



Prairie Focus

Prairie Region of Photographic Arts

Volume 64 No. 3

Spring 2024



Calanais Standing Stones at Sunrise

by Rae McLeod, Saskatoon Camera Club

First

Spring Digital Image Competition 2023

Prairie Photographers sharing photographic experiences

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prpa.photography

facebook.com/prpa.canada

From the Chair by Stan Hingston

This is the last newsletter before the Outing. Cathleen and her committee of Saskatoon Camera Club are doing a great job of planning it, and the location is fabulous. The last time I was in Prince Albert National Park was on a college field trip in 1973 or 74, so it's been 50 years. There will be a whole new generation of trees for me to photograph!

A big change has been proposed for PRPA—to discontinue all print competitions and convert them to digital image. See the report on the Spring Board Meeting on page 11. This is something that should be decided by the membership, not just the Board, so it will be raised at the AGM in June. But not all members will be able to attend. To get your voice heard I will be sending out via email a survey questionnaire. Watch for it sometime in April.

The pros of switching to all digital include:

- Saving money on printing and mounting
- Saving on mailing of prints for members of clubs that are unable to send a representative to the Spring Board meeting
- Saving on mailing of prints back to members of clubs without any representation at the Outing
- Saving of more boxes of prints stored in the basement that our families will throw out after we're gone
- Procrastinators can prepare and send their entry the evening of the deadline
- Judging can be done remotely from home, as is done with the Hand of Man
- The Spring board meeting could be held by teleconference

The pros of continuing with prints:

- Some clubs are set up with good photo printers and a mat cutter so can easily, and for a reasonable cost, print and custom mat prints to enter the competitions
- Some clubs display prints in a public gallery or venue such as a hospital, so are doing prints anyway
- The print display at the Outing is a wonderful way to share your photography with other PRPA members, and to see what other photographers have done
- No special equipment is required to judge the prints, just a large room with a few tables or a smaller room with an easel
- Color and brightness do not change in prints depending on the equipment used to view them

The main purpose of PRPA, as I see it, is to meet, and fellowship with, photographers from other clubs across the prairie provinces. Competitions are one way to facilitate this, but there are hundreds of competitions on the internet so we don't need PRPA for that. I always enjoy finally meeting someone at an Outing whose photography I have been admiring for some time from their competition entries. It's fun to go on the Outing photo shoots with them too—that's when you really get to know them.

Speaking of the Outing, the Moose Jaw Camera Club is interested in hosting the 2025 PRPA Outing. They will decide in April and if it's a go will have a presentation at the Waskesiu Outing.

Looking forward to seeing you at Waskesiu in June.

CONTENTS

2	Chair Report	9	Curtiss Lund Altered Reality winning images
3	Competitions Report; Russell Themes needed	10	CAPS club report
4	Print Circuit Report; Dorothy Riemer obit	11	Spring Board Meeting report
5	Spring Digital Competition winning images	12	Digital Photo Mentor review and ad
6	Human Portraiture Print winning images	13	Editor's Report; Webmaster Report; Ad Rates; Deadlines; Membership Form
7	Portfolio Print Competition winning images	14	Contacts, Club Reps, Club Websites
8	Sports in Action Competition winning images		

Competitions Report

by Marlene Andrew

We only have one year left in the list of themes for the Russell Competition so if you have any ideas for imaginative opposite themes, please let me know.

Image West ran into the problem of finding 11 x 14 photo paper this year and we subsequently had to purchase larger sheets and cut them down. We also had trouble finding the quality and quantity of paper we wanted, and the prices have increased substantially. The cost of having an 11 x 14 photo printed and mounted by a lab was close to \$25 each. If an individual or club must mail the entries in addition to printing and mounting the price could be prohibitive. Some members also felt they were getting a stockpile of prints accumulating they no longer have a use for other than gathering dust. It was the consensus at our last meeting that it be suggested that all PRPA present print competitions be changed to digital. I also talked to a club rep from a club that is no longer a member, that he was recommending to his club not to join because of the hassle of prints.

