

Prairie Focus

Prairie Region of Photographic Arts Volume 60 No. 3 Spring 2020



Emerald Lake in Winter

by Dan Sigouin Foothills Camera Club

First 2019 Spring Digital Competition

Prairie Photographers sharing photographic experiences

Alberta • Saskatchewan • Manitoba

From the Chair

by Dan Sigouin

As I look out my window, I see signs that the grip of winter has loosened, and the weather is improving. The sunsets are later and spirits are changing to anticipation and hope for a glorious spring season. Instead of crocuses and spring buds on trees, we are surrounded by doubt, uncertainty and fear. Instead of group activities with clubs to walk trails and catch up on kids' activities, we are experiencing isolation, social distancing and quarantine. Many aspects of our lives have changed and we will get through this. Our connections to each other as friends and fellow photographers will be strengthened.

As we cope with the adjustments to social distancing, there are many creative opportunities to still make images at home. Take out that extension tube set, macro lens or flash and look for items in your home that can be captured. I have included several links below to creative shooting opportunities in the home. This is a great time to try something new.

https://digital-photography-school.com/fun-backgrounds-for-portraits-and-photo-booths/

https://digital-photography-school.com/ photography-tricks-everyday-objects-video/

https://digital-photography-school.com/diy-photography-hacks-accessories-make/

https://digital-photography-school.com/5-tips-setup-home-studio-dramatic-portraits/

https://digital-photography-school.com/exercise-learn-practice-shutter-speed-home/

https://digital-photography-school.com/fun-project-own-home-create-physiogram/

The PRPA executive team is still very busy behind the scenes getting ready for the spring board meeting. The face to face portion of the meeting has

been cancelled and we are investigating technology options to continue PRPA planning as normal. I want to thank everyone on the executive in these stressful times for the work you all do.

Spring competitions are still going. Please email your local PRPA club rep if you are sending prints to a judging club. This will be a challenging time and we will all have to find out ways to communicate clearly with each other.

This winter I bought a water drop kit which has been quite fun to play with. The images created are always different. It has been fun to set the system up and play with speedlights to create different shots. Here is a shot I created using different coloured gels on the speedlights. The liquid being dropped is milk.

Take care everyone.



Milk Droplet with Coloured Gels by Dan Sigouin

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Competitions Report

by Marlene Andrew

At the time of writing this we are in a global pandemic and consequently have to make changes to how we do things.

Since the Kindersley meeting was cancelled, the deadline for submission of print competitions was extended to April 8th so clubs or individual members had time to send the entries to the judging clubs.

I urge judging clubs to judge as soon as you can but only when it is safe to get together and everyone involved feels comfortable doing so. The important thing now is that everyone stays safe and healthy. Once you have done the judging, scan and send me digital copies of the winning photographs. When I have all the results I will do the slideshow and either put it online and/or send copies to each club. Certificates and ribbons will be mailed out. Also once I have all the results I'll pass all the info to Stan he needs for the Prairie Focus.

We had an issue with the Hand of Man Competition this year wherein a number of entries were not received. There were 12 entries in total that I know of. I'm working on a solution for another year and looking into a couple of options which I'll run past the Executive and Club Reps for input.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is for club reps to acknowledge receipt of entries. If you haven't heard that your entries were received, contact the club rep for that competition.

An issue this year with some of the digital circuits was file size. The general rules and instructions for digital images stipulates "file size for the digital image competitions should be at least 1920 pixels wide or 1200 pixels high but may be larger." review rules and instructions for each competition you are entering in the latest PRPA Handbook. It is up to each individual entering to read and follow the rules and instructions for each competition.

Some people have trouble with the fillable PDF forms. When using the fillable PDF forms you need to save them to your computer after downloading.

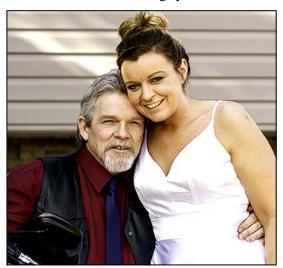
NMMJ Nalanda Miksang, Moose Jaw

Then open them in Adobe Reader (or your preferred PDF program), fill them in, and save them again. This preserves the data you typed in when you attach it with your image entry. If you fill in the downloaded copy without saving it first, you can print it but cannot save your data.

Thank you to all the clubs that got the fall results to me. Some amazing photos which we will make sure you get to see sometime in the future.

