

ST VRAIN PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

December, 2021



HELPFUL LINKS AND
INFORMATION

Email:

svpscameraclub@gmail.com

Club Website:

www.go-svps.com

Affiliations:



2021 SVPS Board

President:

Greg Holden
gholden@imagesunderfoot.com

Vice-President:

Claudia Courtney
ccourtney59@gmail.com

Secretary:

Darcy Johnson
johnsonda111@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Leslie Larson
ll.cvc1@gmail.com

DEADLINE for the DECEMBER'S NEWSLETTER – Wednesday, December 8. Email photos and news items to: Darcy Johnson at johnsonda111@gmail.com

◆ Cover Photo ◆
Leafy Seadragon
Nancy Loving



NEXT MEETING: The next Member meeting will be held **ONLINE** on Monday, December 6. Look for more information on Page 4.

In-person meetings are held at the First United Congregational Church of Christ ♦ 1500 9th Ave, Longmont, CO 80501 (*the corner of 9th and Francis - enter from the Northwest door*) ♦ Fireside Room.

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	3
Program Schedule / Showcase Topics & Deadlines / Key Events	4
Volunteers Needed and Volunteer Contacts	6
Failure Rates? Keeper Rates? Feature article by David duChemin	8
November Board Meeting Summary	11
PSA PID Interclub Competition	13
Treasurer's Report & Membership Renewal	15
PSA Release Form, PSA Note & Visual Pursuits	17
Good News! & Handling Club Issues/Concerns	18
Monthly Photo Showcase Submission Rules	19

WELCOME!

members, *new* members, guests



President's Message

At the end of each year, I like to reflect on how my photography has grown or been enhanced during the year. I think about what new photography friends I have made, great photography discussions I have had with new or old acquaintances and the things I photographed during the year. I also think about what the club has meant to me this year: which exciting monthly speaker I enjoyed most, favorite field trip I attended and what I did to give back to the club. Despite the current pandemic, we held monthly meetings, had our annual competition in August and organized several field trips.

Our club exists because of the many people that volunteer: board members, committee members, people who lead field trips or write something for the newsletter, or those that stay a few minutes late to help take down our meeting room—we all have a way in which we can contribute. So, as you are preparing for the holidays and making your wish list to Santa of all the camera lenses you want, take some time to think about how you have grown as a photographer this year and how you have connected with others who share this hobby.

The club board met for the final time in November and voted to return to Zoom meetings for December and January. Our hope is that this provides everyone the opportunity to join us for the December meeting, traditionally our holiday potluck, so that we can celebrate all that we enjoyed this year. Next year's board will decide what to do after that. I hope to see you on-line for our meeting December 6th, where we will show both November's and December's monthly showcase of images. See you then!

Greg Holden

SVPS President

gholden@imagesunderfoot.com



Program & Showcase Schedule

Monday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. Online Meeting

Program: November & December Showcase
Voting - 2022 Board Officers
Special: Neighborhood Wildlife
Challenge: Impressionistic Photos

*Contact Greg Holden at gholden@imagesunderfoot.com
to nominate yourself or another member for a board position.*

Planning Ahead

Monday, January 3 at 6:30 p.m. Online Meeting

Program: Geff Bourke – Bird Photography
Special: Airplanes / Trains
Challenge: Macro / Close-up

*The Program Committee has been meeting to determine
program speakers, presentations and Showcase topics for the coming year.
To share your thoughts on 2022 presenters, contact
Leslie Larson at LL.cvc1@gmail.com.
Reference the January, 2022 newsletter for more information.*

Showcase Submission Rules are on Page 19

SVPS Deadlines & Key Events

Sunday, December 5 – Monthly showcase photos due in Visual Pursuits.

Monday, December 6 – Member's Meeting (Online) at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8 – January, 2022 newsletter submission
deadline.

Sunday, January 2 – Monthly showcase photos due in Visual Pursuits.

Monday, January 3 – Member's Meeting (Online) at 6:30 p.m.



