

Woman of Color

Richard Lavaas, Photographer of the Month



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bob Maher
2020 Photography Club President

We're into our sixth month of isolation and social distancing. I'd say time flies when you're having fun, but I'm not sure this has been anyone's idea of that. Regardless, I hope all of you have been looking for ways to amuse yourselves and that it involved your camera. There is good news, I guess, the CA considers us in Phase 1. The community centers are still closed, but a lot of the outdoor venues are open on at least a limited basis. And, the Activity Center is slowly coming back to life. As of August 24th, the Atrium and the Computer Lab are available for limited scheduling. We'll take whatever progress we can get.

The Nominating Committee has been hard at work getting candidates lined up for the October election. The slate will be finalized shortly and announced mid-September. If you are interested in serving in any capacity, you still have time to put your name in the hat. We're still mulling over how to handle the vote. Normally the vote would be at the October General Meeting. Since we will still likely be doing Zoom meetings in October we're not sure how well an "All in favor" type vote will work. The Board votes on motions that way, but there are only five of us. We will let you know what to expect when we announce the slate of candidates.

September's General Meeting will be on Wednesday the 2nd. Zoom will open no later than 1:45pm. The Meeting will start at 2:00pm. This month, in addition to our usual agenda, we will have a guest speaker. One of our own, Randy Dykstra, will be speaking on "Bears and Babies: Grand Tetons in the Spring."

One step forward, two steps back? Sue Puetz will be stepping down as editor of the ViewFinder effective with this issue. Sue has done a wonderful job and we will miss her skills. We are still looking for a replacement. However, if someone doesn't step forward soon, this may be the last issue of the ViewFinder until a replacement for Sue comes forward.

See you at the meeting!

Bob Maher

Sun City Photo Club General Meeting

Next Meeting September 2nd

Meeting will be via Zoom

Please register on the Club Calendar

This month's speaker: Randy Dykstra - Bears and Babies: Grand Tetons in the Spring

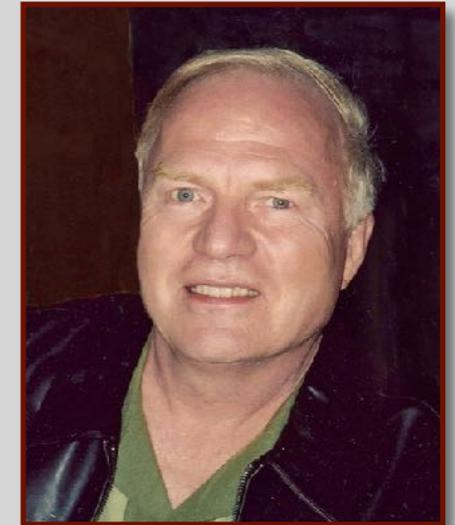
See you on the 2nd!

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE MONTH

Richard Lavaas

Learning the mechanics of one's camera is certainly an important facet of photography, comparatively easy to learn but somewhat harder to implement. More elusive is the artistic aspect. I recall my Art 101 ("bone-head" art for non-art majors) in college. I remember staring at a blank piece of paper every week and racking my brain deciding how to fill it – and make it sufficiently artistic to show in class and survive the professor's criticism. Now, years later, there is another opportunity to develop that difficult artistic aspect in the photographic medium, i.e., the photography club. Once you learn to objectively evaluate the criticisms (that's a good word) of others, those offerings become your tools to fashion a better picture.

