

ST VRAIN PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

February, 2021



HELPFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION

Email: stvrainphoto@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 MARCH NEWSLETTER - Saturday, February 13 email photos and news items to: Darcy Johnson at johnsonda111@gmail.com

◆ Cover Photo ◆ Backlit Miner's Candle Leslie Larson



NEXT MEETING: February's member meeting will be held online. Look for more information on Page 4.

NO in-person meeting for February 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:

Table with 2 columns: Item Name, Page Number. Rows include President's Message (3), Program Schedule and Photo Topics (4), Monthly Showcase Submission Rules (5), Photo Critiques (6), PSA PID Summary (7), PID Round 1 Results (8), PID Deadlines Round 2 (9), PSA Release Forms (10), Program Contacts (12), Board Meeting Summary (14), Deadlines / Key Events (16), Field Trips (18), Jim Lhotak (19).

WELCOME!

members, *new* members, guests



President's Message

Welcome everyone to a new year. Your board has already met several times to discuss plans for the year including a great line up of monthly speakers, assigned member showcase categories for the year and potential club field trips. I have also been working on updating the website so you can find all those details there too, since our website serves potential new members who are looking for a good club to join.

I have also been discussing with the board how to share more with the club members in the newsletter about all the things that happen outside of our monthly meetings. I want to share more details about our participation in the Photographic Society of America (PSA), including how many entries we submitted and by whom and then present the results when one of our members places in the competition.

For those that haven't submitted photos to PSA for competitions, another way to get feedback on your photos is from participating in this month's critique session, led by Charles Needle and myself (see page 4 and 6 for details). Getting critical feedback on your photos from advanced photographers is one of the best ways to improve.

In the survey we emailed out last month, we asked about field trips. Reed James has volunteered to be our field trip coordinator and the board has already suggested a number of field trip ideas to pursue. Field trips are not only a great way to practice our skills, but it is fun to socialize with other members (even from six feet apart) and it is an opportunity to learn from each other 'in the field.' I hope to see many of you on those excursions.

Greg Holden, SVPS President

**Animas Forks Ghost Town
Greg Holden**



***** Program and Photo Topics Have Been Updated *****

2021 PROGRAM SCHEDULE and PHOTO TOPICS

(Due to COVID-19, monthly programs are subject to change. This section is updated monthly.)

February 1st at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Program - Greg Holden and Charles Needle

Photo Critiques *(Limit 1 image per member)*

Special - Food

Challenge - Boulder County Scenes*

Planning Ahead

PROGRAM and PHOTO TOPICS

March -	Program:	Denise Silva - Long Exposure Photography
	Special:	Wheels
	Challenge:	Macro/Close-Up
April -	Program:	Geff Bourke - Black & White Photography & Processing
	Special:	Doors & Windows
	Challenge:	Long Exposures
May -	Program:	Brent Paull - American West Photo Safaris
	Special:	Silhouettes
	Challenge:	Black & White
June -	Program:	Annual Banquet Annual Competition
September -	Program:	Rob Lantz - Snowscapes
	Special:	Fog
	Challenge:	North American Safari Animals
October -	Program:	Max Seigel - TBD
	Special:	Barns
	Challenge:	Winterscapes
November -	Program:	Charles Needle - Impressionistic Photography
	Special:	Architecture
	Challenge:	Worldwide Scenic Wonders
December -	Program:	Holiday Party
	Special:	Neighborhood Wildlife
	Challenge:	Impressionistic Photos

**"Boulder County Scenes" must be a photo taken within Boulder County, recognizable as a location within the county, and something that someone else could go see for themselves. This could be a recognizable building, statue, view of the front range, a CU event with recognizable player's uniform, a unique shaped tree at a local park, kids at a playground, etc. Close up photos of flowers, cars or people that could have been taken anywhere are not appropriate. Let's get out and photograph things in our neighborhoods!*



The Resting Place
Wendy Dickie

***** Rules Have Been Updated *****

Monthly Photo Showcase Submission Rules

No more than a total of **four** (4) digital images may be entered in the following categories:

- Special Topic of the Month (0-2 images)
- Challenge Topic (0-2 images)
- Open category (0-2 images)
- Creative (no longer a category; combined with Open)

All members are encouraged to enter photographs.

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

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)

- Photographer's name is no longer required in the photo's title.
- Category Code is no longer required in the photo's title.

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.

General example: Image Title.jpg

Specific example: Bridal Veil Falls.jpg

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

February's Member Meeting Presentation Photo Critiques

Greg Holden and Charles Needles, two SVPS members will evaluate images submitted by members at the February 1, 2021 online member meeting.

