



October's Program

Selling Photography on the Web

presented by Paul Cannon

A new idea for promoting the sale of individual artwork is presented in the [Fine Art America website](#). The site offers a social network for the artist and a place to have a unique website which includes the name of the artist.

For the sale of photographs the artist uploads an image and the site manages the methods of the sale. They will make the print to meet the request of the buyer, including selection of frames and fabric, and they will handle the shipping.

Visitors to the site can choose from over 1.5 million pieces of original artwork including paintings, sculptures, drawings, mixed media, and jewelry. The site specializes in displaying local artists, local galleries, upcoming local events, and local job openings.

For more information, go to www.fineartamerica.com. For Paul Cannon's site go to <http://paul-cannon.artistwebsites.com>.

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President's Column

by Larry Mobbs

The latest in the Tablet War

Just last Wednesday Amazon announced it's Kindle Fire as it's entry into the tablet wars. So far no one has been able to introduce a product that grabbed any traction away from the Apple iPad but this one might be different.

I've had an iPad since they first went on sale and have loved every minute of using it. But unlike a lot of other users I don't make much use of the added applications. There are always some you like to show off for their cleverness or such but you don't end up using them when you are sitting alone with the tablet. I like it for reading email but not for writing anything of length because of the on screen keyboard. As a browser the iPad is much nicer than my Macbook and I use it as an e-reader, having both the iBooks program that Apple provides and the Kindle reader from Amazon.

I could sum up my usage of the iPad as about 90% of it's time it's involved in one of those functions. I could see where a limited tablet that was strong in those areas could have a strong following. I didn't mention video above as I don't do a lot of that on the iPad but it is an important function in the tablet market. Unlike other tablet makers Amazon can compete with Apple's iTunes in providing music and video as well in TV content. In e-books it is light-years ahead of Apple's iBooks for content and customers. The low price, \$199, of the Kindle Fire indicates they Amazon intends to make it's money selling content rather than on the sale of the Fire and that gives them a huge advantage.

There comes a question about the size of the two units with Amazon's offering having a seven inch screen versus iPad's 10". Obviously, the larger screen is superior for video but maybe not so important for the e-reader. I have a Kindle and it is a much better choice to carry around like if you expected a long wait in a doctor's office and had good available light. It is a much smaller device, but easy to read and much easier to hold. I keep the iPad in a thick case that acts like a podium. Nice for propping it on your lap to read, in fact my favorite reading setup, but also very thick and heavy to cart around. I'd never take to the Maritime Center to read but I would for browsing. The Kindle is small enough to slip into a large jacket pocket. Both units can hold more books than you'll read in a lifetime.

An interesting addition to the Kindle scheme is that books you buy on the Kindle can be shared on the iPad.



2011/2012 Executive Committee

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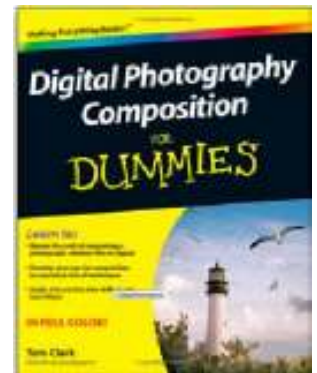


Peachpit offers a 35% discount. At checkout, right before entering a credit card number, enter the user group coupon code UE-23AA-PEUF (case sensitive).

You can get a free book if you are willing to write a review. To request a book for review, or for book review guidelines, contact Pam Raisanen at phraisanen@gmail.com.

Review: Digital Photography Composition for Dummies

Author: Tom Clark
Publisher: For Dummies / www.dummies.com
ISBN-10: 0470647612
ISBN-13: 978-0470647615
Price: \$29.99, \$21.89 @ Amazon



*Donna Kamper, Member, Tucson Computer Society, AZ
September 2011 issue, TCS eJournal
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What's the difference between an amateurish snapshot and a gallery-quality photograph? There are lots of variables, but the right "composition" makes the viewer's eye snap to the essential element that tells the story.

If there were only one way to tell a story photographically, it'd be easy. It used to be. Plop the subject in the middle and click. But does that really "tell the story?"

This book, by a professional photographer, breaks down and explains the subject of composition element by element. Contrast, distance and patterns as well as lines, shapes and forms are introduced and their relevance to your photography is pointed out

A minimal amount of space is spent on the equipment (camera, lenses, tripod, etc.) and the basics (aperture, focal point, ISO, etc.). I felt it was enough space/time for the subject, and the author states it's expected that the reader has a basic understanding of their equipment.

