



Walt Grabowski, Photographer of the Month

Cold Beer, Florence



President's Corner
Bob Maher
2020 Photography Club President

Welcome to 2020!

On behalf of your new board we hope your holidays were great and that you're looking forward to another year of producing photos of your favorite subjects.

The board has already been active looking at things we can do to support you in your photography pursuits. In addition to our already established Special Interest Groups (SIGs) we've updated what used to be the Mentor's Discussion Group to the Photography Discussion Group. Meeting the first four Mondays of each month there are a variety of topics covered and I encourage you to visit our website and check the calendar for the topics on each Monday. We are also looking into some new classes and SIGs to increase our coverage of specific camera brands and interests.

Almost all of our SIGs, discussion groups, and classes meet in Game Rooms 1 & 2 (affectionately known as 'The Studio') in the Activity Center on Texas Drive. Again, check the Club Calendar for dates and times and potential location changes.

Speaking of the Studio, look for some upgrades to the equipment there. We've got a new, calibratable, monitor for the computer that will be installed soon. We are looking into a display to replace the big screen on the wall. And we'll be adding some new backdrops for the portrait corner.

Finally, if you haven't done so, please renew your membership for 2020 by January 31st. Your \$12 supports things like new equipment for the Studio, supplies for hanging your pictures in our various venues, and honorariums for speakers at our general meetings. So, I encourage you to renew your membership and participate in our club activities.

rjmaher52@gmail.com

Introducing the 2020 Board Members

Volunteers always needed - Please share your time and talent



Bob Maher
President



Walt Grabowski
VP of Administration



Rita Johnston
VP of Programs & Education



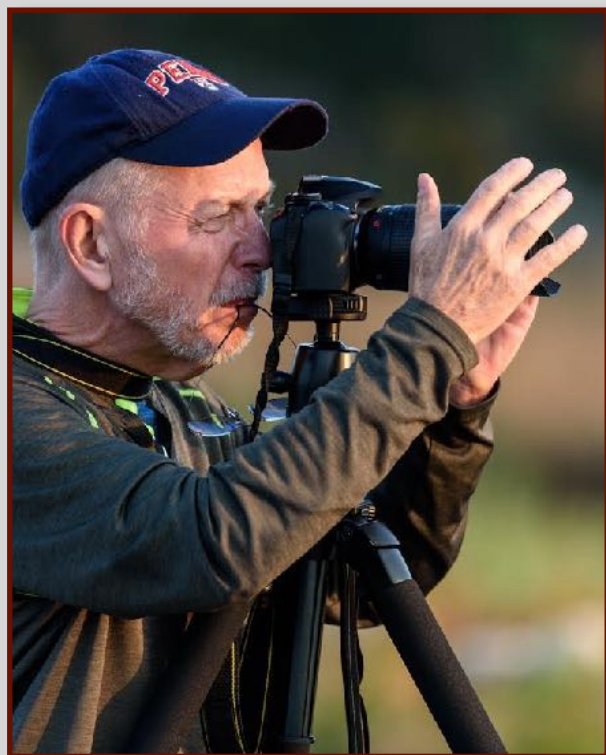
Jim Wooll
Treasurer



Marsha Larrabee
Secretary

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE MONTH

Walt Grabowski



I am a retired executive from the defense & intelligence government-services business centered around Washington, DC. My wife, Sharon, and I were high-school sweethearts. We have three grown children. I have a technology background based on a PhD in Engineering. I'm always interested in how things work, how they're designed, and how they contribute.

