



Prairie Focus

Prairie Region of Photographic Arts

Volume 62 No. 2

Winter 2022



Chef's Aromatics

by Diane McKinnon, IWPA

First, 2021 Attanyi Salon Print Competition

Prairie Photographers sharing photographic experiences

Alberta • Saskatchewan • Manitoba

prpa.photography

facebook.com/prpa.canada

From the Chair by Dan Sigouin

Happy 2022 to everyone in the PRPA family. It has been an interesting start to the new year, to say the least, and I sincerely hope everyone is healthy and looking forward to Spring. I began a comprehensive clean up process of my Lightroom Catalog. I was having memory issues with a hard drive and thought it would be a good idea to rip my library apart and reorganize it. Once I started opening folders, it was shocking to see the amount of culling and deleting necessary. I was shooting 7 shot bracketed shots consistently at almost every location, resulting in 8 image sets of everything. Since Darlene Hildebrandt's presentation on HDR technique, I have stopped shooting 7 shot brackets. In turn I have freed up hundreds of gigabytes of space on my hard drives. It feels good to have the space and the cleaning process was liberating. It also revealed a path of increased development in skill and technique with capturing and editing images. I hope the learning path continues forward and more great photos are in the future.

The Winter season has been dominated with work and duties with the Canadian Association for Photographic Arts. Likely everyone knows that I am the Zone Director for the Prairie Region. For this year, I created a gallery exhibition of the My Country – Canada competition in the month long Exposure Photo Festival in Alberta. This was a tremendous learning experience working with Exposure Fest, cSPACE King Edward, and CAPA. Twenty seven award winning images were selected from the competition and have been on display at cSPACE.

Through CAPA and the Foothills Camera Club, I also hosted the CAPA judging course. This was the first offering of the judging course in the prairies since 2019. It was a great day discussing judging techniques and viewing photos from the CAPA competition library.

The Saskatoon Camera Club has agreed to host a judging course on April 30. Details will be posted

on the CAPA website in the near future. If you are interested in learning about judging techniques for images, this is a great opportunity. CAPA is recognized as a world leader in judging standards. I took the judging course in 2017 to develop a better understanding of the judging process in order to improve my photography. It was a tremendous experience and totally changed my mindset of capturing images.

The Executive team is planning to meet, face to face, March 19 providing public health measures allow us to do so. This will be the first face to face meeting since the beginning of the pandemic.

I have been in contact with Tracy Lee, president of a new camera club in Saskatchewan, the Gravelbourg Camera Club, who expressed interest in joining PRPA. I have also reconnected with the Black Diamond club who are also considering joining.

Below is an image I entered in the CAPA lines and curves competition which received a 2nd place merit award. Very happy with the result on the image. The image is called "Iconic Structure"

Take care everyone and please contact me with questions, concerns and suggestions.



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Competitions Report

by Marlene Andrew

No winter holiday again this winter!

So far, I do not have all the results for the fall competitions but trust I will soon so I can finish them up before starting the spring competitions.

The spring competition deadline is fast approaching. If the Spring board meeting planned for March 19 turns out to be in person, you can send your print entries with your club rep. If not, you will have to mail them to the judging clubs. Remember, the prints must be in the hands of the judging clubs by April 1 **NOT** postmarked by that date.

Be sure to check the General Rules and Entry Instructions for Digital and Print Competitions and the criteria on the specific competition(s) that you are entering in the June 2021 PRPA Handbook. It is available on the website Home Page (top menu) and in the Downloads section.

The theme for the 2022 fall Russell Competition is POSITIVE/NEGATIVE.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to give me a shout.

With Sympathy

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



Mary Jacobs of Estevan, SK, on the passing of her son-in-law Dwayne in October.

Neil Rutherford of Foothills Camera Club, on the passing of his sister Debora in November.

