



**NEXT MEETING:** For the health and safety of all members, the **April meeting has been CANCELLED.**

**LOCATION:** First United Congregational Church of Christ ♦ 1500 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, Longmont, CO 80501 (*the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Francis -enter from the Northwest door*) ♦ Fireside Room.

**TIME:** 6:30 to 9 pm

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# ST VRAIN PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April, 2020

*WELCOME!*

members, *new* members, and guests

## President's Message

Have you ever been in an Art Show, or otherwise exhibited your photos? I am in the process of entering three photos in the Longmont Artists' Guild (LAG) show. There is something about having my art on display that touches me! I recall my first show, where I got a name badge with my name and ARTIST. I had not thought of myself being worthy of the title! I still have the badge.

I love the first night of the show, the artists' reception, when the artists gather for wine and cheese, and show each other and visitors their creations. I know most of the artists in the LAG and it is always fun to talk with them. Chatting about their works and seeing their creativity, and sharing my photos with them is fun. I have had similar experiences when I have been in art shows where I know no one!

Greg Holden was going to speak this month on What Judges Look For. (*Since the April meeting has been cancelled, perhaps we can get this topic back on the program agenda going forward*) I am very interested in that, and have experienced very different reactions by separate judges. One time, a photo will be awarded a ribbon. Another time, with another judge, the same photo will be passed over. I often have tried to speak with the judge after judging to get feedback on my work, and all of them have been kind and offered suggestions.

I have won a few times, but not been recognized more often. Because of my experiences with inconsistent judging, I no longer take it personally. I enjoy the show, whether I win an award or not. I like to look carefully at the winners and try and see what pleases the judge, and if it appeals to me. I also have gone to the judge's website before the competition to see if they have anything that is similar to what is in my library. However, the result for me has been to photograph what appeals to me, and not try to anticipate what a judge might like.

~ continued on page 2

## HELPFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION

**Email:**

[stvrainphoto@gmail.com](mailto:stvrainphoto@gmail.com)

**Club Website:**

[www.go-svps.com](http://www.go-svps.com)

**Affiliations:**



### 2020 SVPS Board

**President:**

Cliff DeJong

[cliffdejong@gmail.com](mailto:cliffdejong@gmail.com)

**Vice-President:**

Greg Holden

[gholden@imagesunderfoot.com](mailto:gholden@imagesunderfoot.com)

**Secretary:**

Darcy Johnson

[johnsonda111@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonda111@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:**

Jack Cornils

[jcc55@frii.com](mailto:jcc55@frii.com)

**DEADLINE for the May NEWSLETTER - April 17**

Email news items to:

Darcy Johnson

[johnsonda111@gmail.com](mailto:johnsonda111@gmail.com)

### ~ *President's Message continued from Page 1*

My photographic journey started with an emphasis on technical issues, such as exposure and focus. It was pretty easy to understand because of my training in technical fields. The artistic side was much more difficult for me, and I am still learning. Art shows, and our photos at the club, have taught me a lot about that aspect.

We have opened up the Annual Competition, with entries due at our May meeting. Information is later in this newsletter. I hope you will enter this year, and enjoy your art along with the art of other members. The centerpiece of our June meeting is your art, and I look forward to seeing it. I would encourage you to enter prints of your work – there is no experience like seeing your photos on display!!

**Cliff DeJong**  
SVPS President



Once Upon A Time ♦ Robert Daugherty

### **SVPS Meetings/Events**

As of this writing, the **April member's meeting has been CANCELLED.** The May meeting is scheduled to occur as planned. The health and safety of SVPS members is of primary importance to the SVPS Board. Should the Board choose to cancel other meetings and/or events due to the current Coronavirus Pandemic, an email to all members will be distributed at least one week in advance. The newsletter, Facebook and Meet-up sites will also be updated as appropriate.