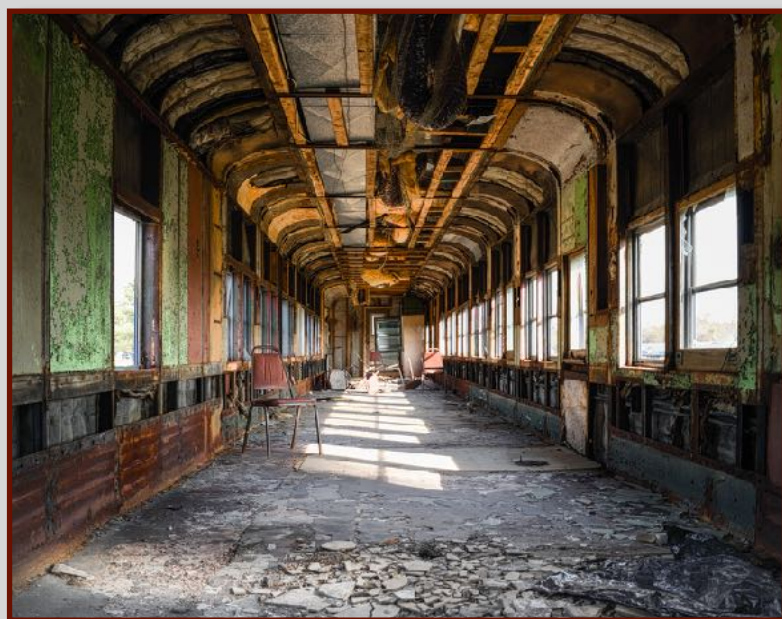
I retired four years ago and we moved to a 55+ community in suburban Virginia. We relocated to Sun City in 2018 following the move to Austin of one of our children.

I started taking pictures while in high school – I saved after-school work money and bought a 35mm viewfinder camera and a light meter. I acquired my first SLR as a treat to myself upon finishing graduate school. I became more serious about my photography as an expressive medium after retirement.

I enjoy being outside, so most of my shots are. I'm especially interested in artifacts, machines, devices. I'm an ardent cyclist and often spot candidate photo subjects while riding in the ranchland around Sun City.

[IG Walt Grabowski](#)

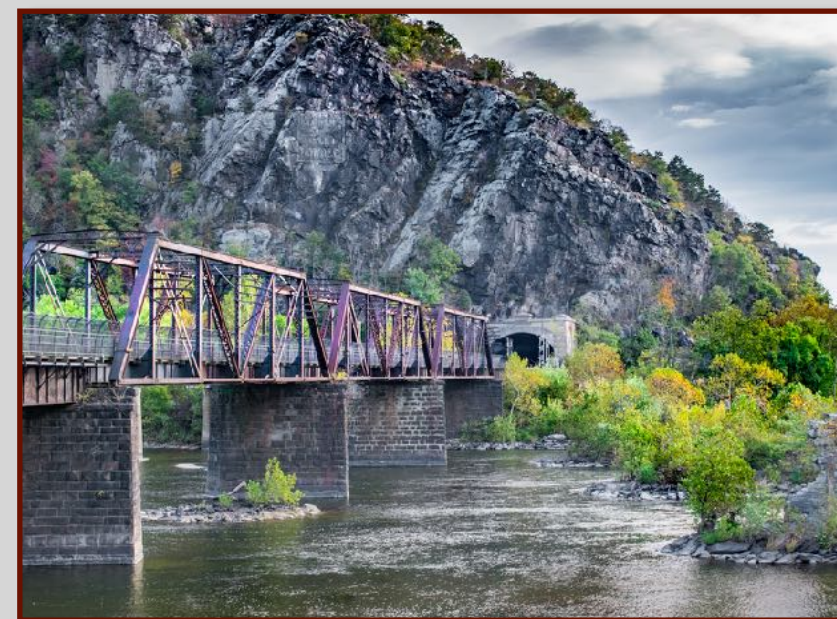
[Walt's Gallery](#)



End of the Line



Ready to Fight



Into Maryland

View Walt's exhibit at the Cowan Creek Amenity Center in January. His digital images are posted in a gallery on the club's website, along with his biography.

SOLO WALL SHOWCASE

Cheryl Janssen



Cheryl and her husband, Joe Wickens, moved to Sun City from southeast Michigan in 2013, and continue to maintain a lake house in central Michigan for visiting family and escaping the Texas heat. They retired from the State of Michigan, have two daughters, sons-in-law, four grand-children all under the age of six, and try to split their time with their families in Round Rock and Spring Hill, TN.

