

JAN.
2024

go-svps.com

St. Vrain Photographic Society Newsletter

JANUARY Meeting

Join us for the SVPS club meeting.

Monday, JAN. 8

6:30 to 9:00 pm

United Church of Christ,
1500 9th Ave., Longmont
and on ZOOM

Jan. Special & Challenge Categories

Special – *B&W and Monochrome*
Challenge - *Abstract*

Membership (Jan. – Dec.)

\$40 – Individual
\$65– Family

Make check to SVPS
Mail to: Leslie Larson,
P.O. Box 4, Lyons, CO
80540
Questions: Contact Leslie
svpscameraclub@gmail.com

SVPS new website:

go-svps.com

ST. VRAIN PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
SVPS
LONGMONT, COLORADO



© Gautam Bahn

WELCOME to new and returning SVPS members. We welcome all levels of photographers, from beginners to professional. We can learn from each other.

January Program – Monochrome / B&W

With Gautam Bahn

I have been interested in photography as long as I can remember. I started by using an Agfa box camera that was gifted to me. It used 120 film rolls, so I guess I started shooting medium format! Eventually, I gained enough trust for my father to allow me the use of his Kodak Retina 3s rangefinder. It eventually became my primary camera all through college. That incredible camera cemented my love of rangefinders. After I graduated from college, I bought a Nikon SLR that was mostly manual, and used that for many years. Career took a front seat, and I missed the beginning of the digital revolution. Recently, I have revived my old love of this art form (photography), and now actively shoot with a variety of cameras (including a film rangefinder – alas, not the Kodak)! Currently, I am based in the foothills of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. I enjoy shooting fine art, landscapes, “streetscapes,” portraits and whatever else catches my eye.

Friendly Reminder

The 2024 dues must be paid by the end of January. **PLEASE NOTE** the new dues amounts: \$40/individual and \$65/family.

Class COMING - JANUARY 6, 1:00 – 4:00 pm



An opportunity to learn about **Photoshop AI** with Murth Murthy. Class is limited to 10 participants. Bring your own computer with Photoshop 2024 or PS Beta, *not* PS Elements. Sign up by sending an email to svpscameraclub@gmail.com Cost is \$30/person.

Photo Submission Guidelines are on the next page – READ the important changes for 2024.

IMPORTANT INFO & CHANGES !

The **FOCUS** of SVPS is to help its members improve their photography through educational programs, hands-on learning, photo competitions, and mentoring with field trips, classes, and constructive feedback on their photos. To maintain this FOCUS, please note the following changes for 2024.

Monthly Photo Showcase Changes for 2024

1. Each member will be allowed to submit a **TOTAL of four images**: Special: 0-2 images; Challenge: 0-2 images; Open: 0-2; **Feedback: 1 image only**. No before-after photos, but only one photo on which to receive constructive feedback. The goal of the Feedback category is to emphasize the learning process by providing helpful comments to each photographer on the work they submit. If time allows, we will encourage brief feedback on all the submitted photos, but especially on those photos in the Feedback category.
2. A brief *Tips and Tricks* for many of the chosen SPECIAL or CHALLENGE topics for each month will be included in the previous month's newsletter to help you capture that photographic topic. We will be asking SVPS members to help write these brief paragraphs for the newsletters.

Guidelines for Giving Constructive Feedback:

1. Begin with feedback on what works and what is strong about the image. What aspects of the photo first caught your eye? Composition, color, creativity, emotion, etc. Be specific.
2. Try to identify what the photograph is trying to capture or express.
3. Identify the elements that could be stronger or are distracting and give specific, constructive ideas on how to improve their photos in the future.
4. Be articulate and specific with your feedback.
5. Be honest and supportive.
6. Don't repeat what has already been said.
7. End your feedback by expressing something that you like about the photograph.
8. Critique the image, not the subject or the photographer.

Let's broaden what we comment on during the feedback process.

2024 Programs (so far)

January: Gautam Bahn – B&W/Monochrome
February: John Freeman – Expose to the Right
March: Julie O'Brien – Sports Photography
April: Bob Daugherty – Flower Art
May: TBD - Perhaps a student showcase

Photo Topics for 2024

(Special-S; Challenge-C)

January 8: S – Monochrome/B&W; C - Abstract
February 5: S – Moody; C – Light/Shadow
March 4: S – Structures; C – Hi-key/Lo-key
April 1: S – People; C – Conveying Action
May 6: TBD (working on inviting students)
June: Annual Competition; Date TBD
September 9: S – Bokeh; C – Impressionistic
October 7: S – Waterfowl; C – Birds/composition
November 4: S – Fall Colors; C – Starburst
December 2: S – Back-lighting; C – Moon Shots

Programs may change due to unforeseen circumstances or the availability of speakers.

