



SPPC Perspective

The Seven Ponds Photography Club, formed in 2009, 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.

Jason Stewart will be presenting Time Lapse Photography on August 3



Jason Stewart became interested in photography as a boy watching his father capture family memories. He pursued photography throughout high school and college. Jason has worked his way around the country, working in various camera stores and as a photographer/photo teacher. Jason currently works for Nikon as a Technical Sales Representative. As a Technical Sales Rep., Jason's expertise is being able to communicate and demonstrate various photographic techniques and ideas in a straightforward and simple manner. Jason has been working in the photographic industry for over 22 years. And his passions in photography are very diverse; from portraits, to nature and landscapes, to anything close up, but most recently, children photos with the addition to his own family.

Jason will be presenting Time Lapse Photography to the SPPC on Friday August 3rd, at Seven Ponds Nature Center.

The Editing Mentor sessions held on the fourth Friday of the month will not be held in August.

Member Close-up – Stu Davis

Contributor Mark Robinson

My first memory of Stu Davis is probably the same as many of yours'. My memory is during a competition meeting and an HDR photo was being discussed, not surprising it was Stu's created using his three shot hand held technique. But here is a little more information about him.



Stu's first photo, that he can recall, was taken of a dump truck that had went off the road using his dad's 35mm Kodak in 1943. By the early 1950's Stu started getting serious about photography purchasing a Michigan made Argus C3 35mm camera, using 10 ASA film (ASA is now known as ISO). Stu was extremely excited when 25 ASA film was introduced, cutting exposure times in half. Over the years Stu has owned numerous camera brands, but now days he shoots with his Canon 5d Mark IV.

Stu considers himself to be an Urban and HDR photographer, and pretty much likes to shoot everywhere, but emphasized he is not a nature photographer. Stu is very active with photographing Imlay City Community Events and sharing information about those events with the club.

When I asked what his favorite photo, Stu replied that he doesn't have a favorite but expects all of his photos to be good.

Stu is one of the founding members of club, along with Mike Mercer and Denny Kelly. The club started on a snowy day 10 years ago, when the three of them went out to shoot for an hour and finished five hours later. It was from that outing the club began. Stu has been a member of the board since the club was founded, but is considering retiring from it. Stu says the club's purpose is to let members do what they want to do and everyone should have fun taking pictures of what they like.

Please join me in thanking Stu for his numerous contributions to the club.

What is your favorite?

This month's topic is inspirational Facebook pages and web sites.

Kelly Daniels - Joel Tjintelaar is one of my favorite contemporary photographers. BWVision.com - Black and White Fine Art by Joel Tjintelaar

Tom Harpootlian - [Minimalist Photography](#), [Detroit's Urban Beauty](#) and [Michigan Nut Photography](#)

Germaine Finley - I like outdoorphotography.com photo gallery since I like following the magazine.

Melody Munro-Wolfe - [Celebrate what's right with the world](#) by DeWitt Jones, a Facebook page to inspire and share beautiful images.

Mark Robinson - [Michigan Reflections](#), photos taken from across the state of Michigan.

Next Months what is your favorite?

This monthly column is for members to share their favorite of the topic chosen for the month. This way we can share the wide experience of our club to all the members. For The September newsletter, the topic will be your favorite photographic tips and tricks. Please email your favorite tips and tricks to [Mark Robinson](#) so they can be shared with all the SPPC member in the next newsletter.

President's Corner (Ward McGinnis)

Setting Goals

I am thinking about when I first started in photography and the process of setting goals to achieve a higher level of success. What I mean by that is personal success.

The first time I held an SLR was at my brother's house in Mackinaw City after he had purchased a Pentax K1000. He let me use it on a weekend trip to Tahquamenon Falls. He gave me a quick lesson on how to use the match needle meter, set the ISO to match the film and how to focus. The photo's resulted in a few complete failures, a few really nice shots compared to the Kodak pocket 110 we had been using and several that were just blah. But it lit a curiosity in me and the desire to learn more. So when I returned home I started buying photography magazines and talking to people about camera's, all of which resulted in the purchase of a new Canon AE-1. It had a similar match needle metering system but it also had an auto mode!! Whoa, what's that? But it also resulted in me buying book after book after book on photography. And soon, maybe a year later, I was getting a good handle on aperture priority, shutter priority or manual mode. And in those days manual was the way to go. The meters were all center weighted spot meters of one type or another. So I had achieved my first goal: Learning how to use the camera controls and metering.

My next self-set goal was learning darkroom techniques and for this I enrolled in a class at Mott College in Flint. Wonderful class and within six weeks of the class I was setting up my own darkroom at home for black and white. A few months later that would change to a full color darkroom. Goal number two had been achieved.

About that time myself and a few others in Lapeer tried to start a photography club. This was way before social media and we were still in film days so we didn't have an SLR in every home. That lasted about four weeks and it fizzled out since we only had five people and our interests were quite divided. So

it was time for a new goal. So I decided my next goal was to somehow get published. Before the “almost” club vanished the Flint Journal heard we were starting a photography club and they came out and interviewed me and took a few pics of me in the darkroom and also published a couple of the club photos. One was mine. So I was kind of published but that wasn’t really hitting my goal. Within a few weeks they contacted me and asked if I would do a few photo assignments when needed. DEAL!! With that they were calling every week and sending me somewhere in the area to shoot for an article someone else was writing. The exposure I received from that led to a nationally published magazine called Country Folk Art calling and requesting photographs and also sending me out on assignments. OK, now my goal had been achieved!

