



Prairie Focus

Prairie Region of Photographic Arts

Volume 64 No. 1

Fall 2023



Pollinator

by Doris Santha, Saskatoon Camera Club

Best Nature & Best of Show

Everest Competition 2022

Prairie Photographers sharing photographic experiences

Alberta • Saskatchewan • Manitoba

prpa.photography

facebook.com/prpa.canada

From the Chair

by Stan Hingston

This has been an eventful summer and busy fall for me.

A week after the AGM in June my sister and I flew to Ireland for a week of searching out our Irish family roots. Both our Hingston grandparents were born and raised in the same area of County Cork; they reconnected in Canada and married in 1914 in the old farm house that we grew up in. We visited houses and churches that our grandparents and great grandparents had lived and worshipped in. We also met a few distantly related families like 4th or 5th cousins.

I took just over 1000 photos on our trip so have lots to enter in competitions this year. From my notes I created a 90 page journal of our trip illustrated with over 300 photos using MS Publisher, converted to PDF and shared on Google Drive.

A highlight was a tour of Castle Freke which has a connection to the Hingston family. It is being restored and the owner (whose grandfather lived in the castle as a child) kindly spent a Sunday afternoon showing us through it.

In August we had a family reunion in Alberta on my wife's side. I was the main organizer and to keep costs down we had a pot-luck lunch



with my three boys BBQing hamburgers and hot dogs. There were about 40 attending, coming from as far as Arizona and South Carolina.

It was my turn this fall for the "Member Showcase" wall in the Hallway Gallery in downtown Rosetown. I chose the theme "Churches of West Cork" and printed 14 photos of seven different churches that we had visited in Ireland.



I was invited to do a presentation on PRPA, and one I put together on "Creative Cropping", at the October 16 meeting of the Moose Jaw Camera Club. It was enjoyable to meet with about 30 of their club members.

I have also been in contact with Roman Orynik, President of the Northern Image Photographers in Prince Albert. He will bring up club membership in PRPA at their November meeting. Bryan Livicker president of the Turner Valley Oilfield Camera Club emailed with a list of questions they had about PRPA. I'm sure we have Dan Sigouin to thank for piquing their interest. And I welcome the Lloydminster club back to PRPA.

In October we held the fall board meeting via Zoom and then I had this newsletter to do...

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Competitions Report

by Marlene Andrew

Instructions and forms for judging each competition will be emailed to the club representatives within the next couple of days. As you receive entries, please advise the person entering the competition that you received their entry. Alternatively, if you have entered a competition and did not receive confirmation, please contact the judging club rep.

Be sure to check the latest PRPA Handbook for the General Rules and Entry Instructions for competitions, and the criteria on the specific competitions you are entering. The Handbook and information on the competitions can be found on the PRPA website. If you have any questions, contact your club rep or me. Pay particular attention to any changes since last year. For instance, The Hand of Man Competition has been changed to landscape or cityscape that includes a man-made element.

There has been some confusion with The Hand of Man and Gail Christensen Artistic Expressions competitions. These are **not** club competitions, however, members of photo clubs with a club membership in PRPA may enter individually.

I suggest that you keep a digital copy of all your entries each year in a separate folder on your computer. I have run into situations where I needed a digital copy of an entry from a competition and the entrant couldn't find the file or even remember what the entry was.

There is a lot of interest in artificial intelligence (AI) now and its impact on photography competitions. We are continuing to monitor it and looking at how other photo competition organizations are handling it. Personally, I wouldn't want it to become necessary for raw files with the exif data of winning photographs having to be submitted.

If anyone is interested in the Competition Coordinator position, please contact Stan or me. I would certainly work with someone during the first year. There is a lot of work involved in the position, however I have found it very interesting and rewarding.

Thank you to all the clubs and their reps that are judging competitions this fall. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Fall 2023 Competition Judging Clubs

Deadline: November 15, 2023

Everest Club Competition

Rosetown Photography Club
c/o Stan Hingston
Box 1177, Rosetown SK S0L 2V0
Email: sghingston@sasktel.net

Russell Competition (Theme: Active / Passive)

Moose Jaw Camera Club
c/o Hilda Maier
Email: hilarie4@gmail.com

Fall Digital Competition

Central Alberta Photographic Society
c/o Janet Adam
Email: janet.renzetti@gmail.com

The Gail Christensen Artistic Expressions Digital Competition

Saskatoon Camera Club
c/o Cathleen Mewis
Email: cmewis@shaw.ca

Single Song Slideshow

Image West Photographic Assoc.
c/o Marlene Andrew
Email: marleneandrewphotography@sasktel.net

