

SPPC Perspective

The Seven Ponds Photography Club, formed in 2009, it was created to promote the advancement of photography as an art. The purpose of the club is to bring together persons of like mind 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.

SPPC Members,

We are scheduled to start meetings in person at Seven Ponds Nature Center on the 1st Friday, September 3, 2021
Astrophotography with Cindy Bilinsky!

Keep checking the [7 Ponds Photography Club Website](#) for updates on upcoming meetings.

2022/2023 Election of new Board Positions

1st Friday meeting at SPNC 11-5-2021 is the November Election - members may nominate him/herself. Let us know by October 1st.

Please send nominations to 7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com

The Board of Directors will be nominated or a member may volunteer to nominate him/herself in October of the election year. The election of the new Board of Directors will be at the first November meeting of the odd number of calendar years. Upon being elected, the new Board of Directors shall convene to a room outside the general meeting, and among themselves, decide on the officers for the upcoming year. New Board of Director members will take office in January of the following year.

Special Member Highlight - Hank Lewis



I had the privilege to talk to Hank Lewis yesterday. Hank Lewis has been our Digital Print Manager for many years ... roughly since around 2011 or 2012 when he joined the 7 Ponds Photography Club. He had previously been a member of Motor City Camera Club and Avon Photography Club (which is no longer in

existence). Hank also served for several years in the 1980's on the GDCCC. We are glad he came to 7 Ponds and has shared his knowledge and expertise for all these years. Thank-you, Hank!

Hank is a dentist but has pursued photography as a hobby for nearly 80 years. Photography was a lot different then, you didn't know right away if your shot worked or not, and you had very limited adjustments that could be done with a lot of skill in the darkroom versus fairly easily with the use of post processing software of today. Hank said he really liked the old way of photography - getting it right in the camera. Hank started with a Kodak



camera and then moved to a Wisner 4x5 Technical Field camera.

Of course, now he owns several DSLRs but his heart still stays with the old film cameras. He remembered when Kodak would give elaborate shows for photography clubs in movie houses. He also actually talked to Ansel Adams. Apparently, he bought a print from John Sexton (yes, he met him too!) and John gave Ansel Adam's phone number to Hank. John said he could call Ansel and he did to talk about [the Zone System](#). Be sure to look the zone system up as it still applies to digital photography. In short - the Zone System was developed by the well-known photographers Ansel Adams and Fred Archer. Ansel Adams was known for his black and white landscape photographs and Fred Archer was a portrait photographer of Hollywood. The purpose of the Zone System is to determine a framework or more systematic approach for determining exposure and development (in film) that can be replicated and also that represents the scene as the photographer visualized. Although the Zone System was developed for black and white photography, and for film, it can also be used for color and digital photography as well. I asked Hank what his favorite trip was - he answered, Yosemite, Muir Woods and the High Sierras. Possibly inspired by his time spend out west when he was stationed there in the air force. All places I would love to go ... someday. Thanks again Hank for all you have done for 7 Ponds. Kristin Grudzein and myself will be taking over as joint DPD Managers and appreciate your offer to answer questions.

SPPC - Photograph Historic Octagon House, Rustic Barn, and grounds (gardens) July 17 & 18, 2021

There was a planned outing in July to the Octagon House. Not many went but those that did were able to see a really cool farm and lots of quilts. The Loren Andrus Octagon House, also known as Washington Octagon House, is an historic octagonal house located at 57500 Van Dyke Street just north of 26 Mile Road in Washington Township, Macomb County, Michigan. It was built in 1860 by David Stewart for his brother-in-law, Loren Andrus. The house was used as a "station" on the Underground Railway. It is now owned by the

Friends of the Loren Andrus Octagon House, Inc., which bought it in 1987. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places as the Washington Octagon House on September 3, 1971.



Photo from LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

SPPC - Thunder over Michigan Airshow Aug 7-8 at Willow Run

Story and photos by Kristin Grudzein



Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Yankee Air Museum was not able to put on their normal air show again this year. Normally, I go by myself and walk around for a bit then go visit my Dad, who is currently on the restoration team for the Privateer static display. But his team was not needed because they couldn't let visitors tour inside of the plane so they elected not to go. This year they did a drive-in car show with parking spaces appropriately placed to comply with Covid-19 protocols. Admission was by vehicle not by individual which made it too expensive to go by myself and Dad didn't want to go this year. I found out that Jim and Bobbie were going and they very graciously let me join them. It was a very warm day, not as warm as the last couple of

weekends but close to it. It was nice to have the coolers close at hand have good company and conversation Dad usually puts a couple extra bottles of water in his cooler when he volunteers at the Privateer so I can just swing by say "hi" and grab a bottle; although I usually can't resist the temptation of an eight dollar shake-em up lemonade. I don't like to carry stuff if I don't have to -- which is part of the reason why I usually handhold and use a mirrorless camera.