Charles Needles became a SVPS member last year. Charles is a full-time professional photographer who makes his living exclusively from teaching photography, writing books, and speaking/presenting webinars over the last 20+ years. He has judged and critiqued for many clubs over his career.

Greg Holden is the current SVPS President. Prior to moving to Colorado, Greg was a regular speaker and judge at camera clubs in the MD/VA area. Greg was regularly requested to judge multiple times for clubs, sometimes even a second time in the same year. Greg has been praised for his ability to offer critical feedback without being offensive and sensitivity to tailoring his feedback to both novice and advanced photographers alike.

Photo critiques are set up to allow for evaluation of one photo per photographer. All photos must be entered into Visual Pursuits by Sunday, January 31 at 7 p.m. The title should not include the photographer's name. Maximum file size is 7680 x 4320. Within Visual Pursuits there is a separate Critique category for entering your images for February's Member Meeting program. Photographs entered into the monthly showcase in the Special, Challenge and Open categories will not be critiqued.



Focus Stacked 1 gigapixel Panorama ♦ John Freeman



Club Competition Projected-Image Division Summary

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) offers individuals and clubs from across the country (and the world) an opportunity to enter photos for judging in a variety of competitions, see <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?home> for details. Our club is currently participating in the Interclub Competition for the Projected Image Division (PID). Within this division, there are two digital-only Interclub competitions, Open and Creative. These competitions between photo clubs are held three times per year (Nov 15, Feb 15 and April 15), with a Best of Best competition at the end of the year.

Participating clubs are divided into Groups (A thru F), with a maximum of about 25 clubs in each group. We are in Group E. Clubs start in Group F and work their way up as their scores improve. Clubs garner points, based on scoring from judges during the three yearly competitions. The objective is to have clubs with high scores competing against other high scoring clubs. Clubs are re-arranged at the end of the year based on their accumulated scores from the 3 competitions.

Judging of all the photos in a Group is provided by a HOST CLUB, which is a club in another Group, who was selected at the beginning of the year. The HOST CLUB provides 3 judges and each judge scores each photo on a 1 to 5 point scale. So the maximum score a photo can obtain is 15. These judges then select the top 20% of scoring photos in that Group, and award Merit awards to about half of them, and Honorable Mention awards to the remainder. More details can be found at: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?pid-interclub-competition>

To date our club has only participated in the "Open" competition for which:

...images may be either COLOR or MONOCHROME. The content is unrestricted and may include creative images, with all forms of manipulation permitted. With regard to all entries, the maker must have exposed or created all elements of the final image. All submitted images are judged together and are not separated by Color or Monochrome. The work must be the maker's and commercial clip art is not allowed.

Clubs can submit up to 6 photos for each of the 3 competition rounds, from 6 different photographers. We can't submit 2 or more photos from the same author. Once submitted, a photo can never be re-entered in the Open Interclub competition.

Size restrictions are: 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. A 4 to 3 image ratio is strongly recommended to assure the best projection of your image for judging. sRGB color space is recommended for optimum results.

To see upcoming deadlines for the next PSA PID Competition go to page 9; for information on the PSA Release Form go to page 10.

For questions or comments, contact Reed James at rajames200@gmail.com.

Results from PID Round 1 submitted in November 2020 follow. Highlighted are the standings for the St. Vrain Photographic Society within Group E. Refer to the December 2020 newsletter to see all 6 SVPS photographs entered. To see Merit and Honorable Mention photographs from all groups, go to <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?2020-21-pid-interclub-round-one>