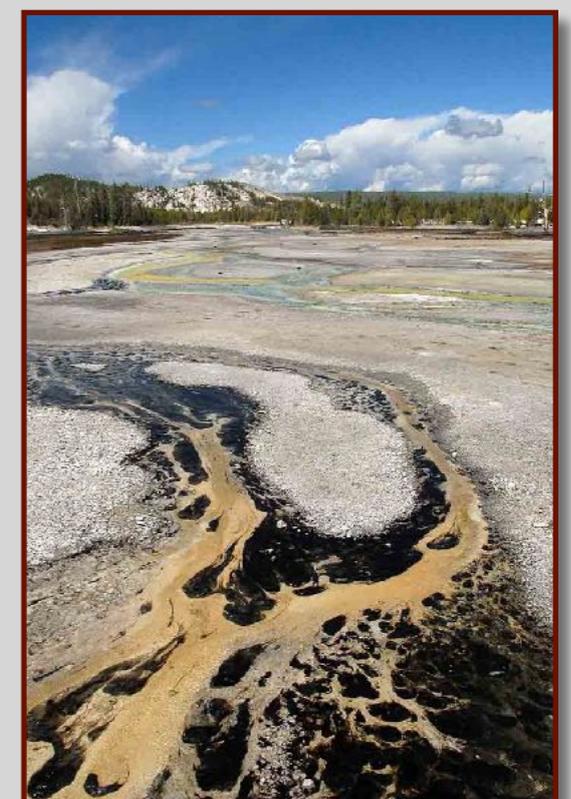
Now in retirement I discovered I wanted to expand my photographic knowledge and scope beyond Art 101. With that in mind, I recall our club's motto: "Become the photographer you want to be." I think that's my favorite mission statement of all time. Notice that doesn't say that everyone should strive to win national PSA contests. It says: decide what you want to do with your photography and then get better at it. I'm still doing that.



3 Pipers Pecking



Bergen Harbor



No Step

View Richard's digital images in his [**GALLERY**](#) on the club's website.

ON-SITE EXHIBITIONS

The Corona Virus lock-down has shut down our on-site photo exhibits. We are optimistic that hangings will resume shortly. Please go to the club calendar and click on the hang dates for the AC, Cowan and Retreat. You will then be able to register to hang your photos. Thank you, Larry Lorimor, Director of Exhibits.

The Retreat Amenity Center

This venue exhibits 12-15 images each month. 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. Register on the club's calendar.

Contact Jim & Mary Campbell maryhkcampbell@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 and Recognitions Gallery

The Solo Wall and Recognitions Gallery Exhibits, both of which are in the Activity Center, have at this time been cancelled for June through July due to restrictions by the CA on the access to the Activity Center. August is a "likely," but it depends again on factors beyond our control. Once an "opening to the public date" has been announced, we will create a revised schedule for the remainder of 2020 and all of 2021 for these two galleries, giving preference to those whose scheduled dates were affected by the Corona Virus closure.

For more information, please contact Wes Odell or Walt Grabowski.

odellphoto11@gmail.com

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB NEWS



EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

Rita Johnston
V.P. Education and Programs

Hello members! I am excited to announce the speakers scheduled to present to our club on zoom for the coming months.

Randy Dykstra will be the guest speaker at the General Meeting on September 2. His presentation will be on "Bears and Babies: Grand Tetons in the Spring."

Glenn Rudd will present a workshop on "Creative Black and White Photography" on September 23, from 2:00 to 3:30 via zoom. It will be a review of some traditional and recently taught methods of processing black and white images. Register for it on the club calendar at this time.

In October and November we will have two workshop speakers.

Randy Freeman, a new club member, will present a workshop on "Photographing Birds in Africa." He may likely expand the topic to include other wildlife he photographed on his trips. Date and time TBD.

Kevin Gourley is a professional photographer from Austin. He teaches all levels of photographers, and is now offering his classes via zoom. Kevin will provide us a workshop on the "Essentials of Light," and discuss how we can use various qualities of light to improve our photographs. Date and time TBD.

Allen Utzig will be our guest speaker at the November General Meeting on November 4. His presentation will be on "Focus Stacking."

Lisa Langell, through PSA, will be presenting a webinar to our club on "The Visual Power of Contrast." It will be on December 10 at 7 p.m. for 90 minutes. More information will follow on how and when to sign up.

Hope to see you at these events! If you need any more information, please contact me at rej1@suddenlink.net.

