

Ohio Valley Camera Club, West Virginia
President's Message
January 2014
Past, Present, Future

What a pleasure it has been to be a part of the Ohio Valley Camera Club, West Virginia for the past 4 years. I walked into the club in May 2010 not knowing who would be there or if I would know anyone. I saw one familiar face, Bekkie Harper, as she and I had crossed paths with another club. I, like her, was looking for something more. The first night I attended, Joe Browning did a Photoshop program on adding the 50% grey layer to add colors to your print. I was hooked! This is what I was looking for in a club; someplace I could grow and learn.

As with all long standing organizations the OVCC-WV has a rich past that we can learn from. The club has always emphasized growth in individual photography. The club has everyone from beginners to seasoned pros. All have something to offer. I'm sure in 1958 when Willis Cook and Corbin Miller founded the club they did not anticipate the changes that photography would undergo in the years to come. With digital enhancement and the ability to "proof" and adjust in the field, it makes it somewhat easier to do photography...at least on the surface.

Photography is still a complex art/science (depending on which era you are from) and the basic principles still apply. Composition and exposure are paramount to photography. You have to have the ability to "see" a scene and photograph it in a way that no one has ever seen it before. You have to know what your dials and buttons on your camera do. You have to be able to disassemble it in the dark and put it back together.

This past year we participated in more outings and meet-ups. Outings and meet-ups are important to the club growth and participation. By participating in outings and meet-ups you have the ability to observe how others frame a shot or to ask a question about a camera setting and just have a great time being around others who are passionate about photography. There will be more opportunities in the up coming year to participate in outings.

Our club has monthly competitions. These competitions are a great opportunity to get feedback on your work and to ask questions on other members' work. It is another opportunity to learn and observe. In the past, projected image competitions have always been an open theme. This year we are adding the feature of an occasional "themed projected image" competition. This will provide more opportunities to express creativity.

In the year ahead we have the opportunity to show our work at a couple of galleries in the area. The club will have a chance to show the community what we do and that we do it well. The membership should be proud of having these opportunities. Exhibits

are a way to put your work on display and have people develop an interest in the organization.

We will also continue to have members share their favorite photographs and tell about their passion for photography and why it is important to them.

Who knows what the distant future holds for the OVCC-WV; with its rich past and the strong structure of the organization the potential for growth is still there. The possibilities with digital photography are endless. There are millions of photographs generated on a daily basis from camera phones to DSLR's. The processing on the back end makes a big difference in a "nice" photograph and an "exceptional" photograph. The photographers in this organization are "exceptional" photographers who work hard and take pride in their photography. The organization will continue to provide learning opportunities to the members so they can continue to make their photographs exceptional!

The needs of the membership will help guide the direction of the club. With members input and suggestions it is up to the leadership to provide the answers and learning opportunities to keep the momentum moving forward.

Whether photography is for business or pleasure we can all work to improve what we do and learn from each other. Never be afraid to ask questions or drop an email to the group. We are all here to help each other.

I look forward to serving as your president during this year!

Pam DeCamp