There was a little sunshine among the clouds here. Image West member, Ed Fonger married his beautiful fiancé Cara on the 21st. Ed and Cara had planned a Vegas wedding but that obviously had to be cancelled. Congratulations Ed and Cara.

Stay safe everyone and we will have an Outing sometime after this trying time has ended. positive and count the blessings you have.



Ed & Cara Fonger

Russell Competition Theme for Fall 2020 Porous / Solid

Club Abbreviations

FCC	Foothills Camera Club, Calgary	RePC	Regina Photo Club
GCC	Gleneath Camera Club, Kindersley	RoPC	Rosetown Photography Club
IWPA	Image West Photographic Association.	SCC	Saskatoon Camera Club
	Swift Current	SEPC	Southern Exposure Photogra-
MJCC	Moose Jaw Camera Club		Medicine Hat

Southern Exposure Photography Club, Medicine Hat

WSPP Winnipeg South Photo Club

Print Circuit Report

by Maureen Sinclair

As I write this, everything seems to be holding its breath as we deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. It is a bit difficult to actually concentrate on the normal seasonal things that we do in March.

Four circuits are on the road and to my knowledge so far, on schedule. In the last report I noted that there are two available spaces and that is still valid.

One question I do get asked, and I gather others do as well, is whether the images in the circuits can be used in PRPA competitions. And the answer is "yes"! The print circuits are NOT considered a competition even though we reward members with ribbons. In fact, some participants use the comments to make changes in their images before they submit them to a competition. As well, some members send an image out in the circuit and then decide to enter it in a competition as well. This is completely legal and above board.

In January, I did not have the results for Print Circuit #2 so they are included with this report.

Results for Spring 2019 Circuit #2

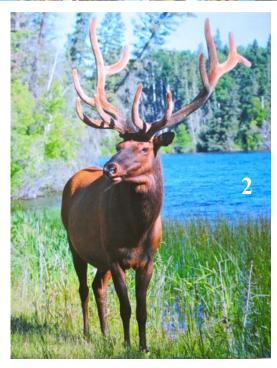
1st Are You Trying to Stare Me Down?

— Mary Jacob
2nd tie Bottoms Up at the Fair — Pat Derbowka
2nd tie How Do You Like My Horns? — Mary Jacob
3rd Back Lit Trio — Pat Derbowka









March Board Meeting Report via Teleconference

March 28, 2020

Report by Stan Hingston from Minutes by Shirley J.Gerlock

The PRPA Board of Directors met at 1:00 pm on Saturday March 28 by teleconference. The meeting, originally planned for Kindersley, was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Reports and the agenda were circulated ahead of time by email.

Attendance: Attending by telephone were: Dan Sigouin, Chair; Ann Dies, Past Chair; Diane McKinnon, Vice-Chair; Shirley J. Gerlock, Secretary and Archives; Laird Wilson, Treasurer and Membership; Marlene Andrew, Competitions; Maureen Sinclair, Print Circuit; Keith Putt, Digital Circuits; Scott Prokop, Website; Stan Hingston, Newsletter; and Curtiss Lund, Member-at-Large.

Treasurer: Laird reported that for the period May 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020 revenue was \$4,258.79 and expenses \$1,017.24 for a net profit of \$3,241.55. The Savings account balance is \$5,885.56 and Checking is \$3,826.93 for total assets of \$9,712.49. A check to Scott written in March for website renewal was not included in these figures.

Chair: Dan thanked everyone for preparing for and attending the meeting. He reported meeting with the Oilfields Camera Club at Turner Valley / Black Diamond who expressed interest in PRPA and complimented our website.

Secretary: Rhea Preete had resigned as secretary in February. Shirley was appointed by the Board via email to the position of Secretary until the annual meeting.

Membership: Laird reported that we have 78 individual members and 443 club members, compared to 73 and 512 last year. Lloydminster and Group of Ten clubs did not join this year.

Print Circuit: Maureen reported that there are four circuits with 23 members, and room for two more. She reminded us that images used for the circuits are still eligible to be entered in competitions and asked that this be clarified in the Handbook.

