

## NECCC 2019

I was thrilled to be nominated as the Shutter-Buds 2019 recipient of the New England Camera Club Council (NECCC) Courtesy Enrollment. The Shutter-Buds and NECCC provided me with an extraordinary opportunity to attend the 74<sup>th</sup> annual conference.

Taking the advice of Carol Griffith and Sue Fenton, I signed up for an air-conditioned dorm, thank heaven!! College dorms have certainly changed since I attended college! I shared a four-bedroom suite with two other first-time attendees. Here I am Saturday night with my three roomies in the kitchen of our suite, planning an action-packed Sunday! One of the great parts of rooming with other photography enthusiasts - besides meeting new friends - was trading photography apps.



As a recipient of the Courtesy Enrollment, I had an early opportunity to sign up for photo workshops and guided photo walks. To prepare for the conference, I took several online Lightroom courses; basic knowledge of Lightroom and Photoshop helped me glean in-depth knowledge from the many sessions.

The conference was filled with expected events and unexpected surprises. I was delighted to attend fabulous sessions by noted photographers. One of my personal favorites was the session on Astrophotography by Peter Baumgarten. This resonated with me partially because of the Shutter-Buds moon challenge this year.

Here's my favorite shot so far this year of the images I've taken for the Shutter-Buds moon challenge; this shot was taken with my Nikon P900. While it's not a full moon shot, I was lucky enough to get a plane passing in front of the moon as I captured this image.



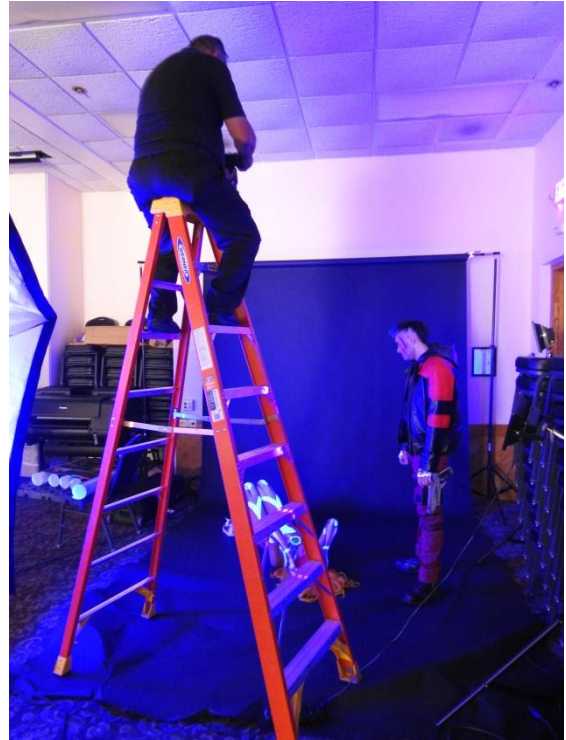
Bill Barnett evaluated this image as part of the 'Selecting & Improving Images for Composition' workshop. I was part of the fortunate group participating in this workshop. We learned as much from Bill's comments on other photographer's images as we did from his comments on our own images. Participants were generous in pointing out ways folks could improve their images. Definitely an inspiring, worthwhile session.

Precision Camera offered free camera and lens testing. Between the cleaning and informative discussions with Sigma and Nikon vendors, I'm poised to use my equipment more skillfully. The vendors were so gracious and helpful.

There were numerous photography tour vendors at this conference. One surprise: NECCC ran a bingo event; a kind of a scavenger hunt for all conference participants. I was lucky enough to win a prize – an October workshop with Road Runner Photography Tours.

There were numerous opportunities for still life and model shots. Friday night included a light painting session; cos play models were available Saturday and Sunday. The models were delightfully interactive and eager to pose. If you chose, you could spend nearly all of your time taking photos. Again, discussion

with conference participants helped folks fine-tune their shots. This was an incredibly fun learning experience.

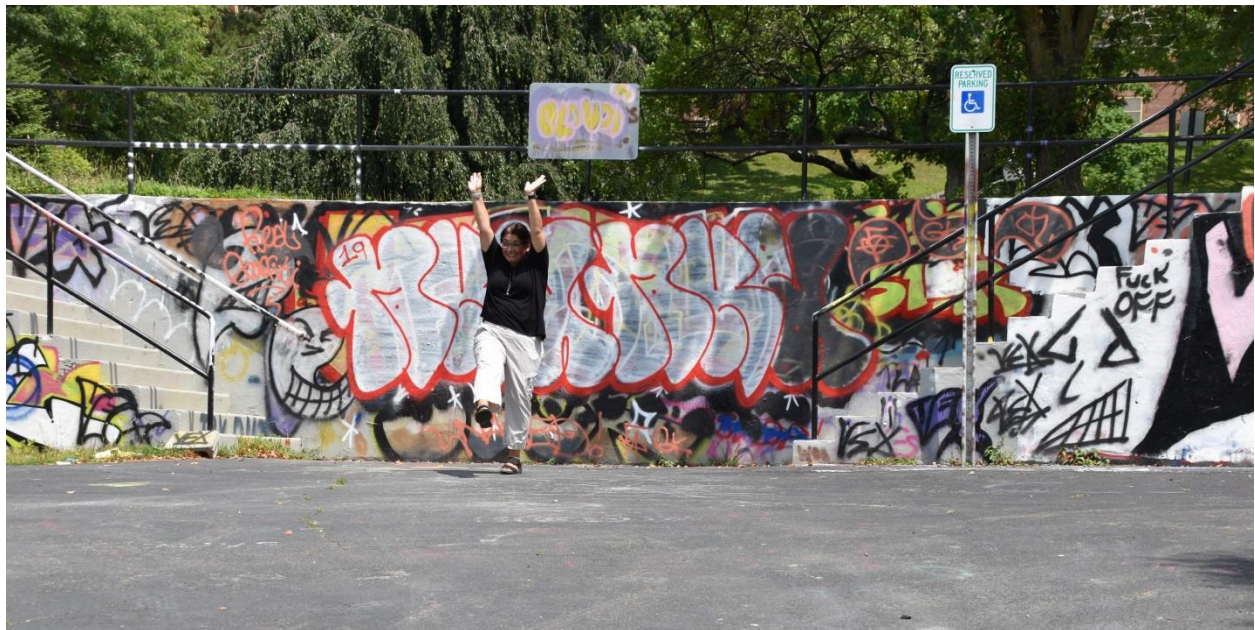


Nikon Ambassador Kristi Odom presented an inspiring keynote address on Saturday night at the Fine Arts Theater. She provided an amazing tour through her development as a photographer – and wove into her narrative how her photography impacted her life. The theater was packed. I had no idea just how many photographers were present on campus until Saturday night. Note for next year: when the crowd left the theater, we walked out into a mesmerizing Monet-like tableau, where the purple sunset glowed midst the fountains and bridges at the foot of the stairs. A truly serendipitous photo opportunity.



[conference photo posted to Facebook]

Sunday morning walks provided participants with an opportunity to see parts of the campus outside the conference halls. Some of my favorites: the graffiti wall, the Durfee Conservatory. Completely unexpected: a [sculpture of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles](#) in the W.E.B Du Bois library. Try to slot in time to explore the beautiful University of Massachusetts at Amhurst campus.





Mark your calendar now for next year –the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NECCC photography conference takes place July 17-19, 2020. You won't want to miss this special conference.