Cheryl purchased her first DSLR in 2011, joined the Photography Club in 2013, and won “Best in Category” for her “Dahl in Denali” in her first-ever exhibit in 2014. This year, Cheryl entered four images and was awarded three ribbons, two of which are displayed in her Tanzania exhibit.

Today, she serves as a Co-Leader of the Photo Club’s PSA Print SIG, and when not playing with grandbabies, can be found playing pickleball or working diligently to improve her photography skills.

[Cheryl's website](#)

[Cheryl's gallery](#)

Tanzania Wildlife and Natives

This past summer, I was blessed and fortunate enough to join professional photographers, David and Ally McKay, of McKay Photography Academy, on a photographic tour of the northern and central regions of Tanzania, Africa.

Through my images, it's hoped that I convey to you a sense of its beauty, not just in its animals, but also its people.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, are interested in purchasing any of my art in any form, or would simply like more information on McKay Photography Academy and their photographic tours.



Sun City Activity Center
A special thanks to Wes Odell for coordinating this exhibition.

January 1-31, 2020

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB NEWS

Photography Club General Meeting

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Cowan Creek Amenity Center

Social gathering at 1:45 - Meeting begins at 2:15

Subject of the Month – The New Year or Winter

Send photos to scphotoclub@suddenlink.net

Agenda

Welcome new members and visitors

Introduction of the 2020 Officers

Reports

11th Annual Exhibit and Contest

Guest Speaker

Subject of the Month Photos

Guest Speaker

Jason Weingart

Adventure Photographer

jasonweingart.com



Photography Discussion Group

Every Monday, Noon - 2:00 pm

Game Rooms 1 & 2, Activity Center

The Photography Discussion Group is an all inclusive gathering of photographers: novice to advanced, cellphones to pro-cameras. Discussions will be facilitated by a variety of photographers, experienced in the subject for that day.

Presenters by Monday-of-the-Month:

1st: Basic camera functions / Bob Maher rjmaher52@gmail.com

2nd: Exploring photography genre / Marsha Larrabee marsha_larrabee@me.com

3rd: Smartphone Photography / Jim Newkirk newkirk12@gmail.com

4th: Exploring Instagram / Sue Puetz sspuetz@gmail.com IG [@suespuetz](https://www.instagram.com/suespuetz)

5th: TBD and may change with the seasons

Come grow with us. Contribute to and learn from our discussions. Bring a friend.

EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

Composition Plus Presented by Holly Moore

Composition Plus sessions by Holly Moore will be held on two Mondays, January 23 and February 3, from 2:00 - 3:15 in the Studio. Members can register for it as of 12/20/19. There is no fee, but please register on the calendar for the sessions you want to attend.

This Session is geared for the beginner and intermediate photographer. The main focus will be a discussion of Compositional Elements and will include a slide show for visual examples. The presenter will also incorporate tips for working in the field that will strengthen the overall compositional value of the photograph. The second session in February is when members can bring their own photographs for discussion and critiquing.

The presenter will be Holly Moore, PPSA.

Holly joined the Sun City Photography Club in 2006 as a novice photographer.

She is also a member of the Photographic Society of America, the Texas Photographic Society, the Williamson County Art Guild and the Hill Country Photography Club. She enjoys exhibiting and competing. Many of her photographs have received awards, have been accepted into juried print exhibitions and have been published in various calendars and magazines. Some of her photographs are on permanent display in Georgetown. In 2016 she was commissioned to create the photography for the Williamson County Museum's 2017 Calendar.

In 2014 Holly began judging for local youth organizations and in 2017 was accepted as a volunteer judge for PSA affiliated club competitions. She enjoys competing in PSA International Exhibitions and earned her PPSA Distinction of Proficiency in 2017. In 2019 she received her first PSA Galaxy.

