

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 17, 2021

By: Jean Davids, Secretary/Treasurer

The meeting started just after 7:05 pm and was presided over by president, Jean Davids & Heather Reinhart. We had a great turnout with 11 of 19 members in attendance. Once again, we met via Zoom and will continue until it is safe to meet in person again. We'll continue to take it month by month but for now, expect it to go into the spring of 2021 at least. River City Extreme has opened up again but a poll of our members on zoom voted to continue with zoom until vaccines might be more readily available, especially with the new variants out there. We will continue to ask our membership how they want to proceed as meetings progress.

The assignment for this month was: five things - person, fork, chair, lamp/light, clock. Four people shared their images. Thank you all for sharing them.

The Featured Photographer and speaker for the night was Jean Davids. She briefly described that she likes to take landscape, nature, wildlife, flowers and bird images; pretty much anything but people. She shared photos and information on photographing Snowflakes and Freezing Soap Bubbles.

Photographing Snowflakes

I started by showing a video "How to Photograph Snowflakes – Snowflake photography with Don Komarechka". Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WKA8Boa9hBA>.

The video showed that you can easily handhold your camera to shoot snowflakes and the importance to separate the flake from the background to get a great shot. Gear discussed was the use of a macro lens as well as use of extension tubes. I have used this combination as well as just the macro lens. However with just the macro lens, the flake is smaller in the view than it will be with the extension tubes added.

Some videos show how use of a custom macro lens on a cell phone to take some great images. A lot of them use "Moment" brand lenses. This is not a recommendation but merely information. There are probably other comparable lenses you can check into for that.

I discussed that she has tried a number of backgrounds and found that it can be challenging to find just the right one. It is amazing how much texture can be found in materials like velvet, felt, plastics, etc. One idea that seems to be popular is capturing a snowflake on glass and put the background material behind it. That keeps the fabric out of focus by leaving separation behind the flake. You need to make sure to clean any liquid around the flake so that it doesn't show in the photo. If you have the snowflake on an object that you can either move to be parallel to the front of the lens or have the camera focused directly over the object then use of a tripod works best. If using gloves or material to catch flakes, then you will want to hand hold the camera so you can move around to get the snowflake in focus properly. If the flake is at an angle, you will want to use focus stacking to capture the entire flake in focus.

The image below shows snowflakes captured on glass.



Carol Keskitalo ▶ Capturing the Imagination; Freezing Soap Bubbles & Other Winter's Wonders

Yesterday at 5:02 PM · 🌐

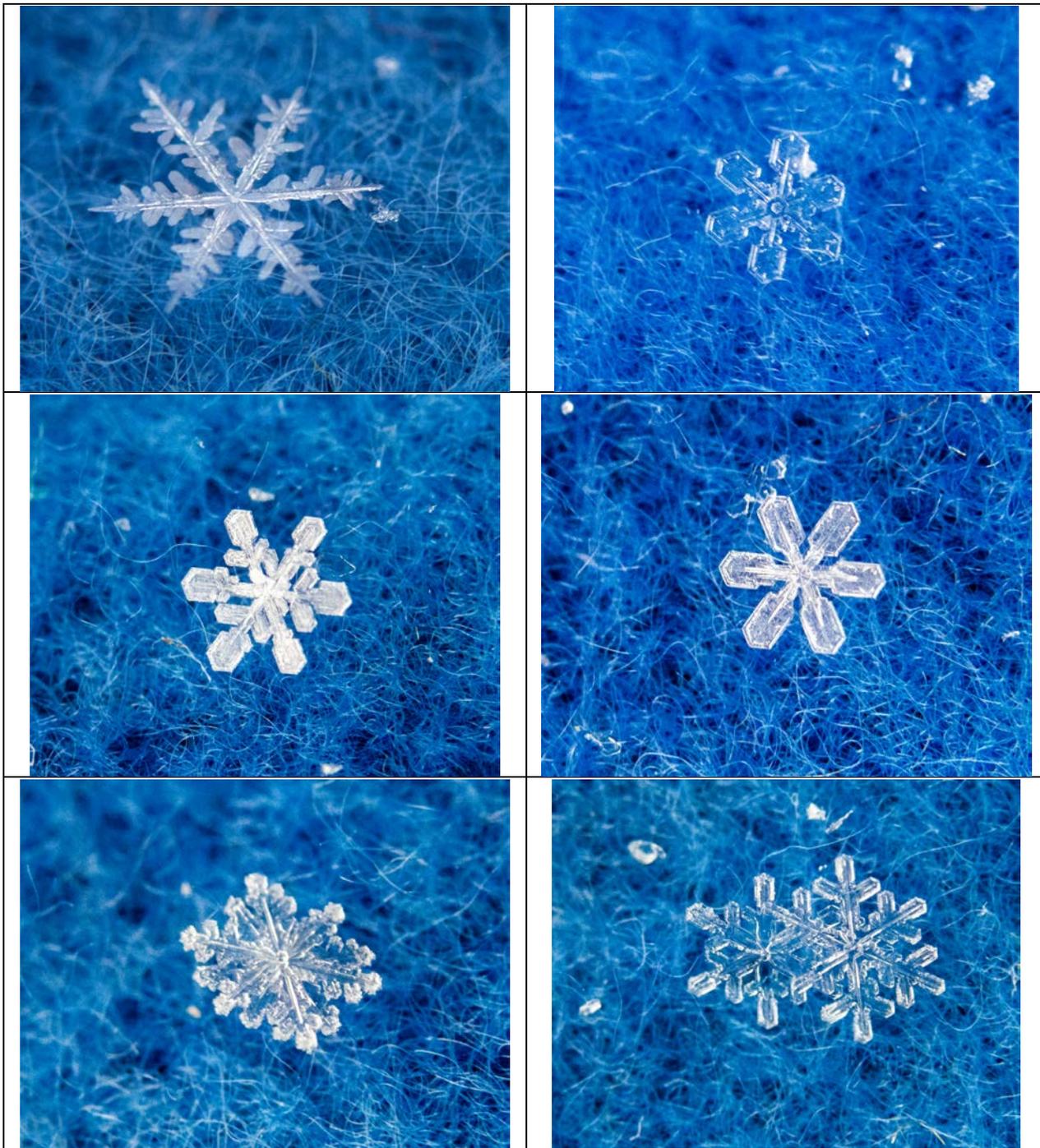
Had a little more time today to play around with my extension tubes since we were lucky enough to get more snow. I'm getting closer to getting better focus. I set out a piece of glass for the snow flakes to fall on and fabric underneath it for different effects.