The subject of composition itself is then addressed, which covers how to use points of interest, framing and even color as an essential element.

The concept of "leading the eye" or "drawing the eye" is referenced frequently. Multiple techniques are demonstrated and illustrated.

This became particularly helpful when the subject was lighting.

The names and descriptions of lighting methods (Paramount, Rembrandt, Broad lighting) are all very well, but actually showing how the light falls on a subject allows the novice (reader) to actually understand (and remember) its effect.

This is a copiously illustrated book, as one about photography should be. The best part is not simply that there are a lot of photos, mostly in color, but that they're relevant and helped me to understand certain points.

A broad range of subject matter is covered, which I also found particularly helpful. There are a lot of large, intimidating (expensive) books out there focused solely on "landscape" or "portrait" or "still life" photography. This small and inexpensive volume covers all those subjects and more quite nicely. Each subject does differ, and there are concise descriptions not only of those differences but the methods for adapting to them.

(Continued on page 5)

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Because Dummies books are written by different authors, I feel like it's a bit of a gamble delving into one. This one is a big winner. It's obvious the author knows his subject in a way only someone doing the work does, but he's also one of the *avis rara* who can also explain it well.

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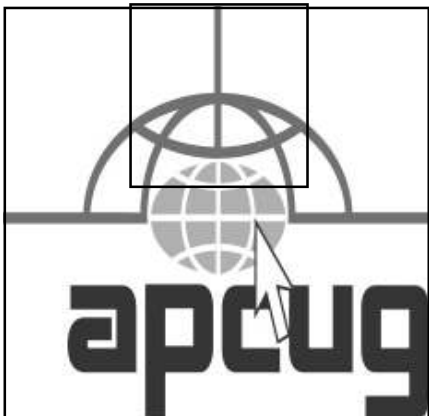
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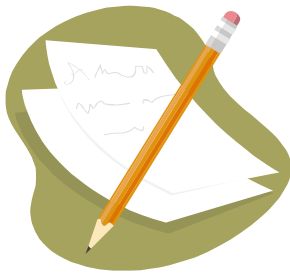
COMP Library

Members may donate or check out items
by contacting Sharon Kirby Agee
hummingbird5555@gmail.com

Adobe Photoshop CS3 (one on one)
Adobe Photoshop Elements (classroom in a book)
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Windows 2000 Professional-Bible
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Creating Hollywood style movies
Building the perfect PC
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Getting Started with Camera Raw
Adobe Photoshop Elements 9: Learn by Video
Mastering Exposure in Digital Photography: Video
Get Your Photography on the Web
Understanding Adobe Photoshop CS5
Microsoft Windows XP (for home users)



Executive Committee Report

September's Executive Committee meeting took place 9/20/11 at Jane Wheatly's home. Present were EC members Larry Mobbs, Norb Demmel, Paul Cannon, Sharon Kirby-Agee, Jane Wheatly, Jim Sanderson, and Judy Callender.

Programs

October—Fine Art America, presented by Paul Cannon.
November—Facebook??
December—COMP Christmas Party at the Dorsey House

COMP Christmas Party

This year the Christmas Party will be held at the Dorsey House. To encourage people to show up, the Club will start taking \$5 reservations per person, to be refunded at the dinner.

SIGs

Due to a misunderstanding in scheduling, the Video SIG will be held THIS month—Thursday, October 20, 2011 at Norb Demmel's home. The Digital SIG will be held Thursday November 17, 2011 at Paul Cannon's home. The Explorer SIG is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2011.



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Special Interest Group News

SIGs are geared for members to share their interests and abilities in areas that range from intense study to coffee, donuts and conversation. Don't miss the opportunity to come early for dinner and tech talk.

Read this month's Executive Committee Report for info on the SIGs.



Photo SIG

The Photo SIG meets at the home of Paul Cannon. Bring photos or tips to share. We will continue to look at what photo editing programs can do. Bring your dinner at 6 PM or come for the meeting at 7 PM. For directions or more information contact Paul at pauca@comcast.net.

Video SIG

The Video SIG meets at Norb Demmel's home. Creating, and editing skills are covered. Bring your own dinner and come at 6:00 PM. The meeting starts at 7 PM. For additional information email Norb at dasboot@comcast.net.



