

# DEVELOPMENTS



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MCC meets nearly every Thursday  
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday: Competition  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday: Digital Class  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday: Program & Business  
4<sup>th</sup> Thursday: Carl & Tom's Class  
for Enthusiastic Photographers

December 2009

[www.MemphisCameraClub.org](http://www.MemphisCameraClub.org)

## The Best Things in Life are Free, errrr.....\$12 or Less —Barry Siegel

I know most of us are pulling back a bit this year with our expectations for the holidays, so I thought I would mention a several things that you can obtain on the web for free, or nearly so. Increasing your photographic knowledge will probably do more for your photographs than that fancy new gismo or doodad anyway. One of SC's old favorites has been Craig Tanners site (<http://www.tmelive.com/>), which includes his famous video tutorial "The Daily Critique". Don't expect to come up for air soon after jumping in this pool, as Craig keeps you immersed until you are practically growing scales. For some good Photoshop lessons, a trip to his previous partner's site, Mark S. Johnson Photography (<http://www.msjpgraphy.com/>), is a worthwhile stopover. (If enabled, you can select these links using the arrow at the top of this Adobe Reader page and past them into your browser).

For something short and sweet, be sure and sign up for "Ask Tim Grey", previously known as the DDQ (digital darkroom questions) email. This comes to you daily in your mailbox with questions submitted by members, and answers provided by Tim Grey, author of numerous Photoshop books. If it is useful to you, consider making a donation, which also allows you to submit your own question for consideration. It's probably the most useful of all these suggestions for the new digital photographer.

When I'm ready to relax, I head over to George Barr's site, <http://georgebarr.blogspot.com/>. I'm not sure why I enjoy it so much, perhaps because it's like sipping tea with an old friend.

I haven't tried this one, but it looked like it might be fun for some of you. If you've ever wondered what your favorite focal length is on your zoom lens or perhaps your most used aperture, shutter speed, or ISO, then wonder no more. This software will analyze your JPGs and let you know. ([http://www.cpr.demon.nl/prog\\_plotf.html](http://www.cpr.demon.nl/prog_plotf.html)) What if you're more interested in finding out those same things about some image that you have seen on the web? Well, if the information (metadata) was not stripped off, you can analyze that photo with Opanda IExif (<http://www.opanda.com/en/iexif/download.htm>). It's a really cool program that works in your browser and I'm sure that if it doesn't come in a Mac version, you can find something similar.

So those things are kind of neat, but what you really wanted was to upgrade from

Photoshop Elements to CS4. Well, with Smart Curve (free), Grant's Tools (free) or Elements + (\$12), you may not feel the need anymore. Want to use masks (Heck yea!!! is the correct answer) or an improved curves? Well, just check out the following links:

<http://free.pages.at/easyfilter/curves.html>

<http://simplephotoshop.com/elementsplus/index.htm>

<http://www.elementsvillage.com/forums/showthread.php?p=490191>

<http://www.elementsvillage.com/forums/showthread.php?t=51610&highlight=mask>

If these tools work as advertised, they will have to be filed in the awesome category for the Elements user with higher aspirations. By the way, that ElementsVillage looks to be a great site for getting up to speed on Photoshop Elements.

For the CS3 (and possibly earlier versions of Photoshop) users, have you ever wanted to see your camera model's profile that is used to make the JPG while working on an image in Adobe Camera Raw. It's already an included function in CS4. For Canon, these would be labeled standard, faithful, neutral, vivid, portrait, landscape, etc. As best as I can remember, you download the Adobe DNG Converter 5.2 update which can be found here: <http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/detail.jsp?ftpID=4214>

Once you open the folder, only click on the DNG converter, as ACR 5.2 cannot be installed on Photoshop versions earlier than CS4. Follow the instructions on the read me file for installing the DNG converter. When you open the image in ACR, the camera specific profiles can be found and loaded under the calibrate tab.

If you are in need of some sharpening tools or other digital processing tools, you might try <http://www.thelightsright.com/>, the website of Glenn E. Mitchell II. His sharpening tools are quite similar to the Photokit sharpener, I understand. Perhaps he has unfairly borrowed too heavily from them, but I'll leave that decision to you. There are numerous other useful tools and tutorials on his site which are less controversial for both Elements and Photoshop users. Again a donation will help him maintain his site.

Finally, I would like to refer you to this thread that I read at Digital Photography Review:

<http://forums.dpreview.com/forums/readflat.asp?forum=1018&message=33655404>

It really made me re-examine my style of photography and inspired me to supplement what I photograph now with some work that may become more meaningful in the future. I hope that it does the same for you. Happy holidays to all, and a healthy new year to you and your families.

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## Dues Are Due

—Peggy Copen

Just a reminder!

Dues are now due for the 2010 year! Current member dues are \$30/single and \$40/family until January 31<sup>st</sup> when they will be increased \$5 to \$35/single and \$45/family. New member dues are \$30/single and \$40/family and will be prorated on a monthly basis after December. The membership and competition year runs from December through November.

The directory and email list will be purged in January and only members in good standing will be included. So if you want to enter competition, receive e-mails, or participate in club events, don't forget to pay your dues. Dues can be given to me in person, sent to the club's PO box, or sent to my home address at 264 Gardenia Dr. Memphis, TN 38117. Please make all checks payable to the Memphis Camera Club.

