

# THE VIEWFINDER



PPS Monthly Newsletter

## VALUABLE LEARNING TOOLS

### FROM THE EDITORS

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In this month's issue of *The Viewfinder*, our intrepid president tackles what once was a controversial topic at PPS and abandoned. PPS President and Program Director, Guy Ridgway, explains the benefits of photo critiques as valuable learning opportunities, outlines their widespread use among other clubs, and explains how they are now accomplished by using certified judges from outside our club, and ponders details of implementation that would win acceptance of this educational technique among our membership.

If the club reintroduces photo critiques as a learning tool, we can avail ourselves of the expertise of professional adjudicators of the stature of photographers, like our guest speaker, Warren Alani. He will be the guest speaker for our March Meeting. Though not a judge himself, we will learn much from his talk.

Warren is a photographer based in Northamptonshire, UK. Warren's photography particularly focuses on sports, portraiture, architecture, and travel, as well as street-style snapshots taken on the spur of the moment.

**Please note that our regular March Meeting has been moved to Monday, March 6, at 4:30 PM.**

The PPS March Outing will take place on Wednesday, March 8, 11:00 am, so as to avoid the March Break crowds. The destination is the **Wolf Centre at the Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve**. Photographers gather indoors in the observation room behind one-way glass to view the 7-acre enclosure in which the wolves reside. Please read the detailed information about this trip. There are a number of valuable suggestions and instructions (e.g., tripods allowed, but flash photography not permitted)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GUY RIDGWAY

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## THE CASE FOR CRITIQUES

There was a time in the far distant past (i.e., before I joined the Society) when legend has it, we practised photo critiques at regular meetings. I may not know all the details of how things went, but I do know that such critiques were handled by PPS members in attendance. One method required a member's photo to be displayed on the projection screen, and then one or more other members were asked to comment on what they believed was "good" or "poor" about the image based on nothing more than their own opinions, regardless of whether they deemed themselves qualified to pass valid judgements.

Needless to say, the experience did not go over as well as it could have, and the practice was eventually dropped, never to return. The problem, I believe, was having our own members perform the critiques.

This is not to criticize the process adopted by PPS, specifically. Other local clubs who performed critiques in a similar way also abandoned the practice over time.

But many clubs that have successfully run these exercises have done so using an entirely different method. As well, I would claim that most of the larger photography clubs in North America and in the UK believe critiques are essential to the learning process.

For the PPS to revitalize critiques as a new initiative, I think it's clear that a new approach would be required, one that makes use of outside certified judges, either in-person or remotely. This indeed appears to be the way other clubs are able to make it work sustainably.

This approach immediately raises a number of questions"

- How open would PPS members be to the critique process?
- What about the effect on budget?
- How frequently run critiques?
- Should we use local or remote judges?
- How to appeal to different types of participants? Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced?
- What about technical expertise? Camera and lighting equipment? Post-processing or none?

How would the process work, other than that participants could rank themselves as Novice, Intermediate, or Advanced and the judge would use that as a basis for comments?

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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I must emphasize that submissions of photos for critiques would be entirely voluntary, and everyone would benefit from attending these review sessions as a valuable learning experience.

Professional reviews and critiques of members' images would get people talking about what makes a "better" image, with the result that everyone could participate and learn, regardless of how they viewed their own abilities. I believe that this approach would be most beneficial to those who consider themselves novices. Certified judges know how to discuss the best qualities of an image and how to suggest better ways of looking at things, while ensuring that critical feedback also provides encouragement. Most photographers, regardless of how they view their own talents, come away with a very positive experience.

Finally, if professional critiques prove to be well received, then could we perhaps consider in-house photo competitions as a next step? In-house competitions are also a prominent feature for several other clubs. We have been missing out on these opportunities for too long. It's time to step forward and find creative ways to provide more value for our membership.

