



RIDGEWOOD
CAMERA CLUB

RCC Member Survey

Results to help plan for next year



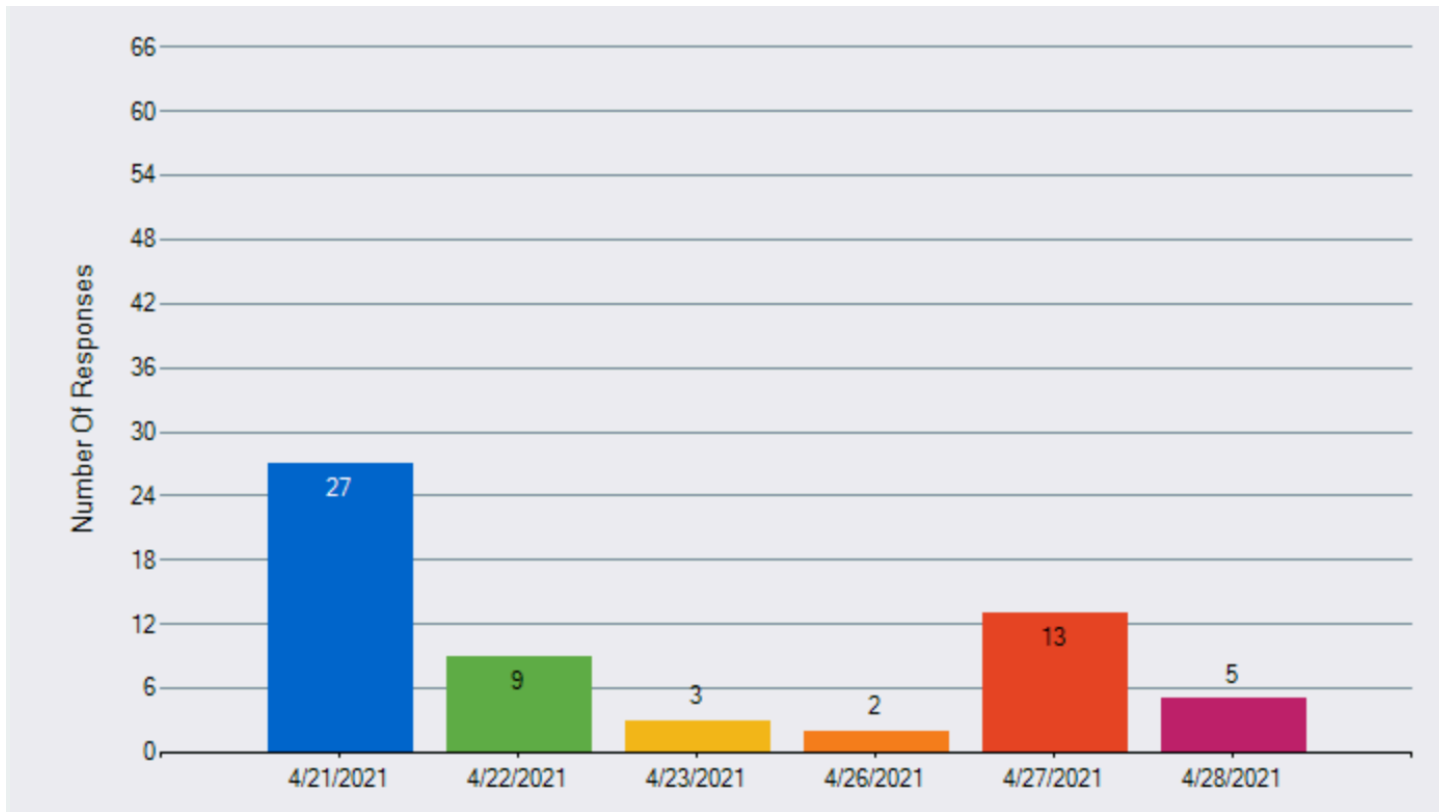
Purpose of the member survey

Based on general feedback from our town hall meeting there was a need to get more specific information.

