

St. Vrain Photographic Society

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Visit our website at: www.go-svps.org

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January 4, 2016
Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Monday, January 4, 2016, 6:30 PM** in the **Fireside Room**, First Congregational United Church of Christ, 9th & Francis Streets in Longmont.

Enter through the west door on the north side of the building.

Our meeting will start at 6:30 with a Charades activity. Our program starts at 7PM, and features Chris Brown, speaking on Landscape and the American West.

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President's Message

Happy New Year!

Okay, a little early but 2016 is upon us and it's time for those proverbial resolutions... What's your photography resolution going to be this year? Yeap, a photo resolution!

Your resolution can take many of your picture-taking "frustrations" into account. For some, it may be technical, for others aesthetic. Here are some ideas for both... This year I will resolve to:

Finally read my camera manual so I understand all of those icons and settings my camera is capable of offering.

After I have read my camera manual, I will practice using at least 3 new settings to understand, if facing a certain scene, how to create a unique image unlike any I have produced before.

Crop in the camera in order to maximize my camera's pixels once inside a post-production program.

Learn to realize the potential of both JPG and/or

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RAW images.

Read or go on-line and watch lessons about my post-production software program.

Master my flash and utilize off-camera lighting when the scene calls for a creative touch.

Get up at 3 am and shoot a display worthy night-time photograph.

Learn to use my phone's camera and at least one new photo app.

Carry my camera in the car with me so I have a valuable tool, at my side, and capable of capturing an award-winning image at a moment's notice...and on a device with more capability than the camera on my phone.

My list could go on and on.... but you get the idea. But I leave you with a final thought and resolution – this year capture your life as only you can...and enjoy every minute of it!

Cheers, and may the new year bring you joy each and every day,

-Mark Payler

Membership Dues

Our membership dues are payable for the new year. Dues are \$20 for an individual and \$30 for a family. Bring cash or a check payable to SVPS to the January meeting and give it to Sallie Sprague.

This is a bargain!!

Committees and Chairpersons

Here are the folks who have stepped forward to help keep our club running smoothly. Feel free to contact them if they can assist you in any way.

Programs - Cindy and Mark Payler

Hospitality - JoAnn and Jim Bell

Website & Digital Entries - Gerry Cragun

Equipment (projector, easel, lights, cords, etc.) - Paulette & Larry McGimsey, John Roper, Murth Murthy

Scoring Equipment - John & Barb Roper

Membership - Karen Samblanet & Cliff DeJong

Photo Exhibits/Venues - John Roper, Barb Roper & Ann Stringe

Field Trips - Diane Kaiser

County Fair Photo Exhibit - John & Barb Roper

Newsletter - Cliff DeJong (Back-up - Phil Samblanet, John Roper)

Judges - Cindy Payler, Mark Payler

Workshops - Murth Murthy, Cliff DeJong

January Special Topic: “Best Shot Taken in December”, Challenge Topic: “Incredible Eyes”

Photos will be Judged. (For months where photos are judged, guidelines are posted on the club website. From the Home Page, select “Information—>Guidelines for Judging” to view them.)

[PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!]

FOR OUR REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS:

For the upcoming year, there will be Judging/Critiquing months as well as Show/Tell/Commentary months. Please check the newsletter and the SVPS website for more information on the schedule. No more than a **total of four digital images** may be entered in the following categories:

- Special Topic of the Month (zero to one image)
- Challenge Topic (zero to one image)
- Open category (zero to **two** images)
- Creative (zero to one image). (You do NOT have to submit entries in all categories.)

Digital images should be no larger than 2048 in the greater dimension and should be submitted as a .JPG attachment to an email to **Gerry Cragun at go@craguns.net**, no later than the **Thursday** prior to the meeting. **Late entries will not be accepted!**

New members are encouraged to enter photographs.

Please submit photos each month only after receipt of the newsletter. This is because there may be changes in category definitions, where to send photos, etc.

SVPS is on the Web!

Check out our Website at:

www.go-svps.org

(It's cool...)

Digital submittal rules for St. Vrain Photographic Society

1. File type: jpg

Naming convention:

- Classification (1 for Beginner/Intermediate; 2 for Advanced photographer)
- Category (**O** for Open, **S** for Special, **U** for Creative, and **Y** for Challenge)
- Photographer's name (blank spaces are allowed)
- Photo title (blank spaces are allowed)
- Category, photographer's name and photo title separated by a dash (-)

General example: [ClassificationCategory]-[Photographer]-[Title].jpg

Specific example: 2O-Cliff DeJong-Old House at Night.jpg

Photographer Name and Photo Title together should be no more than 45 characters. DO NOT use underscore or special characters (except dash).