Kathy Adams Clark Workshop

The Kathy Adams Clark Photography workshops are scheduled for February 4 at 1 p.m. and February 5 at 9 a.m.

Registration will open on the CA ticketing system on January 8. Each workshop will be \$20 per person.

If you have any problems registering, please contact [Rita Johnston](#).

A special thanks to Rita Johnston, VP of Programs and Education, for coordinating these presentations.

MEMBER AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Patty Michielutti's "Hands Making Breakfast" took 3rd in the DPReview Challenge Body Parts.



Mitch Michielutti's "Hard Man" placed 2nd in the Hard Man Challenge.



Mitch Michielutti's "Windmills in Holland" placed 1st in the Best Landscape Challenge.



Mitch Michielutti's "Stop Looking At Me" placed 3rd in the Exposure Challenge.



Barbara Luna's photo was featured on the front cover of the November issue of the Sun Rays.

ON-SITE EXHIBITIONS

The Retreat Amenity Center

This venue exhibits 12-15 images each month. The next exhibit date is Jan 10. Register on the club's calendar.

Temporary restrictions: framed images are to be no larger than 16x20. Until the CA gets the slots at the top of the boards redone we can't take the chance of a frame falling off.

Contact Sherry McRae topspin53@gmail.com



Cowan Creek Amenity Center

This venue exhibits 15 images each month. The next exhibit date is Jan 4. Register on the club's calendar.

Contact Larry Lorimor larry.lorimor@gmail.com



The Activity Center

This venue exhibits 16 images January thru August. Register on the club's calendar.

Bing your photo to hang at a 10AM, usually on the 1st day of each scheduled month.

Contact Dean Ginther dean.Ginther@gmail.com



Solo Wall Showcase

This year, the Photography Club has invited some of its senior members, each of whom is an accomplished photographer, to create a series of monthly "One-Person" exhibits high-lighting many of their recent award-winning photographs.

Seven of the eight who will be exhibiting this year also serve the community as "photography judges" for events like the Williamson County Fair, 4-H Clubs, PTA sponsored events, and various local, state, national, and international contests and "Salons."

The Solo Showcase is on the wall in the Activity Center just outside Game Rooms 1 and 2. The Activity Center is typically open from 8 am to 8 pm.

The next exhibit will run from Jan 5-31, will feature Cheryl Janssen and be titled

*Tanzania
Wildlife and Natives*

wesodell@gmail.com

Mini Gallery

The Photography Club has introduced a new "Mini-Gallery" to give special recognition to those members whose photographs have garnered a significant award "outside" Sun City. A "significant award" is one where a Judge or Jury has made the selections. Not only is this an achievement for the photographer, it enhances the stature of the Sun City Photography Club and Sun City Texas amongst the local, national and international family of Camera and Photography Clubs that are considered "strong competitor clubs." The Sun City Club members have won numerous "outside awards" and this is an attempt to recognize their hard work and excellence, as well as to motivate others to follow.

The first two winning images to be displayed are by Dee Darius Sams and Glenn Rudd exhibiting "Old Man of Equador" and "Wild Horses in Utah." These are excellent in all regards and are worth a trip to see.

The Gallery is in Game Room #1 at the Activities Center and open to the public when not otherwise in use.

For more information email wesodell@gmail.com

For more information about the Photography Club [Click here](#)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



Competition SIG

Coordinator, Rick Siersma richard.j.siersma@gmail.com

[Competition SIG Webpage](#)

[Competition SIG Gallery](#)

The advantage of participating in the Competition SIG is that you will receive written comments from three of our club's finest photographers. This SIG is important because it has welcoming, supportive, like-minded members who enjoy sharing positive evaluations through monthly mini-competitions. You will gain confidence and when comfortable, look forward to entering competitive venues of your choosing. Members are welcomed and accepted at any level. You do not need an image to attend this SIG. The four best photos will be displayed in the Activity Center hallway.

