannon’s

photographs, but Shannon has another dog. He is a Boston Terrier named “Peanut” and has appeared less frequently. As if this was not enough, Shannon also has a horse. Callie is a retired horse. She has asthma but still bops around the trail with Shannon and poses occasionally for a photo.



*Photo by Shannon Hintz -*

I always ask our spotlight member, “How did you first get involved with 7 Ponds”. Shannon said, it was all Kristin’s fault. Kris mentioned that she was going to the North Branch Rodeo and asked Shannon to come along. Jim and Bobbie got them a spot on the rail to shoot and Kris said Shannon should come to a meeting. So, she did. It was 8/5/2022 on a first Friday educational meeting where Amy Saka talked about [Becoming a National Geographic Explorer](#). She didn’t come back for a while after that but went to the 2022 End of Year Banquet and joined the club in 2023.

Photography wasn’t new to Shannon, though. She had started photography in high school where she brought a sample of her work to the photography teacher and based on her portfolio, got into the photography course without needing to take the prerequisite art course. Shannon says she is inspired by her grandmother, who always asks what she is doing and what she is photographing. Her grandma likes cameras and her enthusiasm about photography pushes Shannon to shoot new things so she can discuss them with her.

Shannon likes Still Life photography and Macro photography the best. She is looking to learn ways to shoot on a budget. She shoots a Sony Bridge Cybershot but also uses her iPhone.

Cell phone photography is on the rise as cell phone

cameras and editing software have improved.



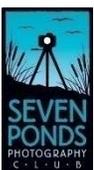
Photo by Shannon Hintz – Here for a Good Time

Shannon likes the features of iPhoto, Photoroom and Photomagic apps for her editing.

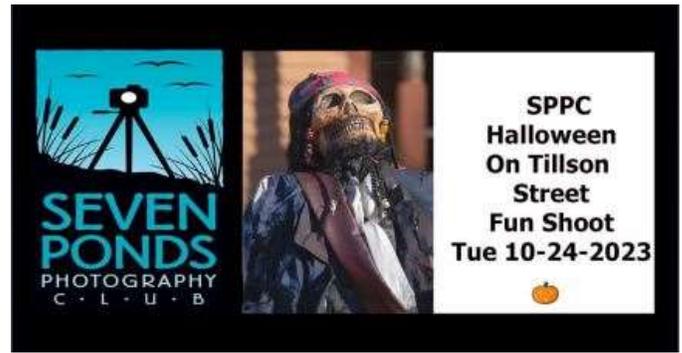
Welcome to the club Shannon! We can't wait to see what ideas you come up with in 2024.



Photo by Shannon Hintz – Lone Rose



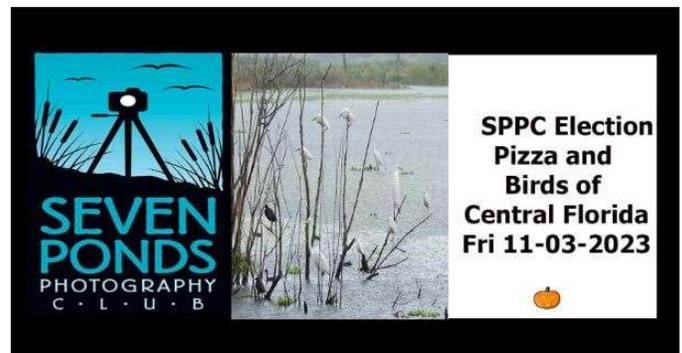
### SPPC Halloween on Tilson Street Fun Shoot - 10-24-2023



It was another fun outing to Tilson Street followed by a group lunch at the Times Square restaurant in Romeo. For those that have not visited Tilson street in Romeo in all it's Halloween glory (or rather gory), check out the [Tilson Street FB page](#).

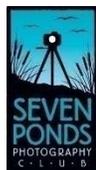


### SPPC Election, Pizza and Birds of Central Florida– 11-04-2023

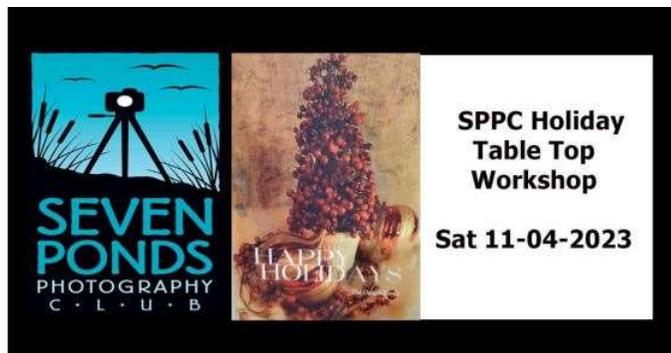


November was both election night and a lecture on Margaret and Ken Larsen's 2022 and 2023 [Birding Adventures in Central Florida](#), highlighting Lake Apopka North Shore Water District, Sea World, and GatorLand. A comparison of a photo taken at ISO 20,000 and then processed with DXO Raw was shown as an example of

being able to shoot at a high ISO and still able to clean up the noise for a good image. Thank you, Ken and Margaret, for sharing your images. See the end of the [newsletter](#) for the new 2024 board.