3. Size: Digital images no larger than 2048 pixels in the larger dimension
4. E-mail photos to **<Gerry Cragun at go@craguns.net>**. Submit by Thursday night before the Monday meeting. (Example: December 31st for January 4 meeting). Submitters should get confirmation by Saturday evening that their photos were received. If not, please call and/or re-submit. No digital entries will be accepted after the Thursday deadline except in unusual circumstances by special arrangement with Gerry Cragun. **NO** digital entries will be accepted at the club meeting. For questions contact Gerry Cragun at (303)772-4654.

December Results

Photos were **Show and Tell**. Some sample pictures are shown below (choosing was difficult, as there were so many great pictures!). To see all of the December results, plus important club information and other cool stuff, go to our website at <www.go-svps.org>.



Beg/Int: Bev Walkington
"October Sunrise"

Adv : John Roper
"He Be Eating"



Adv: Robert Daugherty
"Fall Leaf"

Adv :
Larry Loesch
"Busy Bee"



Adv: Bob Yocom
"Old Crystal Mill"

Adv:
Cathy Cook
"Night Lilies"



2016 SVPS Meeting Schedule

Activities begin at 6:30pm

Your program chairs have been working hard to create informative and entertaining discussions and programs. The following events are confirmed for 2016:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opening Activity</u>	<u>Program</u>
Jan 4	Charades	Chris Brown/Landscape and the American West
Feb 1	Guess Where	Bob Maynard/National Parks and Monuments
Mar 7	How I Shot My Favorite Photo	Weldon Lee/Wildlife
Apr 4	Trick Photography	Richard Van Pelt/Colorado and Historic Photo Processes
May 2	TBA	PhotoFix and/or another idea I have...
June	TBD	Annual Competition and Potluck

Suggestions

We welcome YOUR input on program ideas, field trips, workshops and ways we can improve the club to make it more beneficial to you, the members. Email your suggestions to **Cindy Payler** : <cpayler@gmail.com>.

Also let us know if you would be willing to lead a field trip, give a program or workshop, facilitate a discussion or become more active in the club as a committee member, an officer, or in any other way.

2016 Special & Challenge Photo Topics

A monthly photo topic AND a challenge topic help all of us stretch our photographic abilities.

Month	Special Topic	Challenge Topic*	Type
January	Best Shot Taken in December	Incredible Eyes	Judged
February	Winter Blues	Still Life	Show/Tell
March	Symmetrical	Night Time	Judged
April	Abstract	Wet	Judged
May	Photo Fix	Photo Fix	Show/Tell
June	Annual Competition	Annual Competition	

*The Challenge Topic is to encourage us to get out and learn something new about our cameras and shooting techniques.

Photography Tips and Tricks

The idea behind this section is for members to submit your own tips and tricks you would like to share with the club members. The subject can be anything from software editing tips to camera setups for doing macro, astrophotography, portrait, Bokeh or camera use tips (brand and model specific with enough detail for others to follow along step by step) . Please send your submissions each month to me, Mark Payler, at <mpayler@gmail.com>, and I will try to get all of them included each month

Mark Payler

Composition Notes

When I started photography, I soon heard about the rule of thirds. Divide the viewfinder into thirds, both horizontally and vertically, like a tic-tac-toe grid. Put your subject at one of the intersections. Keep a horizon on one of the horizontal lines, and put a vertical on the vertical line. Simple. I soon learned that there is **much** more to it!!

While judging our photos, a few of our speakers talked about distractions in the frame. Some photos had bright spots that drew the viewer's attention. Others had an extraneous object that could have been easily cropped out. Some photos had horizons that were not level. Others were not in sharp focus on the subject. Another had an object that was at the edge of the frame, and neither completely in or out. We learned that time of day is very important. Bright sunshine is very high contrast and to be avoided. Early and late in the day is best; a cloudy day is fine also. All these comments were specific enough to make a difference to my photography.

Last spring, I went to a conference put on by Rocky Mountain School of Photography and attended a two hour session on composition. I learned still more about composition, far less specific but more important than the issues listed above. One of the more interesting topics was to define the goals of your photo. Why am I taking this photo? What is my attraction to this scene? It is essential to have clarity of subject. There should be no doubt. The subject can be an object, or a mood, or even a pattern.

