

# St. Vrain Photographic Society

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Visit our website at: [www.go-svps.org](http://www.go-svps.org)

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*February 1, 2016*  
*Next Meeting*

Our next meeting will be **Monday, February 1, 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 Bob Maynard, speaking on National Parks and Monuments..

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## *President's Message*

February is right around the corner, and love is in the air!

Our family had a wedding at the beginning of the new year and it was exciting to see two families, and a lot of friends, come together for this joyous occasion. But you know me....I spent a lot of time observing the young lady wedding photographer as she did her best to document this once-in-a-lifetime occasion. What I observed follows a lot of good habits and practices of all photographers:

**-She was prepared.** I noted she brought along 2 assistants so that all of the angles were covered. And she had ready access to their equipment if she needed a backup camera or piece of gear.

**-She hustled.** I mean, she moved around the venue continuously – always in motion looking for those special shots. High angle...low angle... and everything in between.

**-She was commanding.** Always in charge of the scene, when appropriate.

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*February*

·**She was flexible.** If things didn't quite go as planned, she punted and made the best of it. Instead of stressing out, she just kept going.

·**She "lit" most scenes and settings.** Never with direct flash, but always bouncing it off something.

·**She has her own style** – which is evident in the final photos. Her style is, well, hers. Slightly over-exposed and leaning toward the pastel color palette. Quite the opposite of my style – but it worked!

**And this I can say, I loved the results.** She loved her job and her subject, and it showed in the photographs of the occasion. So my final thought to you this month is simple. Love your photography subjects, as much as you love capturing those fleeting moments...and life will indeed be good!

Happy (early) Valentine's 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. If you have not paid, bring cash or a check payable to SVPS to the February 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 - Todd Towell

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 - Sallie Sprague & 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)

A/C Judges - Cindy Payler, Mark Payler

Workshops - Murth Murthy, Cliff DeJong, Dan Taber

## February Special Topic: “Winter Blues”, Challenge Topic: “Still Life”

Photos will be Show and Tell. (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](http://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: January 28st for February 1 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.

## January 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](http://www.go-svps.org)>.



**Beg/Int: Todd Towell**  
"Umbrella"

**Adv : Gerry Cragun**  
"Renegade Vitamin E"



**Adv: Barb Roper**  
"My Snow Crab"

**Adv :**  
**Claudia Van Wie**  
"Iphone Self Portrait"



**Adv: Karen Samblanet**  
"Flying High in December"



**Adv:**  
**Jack Cornils**  
"Sailing"



## 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>
Feb 1	Charades	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	Photofix	PhotoFix...
June		Annual Competition and Potluck
July, August		Summer Break
Sept 12	TBD	John Freeman/Panoramas
Oct 3	TBD	TBD
Nov 7	TBD	Scavenger Hunt/Field Trips
Dec 5	Holiday Mixer	TBD

## 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.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Special Topic</b>	<b>Challenge Topic*</b>	<b>Type</b>
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	
July, August		Summer Break	
Sep	Summer	Shadows	Show/Tell
Oct	Body Parts	Bad Weather	Judged
Nov	Curves	Culture	Show/Tell
Dec		Annual Competition and Potluck	

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

## *SVPS Field Trips*

As the weather warms, my thoughts turn to field trips—going to a great location with other photographers and seeing their creative touch on a beautiful subject. The June field trip is already planned (see below). We would like to know from you what other field trips would be of interest. These would be organized, but not led by anyone. Beginners are certainly welcome; we would learn from each other. Here are some ideas so far:

Colorado Columbines  
Waterfalls  
Night Stars (Lake Irene in RMNP)  
City Scapes (like Sloans Lake at night)  
Flowers  
Old Fall River Road  
Other ???

We are going to ask you for your inputs and if you are willing to organize one of these. Come to the February meeting with some ideas!

***Newsletter Inputs.*** If you have an item you think is of interest to our members, give me a Word document, ready to go. The newsletter is distributed the Sunday eight days before the meeting, so I need any inputs the Wednesday before that, or 12 days before the meeting. Thanks!! CliffDeJong@Gmail.com

## *February Newsletter-Bits and Pieces*

SAVE THE DATES: June 8-13 will be our SVPS Summer Field Trip. This year we will be traveling to the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone. I lived near the east gate of Yellowstone for 33 years and I can guarantee you there are a multitude of photographic opportunities in the area. The wildlife abounds and the hot springs are indescribable. A variety of accommodations will be at Colter Bay in the Grand Tetons and in the town of West Yellowstone. Both areas are comfortable and close to National Park opportunities. Don't miss the chance to shoot pictures and "shoot the bull" with each other!

