

I want to begin by thanking all of the members of Ohio Valley Camera Club for the experiences I have had with you over the past few years. Our past presidents have led and grown the club into a strong organization with a great membership. It is my honor to have the opportunity to continue that trend over the 2013 year. Looking back on the past few years shows that we have some wonderful people as members that happen to have amazing photography talents, and they are all willing to share their knowledge with anyone interested. Each year we have had several outings attended by many, educational activities during meetings, great competitions within the club, members who had great success in area competitions, and members that have been recognized in print and web publications. Any community member that has an interest in photography and improving their skills is invited to come to our meetings.

As we move into the New Year I want our club to build on our past successes and add to what we have. I would like to see the club continue to grow while getting more members actively involved in what we do as a club. All members are welcome to offer suggestions to the board members via email or suggestion box at the meetings. While we will be adding new items to our meetings we will attempt to regulate the length of the meetings, at least as much as possible. Meetings lasting a little longer would be great if that means more members are involved, more members are entering competitions, and more members are getting involved with education and sharing of knowledge. Socializing with each other is important in building cohesiveness and friendliness in our club. The following are some of the goals for this year:

- There was much discussion about the amount of print and projected competitions versus the amount of education at our meetings. Competitions are a great way to get feedback, when honest, to make your photography better. We will be seeing new attempts and methods on critiquing in the next few meetings in an effort to get more feedback from members on what was liked and ideas for improving photos. Often there are things about the photo that even the photographer would like to have changed. I encourage all members to enter competitions both within and outside our club.
- One of the new features this year will be a member spotlight page on our OVCC WV webpage. The new member spotlight will feature one of our members in an attempt to get to know them in a new way. The page will feature personal information, thoughts on photography, equipment they use, and a few of their favorite examples of their photography with some explanation. Look for a link on the main webpage for this feature. We will be rotating members every two to three weeks so when asked to participate, please give the information and pictures. Also, take time to check the page often and learn something new about our members.
- Another addition to our meetings will be a couple of our members bring in a couple of their photos that they want to share with the club. This will give a couple of club

members five or ten minutes to tell us about what makes those particular photos special to them such as where they were and what was happening. Some may want to bring a before and after photo to explain how they identified what they wanted to change and how they changed it.

- We will be continuing the educational part of the meetings. A program will be offered by our members that will help us to learn more about our craft. We will focus education on the upcoming themes in the month prior.
- One of our committees will be planning meet-ups throughout the year as well. These will be evening or weekend opportunities announced through the webpage, emails, and meetings. Meet-ups will also be planned in an effort to allow interested members to practice what they were taught in the meetings.

I am honored to serve as president for the upcoming year. As I noted earlier, OVCC is a strong photography club. We have a clear purpose and clear by-laws in place to govern what we do. I will make every effort to continue the club moving forward. I ask for the members for your help and support as this is a completely new endeavor for me. I will do my best to pass a strong OVCC to a new president next year.

Our meetings are open to the public and everyone interested is invited to attend. Our meeting times and location is available on our webpage. If you are not a member, come to one of our meetings and introduce yourself and give OVCC a try. We look forward to welcoming you!

Tim Hardesty