



Prairie Focus

Prairie Region of Photographic Arts

Volume 61 No. 3

Spring 2021



One Cute Kitten

by Marlene Andrew, IWPA

First, 2020 Spring Digital Competition

Prairie Photographers sharing photographic experiences

Alberta • Saskatchewan • Manitoba

prpa.photography

facebook.com/prpa.canada

From the Chair

by Dan Sigouin

It is officially springtime in the Prairies. The weather is changing rapidly and the amount of available light in the day to capture images is increasing. Spring always brings hope for something new and fresh.

So far, the spring has been great for me as I have thoroughly enjoyed some fantastic hikes. I have donned my winter ice cleats and enjoyed many of the popular ice trails around Calgary with my family and our energetic puppy. I am looking forward to many more trips this year and hope to capture lots of images of the landscapes I discover.

The Darlene Hildebrandt zoom presentations wrapped up in March. The topics were excellent. The approach to her images was well laid out. The HDR presentation was very interesting and highlighted to me how little I knew about HDR. I was not using the information provided to me by the camera and the histogram. It will likely take some time to unlearn my bad habits. Thanks again to Stan Hingston for making those sessions happen.

The Spring Board Meeting was held on March 27. The exec team continues to work hard in the background to ensure PRPA activities are moving forward during the COVID pandemic. Dates have been set for a third presentation to the members. David Bellerive will be presenting on April 14th on Pet Photography. It will be a great session. The AGM will be held on June 16th. AGM details will be sent as per the yearly schedule. The exec team is also pleased to announce a new competition for the Fall season. The Gail Christensen Artistic Expressions Digital Competition will be sponsored by the Image West Photographic Association.

The PRPA continues to do well with membership. The competitions have seen decreases in participation which is expected with the continuing situation regarding COVID 19. The strength of the association depends on the energy and commitment of the individual members, member club and exec team. As we prepare for the AGM, a reminder will be sent out regarding the executive positions that will be open for nominations. Please consider the open positions and help give back to this great association.

Attached below is an infrared image I made from a recent adventure on Mt. Yamnuska. Mt. Yamnuska is the first mountain you pass on the north side of the Bow Valley. It is very popular for rock climbers with its sheer rock face. From the peak of the mountain, I wanted to capture a summit view looking down the Bow River corridor. It was an excellent trip.



CONTENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 Chair Report | 8 Curtiss Lund Altered Reality winning images |
| 3 Competitions Report; Club Abbreviations | 9 Sports in Action winning images |
| 4 Digital Image Circuit; Digital Photo Mentor ad | 10 De-Mystifying Filter #7—Profiles |
| 5 Print Circuit Report; Showmanship Competition; Artistic Expressions Competition; With Sympathy; Thank You | 11-12 Board Meeting Report—March 27, 2021 |
| 6 Spring Digital winning images | 12 PRPA Webinars; AGM Noticed |
| 7 Human Portraiture winning images | 13 Editor Report; Webmaster Report; Ad Rates; Deadlines; Membership Form |
| | 14 Contacts, Club Reps, Club Websites |

Competitions Report

by Marlene Andrew

I'm half way through my final year as Competition Coordinator and really enjoyed the three years. Anyone interested in taking on this position feel free to contact me if you would like more information.

All the results are in for the fall competitions and the packages have been sent to the judging clubs for the spring competitions. Because of the pandemic I realize it is a challenge for many to get prints to the judging clubs because of the spring board meeting being held virtually. But, we managed to get through it last year and I'm sure we can one more time. Dare I say "just one more time"? The members of Image West gathered all their competition submissions together in one location and sent them all in one package to each of the judging clubs. Anyone wanting their prints back before the next outing (probably 2022?) will have to make arrangements with the judging club to have them mailed back at your own expense.

Despite not having an outing this year we are proceeding with the Showmanship Competition [see page 5 for details]. The plan is to have a zoom get-together so all those that wish can join us to watch the slideshows during the judging. If time permits we will show the Digital Slideshow Entries for this year and announce the winners that evening too.

