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## February 2007 Newsletter

### From the Prez:

Doesn't the cold make the snow even more beautiful? (I write this as I sit looking out my window wall at snow piling up on the patio and birds at the feeders)! I hope that you have had a chance to go out and put into practice some of the tips that Steve Engle gave us in last month's newsletter.

It was good to see the large attendance at the January program at Dave Speckman's studio – how different from John Robert Williams' program last fall! It's great to see another perspective of a professional photographer at work – and the difference in lighting a still life as opposed to a portrait or large set.

As our Treasurer, Chad Tufts, moves to the Kalamazoo area in April, we are in desperate need for someone to take over the Treasurer duties. If you are able to support the club by performing this task, please contact me. Getting involved can be very rewarding.

Keep on Clicking, *Marilyn Hoogstraten*

### *Congratulations to TACC members:*

Kathie Carpenter and Marilyn Hoogstraten had photos published in this month's issue of *The North Country Star*, a newsletter of the North Country Trail Association. The photos were winners in their respective divisions of the Grand Traverse Hiking Club trail photo contest last November. John Heiam also had winning photos in the GTHC trail photo contest last November .

*Did you have a photo hung or published? Or have you been otherwise recognized for your photography? Or know another member who was? Let Kay Smith know so that we can recognize your efforts in the newsletter. Email her at [kay44@greatprograms.org](mailto:kay44@greatprograms.org).*

## TACC Board Meeting January 18, 2007

Present: Babs Young, Lori Piggott, Cris Burgess, Hugh Rea, Kathie Carpenter, John Eschelweck, Marilyn Hoogstraten, Donna Lane, Steve Engle, Kay Smith, Chad Tufts, John Russell, Barb White

Marilyn opened the meeting at 5:30pm and asked for additions or changes to the agenda. The Secretary's report was approved as printed by motion. It was requested that Barb send the minutes to all board members for review prior to being printed in the newsletter.

The Treasurer reported that since there was a difference between the Church's total and the treasurer's total, he will wait until the totals are reconciled to make a report. It was decided by motion to use last year's budget for 2007. Chad will provide board members with a copy of last year's budget. Since Chad is moving away, suggestions for his replacement will be opened up to the membership.

### Committee Reports:

**Membership:** After Chris reported 82 paid members, there was discussion on methods to make guests feel welcome and encourage them to join. Discussion on board members email links on the website.

**Bylaws:** Babs distributed the bylaws with some proposed changes. Discussion followed and will be continued next month.

**Dinner:** The dinner was put on the agenda for next month.

Lending Library: No report.

Mentor: "Can you teach?" questionnaire will be published on the TACC web page, so that people can answer personally.

Newsletter: It's not out yet. From February 7 to April 19 Kay will need help to send the newsletter out by mail. Hugh volunteered to take care of the March mailing.

Church notes: The church would like TACC to provide pictures for the men's washrooms.

Scholarship fund: Report tabled till next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.



The Apprentice by J. Clark

## TACC Programs 2006-2007

February 15- Tom Auch

March 15 - Infrared Bette Bos & David Fox

April 19- Ken Scott

**April** - Library Display

May 17- John Russell

**October 17-28** – Seminar – Nevada Wier  
Speaker

### Competition Topics

Competition nights are on the 1st Mondays of the month at 5:45 pm at The Presbyterian Church. The topics for the year are the following:

February: Food

March: Music

April: Games

May: Architectural Interior

June: Perspective

The Registration Form for 2006-07 membership can be found on TACC's website, [www.tacconline.com](http://www.tacconline.com). Print it off the website and mail it to Chad Tufts with your dues. Chad's address is on the form.

### Digital

Digital Meetings are on the second Saturdays at 9 am at The Presbyterian Church. Topics for the year are as follows:

February 10: Scanners, software, twain, digital "ice", - high quality vs. low quality & how to tell the difference. *Note: Meeting this one day will be from 1-3pm due to time conflict.*

March 10: Proper use of sharpening on Photoshop. Difference between printing at home vs. a lab.

April 14: How to check out a new camera?  
How to reduce grain with night

photography. Know what ISO to use with digital. Digital photography techniques. Using white balance. Jim Blue

May 12: Relative merits of CD & DVD for archiving. Choosing a site to host your photos. Alan Newton

June 9: Working with channels and layers. Terry Clark



Bakers Dozen by Steve Engle



Swan Take off by Bruce Bojack

## Wine & Cheese From a Different Point of View – January Meeting

January snow did not deter a hardy group of members from visiting the studio of Dave Speckman. Dave (knowing about our February competition) photographed a stunning setup of wine, cheese and grapes.



Dave Speckman talks to Tom Haxby while setting up the display at Dave's studio. By John Russell

He demonstrated the use of a variety of flash setups, a fiber optic light hose and the use of home-made reflectors. Dave uses a Fuji digital camera which is able to do multiple exposures (essential for his work) as well as an extensive flash setup. The highlight of his presentation was the “fork”. Ask Rick Loy if this was planned! Work with the light hose could be done with a flashlight. Try it. Hope to see you at the February competition.



The “forked” final product. By Kay Smith

## Workshops for 2007

Todd and Brad Reed announce their workshops for 2007. You will remember their fantastic photos from our September general meeting. Check out the workshops on their website - [toddandbradreed.com](http://toddandbradreed.com)

Workshop dates for three more "Picture Perfect Weekends" at the Cartier Mansion are as follows:

February 23-25

October 5-7

October 19-21

Call Gary and Sue Ann at 231-843-0101 to reserve your space. You can also email Gary and Sue Ann at: [garyandsueann@charter.net](mailto:garyandsueann@charter.net)

Todd & Brad Reed also provide private one-on-one photography lessons. They can teach you how take YOUR vision of the world and capture it at it's peak with YOUR camera. Please call 231-843-0777 for further information and to make your reservations.