San Jose Airport ♦ Reed James
November Member's Showcase



Dromoland Castle ♦ John Roper
November Member's Showcase

SVPS Program Volunteer Contacts

Communications

Lynda Clayton

Lynand62@gmail.com

County Fair Coordinators

John and Barb Roper

Johnroper2@comcast.net

Barbroper@prodigy.net

Field Trip Coordinator

Reed James

Rajames200@gmail.com

Hospitality Coordinator

Claudia Courtney

Ccourtney59@gmail.com

Newsletter

Darcy Johnson

Johnsonda111@gmail.com

Programs Coordinator

Leslie Larson

LL.cvc1@gmail.com

PSA PID Intraclub Competition

Reed James

Rajames200@gmail.com

PSA Representative

Vicki Braunagel

vicki.braunagel@gmail.com

Visual Pursuits

Elaine Hoffman

elaine@gokiridesigns.com

Volunteers Needed!

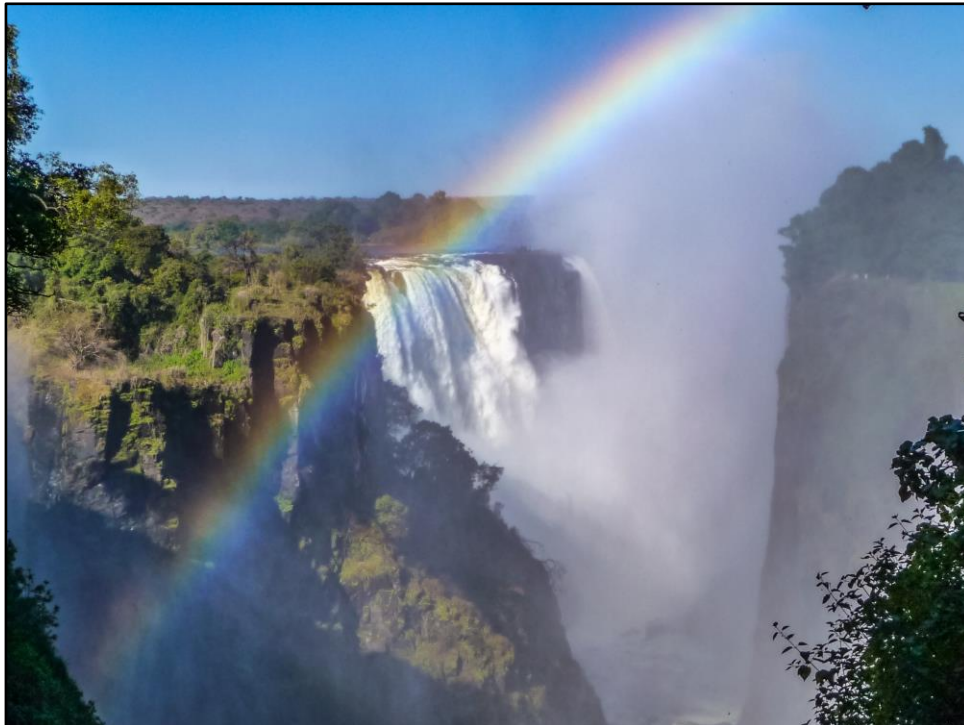
It's your turn . . . What will you do to support your photography club?

- ◆ **Webmaster** – Keep tabs on everything related to the SVPS website including posting the monthly newsletter and member showcase images. Maintaining a dynamic website can keep our members up-to-date on club happenings and draw new member interest from local photographers of all levels. Contact Greg Holden at gholden@imagesunderfoot.com for more information and to volunteer.
- ◆ **Field Trip Coordinator** - Ensure a variety of field trip offerings for members. Identify and follow-up on field trip ideas and leads. Support field trip leaders by communicating field trip opportunities through the newsletter and e-blasts. Field trips offer members an opportunity to enhance their photography skills and get to know other members beyond member meetings. Contact Reed James at Rajames200@gmail.com.
- ◆ **2022 SVPS Board Officers** – Nominations for board positions continue to be solicited. To nominate yourself or another member for a board position Contact Greg Holden at gholden@imagesunderfoot.com. Voting will occur at the December Member's Meeting. ***CHANGE*** The board discussed having four co-Presidents, or a President's Committee, with each taking the lead for two months. If you have an interest in serving under this unique arrangement and want to know more about how this could work, please contact Leslie Larson at LL.cvc1@gmail.com