Recently I realized that the gamma was off on my Eizo monitor. I didn't realize that would happen with an Eizo which is "presumably" self-calibrating. So be sure your monitor (or projector) is calibrated regularly particularly if you are judging or entering digital competitions. It will ensure that when someone else views your photographs on a calibrated monitor they see what you intended.

Image West Photographic Association recently lost a much loved member. Gail Christensen

passed away only a few months after being diagnosed with gallbladder cancer. Gail was very artistic and delved into various media. One of her passions, which I shared, was digital art and we spoke on numerous occasions about how great it would be to have a competition dedicated to artistic expression. Therefore, Image West Photographic Association submitted a motion at the board meeting in March that a new digital competition named in her honour *The Gail Christensen Artistic Expressions Digital Competition* be implemented [see description on page 5].

We were pleased that the motion passed unanimously at the board meeting so the motion will now go to the PRPA Annual Meeting in June. If the motion passes at the annual meeting the competition will run for the first time in the fall of 2021. If anyone has any questions or input about the proposed competition, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you to all the clubs that will be judging the spring competitions. Hopefully it will be somewhat easier than last year. Please review all the relevant information for the competition you are judging in the PRPA Handbook November 2020 and ensure that you let everyone know that you have received their entries. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

2021 Russell Competition Theme

GREEN/RED

Start planning now to enter this digital image competition. Deadline for Fall competitions is November 15.

Club Abbreviations

CAPS Central Alberta Photographic Society
FCC Foothills Camera Club, Calgary
GCC Gleneath Camera Club, Kindersley
IWPA Image West Photographic Association,
Swift Current

MJCC Moose Jaw Camera Club
RRCC Red River Camera Club, Winnipeg MB
RePC Regina Photo Club
RoPC Rosetown Photography Club
SCC Saskatoon Camera Club

Digital Image Circuits Report

by Keith Putt

The Digital Critique and Editing Circuits are operating smoothly. March was the last month for both of them.

Participation was low, particularly for the Editing Circuit, so I'm questioning the value of continuing for the 2021/2022 season. A decision will be made this summer. If you are interested in either, let me know soon.



*Hope [above]
Cruising in Covid [left]*
both by David Bellerive

High scoring photos
January & March Critique Circuit #1



**BEGINNER
ONLINE COURSE**

4 Weeks to Better Photography



**60-Minutes
\$75 USD**

**Private
Online Tutoring**

Video conference photo lessons



D DIGITAL PHOTO MENTOR

**LEARN
PEOPLE
PHOTOGRAPHY**

Online class to help you
take better photos of
your family and friends.

ONLINE PHOTOGRAPHY EDUCATION

For beginner to intermediate photographers:

- 4 Weeks to Better Photography (beginner)**
- Portrait Fundamentals (intermediate)**
- Private tutoring via Zoom (all levels)**

www.DigitalPhotoMentor.com

Print Circuit Report

by Maureen Sinclair

The binders are all out on the Spring round and, as far as I know, are on track. I should have the results for the Fall round in time for my report in the Summer issue.

All three circuits have 6 members currently, which seems to be an optimum number. I will keep interested members on a list for the Fall start up. As always, if you are interested in joining the print circuits, let me know and if there are enough we can start up a 4th circuit again.

I'm recovering fairly well from cataract surgery on March 24 but it has put me behind in lots of things.

With Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to PRPA members who have recently lost loved ones.



Jean Harris of Gleneath Camera Club on the passing of her husband Keith November 30, 2020 at age 89. See his obituary at www.kindersleyfuneralhome.com/obituary/Keith-Harris

Thank You to My "PRPA Photographic Family"

Thank you to each and everyone of you that contacted me before and after Keith's death.

He was strong in his 26 year fight with cancer, remaining knowledgeable and friendly to the end. Even with the hardships of Covid all his family were able to visit. Time spent in hospital was short (76 hours) and there he received excellent care in St. Paul's Palliative Ward.

We were together 62 years and travelled many photographic miles.

Jean Harris

SHOWMANSHIP COMPETITION

to be held via ZOOM
The Show(manship) must go on!

