



NEXT MEETING:

Monday, Feb 3, 2020

LOCATION:

First United
Congregational Church of
Christ at 1500 9th Ave,
Longmont, CO 80501
(the corner of 9th and
Francis-enter from the
Northwest door).

We meet in the **Fireside
Room.**

TIME: 6:30-9:00 PM

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ST VRAIN PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February 2020

WELCOME!

members, *new* members, and guests

President's Message

We had our first board meeting with your new slate of officers. Our first order of business was to firm up the 2020 program schedule. The pre-program discussions on important photo concepts like focus stacking and HDR are hard to do justice to without more time than we have available. So, for the most part, we will only have a few topics that can be covered in 15 minutes or so. Speakers will have a full hour, plus additional time for questions and discussion. Our speakers for the coming year are set and are listed on page 3. We also have left almost an hour for our member photo shows.

PhotoFix has been taken off the agenda. It was an activity where members were given photos and can do whatever editing they like to these. We have not had much participation or interest in this, so decided the time would be better spent with another speaker.

We are continuing our Annual Competition show in June and will have summer show and tell at the September meeting.

We will continue submitting photos through the Visual Pursuits website and will vote at our meetings on what photos to send in to PSA competitions. Our newsletter will now include the full year's programs and photo topics, which are of course subject to change. We are also working to include some member photos each month from the previous meeting.

Field trips are always a fun activity, and we are going to appoint a field trip coordinator, plus work to have a field trip each month. This is a work in process, and we can use your ideas about places you would like to share. I am going to ask for ideas at the February meeting. We need a volunteer to be Field Trip Coordinator and helpers to lead some of these field trips!! Greg and I will do some of the trips.

Cliff DeJong
SVPS President

SOME HELPFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION

Email: stvrainphoto@gmail.com

Club Website: www.go-svps.com

Affiliations:



2020 SVPS Board:

President:
Cliff DeJong
cliffdejong@gmail.com

Vice-President:
Greg Holden
gholden@imagesunderfoot.com

Secretary:
Darcy Johnson
johnsonda111@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Jack Cornils
Jcc55@frii.com

DEADLINE for March NEWSLETTER – Feb. 20

Email news items to:
Darcy Johnson
johnsonda111@gmail.com

February 3rd Meeting

Program: **Mark & Cindy Payler
Travels with an iPhone**

Mark and Cindy have just returned from a 4,900 mile trip that included all of Route 66 from Chicago to LA, on the original highway route. Along the way, they stopped at a lot of the classic and famous places and documented the trip with a 1970's Polaroid camera. They took photos of owners/managers and their place of business and had each person sign the original Polaroid print and write a short note. This forced Mark and Cindy to slow down and hear the stories of toil and pride all across America from the people along this great highway. What they learned along the way is there are great heroes in our country and they were honored to create a previously undone visual record of these folks before they pass on – often their family won't continue in their footsteps. The trip was priceless. They took over 7,000 digital images and documented over 90 people with that Polaroid. They were humbled by those they met and their work to keep the spirit of freedom alive.

★ Photo Submission ★

Special Topic: **Pets** (wild or domestic)

Challenge Topic: **Landscape** (featuring fore, mid, and backgrounds)

Visual Pursuits

December was the last transition month for using the old email process for submitting your photos to the monthly member photo showcase. Starting in January, we began using the Visual Pursuits (VP) process exclusively. **Refer to the January 2020 newsletter for details on how to set up your personal VP account.**

If you need any assistance in setting up your Visual Pursuits account, contact Elaine Hoffman directly at elaine@gokiridesigns.com.

2020 Remaining PROGRAM SCHEDULE and PHOTO TOPICS

(Monthly programs are subject to change. Changes, if necessary, will be noted in the SVPS newsletter.)

March: Pre-Program – Greg Holden, Histograms High-key/Low-key

High-Key/Low Key photos add impact to your image by creating a strong contrast between lights and darks. Typically high-key photos have large amounts of pure white, while low-key is the opposite with lots of dark space occupying your frame. This is one of the times where “breaking the rules” and blowing out highlights or clipping shadows is expected! Greg will provide some examples of both B&W and color images utilizing this technique.

Speaker – Cliff DeJong, Illusions and How to Create Them

An illusion is something that is not what it looks like. There are two types: enhanced reality that improves the truth (almost all of us do this), and altered reality that goes beyond the truth (and is way more fun). Both will be covered.