The day was divided into two shows and we stayed for both shows. In the morning, we were treated to an F-35 demonstration and the Blue Angels. They also did a Navy Heritage Flight (Corsair and Growler) and an Air Force Heritage flight (Mustang, A-10, F-35). The Thunderbirds flew in from Selfridge for the afternoon show. We got to see the Blue Angels and the Thunderbirds on the same day! Both shows also featured the B-25 bombers and the P-51 Mustangs that helped them reach their targets.



I had a great time and I learned a lot (Thank you Jim and Bobbie for letting me join you!) I got my first decent "cross-over" shots of the Blue Angels and the Thunderbirds... there is room for improvement... but



isn't that how it always is with photography? I hope that next year brings more normalcy. If it does, Thunder Over Michigan is definitely an event to put on your calendar!

SPPC - Imlay City Fireworks Aug 13, 2021



Photo by Tina Daniels

A post went up on August 9th on the [SPPC Self Guided Photo Ops Page](#) that Stu Davis would be shooting Fireworks at Imlay city fair grounds Friday night and if anyone would be interested in joining him to shoot the fireworks. A few members took up the invite and enjoyed a nice night of fireworks and photography.

SPPC - Photo Op Sunday, August 22, 2021 8:00AM - Outdoor Event - Metamora Combined Driving Event 2021



Photo by Bobbie Lewis

A few members attended this fun annual event which was held on Friday, August 20, 2021, 8:00 AM until Sunday, August 22, 2021, 5:00 PM. Great opportunities for photos especially at the cross country course with water hazards. If you missed it this year, watch the [SPPC](#)

[Self Guided Photo Ops Page](#) for news when it will be held again next year.

Friday - Dressage tests - Drivers must memorize and drive a set pattern in an arena (outdoor at this venue).

Saturday - Cones Course - Drivers must navigate a course of pylons with balls on them. Knocking a ball off incurs penalty points (like knocking a rail down in show jumping).

Sunday - Marathon (cross country course) -- Drivers must navigate a cross country course with distance and obstacles (also known as hazards). The obstacles have a series of gates (usually posts with paper plates on them) that drivers have to navigate through as smoothly and quickly as possible to avoid time penalties and complete the course in the established allowable time. The plates are usually red and white. Red plates on the right side of the gates and white plates on the left. If the driver goes through a gate incorrectly (backwards, out of order, does not break the plane of the gate, etc.) they can be eliminated from competition.

Attended:

- Jim and Bobbie Lewis
- Cindy Bilinsky and Family
- Larry Ludwicki
- Kristin Grudzien

SPPC - Metamora Country Days and Hot Air Balloon Festival August 27th and 28th, 2021



Photo by Stu Davis

The decision as to whether the balloons went up or not was not made early due to weather on Friday. The decision was not made until the pilots met at 6:15pm. & Ponds members kept the website updated and the decision was made to launch. Time to celebrate!

18 balloons took off from the Metamora Lions Field filling the sky with photogenic color. Stu Davis, Jim Lewis, Bobbie Lewis, Larry Ludwick, Wilma Forry, Roman Tornopilsky, and LeeAnn McLaneGoetz enjoyed an evening of photo fun. More pictures were shared on the Shared Images Facebook page.



Photo by LeeAnn McLaneGoetz

“I support any procedure that allows photographers to express themselves, whether that involves color, black and white, platinum, palladium and digital technology.” – John Sexton

Welcome to New members –

If you get a chance at our next in person meeting, please welcome new members **Oscar** and **Maricel Pilapil!**

Windows 11 Update

Windows 11 became available **August 29th, 2021** but not all PCs will be able to run it. Below are the minimum requirements but you can also run the [PC Health Check App](#) to test your computer compatibility.

Processor: 1 gigahertz (GHz) or faster with 2 or more cores on a **compatible 64-bit processor** or System on a Chip (SoC)

RAM: 4 gigabyte (GB)

Storage: 64 GB or larger storage device
Note: See below under “More information on storage space to keep Windows 11 up-to-date” for more details.

System firmware: UEFI, Secure Boot capable

TPM: **Trusted Platform Module (TPM)** version 2.0

Graphics card: Compatible with DirectX 12 or later with WDDM 2.0 driver

Display: High definition (720p) display that is greater than 9” diagonally, 8 bits per color channel

Internet connection and Microsoft accounts: Windows 11 Home edition requires internet connectivity and a Microsoft account to complete device setup on first use. Switching a device out of Windows 11 Home in S mode also requires internet connectivity. (Windows 10 in S mode is a version of Windows 10th apps from the Microsoft Store, and requires Microsoft Edge for safe browsing) For all Windows 11 editions, internet access is required to perform updates and to download and take advantage of some features. A Microsoft account is required for some features.