There are two competitions in the fall other than the Everest Club Competition that are open to all members of PRPA member clubs. The Hand of Man and The Gail Christensen Artistic Expressions Competitions. The only competition in the spring for club members that are not individual members is the Gerry Fish Club Competition. It has been suggested to move one of them to the spring and move a spring competition to the fall. If we were to do this, I suggest The Gail Christensen Artistic Expressions Com-

petition be moved to the spring because the Hand of Man Competition is a lot of work for the Competition Coordinator, and I think should stay as a fall competition.

The packages for the competitions have been emailed to the club reps for the competition their club is judging. If possible, get the results to me no later than the 22nd of April. This will allow me time to get digital copies of the winning prints to be included in the slideshow and have all the certificates printed in time for the Outing.

Thank you to all the club reps and members that judged competitions in the fall. A special thank you to two people that stepped forward and judged The Hand of Man after two judges had to withdraw from judging this year at the eleventh hour for personal reasons.

I have been the competition coordinator since the fall of 2018 and have really enjoyed it. However, this is my last year—it is time to pass the baton. Anyone that is interested in taking the position feel free to contact either me or Stan if you would like more information.

Russell Themes Needed

The list of themes generated at the 2006 Outing at Hitchcock’s Hideaway is almost used up. There is just one more set remaining for 2025. Additional themes will need to be adopted by this time next year

The Russell competition is PRPA’s longest running competition, started in 1958. Next year’s themes will be the 68th set for this competition. We have the list from 2006 on, and the themes from a few years before that, but certainly not all of them.

So put your mind to work and come up with some imaginative opposite themes for the next few years. Send your ideas to Marlene.

Russell theme for 2024

Bright / Dull

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
 RoPC Rosetown Photography Club
 SCC Saskatoon Camera Club
 TVOCC Turner Valley Oilfields Camera Club

Print Circuit Report

by Maureen Sinclair

There are currently two circuits in operation (#2 & #3).

Print Circuit #1 only has 3 members and hasn't started its Spring circuit yet. Two members left this circuit last year and have not been replaced.

This is a good opportunity for any PRPA members who are interested in joining a print circuit. You won't start until the Fall circuit but I would like to have your name as soon as possible.

Board Meeting Report

continued from page 11

Stan reported that the Rosetown Photography Club has 9 members this year. Our membership fee of \$100 doesn't quite cover the annual rent and insurance on our meeting room which totals \$1,392.

In Business Arising a motion was approved to bring to the AGM making the \$10 early-bird discount on the PRPA memberships permanent (every year). At the 2023 AGM it was just passed for that year.

A motion to convert print competitions to digital image was discussed with strong feelings expressed on both sides of the issue. The motion was tabled. Another motion was passed to send out a survey on this question to the membership prior to the AGM. Stan volunteered to do this.

An amendment to Bylaw 8.4 was approved to bring to the AGM that will allow PRPA to waive both an audit and review (both of which now require a professional accountant) and appoint two people to examine the financial accounts. A detailed copy of this amendment will be sent to everyone with the AGM agenda.

The following positions will need to be filled at the AGM: Secretary, Treasurer/Membership, and Competitions Coordinator. These are all important positions so please consider taking on one of them. If you won't be attending the AGM inform someone who will be of your interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Dorothy Riemer

November 1, 1933 - March 6, 2024

Dorothy passed away peacefully on March 6, 2024 at age 90 at the Langham Care Home. She will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by her family and friends.

Dorothy was born November 1, 1933 in Leader, SK to Fred and Rose Priebe. She got her love of nursing from her mother and graduated from the U of S with a B.Sc. Nursing in 1956.

She married Donald Schmidt in 1956 and they raised six energetic and independent children together until she was widowed in 1980. Although this was a difficult time in her life, she continued with her interest in learning and went on to receive a Master of Continuing Education.

Dorothy's career included working as a nurse at St Paul's Hospital, an RCIA instructor at Holy Family Parish, and a Spiritual Director at the Queen's House Retreat & Renewal Centre until her retirement in 2001.

Dorothy and her second husband Paul Riemer were both members of the Saskatoon Camera Club where they met and began their courtship. They were married in 2001. Dorothy and Paul were PRPA members from at least 2005 until Paul's death in 2012, and Dorothy continued until 2016 although she was no longer a very active participant. Her son-in-law Bob Ferguson is a current member of SCC.