- We created a member survey to:
 - Get a better understanding of who our members are
 - What are their professional backgrounds
 - What equipment they use
 - What would they like to see in future meetings
 - What trips can be planned for next year

Participation

Total membership = 105 Total Responses = 61



Background of members

Question 1&2: Name and what is your current/former profession

Our club has a wide range of professional expertise:

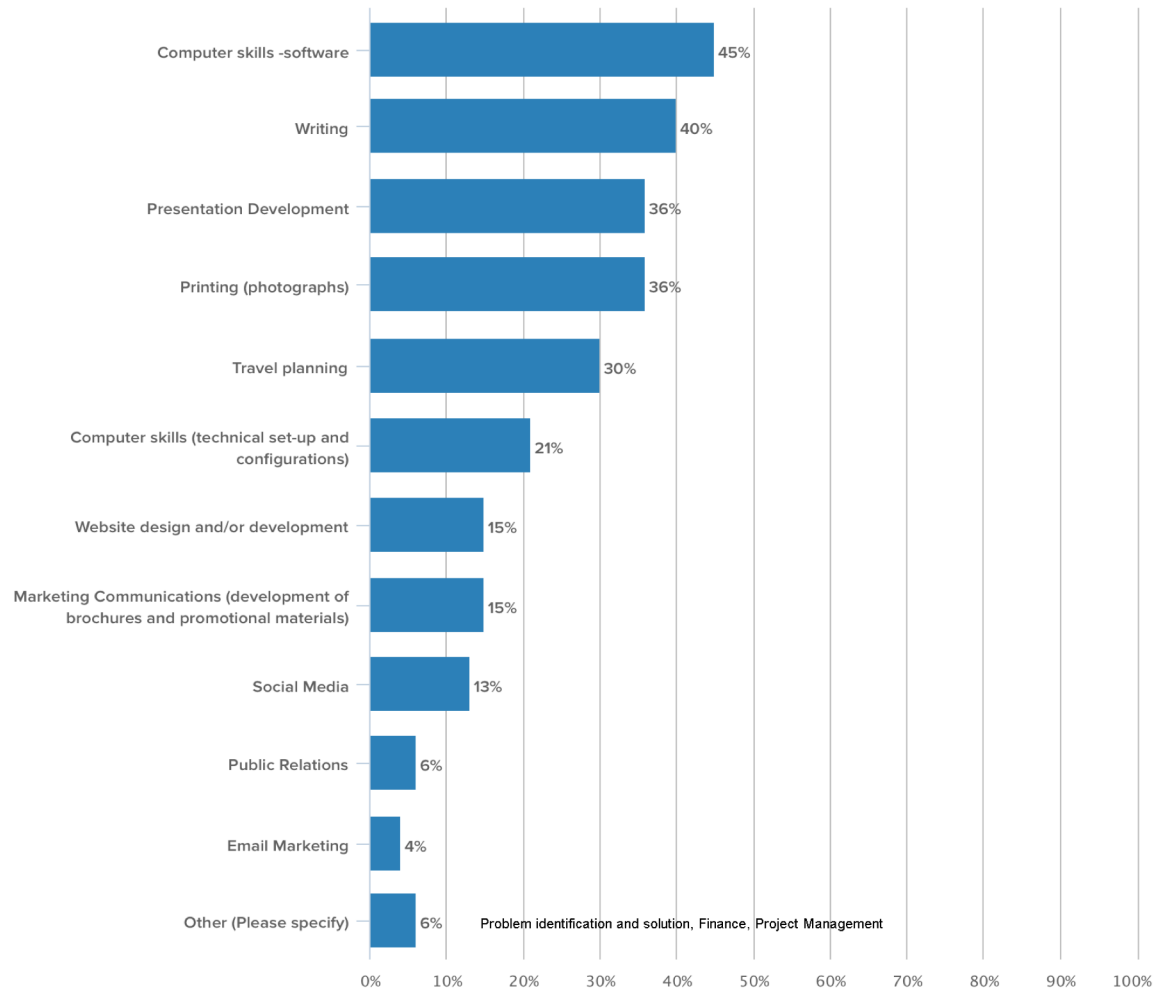
Education	Healthcare professionals
Finance	IT specialists
Engineering	Real estate
Marketing/communications	Advertising
Administration	Consulting

Many of our members are enjoying retirement too!

Background of members (continued)

Question 3: Do you have experience in:

(N = 60)





