



To our Members from the Co-Presidents of ACC:

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We hope everyone is doing well and staying safe during this time.

As you know, the church has been closed for a while now and we have to wait to see when it can fully open and also what their plan is for keeping attendees safe.

The board will be planning summer activities (we just did a still life activity and we think it went well). Rich and Mike are working on other summer activities for photography to keep everyone interested. The outings that are suggested will be local so we can go individually, take some photos and share on SmugMug. We would then hold a Zoom meeting with members to discuss and enjoy everyone's photos.

We also thought that each member could photograph what they think is interesting, or specific, like birds or flowers, landscapes, interesting patterns of nature, or even partly empty streets or parks. We will then set up a Zoom meeting to show photos straight out of camera, then, if applicable, after post-processing with a discussion of what you did in post process. Guidelines and scheduling for photos, submittals and the Zoom meeting details will be announced soon by email from the Club.

Some suggestions below are sites close by that will likely be open in June:

- Deer Grove Forest Preserve, both East and West in Palatine
- Rollins Savanna in Grayslake
- Cricket Creek in Addison
- McDonald Woods in Lindenhurst
- Skokie Lagoons in Glencoe
- Fox River Preserve and Marina in Port Barrington.
- The Reed-Turner Nature Center in Long Grove
- Cuba Marsh in Deer Park
- Volo Bog in Ingleside
- Crabtree Nature Center in Barrington Hills

Most members can think of other photo-worthy locations in addition to those listed above. The goal is to get outside and take photos to display online.

We will discuss at our next Board meeting how we will meet if things are not fully open in September.

If any members have any other suggestions as far as outings or programs, please contact either co-president.

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Photographing Birds while Sheltering in Place

By Bob Reynolds



“Shelter in Place” doesn’t mean we can’t enjoy photography, particularly outdoor photography.

We can practice social distancing and still enjoy nature and photography, especially in parks and forest preserves. Spring is bird migration season and we have a lot of birds stopping by our lakes, woods and backyards on their way to permanent breeding homes.

I started trying to photograph birds not because I was a dedicated birder, but because I was curious about the unusual birds calls and behaviors I saw in the birds flitting about my backyard. Once I photographed them, I had to research the bird to find out what species I’d captured. It turned out that there were many different species of birds sitting on branches right off of my deck at home.

Birds can be tricky to photograph, but you can learn how to capture birds in your neighborhood. Start by photographing larger sized species of birds, like ducks herons and sandhill cranes. Sandhill cranes are large and easier to photograph. You may find them

foraging in cornfields. Local lakes and wetlands have visiting species of waterfowl during spring. If you’re patient, you might be able to photograph a new duck you’ve never seen before. Each spring season, I’ve found migrating species in local lakes and ponds including loons, swans and several varieties of ducks.

Once you’ve figured out how to capture the big birds, you’ll want to photograph the smaller species. These are the hard ones to get.



They are small and fast and they don’t stay in one place for long. Many of them are camouflaged, so they are harder to spot. You may have to upgrade your lenses to get the smaller species.

To photograph smaller species, you will find that a 200mm lens is not enough. Long lenses are needed for the small birds. You’ll also have to use high shutter speeds and higher ISO’s. I use a monopod-mounted 150 mm-500 mm lens. I find using a tripod too slow to adjust to the changing positions of birds in trees. The monopod lets me move around better and still stabilize my lens. In an article called “Bird Photography from Your Backyard” I noticed that the photographer used 1/1250 sec at F8. I do almost the same. I use shutter speeds faster than 1/1000, and I often use F8

because it gives me a chance at having most of the bird in focus.

You can see the article using this link:

<https://learnandsupport.getolympus.com/learn-center/photography-tips/home-with-olympus/bird-photography-from-your-backyard>

Here are a few examples of small birds I captured right off of my deck at home.



A Plea for Cell Phone Photography

By Cameraslinger (An ACC member)

“It was just taken with a cell phone.”

It’s an expression I hear often when encountering other photographers, whether they consider themselves one or not. It’s said with an undertone of self doubt, as if learning how it was captured would take away from the impact of the image.