Competitions: Marlene reported that the deadline for Spring competitions was extended to April 8 due to the cancellation of the Kindersley board meeting. She asked judging clubs to judge the competitions and get the results to her as quickly as possible after that date. She is asking judging clubs to send her a digital copy of the winning images. Marlene will create a slideshow of the winning images for the website and send a copy to each club. Certificates and ribbons will be mailed out, and the results published in the Summer *Prairie Focus*. Marlene is asking the club reps to acknowledge receipt of entries so none are missed. She reminded us that digital entry file size should be at least 1920 x 1200 pixels, but may be larger, and to refer to the Handbook for competition rules. She thanked the clubs who sent in their Fall competition results.

Newsletter: Stan reported that he has published two issues so far this year with 30 printed copies of each mailed to members who requested it. The Spring issue will be published in early April to include a report on the board meeting.

Webmaster: Scott reported that he renewed the PRPA domain name for \$156.97 and the website hosting for \$431.64, both for a three year period. He noted that there are 115 followers on the PRPA Face -book page.

Digital Photo Circuit: Keith Putt reported that the Digital Photo Circuit came on line in September 2019 with rounds in September, November, January and March. Currently there are 10 participants divided between two circuits with room for 8 more members. The top scoring image from each circuit-round has been published in the newsletter. Due to the flux of members in the circuits there will be no aggregate award this year.

Digital Editing Circuit: Keith, Stan and a few others have been beta-testing a digital editing circuit which will run similarly to the digital Photo Circuit. A motion was passed to approve the Digital Editing Circuit. Keith Putt was appointed to the new board position of Digital Circuits Coordinator.

Corporate Registration: Stan reported that Jim Turner has changed the corporate address of PRPA to his Rosetown law office address. Jim will take over the job of completing the annual registration with ISC in Regina.

Job descriptions: Dan asked each board member to write up a description of their position and to circulate it among the board for review.

Annual Meeting: With the June Outing cancelled, September 19 was selected to hold the 2020 PRPA annual meeting, likely by teleconference. Dan will look into selecting the best program to use – Zoom was suggested as one possibility. Watch the website and the Summer Prairie Focus for details.

Marlene thanked Shirley for taking on the Secretarial position.

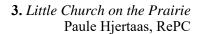
Curtiss adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.

Spring Digital Competition 2019



Cover Photo

- **1.** *Emerald Lake in Winter* Dan Sigouin, FCC
- 2. Scene from Boffins Water Garden Don Mathieson, RePC









Honorable Mentions

Evening Drama – Paule Hjertaas, RePC [L]

On the Cape – Diane McKinnon, IWPA [bottom L]

In Perfect Position – Marlene Andrew, IWPA [below]



Curtiss Lund Altered Reality Print Competition 2019







- **1.** Whooper the Crane at Waikiki Gail Christensenn, IWPA (above L)
- **2.** *The Goose is Loose* Norm Brown, RePC [above]
- **3.** Howling at the Exoplanet Marlene Andrew, IWPA [L]



HM Running Outside the Frame
Marlene Andrew,
IWPA [L]

HM Winter Vortex Larry Easton, RePC [R]



HM A Foot in its Beak – Paule Hjertaas, RePC [L]



Sports in Action Competition 2019



1. Roping – Diane McKinnon, IWPA



2. Double Grab – Marlene Andrew, IWPA



Wiwa Far



3. High Jump – Paule Hjertaas, RePC (middle L)
HM Saved by the Pickup Man – Marlene Andrew, IWPA (R)
HM A Running Joke – David Bellerive, RePC (bottom L)
HM Forward Focused – Maureen Sinclair, SCC (below)



Human Portraiture Print Competition 2019



1. Faded Dreams – David Bellerive, RePC



2. *Greetings* – David Bellerive, RePC



3. Aanak's Jacket – Carrie Olivier Brown, RoPC





H.M. Captain Serious— Dan Sigouin, FCC (middle L)

H.M. Contentment – Harriet Paterson, IWPA (L)

H.M. Pretty Pow Wow Dancer – Gail Christensen, IWPA (R)



The De-Mystifying Filter by Keith Putt #3 Improve Your Digital Prints

In the darkroom days we made sure prints had at least a small amount of the blackest black and whitest white our paper could produce. You can get away without solid black (foggy scenes for example) but without some bright white your photo will be dull and "muddy". The same principal applies to digital printing.

If you use good Jpegs, the job might be mostly done for you. If you use RAW, it pays to attend to your blacks and whites. My instructions are geared to Photoshop but you will be able to duplicate my results on any reasonably capable software.

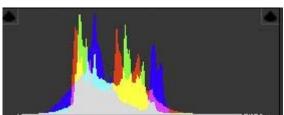
Here is the secret – pay attention to your histogram. It shows if your photo has the extremes of black and white.