JUDGING CONTACT LIST

Spring 2022
Deadline April 1st

Gerry Fish Club Print Competition

Foothills Camera Club
c/o Vinod Kothari
72 Woodford Close SW
Calgary, AB. T2W 5P3

Attanyi Salon Print Competition

Central Alberta Photographic Society
c/o Sandy Chinski
26435 Twp Rd 382
County of Red Deer, AB. T4E 1G7

Human Portraiture Print Competition

Saskatoon Camera Club
c/o Maureen Sinclair
#216A – 4040 8th Street East
Saskatoon, SK S7H 5L4

Sports in Action Print Competition

Gleneath Camera Club
c/o Michelle Vold
Box 2711
Kindersley, SK. S0L 1S0

Curtiss Lund Altered Reality Print Competition

Rosetown Photography Club
c/o Brenda Winny
Box 1177
Rosetown, SK.
S0L 2V0

Portfolio Print Competition

Regina Photo Club
c/o Ken Dumont
P.O. Box 4501
Regina, SK. S4P 3W7

Spring Digital Competition

Image West Photographic Association
c/o Theresa Busse
imagewestphotoclub8@gmail.com

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

Print Circuit Report

by Maureen Sinclair

Time has done funny things this winter by making it seem like I just wrote a report to feeling like it was at least a year ago!

Changing health guidelines along with some very cold weather in December made photography difficult. The print circuits seemed to be affected as well and took longer to journey through their various destinations, with one still enroute to me.

As explained in my report in the Fall Prairie Focus, with the reshuffling of circuits for this year P.C. #4 has now become P.C. #1.

You will notice that I have not included the first place image for P.C. #1. That is because Dan Sigouin's "Sheep River Falls" was on the cover of the last issue of Prairie Focus as the winner of the Fall Digital Competition. This gives me the opportunity to highlight the fact that the Print Circuits do NOT fall under the PRPA Competition Rules. P.C.s are designed to share your work, ask questions, and get helpful feedback. You may enter images previously entered in a print circuit in any PRPA competition (but only one). Print Circuit members may recognize an image entered in a competition and look to see if suggestions for improvement were done, although it could be a year or more since they had seen the image in the circuit.

I still have an opening for a new participant, but unless you contact me immediately, it would be for a Fall 2022 start.

P.C.#1 Winning Images



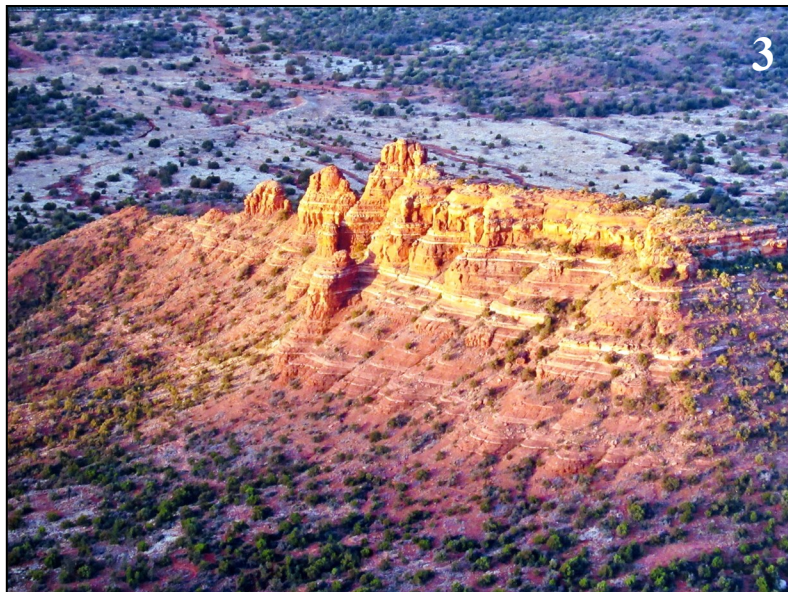
Spring 2021 Results

Print Circuit #1

- 1st *Sheep River Falls* by Dan Sigouin
- 2nd *Converging Cables* by Dan Sigouin
- 3rd *All This and Champagne To Follow* by Gayvin Franson