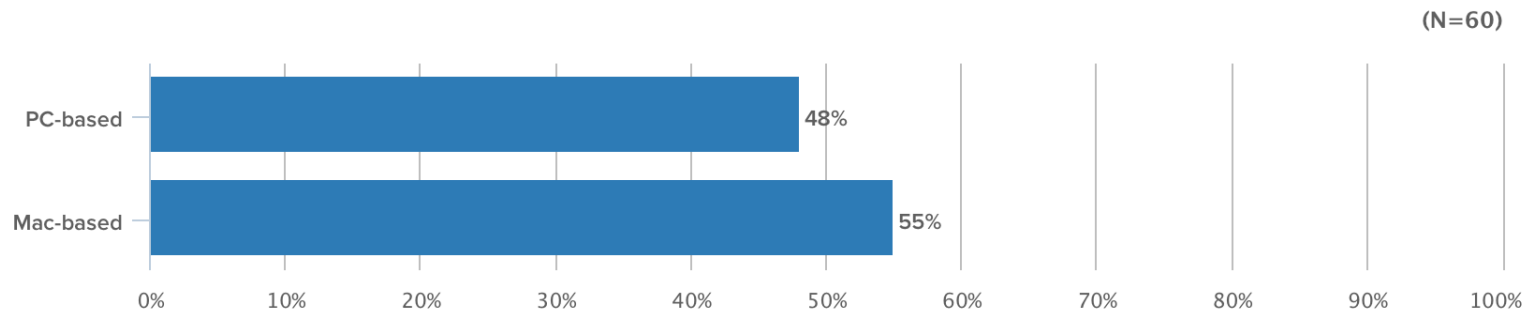
Background of members (continued)

Question 4: What are your hobbies and interests other than photography?



Background of members (continued)

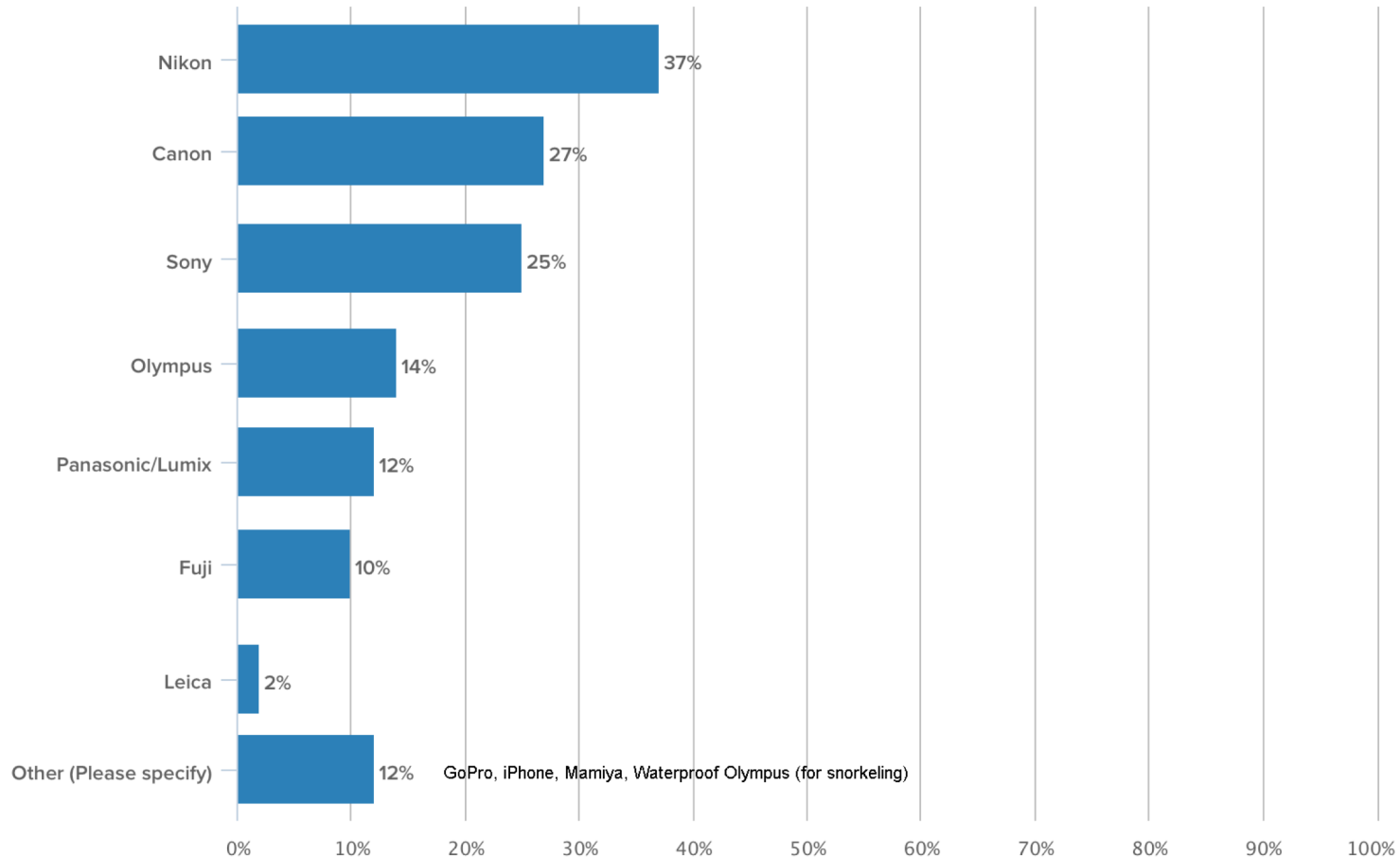
Question 5: What type of computer do you use?