Photo Submission Rules

(Submit only if you plan to attend the meeting)

1. Prepare your photos. Name all submissions with your first name + last name and title of the photo. Example. Leslie Larson–Bear.jpg
2. Size your photos. Resize your photos to 2048 pixels on the longer side. Photos should not be larger than 5MB and be in .jpg format.
3. You will receive an email from Reed each month with four links. 1) Special topic, 2) Challenge topic, 3) Open, and 4) Feedback. **[Please note the change to only ONE feedback photo-NOT before/after photos]** You may only enter **four total photos** and only **one** in the Feedback category.
4. Enter your photos (drag and drop) into the correct SVPS link sent out before the meeting every month. **Deadline**: 11:30 pm Sunday before the following Monday meeting to send in your submissions. Photos will be moved to the club computer for the showcase slideshow. Scott will download them for the website and then they will be deleted. Let Scott know if, for any reason, you don't want your photos to be displayed on our website: go-SVPS.com.



Meet the SVPS Board

Officers

President: Reed James
Vice President: Scott Wilson
Treasurer: Leslie Larson
Secretary: Clare Curtin

Members at Large

Tim Laughlin
Kevin Crafts (website)
Cathy Cook (newsletter)

This photo club
is for you.

There are many ways to
get involved, such as
giving a program,
leading a field trip,
helping with events, etc.

Please consider
volunteering.

svpscameraclub@gmail.com

Meet the SVPS Board



Reed James, President

For me, photography began in the 80s with a film camera, shooting mostly photos of family events. With the advent of digital camera and the allure of travel, I became captivated by landscape photography. In 2016, I joined SVPS after viewing their exhibit at the Boulder County Fair. Numerous members have been instrumental in helping me improve my photography; from exploring other subject matters, to composition and lighting. And recently with their aid, I have learned how to photograph the Milky Way.

In 1971, I was an Air Force 1st Lt on temporary duty in England. I brought a Pentax camera with a 50mm lens. For 20 years that camera traveled with me throughout the USA and world. After retiring from the Air Force, I worked in IT for 24 years and continued to travel - always with a camera. It's been great fun to chronicle my family and travels all these years.



Scott Wilson, Vice President

PHOTO TIPS – Monochrome and B&W Photography

By Gautam Bahn

1. There is a difference between “monochrome” and “black & white” photography. Monochrome images contain variations of a single color, e.g. blue, gray, green, etc. Sepia and cyanotype are good examples. Monochrome images may be captured in-camera or produced during post-processing using various techniques. Black and white images on the other hand contain gray tones ranging from absolute white to absolute black. So, all black and white images are monochrome, but not all monochrome images are black and white.
2. When attempting to photograph black and white images with intent it helps to pre-visualize the whole image in shades of gray, paying particular attention to strong image elements that contribute to a great black and white image. Examples are texture, lines, shapes, light/shadow interplay, tonal range, etc. Often experienced black and white photographers are able to view a color image through the viewfinder and visualize the desired end product. A useful trick is to use an in-camera “monochrome” profile, whereby the EVF (or Live View screen) previews the image in monochrome. In the Nikon world this is referred to as “picture control”. In post processing you can revert back to the original RAW file and go from there. This trick works well with infrared converted cameras too.

Field Trip Ideas

Late Spring - Soapstone Prairie Natural Area (bison, plants, vistas)
Late May – Pawnee Grasslands (birds, flowers, buttes)
Late Spring-Early Summer – CU Campus Walk with Glenn Asakawa
~June 10 – Poppies in Morrison with Claudia Courtney
Late June/early July – Hummingbirds at Leslie’s
Mid to late July – Mountain wildflowers
Moon outing with Claudia Courtney – Timing TBD
October - Littleton pond for Wood Ducks

These field trips are designed for practice in the field. Near or far, they help all of us get out to photograph and learn in the process. Let Reed or Leslie know if you have ideas for additional field trips.



See you on January 8!