Rita Johnston

Georgetown Library 2021 Exhibit Announcement

The Sun City Photography Club has been informed that its proposal to exhibit at the Georgetown Library in 2021 has been accepted and approved. The club will be exhibiting at the library from July 21, 2021 thru August 22, 2021. The exhibit will be on the second level in the Hall Gallery and we will be accepting 30 photographs for this exhibit.

The theme for our exhibit is "The Eyes Have It". The photographs we present in this exhibit will either have eyes or an eye as the subject of the photograph, or be a prominent feature of the subject. The following is a quote from our proposal:

In any photograph of a person or animal, if the eyes are present in the picture, they are of utmost importance to the photographer and every effort is made to get the eyes in sharp focus. Our exhibit will display our photographers' artistic presentation on a print medium of people, wildlife and pets where the eyes draw our attention and take us into the entire photograph. This concept allows for a wide range of subjects with the eyes being the unifying theme.

In addition, any inanimate objects having an eye or eyes as a prominent feature would also qualify for this exhibit.

Many of you already have a favorite photo that meets the requirements of this exhibit. For those of you who don't, you have eight months before our April 2021 registration to get out there and find that shot that will have the viewer saying, "Wow, the eyes have it."

For more information contact

Will Chapman

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB NEWS (con't)

Sun City Photography Club Annual Exhibit & Competition

Our 12th Annual Exhibit & Photo Competition will take place in November. This event includes a judged Photo Competition, with ribbon awards going to First, Second, and Third Place in each of ten categories, including a new Still Life category.

This year's exhibit and competition will be digital only. Images will be exhibited in a special gallery, accessible by the public, and judged by a judge provided by the Photographic Society of America (PSA). Recognition of the exhibit, competition and the award winners will be done through digital and print media. The competition will have no entry fee.

Image submittal opens October 1 and closes October 31. Entry will be limited to the first 150 submissions. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by November 2, 2020. A special on-line gallery, accessible by the public, will exhibit all submittals starting November 2. Competition award winners will be announced on Sunday, November 15 via a special Zoom event to which all participants will be invited.

This event will be a great opportunity for all Sun City Photography Club members, no matter their level of experience, to present their work, receive invaluable feedback, and enjoy the work of others. Plan to participate!

For details go to the [Photo Club Website](#).

Opportunity - ViewFinder Editor

This issue of the ViewFinder will be the final edition edited by Sue Puetz. As editor over the past year, Sue has done a great job keeping club member apprised of Photo Club activities and photo opportunities. The Photo Club will miss her contributions.

The Photo Club continues to seek a member to take over as ViewFinder editor. The ViewFinder presents the great work of our photographers and informs our members of club activities and opportunities. These activities and opportunities include our general meetings, SIG meetings, workshops, exhibits, excursions, social events, etc. ViewFinder, published monthly, complements our comprehensive web site.

If you want to work with a whole bunch of terrific people, engage with club leadership in a substantive way, and contribute to the mission of the club, ViewFinder Editor may be right for you.

For more information, contact Walt Grabowski at

Walt Grabowski or 703-439-0127

SIG LEADERS NEEDED FOR 2020-2021

Nature SIG

Sony SIG

Competition SIG: Thanks to Allen Utzig and Jim Newkirk for taking up leadership here.

If you are interested in leading or co-leading one of these SIGs, please contact the present SIG leader for details or Rita Johnston to sign up for it.

We are looking for leaders to start or transition into the lead in the fall.

Rita Johnston

Awards & Recognitions



Faith Burns' *Lizard With Worm* ranked in the top 10% in the Macro contest at Crowd Favorite.



Burton Anes' *Miriam Crying* placed 4th in the Crying Challenge

Congratulations to Dee Darius Sams

PSA Club Representative of the Year for Large PSA-member Clubs

The recipient for ***Large Club Representative of the Year*** is **Dee Darius Sams**. Dee joined PSA in 2018, and recently became the PSA Club Representative of the Sun City Texas Photography Club.