We need your pictures! Did you know we have a Facebook page? This is a page open to the public and administered by our own member, Dan Tabor. If you have photographs you would like to share with others, this is an easy way for you to publish them and get some positive "likes". We are listed under St. Vrain Photographic Society. Let's help get our name circulating and enjoy each other's photographic efforts at the same time.

If you are interested in a SVPS gallery show at the Darkroom downtown, let Cindy Payler know to accumulate names. The total cost is \$300 for our organization but with many members participating we could make it a reasonable cost per member. Photos displayed are also available for sale.

- **Cindy Payler, President**

## *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**

### *Dusting*

**Dust, what is it good for – absolutely nothing in your DSLR.** It used to be, in the days of film, one would fight dust at the end of the photographic process -enlarging the negative. But in our digital world, we fight dust at the front end of the process and especially if you own and use a DSLR. It's important to keep your sensor clean at all times, and especially if you change lenses quite a bit.

In my camera bag I always carry a Giotto Rocket – a device that blasts air onto the sensor when I swap out a lens. It's quite simple to use. First, when you take off the lens, place the camera in your hand so the sensor is facing down at all times – think gravity. Also make sure you are not in a windy area and NEVER touch your sensor. Place the rocket tip near the sensor and give it a few quick blasts of air. Also, before placing the lens on the camera, give the inside of your lens a couple of blasts, rejoin the lens to the camera and you are good to start shooting again.

The temptation may be to simply blow air on the sensor with your mouth, but you risk getting some spit on there and this should be avoided. I know from experience as I have actually done this over in Moab a year ago and had a round blob (spit – even though it was very small) on every single frame I shot – and thank goodness for Lightroom!

**Advanced Dusting.** About once or twice a year it is good to give your sensor a good cleaning. Camera shops offers a service (for \$75-100, I believe) to clean the sensor, but I have done this myself and with great success.

It all starts with a sensor cleaning solution and some swabs. (At all costs – do not use q-tips or cotton balls!) I bought a kit called Sensor Swab and Eclipse Optic Cleaning Solution for half the cost of a single camera shop cleaning – and I will get about a dozen cleanings from my investment. Read the directions carefully and do this procedure in a closed room. If you have a forced air furnace, turn it off during this process as you will have your sensor exposed for a period of time. My spit (from my Moab trip) was visible on the sensor, so I had to clean it off. Several swipes of the flat swab did the trick, and I was back on the road to shooting dust and spit free once again. Prior to any big trip, I do clean the sensor and have not had any problem – so be brave and conquer your dust fears!

**Mark Payler**

## *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.

For Colter Village RV Park, use Reservation # RGTLC8492 at 307-543-3100 or 800-628-9988. West Yellowstone KOA can be reached at 800-562-7591.

One of our female members would love to participate but does not have an RV. She would be willing to share costs for transportation and lodging.

See Diane Kaiser for details or the Yahoo Small Group.

## *Workshops and Other Opportunities*

### *Mike's Camera*

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

### *Rocky Mountain Conservancy*

Seminars and field trips: <[www.rmconservancy.org](http://www.rmconservancy.org)>

### *Compass Bank Display*

To display framed photos at Compass Bank, please contact **John Roper** at <[jmroper@prodigy.net](mailto: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 Opportunities*

### *Digital Photography Class*

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.

### *Lightroom Editing*

Dan Taber will lead a Lightroom class for Saturday March 26th from 12 - 3 PM at the Longmont Public Library rooms A & B. There will be handouts and files available so you can follow along and practice. Bring your laptop with Lightroom on it. The class will be \$20 each for members and \$30 for non members, which will be a donation to SVPS. RSVP to Dan at [unixmandt@gmail.com](mailto:unixmandt@gmail.com).

### *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. 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.glennrandall.com/workshops.html](http://www.glennrandall.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>

### *Plant Photography*

A workshop for beginners that covers tips for photographing wildflowers and other plants. This is held Feb 14 from 9 AM to 3 PM at the Gardens on Spring Creek in Fort Collins. The cost is \$45 for non-members and \$30 for members.

<https://conps.org/mfm-event-list/#!event/2016/2/14/plant-photography-workshop-for-beginning-photographers>