



Hello Valley Viewfinders Camera Club members,

As board members we really do listen to what our club members have to say and we have some exciting news to share with you all.

As our membership continues to grow, we find that we tend to repeat a lot of information year after year. To keep veteran members inspired while meeting the needs of fledgling photographers, we propose offering a means for veterans to educate and even mentor those searching for more knowledge as skills.

As you know, our club has monthly competitions in Print and EID (Electronic Image Display). We've had comments that the participants or winners always seem to be the same people over and over. When we asked our members what are some of the reasons for not entering images in the monthly competitions, many of them said that they don't feel their photographs are good enough. They have expressed more of a need for "Critiquing" of images or something to give them a better understanding of what makes a photograph good, or what "they" can do to make it better.

Our solution: **Valley Viewfinders Camera Club on Google+!** It's our first attempt at something like this and we need participants as well as experienced "Critiquers". We have set up a **PRIVATE COMMUNITY** page for our club members only, where we can share images and get constructive but honest feedback. It's difficult at every monthly meeting to set aside time to critique images that members bring in. So our hope is that by utilizing the VVCC Google+ community page for Image Critique, you can now receive feedback on your images anytime you need help or have questions. You will need to establish a google+ email (*gmail works, but then you need to activate your google+ page*). There is more to google+ than the community pages. It's also a great tool and one worth signing up for.

Once you have established or activated your google+ account, all you need to do is let [Helen \(Webmaster of VVCC\)](#) know that you would like to participate. You will be "invited" to the page via your email. You are then free to upload an image and let us know what you want to know about the image, and we will reply at our earliest convenience. **(It's always recommended that you resize your images before sharing or uploading online. If you need help with that, watch one of these [videos](#) to help you prepare them before uploading)**

This **community** is interactive. By interactive I mean...not only can we give you verbal steps to improve upon the existing image, but if you find you are still struggling with improvements, the "Critiquers" can download your image, apply changes or (edit) the image and then re-upload to the community so that you can see the before and after. Kind of an online classroom I guess you would say. Also anyone who is participating in this community can comment on or give their own feedback on the images.

Using Google+ for this interaction is a better option for our club then trying to accomplish the same thing on our website for many reasons. With our VVCC Google+ Page we even have instant access to the YouTube Videos we make for our club. Please Join Us.

Together We Can Inspire The World One Click At A Time