In the River Scene, all the pixels are bunched into about half the histogram width. The gaps at

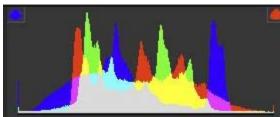
left and right mean there are few (or no) pixels in these areas. In other words, no solid black (the extreme left side) or pure white (the extreme right side). The goal is to "unbunch" the pixels in your histogram. There are many ways to do this. I'm giving 2 examples.

- 1. Use the **Blacks and Whites sliders** to spread the pixels all the way across the histogram. In this case I used Adobe Camera Raw.
- 2. Use a **Curves adjustment**. The built-in histogram shows the bunched pixels. Slide the Black (left side) and White (right side) pointers toward the middle. You can "bite" the pointers into the edges of the bunched pixels. This is called clipping. It is standard to clip off a small amount of pixels, thus making certain you have at least a small amount of pure black and pure white.

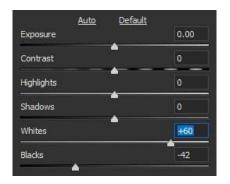






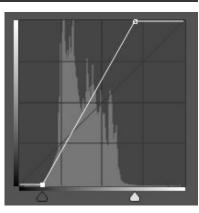


Histogram Before [L] and After [R] Adjustment



Adjustment 1 [L]: Camera Raw

Adjustment 2 [R]: Photoshop Curves



The De-Mystifying Filter (page 2) #3 Improve Your Digital Prints

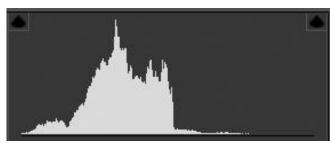
In the Rail Sign, the histogram shows ample pixels on the left (the black side). The huge gap on the right side indicates the photo has absolutely no white. In this example I use Levels and Curves commands to "unbunch" and spread the pixels the full histogram width. In this case, you only need to move the White pointer. Levels and Curves are interchangeable when used in this

manner.

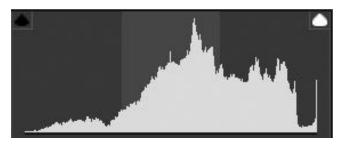
Of course, life isn't always this easy. But these two photo edits show how quick and painless it is to make sure you take full advantage of the entire tonal range of your printing paper. Even if you only intend to display on a monitor, the effort is still worth while.



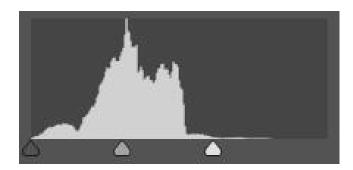




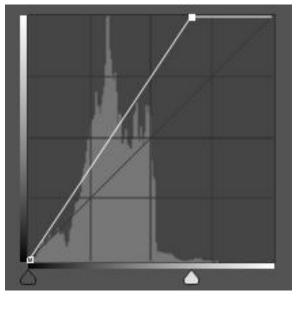
Histogram Before Adjustment



Histogram After Adjustment



Photoshop Levels adjustment



Photoshop Curves adjustment

Digital Image Circuit Report

by Keith Putt

With a few new members we were able to run two circuits in January—7 members in Circuit #1 and 4 members in Circuit #2. The winning images of the January circuit are shown here.

Six members in Circuit #1 and four in Circuit #2 participated in the March circuits, which was the last round of the 2019-2020 season. The winning images from this round can be found on the next page.

The next round will be September. If you would like to join or just find out more about the digital image circuits, contact me any time.

A few of us have been Beta-testing a proposed Digital Editing Circuit to start in September of this year. It will work similarly to the Digital Image Circuit but with some differ-

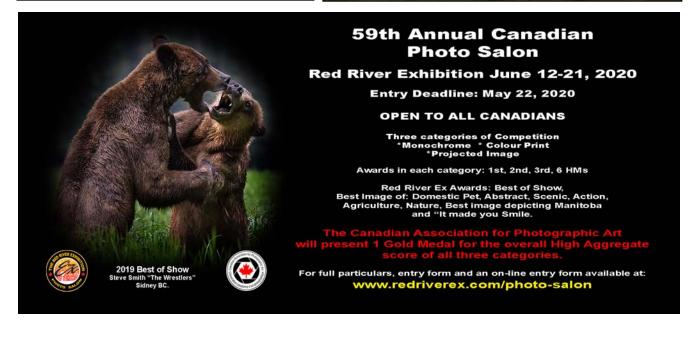
Digital Image Circuit but with some differences. Each member will post one unedited (or partially edited) photo per round and a brief description. All the members will then edit the others' images and post their edited images along with a list of the steps they used. The objective is to share our editing skills and learn from each other's techniques.