Send your 2021 Showmanship entry using a File Transfer (such as Dropbox) to Marlene. Fill out and attach the "Single Song" entry form. The deadline is May 15. Preferred format: MP4 (MP3 will also work).

The slideshow entries will be presented on a Zoom meeting in late May or June. The presentation date will be announced later by email and on the website. The link will be emailed to all paid PRPA members prior to the event.

Presenters who are live on the Zoom call will be able to do their own introduction; those unable to do so must provide Marlene with a written introduction for her to read.

This is how the proposed new competition will appear in the Handbook if approved at the AGM.

The Gail Christensen Artistic Expressions Digital Competition

Sponsor: Image West Photographic Association

Type: Digital Image (jpeg format)

Theme: Open

Deadline: Entries to be emailed to judging club by **November 15**

Conditions: Open to individual members and all members of PRPA member clubs. See Digital Image Competitions General Rules for size and format requirements. No restrictions other than the photograph be that of the artist. Photography becomes art when certain controls are applied. So, a fine art photograph must go beyond the literal representation of a scene or subject. It must deeply express the feelings and vision of the photographer and clearly reveal that it was created by an artist and not by just the camera.

Entries: Maximum two images per member. Fill out and attach the Digital Image Entry Form.

Awards: First, Second, Third and Honorable Mentions

Here is a link to a brief slideshow of what we have in mind for this competition.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_35ZiteSp2w

Spring Digital Competition 2020

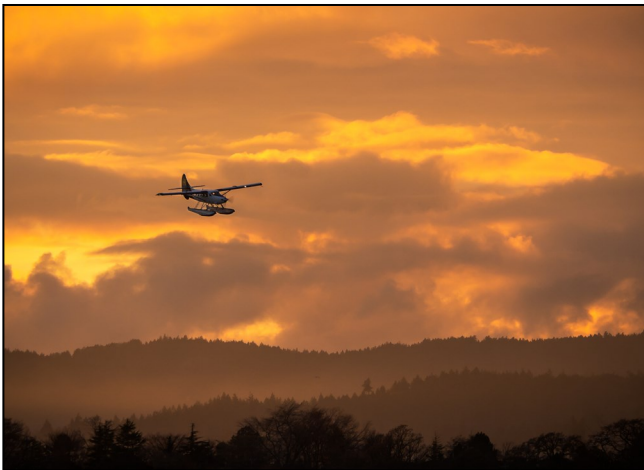
1. One Cute Kitten
Marlene Andrew, IWPA
Cover Photo



2. Hunting in the Night – Tracy Miller, IWPA



3. Nature's Necklace – Hilda Maier, MJCC



Honorable Mentions

Last Flight – Wendy Royer, Individual [above]

Sunrise at the Lake – Robert Royer, Individual
[above R]

Rice Harvest – Diane McKinnon, IWPA [R]



Human Portraiture 2020



1. *The Pugilist* – Cathleen Mewis, SCC



2. *Soft as Snow* – Tracy Miller, IWPA



3. *War Dancer* – Larry Easton, RePC



HM *My New Hat* – Tracy Miller, IWPA

Curtiss Lund Altered Reality 2020



1. *Never Ending Adventure* – Colleen Edwards, IWPA



2. *Prairie Elephant Photo Shoot* – Tracy Miller, IWPA



3. *Tea Time with Miss Regal*
Gail Christensen, IWPA



HMs

Shine On, Shine On Harvest Moon
Colleen Edwards, IWPA [BL]

String Me Along – Cathleen Mewis, SCC [BR]



Sports in Action 2020



1. *The Dismount*
Marlene Andrew, IWPA

2. *Friends and Competitors*
Colleen Edwards, IWPA



3. *Caught 'im*
Marlene Andrew, IWPA

The De-Mystifying Filter by Keith Putt

#7 – Profiles and Profiling

What are profiles, where do they come from and how do they work?

There are profiles for monitors, printing papers, scanners and more. In this essay I discuss custom monitor and inkjet paper profiles.

Monitor Profiles

There are colour standards in this world, such as sRGB and Adobe RGB. Ideally, monitors display colour exactly to these standards. But they never do. They all lie to a greater or lesser extent. Even \$2000 monitors.