One of her greatest joys was travelling the world with Paul and taking photos along the way of the animals in Africa, the ruins of ancient Rome, and the engineering marvel of the Panama Canal. Busy summers were spent at the Turtle Lake cabin gardening, birdwatching, playing cards, visiting family, and enjoying the sunsets. Her grandchildren will fondly remember her support, love, and her delicious cooking and baking.

May Dorothy rest in peace, knowing that she was loved and cherished by her family and friends. Her kind spirit will be carried in the hearts of those who knew her.

A Funeral Memorial Mass will be held Friday, May 17, 2024 at 11 am at Holy Spirit Parish, Saskatoon.

Spring Digital Competition Winners 2023

*1. Calanais Standing
Stones at Sunrise,
Rae McLeod, SCC*

Cover Photo



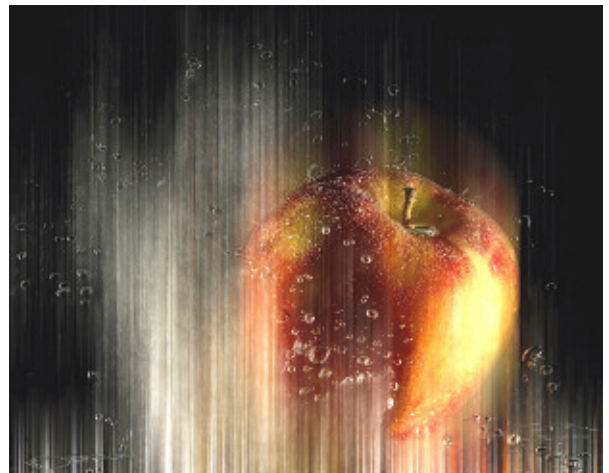
*2. A Simple Summer Cabin
Cathleen Mewis, SCC*



*3. Thanks Mom
Diane McKinnon, IWPA*



HM *Hail Ya, Hail is Coming*
Ed Fonger, IWPA

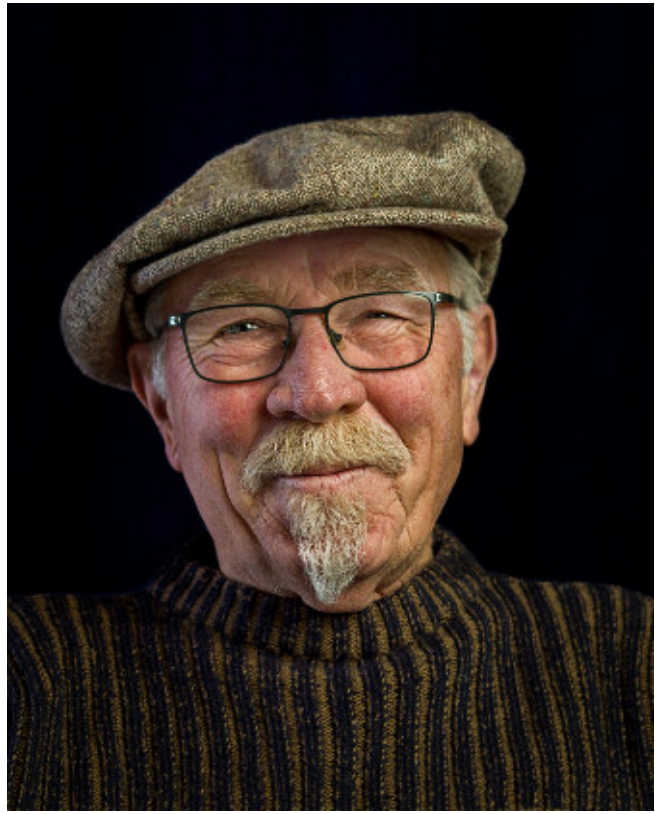


HM *The Apple Doesn't Fall Far From the Tree*
Jane Hiebert, SCC

Human Portraiture Print Competition 2023



1. *Eccentric*
Jane Hiebert, SCC



2. *Joe*
Rae McLeod, SCC



3. *The Princess*
Cathleen Mewis, SCC



HM *The Newly Undeads*
Cathleen Mewis, SCC

Portfolio Print Competition Winners 2023

1st - Cathleen Mewis (SCC)