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## 2009 Awards Banquet

—Barry Seigel

The annual Awards Banquet will be held at Coletta's at 2850 Appling Road, Bartlett on Saturday evening, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The exact time will be announced later. In addition to the excitement of the awards themselves, it's a great opportunity to see some of the best photographs that have been entered over the past year. There's plenty of time for socializing so you'll really have a good time even if you haven't entered anything for the competition. The food has always been excellent and the cost is \$25 per person which includes your meal, soft drink, dessert, taxes and gratuity. Please pay Peggy Copen, in advance, by Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> as we need a firm count of how many will be attending. Spouses and significant others are encouraged to attend.

## Gray Card

—Tom Furlotte

Getting the proper exposure is the first step in making a photograph. Cameras have light meters in them to aid in this task. The built-in meter works on the assumption that you are photographing an “average subject”. This ideal average subject will consist of objects that are dark toned, medium toned and light toned in some combination that will reflect 18% of the light falling on it. When the subject is lighter or darker than “average”, you must correct your meter reading to make the subject appear like it should. Otherwise a dark subject will appear too light, or a light subject will appear too dark. You could guess how much to correct the exposure or do a series of exposure brackets hoping to get the right one, but the surest way to the proper exposure is to use the venerable gray card.

The gray card has been around as long as the light meter. This classic aid allows you to measure the intensity of the light instead of the reflectivity of the subject. The resulting exposure will be correct for any subject in the same light regardless of its reflectivity. Several companies make gray cards including Kodak/Tiffen, Delta 1, and Novoflex.

To use a gray card, hold it in the same light that is falling on the subject. Usually it will be at the subject position, but sometimes this will not be possible. As long as the light on the gray card is the same light falling on the subject, the reading will be correct. The subject cannot be in the shade and the gray card in the sunlight or vice versa. Point the camera at the gray card and fill the frame with the card. Take a reading off the card making sure not to let your shadow fall on the card and orienting the card at a right angle to the camera position from which you intend to make the picture. The easiest way to get this reading is to use manual exposure and spot metering if your camera allows it. Otherwise use exposure lock or use the +/- function to correct your subject reading to the gray card reading. If you don't have spot metering, use your zoom lens to fill the frame with the card, taking note of the aperture change when zooming if your lens has a variable aperture. The gray card is invaluable when photographing white flowers against a dark background as is often found in nature. Or white birds on a lakeshore. (Remember this when the camera club makes its trip to Reelfoot.) When it comes to alternate subject metering

techniques, the gray card is still the best option for accurate exposure in difficult lighting conditions. Do you own one? You should!

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## The Race for Grace 2009

—Joe Sullivan

Memphis Camera Club members continued to show their spirit of volunteerism at the recent 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Race for Grace 5K and 1 mile Fun Run benefiting the Church Health Center. After a sumptuous breakfast at the home of Quinn Strother, we walked to Shady Grove Presbyterian Church and spent the morning capturing images of every aspect of the festivities.

Following a particularly rainy week, a warm sunlit day provided a welcome backdrop for the Club's efforts. Participants included Angie Menne, Mimi Regon, Rog Sphar, Jim Williams, Beverly Hammond, Tom Furlotte, Quinn Strother and Joe Sullivan.



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## Holiday Party 2009

—Tom Richey

The annual Holiday party was held on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Club House at Hobbits Glen Condominium. Thanks to Patty McLaughlin for securing the space again this year. In addition to the food and fellowship we received many nice gifts as door prizes. A special feature was that some of them were books that had belonged to Esther and Lou Prieto making those gifts a nice keepsake for anyone that knew them. The group was a little bit smaller than in years past but was just as festive and the food as usual was excellent! Our “Thanks” to Beverly Hammond, Glenn Fuqua, Patty McLaughlin and Paul Fultz for their work setting it up and arranging it.

## Your Newsletter

—Tom Richey

Probably the single biggest problem in trying to put together a newsletter for an organization is to have things to put into it. It seems to be a struggle to have items of interest every month and to make it worthwhile for the membership to read. There are, of course, the ongoing things like the competition scores, member birthdays, etc.

What we really need is more membership participation. Do you have anything that is news worthy? Do you know of a local exhibit or show or are you having one yourself? Do you have a question that perhaps someone in the club could answer for you? Is there anything that you would like for the membership to know? Is there anything that we could add to the newsletter that we are not now doing?

This is the forum for it! Don't be shy if you feel you are not a good writer. The newsletter committee includes a proofreader and an editor who can take your content and polish it. If you have anything newsworthy, send it to me as an attached word document. We will take it from there. Remember that this is YOUR newsletter!

## Member Birthdays 1/1 to 1/14

—Tom Richey

1/3 Jerry Penrod  
1/4 Cathy Wilhelm  
1/11 Barney Street  
1/12 Angie Menne



# DECEMBER WINNERS

December 2009 Competition			
Category	Winners	Title	Points
Black and White	Paula Cravens	Grazing	27
Candid People	Rog Sphar	Eli Manning Fan	24
Color Open	Patty McLaughlin	Blue Mosque Ceiling	26
Creative	Rog Spar	White Dogwood Stained Glass	24
Digital Open	Paula Cravens	Savannah View	27
Digital Nature	Allen Sparks	Tree Swallow Feeding Young	27
Digital Landscape	Bill Belus	Mabry Mill	27
Landscape	Rog Sphar	Tranquility	25
	Charles Spencer	Henry Whitehead's Place	25
Nature	Patti Possel	Early Spring	27
	Allen Sparks	Beautiful Buckeye	27
Digital of the Month	Bill Belus	Mabry Mill	27
Print of the Month	Paula Cravens	Grazing	27