For more information please visit the [Competition SIG webpage](#)

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATING Jan 24

	<u>COMPETITION</u>	<u>REVIEW</u>
IMAGES	1	up to 6
IMAGE SIZE	~~~ 2000px on the long side ~~~~	
DEADLINE noon	Fri Jan 17	Thur Jan 23
SUBMIT TO	<u>sc.competition.sig@gmail.com</u>	



"Foggy Ferry Lake" by Dee Darius Sams



"Linda" by Mitch Michielutti



"Bringing in the Catch" by Rita Johnston

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (con't)



iPhone Photography SIG

Coordinator, Bob Bearden rebsctx@gmail.com

[iPhone Photography SIG Webpage](#)

[iPhone Photography SIG Gallery](#)

Our iPhone Photo SIG is Friday 1/3/2020 at 9am in the Activity Center Game Rooms 1/2 (the same place as always). Our SUBJECT OF THE MONTH is Holiday Highlights and Memories, so look in your photo library and email me up to THREE of your favorite iPhone shots, so that we can admire them at the SIG.

This month in addition to reviewing how to use your iPhone Camera, we will focus on your VIDEO CAMERA and how to set it up and use it. If your phone is over 3 years old and you are getting antsy for a new phone, we will look at rumors for what is being called the iPhone 12, the next new iPhone that will arrive in September 2020 or do you get the iPhone 11 or 11Pro or 11ProMax that are waiting for you on the shelves now? We'll help you decide.

This month we will look at Halide Camera, an optional camera app many are using to give their iPhone Cameras the intricacy of a regular DSLR. See if this is right for you and your shooting style.

And finally we will look at Snapseed again, one of the most popular image editors for cell phone cameras.

Email your iPhone shots of our Subject of the Month, **Holiday Highlights and Memories** to me at rebsctx@gmail.com.

All iPhone Users are welcome!

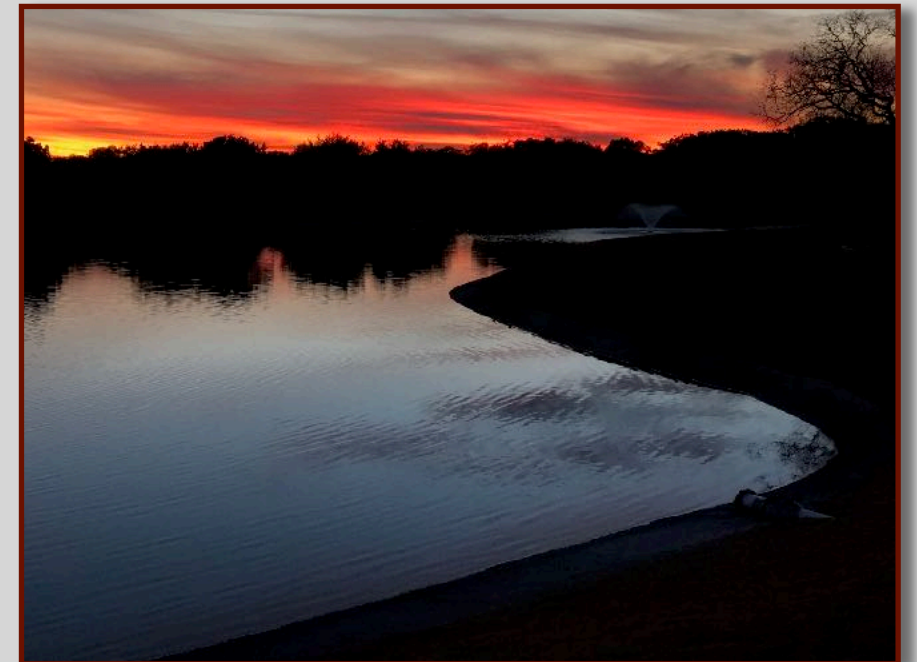
Favorite Photo Locations



"Eternal Hope" by Sue Puetz



"Blues in NYC" by Mary Campbell



"Holiday Party Sunset" by Bob Bearden

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (con't)



Nature SIG

Coordinator, Carlos Rio scnaturephotosig@gmail.com

[Click Here for the Nature SIG webpage](#)

December's Nature Photo SIG theme was "Birds and guys with wings". Here are a few of our favorites.