*Light makes photography.
Embrace light. Admire it. Love it. But above
all, know light.
Know it for all you are worth, and you will
know the key to photography.*



**Blue-Crowned Mot Mot ♦ Leslie Larson
November Member's Showcase**



**Victoria Falls ♦ Vicki Braunagel
November Member's Showcase**

Failure Rates? Keeper Rates? There is a better way of thinking about this.

By David duChemin

Do you ever hear yourself say something and immediately wish you could take it back? It's like you're hearing the words for the first time as they're coming out of your mouth, and you think, "Wait! I didn't mean that!" It happened to me the other day.

A friend and I were on a small plane heading home from a week among grizzly bears in the northern interior of British Columbia, talking about the photographs we had made—particularly the ones we were really excited about—and how many frames it had taken us to get there when I heard myself say it was an awfully "high failure rate."

Failure rate? What a terrible way to think about making photographs. I don't even think this way. But these words, common in some photography circles, just came tumbling out of my mouth, bypassing the more thoughtful part of me. I immediately took another pass at what I was trying to say: it took a lot more sketch images than usual to get the images I was coming home with. But failure? Not a chance.

There are many reasons it might take you 1,000 frames to make just one photograph you love. Like me, it could be you need to shake the dust off a little; during the pandemic, I've not been making many photographs at all, so that could be part of it.

It could be that you're taking more risks, trying new things, adjusting to new gear.

And it could be that what you're photographing is very dynamic and requires a few more frames per second to give you a fighting chance at the very best fast-moving moments. All of these were true for me. And then there was this: I was just so excited to be out on the water with my best friend and some beautiful bears that I got a little punch drunk. I was, in other words, having a blast.

And I was learning. Many of my best photographs (and certainly the most magical moments) with the grizzlies happened in really high contrast light, and I was working out the best way to capture both the moments and the light with the gear I had. So in hindsight, it feels like looking at my 11,000 frames made over eight days of photographing in terms of failure (or keeper) rates misses the point.

Learning, if we choose to do so from the shots that don't do what we hoped they would, is never failure.

Taking risks with creativity and having a willingness to just see what happens when we try something new are not failures, either. Nor is pressing the shutter because it brings you joy to be out there or because using the camera makes you feel more alive, more aware, and more part of the scene in which you're immersed.

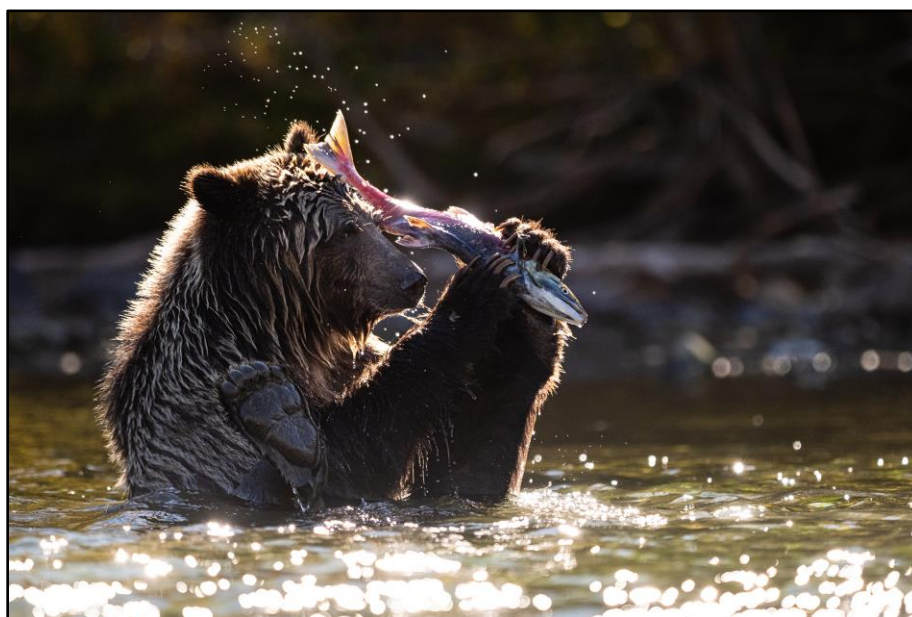
Failure rate? Keeper rate? That we even speak (and think) in these terms implies that a lower ratio is better than a higher ratio. It implies that as we grow in our craft, we should see *more* successful images come from *fewer* attempts to get it right. I've not found this to be the case.