## 2020 Remaining PROGRAM SCHEDULE and PHOTO TOPICS

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**May 4 -** Program: **Sports Photography and Noir (B&W)**  
Speaker - **Beth Buglione**

Photo Submission: Special - **Hi-key**  
Challenge - **Low-key**

**June:** Annual Pot-Luck and Awards Ceremony  
Annual Competition Show and Results

**September:** Summer Show & Tell Photos  
Special - Butterflies  
Challenge - Portrait

**October:** Max Seigel, National Geographic photographer and  
Linblad Expedition Leader  
Special - Action  
Challenge - Water's edge/Shorelines

**November:** Rob Lantz, "Winterscapes"  
Special - Clouds  
Challenge - Soft Focus

**December:** Elections and Holiday Party  
Special - Frozen  
Challenge - Panorama



Coming At You ♦ Cliff DeJong



Longs & Meeker ♦ Jim Bell

## What's in Your Bag? ♦ Photo Filters

By Cliff DeJong

There are several different types of photo filters. The most common is a filter that screws onto your lens. There are also filters that drop into a slot at the back of your lens, and square filters that fasten to the front of your lens and allow the filter insert to move up and down. I use only the screw on type and have four filters.

My most frequently used filter is a Neutral Density (ND) filter with 10 stops. Greg talked about this filter in depth in the February newsletter. The primary purpose of this filter is to force you to use a much slower shutter speed, thereby smoothing water flow or even moving clouds. I also use a Polarizing Filter to improve the contrast between clouds and sky, and to increase saturation overall. It will also reduce glare and reflections off specular surfaces, like water. The average light loss with a polarizing filter is about 2 stops, so it can work as a mini-ND filter as well.

I have a UV filter that offers protection for the lens and will somewhat reduce haze. A new filter I just got and haven't tried yet is a Clear Night filter that reduces man made light but allows star light to pass without change.

Another common filter for landscape is a Graduated ND filter that is dark at the top and gradually (or sharply) fades to no filter at the bottom. It is useful for times when the sky is bright and the landscape is in shadow. There are also Close Up filters, Cooling and Warming filters, and filters that change the look of a black and white photo and other specialized filters, such as one that makes all the lights in your scene look like star bursts.

I use Photoshop frequently and the only filter effects that I cannot simulate in software are ND long exposure, Polarizing Filter glare reduction, and the light filtering of the Clear Night filter. For example, I don't use a Graduated ND filter for a bright sky and darker landscape because that filter is available in Adobe Camera RAW, and works well with a 14 bit RAW file. An alternative to this is HDR. Photoshop will also convert your color photo to black and white using any color filter you want, and will allow you to color correct any scene to the right white balance. There is more flexibility when mimicking a filter in software, and any filter will require you to increase your exposure. However, the use of filters offers better results than software in most cases. Of course, any filters that you use must be of good quality, or they will impact your photo negatively.

Any screw on filter must be the same size as your lens diameter. With multiple lenses, you can either buy multiple filters or use a step down/step up adapter. I bought my ND and Polarizing filters for use on my 24-105 lens with a 77 mm diameter. I replaced that lens with an 82 mm diameter 24-70. Since I seldom use either filter, I didn't buy new filters but bought a much cheaper step down ring to put a 77 mm filter on an 82 mm lens. That is not ideal and the edges of my images with these are slightly affected. Most of the time I cannot see it; other times, I can crop slightly.



***This is the fourth article in this series that was started by Greg Holden. It is his hope other club members will volunteer to write an article for the series as Cliff DeJong has done and share their favorite accessory. If you have an idea, talk to Greg at the next meeting.***

**Photo Opportunity**  
**Dancing Up The Sun**  
 By Sallie Sprague

Maroon Bells Morris will be performing traditional English Morris dances at sunrise on May Morning, May 1<sup>st</sup> or May Day from about 5:30 to 6:30 am. They will dance the sun up regardless of the weather, and will dance longer after that if the weather is good.