Ten years ago smartphones were still limited and it really took some creativity to get good photos out of them. Now phones come packed with multiple lenses and all sorts of features. The quality is high enough for prints and some can even shoot in RAW now. For the most part many people wouldn’t even know it was taken with a cell phone unless you told them.

There should be no reason why we look down on a photo simply for the way it was taken. We should be embracing new tech that allows anyone to be a hobby photographer and lets them show off the world as they see it. The most important thing is what’s between your ears - not the gear in your hands.

Challenging Corner

By Carl Arnold

Sometime back I purchased a book entitled *“Use this if you want to take great photographs. A photo journal. The author is Henry Carroll.*

The book is full of ideas of what to shoot, when to shoot and some very interesting challenges. I would like to share some of these with you.

Tell a joke with two or more pictures.

A single picture can't tell a story as it has no beginning or end. Two or more pictures can. The images might not do anything on their own, but when placed next to each other, that's when the magic happens.

Take an ugly picture of something beautiful.

Take a beautiful picture of something ugly.

Some techniques can be 'ugly,' like in-built flash, image noise and sloppy composition. Likewise, some techniques can be 'beautiful,' like natural light, symmetry and 'bokeh' (that's posh for shallow depth of field).

Let a window do all the talking.

Windows are metaphorical. They allow us to see out or see in. They are openings that can offer freedom or confinement. Windows also fill interior space with beautiful natural light, which lends images a sense of honesty.

Have fun with these challenges.

Good luck!

Mort's Take

What Noise?

Why do photographers buy full-frame cameras? A larger sensor means larger pixels which means less noise. Usually, it also means a larger and heavier body and larger and heavier lenses. 10 yrs ago I would have considered switching to a full frame body. Now, I use a crop sensor camera with matching lenses with no desire to change. But, what about noise? I don't have any noise at any Iso my camera chooses. About 9 months ago, I was thinking about noise and how to control it. Noise usually is seen in mid and darker tones. So what if my image only consisted of light tones? Then noise reduction software would have an easy time removing the remaining noise. Thus, I started to experiment dealing only with light tones.

To lighten the image I use PS curves and moved the darkest shades up to mid tones. I then need to bring up the noise removal slider of my software (DeNoise 6.0) only a ¼ or ½ of the way to the right. Less than I was moving it before.

Now going back to curves, I lowered the darker tones to where they should be. Eureka! No noise, even at Iso 16,000.

It amazed me that I had never read about this process and no one had tried it before. There's a saying that you can't teach an old dog new tricks....Arf...Arf.

Still-Life Photos from Round-One of our Program for Home-Bound Photographers

The images shown here are the Round-One submittals by members of still-life images taken for this program. The intent of the Still-Life Program is to provide challenges to members in an effort to encourage their interest in the Club and in photography over this shut-in period.

After the images were submitted and posted on Smugmug in early May, members were asked to view and score them all. Several days after the submittal deadline members were invited to attend a Zoom meeting during which each photo was shown and comments of the attendees were encouraged. There was no effort to emphasize the scores of the images, however. The goal was to develop photographic skills and gain from the observations of other members.

A second round of still-life photo creation is now taking place and the Round-Two images are due by June 7th. Again, scoring by participants will be over June 8th to 9th, and the review meeting will be held June 12th.

It is not too late for you to create a still-life image and submit it for Round-Two. If you are interested and need further information, please email Rich Milburn at richardkmilburn@gmail.com.

Here are the Round-One still-life images.

ROUND-TWO IMAGES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A SUPPLEMENT TO THIS NEWSLETTER LATER IN JUNE.