Background of members (continued)

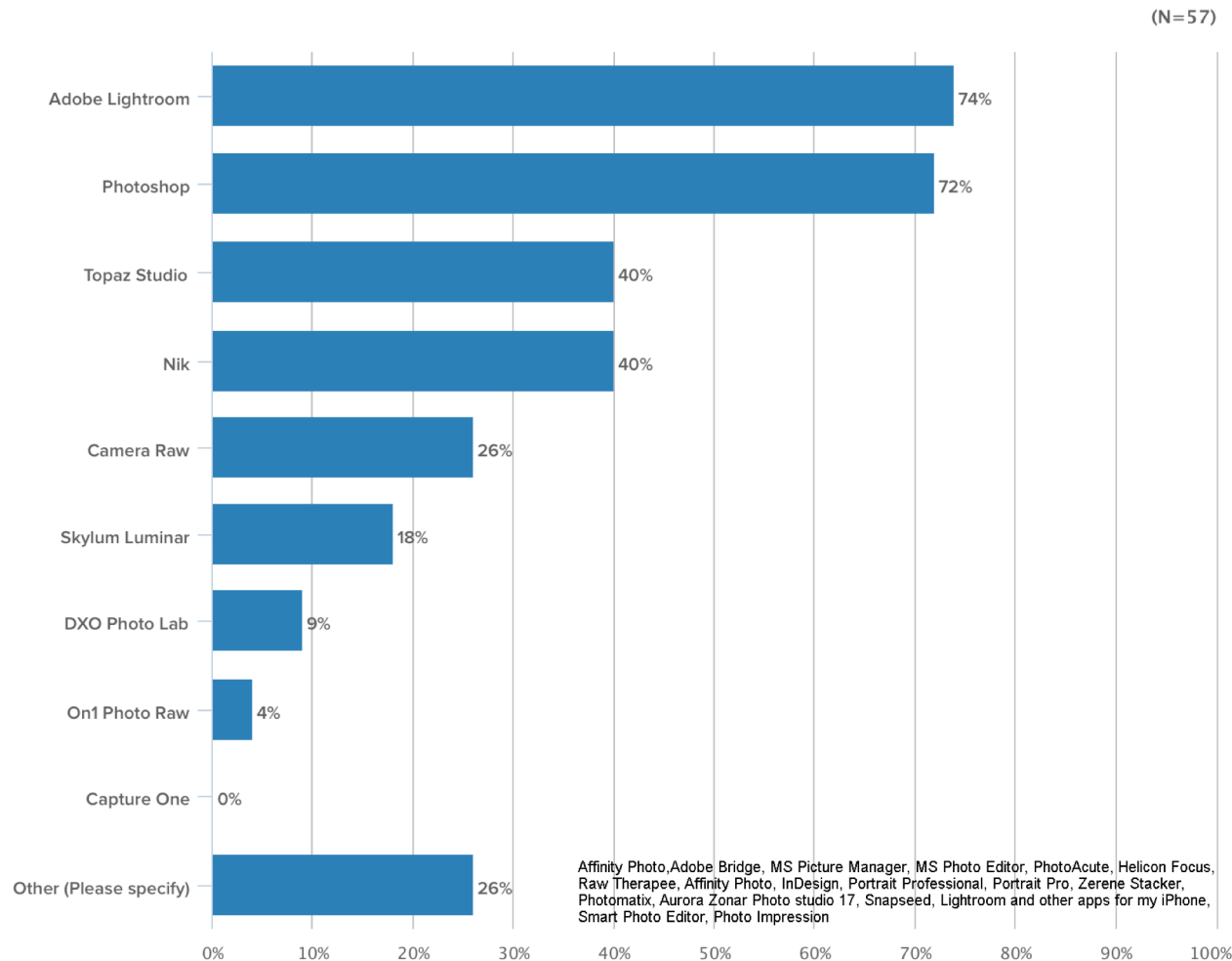
Question 6: What camera gear do you use?

