

FEBRUARY  
2024

go-svps.com

# St. Vrain Photographic Society Newsletter

## FEBRUARY Meeting

Join us for the SVPS  
club meeting.

Monday, FEB. 5

6:30 to 9:00 pm

United Church of Christ,  
1500 9<sup>th</sup> Ave., Longmont  
and on ZOOM

## February Special & Challenge Categories

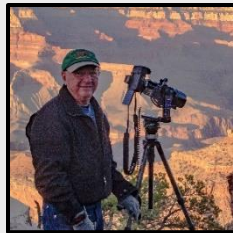
*(See new submission  
guidelines on p. 2)*

**Special – Moody**  
**Challenge – Light &  
Shadow**

## March Meeting (March 4)

**Program – Tips for  
People Images** with  
Clare Curtin

**Special – Structures,  
old or new**  
**Challenge – Hi-key,  
Low-key**



## February Program – Maximize Your Camera's Dynamic Range with John Freeman

We are going to take a *brief* “Deep Dive” into how to utilize modern digital cameras to the maximum of their capabilities, including a much wider dynamic range than earlier digital cameras. I’ll address how to make full use of a camera’s dynamic range to create photos with a minimum of noise in the dark regions of photos. I’ll briefly discuss the electronics of digital cameras - their limitations and strengths. I’ll also cover how to use ETTR (Expose to the Right) to exploit the capabilities of your camera to the best of its ability. Last, I will cover how to pre-process your ETTR shot images to have the most noise free images possible.

John is a retired (2018) Electronics Engineer who worked for 33 years in the Computer Disc Drive Industry for companies including MiniScribe, Conner Peripherals, Seagate and HGST. As an Engineer his specialty was Data Acquisition Systems. His work with these systems involved electronic design and software control of numerous types of test systems involving Analog to Digital Converters used to make measurements on various Disc Drive components. These ADC systems are virtually identical to the internal workings of our DSLR cameras. The experience with these systems gives him an intimate understanding of how a DSL’s electronics function. John got his first camera at age 13 and has been doing photography for 60 years. In the early 1980’s he acquired his first SLR camera. In 2009 he entered the Digital World. His specialty is Gigapixel Wall Mural Photos made by stitching together dozens, if not more, single exposures. His wall mural photos are among the largest, highest resolution photos in the world. You can see his work at his website: Abba’s Creations Photography, <https://abbascreationsphotography.com/>. John has been a member of SVPS since 2013.

**FIELD TRIP to the Longmont Museum for the exhibit  
“Picturing the West: Masterworks of American Landscape Photography”  
400 Quail Road, Longmont  
Sunday, January 28, at 1:00 pm.**

We will have a private docent led tour of the exhibit. If you want to join this tour, please email Reed James, [svpscameraclub@gmail.com](mailto:svpscameraclub@gmail.com).

ST. VRAIN PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY  
**SVPS**  
LONGMONT, COLORADO



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

## IMPORTANT INFO & CHANGES !

Please note the following **NEW** changes for 2024.

### Monthly Photo Showcase Changes for 2024

1. The SVPS Board has reduced the photo categories to three: Open, Challenge, & Special. The total submissions from each person has also been reduced to three. The feedback category has been eliminated with encouragement to provide feedback on all photos as time allows.
2. Each member will be allowed to submit a **TOTAL of THREE images**: Special: 0-2 images; Challenge: 0-2 images; Open: 0-2. The goal of providing feedback is to emphasize the learning process by providing helpful comments to each photographer on the work they submit.

### 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.**

The 2024 dues must be paid by the end of January.

**PLEASE NOTE** the new dues amounts:  
\$40/individual and \$65/family.

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

## 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 three links. 1) Special topic, 2) Challenge topic, and 3) Open.  
You may enter only **three total photos**.
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](http://go-SVPS.com).

### 2024 Programs (so far)

February: John Freeman—Maximize Dynamic Range  
March: Clare Curtin – Tips for People Images  
April: Bob Daugherty – Flower Art

### Photo Topics for 2024

(Special-S; Challenge-C)

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: S – Flowers; C – Artistic Flowers  
June: Annual Competition; Date TBD  
September 9: S – Bokeh; C – Moon Shots  
October 7: S – Waterfowl; C – Birds/composition  
November 4: S – Fall Colors; C – Unusual Subjects  
December 2: S – Back-lighting; C – Starbursts



© Cathy Cook

## WELCOME

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

## 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 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](mailto:svpscameraclub@gmail.com)

## Meet the SVPS Board



Leslie Larson, Treasurer

I joined SVPS at the end of 2010. When I saw the great submissions by the (then) members, I knew I could learn a lot and I have. The biggest improvements have been in post-processing; all of which I learned through the club. In 2003 I bought my first digital camera, a 3MP Olympus. I've now graduated to Canon going so far as to diminish my bank account by buying the mirrorless EOS R5. This camera is smarter than me, but with the help of club members, I'm looking forward to learning more. I'm now the club treasurer, an easy job, and the program chair which is more challenging. I also have taken on the unofficial position of social director and I'm enjoying getting to know all the returning and new members.

My family often visited national parks for vacations, and we always had cameras. That began my enjoyment of photography. I also love to travel internationally. In my 30's, I spent 6 months using an around-the-world plane ticket circling the globe. After my retirement as a therapist, I now combine three passions: traveling, writing, and photography. On trips with family and solo, I have taken photos of wildlife, such as polar bears, tigers, lions, leopards, elephants, chimps, and mountain gorillas – all in their natural habitat. I also enjoy taking pictures of eagles, blue herons, pelicans, all types of flowers, and people.



Clare Curtin, Secretary

### PHOTO TIPS – Dark and Moody Photography

*From an article by Danny Maiorca, published Oct. 15, 2022*

Creating dark and moody photographs doesn't have to be challenging. You can get to your desired image in several ways. Here are just a few tips to help in the process.

1. Underexpose the shot in your camera.
2. Use a colder white balance.
3. Shoot on overcast or rainy days.
4. Desaturate the images.
5. Increase the contrast.
6. Reduce the exposure in Lightroom.
7. Think of a storyline beforehand.
8. Shoot in the fog.
9. Choose just one subject.

### GFU EXHIBIT FRAMING REQUIREMENTS:

Photos on any kind of paper must be framed.

"Gallery wrapped" photos may be unframed, without glass, but must have finished edges.

Photos that are "plaqued" may be unframed.

Photos on metal may be unframed and hung with the built in hanger, not a cleat.

Not allowed – sawtooth hangers, cleats, or exposed glass.

All photos must have a pre-installed wire for hanging.

The Great Frame Up provides hooks, tools, etc. for hanging.

Each photographer is responsible for hanging and removing their own photo display.

### SVPS EXHIBIT at the Great Frame Up (GFU)

430 Main Street, Longmont

May 10 to July 5, 2024

(Exhibit hanging on May 8 & 9; pickup on July 6 & 7)

Start thinking about your entries for this popular exhibit. Entries will be due in early May. Check out the framing requirements from last year listed to the right. → → →

Stay tuned for more information on this exhibit.