

April
2026

St. Vrain Photographic Society Newsletter

Newsletter of the Longmont Camera Club

April Meeting

Join us for the SVPS club meeting.

Monday, April 6th

6:30 to 9:00 pm

United Church of Christ,
1500 9th Ave., Longmont
and on ZOOM

April Special & Challenge Categories

Special – *Birds*
Monthly Challenge –
ICM (Intentional Camera Movement) (Taken within 90 days)

May Awards Celebration

Saturday, May 16th

Note the date change

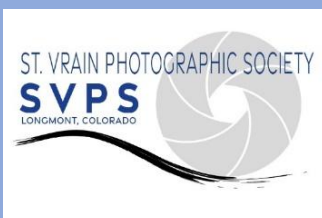
See below for more details



SVPS website:

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Beneath the Surface: An Introduction to Underwater Photography

By Thomas Falkowski

Ever wondered what it takes to bring a camera underwater? With 250+ dives and a Master Diver certification, our speaker shares his self-taught journey into one of photography's most challenging and rewarding disciplines. He'll cover the gear you need, the challenges of capturing images beneath the waves and the incredible variety of subjects waiting to be captured - from tiny macro critters to large pelagic animals. Guided by Cousteau's philosophy that we only protect what we love and understand, his mission is simple: to show the world what lies beneath the surface.



Thomas Falkowski is a photographer from Longmont, Colorado. He specializes in underwater, landscape, and travel photography. Photography has inspired him to travel to many new places in order to take photos while scuba diving, hiking, camping, and experiencing other cultures and countries.

Thomas' work has been published in Outdoor Photographer and Popular Photography magazines.



May 16th Awards Celebration

Our May 2026 meeting will be the Annual Awards Banquet. The club will cater the basics and request that members bring sides or desserts.

It will be in the church Fellowship Hall on May 16th from 6 to 8:30. Set-up begins ~5:30 pm.

The categories for the competition are: • **Scenic** – landscapes or cityscapes • **Animals** – wild or domestic • **Plants** - any type • **People** – doing anything, or portraits • **Reptiles, amphibians, or insects** • **Birds** • **Open** – ONLY for photos that can't fit in another category • **Creative** – Obviously manipulated • **B&W or monochrome**.

Members can submit up to 6 photos, but only 1 in each category. Submissions are due by April 18, uploaded to the Google Photo Album links. These dates are set, so we can get them to the judge for review and comments.

The photo submission rules are the same as the monthly showcase. Size: 2048 pixels on the longest side. **Title your photos: your assigned number-title.jpg.**

See you on April 6th

Congratulations Murth Murphy!



© Murth Murphy

Murth Murphy's photograph entitled "Flames" was published in the photography magazine Black and White. It was one of 10 photographs selected from 300 international entries in the category Digital Manipulation.



Tips for Intentional Camera Motion

- Use shutter priority or manual modes.
- Begin by moving the camera first, and then press the shutter button.
- Try using ISO 100 and then decide shutter speed knowing that the longer the exposure the more abstract and dreamier the images will be.
- Use a Neutral Density Filter to help control the light.
- Try moving your camera in different shapes (e.g. circles, straight line, zigzag, up and down, or even upside down).
- Consider including one recognizable image (with only slight blur) to help orient the viewer.

Sunrise Sunday

Just a reminder of Sunrise Sunday's Photo Gatherings, organized by Kevin Crafts. They meet Sunday after the monthly meeting at different locations around Longmont. If interested, contact Kevin Crafts.

Tim Laughlin's New Mexico Badlands Trip

April 16 – 19, 2026 subject to weather and other factors.

- Car camping near Ah-Shi-Sle-Pah and Bisti/De-Na-Zin, ending with car camping at Chaco Canyon.
 - Milky Way and Landscape photography with unique rock formations.
 - This is a wild area. Hotel/motel lodging is available 45 to 90 minutes away from photo shoot.
 - See details of itinerary email sent to members.
- If you are interested, contact Tim Laughlin.

SVPS 64th Anniversary (2026), to be held at Great Frame-Up (GFU)

- Tentative schedule: Sept 11th - Nov 6th.
- Opening night -- Friday Sept 11th, 5-8 pm.
- Opening night party – members only (and your *best* friend: aka your spouse, significant other, partner, your best friend) TBD: 3 or 4-5pm.
- Self-hang photo's on Weds & Thurs, Sept 9 -10.
- Breakdown Saturday Nov 7 or Monday Nov 9.
- No judging, no categories, no prizes; everyone gets a 2x4 section of board to use as they wish, post for sale or not, replace as you like.

Update on Showcase Photos

Monthly Challenge Category – Photos should be a challenge and taken within 90 days and not pulled from your archives.

April – ICM (Intentional Camera Movement)
September – Leading Lines

Special Category – Photos should try to reflect the topic of the previous meeting's speaker. Special and Open photos can be pulled from your archives.

We want to hear the "why" you took your photo, but remember, we only have about a minute per photo for an explanation. Ask for a critique if that is what you prefer.

Photo Submission Rules

(Submit only if you plan to attend the meeting)

1. Prepare photos. Name all submissions with your first name + last name and title of the photo. Example. Leslie Larson-Bear.jpg
2. Size photos. Resize photos to 2048 pixels on the longer side. Photos - no larger than 5MB and in .jpg format.
3. Tim will send an email each month with three links. 1) Special topic, 2) Challenge topic, and 3) Open. You may enter only **three total photos**.
4. Enter photos (drag and drop) into the correct SVPS link sent out before the meeting every month.
Deadline: 11:30 pm Sunday before the following Monday meeting to send in your submissions. Let Kevin know if, for any reason, you don't want your photos to be displayed on our website: go-SVPS.com.