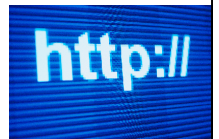
Explorer SIG

The Explorer SIG is hosted by Ron Walters. Topics vary to meet the groups needs. Meet at Crowell Computers N' Vacuums by 6pm to go out to dinner. The meeting starts at 7 PM. (Enter through the front door.)

To request program topics and location, contact Ron at ronaldw152@sbcglobal.net.

Web SIG

We will be taking our laptop computers to meet during the day at Vantage Point in Port Huron. Time will be scheduled on an as requested basis. If you are interested in joining us, contact Pam Raisanen at compinfo@greatlakes.net.

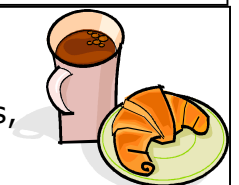


Pig Sig Dinner

This social event meets at 5:30 PM before the club meeting. This SIG is located at Tony's Food Paradise, 502 Huron Avenue, in downtown Port Huron.

Donut SIG

Come for coffee and donuts or just to chat after the club meeting at Tim Horton's, 3829 Pine Grove Ave, Fort Gratiot, MI 48059.



An End to the “Tablet Takeover”?

*Commentary: President's Corner by Greg Skalka, President, Under the Computer Hood UG, CA
September 2011 issue, Drive Light*

www.uchug.org

president (at) uchug.org

August was an interesting month for computer news. First we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the introduction of the IBM PC. Though “personal” computers were already available, when the IBM PC came on the market on August 12, 1981, it started the adoption of this technology by business and individuals. A week after the PC anniversary, HP announced it was discontinuing its TouchPad tablet and apparently abandoning the tablet market. Sales of the \$499 device touted as an “iPad killer” were slow until they were given a close-out price of \$99, at which point they flew off the store shelves. Finally, the mastermind behind the iPad, as well as iPod, iPhone, iTunes and most things “i”, Steve Jobs, stepped down as Apple CEO for medical reasons. Apple’s ailing founder will remain on the board, with his recommended successor, Tim Cook, at the helm.

All these events make me think the predictions of the death of the PC and the takeover by tablets are at least premature and possibly downright wrong. Traditional computer manufacturers have seen a slip in sales and have been working on their own tablets, but I think a device that has lasted 30 years in the market is not ready to be replaced yet. Tablets bring a lot of great features to the table, but they appear to be more of a niche performer. The current tablet craze may well turn out to be similar to that of the netbook a few years ago, introducing a new kind of computing tool that adds to the arsenal, but cannot supplant the traditional laptop and desktop.

I do believe the tablet computer concept is a good one, so much so that I bought one. Though I call my Velocity Micro Cruz Reader a poor man’s iPad, it is really just an e-reader that can surf the web, get email and display color pictures and video. At only \$120, it is certainly not a substitute for a laptop PC, but to me, neither is a \$500 iPad nor other manufacturer’s similar Android tablets. The 12.1” Asus eeeSlate tablet PC, which has an Intel Core i5 processor and runs Windows 7 might be a substitute for a traditional PC (with the tablet’s external keyboard), but it also costs \$1000. To take a bigger chunk out of the PC market, tablets will have to be lower in price. To take over the PC market, they will have to be as capable as a laptop or desktop, a tall order for a device based so much on portability.

Right now, the notebook computer or laptop is the king of computer value. The current back to school advertisements show a lot of capable laptops (even with Intel Core i5 processors) for around \$500. There used to be a premium paid for the mobility of a laptop as compared to a desktop PC, but now a similar desktop setup costs more. Since 2005 there have been more laptops than desktops sold in the U.S., and at our Microsoft Store tour last year their staff reported laptop sales at 80% of the total computer sales. Those economies of scale in manufacturing have no doubt allowed laptop prices to be reduced below desktop prices.

At \$500 for a decent laptop, a \$500 tablet computer does not make much sense, either as a substitute or complement to the notebook PC. This was certainly proven out by the HP TouchPad being discontinued. HP had problems selling them at \$500, but one can only wonder how many could have been sold for \$99, were they willing to manufacture more at a loss. The correct price point to me for tablets would seem to be no more than \$250; that

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is where the Barnes & Noble Nook Color (Reader Tablet) is priced. Amazon would do well to keep that in mind if the rumors of a future emailing and web surfing Kindle are true.

How does Apple sell so many iPads for \$500 or more? I think there must be a lot of people out there with more expendable income than I have. I admit I've never used an iPad, and don't know anyone that has one, but based on experience with those I know that own the iPhone, the iPad is probably quite good as products go.