Haley Halo – Dave Bellerive, RePC First, Digital Circuit #1, January 2020 [Top R]

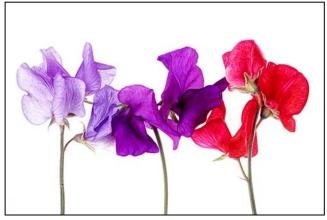
Red Mare and Colt – Marlene Andrew, IWPA First, Digital Circuit #2, January 2020 [R]







Digital Image Circuit cont'd



Sweet Peas – Keith Putt, WSPC First, Digital Circuit #1, March 2020

Cute Baby – Marlene Andrew, IWPA First, Digital Circuit #2, March 2020

2020 Outing—Moose Jaw, SK

report by Vaughn Taylor

Unfortunately due to the current reality of the world around us and circumstances beyond our control, the PRPA Outing has had to be cancelled this year. If you have paid for your ticket you will be reimbursed.

MJCC made this decision because of the uncertainty of a time line for this state of emergency to be lifted. With the current rules in place regarding social distancing and large gatherings, and for the safety of everyone, it was really the only decision we could make.

PRPA Annual Meeting

Saturday September 19, 2020 Most likely by teleconference. Details to follow.







2020 PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

For beginner to intermediate photographers:

Okanagan (BC) Sept 6-11th Drumheller (AB) Sept 17-20th Scotland Sept 12-19th



www.digitalphotomentor.com/workshops

Report from a PRPA Member-at-Large

by Curtiss Lund

Just a quick note to apologize to the club for not being more active over the last few years. There just isn't enough time for all I want to do in a day now.

I have had many lifestyle changes in the last few years. I have helped build a 48 Pontiac Hearse into a street Rod Limo for a neighbour and helped the brother-in-law build his 48 Dodge Deluxe. Now I am into classic modified cars. I own a '49 Mercury Lead Sled that I have been tinkering with, taking to car shows and cruising. This involves 3 different car clubs and I still belong to 3 photographic clubs also. During the winter I am busy with league bowling twice a week, plus tournaments. That said, most of my time and photography are all involving the cars, people, and events pertaining to.

The big change in my life came a year ago last January with the loss of my dear wife Mary of forty-five years not counting the years of high school courting. We did most everything together including photography. The exception, of course, were her chores in our lifestyle. I have spent the last year learning how to do all the things that she used to look after. That meant how to cook, learn the washing machines, the bank accounts, shopping and looking after me. It has been a very interesting and sometimes challenging year. I like to think that I am doing okay

and I truly have to thank family and friends for all the support and help they have been. I have also been busy going through her stuff and trying to de-clutter the house, garage and shed. Enough of my whining as life, in general, has treated me very well and there are always those worse off than me.

I have tried to keep up with all that is going on in PRPA but have failed badly. I was looking forward to the meeting this spring and had made arrangements to bring the President of CAPS (Rob Gilgan) and PRPA member Jake Zondag along. Was hoping to get CAPS involved again. I too was looking to get more involved again. Whoa, don't get your hopes up-I am not ready and not interested in executive positions. Quite happy with the position that I hold now, thanks. Just thought maybe being club rep again. I am sorry to hear that the Outing has been cancelled this year or at least postponed. I wasn't sure about going because of the car show season, but was considering it. Had not received the car show calendar yet.

This COVID19 is really going to change all of our future. I hope and wish we all come through these tough times and the future brings us all better times. Take care all, wash your hands and, please God, stay healthy.

Curtiss Lund



Editor's Report

by Stan Hingston

Welcome to the Spring 2020 issue of the Prairie Focus.

The June Outing has been cancelled and an annual meeting by teleconference set for September 19. See the March Board Meeting report on page 5 and the Outing Report on page 13 for details.

The third installment of Keith Putt's column "The De-Mystifying Filter" explains how to improve the tonal quality of your images prior to printing.