***Special** – Mobile Phone Photo*

***Challenge** – Favorite Travel Photo*

April: Pre-Program – Cliff DeJong, Tack Sharp Photos

Speaker – Greg Holden, What Judges Look For

***Special** – Churches*

***Challenge** - Illusions*

May: Speaker – Beth Buglione

***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: Speaker – Max Seigel, National Geographic photographer and Linblad Expedition Leader

***Special** – Action*

***Challenge** – Water’s edge/Shorelines*

November: Speaker – Rob Lantz, “Winterscapes”

***Special** – Clouds*

***Challenge** – Soft Focus*

December: Elections and Holiday Party

***Special** – Frozen*

***Challenge** - Panorama*

What's in Your Bag? Episode 2: ND Filters

By Greg Holden, SVPS Vice President

Ever wonder how to create long exposures during the day to get cloud streaks without over exposing highlights? How about creating that floss-like look to waterfalls or ultra-long exposures of the ocean where the waves turn into long, luscious blurred lines? The secret is to create a long exposure by using a neutral density filter, or ND. You can think of ND filters as sunglasses for your lens—they reduce the amount of light entering your lens and thus allow you to increase your exposure time. Sometimes you can stop down your aperture to f/16 and lower your ISO setting, but usually this will not give you the half second or more needed. Solid neutral density filters are typically circular filters that screw onto the front of your lens and they come in different strengths.

Depending on the darkness of the filter (usually defined in “f-stops of light”) they can double or even quadruple your exposure time. The more intense ND filters are nearly opaque black, making it difficult to compose and focus with the filter in place, so you will need to wait to screw on the filter until after you are set up. You can also purchase ‘variable intensity’ ND that has two elements, similar to a polarizer, that allows you to dial in the amount of ND. I use one from Singh Ray filters that allows me to vary from 2-8 stops. Not only does this provide more flexibility, but allows me to compose and focus my image with the filter attached and then I can dial in the needed amount of ND before tripping the shutter.



For landscape photos, you are often faced with a bright sky but darker foreground that needs a longer exposure. Achieving a well exposed photo for both highlights and lowlights is near impossible in a single image. In these situations, a graduated ND filter will allow you to balance the two exposures. These square or rectangular filters are dark at the top and gradually fade out midway down the filter. Using a filter holder attached to your lens, you slide the filter into place until you achieve the desired balance. In landscapes with uneven horizons, you will have to contend with the filter darkening both the sky and the silhouetted mountains and trees, but this is often a worthwhile tradeoff instead of having to Photoshop multiple exposures together later. A handy tip is to purchase the inexpensive Cokin 3-filter holder and saw off the outermost filter slot, since you will likely never stack more than two filters and this will reduce vignetting caused by the filter holder at wider focal lengths.

I advise you to pay for a high-quality filter and avoid the cheaper brands which may not be “color neutral,” i.e. they have a brown or blue tint to them that imparts a warm or cool tone, respectively, to your images. Cheaper filters may also affect sharpness of your image. For NDs, I have always used Singh-Ray ND filters and find their quality to be worth the price. I carry 2-stop, 3-stop and 2-stop reverse (for sunrise) graduated ND rectangular filters. I also have their “Mor-Slo” 10-stop circular ND and the aforementioned vari-ND.

Photo of the reeds is a 5 second exposure at f/16 taken at 7 am on Assateague Island, VA. The waterfall is Blackwater Falls in West Virginia, 1/3 second at f/16 at 10 am. Without an ND, that long of an exposure that late in the morning would have blown out the highlights in the water.

Longmont BBVA (formerly Compass) Bank Exhibit

Members of SVPS have a unique opportunity to exhibit their photographs to the public on a continuing basis.

BBVA Bank at 19th & Main St., Longmont has three open rooms and the lobby available to members of SVPS where photos can be hung. The rooms have large windows and most photographs on display will be visible to all customers. There is room for about 40 photos measuring about 16 x 20 including frame and mat. They need to be ready to hang by a hook or wire. There is also great security at the bank.

All members of SVPS are eligible to hang one or two photos at the bank. Those who wish to display photographs in the exhibit should send an email to johnroper2@comcast.net. We will arrange to meet you at the bank or to get the picture(s) from you.

Content of the photographs is not limited; however, members should be aware that the bank is a professional institution, and photographs displayed need to respect the nature of the business and the clientele.

Photographs displayed at the bank cannot be listed for sale, but we suggest you have a tag indicating a title, your name and contact information to be placed near the photo. If a photograph is to be hung or removed, one of the members of the exhibition committee must be notified so we can help. The bank prefers that you not show up on your own because of liability.

Since there is no expiration for the exhibit, we like to rotate them periodically. Therefore, if you have one that has been there for a while, notify John Roper at the email listed above, so he can make room for new photos.

SVPS and BBVA Bank thank you for participating.

Annual Membership Dues

Please see Jack at the February meeting with your dues. You can also mail a check to Jack Cornils, 823 Snowberry, Longmont, CO 80503. Make checks payable to SVPS.

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

Photographic Society of America (PSA) Update & Information

The deadline for submitting photos to Todd Towell (ttcubed@gmail.com) for the next PSA Projected Image Division (PID) is Saturday, **February 1**. This will allow Todd the time to have them submitted by the competition deadline of February 15. Please refer to January's newsletter or the PSA Interclub Guidelines Document posted on the SVPS website for details on size restrictions. **Also, please complete a release form or confirm Todd has one on file from this year 2019-2020. The release forms (see page 7) must be completed for every new competition season.** PSA home page – <https://psa-photo.org/>.

Check out the winners from round one (see links). **SVPS is in group E**. While we didn't win any awards, we did score well with a total of 56 points. Award winners scored from 11 (honorable mention) to 14.