PSA PID Interclub Competition Scoresheet - Group E					
Club Name	Score Round 1	Image Title	Photographer	Score Round 1	Award
Milford Camera Club	68	Perched	Matthew Collen	12	Merit
		Nature and Fresh Kill	Cathy Outhouse	12	Merit
		Pipe Calms the Man	Angelica Buehler	12	Merit
		Farewell my Friend	Will Elliot	12	Merit
		The Spirit of the Drum	Athina Bellios	12	Honorable Mention
Spartanburg Photography Guild	66	Sundown at Eastatoe Falls	Chip Sloan	12	Merit
		Night Arch	Lewis Greer	12	Honorable Mention
Minnesota Valley Photo Club	64	Mystery Blue Eyes	Ken Cheung	14	Merit
		Hummingbird with Flower	David Perez	11	Honorable Mention
Rossmoor Photography Club	63	On my way to the stars	John Mentil	12	Merit
		Dennis Plate Two	Sean McDonough	11	Honorable Mention
Berks Photography Society	62	Winter Into Spring	Rich Shay	13	Merit
Coastal Carolina Camera Club	62	Twilight at Driftwood Beach	Leslie Nolan	12	Honorable Mention
New Braunfes Photographic Society	62	Oil Water and Light	Frank Bayerque	12	Honorable Mention
		Cycle of Life	Ralph Nordenhold	11	Honorable Mention
Riveria Camera Club	62	Muddy Buddies	Gary Potts	12	Merit
		Spoonbill Ecstasy	Rona Schwarz	11	Honorable Mention
Wirral 20 Photographic Club	62	Feather and Droplets	Les Railton	13	Merit
Photo Club of Greater Cincinnati	60				
Lancaster Photography Association	59				
Finger Lakes Photography Guild	58				
St. Vrain Photographic Society	58	Tricolored Heron Coming In	Vicki Braunagel	11	
		Ultralights	John Roper	10	
		Wolf	Patricia Jarvis	10	
		A Chase	Nancy Loving	9	
		On The Wing	Cliff DeJong	9	
		Fall Color	Barb Roper	9	
Suffolk Camera Club	58				
North Haven Camera Club	56				
Olympia Camera Club	56	Dreaming	Susan Bradley	12	Honorable Mention
Monticello Camera Club	55	The Well	Eric Steele	11	Honorable Mention
Tulsa Area Photographic Society	54	Butterfly	Ron Meyers	12	Merit
Judges Information					
Supervising Club:		Supervisor:	Yun Wang		
Jiahua Elite Photography Association		Tabulators:	Ying Shi		
		Assistant:	XianDao Cen		
Number of Photos Judged		Judges:	XianDao Cen		
			Stella Hua		
			Jean Wang		



Tri-colored Heron Coming In ♦ Vicki Braunagel
PID Round 1 - Top SVPS Score

PSA Projected-Images Round 2 Competition Deadlines

January 24 at 8 a.m. - Opens for entries in Visual Pursuits.

February 5 at 7 p.m. - Closes for entries in Visual Pursuits.

- Reed and Elaine will correct any submission errors; image title should not include photographer's name.

February 7 at 8 a.m. - Voting opens

February 11 at 7 p.m. - Voting ends

- Elaine tallys results and sends to Reed
- Reed uploads images to PSA site by February 15th



Visual Pursuits

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

PSA Release Forms

The PSA Projected Image Division (PID) Competition Representative for SVPS, Reed James, collects release forms supporting PSA competitions.

What the signed release form accomplishes:

- Required for entering any PSA competition; authorizes the club PSA representative to upload your photo file to the PSA competition site,
- When awarded a PSA Merit or Honorable Mention, gives PSA permission to display your image, allows your photo to be projected on the PSA website, and to move your image forward to an end-of-year competition,
- For both PSA and the club, it guarantees that the work is yours, confirms that you have the necessary model or property release forms, if needed, and confirms that you alone hold the copyrights.
- Signed release forms are valid for three (3) years from the document's date.

If you need a copy of the form or have questions about whether you have a form on file, please email Reed James at rajames200@gmail.com



Winter Creek ♦ John Roper

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 photographers know of your good fortune. Email any photographic celebrations and/or announcements to johnsonda111@gmail.com.

Deadline is February 13 for the next newsletter.

*The greatest value of a picture
is when it forces us
to notice what we never
expected to see.*

~ John Tokey



Thayer Gulls on Log ♦ Leslie Larson



Barcelona Spirals ♦ Elaine Hoffman

*Welcome to our
Newest Members*

Marion Worrell *
Mark Payler *
Jan English
Wendy Dickie

* returning members

**SVPS Program
Volunteer Contacts**

Communications

Lynda Clayton
Lynand62@gmail.com

County Fair Coordinator

John Roper
Johnroper2@comcast.net

Field Trip Coordinator

Reed James
Rajames200@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 Photo Print Intraclub
Competition**

Elaine Hoffman
elaine@gokiridesigns.com

Visual Pursuits

Elaine Hoffman
elaine@gokiridesigns.com



Flake from Boulder County ♦ Cliff DeJong



Street Music ♦ Claudia Courtney



Dream Lake Hike ♦ Greg Holden



Red Tailed Hawk ♦ Jim Bell



Swirling From the Plains ♦ Patricia Jarvis

SVPS Board Meeting Minutes Summary

December 28, 2020 Meeting

- Meet-Up subscription will not be renewed in February.
- SVPS has \$2,456 available to spend.
- Annual financial audit will be completed before the end of March, 2021.
- The board will seek a Field Trip Coordinator.
- Monthly photo showcase category entries per member have changed:
 - Special - 2 entries (increased from 1)
 - Challenge - 2 entries (increased from 1)
 - Open - will remain at 2 entries and now will include Creative images. The purpose of the Open photo category is to submit photos that don't fit into monthly Special and Challenge categories rather than to submit extra Special and Challenge photos.
 - Creative - now included as part of the Open category.
 - Each member will still be able to enter up to 4 images maximum each month.
- The website is currently being reviewed and updated, most recently with meeting presenters for 2021 and links to member's social media. Members should look for more updates moving forward.