The dancers wear bells and ribbons which help attract a crowd. In the old folklore, the dances were performed by a local Morris group in the spring for the farmers in the Cotswold region of England - to wake up the earth, bring good weather for growing crops, drive away evil spirits, anything to promote a good harvest.

This year dancing will be in the parking lot on the east side of Grace Place in Berthoud, just east of Hwy 287. Exit toward Berthoud at the light onto Mountain Avenue, then take the first right to Meadowlark Drive. You should see dancers in the parking lot almost at the end of Meadowlark.



You can find more information and pictures at [www.maroonbellsmorris.org](http://www.maroonbellsmorris.org) For questions, contact Sallie at [saspra@earthlink.net](mailto:saspra@earthlink.net)

**SVPS 2020 Field Trips ♦ Colorado Railroad Museum**  
**Saturday April 18th 9am-Noon**

Greg Holden will lead a club field trip to the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden. Museum entry fee is \$10 per person for the entire day. Meet at the entrance to the museum at 9 am. You will be free to explore the Museum's 15-acre railyard with over 100 narrow and standard gauge steam and diesel locomotives, passenger cars, and cabooses. Other than the museum in the depot building, everything is outside. Prepare for the weather that day. **Tripods are allowed.** We will be there during their regular public hours and will not have special access.

There will be no formal instruction given. If you would like some help in your compositions or macro photography techniques, Greg is willing to answer questions. Please email Greg to let him know you are attending and if you have questions: [gholden@imagesunderfoot.com](mailto:gholden@imagesunderfoot.com) The museum is about a 1-hour drive from Longmont, so if you are interested in carpooling, please mention that when you email Greg so he can organize.

## SVPS 2019-20 Annual Competition

The SVPS 2019-2020 annual competition including awards and potluck will be held on Saturday, **June 6, 2020** in the Fellowship Hall at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 9th & Francis Streets in Longmont. We will start at 5:00 pm with a brief meeting at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6:00 pm.

You must be a member of SVPS to enter this competition. NO date restrictions on photo entries.

***Judging will be done by PSA, so all photos, including print entries, must be provided as digital images.***

Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mention, when warranted, in each category and one Best of Show overall. Entries may be either color or monochrome, digital or print.

**Deadline for print AND digital entries:  
Monday, May 4, 2020 @ SVPS Meeting**

Members may submit one print or digital photo for any of the following categories for a total of 6 entries. Please use the photo categories below and follow the guidelines. All photos submitted in Category #1-11 must be realistic images with no obvious processing manipulation. Category #12 is the category for creative images that have been obviously manipulated. **All photos, including print entries, must be submitted as digital files as a usual PSA competition.** Prints shall be delivered at the SVPS May meeting.

### Realistic Images:

1. Landscape/Cityscape/Scenic - Location may be noted on the front
2. Birds - Wild or domestic
3. Mammals - Wild or domestic
4. Reptiles, Amphibians, Insects and other Wildlife
5. Nature - Other than wildlife
6. Plants - Wild or domestic
7. People - Individual or group
8. Action/Sports - Human or otherwise
9. Seasons - Nature's cycles, holidays
10. Open - Subjects that don't fit into any other category
11. Your Favorite Place in Colorado

### Creative Images:

12. Photo Art/Creative - Obvious creative manipulation. Anything goes, but tell us what you did (on the back).

### Restrictions -

1. Entries must not have been previously judged at a SVPS Annual Competition.
2. Entries must not consist entirely of another photograph, painting or other art.
3. Subject matter of entries must be appropriate for family friendly viewing.
4. Judging is closed to the membership.
5. Each exhibitor's photo entries must be his/her own camera work, and any digital manipulation of images or additions to images must also be his/her original photography.

### PRINTS

Entry Size - Print size minimum: 8"x10" print mounted on a firm backing with a mat no smaller than 10"x12." Print size maximum: 14" in the longer dimension, including mat.

~ continued on Page 6

~ **Annual Competition continued from Page 5**

Mounting - Prints must NOT have any hangers, glass, plastic, or frames. Prints must be mounted on mat board or firm backing, not construction paper.