It might be encouraging for you to hear that the more I master this craft and explore my creativity, the fewer final images I get from the many, many sketch-frames that I make—and I see that as a good sign.

More sketch frames (what I call the images that on their own might not be viewed as a success but are needed to get me to the better photographs) means I'm taking risks. They mean I'm trying new things, and that usually means I'm learning. It also means I'm getting harder to satisfy. I'm less easily pleased, more demanding of myself, less willing to compromise. My increasing so-called failure rate means my tastes are getting more refined. I'm getting pickier.

These are all encouraging signs of growth in my craft, and I'm wondering if it's the same for you. Perhaps a shift in how we think and speak of these things might give you just a little more creative freedom and leave us all a little more room for the joy we find in this craft.

As you read this, I should be flying home from a week photographing polar bears in northern Manitoba, no doubt with a hard drive full of images—some better than others, but all of them important in some way. I can't wait to share them with you. I haven't had time to make a monograph of my recent work, but I'm hoping the polar bears and a lighter schedule over the next two weeks give me something to send you in the next *Contact Sheet* on November 21. In the meantime, here are three of my favourite images from my time with the grizzly bears.





SVPS Members can get their own copy of The Contact Sheet directly from David duChemin by going directly to MyContactSheet.com and telling him where to send it.

If you can't see the images or you'd like to see them larger, you can see them here on my blog or just click the images above to take you there. As always, I welcome your questions and thoughts, even if you're just dropping by to say hello. It's so, so good to be back behind my cameras again. Thanks for being part of that.



For the Love of the
Photograph,
David

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David duChemin'.

SVPS Meetings / Events

The **Monday, December 6th meeting will be held ONLINE starting at 6:30 p.m.** Please join us. Look for more information on what will be happening at the December meeting in the Program and Showcase Schedule on Page 4.

The health and safety of SVPS members is of primary importance to the SVPS Board. Should the Board need to move to a ZOOM online format or cancel meetings/events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an email to all members will be distributed at least one week in advance. The newsletter and Facebook sites will also be updated as appropriate.

Board Meeting Summary

November 7, 2021

The SVPS Board made the following decisions:

- Volunteers are needed to fill several vacant positions, including Board of Directors positions that will be voted on at the December, 2021 Member's Meeting. The board agreed to pursue finding four co-Presidents to serve in 2022. Volunteer positions needing to be filled include a Webmaster and Field Trip Coordinator. Other positions such as Visual Pursuits need a trained back-up.
- The board discussed the need to have a committee to better and more consistently engage with visitors and new members. Claudia Courtney has agreed to help start a Hospitality Committee.
- The Program Committee headed by Leslie will be meeting in mid-November to make decisions about speakers/presenters and Showcase topics for 2022.
- December and January Member meetings will be held on-line. Future meetings, whether online or in-person will be addressed by the new board.
- The club's computer is showing signs of age. The club will use a mix of the personal computers and the club's computer until such time as a decision is made by the new board about how best to move forward.
- To ensure a smooth transition, planning for hand-off of responsibilities from outgoing to incoming directors was addressed.
- Membership dues renewal is scheduled for December 2021 through January 2022. As a result of rising expenses, dues have been raised to \$35 annually for individual memberships and to \$50 annually for family memberships.
- PSA Release Forms are due to Reed James to ensure competition entry by members.