Upcoming months include your submission of images to Allen Utzig's PSA Nature Competition. Please send images to him one week before the January and March meetings.

The next regular Nature Photo Sig Meeting will be in the 4th Friday of February and the theme will be "Black and White Nature Photographs". See you there, at 1 PM, ActivityCenter, Classrooms 1&2.

THEME OF THE MONTH

Dec 15, 2019	Birds & Guys that Fly
Jan 24, 2020	PSA Nature Competition (Digital)
Feb 28, 2020	B&W
March 27, 2020	PSA Nature Competition (Digital)
April 24, 2020	From the Ground Up Or Photos form Bird Outing to Murphy Lake
May 22, 2020	Spring colors
June 26, 2020	Animals in the Zoo
July 24, 2020	Shadows & Silhouettes
August 21, 2020	Potpourri &/Or From the Ground Up
Sept 25, 2020	MW
October 23, 2020	PSA Nature Competition (Digital)
November 20, 2020	Patterns in Nature
Dec 18, 2020	Fall Colors

Birds and guys with wings



"Great Egret in Breeding Plumage With Catch of the Day...
A Brown Colored Anole" by Larry Hoffman



"Blue Footed Booby" by Dee Darius Sams



"Cedar Wax Wing" by Roger Murphy

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (con't)



Sony SIG

Coordinator, Bob Bearden

rebsctx@gmail.com

Sony SIG Gallery

Our First 2020 session of the Sony Photo SIG will be held Friday, January 17th at 9 AM in the Activities Building game rooms one and two. This monthly SIG focuses on helping all club members who use Sony mirrorless cameras to understand and use their gear to produce better images.

This month we will look at the various focus settings on the RX10, learn how to pixel peak using the resources of DPReview, look at the Sony A7III, learn how to do time-lapse photos on Sony gear and finally review a great lens for the A6000 series, the Sigma 16mm f/1.4.

Email your Sony shots of our Subject of the Month, **Holiday Highlights and Memories** to me at rebsctx@gmail.com. All Sony Shooters are welcome, come join our growing membership!

Favorite Photo Locations



"A Georgetown Christmas" by Mitch Michielutti



"Uvalde Texas Cardinal" by Dean W Ginther



"Poppies along the Mosel"
by Kathy Lorimor

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (con't)



Photoshop SIG

Coordinator, Allen Utzig autzig@outlook.com
Photoshop CS-CC SIG Webpage

The Photoshop SIG is made up of three different groups:

Training Group: Focus is on Using Photoshop

Photoshop lab: Drop in and come with their laptop and an image or images and I (and possibly others) will help you practice

Photoshop SIG: Discussions about how we might use Photoshop to improve our photos

Each Group meets once a month. Please check the Photography Club calendar for the specific dates, times and locations of the meetings. Most of the meetings have been scheduled in our PC Studio (Game Rooms 1 & 2)



Travel Photography SIG

Coordinator, Dr. Howie DiBlasi. howie@frontier.net
Travel Photography SIG Webpage

If you are passionate about photography, you love to travel, own a camera and wish to capture stunning pictures, this SIG is for you.

This is a place for people who would like to explore new places and destinations, and take great photos. Meet fellow travel enthusiasts and share your photos from around the world. Discover first-hand recommendations on new destinations and ways to travel. Learn how to take amazing photographs on your next trip. Learn about Scene modes and the other dials and menus on your camera.

Find fun, laughs - and new ways to travel to different venues. Whether you are completely new or experienced, we would love to have you. This is a chance for you to meet fellow likeminded people and find travel friends.