One other crucial item is that your materials need to be cooled prior to capturing the snowflakes or they will immediately melt. So, before taking your camera gear out in the cold, let your materials for capturing the snowflakes acclimate to the cold.

Other cautionary items are: 1) Be sure of the limitations of your camera gear. Consider both how much exposure to snow your gear can handle and limits to how cold your gear should be exposed to. 2) When taking your gear back in from the cold, be sure to pack it up into a baggie or other thermal packing to keep the moisture out of your camera and lens. Here's an article that gives all these warnings and how to protect your gear. <https://www.adorama.com/alc/winter-photography-tips-protect-your-gear-in-extreme-cold-2/>

I shared a few of her favorite snowflakes. Some of them are shown below.



Freezing Soap Bubble Photography

I started out this part of the presentation with a great video that explains the recipe and techniques for blowing the bubbles and then goes outside to take the photos. The same cold weather rules shared in the snowflake talk apply here. The video is by Mike Shaw and is titled “How to Make and Photograph Frozen Soap Bubbles”. Here is the link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NT-41Z42tME>

Here is a screen capture for the recipe Mike Shaw uses. I have also used corn syrup in place of the glycerin. It is easier to find and worked equally well. This year I have been using glycerin. I seem to be having more bubbles all blowing at once rather than just one bubble but mine might just be caused by my own technique. An alternate recipe I tried this year is shown as well. Personally, I had better luck with the one Mike Shaw shared only I used corn syrup (clear only).



ISO:320 f/8 50mm+16mm macro ext. 50 fps

New bubble recipe:

230ml water (1 cup)

30ml dish soap (2 Tbls) **not "Ultra"!

30ml corn syrup (2 Tbls)

2 Tbls. Regular sugar

The sugar is for seed crystals.

BTW: As your mix gets colder, the bubbles freeze faster.

I shared a video that she created to show how she blows bubbles and takes photos and videos of them. She also shared her setup as well as samples of her work. One technique that was discussed in the Facebook group "[Capturing the Imagination: Freezing Soap Bubbles & Other Winter's Wonders](#)" was to puff into the straw and then sometimes you can get more of a star shape to your crystals. I tried it last year and it seemed to work. I tried this year and it did not. It's all a matter of experimentation. I will try to share my video on how I did my frozen bubbles on our club website.

Here are some samples of photos that I have taken using this technique. Doing video is fascinating because you can watch the whole process of it starting to freeze to being completely frozen. Setting that to music just can be mesmerizing.





As mentioned in the second recipe, the colder the liquid, the faster it freezes. If it takes your bubble a long time to freeze when you first go out with the room temperature liquid. If you keep your mixture in the refrigerator, it will freeze quicker. The longer the liquid is out in really cold weather, the faster the bubble will freeze.

If you are interested in how this all works, here's a nice article by Nova that explains it.

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/freezing-soap-bubbles/>

The meeting was ended around 8:30 pm or so. Good luck on your snowflake and bubble photos.

2021 Camera Club Meeting Dates and Topics

March 17

Assignment: Snowflakes or snow

Topic: Workshops you have taken or like best (Group share)

April 21

Assignment: Best photos you took at a workshop or using a skill you learned at a workshop

Topic: Lifestyle Photography (Heather Reinhart?)

May 19

Assignment: Lifestyle Photography

Topic: Mobile Device Movie Making - Speaker/Member experiences/video - Jean Davids/Anthony Hall

June 16

Assignment: share a movie (short one) that you made on your mobile device

Topic: Editing Video – SLR or mobile – Jean Davids/Anthony Hall

July 21

Assignment: edited video or ??

Topic:

Featured Photographer: Heather Reinhart sharing her Alaska Photos and experiences

August 18

Assignment:

Topic: Shooting Flowers (sunflower group photo shoot might be arranged as well)

September 15

Assignment:

Topic: Voyagers Nation Park - Jeff Lavigne (tentative)

October 20

Assignment:

Topic:

November 17

Assignment:

Topic:

December 15

Assignment: Top photos of 2021

Topic: Holiday party, open discussion