A custom monitor profile is a table of differences between a colour standard (such as sRGB) and how your monitor displays colour. Your computer automatically uses that profile to correct colour errors. The goal is to get as close to the truth as possible.

Creating custom monitor profiles requires calibration instruments such as Datacolor Spyder or X-Rite Color Munki. These companies also supply instruments for creating inkjet paper profiles.

Our brains are good at adapting to colour irregularity so it isn't fatal if you don't calibrate your monitor. However, you will edit with more confidence when you know your monitor is not leading you astray. In my experience, the cheaper the laptop or monitor, the more it benefits from custom calibration. The improvement can be startling.

Calibration instruments are expensive and infrequently used. Hesitating on this investment is understandable. Can you borrow one instead? Monitors are quite stable so even if you only profile once, you are better off than no custom profile at all.

Inkjet Paper Profiles

Inkjet paper profiles are similar to monitor profiles. Only in this case, you manually replace troublesome profiles with better ones. Canon and Epson printers install with profiles for standard Canon and Epson papers respectively. Their profiles are excellent. This is why I encourage beginners to start with Canon paper on Canon printers and Epson paper on Epson printers.

If you use non-brand paper with your printer, you need custom paper profiles to adapt the paper to your printer. There are four ways to get them.

1. Download from reputable paper suppliers. These profiles are usually excellent. Obviously, don't expect Canon or Epson to supply profiles for each other's printers.
2. Use an on-line profile service. You print their special file, mail the print to them and they send you a profile.
3. Make your own with instruments from Datacolor, X-Rite or others. This method is a pain, the instrument is costly and results are sometimes so-so.
4. Use profiles that came with your printer. With matte paper for example, try all your matte paper profiles. Use the one that works best. This method works surprisingly well in a pinch.

Monitor Brightness

Lastly, a comment about monitor brightness. The most common print complaint I hear is – my prints are too dark. Dark prints are misleading. The real problem is the monitor is too bright! There are 2 free ways to set correct brightness.

1. **Use a good print.** Even prints from a decent office printer on good photo paper will suffice. While colour may not be ideal, print brightness will be close enough.
Hold the print beside the monitor. Adjust monitor brightness to closely match the print. You will likely find about 30% - 50% brightness does the trick.
2. **Use a camera.** Set it to ISO 200 and aim at a pure white screen (such as a blank word processor page). Adjust monitor brightness for exposure of about f5.6 at 1/30 second.

PRPA Board Meeting March 27, 2021

report by Stan Hingston from minutes by Lois Howes

The Spring board meeting was held via Zoom teleconference on Saturday afternoon, March 27.

Attending were: Dan Sigouin, Diane McKinnon, Lois Howes, Laird Wilson, Marlene Andrew, Keith Putt, Stan Hingston, Curtiss Lund, Brenda Winny, Sandy Chinski, Larry Easton, and Sean Dockery.

Dan opened the meeting at 1:01 pm CDT. The agenda was adopted as amended.

The minutes were adopted as amended.

Reports

Treasurer Laird Wilson reported a February 29, 2021, bank balance of \$9,721.87.

In Dan Sigouin's Chair report he reminded us that his term will be completed this summer. "*I have enjoyed my time with PRPA and hope the next executive team can carry on the momentum that has been developed over the last few years.*" He added to his report that the speaker series has been great so far with Darlene Hildebrandt's two excellent presentations.

Secretary Lois Howes reported sending sympathy cards to long-time Gleneath Camera Club and PRPA member Jean Harris on the passing of her husband Keith in November; and to Gordon Christensen, husband of IWPA and long-time PRPA member Gail Christensen who passed away in February. Lois has started a binder with a hard copy of the PRPA minutes and reports. She thanked everyone for being patient with her as she gets settled into her new position.

Laird reported that PRPA has 69 members and nine member clubs.

Competition Coordinator Marlene Andrew reported that she was still waiting for some results from the Fall competitions. She reminded members entering the print competitions to make arrangements with the judging club to return the prints. She announced that the Showmanship will be held via Zoom on a date to be announced. Marlene explained about a proposed new competition in Gail's honor, *The Gail Christensen Artistic Expressions Digital Competition*. She thanked the clubs that will be judging the spring competitions.