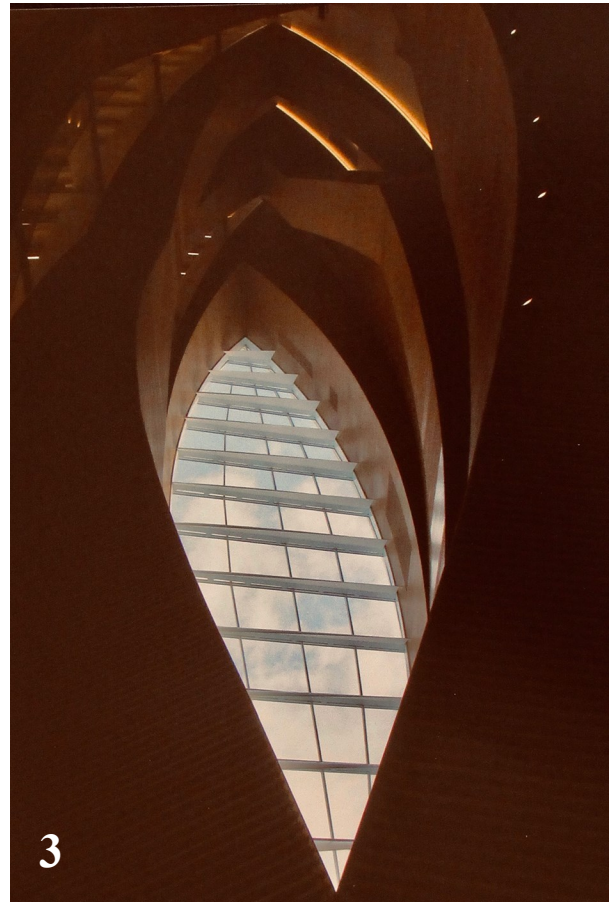
Print Circuit #2

- 1st *Christmas Tree in Fall Colours* by Amy Wildeman
- 2nd *Rusting Gem* by Valerie Ellis
- 3rd *Skylight* by Amy Wildeman



Print Circuit Report—continued

P.C.#2 Winning Images



Russell theme for 2022
Positive / Negative

Iceland Photography Tour

Sadly the photographic tour to Iceland planned by IWPA in Swift Current has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

Spring Digital Competition 2021



1. *Yukon Green is Yukon Gold*
Cathleen Mewis, SCC

2. *The Elevator*
Paule Hjertaas, RePC



3. *No More School*
Norman Buker, SCC

Spring Digital Competition 2021 continued



Honorable Mentions

I've Been Spotted

Cathleen Mewis, SCC (above)

I'm All Ears

Jane Hiebert, SCC (above R)

Prairie Sentinel

Mary Ann Dudragne, IWPA (R)



Attanyi Salon Print Competition 2021

1. *Chef's Aromatics*
Diane McKinnon, IWPA
(cover photo)



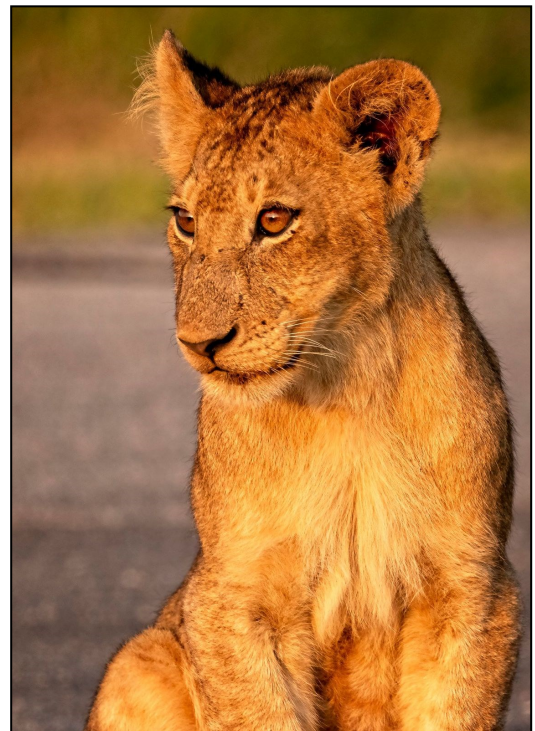
2. *Lip Smackin' Good*
Cathleen Mewis, SCC