Saguaros at Sunset ♦ Barb Roper
November Member's Showcase



Grand Canal ♦ Timothy Laughlin
November Member's Showcase



Castle in the Valley ♦ Elaine Hoffman
November Member's Showcase

SVPS PID Competition Entries

The following are the results of member voting. These six images will be entered into the November PSA PID Competition.

	Score
- Nancy Loving – Siberian Goshawk Splendor	16
- Timothy Laughlin – Morning Skate	15
- Patricia Jarvis – Dunes Sunset	15
- Cliff DeJong – Split Rock Lighthouse	15
- Elaine Hoffman – Golden Dragonfly 2	14
- Robert Daugherty – Fall Reflections	14

Congratulations to the member images selected to represent SVPS!



Siberian Goshawk Splendor ♦ Nancy Loving
November 2021 SVPS PID Competition Entry



Fall Reflections ♦ Robert Daugherty
November 2021 SVPS PID Competition Entry



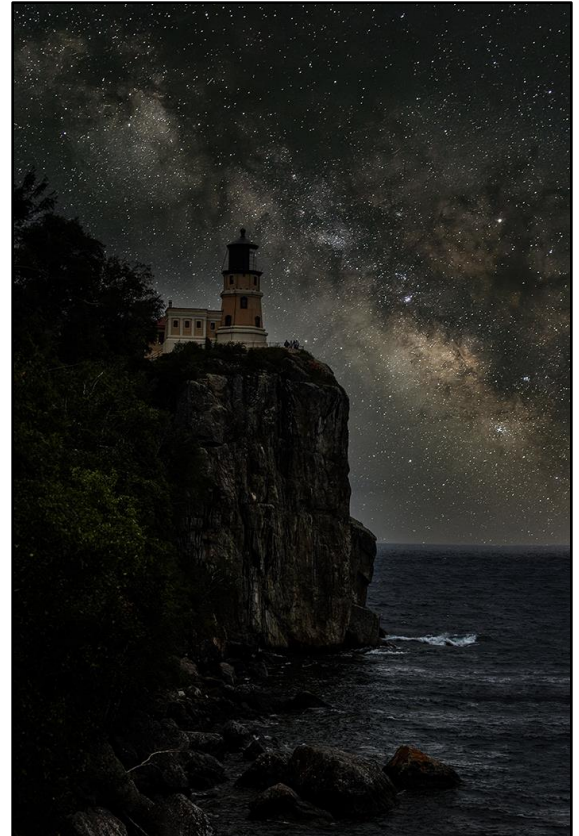
Morning Skate ♦ Timothy Laughlin
November 2021 SVPS PID Competition Entry



Golden Dragonfly 2 ♦ Elaine Hoffman
November 2021 SVPS PID Competition Entry



Dunes Sunset ♦ Patricia Jarvis
November 2021 SVPS PID Competition Entry



Split Rock Lighthouse ♦ Cliff DeJong
November 2021 SVPS PID Competition Entry

Treasurer's Report

We started with \$2,456 in January. We had a few new members paying dues but as far as income goes, that's it. The big expense for this year was about \$800 for 3-year renewal to GoDaddy hosting our website. We need to revisit this before it renews again in 2023. Other ongoing expenses are for Zoom, Visual Pursuits and PSA. We pay a pittance to our speakers of \$25. I'm going to lobby for \$35.

We ended with a balance of \$1,279. Dues will start coming in again in Dec/Jan for next year. That should improve our balance.

Only major change this year was leaving Wells Fargo for First Bank.

Leslie Larson

SVPS Treasurer

LL.cvc1@gmail.com



Patagonia NP - 3474 ♦ Patricia Jarvis
November Member's Showcase

2022 Membership Renewal

Renewal Period:	December 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022
Membership Dues:	\$35 – Individual \$50 – Family
Send membership dues to:	Leslie Larson P. O. Box 4 Lyons, CO 80540
For questions, contact:	Leslie Larson LL.cvc1@gmail.com

**Note dues increase beginning in 2022. See Board Meeting Summary on page 11 or contact the Board President or Treasurer to learn more.*



**Denali Polychrome Mountains ♦ Nancy Loving
November Member's Showcase**



**El Capitan ♦ Reed James
November Member's Showcase**

PSA Release Forms

In an October 26, 2021 email, Reed sent out notice that PSA now requires that PSA release forms must be provided before images are uploaded in PSA competitions. If your current release form was signed before June, 2019, a new form will be required before images are submitted to PSA.

