Camera Club focusing on photography from new location

Doug Long, of the Akron Camera Club, shows club member Lou Janelle a few features on his camera at the group's first meeting at its new location at the Judith A. Resnik Community Learning Center in West Akron. The longstanding club is regularly meeting now through May to provide instruction in appreciation for photography while exchanging ideas and sharing techniques.

By EMILY CHESSIK

WEST AKRON — An area group is inviting shutterbugs — from amateurs to advanced photographers — to “compose, shoot, edit and share” alongside regular members at its new meeting location in West Akron.

After gathering for a few years in Cuyahoga Falls, the Akron Camera Club, which traces its roots back to the late 1800s, now is meeting at a new location, the Judith A. Resnik Community Learning Center, 65 N. Meadowcroft Drive.

The photography enthusiasts will gather the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from September through May at 7 p.m. at Resnik to hear from professional presenters on a wide array of topics to increase their hobby knowledge and develop new skills.

As times have changed, the club has moved into the digital era, now focusing primarily on digital images.

The purpose of the group has stayed steadfast, however.

The club remains dedicated to “fostering the enjoyment of amateur photography through sharing, teaching, competing and exhibiting the art,” he said.

Eileen Ofstead, current treasurer, has been a member of the club for 45 years.

“Photography has been a lifetime hobby, and the club challenges me to better my skills,” he said.

This is what the Akron Camera Club is all about — providing an exchange of ideas for mutual advancement — said group Vice President David Lange.

“We are fortunate to have professional photographers willing to share their expertise voluntarily,” he said.

“Our speakers provide us with a wealth of information,” added Oppenheim.

Photographer Carolyn Jacob presented “Finding the Picture in the Picture” at the Sept. 11 Camera Club meeting.

“It is not always the camera that captures the best photo; it is the eye,” explained Jacob.

Brenda O’Brien, of Coventry, attended her first club meeting to learn from Jacob.

Following the meeting, she said, “I loved being around creative people and seeing people’s work to get inspired.”

Chad Scott, of Akron, also started attending meetings in September. His goal is to “stay motivated to use his camera over the wintertime,” he said.

From inspiring photographers to “capture simple things” to teaching them how to digitally change a picture, the Akron Camera Club is a valuable resource for all those seeking to achieve more with their photos, said Lange.

“The first step is pressing the shutter, then optimizing it is next. The sky is the limit when it comes to a photo. You can change it totally or just refine it,” added Ofstead.

At times, the club participates in regional displays of print works and even takes field trips to take pictures at interesting destinations, said longtime club member Bonnie Janelle.

The group’s most recent works were on display in 2019 at Western Reserve Hospital, said Oppenheim.

Only members of the Akron Camera Club may participate in displays, competitions, offsite meetings and reduced seminar fees, with the annual dues being $25, he said.

The current members enjoy coming together on a regular basis, and when they do, their joy of photography increases through every lecture, field trip and networking session with fellow photographers, said Oppenheim.

After joining the club, some amateurs advanced rapidly to become successful photographers, said Janelle.

“They come and all of a sudden blossom into some interesting areas of photography,” she said.

For example, one former club member now is a photographer for a successful food blog and another member has work on display at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, said Janelle.

The Akron Camera Club will meet next Oct. 9 to hear from presenter Jerry Jividen on photography competition judging and Oct. 23 to learn from photographer Dave Shoefelt on “developing a unique vision.”

To learn more about the group, visit www.akroncameraclub.org or the Akron Camera Club Facebook page. Those with questions regarding membership or another topic may email the club at info@akroncameraclub.org.