Two quotes to keep in mind:

***"It's best to get your photos critiqued even when you're just starting out - when you're most open to change and advice."***

***"While there are some steps you can take to ensure that your photos have a level of quality, ultimately, you are the final judge of your photograph. If you are happy with your results, that's what matters. Don't allow critique or differences keep you from creating..."***

## REFERENCES:

<https://www.lightstalking.com/critiquing-photographs/>

<https://www.lightstalking.com/criticism-improves-your-photography/>

<https://www.slrlounge.com/beginners-guide-to-photo-critique-checklist/>

<https://www.iphotography.com/blog/whats-a-photo-critique/#:~:text=What%20is%20a%20Photo%20Critique,allow%20members%20to%20achieve%20qualifications>

PROGRAM  
NOTES

GUY RIDGWAY

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honours distinction from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB), as well as having his work displayed around the world at the Master of Prints exhibition (for three consecutive years), in the revered London Salon of Photography, and at his own exhibitions in the UK and in Europe.

His work has been featured in many prominent photography publications, such as the International Digital Camera magazine, and the The Royal Photographic Society Travel Yearbook, amongst many others. In recent years, Warren has become a highly engaged member of the photography community, and a proud member of the Smethwick Photographic Society. When he's not chasing the perfect exposure, you can find him regularly presenting talks, workshops, and lectures at photography clubs all over the UK.

**The presentation will be 90 minutes long, with a mid-point break, and followed by Q&A. Watch for your Zoom invitation by e-mail and please join us on Monday, March 6, at 4:30 PM**

**WEBSITE:** [warrenalaniphotography.com](http://warrenalaniphotography.com)

## IMPORTANT!



**Our next Regular Meeting will be  
Monday, March 6, 4:30 PM**

Our guest for the March 6 event will be **Warren Alani**, a photographer based in Northamptonshire, UK.

Warren's photography particularly focuses on sports, portraiture, architecture, and travel, as well as street-style snapshots taken on the spur of the moment. His acute attention to detail has earned him recognition from national and international bodies, such as The Royal Photographic Society (RPS) and the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP). Warren has also been awarded an



WARREN ALANI



Warren's presentation is titled, "**Through the Years**", a demonstration of storytelling through the still image, featuring compelling photographs, many of which have been displayed around the world in exhibitions, such as Master of Prints, Royal Photographic Society, FIAP and PAGB.

**LOCATION CHALLENGE**

LINDA CARDONA

MEMBERPPS@GMAIL.COM



**INNOVATION AND RESTORATION**

The Location Challenge for March is "The Mount", located at 1545 Monaghan Road, Peterborough.

The Mount Community Centre was originally built as a farmhouse in 1869 and was utilized as a nunnery from 1895 to 2008.

Today, it is a multiuse facility that includes a community centre, a church, a school, offices and residences.

The challenge is to take a picture anywhere **outside** on the grounds of The Mount. That includes any buildings or the gardens.

Images should be taken within the month of March.

Submit one image for the April slide show to the Monthly Location Challenge Dropbox link on the PPS website by midnight March 28, 2023.

THE MOUNT COMMUNITY CENTRE



REFERENCES:

<https://www.themountpeterborough.ca>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount\\_St.\\_Joseph\\_\(Peterborough,\\_Ontario\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_St._Joseph_(Peterborough,_Ontario))

**Monthly Location Challenge:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/H5U4KXKlxxmtu4ei4kOz>

**Image Submission Instructions (image resizing):**

<https://peterboroughphotographicsociety.com/image-submission-instructions/>



MELLOW MIDWINTER GUY RIDGWAY

## TO BE AMONG THE WOLVES

### MARCH OUTING

CAROLINE RIDGWAY

OUTINGSPPS@GMAIL.COM



Our March Outing will take place at the Wolf Centre at the **Haliburton Forest & Wild life Reserve**, on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, a week earlier than usual to avoid the March Break crowds.