Hand of Man Landscape Digital Image Competition

c/o Marlene Andrew
Email entries to prpaclub@gmail.com

Outing 2023 Competition

IWPA c/o Marlene Andrew
18 MacDonald Cres., Swift Current SK S9H 4A6
Email: marleneandrewphotography@sasktel.net

Club Abbreviations

CAPS Central Alberta Photographic Society
FCC Foothills Camera Club, Calgary
IND Independent member (not part of a club)
IWPA Image West Photographic Association,

MJCC Moose Jaw Camera Club
RePC Regina Photo Club
RoPC Rosetown Photography Club
SCC Saskatoon Camera Club

Print Circuit Report

by Maureen Sinclair

The circuits were a bit later than normal getting out on the road, but all three are on their way.

There has been one retirement this year which leaves three slots available.

I will be able to add new members in January when the Spring round starts.

The circuits are a fun way to share your work, get helpful feedback and hone your critiquing skills. And, bonus, you get ribbons for the top three images in each round and a spot in the next available Prairie Focus.

One of the things I enjoy about doing things a bit old school is that the image you examine is just the way the maker presented it. And there are very few restrictions in the circuits. Colour, B/W, and any computer adjustments are up to the photographer. Try out a new type of photography and get some inspiration and pointers.

If this sounds like something you'd consider doing, my contact information is in the Contacts section.

La Ronge Excursion

report by Ken Dumont

Unfortunately the La Ronge trip that was scheduled for the weekend of September 15-17 was cancelled due to the smoke conditions caused by the fires in northern Saskatchewan and Alberta. Refunds were sent to the people that provided deposits.

The trip may be rescheduled for 2024 or 2025.

Russell theme for 2023

Active / Passive

Fall Board Meeting

continued from page 5

Continued from page 5.

There were no reports from Scott (Website) or Laird (Member-at-Large).

Shirley's report said that she is still waiting to hear from the Province when they will pick up the boxes in her garage. She keeps adding to the collection to keep it up to date.

Two written club reports were provided. Cathleen Mewis' report on the Saskatoon Camera Club has been updated and can be found on page 11. Shirley reported that David Bellerive is Acting President of the Regina Photo Club. A video presentation by David du Chemin on "the heart of a photograph" was interesting. The RPC program for the rest of the year was not printed yet.

The reports were adopted as presented.

Under business arising it was noted that signing authority for the checking account has not been changed yet. Theresa is directed to look after that.

Cathleen reported on the plans for the 2024 Outing which will be held at Waskesiu in P.A. National Park. See page 12 for more details. A loan of \$500 to SCC was approved for expenses.

Hilda reported that the Moose Jaw Camera Club is considering hosting the 2025 Outing but could not make a commitment at this time.

Theresa will send out the membership list on or around November 1 to the club reps, showing members from last year who had not yet renewed. The club reps were directed to contact them prior to the Fall competitions deadline (November 15) to see if they had decided not to renew or had just forgotten.

There were no nominations for the vacant position of Member-at-Large.

The purchase of a sound system for PRPA meetings was discussed. It was decided to borrow a system to try out at the March meeting.

The Spring Board Meeting was set for Saturday March 23 at Swift Current. Location TBA.

Ken adjourned the meeting.

Fall Board Meeting

Thursday October 19, 2023 via Zoom

report by Stan Hingston from minutes by Marlene Andrew

Nine members were present for the meeting: Stan Hingston, Ken Dumont, Marlene Andrew, Maureen Sinclair, Laird Wilson, Hilda Maier, Cathleen Mewis, Brenda Winny, and Ed Fonger.

There were only two Executive Directors – Stan and Ken – in attendance therefore there was not a quorum for the meeting which requires three. We decided to proceed anyway with the meeting; any decisions made will need to be ratified at the Spring board meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Stan Hingston at 7:01 p.m. Stan thanked everyone for attending, with a special welcome to new members Cathleen Mewis and Hilda Maier, the new Club Representatives of Saskatoon and Moose Jaw camera clubs respectively. Stan also thanked Maurice Vold, Chair of Saskatoon Camera Club, for setting up the zoom meeting.

Marlene was asked to take minutes as Shirley was not feeling well enough to attend.

The agenda was adopted with the addition of a review of the June 3, 2023, AGM minutes.

The minutes from the March 18, 2023, Spring Board Meeting were adopted as presented.