HM *Perfect Perch*
Tracy Miller, IWPA

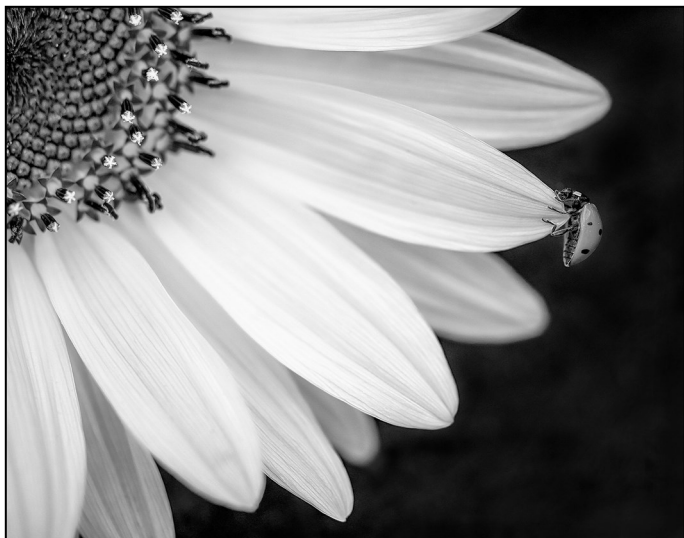


3. *One Step at a Time*
Tracy Miller, IWPA



HM *Eyes on Setting Sun*
Jane Hiebert, SCC

Attanyi Salon Print Competition 2021 continued



Honorable Mentions

Highland House
Colleen Edwards, IWPA (above L)

Quittin' Time
Cathleen Mewis, SCC (above)

Lady and the Sun
Colleen Edwards, IWPA (L)

Spring Board Meeting

Saturday March 19, 2022

Venue and time TBA.

- Meeting to be held in person in Kindersley if public health measures allow; otherwise by Zoom.
- Board Members and Club Reps are encouraged to attend.
- All members are welcome.

CAPA Judging Course

Saskatoon, SK

Saturday, April 30, 2022

- ◆ Hosted by Saskatoon Camera Club
- ◆ Fee is \$175 for non-CAPA members
- ◆ Proof of vaccination required
- ◆ You may bring your own lunch or eat at nearby restaurants
- ◆ Preregistration required

<https://capacanada.ca/events/judging-course-saskatoon-saskatchewan/>

Portfolio Print Competition 2021

PAULE HJERTAAS – REPC



P_Pirate of the Caribbean



L_Framed



O_Fall Leaves

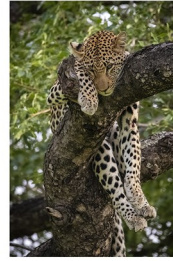


N_The Bath



CC_Enjoying Playing

CATHLEEN MEWIS – SCC



N_Hangin Out



P_Making Eye Contact



L_Sunset Over Lake Minnewanka



O_Nostalgia



CC_Bubble Trouble

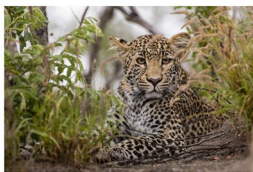
TRACY MILLER – IWPA



L_Solid Beauty



O_Focused Flight



N_Blending In



P_Gentle as a Daisy



CC_High 5

Portfolio Print Competition 2021

1. Paule Hjertaas, RePC
2. Cathleen Mewis, SCC
3. Tracy Miller, IWPA

Sports in Action Print Competition 2021



1. *Soaring in the Saddle* (L) by Tracy Miller, IWPA

2. *Lock & Load* (below) by Colleen Edwards, IWPA



3. *The Long Shot* (L) by Colleen Edwards, IWPA

HM Learning the Ropes (R)
by Tracy Miller, IWPA



Archives Report

by Shirley J. Gerlock

In the mail today I received a very interesting Prairie Focus dated April 30, 1975. This is one I don't have in our collection. Jean Harris very kindly sent it to me for which I am truly grateful.

