



NEXT MEETING:

Monday, Nov. 4, 2019

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

November 2019

WELCOME!

members, *new* members, and guests

There are two important topics to bring to your attention this month.

First is the **Election of Officers**. Cliff and Darcy are doing a splendid job seeking candidates for the SVPS Officers. I will not be able to participate next year due to personal commitments so we need to elect a new President. I was very fortunate to have a wonderful slate of officers working with me running the organization. If not for my heavy personal life commitments, I would ask to run again. It was a very rewarding experience. Please contact Cliff DeJong or Darcy Johnson if you have an interest in working with the talented people Cliff and Darcy have found for the other officer positions. We will need to have a slate of officer nominations for the November Meeting and will accept any nominations from the floor. The election will be held at the December meeting.

The next issue has to do with **Visual Pursuits**. As you recall we were struggling with ways to participate in the PSA competitions, organize the monthly photo contest, find judges and get critique on our Annual Photo Contest. In joining PSA, we had an opportunity to also use their website called Visual Pursuits. I have heard that many of you are either struggling with using the website or are reluctant to participate in the website. We will be extending the transition cross over to Visual Pursuits 1-2 more months while we discuss this matter at our November meeting. This means you can send your monthly photos to the St. Vrain email address: stvrainphoto@gmail.com for use at the November meeting and Lynda will upload and organize them **or** you can use the Visual Pursuits website if you have set up an account. If we do not use the Visual Pursuits website, our ability to use PSA for judging photos will be severely limited. We would really like to have your input and possible solutions at the November Meeting to address this topic.

Martin Bauer, President

SOME HELPFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION

Email:

stvrainphoto@gmail.com

Club Website:

www.go-svps.com

Affiliations:



2019 SVPS Board:

President:

Martin Bauer

mbauer@datawest.net

Vice-President:

Vicki Braunagel

vicki.braunagel@gmail.com

Secretary:

Cathy Cook

cathy.cook2001@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Jack Cornils

Jcc55@frii.com

**DEADLINE for December
NEWSLETTER – Nov. 20**

Email news items to:

cathy.cook2001@gmail.com

November 4th Program:

Pre-meeting: HDR (Greg Holden)

Program: Russ Burden



Russ Burden is the owner of **Russ Burden Nature Photography Tours**. He runs wildlife workshops around the U.S. in addition to multiple safaris to Tanzania three times a year. He is internationally published and his commercial work is marketed through Getty Images.

Russ has been writing the Tip of the Week for the Outdoor Photographer website for years. He has hundreds of tips archived on their website. Russ is a multiple time winner of the prestigious Nature's Best Windland Smith Rice Award in many categories in addition to having numerous safari photos honored and hung in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC and the Iziko Museum in South Africa. Russ has been published numerous times in Outdoor Photographer and his wildlife and scenic images have appeared in calendars published by Self Realization Fellowship, Kodak, Audubon, Sierra Club, National Wildlife, National Geographic Traveler, and more.

Russ has an incredible passion for photography and seeks to share his knowledge and enthusiasm with all his workshop participants. His drive to seek optimal light and composition motivates him to create the perfect image. His energy and commitment to photography are contagious and it's his goal to help others get to this point in their pursuit of our wonderful art.

November 4th Photo Categories:

Special Topic: *Faces of Nature*

Challenge Topic: *Focus Stacking*

Photo Submission Rules:

[NOTE: This is another transition month – you can submit photos by sending to stvrainphoto@gmail.com **OR** use your own photo submission account set up in **Visual Pursuits (VP)** by following the guidelines sent out earlier to the membership]

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 file emailed to stvrainphoto@gmail.com no later than Friday prior to the meeting **or submit through your own Visual Pursuits account by Sunday at 5 pm.** Late entries will be considered on a case by case basis, but please try to get your submissions in on time. You should receive confirmation that your photos were received through stvrainphoto@gmail.com by Saturday evening. If not, please call Lynda Clayton at (720) 468-3085 to confirm that they came through.

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 if there is a substitute media person.

File Type: Submit .JPG files only

Please use this Naming Convention for BOTH SVPS & Visual Pursuits:

- 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

SVPS President Needed!

The nominating committee continues to look for SVPS officers. Jack Cornils will remain as Treasurer, and members have volunteered to serve as Vice President and Secretary. We appreciate that!! However, we are still looking for a candidate willing to serve as club President.