(N=59)



Background of members (continued)

Question 7: What Software/Apps do you use for your Photography?



Planning for next year

Question 8: What types of Programs and Workshops would interest you?

Programs:

- Presentation on light, its quality and composition
- Presentation on Inspiration (that could be helpful)
- Where have you been photographing lately (short impromptu presentations by RCC members)
- Artistic (non-technical) aspects of photography
- Member travelogues
- Monthly assignments of a theme (e.g., a color or early architecture)

Planning for next year

Question 8: What types of Programs and Workshops would interest you?

More hands on workshops: (bold = multiple mentions)

- Birds in Flight
- Flowers
- Studio lighting/studio flash set-up
- Light painting
- **Portraits/posing** / head shots
- Action (auto, aircraft, outdoor sports)
- Nature scenes
- **Macro photography**/Telephoto
- Product photography
- **Street photography**
- **Night photography**
- Infrared
- Wildlife
- Landscapes

Planning for next year

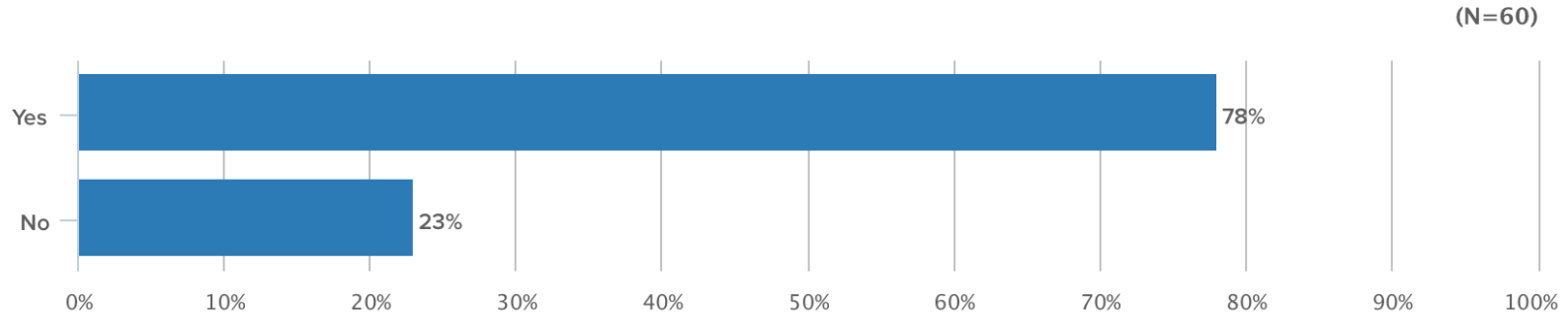
Question 8: What types of Programs and Workshops would interest you?

More hands on workshops: (bold = multiple mentions)

- **PHOTOSHOP/LIGHTROOM/GIMP**
- Examples of Photoshop workflows
- Photoshop Blend/Jane Kicks' lighting techniques
- Photoshop—layers, brushes, double exposure
- **How to format images for competition**
- How to process a Class A image
- How highly stylized images created by club members are brought about
- Technique development/Camera technique
- Compositing, in camera double exposures
- Photo stacking
- Technical: on-camera flash, homemade studio lighting, nuts and bolts of video formats/editing
- Preparing images for printing, including sharpening/color correction.
Printing/paper Fine Art Printing
- Would love to see some workshops on masking
- Making a composition of different photos into one
- Using a tripod
- **New equipment** /Gear reviews
- Video menu settings of a modern camera.

Planning for next year (continued)

Question 9: Would you be interested in overnight Field trips with less than 5 hours of driving, about 2-3 nights long and spanning over a weekend?



Planning for next year *(continued)*

Question 10: What ideas do you have for day fieldtrips or overnight fieldtrips?

Places to go close to home: (bold = multiple mentions)

Waterfalls in Pennsylvania

Delaware Water Gap

Sandy Hook

Coney Island

Ellis island

Cape May

North & South Forks of L.I.

Steamtown (Scranton PA)

Gorges of Ithaca NY

Litchfield County, CT

Always **NYC**

Jersey Shore

Sunflowers in August.

Air Show

Parades

Mohonk

Finger Lakes

Amateur baseball games

Large car show

Zoos (Bronx Zoo, Turtleback)

Thomas Edison museum

Caramoor Center for Music and Arts in Katonah, NY

Renaissance Faire

Sterling Forest (Tuxedo, NY) trail walk

Sterling Lake and old mine remains

Visit Brownstones in Harlem

Highpoint

Wolf Preserve

Planning for next year *(continued)*

Question 10: What ideas do you have for day fieldtrips or overnight fieldtrips?