N- Enjoying the Sun



C-What is She Thinking



L-A Bird's Eye View



O-Almost Hidden



P-Powwow Regalia

2nd - Rae McLeod (SCC)



N-Bee on Yellow



P-Support Your Local Barber



O-Great Horned Owl

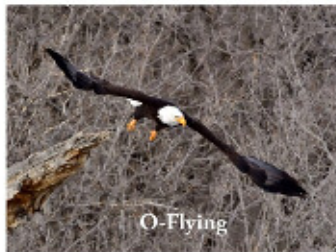


C-Come on Dad



L-Morning Mist

3rd - Mary Jacobs (IND)



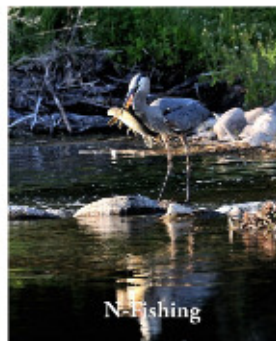
O-Flying



L- Fall



P-I'm Sharp

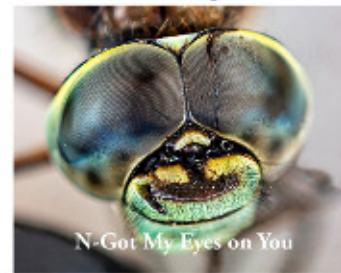


N-Fishing

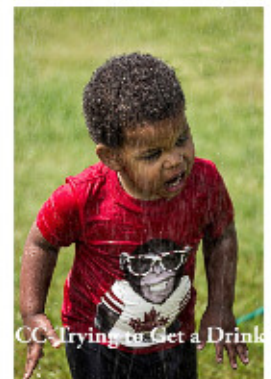


CC-Go Straight

HM: Jane Hiebert (SCC)



N-Got My Eyes on You



CC-Trying to Get a Drink



P-My Three Sons



O-Harvest Moon Risen



E-Time For Reflection

Sports in Action Print Competition 2023



1. *Determination*
Colleen Edwards, IWPA



2. *Airborne*, Cathleen Mewis, SCC



3. *Intensity*, Ed Fonger, IWPA



HM *Mama Said There Would be Days Like This*
Colleen Edwards, IWPA

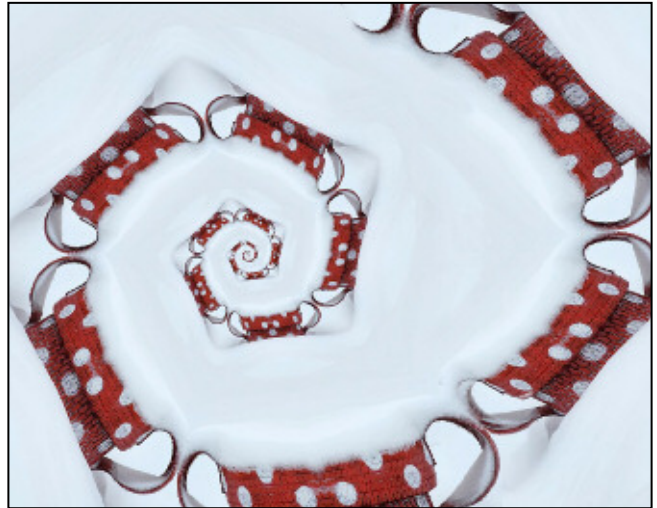


HM *That's Quite the Trick*, Cathleen Mewis SCC

Curtiss Lund Altered Reality Print Competition 2023



1. *Scrap Iron Transformed*, Cathleen Mewis, SCC



2. *Teacup in Wonderland*, Colleen Edwards, IWPA



3. *The Joker*, Colleen Edwards, IWPA

Central Alberta Photographic Society

report by Bill Kossmann, president

The [Central Alberta Photographic Society](#) ("CAPS") is based in Red Deer Alberta, and while most of our members call Red Deer home, we have a number of members that live in surrounding communities. As a group - there are about 90 of us - we are a very active bunch. Our experience level varies widely, from newcomers to professionals and points in between.