Exhibitor Information - No exhibitor information is allowed ON THE FRONT of the exhibit. The BACK of each entry must contain the following information: Category # and Name, Exhibitor's Name and Phone No., Title of Print

*Digital copies of each entry must also be provided, since we are using PSA to judge the competition.*

**DIGITAL**

Photo size - 2048 pixels in the larger dimension. Photos are to be entered via Visual Pursuits, similar to our monthly photo submissions. The title should not include the photographer's name or the category number. Naming convention for digital entries is simply [title].jpg.

Example: Lock Ness Monster.jpg

After you have submitted your photos, please verify the photos are in the correct category (1-12).



Chiuly Glass Boat Reflection ♦ Barb Roper

## 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual PSA Photo Festival

The 2020 PSA Photo Festival will be held in Colorado Springs from September 30 to October 3, 2020. **Registration will open on April 1, 2020 and can be made without payment** at this time. Register early to reserve your spot on your favorite photo tour and take advantage of the early bird discount. You can find more information about the festival at <https://psa-photo.org/photo-festival-2020>



Photographic Society of America (PSA)

**PSA Projected Image Division (PID) Interclub Competitions Update**

By Todd Towell

Congratulations to Cliff DeJong. His image, Thieves, received an award in round 2 of the 2019-2020 contest. Our cumulative club score for the year to date (rounds 1 & 2) is 111. The highest scoring club has 129. There are 27 clubs in our group. The scores for our round 2 submissions were:

Thieves - 13 - Award

Island in the Snow - 7 - we will resubmit, this image was incorrectly sized too small.

Jason - 9

Navajo man - 9

Navajo Spirit Dancer - 9

Osprey - 9

**Refer to the PSA Scoring System, the criteria for judging, in the February 2020 newsletter.**

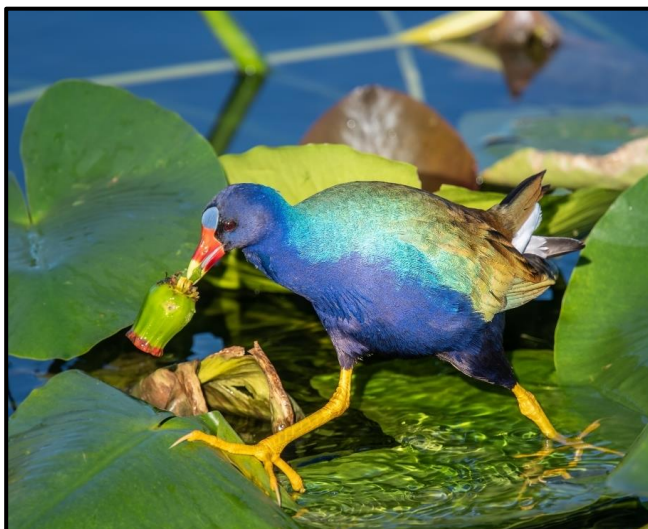
**The next PSA PID competition deadline is April 15th.** Please submit a maximum of three (3) images for consideration via the Visual Pursuits website. Please use the SVPS PID Entries competition. **Entries must be uploaded by APRIL 5th. Members present at the April 6th meeting will vote by ballot on their top six (6) choices. The six images from six different photographers with the most votes will be submitted for the PSA Round 3 competition.**

**REMINDER:**

Photos are restricted to the following criteria: **Horizontal images will be no more than 1400 pixels wide or 1050 pixels tall. Vertical images will be no more than 1050 pixels tall.** Save the file in jpeg format only. Unless your image proportions are in the exact ratio of 4 to 3, one of these dimensions will be less than the maximum. The images will be projected as received, as long as not over the maximum. (There are no file size restrictions.) sRGB color space is recommended for optimum results. File name restrictions are only those that are designated on the entry web page.