You want to move the viewer with intention through your image. And keep him/her in the photograph with a place to rest. A viewer is drawn to the sharpest point, the brightest part of the image and to high contrast tone differences. Viewers are drawn to lines, horizontal, vertical and diagonal, and to intersections. They are also drawn to eyes, which must be sharp. Frames draw the viewer's attention too.

There is **much** more to composition! Books have been written on this subject. My takeaway is that I am not done yet learning about photography and I never will be. There is always room for improvement and new things to try. Few of us will ever achieve mastery of this wonderful subject. That is what I find so fascinating about this hobby!!

Cliff DeJong

SVPS Student Scholarship Award

We have established a scholarship award of \$500 each year to one student from the St. Vrain School District, planning to enroll in a 2 or 4 year photography degree program of higher education in the fall directly after graduation from high school. Applicants submit an application with a personal essay, and six photographic images of recent work.

For further details, contact Cindy Payler at <cpayler@gmail.com>

2016 SVPS Field Trip

There is a club field trip planned for June 8-13, 2016 to the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone. On June 8, we will leave at 8 Am from Johnson's Corner. June 8 and 9 will be spent photographing Grand Teton National Park, and June 11-12 we will photograph Yellowstone National Park. We return to Denver June 13.

There are many options for camping and hotels/motels at Colter Bay Village and at West Yellowstone.

For now, save the dates. There is more info coming.

Workshops and Other Opportunities

Mike's Camera

Seminars and help sessions: <<http://mikescamera.com/>>.

Rocky Mountain Conservancy

Seminars and field trips: <www.rmconservancy.org>

Compass Bank Display

To display framed photos at Compass Bank, please contact **John Roper** at <jmroper@prodigy.net>. Photos may be left for one or two months and may be offered for sale if a price is included.

Display Opportunity

The new coffeehouse on Main Street, THE BREW is looking for artwork to display on their walls - and they have lots of room! The crepes are delicious (Cindy and I had the chocolate) and the coffee divine. Contact Adam at the restaurant for information and details. He is also planning on special art topic nights so we might think about how we could join in!

More on the next page

More Opportunities

Creative Conference

On 27 February 2016 in Boulder, there will be a full day conference packed with information and instruction from photo editors at national magazines and the professional photographers who work for them. This conference is unique because it allows attendees direct access to the photo decision-makers at national magazines, including National Geographic, Outdoor, and Alaska Magazine. Each attendee may submit three photos and may win a one-on-one meeting with National Geographic's senior photo editor. The cost is \$150 for early birds and \$250 later. The early bird signup has been extended for our club a few weeks into mid-January, so don't delay! To sign up or for more info, see <http://creativeconferences.com/events/2016-photography-conference/>

Digital Photography Classes

Digital Photography I, taught by Mark Payler. Saturday, February 8th from 8-5 pm at FRCC in Fort Collins. Register on-line at FRCC's extended studies website.

Digital Photography II, taught by Mark Payler. Saturday, March 5th from 8-5 pm at FRCC in Fort Collins. Register on-line at FRCC's extended studies website.

Shooting the Stars Workshop

Led by Glenn Randall. Come to Rocky Mountain National Park to learn how to make spectacular photographs of the Milky Way, star trails, lunar eclipses, and the aurora. Recent advances in digital-camera technology have made it possible to capture the magnificent night sky as we see it, with no apparent movement of the stars. Even older cameras, however, can capture the graceful arcs made by stars as they appear to move across the heavens. These courses will focus primarily on techniques for finding and shooting the glowing heart of the Milky Way.

June 25-26, 2016 (Sold out! Please call 303 499-3009 or email to be put on the waiting list.)

August 27-28, 2016 (These two sessions will have identical content and are not sequential)

See www.glenrandall.com/workshops.html

National Geographic Adventure Photo Workshop

Benefit from daily instruction and critiques of your photographs provided by a top National Geographic adventure-sports photographer. Photograph thrill-seeking athletes as they tackle the rushing white water, deep canyons, and craggy peaks of the Rocky Mountains. Capture radiant light illuminating fascinating rock formations on an early morning trip to Chautauqua Park and a late afternoon visit to Eldorado Canyon. Explore the spectacular landscapes and wildlife of Rocky Mountain National Park. May 15-20, and Oct 2-7, 2016.

<http://www.nationalgeographicexpeditions.com/expeditions/rocky-mountain-national-park-boulder-colorado-photography-class/detail>