There is still room for more members in the digital circuits for the 2020-21 season—see the report on page 12. That report also mentions a proposed new Digital Editing Circuit being beta-tested for a possible September start. Contact Keith Putt to join either circuit.

The coronavirus pandemic has forced the early closure of most club activities. We are however encouraged to get exercise and fresh air, so solitary photo expeditions are fine. This is also a good time to take online courses in photo editing or other topics of interest (I've taken two by Phil Steele on using Lightroom and PhotoShop that I highly recommend).

Stay well and keep shooting.

Webmaster Report

by Scott Prokop

The website is up to date.

The competition rules are set up with links to the appropriate General Rules (print or digital image) and to the applicable entry form. Note the new directions for using the fillable PDF entry forms: Download, Save, Fill, Save.

Did you know that PRPA has a Facebook page? Find it @prpa.canada and "follow" it to keep up with the latest PRPA news.

The website domain and web hosting have been renewed for a 3 year period for a total of \$431.64.

Contact me at: prpaclub@gmail.com

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 Spring: March 15 Summer: May 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 \$25 (payable to "PRPA"). Memberships expire July 31, 2020

Name		Phone	
Address		Postal Code	
Email		Cell Phone	
I am a member of (photo (or) I am not affiliated with			
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		
Mail t	o: Laird Wilson, 127 Merlin	Crescent, Regina, SK S4R 3E6	

CONTACTS

PRPA Executive & Coordinators for 2019-2020

Chairperson	Dan Sigouin	Calgary AB	echeloncad@gmail.com	403-366-6119
Secretary	Rhea Preete	118 Johnson Crerhea.p@shaw.ca	scent, Saskatoon SK S4L 5P5	306-717-2741
Treasurer & Membersh	Laird Wilson nip	127 Merlin Creso laird.wilson@sas	cent, Regina, SK S4R 3E6 kktel.net	306-543-0739
Past Chair	Ann Dies	Box 36, Netherhi	ill SK S0L 2M0 dies@sasktel.ne	et 306-463-3177
Competitions	Marlene Andrew		eres, Swift Current SK S9H 4A6 hotography@sasktel.net	306-773-1535
Newsletter	Stan Hingston	Box 1177, Rosett Res: 306-882-22		on@sasktel.net : 306-831-9907
Website	Scott Prokop	Saskatoon SK	prpaclub@gmail.com	306-715-8484
Print Circuit	Maureen Sinclair	Saskatoon SK	maureen.sinclair@sasktel.net	306-955-2373
Digital Circuit	Keith Putt	Winnipeg MB	kputt.club@mtsmail.ca	204-257-1992
Archivist	Shirley J. Gerlock	Regina SK	sjgerlock@accesscomm.ca	306-757-3328
Outing Coordinator (2020) Vaughn Taylor Moose Jaw SK vtaylor@sasktel.net 306-630-8016				
Members at La	rrge Curtiss Lund David T. Ingoe		clund1@telus.net dingoe@telusplanet.net	403-347-2709 403-271-1768

PRPA Club Representatives

Foothills Camera Club	Dan Sigouin	403-366-6119	echeloncad@gmail.com
Gleneath Camera Club	Michelle Vold	306-463-6374	sorl.bmvold@sasktel.net
Image West Photographic Ass	sociation Marlene A	Andrew marlen	eandrewphotography@sasktel.net
Moose Jaw Camera Club	Vaughn Taylor	306-630-8016	vtaylor@sasktel.net
Red River Camera Club	Don Berthman	240-261-4891	berthman@gmail.com
Regina Photo Club			
Rosetown Photography Club	Jim Turner	306-882-2640	jturner@sasktel.net
Saskatoon Camera Club	Maureen Sinclair	306-955-2373	maureen.sinclair@sasktel.net

Member Clubs of PRPA

Foothills Camera Club	https://fcc-yyc.ca
Gleneath Camera Club	https://kindersley.ca/thingstodo/artsculture/cameraclub
Image West Photographic Assoc.	www.facebook.com/groups/imagewestphotographicassociation
Moose Jaw Camera Club	https://moosejawcameraclub.com
Red River Camera Club	www.redriverex.com/photo-salon/
Regina Photo Club	www.reginaphotoclub.com

Regina Photo Club www.reginaphotoclub.com
Rosetown Photography Club www.rosetownphotographyclub.blogspot.ca
Saskatoon Camera Club www.saskatooncameraclub.com

Saskatoon Camera Club www.saskatooncameraclub.com