The only item of correspondence was an email from SCC member Rae McLeod questioning the need for mailing a paper copy of the Handbook. In response, a motion was passed that in future all correspondence including reports, bylaws and the handbook be sent by email.

Written reports were distributed ahead of the meeting so were not read. Those present were invited to add to their report if they wished.

The financial report was adopted as presented. Since PRPA is changing its fiscal year end from April 30 to June 30, this year's financial report covers 14 months. Total income for this period was \$4,330.22 and expenses totaled \$2,628.99 for a net profit of \$1,701.23. This included \$750 income for 2023-24 membership fees and the profit from both the 2022 and 2023 Outings. Total Assets as of June 30 was \$9,310.24.

In his Chair report Stan expressed disappointment in the decision by Foothills Camera Club to not renew its club membership in PRPA this

year. Stan has been reaching out to other clubs to encourage participation. He corresponded with Roman Orynik, the new president of Northern Image Photographers of Prince Albert, and answered a number of questions from Bryan Livicker of the Turner Valley Oilfield Camera Club in Alberta. On October 13 Stan presented the PRPA Promo slideshow to the Moose Jaw Camera Club and answered questions from the approximately 30 members in attendance. One question was about PRPA's position on nudity in competition entries, something we have not dealt with before.

Ken Dumont in his Vice Chair report explained that the September trip to La Ronge was cancelled due to the smoke from forest fires.

In her Secretary report Shirley had written that she found it hard to hear at the AGM and strongly suggested PRPA purchase a sound system.

Theresa in her written report as Membership Coordinator reported 47 Individual and 3 Club memberships as of September 30.

Marlene's Competitions report is printed on page 3 of this newsletter with some updates. She added in her oral report that she would like to retire from the Competition Coordinator position at the end of this term and encouraged anyone interested in the position to contact her.

Maureen reported that there are three Print Circuits running with three open positions See her report on page 4.

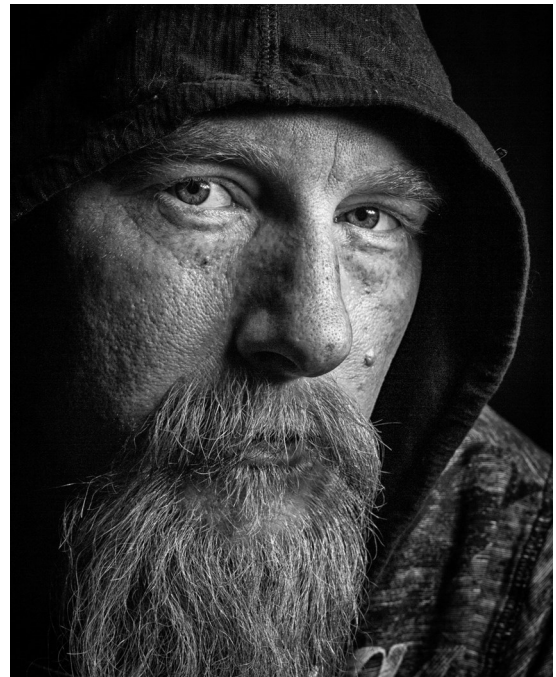
In his written Bylaws report Stan listed the changes made to the website in September including revisions to Bylaws, Handbook, PRPA brochure and promo slideshow. The membership fee had to be changed in 5 places. In his oral report Stan apologized for the confusion caused by the delay in updating the membership fee on the website. He added that while he had hoped there would not need to be any bylaw changes this year, he had discovered that bylaw 8.4 regarding the review of the financial records needs revision.

Continued on page 4.

Everest Club Competition 2022

Pollinator, Doris Santha, SCC
Best Nature & Best of Show

Cover Photo



Best Portrait:
Duane,
Rae McLeod, SCC

Best Candid Child:
Me—I Thought You Invited Her!,
Jane Hiebert, SCC (top L)