At this venue, photographers gather indoors in the observation room to view the 7-acre enclosure in which the wolves reside. The wolves generally appear each day and tend to be more playful in the cooler weather, and especially if it is a feeding day. Unfortunately, the Centre will not let the public know when feedings are scheduled, and feeding is on a random schedule.

Tripods are allowed, but no flash photography. The wolves are viewed from behind one-way glass, and it is recommended that photographers wear dark clothing to help reduce any glare. Zoom and polarized filters are an asset.

We will meet at opening time, 11:00 AM.

For those who are unable to attend the scheduled outing, images may be taken during the following week.

- Tickets are \$15.00 and may be purchased online or at the door.
- Mon - Fri 11 AM - 3 PM, Sat - Sun 10 AM - 4:30 PM
- Centre is located at 1305 Redkenn Road, Haliburton, ON.

Refer to the PPS website or Wolf Centre website for a map to the location.



HALIBURTON WOLF CENTRE  
STEPHANIE BROWN

### REFERENCES:

**Website:** [www.haliburtonforest.com/things-to-do/wolf-centre](http://www.haliburtonforest.com/things-to-do/wolf-centre)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/hfwolfcentre/>

**Outings** (includes a map to the Outing event):  
<https://peterboroughphotographicsociety.com/outings/>

**Regular Outing Image Submissions Dropbox link:**  
<https://www.dropbox.com/request/gvt47J5XOkzngcFKBFly>

**Image Submission Instructions (image resizing):**  
<https://peterboroughphotographicsociety.com/image-submission-instructions/>

## MEMBERSHIP

LINDA CARDONA

MEMBERPPS@GMAIL.COM



Great news for the new year: our membership fees have now been reduced for the balance of the year. If you know anyone who would like to join us for a free meeting, please have them contact Linda at memberpps@gmail.com

\$30.00 / SINGLE    \$45.00 / COUPLE    \$20.00 / STUDENT

We would like to welcome the newest member of PPS, Phyllis Naccarato. Phyllis comes to us from Millbrook and she enjoys bird photography. Welcome Phyllis!

## MEMBERS' GALLERIES ON THE NEW WEBSITE

The new PPS website includes Membership Information, Resources, Dropbox image submission links, a gallery of our members' images, and so much more. The Member Galleries are a chance for each member to display some of their best work.

The Members' Galleries from the old website have been transferred to the new website and a few new galleries have been added.

We would love to have more members start their own galleries to show some of their best work. It's as easy as 1,2,3!

1. Choose your best images (as many as you'd like)
2. Name the JPEG images as follows: "<your name> - <image title>.jpg"
3. Submit your images to the "Website Gallery Images" Dropbox link here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/lo0qKwCgDIsOCD60Jlpm>

To make files easier to manage, the best practice is to resize your images: 1024px on the longest edge, regardless of image orientation (landscape or portrait). Otherwise, simply submit your images with any size and we'll take care of it.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Cardona at MemberPPS@gmail.com.

**NEWS AND UPDATES**

**MONTHLY SUBMISSIONS**

Looking for ways to share your images?  
There's a variety of ways to do just that:

**>>>> Monthly Slideshow**

Theme **APRIL: SUNRISE/SUNSET**

- Challenge Image
- Regular Outing
- Your Own Outing
- Photographer's Choice

**Check website for more info:**

<https://www.peterboroughphotographic.com/activities/>

**>>>> Facebook Posts**

Join the Private Group PPS Facebook page (for active PPS members) for updates, photography news, shared images and more. You can post your own images, share videos/links, ask questions, sell your equipment, etc.

 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1951293138486236>

**BUY / SELL / TRADE**

You can post items in the Viewfinder or on Facebook.

Contact Anita at ViewfinderPPS@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to post items.

**LET'S TALK PHOTOGRAPHY**

The next session of Let's Talk Photography will be Tuesday, March 21 at 7:00 PM.

A lively discussion about images from previous slideshows and all things photography.

