

GROSSE POINTE  
CAMERA CLUB

2007-2008  
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INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:

GPCC 2  
Forum

Shooting 3  
Tips

Meet a 4  
Member

# SELECTIVE FOCUS

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## Check out our new GPCC Forum!

Happy New Year!

We launch into 2009 with a great new way to communicate and share ideas outside of regular club meetings: the GPCC Forum.

The GPCC Forum is a members-only online discussion site hosted by Yahoo!. The site functions a lot like a cork bulletin board (in that members can post things like questions, comments or photos) that has joined the 21st century.

Our forum was initiated by member John Forest, who followed up on an

idea raised in another Yahoo! Group called Camera Club Sparkle. (Turn to



**“Eye,”** an image currently posted in the GPCC Forum Infirmary. Mike Florian challenges members, **“What can you do with this?”** Log in to apply your own Photoshop magic or just see what others have already done.

page 2, where John can tell you more about how the Forum came to be and what it's designed to do.) Also on page 2, Ralph Yakoboski will explain one of the Forum's features, the “Infirmary.” If you have not already done so, check out what's new at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/GPCCforum/>.

If you have any questions about how to log in or how to become a member, please email John Forest at: [jpforest@wowway.com](mailto:jpforest@wowway.com).

All the best!

—Elizabeth

## Mark your calendars for...

TUESDAY, JAN. 6  
Regular Club Competition  
Brownell M.S., 7:00 PM

Submit up to 3 Color General images and 1 Monochrome image. Deadline for entries is Friday, Nov. 2.

TUESDAY, JAN. 13  
Regular Club Competition  
Brownell M.S., 7:00 PM

Submit up to 3 Nature images and 1 Color Creative image. Stay tuned for submission deadlines.

TUESDAY, JAN. 27  
Hosting GDCC Competition  
Brownell M.S., 7:00 PM

Come see what other clubs are shooting!

## How the Forum came to be...



Screen capture of  
the GPCCForum  
home page.

The forum was a suggestion that came from me, as a result of a message I saw posted on another Yahoo site called Camera Club Sparkle. Mike had asked me to review this and keep him informed on anything that seemed to be of interest. This site is composed of representatives of various camera clubs around the country, spearheaded by Hazel Meredith of the PSA who serves as its moderator. The idea came from a club that could not afford a digital projector, so they posted the club's digital images online and members voted for them to cover the competition each month. When they came to the club meeting they could all find out who had scored what in that month's competition.

I proposed this as an alternative to judging at meetings. Most members didn't think this was a good idea but saw value in having a vehicle that would let them see what transpired at meetings and aid communication, especially in the summer months and other periods when we would not be having meetings, like over the Christmas - New Year break. I set up the site and made myself the moderator. As of this time we have 19 members. The site is open for membership to any club

member. I have issued invitations to all members and most of them are now members of the forum.

The forum now has the photos from the last two club competition nights along with the members' names, the titles, and the scores. Ralph has created a folder called "infirmary" where a member can post a photo that is a problem and other members can respond with suggestions for improvement. This is an extension of some of the dialogs we have at meetings.

There are other sections available. For example, there is a section for polls where any member can send out a poll question and get feedback from members and also one for links to helpful web sites. All that the links contain at this time is a link to download Picasa, a photo editor from Google that I have found useful. It won't do a lot of the things we can do in Photoshop, but it is quite powerful and very intuitive to use. It also never changes the original image file, only recording the changes in a form of script. The way to do various things on the site is pretty well explained and all members have the ability to use all the functions.

—article by John Forest

## A visit to the infirmary

The GPCC Infirmary album was created with the intention of providing a public location for registered group members to upload photos for the purpose of soliciting help for problems or suggestions for enhancement.

All registered group members can upload and delete their photos from the GPCC Infirmary. Two separate procedures describing the steps necessary to upload or download photos have been created and loaded into the forum file library.

Additional uses for GPCC Infirmary album:

- \* **Sharing Techniques.** Once registered, members with an editing technique or process to share can create a set of how-to instructions, upload the file to the forum file library, and upload before and after photos to show results.

- \* **Training.** Advanced Photoshop users can upload photos for members to download and process in Photoshop.
- \* **Showcase.** Members can share 'Look What I Did' photos and explain the process they used to create the images.



Special considerations:

- \* Photos must be JPEG format.
- \* Space is limited – members should size their photos following the club competition rules.
- \* Don't just upload a photo without an explanation/request. Use the forum post message function to inform all group members that a photo has been uploaded and state its purpose.

— article by Ralph Yakaboski

## Cold weather shooting tips

### Stay Energized

The cold weather is here. Keep shooting outside, but remember that batteries don't perform well when they get cold. Always have an extra fully charged battery with you. Keep the extra battery in a warm place. An inside pocket will often do the trick. Then when the first battery cuts out because of the temperature, simply change the cold one for a warm one. You'll keep shooting and enjoying your time with the camera. If you warm the cold battery, then it will probably work when your

second battery gets too cold. Don't forget to re-charge them when you get home.

### Take Advantage of the Blinkies

The "Blinkies" is a feature to help you see blown out highlights quickly. With the feature turned on you will see any overexposed area on the LCD display as a blinking area. If you don't see the Blinkies, then you don't have anything overexposed. Check your camera manual to determine how to view your captured images

with the "Blinkies" turned on.