**Cart Wheel  
Kamen Guentchev**



**Galinule In Its Element  
Vicki Braunagel**



# PSA Inter-Club Pictorial Print Division Update

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By Elaine Hoffman

Due to the current pandemic and isolation requirements for much of the country and world, **PSA has suspended the next round of the Inter-club Pictorial Print Division (PPD) contest.** I'll be printing off and entering photos for Round 3 and a make-up set for Round 2 when it's officially back on.

For the PPD contest, the following rules apply:

- There are **5 categories of prints**
- **Large Color and Large Monochrome** - prints range from 11x14 to 16x20
- **Small Color and Small Monochrome** - prints range from 5x7 to 8.5x12
- **Creative Altered Reality** - prints range from 5x7 to 16x20 and can be in color or monochrome
- **Definition of Monochrome** is an image only if it gives the impression of having no color. I.e. it only contains shades of gray and pure black and pure white OR gives the impression of being a gray-scale image that has been toned in one color across the entire range such as sepia, red, gold, blue, etc. Photos that have partial toning or spot coloring do not count as monochrome.
- **Creative Altered Reality (CAR) prints** must be entirely the work of the maker so inclusion of third party photographic work is not allowed from any source. All parts of the image must originate as photographs, so clip art, text, graphics, etc. are not allowed as well.
- An **image submitted to both color and mono classes** must have the same title but no image may be entered in more than one section of the same round. If you have a photo that works as both color and monochrome, I can enter them both but not in the same round.
- **Within a category, each of the four (4) prints entered must be by four (4) different photographers.** The same maker may enter one print each in multiple categories. This means we can submit up to 20 photographs each round from a minimum of 4 photographers (if each one submitted 5 photos, 1 for each category) or a maximum of 20 photographers.
- **The image must be entirely the work of the photographer.** The print may be made by any photographic process such as digital printer, darkroom, or made commercially.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Print titles which have been entered in an PPD-Interclub competition are not eligible to be entered in another PPD Interclub competition during the same competition year. Prints which have received a 1st, 2nd, 3rd or HM award are not ever eligible to be entered in any subsequent PPD Interclub competition in any category.

**PRINTING PROCESS:** All prints must have originated and be printed by any photographic process, personal or commercial. Non-photographic printing processes such as lithograph, serigraph or silk-screening processes are not permitted. A photograph of any non-photographic image is considered not to have originated as a photographic image and is prohibited. Examples are photographs of art work and computer graphics.

~ **Continued on Page 10**

Unmounted prints are preferred, but prints may be mounted or un-mounted. Mounted prints must be flush mounted [*the mount cannot be wider than the print*]. Matted prints are prohibited. It's easier to ship the photos if all are unmounted. They're shipped flat to the club that's doing the judging for that round. Photos may be returned if requested, but SVPS would need to include postage and return shipping. In most cases, SVPS is not planning on having photos returned. If a photographer wants theirs (if you printed it) please let Elaine know when they are submitted. Winning photos are displayed at the PSA annual festival in a huge gallery and it's really quite something to experience.

PSA encourages clubs to not skip any rounds, but sometimes that is inevitable. We missed Round 1 & 2 this year due to the change in coordinators, but clubs are allowed to submit make-up prints for one round, which I'll do when Round 3 is announced.

Every couple of years, clubs are required to do the judging of the prints for a round. There is no indication on when SVPS will be asked to do this, but probably not for several years.

In order to print the best possible photographs, send the full size photo files (preferably in .jpg) to print them using my home printers. Continue to send to Elaine's email at [elaine@gokiridesigns.com](mailto:elaine@gokiridesigns.com) any photos that you'd like to enter into the contest. We're a little low on the monochrome and CAR categories, so those would be especially welcome. I continue to monitor the photos in the Visual Pursuits site and will be reaching out to ask for submissions, but if you have photos (like me!) hanging about on your computer, please feel free to send those to me. Also, feel free to decline any request that I make of you. Everyone does have to fill out a PSA permission form stating that you own the photo. If you want to print your photos, that's great, just keep in mind the size limitations.

