

JAN
2026

St. Vrain Photographic Society Newsletter

Newsletter of the Longmont Camera Club

January Meeting

Join us for the SVPS club meeting.

Monday, Jan 5th

6:30 to 9:00 pm

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

Jan Special & Challenge Categories

Special – *A Favorite photo, reflecting your vision*

Monthly Challenge – *Holiday*

Feb Meeting Monday, Feb 2

Jeff Johnson

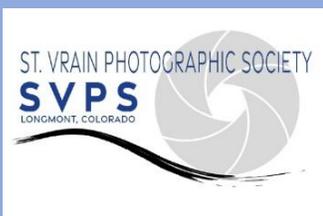
Old Cars / West Coast
Landscapes

Special – *Personal Bucket List Photo*

Monthly Challenge – *Minimalist*

SVPS website:

go-svps.com



JANUARY PROGRAM

Where Light Leads: A Life in Photographs



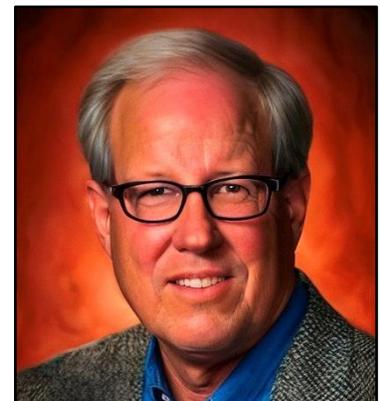
Where Light Leads: A Life in Photographs

My very first published photo wasn't a mountain at sunrise—it was a blurry shot of the homecoming court under fluorescent gym lights.

Photography has always been more than pressing a shutter—it's about listening to what a place or a moment is trying to say. My story began in the bustle of a high school hallway, where I first learned how to frame not just faces, but feelings. The instinct for storytelling carried me beyond the yearbook pages, into sweeping landscapes of the American West (and beyond). They became my new storytellers. I'll take you on that journey—sharing not only how I grew as a photographer, but also the behind-the-scenes stories of how and where my favorite images came to life.



Mark A. Payler is a practicing Colorado landscape, street, and travel photographer with over 5 decades of photography and teaching experience. Mark is presently teaching photography courses at the University of Denver and gives camera presentations throughout the greater Denver area. Mr. Payler's current photo projects include photographing musical performances for Denver's premier jazz club, creating a photographic gallery experience at a new bank location on Pearl Street Mall in Boulder, as well as experimenting with in-camera and post-production generative and AI techniques.



See you on Jan 5th

NEW MEETING LOCATION

Per members request, we are moving back to the Fireside Room. We still enter on the north side of the building, however, use the west door instead of the east door. (The door closer to the mountains.) This move should improve the lighting, acoustics, and the **temperature**.

Update on Showcase Photos

Monthly Challenge Category – Photos should be a challenge and taken within a designated time frame and not pulled from your archives. We will discuss the time frame at the January meeting.

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.



New Officers

Co-Presidents – Reed James and Kevin Crafts
Vice President – Tom Falkowski
Secretary – Clare Curtin
Treasurer – Leslie Larson
Members at Large – Tim Laughlin, Michael Cohan

Additional Coordination

Web Site Monitor – Kevin Crafts
Showcase Organizer – Michael Cohan
Field Trip Planning – Tim Laughlin

2026 Dues

Dues have been raised for 2026 and are now \$45/individual and \$70/family. Dues must be paid by the end of January. Bring cash or check to a meeting or mail to Leslie Larson at PO Box 4, Lyons, CO 80540.



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. Reed 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.