Best Landscape:
Tranquil Reflections,
Bob Ferguson, SCC

Best Open:
Painful,
Rob Arthur, SCC



Hand of Man Competition Winners 2022



1. *Once a Bridge*, Don MacDonald, FCC



2. *Fifth Avenue*, Dan Sigouin, FCC



3. *Modes of Transportation*, Barb Larson, FCC



HM *Simon and Garfunkel*, Colleen Edwards, IWPA



HM *Blue Hour Over the Battery*, Cathleen Mewis, SCC

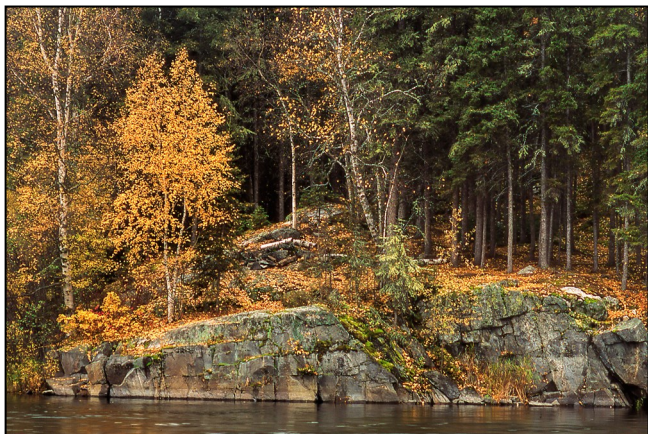


HM *Storm Over Peace Bridge*, Dan Sigouin, FCC

Russell Digital Competition 2022 — Positive/Negative



1. *Hallelujah / Requiem*, Barry Jennings, FCC



2. *Lush / Parched*, Larry Easton, IND



Honorable Mentions
View in the PRPA website gallery
Up and Over / Not Up and Over,
Rae McLeod, SCC
Dot / Not a Dot, Jim Turner,
RoPC

3. *Glass Half Full / Glass Half Empty*,
Cathleen Mewis, SCC

Gail Christensen Artistic Expressions Competition 2022



1. *Pensive*, Rae McLeod, SCC



2. *Splash of Colors*, Khang Nguyen, FCC



3. *Tamarack in the Forest*, Larry Easton, IND

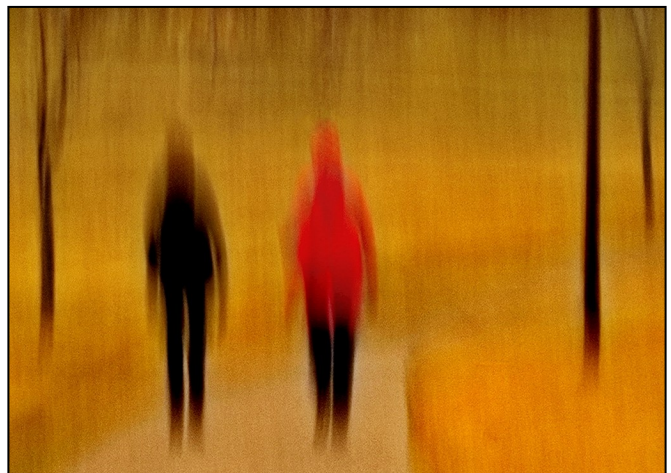


HM *Melancholy*, Rae McLeod, SCC



HM *The Artist's Finished Work*, Cathleen Mewis, SCC

HM *A Walk in the Park*, Doris Santha, SCC



Creative Cropping - Stan Hingston

Cropping is the simplest photo editing technique yet it can be used to great effect in improving your photographic image.

You've probably heard the advice to crop in the camera. I disagree. Shoot a little wide and crop later when you know what size you want and have time to crop more precisely.

Remember with any cropping you are discarding pixels and the resulting image will be smaller which means you can't print it as large as you could before. But with most DSLR cameras (12+ mp) you can get away with considerable cropping, especially if the end use is digital display.

There are many reasons why you would want to crop your photo:

1. To change the size or shape of the image.
 - a) To fit your paper size: 4x6, 5x7, 8x10, 11x14 all have different H:W ratios
 - b) To fit a particular mat or frame
 - c) To fit a space for a particular purpose: magazine cover – portrait format with empty space; illustration for an article or report; blog or Facebook page header; CD cover; computer “wallpaper” – size to your monitor; for a slideshow or projected image – size to fit a standard monitor (4:3 or 16:9) or projector (8:5)
2. To change the format to better fit the composition e.g. from landscape to portrait or square or even a panorama; more rarely from a vertical to a horizontal.
3. To straighten the horizon and/or vertical elements. This will necessarily crop off a triangular sliver from the corners.
4. To apply the rule of thirds to the horizon – use only if it improves the composition.