For questions about whether you need to submit or obtain a PSA Release Form, contact Reed James at Rajames200@gmail.com

Visual Pursuits

The SVPS uses Visual Pursuits to enter photographs for PSA competitions and monthly club shows. For assistance in getting started and setting up your Visual Pursuits account, contact Elaine Hoffman at elaine@gokiridesigns.com.

PSA Note

I have mentioned in the past that anyone, member or not, may read and download a pdf of the PSA Journal's Articles of the Month. A few recent ones of general interest are: the July article on monochrome, the June article on photographing Southern Utah parks, and the May article on taking images of waterfalls. The following link should take you to the articles of the month page of the PSA website: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?article-of-the-month>.

You might also enjoy perusing the individual galleries of members from St Vrain Photographic Society. Both Elaine Hoffman and Charles Ayars have their own galleries, as do quite a few other Colorado members of PSA from other clubs. Just check out the members galleries and find the Colorado clubs under the Rocky Mountain section: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?north-america-member-galleries>.

By the way, if you have trouble using the PSA website, Tammy Hammond, the Colorado representative has a helpful link with tips to aid in navigating the website. Check out her Colorado State Membership page at <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?colorado>.

Let me know if you have any questions or areas you'd like discussed in these short notes. Happy Photographing!

Vicki Braunagel
PSA Representative
vicki.braunagel@gmail.com



Tell Us Your Good News!

Did you sell an image, are you showing your photography somewhere, have you been accepted into a local or national show and/or have you been awarded top honors in a juried exhibition? Let your fellow club members know of your good fortune. Email celebrations and/or announcements to johnsonda111@gmail.com. Deadline is Wednesday, December 8 for the January newsletter.

Good or Bad ♦ We Want to Hear Your Thoughts

To remain an active club that meets member's needs, the club wants to know what you're thinking about how things are going, what's working and what's not for you. The SVPS Board of Directors can make a change, provide the information you need and/or assist toward resolution on club matters . . . they represent you, as a member, and the best interest of SVPS. Contact the SVPS Board President or any other board director with your thoughts, ideas, issues or concerns. There will be a new Board of Directors beginning January 2022. Board contact information is identified in each newsletter as a resource for all members – see Page 2.



Milky Way Over the Maze ♦ Timothy Laughlin
November Member's Showcase



Colorado Gold on Owl Creek Pass ♦ Vicki Braunagel
November Member's Showcase

Monthly Photo Showcase Submission Rules

No more than a total of four (4) digital images may be entered in the following categories (*Visual Pursuits will allow for up to six (6) images – just because you can doesn't mean you are following Monthly showcase submission rules. Please enter up to four (4) images only*)

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

All members are encouraged to enter photographs.

Submit photographs to Visual Pursuits by the Sunday prior to the meeting at 7 p.m.

NO late entries.

NO digital entries will be accepted at the club meeting.

While changes don't happen often, submit photos each month after receipt of the newsletter in case there are updates to the category topics and related definitions.

File Type: Submit .JPG files only

Maximum digital image file size is 7680 pixels wide x 4320 vertically to allow for the best possible resolution.

Photo Title: The name of the image is all that is required (blank spaces are allowed)

General example: Image Title.jpg

Specific example: Bridal Veil Falls.jpg

Category Code: Images should be placed in the proper Visual Pursuits category. Default is SPEC for Special, and an alert will be triggered if too many images are entered. Please double check the category for each image entered before leaving Visual Pursuits to ensure proper placement.

Contact Elaine Hoffman at elaine@gokiridesigns.com for questions or assistance.