Larry Brady - Another Day of Ssocial Distancing



Pat Coleman - End of Days-1



Pat Coleman - End of Days 1-2



Pat Coleman - End of Days 1-3



Jan van Leijenhorst - Dancer



Jan van Leijenhorst - Lute Player



Jan van Leijenhorst - The Gift



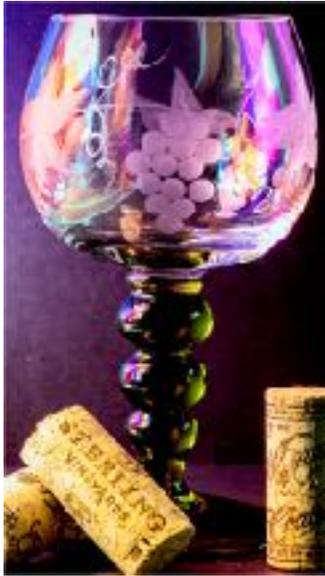
Reinhard Schwind - Kitchen Utensils



Reinhard Schwind - Threads



Reinhard Schwind - Under the Sea



Reinhard Schwind - Wine Glass



Barrie Burr - Tomatoes



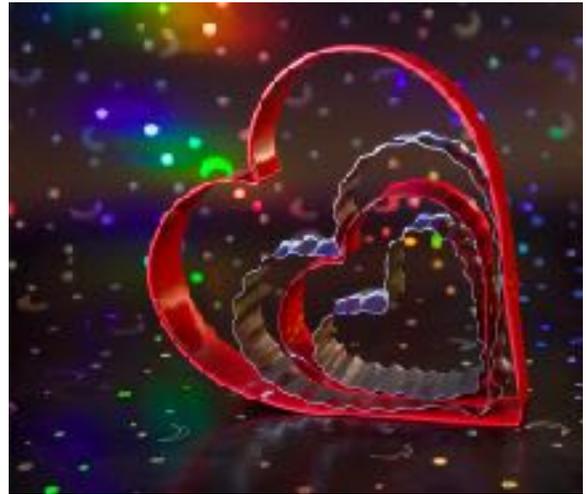
Barrie Burr - Veggies



Judy King - Colored Pencils All in a Row



Jan Williams - Time



Judy King - Hearts



Patty Colabuono - Bedtime



Mike Garber - Irish Whiskey Tonight



Judy King - Sea Shells



Judy King - Precious Statues



Judy King - Lanterns



Mike Garber - Wedding Remember When



Judy King - Ring in a Sea Shell



Judy King - Two Rings and a Rose



Larry Arends - Pineapple and Family Tree



Bob Reynolds - Hodge-Podge

Moving Forward

With the uncertainties that exist regarding the timing of opening-up as well as safety precautions that will need to be observed, it is difficult to announce a schedule for meeting topics and speakers. Still we must make plans so that we can keep in mind the missions of our club. Your Board is working to establish activities for this summer, involving solo photography, sharing of our photographs, and virtual get-togethers to share, review, comment and continue to learn more about photographic art.

The current schedule for the fall assumes that we will be able to meet again in a few months. If this schedule is forced to slide, you will be made aware of changes and cancellations.

Tentative Fall Meeting Schedule

9.2.2020 - Information night for members (including forms on the back of competition pics). Lance will do a presentation to the club.

9.16.2020 - Photo Scavenger Night - inside and outside the building **OR** Peoples' Choice.

10.7.2020 - October - Competition

10.21.2020 - Image Review Night

11.4.2020 - Share the Photo Scavenger Nights pics with the club (done on 9.16.2020).

Exhibit Schedule - 2020

September – Schaumburg Library – “Fall Colors”

November – Prospect Heights Library – “Mountain Scenes”

Will all members please consider activities that we as individuals can participate in, photos from which could be shared by members of our club using our photo sharing service, Smugmug, and Zoom meetings. These services have been shown to work very well for the activities for which they have been used in recent times.

If you would like to suggest such activities please contact Rich Milburn at richardkmilburn@gmail.com, or Mike Garber at garbermb@gmail.com.

Thank you.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS 2019-2020

Judy King & Mort Lerman	Co-Presidents	president@arlingtoncameraclub.org
Bill Heider	V.P. Programs & Workshops	vpprograms@arlingtoncameraclub.org
Janis Williams, Carol Arnolde	V.P. Competition	vpcompetition@arlingtoncameraclub.org
Judie Reynolds	Treasurer	treasurer@arlingtoncameraclub.org
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Carol Arnolde	Corporate Secretary	pcarnolde@sbcglobal.net
Susan Paasch	Hospitality	

*ACC meets at the Christian Church of
Arlington Heights, 333 W. Thomas Avenue, three
blocks west of Arlington Heights Road, across
from Hasbrook Park on the 1st and 3rd
Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.*



*Chicago
Area
Camera
Clubs
Association.*