Meetings are scheduled on the first Wednesday of the month in Activity Center's Game Rooms 1 & 2

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (con't)



PSA Print SIG

Coordinators, Glenn Rudd and Cheryl Janssen

grudd2@yahoo.com or cherylj2013@att.net

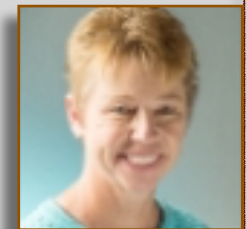
[PSA Print SIG Webpage](#)



This is both a club and individual competition. For each submittal event, there are awards in each category for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mentions. End of Year certificates and ribbons are also given. This is an International competition with 14 clubs currently participating. Please check the club calendar. SIG meeting attendees are sent email confirmations of these dates. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to view photos from this season.

Here is a summary of the SCT Photography Club PSA Print SIG for the 2018-19 Season Competition:

Name	Round	Category	Award	Title
Sharon Grabowski	1	Large Mono	HM	Cooling in Chicago
Glenn Rudd	2	Large Color	HM	Green Crowned Brilliant
Allen Utzig	2	Creative Altered Reality	HM	Pioneer Homestead
Rick Siersma	2	Creative Altered Reality	HM	Kabucki Makeup
Walt Grabowski	3	Large Mono	1	End of the Line
Allen Utzig	3	Creative Altered Reality	2	Texas 56
Wes Odell	4	Small Mono	HM	Majestic



PSA Digital SIG

Coordinator, Mitch Michielutti

imitchmeister@gmail.com

[PSA Digital SIG Webpage](#)



Our PSA Digital Image SIG meets 3 times a year to compete in PSA inter-club competition. We choose the top 6 photos submitted at our meeting in Projected Image Divisions (PID). These are then sent to PSA for judging. Great way to evaluate our photo skills compared to other photography clubs. Join us for a journey to another level of learning and enhance your skills and artistry.

Check out the 2019 photos on the PSA Digital's webpage.

PSA Digital Image SIG Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am.



Fun Foto Social

4th Fri of the month from 4:00 - 6:00 in Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, Activities Center

Coordinator, Jim Sandham jsandham77@gmail.com

Please bring enough goodies, snacks, finger food, etc. to share with the rest of the group. As always, remember to bring your own choice of beverage, unless you just like the Activities Center water better.

1. Please resize your images per the guidelines following PSA PID and Nature Inter-club Competition requirements:

Vertical: 1050px or fewer ▪ Horizontal: 1400px or fewer ▪ JPEG format

Image file should be named **PhotogName.PhotoTitle.jpg** e.g. JaneJones.Big Meadow.jpg

2. Attach your photos to an **E-MAIL MESSAGE** sent directly to my address: jsandham77@gmail.com That will enable me to load them onto my laptop PC well before the meeting.

3. DO NOT bring your photos on a FLASH DRIVE. That method is messy and delays the meeting for me and you.

4. Send me no more than ten (10) images each month. Be prepared to "talk to" each of the photos so we can appreciate them better. 5. Send them to me by the end of the Wednesday before that month's Fun Foto Social.



Cathy O'Connor
Webmaster
cathy0114@gmail.com

Website, Calendar, Email & Newsletter



Sue Puetz
Editor, The Viewfinder
sspuetz@gmail.com



Marsha Larrabee
E-mail Blaster & Calendar Admin
marsha_larrabee@me.com

Submission Guidelines to The Viewfinder

Articles must be received **by the 24th** for next month's newsletter.

Lengthy articles may be edited to fit space. Links will be used for long articles.

Articles must be submitted digitally via email.

Photo submissions must be:

Vertical: 1050px or fewer ▪ Horizontal: 1400px or fewer ▪ JPEG format

Image file should be named **PhotogName.PhotoTitle.jpg** e.g. JaneJones.Big Meadow.jpg

Photographs must be legally reproducible or licensed by the member submitting the photo.

Include relevant information, e.g. contest/show entered, award received.

NOTE: Consult the new guidelines for submitting photos to be published on the website and in the newsletter.