



NEXT MEETING: June's member meeting will be held online. Look for more information in the President's Message and on page 2.

NO in-person meeting for June 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 pm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
June Member's Meeting & Annual Competition	2
Program Schedule & SVPS Deadlines / Key Events	3
Boulder County Fair - Open Photography Project 2020	4
Photo Focus: Taking Sharper Photographs & PSA Photo Festival	5
Photo Submission Rules	6

ST VRAIN PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June, 2020

WELCOME!

members, *new* members, guests

President's Message

Things are starting to open up!! Slowly. And I am ready!! We are not opening up fast enough to have our Annual Competition /Potluck in June, so that has been rescheduled for late August (the 29th). PSA will do the judging for us, and you have until the end of July to submit images. I am not sure we will be able to hold a potluck, so we might need to order individual meals from Georgia Boys or somewhere else.

We held a Zoom online meeting in May and have another scheduled for June 8th. I really enjoyed seeing my friends in the club and going through their photos. They always inspire me! At this time, it looks like we may have the Boulder County Fair, but possibly with some restrictions. John Roper will say more about that later in this newsletter.

I have cancelled or delayed two trips I had planned for this summer, so I have to make my own photo ops. With a new puppy, there are some chances but she never stands still. We have a fox family in the neighborhood that I have not been able to find while I have my camera.

Fortunately, I think we can start some field trips in June. I would like to lead a group to Denver for night cityscapes in late June. We might need to drive separate cars, unless you are comfortable with riding in a car with others. Greg Holden is going to take photographers to the Railroad Museum in Golden, and Leslie Larson has hummingbirds that show up at her property in July. On August 15th, a Saturday, I will take up any interested people for what has become an annual trek to photograph stars and the Milky Way in RMNP. We will send out emails to our members as these dates get firm. Of course, if there are other photo trips you want, let us know. Anyone interested in going up to Brainard Lake at sunrise to photograph moose?

We are almost through the worst of this quarantine. I look forward to seeing what photos you got in our Challenge topic in June!

Cliff DeJong, SVPS President

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 the September NEWSLETTER – August 20

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



Limpkin with Apple Snail ♦ Vicki Braunagel

SVPS Meetings/Events

The **June member's meeting will be held online.** Look for more information in the President's Message on page 1 and in an email on how to connect to Zoom before the meeting. There will be **NO in person meeting** held at the First United Congregational Church of Christ in June.



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.

SVPS 2019-20 Annual Competition

♦ Dates Have Changed ♦

The annual competition including awards and potluck will be **held on Saturday, August 29 at 5 pm** in the Fellowship Hall at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 9th & Francis Streets in Longmont.

The **deadline for print and digital entries is Wednesday, July 29 Visual Pursuits.** To learn more about competition categories, number of entries allowed, restrictions, and other requirements, refer to the April newsletter.

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

2020 Remaining PROGRAM SCHEDULE and PHOTO TOPICS

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

**June Photo Topics: Special - Spring
Challenge - Quarantine**

July:	No Meeting
August:	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



Snow Moon Soliloquy ♦ Claudia Courtney

SVPS Deadlines and Key Events

- Sunday, June 7** - Monthly Photos deadline *(see above for details)*
- Monday, June 8** - Online Member's Mtg.
- Friday, July 24** - Boulder County Fair, Open Photography entries *(see page 4)*
- Wednesday, July 29** - Annual Competition Entries *(see page 2)*
- Friday, July 31 to Sunday, August 9** - Boulder County Fair, Open Photography Project 2020 *(see page 4)*
- Wednesday, August 15** - RMNP Milky Way field trip *(see page 1)*
- Friday, August 20** - September newsletter contributions *(see page 2)*
- Saturday, August 29** - Annual Competition and Awards *(see page 2)*

Visual Pursuits

SVPS uses Visual Pursuits to enter photographs for PSA and monthly club shows/competitions. If you need any assistance in setting up your Visual Pursuits account, contact Elaine Hoffman directly at elaine@gokiridesigns.com.