Longs Peak from Rabbit Mountain ♦ Kamen Guentchev



Merry Christmas ♦ Claudia Courtney



Soltice Winds ♦ Patricia Jarvis

SVPS Deadlines & Key Events

Sunday, Jan 24 - VP opens for PID competition submissions at 8 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 30 - Selected club's photo prints submitted to PSA Photo Print Competition

Sunday, Jan. 31 - Monthly showcase and critique photos due in Visual Pursuits by 5 p.m.

Monday, Feb 1 - Online Member's Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb 5 - Deadline for PID competition submissions. Due in Visual Pursuits by 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb 7 - Voting opens for PID competition at 8 a.m.

Thursday, Feb 11 - Voting closes for PID competition at 7 p.m.

Monday, Feb 15 - Deadline for PSA to receive the club's PID and Photo Print Competition entries.

Saturday, Feb 13 - Deadline for the March newsletter

Sunday, Feb 28 - Monthly photos due in Visual Pursuits

Monday, March 1 - Online Member's Meeting at 6:30 p.m.



Who Me? ♦ Nancy Loving



Frosted Window and Flowers ♦ Reed James

**Seagull in Early Morning
Cliff DeJong**



**White on Black
Wood Stork
Nancy Loving**



**Can I Really
Swallow This?
Vicki Braunagel**



Fitting It All Together ♦ Wendy Dickie

Field Trips Checklist for Club Outings

If you have an idea for a SVPS Field Trip, please provide the following information to Reed James, the club's Field Trip Coordinator-

- 1) Location and the best seasonal month(s)
- 2) Topic: Birds, Animals, Flowers, Land/Cityscape, etc.
- 3) Who will be the Guide (if not you)
- 4) Suggestions on where to meet up to carpool or caravan - if not at the actual location.
- 5) The cost, if any, for entry.
- 6) Are tripods allowed or disallowed?
- 7) Any constraints or details on the field location (stairs, muddy fields, etc.)

All members and their families are welcome to join in the photo outing.

Send information, questions and/or comments to Reed James at rajames200@gmail.com

Jim Lhotak Will Be Missed

It is with great sadness to inform SVPS that Jim Lhotak, former member, photographer, avid traveler, RV camper and 4-wheeler, passed away Friday, December 4 from cancer. He was cared for by his daughter and those who knew him.

Memories of Jim have been posted on his Facebook page as well as the Facebook page of Lois Dow, also a former SVPS member, who was his companion and co-traveler for 36 years. Jim always participated in the SVPS summer field trips. He will be greatly missed.

The SVPS has extended our deepest sympathies on behalf of the club. If you wish to send condolences to the Lhotak family, you can do so in care of his daughter: Ms. Debbie Hastings, 7470 Bryant St., Westminster, CO 80030.

A memorial service will be held for Jim via Zoom on January 23, 2021 at 2 p.m. They will start admitting those attending at 1:45 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84461784636?pwd=dHVPCdHKT3lIZHEzclVCbkl5NUtCdz09>

Meeting ID: 844 6178 4636

Passcode: 948500

By phone: +1 253 215 8782 US



Sculpted by the Wind ♦ John Freeman

Small Star ♦ Elaine Hoffman



The Happy Tree ♦ Jack Cornils

SVPS Meetings/Events

The **Monday, February 1st meeting will be held ONLINE starting at 6:30 pm.** Please join us. Look for more information on what will be happening at the February meeting in the in the Program Schedule and Photo Topics on page 4, and in an email on how to connect to Zoom distributed to all members before the meeting. There will be **NO in person meeting** held at the First United Congregational Church of Christ in February.



The health and safety of SVPS members is of primary importance to the SVPS Board. Should the Board need to cancel meetings and/or events due to the current COVID-19 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.



Holden Family ♦ Greg Holden



Enthralling and Entertaining the Crowd ♦ Barb Roper



THIS is a Holiday Extravaganza ♦ Vicki Braunagel