President is obviously a very key position for this club. Duties include running the meetings, overseeing the general operation of the club, and managing the Board of Directors. Programs, including speakers, and photo topics along with informational topics have all been defined for 2020 by the Program Committee, with the exception of one speaker.

We have many members that can do this and we need one to step up and take responsibility. Call Cliff DeJong at 720-340-9194 if you are willing to serve.

Visual Pursuits

For anyone having problems setting up their Visual Pursuits account, please note that Elaine is working on a 24 hour turnaround for approvals. After setting up your account, if you haven't received an email stating the account is approved, email Elaine at elaine@gokiridesigns.com to confirm. Some members aren't receiving the emails from the system and we're checking on that. You can always attempt to log in to check as well. If you have any problems adding images to your Image Library or to the monthly showcase, please check with Elaine as well. She can troubleshoot this via email or phone or as a last resort, via a web conference call.

November will be another transition month - you can submit photos via the VP site or by sending the photos to Lynda. Emailed photos must be received by the deadline noted in the newsletter. Photos entered via the VP site can be uploaded until 5pm on Sunday night.

Future Program Schedule:

December 2 Meeting – Pre-meeting: HDR Q&A

Program: Holiday Social / Election of Officers

Topics: Special – *Snow* / Challenge – *HDR*

The Program committee is on track with planning the monthly programs for 2020, with nearly every slot taken for the year. However, if anyone hears of possible speakers, please write down the names and contact info for future programs. Then give those ideas to Leslie Larson so they can be added to the file of program options. *Thanks! Leslie* ll.cvc1@gmail.com

Photography Tips and Tricks

Snow – *December* Special Topic

Freshly fallen snow is a beautiful thing and it begs a photographer's creative eye to capture its beauty. However, photographing snow is not as easy as you might think. Here are some things to consider: **Protect yourself and your gear!** Wear appropriate layers, waterproof boots, fingerless mittens or gloves, disposable hand warmers. Keep spare batteries tucked under layers to keep warm, spare lens cloths for fogged lenses, an airtight bag to protect camera from condensation. Put lens cap on when not in use. Use rain cover/plastic bag for your camera if it's snowing or very wet. A zoom lens will give a range of focal lengths without exposing your camera to possible condensation. A UV or clear filter protects the front element of your lens from moisture. A polarizing filter may darken a bright sky or help increase saturation. A lens hood will help avoid lens flare from reflective, freshly fallen snow. When you bring your camera back inside after shooting, bag it to prevent condensation from forming on lens and electronics.

Taking the shot! Shoot in RAW format in Manual or Aperture Priority mode. If you are shooting in Aperture or Shutter speed mode, use exposure compensation button (-/+) to intentionally overexpose by one or two stops. You can also bracket your shots by shooting several frames of a scene adjusting the exposure of each shot using the exposure compensation button. Increase the exposure by one stop before pressing the shutter and repeat until you have 2-3 images that are overexposed. Auto bracketing – select how many shots you want to take and the number of stops you want to add per shot. Press the shutter button 3 or 4 times to get several images with different exposures. If you want snowfall to look more distinct, then use a fast shutter speed ($\sim 1/400^{\text{th}}$ or more). To create a blizzard look, use a slower shutter speed ($\sim 1/15^{\text{th}}$ sec or less). Snow and snowfall can sometimes confuse autofocus. Switch to manual focus to keep your subject sharp. Sunrise and sunset will give your image some warmth and contrast to the snow. Shoot your winter portraits when it is overcast or the sun is low in the sky. Bring life to your image with contrast and bright colors (e.g. red barn, or colored scarf). Get out and enjoy the winter landscapes! Make white balance and other adjustments at home.

HDR – *December* Challenge Topic

1. Take more exposure brackets than needed. You want to ensure you have captured the entire exposure range and then some (check your histogram).
2. Use Mirror Lock-up. This will help reduce camera shake and ensure sharp images.
3. Shoot in Aperture Priority mode – This keeps your aperture fixed for all images and prevents any change in depth of field.
4. Use a tripod or solid surface and cable release if available – Prevents camera shake when you press the release on your camera and ensures that your images can be easily aligned by the software.
5. Be patient and come to the November SVPS meeting to learn more about HDR from Greg Holden.

The Challenge topic for December is HDR and Greg will answer more HDR questions at that meeting.