Thanks to everyone who has submitted photos. I'll keep the club posted on updates as they happen.

## **SVPS Boulder County Fair Open Photography Project 2020**

The Boulder County Fair's 2020 Open Photography Project is scheduled for **July 31 to August 9**. For **over 50 years**, the club has been the sponsor of the open photo competition. As usual, the club will need lots of member support to make it run efficiently - someone to monitor the exhibit during the hours the display is open, about 10 days, and people to help with check-in, judging and takedown of the entries. **Volunteers are needed!** Please consider signing up to help with our sponsorship of this important event.

Online sign-up is now available at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b4da9ac2dabfd0-boulder>.

If you need more information on volunteering for this event, see us at a meeting or send an email at [johnroper2@comcast.net](mailto:johnroper2@comcast.net) , or [barbroper@prodigy.net](mailto:barbroper@prodigy.net).

**You'll be able to enter photos** at <http://www.bouldercountyfair.org/> beginning May 1. The entry deadline is July 22.



## What Judges Look For - A Checklist

By Greg Holden

Since we are unable to meet in April, I wanted to provide you a checklist of what I use when judging photography competitions to help in your image selection for the year-end competitions. Every judge has their biases and some of these items may have more or less "weight" in their judging. I have ordered the main topics in my level of importance.

- Impact / "Wow Factor"
  - Uniqueness of subject, creativity, difficulty in obtaining shot
  - Do I want to know more or am I confused?
- Lighting
  - Does the light compliment the subject or mood of the photo?
  - Do highlights and shadows help or hurt the image?
- Composition
  - Planned/thought-out versus "grab shot"
  - Intent - where do my eyes travel to?
  - Is the intended subject obvious?
  - Distracting background, poles or trees?
  - Black Holes that draw your attention away?
  - Poor intersections / Mergers / Corners
  - Cropping - are there extraneous elements?
- Technical / Editing
  - Sharpness where it needs to be (e.g., eyes of animal)
  - Depth of Field / focal length enhance the image?
  - Overexposed white feathers or blown-out clouds?
  - Poor edits visible?
  - Ghosting around edges from HDR or masking (e.g., sky replacement)
  - Is that Photoshop / Topaz creative filter adding to the photo or too kitschy?
- Presentation and Adherence to the Theme
  - Do you really need that thin white / black line around your image?
  - Quality of print, well cut mat, etc.
  - Adherence to Theme: Could I guess the theme/category by looking at the image?



Cloud Throne  
Catherine Cook

“There are no bad pictures; that’s just how your face looks sometimes.”

~ *Abraham Lincoln*

### Visual Pursuits

If you need any assistance in setting up your Visual Pursuits account, contact Elaine Hoffman directly at [elaine@gokiridesigns.com](mailto:elaine@gokiridesigns.com).



Safe or Out ♦ John Roper

## Photo Submission Rules

No more than a total of **four** digital images may be entered in the following categories:

- Special Topic of the Month (0-1 image)
- Challenge Topic (0-1 image)
- Open category (0-2 images)
- Creative (0-1 image)

**New members are encouraged to enter photographs.**

Digital image files should be no larger than 2048 pixels in the greater dimension and should be submitted as a .JPG and **submit through your own Visual Pursuits account by Sunday prior to the meeting at 5 pm. NO late entries.**

**No digital entries will be accepted at the club meeting.**

Please submit photos each month only after receipt of the newsletter in case there are changes to the category definitions or where to send photos.

File Type: Submit .JPG files only

- Photo title (blank spaces are allowed)
- Photographer’s name (blank spaces are allowed)
- Category CODE: (SPEC for Special, CHAL for Challenge, OPEN for Open, and CREA for Creative)

**General example:** [Title]-[Photographer]-[Category].jpg  
**Specific example:** Bridal Veil Falls-Ansel Adams-OPEN.jpg