From September to November and January to April we meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month on the Red Deer Polytechnic campus. Most often we'll have presenters from outside the organization - this year we were fortunate to have [Tony Wong](#), [Chris Gibbs](#), [Lewis Katz](#), [Myrna Pearman](#), [David DuChemin](#) and [Marc Koegel](#) speak to us.

Typically in the first meeting of the month we'll review the images from the current assignment. Topics vary widely and have included such things as Reflections, Motion Blur, Black & White, Street Photography, and more; afterwards, one of our Social Media volunteers will



Club member at CAPS outing at Meadow Floral Farms

post a slideshow of the submissions and post it on [our YouTube channel](#).

We'll also have presentations by our members: some of the more popular are 'How I Got the Shot', photos from members' vacations around the globe, and presentations on specific genres (e.g. astro and street photography). We also or-

ganize outings such as steel wool spinning, visits to bird sanctuaries and wineries, hot air balloon festivals, nature walks, and night photography (see attached photo), just to name a few.

Our members are often called upon to volunteer their talents for events in and around Central Alberta, such as the Winter Games and the Family Services Children's Festival. From time to time, our work is on display at the City Recreation Centre, the City Library, Red Deer Tourism, and select businesses.

We welcome anyone with an interest in photography, so if you happen to be in Central Alberta, [send us an email](#) and we'll do our best to get you out to a meeting or outing!



CAPS night sky outing at Dry Island Buffalo Jump

Spring Board Meeting, March 23, Swift Current

Report by Stan Hingston

The Board met at Houston Pizza in Swift Current Saturday March 23. After a delicious lunch we got down to business about 1:15.

Present were Stan Hingston, Ken Dumont, Shirley J. Gerlock, Marlene Andrew, Maureen Sinclair, Laird Wilson, Ed Fonger, Cathleen Mewis, Brenda Winny, and Diane McKinnon. Theresa Busse and Hilda Maier sent regrets.

The agenda was adopted as presented. The minutes from the Fall board meeting (held by Zoom in October) were adopted with no changes. It was noted that we did not have quorum at the Fall meeting so by adopting the minutes we were ratifying any decisions made.

The financial report shows a net profit to date (February 29) for this fiscal year of \$228. The Outing advance repayment and profit share from the Outing are still to come.

Shirley and Laird volunteered to examine the 2022-23 books before the AGM. This wasn't done last summer due to illness of the volunteers. Marlene needs another assistant to examine the 2023-24 books this coming summer.

A proposal by Theresa that instead of having two members examine the books, she prepare a detailed financial statement for the board to look over before passing it at the Fall board meeting. This would require a wording change in Bylaw 8.4 to make it optional. The conclusion of our discussion was that it is important to have someone examine the books, so it will remain as a requirement.

In his Chair report Stan welcomed the two new clubs—Lloydminster and Turner Valley—and two additional new reps—Hilda and Cathleen. With four new reps Marlene and Stan fielded many questions about the competition rules.

Shirley listed all the sympathy cards she has sent to PRPA members who recently lost a family member.

In her Membership report Theresa attached an up-to-date membership list showing 65 individual members and 6 member clubs. The fall campaign to contact past members who had not paid yet was successful in catching several who had forgotten to renew. She reminded members to please use the online form on the website—it's simple to use and automatically sends to Theresa. Payment can be made by check or e-transfer.

Marlene's Competitions report can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

Maureen's Print Circuit report can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

Stan's Newsletter report showed that 26 of the current 65 members requested paper copies of the Prairie Focus newsletter. Printing and mailing for the Winter issue came to \$179.

Scott reported that our new webhost Squarespace and using Smugmug for the galleries are a big improvement and worth the annual cost of \$234. The website is up to date—all changes sent to him have been made. The PRPA Facebook page has 226 followers.

In her SCC club report Cathleen informed us that there are just over 20 registered so far for the Outing. SCC has 89 members, some from out of the city as far as North Battleford. Cathleen raised the issue of judges' comments as being important in getting people to enter competitions.

