

Photo Challenge June 20, 2024

MCCC Club House, 137 West Street at 6:30pm.

Submission: One-two images per challenge photographed within the last month of the challenge meetup date.

Format: jpg

Title Your Photos: Titling images helps viewers see your images in a specific or particular way. It also adds some context to your images by trying to get an understanding of intent, from the viewer, or maybe even a reaction. It also gives us a little insight about you, the photographer, please add your initials to the end of your title.

Here's an example: If your photo title is **Spring Harmony**, then the name of your file will be: **spring-harmony_kd.jpg**

E-Mail Submission: When you have completed the photo challenge please attach your photos to an E-Mail addressed to jdamato41@gmail.com. If your photos have a large file size, please submit an E-Mail for each challenge.

Challenge 1

Golden Hour, Blue Hour, and Twilight:

With longer days and clearer skies in our part of the world, June is a great time to photograph the golden hour. Whether you're at the beach, in the mountains, or in a cityscape, the soft, warm light during sunrise and sunset can create breathtaking images.

The golden hour refers to the first hour after sunrise and the last hour before sunset when the sun is low on the horizon. This warm, diffused light casts a golden glow over the scene, enhancing colors and creating long shadows. To make the most of the golden hour:

- Arrive early and scout locations beforehand to be ready when the light peaks.
- Use a wide aperture (low f-number) to create a shallow depth of field and make your subject stand out against the beautiful bokeh.
- Expose for the highlights to retain detail in the bright golden tones (explained in either resource listed).
- Include elements like sun flares, backlighting, and rim lighting to add drama.

The blue hour occurs in the window before sunrise and after sunset when indirect sunlight creates a deep, vibrant blue color in the sky. For blue hour photography:

- Start shooting about 1 hour before sunrise or after sunset when there is still color and definition in the landscape.
- Use longer exposures of 30 seconds or more to allow enough light in. A tripod is essential.
- Compose your shots to include interesting foreground elements against the dramatic blue sky.
- Capture artificial lights like street lamps or buildings to add interest and contrast.

Both periods offer rapidly changing light, so work quickly and take test shots frequently to nail the exposure. Bracketing exposures or shooting in RAW can help you recover details in post-processing. With some planning and creativity, you can create truly magical images during the golden and blue hours.

A good written resource: [Mastering Golden Hour, Blue hour \(Magic Hours\), and Twilight.](#)

On YouTube: [5 Golden Hour Hacks](#)

Show us your image in **Colour**.

Challenge 2: Capturing the Interesting (This will be the on-going theme for fall photo show)

Take photos of subjects or scenes that personally interest you, focusing on what you find intriguing, emotive, or visually stimulating. Try to capture the essence of what makes these subjects interesting to you, whether it be through composition, lighting, perspective, or emotional resonance. Some ideas to get you started:

1. Find the beauty in everyday objects: Capture intriguing details or unique perspectives of ordinary objects found in your surroundings, such as household items, street signs, or architectural elements.
2. Explore emotions through portraiture: Take portraits that convey a specific emotion or mood, focusing on facial expressions, body language, and lighting to evoke a genuine emotional response from the viewer.
3. Experiment with abstract photography: Create abstract compositions using shapes, colors, textures, and patterns found in nature or urban environments, challenging viewers to interpret the images in their own unique way.

4. Document moments of human connection: Capture candid or staged moments that depict genuine interactions between people, showcasing the depth of human emotions, relationships, and experiences.
5. Showcase the beauty of imperfection: Embrace flaws, imperfections, and unconventional beauty in your subjects, whether it be in nature, architecture, or human form, celebrating the uniqueness of each individual subject.

Show us one or two in **Colour or Black and White**.

Personal Challenge for all photos:

Evaluate your own photos and consider what you might want to change in future shots. Some things you may want to ask yourself:

How effectively do you feel the photo captures the interesting aspects of the subject? Is the composition well-balanced, leading the viewer's eye to the focal point of interest? Does it utilize techniques such as leading lines, framing, or symmetry to enhance visual appeal? Does the photo evoke the intended emotions or convey a particular atmosphere? How successfully does it communicate your personal connection to the subject? Is the photo technically well-executed, with appropriate exposure, focus, and sharpness? Are there any distracting elements or technical flaws? Does the photo offer a unique or innovative perspective on the subject? Does it demonstrate creative use of techniques or unconventional approaches to photography?