So what do you do when you see the Blinkies? Use your camera's exposure compensation control and reduce the exposure either 1/3 or 1/2 stop. Take the picture again. If you still have the Blinkies, then reduce the exposure another 1/3 or 1/2 stop. After you get a good exposure, then don't forget to turn the exposure compensation back to 0 or normal.

It is okay if some things have the Blinkies, like the sun or the sun reflection off a chrome bumper. However, blinking foreheads are not ok!

## Meet a member: Franziska Raspa



Wouldn't you like to know a bit more about your fellow club members?

I'm betting that you would, so let me welcome you to the "Meet a member" feature. This is the first in a series of "interviews" that will feature GPCC members. Below, Franziska Raspa responds to a number of questions such as "What first sparked your interest in photography" and "What is one of your most memorable photography experiences while traveling," and gives us a peek at what's happening on the other side of the viewfinder.

I write for a living. I began as a high school English teacher, became a reporter and then worked in public relations. Along the way, I picked up a camera, and discovered that I could tell a story through photographs. To learn this new tool, I took classes at Wayne State University from a Time/Life photographer who ignited in me a profound respect for photography. My writing is better than my photographs, but I didn't have to choose between them. Writing has been my livelihood,

and photography, my hobby.

My photographic inspirations include Anselm Adams and Henri Cartier-Bresson. Adams could bring out the essence of a landscape in his photographs and his darkroom techniques. He could make a rock look so profoundly rock-like! Cartier-Bresson captured decisive moments in life. His photos are the epitome of a special moment, and they take my breath away.

Day-to-day, I'm so busy and preoccupied, I take few photos, but when I travel, I unwind and look around me. Different locales work their magic on me, and I desire to capture them in photographs. Taking photographs is a way of seeing deeply for me. I notice more as I frame a picture and attempt to capture the essence of another culture. Luckily, my WSU professor husband often presents papers at international conferences, so I join him and bring my camera along.

My best photographic moment to date was lifting my camera to take the picture of a Chinese child who recognized me as different from those he knew. In his eyes, I did not belong in his society. I was not Chinese. While I had gone to China to see the exotic, to this child, I was exotic. Seeing what my camera had captured, I thought deeper about this brief encounter. I began to understand more about how people of different cultures

look at each other. The camera, to me, is not only a way to take a picture, it is also a mirror in which I see my own attitudes and beliefs.

The GPCC has been an extraordinary place for me to share my photos as I continue to develop my skills. The master photographers in the club help me with techniques to improve my pictures. I look forward to learning more about the craft of photography and of digital post-processing from them. I also look forward to seeing the achievements of club members in photography and printing. Their work always inspires me.

*"Along the way, I picked up a camera, and discovered that I could tell a story through photographs."*



**Chinese boy. A photographic moment, captured by GPCC member Franziska Raspa.**



Founded in 1937, the Grosse Pointe Camera Club endeavors to stimulate community interest in photography. Through competitions, mini-programs, field trips and organized shoots, the club brings together people who have common interests in sharing and developing their photographic skills.

Visitors and potential members are always welcome. You are urged to attend as often as you like. However, in order to take part in photographic competitions, you must be a member.

The club meets at Brownell Middle School, 260 Chalfonte, Music Room C-11, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI. The Club meets two Tuesdays each month, September through May. Our meetings are open to the public. Please visit and see what we are all about.

**To find out more about GPCC, please visit our website:**

**<http://www.grossepointecameraclub.org/>**

**or send us an e-mail at:**

**[gpcclclub@comcast.net](mailto:gpcclclub@comcast.net)**

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

## Member Poll results...

In response to the inaugural "member poll" question from our first issue, members shared **the most helpful piece of photography advice** they had ever received.

Below are the submitted responses—enjoy!

#1. No matter how good or easy your camera is to use, always hold your elbows close to your body to steady your

snapshot to get a sharper image. Better yet, use a prop or a tripod to steady your camera when shooting.

#2. Always frame your shot before shooting. This gives more depth to your images. Don't forget your foreground and midground. Many photographers take an uninteresting picture of a faraway scene like a water falls but leave out the tree leaves right above their eyes.

—Ron Sartor

One of the most helpful hints was passed to me during an art appreciation time during art class. It is the "Golden Rule" first put forth by the Greeks. It consists of composing an image by dividing that image by 3 horizontal and 3 vertical lines. One the four 1/3 points that result become the focal point for the image and especially applies to nature photography.

—Michael Madeleine

# GROSSE POINTE CAMERA CLUB

## POINT TOTALS

Last Name	Color General	Monochrome General	Nature (as of end of October)
Cox	30	2	13
Duffy	44	5	41
Florian	393	6	
Forest	124	5	
Gentile	5	0	3
Gordon	19	6	6
Heffner, Catherine	192	5	
Heffner, Chelsea	2	0	
Heffner, Garrett	1	0	
Johnson	4	4	3
Madeleine	3	0	
O'Donnell	3	1	
Peeples	1	0	1
Raspa	49	2	30
Rhee	494	1	
Sartor	16	1	12
Silva	126	0	122
Tapper	16	4	5
Thomas	4	1	1
Witkowski	23	2	15
Yakaboski	1	0	

0-24 Beginner  
 25-49 Advanced  
 50-99 Salon  
 100-399 Star  
 >400 Galaxy

**Additional cold weather shooting tips!**