5. To move the subject to the intersection of third gridlines.
6. To move a diagonal line out of a corner.
7. To remove distractions near the edges.
 - a) Odd patches of high contrast or color that can be cropped off instead of cloned out
 - b) Unidentifiable or unnecessary edges of objects lying outside the image
 - c) Edges of objects in the image touching the edge
8. To strengthen the subject or focal point of the image
 - a) Making the subject larger by removing unnecessary background
 - b) Removing competing elements – more than just distracting
9. To bring you closer to the subject – sometimes you just can't get close enough to the subject or you don't have a long enough lens. Cropping will do the same as a longer lens except for losing pixels.
10. Creative Cropping
 - a) Finding pictures within a picture
 - b) Letting a part represent the whole, e.g.s elephant's eye, horse's nose
 - c) Making portraits more dramatic by cropping off part of the head

For more information:

[Coles: Transform Your Photos by Cropping](#)

[Photo Review: Creative Cropping](#)

[Darlene Hildebrandt: How & Why to Crop](#)

“At Grandma’s Piano” Before and after cropping to remove distractions around the edges of a photo



Saskatoon Camera Club 2023-2024 Season report by Cathleen Mewis

We currently have 69 members this year but more are anticipated to join over the next few weeks. Members are represented by individuals from Saskatoon and surrounding communities - as far as North Battleford.

We just held our Fall Field Trip on Saturday, September 23rd which was a great success where the members visited many interesting locations surrounding Saskatoon. There was a great turnout and very positive feedback on the outing.

This year's schedule includes 2 clinics, a photo slide show/video competition, and our Fall, Winter and Year End competitions. Also, several outings for members were conducted throughout the summer, and competitions relating to images captured at those outings as well as the Fall Field

Trip outing will be held. In addition, several wonderful speakers have been lined up for this season. It will be an interesting year for the club.

The Saskatoon Camera Club is in charge of planning the year end outing in June of 2024 and preliminary plans are underway in that regard. The date will be June 7-9, 2024. The venue that has been chosen is Waskesiu Lake and the Hawood Inn located in the townsite. It's a beautiful location with many, many opportunities for photographers - not only for its' beautiful landscape but also its' plentiful wildlife. We are excited for everyone to explore this beautiful part of our province!

That's it in a nutshell!



SCC Fall Field Trip September 23 at Ukrainian Park—photo by Michele Kralkay

PRPA Annual Outing 2024—Waskesiu June 7-9

report by Cathleen Mewis

Save the Date!

The 2024 Outing will be held on June 7-9, 2024 in Saskatchewan at Waskesiu Lake in the Prince Albert National Park. This year’s host club is the Saskatoon Camera Club.

Further details regarding the itinerary and registration costs shall be provided in the coming weeks (website and Winter Prairie Focus).



In the meantime, should attendees wish to secure accommodation for the outing weekend (**which is highly recommended for this popular National Park**), the following are possible options located in the townsite of Waskesiu:

- ◆ The Hawood Inn – 1-306-663-5911 (there is a block of rooms secured at this hotel under “PRPA”)
- ◆ The Lakeview Hotel – 1-306-663-5311
- ◆ Waskesiu Resorts – 1-306-663-5377
- ◆ Lost Creek Resort – 1-306-663-5025
- ◆ Armstrong Hillcrest Cabins – 1-306-664-5481
- ◆ Baker’s Bungalows – 1-306-663-5253
- ◆ Red Deer and Beaver Glen Campgrounds – Parks Canada – 1-877-737-3783

Hawood Inn Dining Room

An advertisement for Luminar Neo. It features a 'BEFORE' and 'AFTER' comparison of a photograph of a building's archway. An orange arrow points from the 'BEFORE' image to the 'AFTER' image, which shows enhanced contrast and color. The Luminar Neo logo is in the bottom right. Text includes: "Step-by-step examples and RAW files included for practicing!", "LUMINAR NEO THE COMPLETE COURSE".

An advertisement for "Lightroom for Photographers". It features a sunset landscape with rock formations. The LrC logo is in the top right. Text includes: "For total beginners AND experienced Lightroom users!", "LIGHTROOM FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS THE COMPLETE COURSE".

An advertisement for live photo editing. It features a portrait of a woman with glasses. Text includes: "Weekly FREE LIVE learn how to EDIT PHOTOS", "YouTube.com/DigitalPhotoMentor/Live".

An advertisement for photography education. Text includes: "PHOTOGRAPHY EDUCATION", "www.DigitalPhotoMentor.com", "Get 20% off classes, presets, and all digital products", "Discount code: PRPA".

Editor's Report
by Stan Hingston

Welcome to the Fall issue.

I again apologize for the late publication of this newsletter (normally out the end of October). I was already running late and then an out of province family funeral delayed it by another week.