That year saw 328 members paying \$2.00 for membership. The 17 clubs listed, with number of members, are as follows:

Foothills (Calgary)	37
Cactus Club (S. Alberta)	9
High River	17
Waskasoo Club (Red Deer)	27
Gleneath (Kindersley)	12
Kindersley Camera Club	6
The Camera Club (Calgary)	22
Brooks Shutterbug Club	26
Gateway Camera Club (Edmonton)	45
Sexsmith Camera Club	11
Lacombe	5
Chinook (Claresholm)	34
Innisfail (Photo) Club	10
Calgary Camera Obscura	10
Oilfields (Turner Valley)	20
Parkland (Kevisville, Alta)	7
Medicine Hat	23
Individuals	7
Total	328

Note that of these 17 clubs, only Foothills and Gleneath are still active with PRPA today.

The Chairman listed for the Prairie Region of Photographic Arts was William C. Lovett.

It was noted that The Waskasoo Camera club was in charge of the Russell Trophy Competition for 1975-76 year. There were 33 entries with a total of 66 slides. The topic was Clean and Dirty. The Judges were Dennis Walker, Howard Northey and James Aellen, all from Waskasoo. Grant Klymyk of Innisfail Camera Club topped with 14 points, Don Fee of Innisfail Camera Club placed second with 13 points and Raye Phillipson of Medicine Hat Camera Club came in third with 12 points. Honorable Mentions went to W. T. Brown of Waskasoo Camera Club, Don Opp of Claresholm, and Elsie Hegerty of Gleneath Camera Club.

There was a long article pointing out the dos and don'ts of entering competitions, about the use of enlargers and special techniques, kind of paper, slide sets and that slides should be glass mounted.

It was noted that an Honorable Mention was given to Ken Jones and Kelly Prodanuk for their work in editing the Depth of Field bulletin which is an informative outlet belonging to the Regina Guild of Color Photography. President Clayton Howe was listed as their President. (It should be noted that the Regina Guild joined with The Regina Photo club in 1983, with some of their members still within the Club.)

The Red Deer President was Ernie McEachern who, along with Editor Peter Marryat, was working on their Club bulletin Viewfinder.

The Foothills Camera Club have launched headlong into their Winter Program with the Nature Competition, President's Trophy Competition and planned Outing to Photo Nut Haven. A slide set on Galapagos Island by Eva Hacket was been a highlight at the January 14th meeting.

Chinook Camera Club are busy with their Club Competitions with Hazel Hudson, Ellis Norgard, Don Opp and Shirley Clark participating. They are also providing judges for the Show and Tell competition for the Lethbridge Camera Club prior to their final banquet.

The Prairie Region of Photographic Art's Annual Regional Outing will be held in Calgary on June 11, 12 and 13th, 1976.

The De-Mystifying Filter by Keith Putt

#10 – Noise Reduction

Noise has plagued electronic devices since Lee De Forest invented the triode vacuum tube in 1906. In this issue of the De-Mystifying Filter I discuss how noise affects photos in the digital era and what you can do about it.

Fundamentally, noise is rogue electrons drifting around your camera sensor and amplification circuits. There is no way to eliminate noise at the source. These constant background whispers compete with your photo for attention. Your photo (the signal) is usually loud enough to drown out the whispers (the noise). But not always.

Certain things accentuate noise:

- Any situation where you raise ISO or use long exposure to compensate for low light levels.
- Overheated sensor from environmental exposure or continuous use.
- Physically smaller sensor sizes (not lower pixel count sensors).

When the signal is high, as it is in well lit photos, noise is such a small component that you won't see it. When the signal is low, as it is in shadows and dark night skies, noise is more visible. Most of us rarely see enough noise to fret about it. To fanatics, though, any noise is fret-worthy.