Apple's products are usually innovative and ahead of their time, and remind me of hybrid and electric vehicles. They are technically advanced and forward thinking, copied by their competitors and carry a premium price, but often don't make economic sense initially when compared to existing products. There will soon be a lot of electric and hybrid cars on the market, but they are all so expensive that unless gas gets well over \$5 a gallon, a conventional gasoline-powered economy car is still a better overall value.

I was able to participate in a GM-sponsored event this month in the Qualcomm Stadium parking lot, where I got to drive a lot of different new cars (with no sales pressure). The Corvette and Camero were fun to drive, but the most interesting ride was undoubtedly the Chevy Volt. In my opinion it blows all the existing and near-term hybrid and plug-in electric vehicles away. The Volt is a plug-in electric car (wheels driven by electric motors which are powered by a battery charged by external 110 or 220 VAC), but it also has a gasoline-powered generator to provide electricity for driving when the battery is low. Unlike the Nissan Leaf, a plug-in electric with no gas engine, the Volt can be driven across the country like a gasoline-powered car if there is no time or place to plug in. Unlike the Toyota Prius hybrid which can't be recharged from external power, it can operate on battery alone at all speeds for trips within its battery's range. The Volt is the future for electric cars. No matter how much I like it, however, I'd never own one, because they cost \$40K. They can call me when they get the price down to \$25K.

Apple can call me when they offer the iPad for \$250.

The tablet's strength is in bringing portability to web access and graphical media. Without a real keyboard, however, I can't imagine using any tablet as my primary computer. Writing this column on a touchscreen would be a big pain; the times I wrote it in a car on a laptop were painful enough. I admit I once thought a laptop keyboard was a lot harder to type on than a full desktop keyboard (and I don't do touch typing). Now of course a lot of businesspeople use a laptop as their primary computer. I know typing a lot on my netbook is a pain, and its smaller display screen makes for difficult reading by older eyes; a tablet computer display would be similar. While I suppose I could perform graphical tasks like photo and video editing, create large documents or file my tax return on my netbook, I wouldn't want to if a computer with a larger display was available.

In my view, the tablet PC is good for consumption of media (photos, videos, music, web pages), but its smaller screen size and lack of a keyboard make it less useful for the creation of such material. A tablet might be acceptable for email, but it wouldn't be so great for creating an important document like a resume. The market for tablets will thus be limited to content consumers, while content creators will still prefer traditional PCs.

The final problem with the tablet's takeover is its competition from the smartphone. While portability is the tablet's big advantage over all forms of the traditional PC, the smartphone has it beat there. You can carry an iPhone in your pocket, but you need a case or

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bag to take an iPad.

While I'm hoping the tablet continues to develop and evolve as an alternative computing platform, especially if it can come down in price, I don't see a way that it can take the place of the laptop or desktop computer in general business or personal usage anytime soon.

And I'd like to remind those of you out there with Apple stock that the company did not do so well between 1985 and 1996, while Steve Jobs was absent. His shoes will be hard to fill.

October's Calendar

Wednesday 10/5/11—General Meeting

- 5:30pm—7:00pm Pig SIG at Tony's Food Paradise, 502 Huron Avenue, Port Huron.
7:00pm—9:00pm COMP Club General Meeting at the Acheson Community Resource Center, 514 McMorran Boulevard, Port Huron.
9:00pm—??????? Donut SIG at Tim Horton's, 3829 Pine Grove Ave., Fort Gratiot (the north-end Tim Horton's).

Saturday 10/8/11—COMP Brunch

about 10:30am—?? at the Golden Corral, 4783 24th Avenue, Fort Gratiot.

Tuesday 10/18/11—Executive Committee Meeting

- 6:00pm—7:00pm get-together at Jane Wheatly's home before the COMP Executive Committee Meeting (bring your own meal).
7:00pm—??????? COMP Executive Committee Meeting at Jane Wheatly's home, 1952 Harvey Rd, Kimball.

Thursday 10/20/11—Video SIG

- 6:00pm—7:00pm get-together at Norb Demmel's home before the Video SIG (bring your own meal).
7:00pm—9:00pm Video SIG at Norb Demmel's home, 2605 Riverside Dr., Port Huron.



Deadline

The deadline for submissions for October's News letter is Wednesday, October 26, 2011. Submissions can be e-mailed to callenderj2@gmail.com, subject heading: COMP Newsletter.