Maureen Sinclair's Print Circuits report said that there are three circuits with a total of 18 members. The Spring round is proceeding normally. Maureen was unable to attend the meeting due to recent eye surgery.

Keith Putt reported that the digital circuits are running smoothly and that March is the last month for both (Critique and Editing). He added that participation was low this year and he questions if it's worth starting them again next fall. A decision will be made this summer.

Stan Hingston reported that the winter issue of *Prairie Focus* was sent out in February. This was the first issue printed by Allied Printers in Regina. Stan asked what members thought of the quality of the printing, particularly the color photos.

Stan reported that a number of changes were approved for the Handbook and Bylaws at the Fall Board Meeting. Those involving the Bylaws will require approval at the AGM. Since his written report, Stan drafted another bylaw amendment proposal to be added to the agenda for this meeting regarding membership requirement for Club Representatives.

Webmaster Scott Prokop and Archivist Shirley Gerlock had nothing to report.

Curtiss had submitted a humorous report on his recent activities, little of which had anything to do with photography.

The reports were all adopted.

Old Business

The cost of printing the Winter issue of *Prairie Focus* by Allied Printers of Regina was \$5.84 a copy including envelopes and postage.

A bylaw amendment was proposed to change the requirement for a Club Rep to be a PRPA member from mandatory to strongly encouraged. In addition, club reps who are not full members will be allowed to speak and vote in board meetings, representing their clubs (but not at the AGM). After some discussion the motion was passed. This will now be added to the previous bylaw changes to be brought up at the AGM.

continued on next page

Board Meeting report cont'd

New Business

A motion to waive PRPA membership fees (both individual and club memberships) for the year 2021-22 for those who had paid for 2020-21 failed for lack of a seconder.

A motion was made to implement a new digital competition to be called *The Gail Christensen Artistic Expressions Digital Competition*. After some discussion the motion was carried. As per PRPA policy, this motion will be brought up again at the AGM and, if passed there, will begin in the fall of 2021.

David Bellerive's webinar on Pet Photography will be held Wednesday April 14 at 7:00 pm (Alberta & Saskatchewan) and 8:00 (Manitoba). A motion was passed to offer David an honorarium of \$100.

The AGM was set for Wednesday June 16 at 7:00 pm, to be held by Zoom. A weekday evening was chosen to avoid weekends.

Curtiss adjourned the meeting.

PRPA Annual General Meeting by Zoom

Wednesday June 16
7:00 pm AB & SK
8:00 pm MB

A link to join the meeting will be emailed to members a week prior to the date.

The agenda, minutes of the 2020 AGM, list of candidates for the Executive Directors, bylaw amendments, and any reports will be emailed* to members by May 15.

* mailed to members without an email address

PRPA Webinars

Since we will not be holding an Outing again this year, PRPA decided to offer some webinars for our members.

The first two webinars were by **Darlene Hildebrandt** of Digital Photo Mentor (who has been advertising in the Prairie Focus for a few years). Her first, on Image Review (critiquing) was held February 23 with 26 attending. The second on HDR photography was March 25 with 33 members attending. Both webinars earned positive feedback from those who attended.



Next up is PRPA member **David Bellerive** sharing his tips on pet photography. He is scheduled for Wednesday April 14 starting at 7:00 pm (SK & AB) 8:00 (MB).



Finally **Matt Kloskowski's** webinar "Making Great Bird Photos" will run Wednesday May 5 starting at 4:00 pm (SK & AB) and 5:00 (MB). This is a free webinar so we had less choice in



topic and date/time. Also we will be sharing it with other clubs around North America (Matt is located in Florida).

Join Matt for a 75 minute live webcast on improving your bird photography for photographers of all levels. You'll even get a free PDF "Bird Photography Field" guide, that you can keep on your phone, for a quick reference while out shooting. We'll talk about how bird photography can be one of the hardest types of photography, but also incredibly rewarding. We'll dive in to the various gear, tips, tricks and settings to help make your bird photos stand out from the crowd. You'll even learn some photo editing tips to help with light, noise and distractions, so that you end up with beautiful razor sharp bird photos to share.