A short while later I remarried and had a house full of kids that played sports and played in the band etc. and I retired the camera from paid services to just photographing the family. No regrets here at all. The camera came back out in 2003 and it’s all good. But what I’m trying to suggest here is that everyone should set some goals for their photography or for any other hobby you might have. Make the goals doable! Of course the first goal is to learn the camera controls. Then learn how to use them creatively. Today we have a second part to all of this and that is learning to edit! Here to you should set a few goals.

But the biggest goal we all need to set is to keep it fun.

Contributors Requested

I invite all of the SPPC members to provide you’re “Perspective” on the various club activities and events that you participate in, and perhaps share some of your photos, so they can be published in the newsletter. If you have a favorite place you like to shoot, and wish to share the information with others, please write that up as well. Please send your contributions to [Mark Robinson](#)

Bay City Fireworks – Fun and Learning

Contributor Mark Robinson

On July 7th several members of the SPPC drove up to see and photograph the Bay City Fireworks. In addition to the photography enthusiast that normally attend our outings, this time several of us brought additional family members and friends adding to the fun.

Thanks to Jerry Badgero’s scouting activities we had a great location to shoot from, with Bay City Lights for a backdrop and the Saginaw River to catch the reflections.

I had never photographed fireworks before so I was hoping for the best, but didn’t really know what to expect. To prepare for the event I searched the internet for suggestions on how to shoot fireworks. At the event I talked to several members of the club who had experience shooting fireworks and got even more helpful information.

Based on what I had learned I set up the required equipment, a sturdy tripod, remote shutter control and a lens with wide to medium focal length (specifically 24-105mm). I made sure the camera was level, using the internal level on the camera. I disabled autofocus and image stabilization, and set the focus to infinity. From there I picked my initial settings using manual mode f/22, 30 seconds, ISO 100 at 32mm. I then took a couple of test shots just before the fireworks and the images looked like they may work. I literally then waited for the fireworks to begin, to take my first shot (below).



I was happy with the results, but did clip off the top. So I adjusted the frame and continued shooting. I tried various settings throughout the show with photos as low as 5 seconds to a high of 30. I shot f/11 through f/22. I also zoomed from 24mm to 58mm (Never knowing how high the next skyrocket would go) and maintained the ISO 100 through the entire show. By the end of the show I was taking mostly 10 second shots at f/16.



f/16, 10 seconds, ISO 100 at 56mm



f/16, 10 seconds, ISO 100 at 38mm

Competition Reminder:

When submitting images for competition please remember to limit the longest edge of the image to 1200 pixels. You also need to give your image a title, by default it will be the file name of the image, rules prohibit using the numbered file names assigned by the camera such as IMG_2036 or DSC_1234.



f/18, 15 seconds, ISO 100 at 43mm

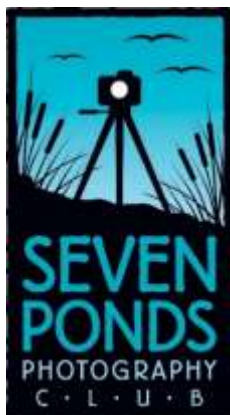
I saw various photographs on our clubs Facebook page, were other photographers went significantly beyond my settings, with very nice results. So please don't limit yourself, by my first learning experience.

All in all, I had a lot of fun that night and I learned I can take a decent shot of fireworks. I will try it again and maybe push the envelope a little more then.



f/22, 10 seconds, ISO 100 at 43mm

Many thanks to Jerry Badgero for setting up the event and his shooting suggestions.



August 2018

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.

Guest Speakers (1st Monday Meetings)

Aug 3 - Jason Stewart, Time lapse Photography

Sept 7 - Phil Stagg, Michigan Waterfalls

Oct 5 - Marilyn Feather, Artist Residencies

Assignment Topics (1st Monday Meetings)

Please send your images to [Stu Davis](#), by noon on the day of the meeting.

Aug 3 - Water Sep 7 - Reflections

Oct 5 - Color Change Nov 2 - Animals (Non-Human)

Club Outings

Club outing details change due to various reasons. Please check the Facebook event links for current details.

August 12: Prairies and Ponds of Lapeer Macro/Close-up Shoot. This is a city owned park that offers great early morning spider webs, damselflies and dragonflies. Hoping for DEW!!

Lead: [Todd Bielby](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/159083371465471/>

September 9-15: Badlands Shoot.

A week long shoot in the Badlands of South Dakota. We will meet at the Badlands Motel and Campgrounds in Interior, SD Sunday, Sept 9 to finalize plans for the Monday morning shoot.

The Badlands NP has many buffalo, long horned sheep, Deer, Prairie Dogs, a few rattle snakes, and some birds as well. We will also be planning a night shoot for star trails and the Milky Way.

Everyone is responsible for their own reservations at the Badlands Motel and campground or where ever you choose.

Lead: [Ward McGinnis](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/470212013430586/>

October 19, 20 & 21: Sleeping Bear Dunes. Farms, Sand Dunes, night photography and lots of scenery to shoot in and around the Leelanau Peninsula. Camping at Empire Township campground, several motels near Glen Arbor.

Lead: [Buddy Beyer](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/659355990906202/>

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. Some photos are then sent to the Greater Detroit Camera Club Council (GDCCC) to compete with other clubs.

Mentoring Sessions

Mentoring sessions are typically held the 4th Friday of each month please contact [Dale Vronch](#) if you plan to attend. Bring your laptop and an image to work on. **No Sessions will be held in June, July or August.**

Helpful links:

[SPPC Facebook Page](#)

[SPPC Home Page](#)

[GDCCC Home Page](#)