## SPPC Holiday Tabletop Workshop – 11-04-2023



11 members gathered to shoot a variety of holiday compositions. Members learned new techniques and tried new methods to inspire their tabletop photo journey. Tina and other members provided set-up items that helped inspire many holiday photo creations. Members enjoyed a box lunch that was catered by Ankley Farms consisting of a turkey ham cheese wrap (or lettuce wrap), pasta salad, veggies, chips, and a cookie.



## GDCCC Sponsored “The Dollar Store Challenge” 12-13-2023



*Photo by Heather Krut. Foreground lit with pavotube Background is her TV with a music Visualizer playing.*

The theme of this webinar was you don't need to spend a fortune to get some creative shots. The presentation ([The Dollar Store Challenge: Creativity on a Budget](#)) was given by Canon Technical Specialist - Photographer, Heather Krut ([Instagram](#)). [Hunts Photo and Video](#) and GDCCC sponsored the event. Hunts rep Gary Farber ([gfarber@huntsphoto.com](mailto:gfarber@huntsphoto.com)) was online to answer questions and offer some discounts at the end.

Heather had some very interesting ideas from items found at the dollar store. She recommended using “fast glass” – 1.8 – 2.8mm lenses due to many of the shots requiring lower lighting but said they did not have to be super expensive lenses. Also, use manual focus when shooting through gels or prisms as auto focus might not work as well.

She used items like: Clear or colored rulers, combs, reflective decorations, cheap tablecloths for backgrounds, prisms, chandelier pieces and graters. She said, “Take the time to play, no rules”. Not all shots will come out and that's ok. The worst that can happen is you stimulated your creativity.

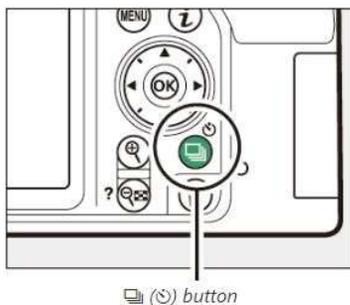


Shooting something fast moving?

As an amateur photographer, I do understand the need to be faster at “getting the shot”. Sometimes, my subject really isn’t going to move around too much – flowers, waterfalls, a nice city, or seascape – but sometimes, I want to try something a little faster like a bird in motion or a train. The last subject was my most recent challenge this December while I and a few others in our club and other clubs all gathered on various weekends in November and December and tried our hand at photographing the Pere Marquette #1225 (the Polar Express). There are a few things to keep in mind and I took note of the following and it really helped in capturing the images.

### #1 Use Continuous Shooting or Burst Mode

In **Continuous** mode, the camera takes photographs continuously while the shutter-release button is pressed all the way down. Set your camera to the highest frame rate. See your instruction manual but below are examples for Nikon and Canon:



Nikon

(C) button



Canon

### #2a Freezing the moment

For dogs running or people on bicycles, the minimum setting would usually be 1/500<sup>th</sup> of a second. For faster modern trains or birds, 1/1000-1/2500<sup>th</sup> of a sec depending on the angle to the train/bird (straight on shooting can get by with the lower end of the range). For steam locomotives like the Pere Marquette, set

around 1/250<sup>th</sup> sec since the trains are limited to 25mph.

### #2b Panning – Add Motion Blur

Try using 1/20<sup>th</sup>-1/30<sup>th</sup> of a second. Use an athletic stance with legs spread a bit and knees slightly bent. Grip the camera firmly with your right hand, extend the left hand as far as comfortable to support the lens, tuck your elbows into your body, and follow the bird/train with your body rather than your arms or head. Of course, you can also use a gimble head on your tripod if you have one but sometimes going tripod free when walking around is easier.

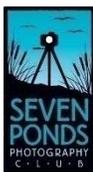
### #3 Depth of field

f/5.6 or f/8 for more depth of field and a better chance of getting all the crucial parts in focus—the head, body, and forewing. Also set your camera to the highest frame rate.



[Order 16" x 20" Prints for Competition from Jim Lewis](#)

1. Price is \$18.00 each includes sales tax.
2. You must size your image to 16" x 20" before uploading.
3. Prints need to be uploaded the Friday before our first meeting of the month.
4. Prints will be available for pick up on the first Friday of the month meeting.
5. Bring protection to transport your prints home.
6. Photos on this site will be deleted on the day of competition.



## GDCCC Update

## GDCCC End of Year Banquet - Sat 1-27-2024

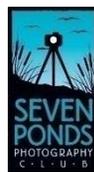
@Club Venetian Hall, Madison Heights

11AM – 3PM

Tickets are \$40.00 pp

Enjoy a nice meal, view the winning prints from the GDCCC competitions and see a slideshow of the DPD images of the Year.