New Members Can Sign up & Pay Online

Thanks to Seven Ponds Nature Center we now have the ability for new Seven Ponds Photography Members to sign up and pay on line. Thank you Diane Rankin

Please consider sharing with any new potential member

SPPC dues are \$15 for one member and \$20 for a family or two or more members living at the same address.

[Pay Seven Ponds Photo Club Membership](#)



SPPC is looking for members to help out -

✓ We need a videographer

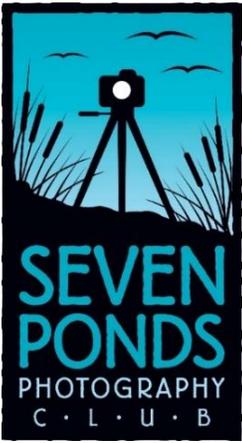
Do you have expertise or do you know someone who would be willing to volunteer to assist on a future SPPC video project.

✓ Online Competition Judges

SPPC is looking for volunteers to judge our monthly GDCCC competitions online until we can meet in person. Please contact us at 7pondsphotoexpo@gmail.com to volunteer.

✓ Volunteers to setup chairs, coffee, name tags, sign in for in-person meetings

“We must remember that a photograph can hold just as much as we put into it, and no one has ever approached the full possibilities of the medium.” – Ansel Adams



Spring - 2021

SPPC - Activities and Events

Meeting Location

Seven Ponds Nature Center

3854 Crawford Road Dryden, MI 48428-9776

The Seven Ponds Photography Club holds its meetings on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. All meetings are open to members and nonmembers. *Note: for 2021 the in person meetings continue to be canceled until further notice. These meetings are replaced with meeting online via Zoom.*

Upcoming Events

9/3/2021 [Astrophotography with Cindy Bilinsky at Seven Ponds Nature Center - Lecture +Live Shoot](#)

9/4/2021 [Van Houtte Farms SunFlower Shoot](#)
5 PM-7 PM Venue cost \$10 each

Contests –

Hope some from our group were able to submit pictures. If not, these are annual events so plan for next year!

[Six River 2021 Nature Near You Photo Contest](#)

Closed August 27, 2021

[Detroit Digital Salon of Photography 2021](#)

Closed August 30, 2021

Upcoming Virtual Workshops

[BH Classes](#)

Tue 10/19/2021 7PM -Planning A Wildlife Shot with Ray Hennessy sponsored by GDCCC

RSVP to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/planning-a-wildlife-shot-with-ray-hennessy-tickets-158512034763>

Must sign up online prior to the zoom meeting

Assignment Topics

(Review @ 1st Friday Zoom Meetings)

Upcoming Assignments

Aug = Hot Stuff Sept = Sunrise /Sunset Oct = Harvest

Assignment Reviews are typically reviewed on the first Friday of the month following the assignment month, unless otherwise noted. Please send your images to 7pondsphoto@gmail.com, by **NOON** on the on the **Wednesday** before the day of the meeting. 😊 This gives Kristin enough time to add to her great PowerPoint presentations for the Friday meeting.

Club Outings

Informal outings have been happening look for details on the [SPPC Facebook Page](#) or [SPPC Photo Ops FaceBook page](#)

Lead a photo club trip - Trip request form. <https://form.jotform.com/90283795109161>

Newsletter Content

We are always looking for members to contribute articles related to photography or club activities.

Please email germaine.sppc@yahoo.com

Self-guided Trips

8/27, 8/28/2021 [Metamora Country Days and Hot Air Balloon Festival](#) (Date pending weather)

9/2 – 9/6/2021 [Romeo 2021 Peach Festival](#)

9/5/2021 [Lions Charity Car Show at the Romeo Peach Festival](#) \$20 at site

9/10 -9/12/2021 [Utica Apple Fest](#)

9/10-11/2021 [Port Huron Boat the Blue Antique & Classic Boat Show](#)

9/18/2021 [Michigan Renaissance Festival](#)

9/18/2021 [Almont DDA & Lions Club present Almont Heritage Festival & Classic Car Show](#)

Meetings

The Seven Ponds Photography Club typically holds its meetings on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

1st Friday meetings focus on educational presentations and monthly assignment photographs.

3rd Friday meetings are competition night, photographs submitted by members are scored and reviewed. Selected photos are then sent to the Greater Detroit Camera Club Council (GDCCC) to compete with other clubs. Currently, club meetings on the 3rd Friday are used for optional speakers. Competition images are reviewed after the judged in the 1st Friday meeting. Competition images are reviewed online during the 1st Friday meeting.

Mentoring sessions have been canceled for 2021.

[SPPC Home Page](#) [SPPC Facebook Page](#)

[SPPC Member's Shared Images](#)

[GDCCC Home Page](#)