Noise comes in two flavours. One is colour noise (colour speckles) and the other is luminance noise speckles (white-ish speckles). Colour noise is common in dark areas like shadow or night sky. Luminance noise adds roughness (graininess) that is most noticed in brighter areas. If noise gets bad enough, the whole photo begins to degrade. You don't want either of them, so which type you have (or you might have both) isn't important.

If you shoot Jpegs, the Jpeg generator adds a measure of noise reduction suitable for the type of photo you are taking. If you shoot RAW, noise reduction is your responsibility.

What suppression strategies are there? Check your camera menus. You might find noise reduction settings, particularly for long exposures. However, camera settings will never eliminate noise in all situations. Reducing the remainder requires photo editing software.

Any decent editing software will have noise reduction features. Many companies sell stand-alone or Photoshop plug-in software designed specifically for noise reduction. There is endless choice and I can't help you decide which is best nor how to use it. They all work by reducing the finest detail (noise is very fine detail) while retaining desirable fine detail (like strands of hair). So be judicious with the sliders. If you overdo noise reduction, you eventually start to throw out part of your photo.

Generally, make noise reduction one of your first edits. This is because other manipulations can exacerbate the situation. This is especially true of sharpening. Always make sharpening your last step.

In the real world, how serious is noise? Photographers not doing anything extreme (very high ISO, long exposures, night photos) are unlikely to see objectionable noise. If you only view photos on-screen, noise is not likely to be a concern. Prints, though, might suffer more.

People tend to examine prints at microscopic levels. Any warts are going to show. The larger the print, the more likely you will find something to complain about. Smooth areas look rough and shadows become speckled.

I use a basic, small-sensor digital camera and scanned film. Both these sources are known for above average noise. Yet I rarely do any noise reduction for photos that I don't print. When I do print, I pay full attention to noise reduction.

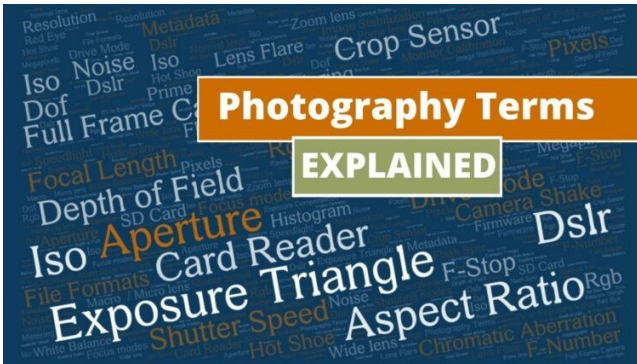


Photo Terms Explained

If you find some of the common photography terms, definitions and jargon confusing, help is here! Darlene Hildebrandt of Digital Photo Mentor explains 49 common photographic terms (from Aperture to Zoom Lens) on this free webpage.

www.digitalphotomentor.com/photography-terms-for-beginners/

In this article, I cover the A-Z of photography terms and phrases with easy to follow and understand definitions. You'll see examples and get links to other more in-depth articles on several of the more complex terms.



Links for Digital Photo Mentor Ad

For those getting the PDF copy of this newsletter, either by email or from the website, the links in the ad are live—just click in the quadrant you are interested in and it will open the appropriate webpage on the DPM website. For those getting a paper copy, you can use the following links:

Luminar Neo

www.digitalphotomentor.com/luminar-neo-course/

Webinars and Training

www.digitalphotomentor.com/webinars/

DPM Live

www.youtube.com/digitalphotomentor/live

DPM Education—classes, courses, presets, etc.

www.digitalphotomentor.com/store/

An advertisement for Luminar Neo. It features a 'BEFORE' and 'AFTER' comparison of a bridge photo. An orange arrow points from the 'BEFORE' image to the 'AFTER' image, which is labeled 'Photo Editing Made Easy!'. Below the images is the Luminar Neo logo (a blue and purple triangle) and the text 'LUMINAR NEO THE COMPLETE COURSE'. At the bottom right, it says 'Presented by DIGITAL PHOTO MENTOR'.