Members will receive a Zoom invite to join. For more info, please contact Linda at memberpps@gmail.com



**SUMMER OF '57  
GUY RIDGWAY**

**YEAR END BBQ**

A year end BBQ is being planned for the last meeting of the PPS season.

**Mark the date: Tuesday, June 6th, 2023**

Details coming soon.



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2022-2023



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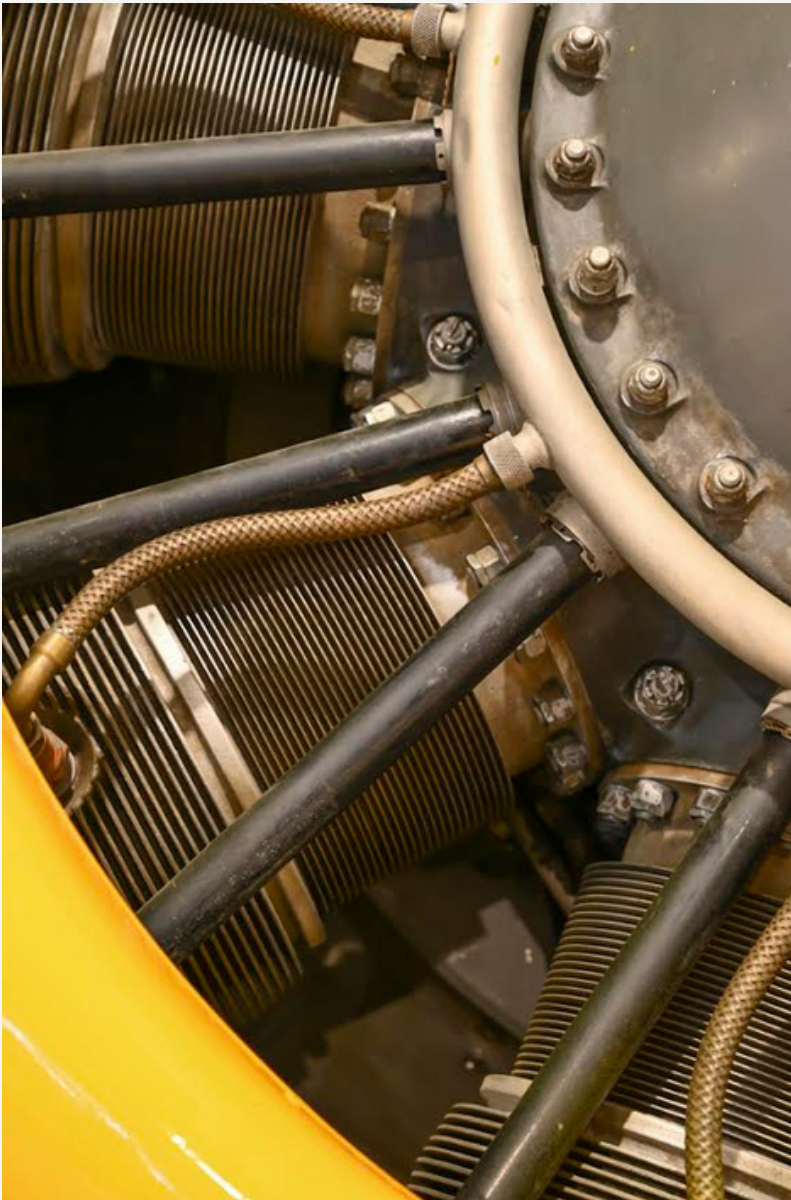
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**VACANT**

MEMBER  
AT LARGE 2  
**VACANT**

\* Although not an Executive Committee member,  
we welcome Ed Schroeter as Associate Editor  
of the Viewfinder

# *the parting shot*



ENGINE DETAIL  
TIM YOUNG

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*Do you have an image for "the parting shot"?  
Contact Anita at [ViewfinderPPS@gmail.com](mailto:ViewfinderPPS@gmail.com) to submit.*