- View the standings at:

<https://psa-photo.org/index.php?2019-20-pid-interclub-standings>

- View the Round One gallery at:

<https://psa-photo.org/index.php?2019-20-pid-interclub-round-one>

PSA Scoring System

Entries are scored by three qualified judges. Images are scored from 1 to 5 by each judge, with the maximum total score of 15 possible. The point system is used to help achieve uniformity in scores between competitions.

1 point – Image has a flaw such as unintentional blur, or has major parts out of focus. Image is cluttered to point of distraction, or distracting elements are overwhelming.

2 points – An image that has no significant technical flaws, but which likewise has no significant strengths. It is the quality of image that we would expect that most hobbyists should be able to take as a minimum standard. It has the technical proficiency that modern auto-exposure, auto-focus cameras allow.

3 points – This is a good solid image, an image towards which every PSA member should be striving as a minimum. Such an image is technically correct and more. It exhibits AT LEAST ONE element towards which photographers who are working at polishing their craft should be striving (for example, showing a knowledge of the importance of choice of subject, of good lighting, of dramatic composition, of handling depth of field effectively, of eliciting emotional impact, or of exhibiting freshness and creativity). The elements of the image work together. If there are flaws, they are minor and compensated for by other elements in the image.

4 points – An image that scores a 4 is a very strong image. Such an image is technically correct and much more. The elements must work together. If there are flaws, they are minor and hard to find. Obvious flaws must be compensated by other elements in the image. When the rules are broken, they are broken for impact. Technical excellence is expected in an image scoring 4. Difficult exposures, effective use of selective focusing and depth of field, as well as other advanced photographic techniques are commonly found in such an image. The image exhibits SEVERAL elements towards which those who are working at polishing their craft should be striving. Think of a 4 score used to determine if the image is an HM or AWARD.

5 points – An image that scores a 5 is an exceptionally strong image; i.e., true photographic excellence. It need not be a perfect image, just a very, very strong image. Such an image is technically correct and much, much more. The elements of the image must work together to form a whole that is far greater than the sum of the parts. There should not be any obvious flaws. Technical excellence is expected in an image scoring 5. Makers should not be made to feel 5 is impossible to achieve. A 5 should be a guarantee of an award.

So an image that scored 9, probably received 3s from each of the judges (unlikely to get 2 – 4s and a 1).



PERMISSION FOR PSA TO USE IMAGES (PID)

I hereby give permission for the Photographic Society of America (PSA) to display any of my images submitted through my camera club, **St Vrain Photographic Society**, for use in PSA inter-club competitions. I certify that I am the copyright holder of the images. I hereby agree that this work is my original work created solely by me and does not infringe on the copyrights, trademarks, oral rights, rights of privacy/publicity or intellectual property rights of any person or party.

I hereby give permission for the Photographic Society of America to display such images on the PSA's own website and Vimeo. (Vimeo is used to display Best of Year movie presentations.)

I retain copyright of the image(s) and these images may not be used by PSA for any purpose other than stated above without my additional explicit written permission. The PSA will not directly or indirectly post these images on any other web sites such as social media sites without such written consent.

Signed

Name (Printed)

Date



Nature's Gift • Catherine Cook

SVPS Boulder County Fair Open Photography Project 2020

The Boulder County Fair will be in operation this year from **July 31 to August 9** and SVPS is a big part of it. For **over 50 years**, the club has been the sponsor of the open photo competition, the single largest segment of the Fair. We 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. We are asking all SVPS club members to consider signing up to help with our sponsorship of this important event. If you need information, see us at a meeting or send an email at johnroper2@comcast.net , or barbroper@prodigy.net.

There WILL BE an online sign-up soon that will make it easy to pick a time (**or times!!**) you can volunteer to help. You can make changes later on. Here is the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60bob4da9ac2dabfdo-boulder>.

There are four 2- or 3-hour shifts per day from 10am to 9pm, July 31 to Aug 9. You just need to be a presence at the display, hand out club folders, and talk to the visitors.

Here is a link to the Fair site if you would like to enter your own photos. I believe the entry deadline will be July 22. Keep an eye on it for the 2020 information

<http://www.bouldercountyfair.org/>

There is a link to the results from last year. They are posted beginning on page 33 of this document:

https://d38trduahtodj3.cloudfront.net/files.ashx?t=fg&rid=BoulderCountyFair&f=2019_Creative_Living_Results.pdf

There will also be a link to the rules for the Photo Exhibit in the Open Creative Living section around May 1. I don't anticipate any changes from last year.

When it is posted, scroll down to Photography and click on Click Here (the words, not the icon) for our specific information. Thanks so much,

**John and Barb Roper
and the SVPS Fair Committee**

Photography is the only language that can be understood
anywhere in the world. ~ Bruno Barbey



Chasm Falls • Cliff DeJong



Heavy Maine Fog & Light Rocks • John Roper



Sunset Gold • Robert Daugherty



Dolman • Elaine Hoffman



Holiday Red • Leslie Larson