Editor's Report

by Stan Hingston

Welcome to the Spring 2021 issue!

With the restrictions on social distancing over the past year (and counting) we are lucky that our hobby of photography is something that can be carried out alone, whether out shooting or sitting at the computer editing.

I was in self-isolation at home for two weeks in early December due to a possible virus contact. I used that time to sort and delete thousands of emails that had nearly reached capacity. It would take another two *months* of isolation to sort and organize the photos on my computer—but I did make a start!

We have a few PRPA events to look forward to over the next few months. The two remaining webinars—on pet and bird photography—and the Showmanship Competition to be held on Zoom. Then I hope you will join us online for the AGM. Also take a look at the proposed Artistic Expressions competition to see if it is something you would like to enter.

I just got confirmation on Matt K's webinar a few days ago so I was able to include that information.

Now that I have the newsletter out of the way I need to start on my income tax returns!

Webmaster Report

by Scott Prokop

Use the PRPA website to find:

- Notices for upcoming events (like the AGM)
- Benefits of Individual and Club memberships
- Individual and Club membership forms
- Latest version of the Handbook
- Competition rules
- Judging club contacts
- Current and back issues of *Prairie Focus*
- Gallery of winning images back to 2009-10
- Promotional brochure and slideshow
- PRPA Bylaws (under "Downloads")

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	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 \$25 (payable to "PRPA"). Memberships expire July 31, 2021

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 _____

Mail to: Laird Wilson, 127 Merlin Crescent, Regina, SK S4R 3E6

CONTACTS

PRPA Executive & Coordinators for 2020-2021

Chairperson	Dan Sigouin	Calgary AB	echeloncad@gmail.com	403-366-6119
Vice-Chair	Diane McKinnon	Swift Current SK	dianemck@sasktel.net	306-778-7481
Secretary	Lois Howes	Box 1365, Swift Current SK S9X 3X5	loishowes3@gmail.com	306-741-2212
Treasurer & Membership	Laird Wilson	127 Merlin Crescent, Regina, SK S4R 3E6	marie.wilson@sasktel.net	306-543-0739
Past Chair	Ann Dies	Netherhill SK	dies@sasktel.net	306-463-3177
Competitions	Marlene Andrew	18 MacDonald Cres., Swift Current SK S9H 4A6	marleneandrewphotography@sasktel.net	306-773-1535
Newsletter	Stan Hingston	Box 1177, Rosetown SK S0L 2V0	sghingston@sasktel.net	Res: 306-882-2263 Work: 306-882-2220 Cell: 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 Circuits	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 (2021)		n/a		
Members-at-Large	Curtiss Lund	Red Deer AB	clund1@telus.net	403-347-2709
	David T. Ingoe	Calgary AB	dingoe@telusplanet.net	403-271-1768

PRPA Club Representatives

CAPS	Sandy Chinski		s_chinski@hotmail.com (new)
Foothills Camera Club	Sean Dockery	403-966-0631	prpa@seandockery.org
Gleneath Camera Club	Michelle Vold	306-463-6374	sorl.bmvold@sasktel.net
Image West Photographic Association	Marlene Andrew		marleneandrewphotography@sasktel.net
Moose Jaw Camera Club	Nick Pettigrew	306-631-7223	nitro96nick@gmail.com (new)
Red River Camera Club	Don Berthman	240-261-4891	berthman@gmail.com
Regina Photo Club	Larry Easton	306-569-0338	larryeaston72@gmail.com
Rosetown Photography Club	Brenda Winny	306-882-4181	bwinny@sasktel.net
Saskatoon Camera Club	Maureen Sinclair	306-955-2373	maureen.sinclair@sasktel.net

Member Clubs of PRPA

Central Alberta Photographic Society (CAPS)	www.centralalbertaphotographicsociety.com
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
Rosetown Photography Club	www.rosetownphotographyclub.blogspot.ca