The report on the Fall Board Meeting (pages 5 & 4) is worth looking through to see what the PRPA Board has been up to.

This issue brings back the Club Report feature with the first by Saskatoon Camera Club Rep Cathleen Mewis (page 11). I will ask each club rep to submit a report on their club's activities once each year.

Carrying on from Keith Putt's informative 12 article series "Demystifying Filter" (Fall 2019 to Summer 2022), I continued the photography education feature with a one page article "Creative Cropping" (page 10). I encourage you to share your knowledge on a specific photographic topic in this part of the newsletter.

Finally be sure to note the dates and location for the 2024 Outing (page 12). It is highly recommended to book your accommodation early as this is a popular holiday location.

Webmaster Report
by Scott Prokop

The website is now up to date with the latest (October 2023) Handbook. I have fixed a few other glitches that Stan and Marlene found.

Marlene's 2022-23 winning images slideshow is up on the Home page (News), in this year's Gallery folder, and on the PRPA You Tube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@prairieregionofphotographi6805>.

Check out the Gallery—it has 14 years of competitions going back to Fall 2009, containing (at last count) 1,757 prize-winning images.

If you notice any errors or broken links in the website please contact Stan or me.

Prairie Focus Advertising Rates

The following rates are for B&W or color ads.

- Full page (175x245 mm) \$60/issue \$200/year
- Half page (175x120 or 85x245) 30 100
- Quarter page (85x120) 20 60
- Business card (85x~50) 10 30

Submission Deadlines for the Newsletter

Winter: January 15	Summer: May 15
Spring: March 15	Fall: October 15

Application for Individual Membership in *Prairie Region of Photographic Arts*

I hereby apply for Individual Membership in the Prairie Region of Photographic Arts (PRPA). Enclosed is my membership fee of \$35 (payable to "PRPA"). Memberships expire June 30, 2024

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

I am a member of (photography club) _____

(or) I am not affiliated with any club ____ .

Prairie Focus is sent by emailed PDF to all members. It is also available to Individual Members by mailed paper copy. Please check your preference: ___ email only; ___ email & printed copy. PRPA may publish a member list which is distributed to PRPA Board Members and Club Reps only.

Date _____ Signature _____

Clip or copy and mail with check to: PRPA Memberships, Box 2254, Swift Current, SK S9H 4X6 or to renew by e-mail and pay by e-transfer, go to www.prpa.photography/membership

CONTACTS

PRPA Executive & Coordinators for 2023-2024

Chairperson	Stan Hingston	sghingston@sasktel.net	Cell: 306-831-0398
Vice-Chair	Ken Dumont	kendumont@accesscomm.ca	306-789-1443 306-519-0313
Secretary	Shirley J. Gerlock	2471 Broder Street, Regina SK S4N 3T1 sjgerlock@accesscomm.ca	306-757-3328
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Newsletter & Bylaws	Stan Hingston	Box 1177, Rosetown SK S0L 2V0 Res: 306-882-2263 Work: 306-882-2220 Cell: 306-831-0398	sghingston@sasktel.net
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Archivist	Shirley J. Gerlock	Regina SK	sjgerlock@accesscomm.ca 306-757-3328
AGM Committee (2024)		Cathleen Mewis (SCC)	cmewis@shaw.ca 306-229-1153
Members- at-Large	vacant Laird Wilson	Regina SK	laird.wilson@sasktel.net 306-543-0739

PRPA Club Representatives

CAPS	Janet Adam	403-896-7349	janet.renzetti@gmail.com
Image West Photographic Association	Ed Fonger	306-741-1480	efonger@gmail.com
Lloydminster Photography Club	Blain Muzichuk	306-830-5134	muzzy1@sasktel.net
Moose Jaw Camera Club	Hilda Maier	306-690-8910	hilarie4@gmail.com
Rosetown Photography Club	Brenda Winny	306-831-8344	bwinny@sasktel.net
Saskatoon Camera Club	Cathleen Mewis	306-229-1153	cmewis@shaw.ca

Member Clubs of PRPA

Central Alberta Photographic Society (CAPS)	www.centralalbertaphotographicsociety.com
Image West Photographic Assoc.	www.facebook.com/groups/imagewestphotographicassociation
Lloydminster Photography Club	
Moose Jaw Camera Club	https://moosejawcameraclub.com
Rosetown Photography Club	
Saskatoon Camera Club	www.saskatooncameraclub.com