Places to go overnight: (bold = multiple mentions)

National Parks

Cape Cod

Gorges of Ithaca NY

Eastman Museum (Rochester NY)

Washington DC

Philadelphia

Bucks County, PA,

Longwood Gardens over night.

Finger Lakes

Night photography (Cherry Springs Catskills)

Boston

Pennsylvania Covered Bridges

Maine - Puffins

New Harbor

Eastern Egg Rock

Newport, RI

Lenox, MA

Mystic Seaport

Olana in Greenport, NY (home of Hudson

River Valley painter Frederic Church)

Saratoga Springs

Revisit the old shoe factory in Maryland.

Newport

Stonecrop Gardens

Highpoint

Planning for next year (continued)

Question 10: What ideas do you have for day fieldtrips or overnight fieldtrips?

Places to go for extended time:

New Orleans

Iceland

Acadia

Maine

Lake Placid

Martha's Vineyard

Planning for next year *(continued)*

Question 11: What Assigned Subjects Competitions would you like to see?

Assigned subjects:(bold = multiple mentions)

Still life

Macro

Flowers

Something ugly presented beautifully

Infrared

Long Exposure

Light and Shadows

Street photograph in Black and White

Night Street Photography

The four elements (earth, fire, water, air)

Water works

Before and after

Steam/Smoke/Fog

Weather events

Rain (photos with clouds)

Reflections

Sepia

Architectural subjects/features

Machinery

Birds in Flight

Wildlife

Anything on a farm

Vehicles/ Cars/car parts

Forms of flight

"Old stuff" >100 yrs

Places of worship (Stained glass windows)

Windows and doors

Abandoned buildings

Portraiture (Head Shots)

Body parts (eyes, for example)

Family pet photos/funny pet photos

Young grand kids (with parents' permission)

Sun and/or moon rising and/or setting over
interesting landmarks

B&W

Perspective, cityscapes

Nightscape

Sports (action)

Bridges or crossings

Windows

Highway

Bokeh

Same image— day and night

Composites

Altered reality

Planning for next year (continued)

Question 12: Is there anything else that you would like to share with us?

Anything else ideas:

- Hands on subjects presented by BH Photo Event Space. Maybe on Zoom with Pro
- Eliminate single-judge competitions; do more member reviews
- **Yom Kippur begins at sundown on Wednesday, September 15**
- **Increase size of picture for competition from 1200 to 1920 pixels :)**
- Visiting anyone of the NYC Islands would be fun; such as Roosevelt, Governor's Island (beautiful this time of the year and closed during winter... schedule would need to be checked), maybe City Island, etc... These islands are filled with history for those that are interested along with its beauty
- I gather there are lots of places in NJ along the shore that would great before the summer season begins. For one Sandy Hook although I understand it does get crowded. Its very beautiful though and might be worth the trip off season
- Holiday Season Lights: Visiting Jones beach for their drive through of lights (they are lit toward the evening) and there is free parking (weather depend). Maybe there is another area that would be fun for the holidays... how about a trip to NYC early in December before the tourists (by then we'll be Covid free, I hope)
- Definitely a Sunflower field in season, really missed it this year. There are many farms in NJ
- **As a newer member, would appreciate more information about participation, even submitting photos**
- Scoring with .5 increments, like 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5, 9.0; Eliminate category restrictions

Planning for next year (continued)

Question 12: Is there anything else that you would like to share with us?

Quotes:

"I really enjoy this group and the knowledge and friendliness of the members"

"I love the RCC and appreciate everything it provides me to be a better photographer"

"Need to find a way to socialize"

"The club is great"

"I've really enjoyed having our meetings on Zoom & thanks to Ruth and everyone else!"

"I have enjoyed this past year's programs which have been excellent despite the pandemic restrictions"

"Zoom has been fine but looking forward to getting back to in-person meetings."

"I enjoy the RCC magazine - it gives members a showcase."

Conclusions

Action items:

- RCC has a **wide range of experience** between members
- Mac users (55%) vs. PC users (48%) shows virtually even
- Existing **Program/workshops** are well liked
- Add **additional Programs** with more instructive professionals that show techniques/tips
- More **hands on workshops** to address new members tutorials on competition entry, website navigation, preparation for print competition
- Encourage **more fieldtrips** and group participation as restrictions ease