*See- Germaine Finley for tickets, please pay the exact dollar amount or by check.*



## New Library Cart

We have a new cart for books for our club.

If you have a book you would like to donate, please bring it in and it will be placed on the cart for others to enjoy. (Please do not bring in old camera manuals)

There will be a sign out sheet on the cart and you can return the book at your convenience.



2024 GDCCC DPD Competition Schedule	
2/19-23/24 (images due 2/16)	Toledo
3/11-15/24 (image due 3/8) <b>judge(online)</b>	Seven Ponds
4/22-26/24 (image due 4/19)	Windsor
9/9-13/24 (image due 9/6)	West Oakland
10/7-11/24 (image due 10/4)	Livonia
10/28-11/1/24(image due 10/25)	Oakland
EOY Competition	Oakland
2024 GDCCC Print Competition Schedule	
3/28/24 (images due 3/24)	West Oakland
4/16/24 (images due 4/12)	Windsor
<b>5/3/24 – Thursday</b> <b>We judge. Everyone welcome to watch</b>	Seven Ponds
8/29/24 (images due 8/25)	Motor City
10/4/24 (images due 10/8)	Grosse Pointe
11/12/24 (images due 11/8)	Oakland
EOY Competition	Oakland



# SPPC Activities and Events

## Upcoming Events

1-19-2024 – [SPPC 2023 SPPC Holiday Kick-Off](#) 6-9pm @ Seven Ponds Nature Center Cost \$25

**\*\*Buy tickets at the 1-5-2024 meeting or Contact LeeAnn McLaneGoetz to purchase earlier Tickets: Available till 1-12-2024 as we must let the caterer know the count. No tickets sold day of event. Tickets are nonrefundable.\*\***

1-27-2024 – GDCCC EOY Banquet 11am-3pm @ Club Venetian Hall -29310 John R Road, Madison Heights

2-3-2023 – [Mike Moats Mini Macro Boot Camp](#) 10 am @ Seven Ponds Nature Center

## Upcoming Virtual Workshops

[B&H Event Space \(Free Webinars\)](#)

[Hunts On-Line Classes](#)

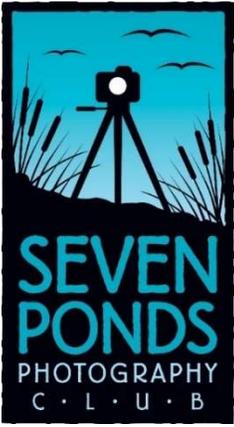
## Free Training

[f64 Free Photoshop Tutorials](#)

[Photoshop Training Channel Tutorials](#)

## Self-guided Trips

Dec 26-31, Jan 2-7	<a href="#">Wild Lights at the Detroit Zoo</a> Friday & Sat 5:00-10:30pm 5-9pm Sundays
Jan 12	<a href="#">Luminary Light Night Parade</a>
Jan 12 – March 10	<a href="#">World of Winter in Grand Rapids</a> <a href="#">Rochester Frost Festival 2024</a> 5pm-midnight
Jan 19-20	
Jan 24-28	<a href="#">Zehnder's Frankenmuth Snowfest</a>
Feb 2-4	<a href="#">Plymouth Ice Festival</a>



# About SPPC

The Seven Ponds Photography Club, formed in 2009, the club was created to promote the advancement of photography as an art. The purpose of the club is to bring together like-minded people who are dedicated to the advancement of their skills by association with other members, through the study of the work of others and through spirited and friendly competition. The club exists to offer opportunities for all to share knowledge within the club and in the community, through exhibitions and programs that excite interest in the knowledge and practice of all branches of photography.

We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at 7:00 PM at Seven Ponds Nature Center

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings.

President	Jim Lewis
Vice President 1	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Vice President 2	Bobbie Lewis
Secretary	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Treasurer	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
SPPC Website	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Digital Projection Division Manager(s)	Germaine Finley, Kristin Grudzien
Print Division Manager(s)	Germaine Finley, Kristin Grudzien
Competition Printing	Jim Lewis
Focus Topic Manager	Kristin Grudzien
Trip Manager(s)	Tina Daniels
Trip Manager(s)	LeeAnn McLaneGoetz
Face book Manager	Kristin Grudzien
Fund Raiser Manager	Shannon Hintz
Library Manager	To Be Announced
SPNC Activities Coordinator	Dale Vronch
Board Member	Stu Davis

## Contact Information

Website <https://spnc.photoclubservices.com/>

Email [7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com](mailto:7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com)

Address 3854 Crawford Road  
Dryden, MI 48428-9776



Seven Ponds Photography Club is a proud member of the [Photographic Society of America](#) & [Greater Detroit Camera Council](#)