In her Moose Jaw Camera Club report Hilda recommended all forms including judging forms be fillable and available on the website. She asked for more clarity in defining competitions such as Russell. She listed many of the club's activities such as presentations, outings and critique sessions. Moose Jaw club is considering hosting the 2025 Outing.

Continued on page 4.

Digital Photo Mentor—something for every photographer review by Stan Hingston

You have probably seen Darlene Hildebrandt’s ad (below) many times as she has advertised faithfully in the Prairie Focus since Winter 2019. But have you taken a close look at her website?

In addition to the courses that she sells, there is a plethora of free articles and videos on many aspects of photography.

The courses range from \$29 to \$99 USD:

- ◆ Lightroom for Photographers
- ◆ PhotoShop for Photographers
- ◆ Luminar Neo—the Complete Course
- ◆ Portrait Fundamentals
- ◆ HDR Masterclass
- ◆ 10 Ways to Improve Your Image Quality

The free educational materials include

- Photography Basics for Beginners
- Portrait Photography Basics
- Beginner articles and video tutorials

- Intermediate articles & video tutorials

If you are getting bored with your photography and need some challenges, download Darlene’s free 59 page Photography Challenge e-book.

On Darlene’s YouTube channel (link in her ad) there are over 350 videos on a wide variety of photography topics.

Join one of Darlene’s weekly livestream editing demonstrations. Send in your image on topic ahead of the show and she may edit it for you live. The videos are archived for anyone to view.

Darlene also offers international tours, workshops, webinars, and private tutoring.

Sign up for her weekly newsletter at darlene@digitalphotommentor.com

Finally, there is a gallery of Darlene’s photography to give you ideas and inspiration.

Dive in—you will find something of interest to help bring your photography to the next level.

BEFORE **AFTER**

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Editor's Report by Stan Hingston

Welcome to the Spring issue.

A few things to note in this issue. Be sure to read the club reports from CAPS.

Some of you may remember Dorothy Riemer. She and her husband Paul were long time members of Saskatoon Camera Club and of PRPA. I first met Dorothy when she contributed an image to the slide show "I Am Saskatchewan" that I created for our province's centennial in 2005.

Take a look at my review of the Digital Photo Mentor website and the many resources it offers to photographers of all interests and levels. Then dive in and see what you can find to help bring your photography to the next level.

There are three important positions coming open on the PRPA Board at this year's AGM: Secretary, Treasurer/Membership, and Competition Coordinator. Please consider taking on one of these jobs so PRPA can continue to facilitate fellowship among photographers across the prairie provinces.

I persuaded my wife Donna to come with me to the Outing in June, so my request for a hotel room-mate has been filled. I hope to see you there.

Webmaster Report by Scott Prokop

Our main website using Squarespace has been a huge upgrade in the past few years giving its ease of use and a powerful platform for our club. The total annual cost for the domain renewal and website hosting with Squarespace is \$234.12.

The gallery of images is hosted on Smugmug which is free to non profit organisations. We only have presence on social media on Facebook where I post any updates for our followers.

The website and all backend administration are up to date. Any updates provided to me have been updated on the website and Facebook promptly.

Our Facebook page currently has 226 followers.

Contact me at: prpaclub@gmail.com with any corrections.

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
Treasurer & Membership	Theresa Busse	Box 2254, Swift Current, SK S9H 4X6 tbusse@sasktel.net	306-750-2393
Past Chair	Dan Sigouin	Calgary AB	echeloncad@gmail.com 403-366-6119
Competitions	Marlene Andrew	18 MacDonald Cres., Swift Current SK S9H 4A6 marleneandrewphotography@sasktel.net	306-741-9134
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
Website	Scott Prokop	Saskatoon SK	prpaclub@gmail.com 306-715-8484
Print Circuit	Maureen Sinclair	Saskatoon SK	maureen.sinclair@sasktel.net 306-955-2373
Archivist	Shirley J. Gerlock	Regina SK	sjgerlock@accesscomm.ca 306-757-3328
Outing 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	Sandy Chnski	403-396-6831	sandychinski1@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
Turner Valley Oilfields Camera Club	Bryan Levicker		blivicker@hotmail.com

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
Turner Valley Oilfields Camera Club	www.tvocc.org