Short Long Horn ♦ Todd Towell

SVPS Boulder County Fair Open Photography Project 2020

I am still presuming the 2020 fair will be in operation at some level this year. We will just have to wait and see what it will look like. I sure HOPE it will open . . . I am tired of all the changes the virus has made to our lives and a bit of normalcy would be nice. In that light, here is my pitch of the month. About a third of the volunteer slots are already filled so, THANK YOU to those folks who can plan ahead. If your world is clearing up a bit and you can lay claim to a slot or two . . . please do so. If the fair doesn't happen, you can use the time mowing my lawn. Anyway, THANKS.

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 and email to johnroper2@comcast.net, or barbroper@prodigy.net.

You can pick a time (**or times!!**) to volunteer to help. You can make changes later on. Here is the link:

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

There are four 2- or 3-hour shifts per day from 10 am to 9 pm, July 31 to August 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. The entry deadline will be July 24. Keep an eye on it for the 2020 signup link. It should be available around May 1.

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

Here is a link to this year's rules for the Photo Exhibit in the Open Creative living section. There aren't any changes from last year.

https://d38trduahtodj3.cloudfront.net/files.ashx?t=fg&rid=BoulderCountyFair&f=2020_Dept_119_photography.pdf

Thanks so much, **John and Barb Roper and the SVPS Fair Committee**

Photo Focus: Taking Sharper Photographs

By Cliff DeJong

In April, I was scheduled to give 10 minutes on how to take sharper photos. There are several principles that all of us have heard: use a shutter speed faster than 1/focal length, such as 1/200 s for a 200 mm lens. Use a tripod and mirror lockup for the best sharpness. These are good guidelines but not always practical, and there are some other non-obvious tips. Here are my favorites.

Using high ISO in low light to keep the shutter speed as fast as recommended can result in soft photos due to noise reduction. I do not use a tripod except for long exposures. Instead, I will brace myself against a solid object or kneel on one knee, so that I can use my arm braced on my leg as a solid support. (It's way easier to show you, rather than try and write about it.) Some people hold their breath at the time of exposure, but it is better to take a breath and let it out slowly while you click the shutter. Burst mode often helps; the second or third photo in a rapid sequence is often the sharpest. In wildlife or human photos, the nearest eye needs to be sharp. This is easier done with a single focus point, so that you can select exactly what will be sharp. Using AI Servo rather than a Single Shot focus mode helps when the subject or the photographer moves, like when taking photos of flowers with a light breeze or for macro photos where the photographer's slight motion is significant. For birds, puppies or other moving subjects, AI Servo is required, for sure.

Having a clean lens and sensor is a must. Cleaning dust spots in post-production will reduce sharpness in places. The lens is easy to clean; the sensor more difficult and you may need help. I almost always use aperture priority with Auto ISO to keep my shutter speed above a minimum value. The right aperture can make a big difference in sharpness and will affect depth of field. Wide open gives a narrow depth of field with little margin for error. An aperture closed down, like f22, can lead to diffraction and loss of sharpness. I have tested all my lenses at a variety of focal lengths and apertures to understand where they are sharpest, and got rid of one lens because it was not sharp where I wanted to use it. Your lens may also need a micro adjustment in the camera to focus perfectly at the selected focal point. I highly recommend testing your lenses!!

Software can help a slightly soft photo. I use Topaz Labs AI Sharpen and DeNoise AI software to improve sharpness. Both add crispness to an almost perfect image as well as help less than perfect shots. These tools assist but do not eliminate the need for good practices.

82nd Annual PSA Photo Festival

The 2020 PSA Photo Festival to be held in Colorado Springs this Fall has been **CANCELED**. If a payment has been made, you **WILL** receive a **FULL REFUND** of registration and tour fees. You can find more information at <https://psa-photo.org/photo-festival-2020>





Amazon Accelerated ♦ Patricia Jarvis

Retract Flaps ♦ John Freeman



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

*"If you want to be a better photographer,
stand in front of more interesting stuff."*

- Jim Richardson

Marie ♦ Elaine Hoffman