An advertisement for webinars and live trainings. It features a dark blue background with a laptop and camera. The text reads 'WEBINARS AND LIVE TRAININGS' and 'www.digitalphotomentor.com/webinars'. Below this is a circular photo of Darlene Hildebrandt with the text 'Darlene Hildebrandt Instructor'.

An advertisement for a live photo editing session. It features a photo of Darlene Hildebrandt. The text reads 'DIGITAL PHOTO MENTOR', 'LIVE', and 'learn how to EDIT PHOTOS'.

An advertisement for photography education. It features a dark blue background with the text 'PHOTOGRAPHY EDUCATION', 'www.DigitalPhotoMentor.com', 'Get 20% off classes, presets, and all digital products', and 'Discount code: PRPA'.

Editor's Report

by Stan Hingston

Welcome to the Winter 2022 issue!

I'm publishing Attanyi, Spring Digital, Sports in Action, and Portfolio competition winners in this issue. Since Gerry Fish was cancelled last year, that only leaves Portraiture and Curtiss Lund competitions for the Spring newsletter.

I got the color problem fixed on my office computer that I use to print the Prairie Focus. I simply replaced the third party toner cartridges with genuine Brother cartridges. Sometimes trying to save money doesn't work.

I'm holding off on printing the list of camera stores offering a discount to PRPA members until I hear back from more clubs.

The cartoon on the bottom of page 7 is just a space filler I found on the net. It is not an HM winner from the Spring Digital Competition!

Be sure to read the fascinating Archives Report by Shirley Gerlock on page 12 describing a *Prairie Focus* newsletter from 1975.

We are looking forward to seeing our friends (old and new) again at the Spring Board Meeting in Kindersley next month. The ending of pandemic restrictions in Saskatchewan makes it look very possible.

Webmaster Report

by Scott Prokop

Check the PRPA website for:

- the current *Prairie Focus* newsletter and back issues from Fall 2003
- the current Handbook for the latest rules and entry forms for competitions you are entering
- the gallery of winning images back to 2009-2010
- the current Bylaws of PRPA
- Individual and Club Membership forms
- promotional brochure and slideshow you can use to promote PRPA to your club

If you notice any errors or missing information on the PRPA website please 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 June 30, 2022

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: Theresa Busse, Box 2254, Swift Current, SK S9H 4X6

CONTACTS

PRPA Executive & Coordinators for 2020-2021

Chairperson	Dan Sigouin	Calgary AB	echeloncad@gmail.com	403-366-6119
Vice-Chair	Stan Hingston		sghingston@sasktel.net	Cell: 306-831-0398
Secretary	Lois Howes	Box 1365, Swift Current SK S9X 3X5	loishowes3@gmail.com	306-741-2212
Treasurer & Membership	Theresa Busse	Box 2254, Swift Current, SK S9H 4X6	tbusse@sasktel.net	306-750-2393
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	306-741-9134
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
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 (2022)				
Members-at-Large	Curtiss Lund	Red Deer AB	clund1@telus.net	403-347-2709
	Laird Wilson	Regina SK	laird.wilson@sasktel.net	306-543-0739

PRPA Club Representatives

CAPS	Sandy Chinski		s_chinski@hotmail.com
Foothills Camera Club	Vinod Kothari		vinodk@telus.net
Gleneath Camera Club	Michelle Vold	306-463-6374	sorl.bmvold@sasktel.net
Image West Photographic Association	position vacant		imagewestphotoclub8@gmail.com
Moose Jaw Camera Club	Nick Pettigrew	306-631-7223	nitro96nick@gmail.com
Red River Camera Club	Don Berthman	240-261-4891	berthman@gmail.com
Regina Photo Club	Ken Dumont	306-789-1443	kendumont@accesscomm.ca
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://www.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
Saskatoon Camera Club	www.saskatooncameraclub.com