Contact us for information on signing up for one of these workshops.

## Note: Change in Blue Photo classes

The Camera Club and Jim Blue have changed the format of their twice yearly digital classes. Please note that if you are interested in learning about digital photography call or go to Blue Photo and talk to Jim or one of his employees and find out when one of their monthly classes are going to be held. Jim is teaching the classes on a one day a week or a three day monthly schedule depending on how many people are on his list. He has had an increased demand for the classes, so doing the classes twice a year wasn't sufficient. He now does them at least once a month. You as a camera club member are able to take his classes for free, so be sure to tell them that you are a camera club member. Call Blue Photo at 946-5066.

## **A Window to the Northern Lights** John Russell

In the cold of winter, skies in Northern Michigan become dark much earlier than the rest of the year. This natural occurrence provides us with ample opportunity to capture the aurora borealis with our cameras.

Capturing the Northern Lights, as they are called by many, is relatively simple, if you prepare and study how to use your camera for these events.

The name comes from the Roman goddess of the dawn, Aurora, and the Greek name of the north wind, Boreas. If there is a north wind on a cold winter night, you will know if you are prepared for the event or not, very quickly.

Auroras are now known to be caused by the collision of charged particles in the magnetosphere, above 80 km above us, in the Earth's upper atmosphere. These electrons cause what we know as the Northern Lights.

When the Sun reaches Solar Maximum, about every 11 years, huge amounts of solar particles are thrown into space from sunspots in the surface of the Sun. This material charges particles which glow when they collide with atoms of gas in our atmosphere, which create light in the wavelengths of 557.7 nm to more than 630 nm.

We are about half-way into the period between Solar Maximum, which peaked in 2001-2002, and will again around 2011-2012.

We still have auroral activity, however.

The prepared photographer will have layers of warm clothing, warm boots, gloves or mittens, and fresh batteries. A sturdy tripod and cable release are also a "must-have".

When the aurora begins, there are several ways to know. WWTV 9&10, out of Cadillac, reports auroral activity regularly. There are also web sites to view. My favorite is the NOAA site:

<http://sec.noaa.gov/pmap/index.html>

Click on "Northern Hemi" and you will see the

graphic indicating whether the auroral activity will reach our skies. Check the sky frequently for best viewing. You will need to be away from city lights and other lighting. I like to include something in the foreground for interest and depth to the image.

Set the camera onto the tripod, set the ISO to 100 ISO or 200 ISO. There is a lot of light out there, even in the dark. I prefer wide lenses to capture the aurora. Water in the foreground will capture reflections.

Put the shutter setting at "bulb", and using your cable release, make exposures up to 20 seconds, at f/2.8 or f/4. Wide open aperture. Remove the filter over the lens (prevents flare from the filter and light) and compose your image. Some bright aurora will only need exposures of as little as 5-10 seconds. Set the focus on infinity and the color setting on daylight or cloudy setting. Do not touch the tripod and be sure your camera strap is not swinging around, moving the camera.

A long exposure of 20 seconds will soften the movement of the auroral swirl, so the shorter the exposure the better. There will be less color shift, too.

Check your images if you are shooting digital. You may want to adjust the length of the exposure depending on brightness of the display, darkness of the sky, etc. Change your location or foreground for more variety.

If you are shooting film, take a picture inside or with a flash of anything, allowing a frame to be easily seen when the film is developed and cut by a technician in a one-hour lab. Aurora will not always give a clear edge for the technician, so help them out and shoot a frame at the beginning of the roll of film. Then you will not have a great frame cut in half by an unknowing person.

Be warm and have fun. The aurora borealis is a wonderful sight to behold and even more fun to capture on film or a CCD!



Aurora Boralis by John L. Russell

## Student Photography Contest

Traverse Area Camera Club is excited to announce the 6th Annual Student Photography Contest. The aim is to encourage High School Students with an interest in photography.

The competition is open to students in grades 9 thru 12 attending any school in the six county Grand Traverse Region including Antrim, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Wexford and Benzie Counties.

Grand Prize is \$100.

First, second and honorable mention prizes will be awarded in the following categories: Scenic/Nature, Sport/People, Creative/Artistic, and Open. Here's what you do:

See your School's Art Dept. for guidelines. Drop off your art by 4:00 pm. March 12th, 2007 at The Presbyterian Church, 701 Westminster, off Airport Access Rd. (please do not show up at the last minute). Judging on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Notification of winners on March 17th

Winning photos will be displayed in the Camera Club Traverse Area District Library exhibit during April. Awards will be given at The Camera Club Library Exhibit reception Sunday April 1st. All other entries must be picked up at the Church Office by 4:00 pm, March 22nd. Go for it, students. Call John, with any questions. 275-3983.

## Library Display is April

As mentioned The Camera Club "Library" exhibit begins April 1st and ends April 28th. Bring up to two framed, ready to hang, favorite photographs to the Traverse Area District Library on Saturday, March 31st. This is not a competition. Every member is welcome to have fun and participate. There will be a reception on Sunday, April 1st including snacks and an award ceremony for the student winners. Please contact Lori Piggott with any questions regarding the exhibit 932-1576. Lori will be asking for volunteers to help hang the exhibit. Thank you!



Three dancers by Babs Young



Bright White Daisy by Silbernagel



Jelly Beans by B. Bojock



Ocqueoc Falls by B. Bojock



Look Deep by S. Engle



French Toast by B. Young