Dee educates the club members regularly on the PSA opportunities for improving their photographic skills. She has completed five PSA educational online courses including the Portfolio Experience, enters exhibitions with the goal of achieving Star Ratings, participates in Study Groups, and submits regularly to the Pictorial Print of the Month contest. Her knowledge and experience as an individual member in these PSA activities provides the club members with a valuable resource. Dee recently gave an orientation of PSA to 22 Sun City Photography Club members that included details on how to get involved as an individual member in PSA study groups, competitions, classes, etc. At each general meeting, Dee recognizes an individual's PSA accomplishment with a camera lapel pin.

The Sun City Texas Photography Club joined PSA in 2009 and has about 250 members. The club meets in Georgetown, Texas, and offers a variety of photographic opportunities for its members. The club has been a regular participant in the PSA Projected Image Division, Nature Division, and Pictorial Print Division Interclub Competitions and in the PSA CCC Newsletter Contest.

Reprinted from the September issue of the PSA Journal. Complete issue may be viewed online.

Sep PSA Journal

NEWS & INSPIRATION



Dee Darius Sams **Photographic Society of America**



PSA is Restructuring their Education Department

The following courses are temporarily suspended while PSA updates and improves them: Portfolios, Image Analysis and Creating Competitive Images. The education department continues to offer Portraits, Still Life Photography and Light Painting the Still Life. If you're interested in any of these courses, please sign up at <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?education-online-courses>.

Re-write and Redesign of the Image Analysis course

The Image Analysis course is being restructured into two separate courses: **Image Evaluation** and **Image Critique**. **Image Evaluation** is designed to teach the photographer how to look at the elements within an image with a focus on both understanding the elements that make a good photograph and being able to identify these elements within an image. The course is designed to help the student evaluate his/her own work within the framework of PSA-recognized International exhibitions and the camera club environment. Students who wish to pursue becoming a judge of images should sign up for the **Image Critique** course. This course will emphasize how to document a review of other photographers' images based on the globally accepted elements of a good photograph. It will look at judging language, bias, rules, etc. At the completion of this course the student should have the basic skills necessary to evaluate other photographers' work.

Congratulations to Sue Puetz and Dee Darius Sams who have been asked to contribute to the development of these courses and to participate on the team to trial the courses. At the completion of the trial and at the time the courses are rolled out, both Sue and Dee Darius have been asked to be instructors to teach these courses.

For more Information

Dee Darius Sams

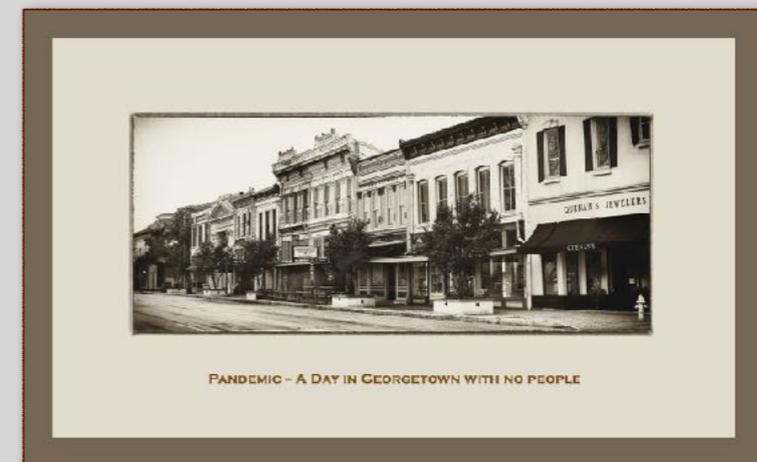
Club Representative, Photographic Society of America
Instagram/Dee.Darius.Sams

TagArt120

Wes Odell's image "Above The Fog" has been accepted into the *Far Country Exhibition* at TagArt120 in Taylor, TX. The exhibit opened Aug 29 and closes Oct 17.



Estrada Garcia Gallery



Wes Odell's "Pandemic"

There were no cars, people, tables, chairs, revelers, shoppers, and hardly a sign of life; and presented a chance (hopefully) of a lifetime to get this shot. The photo was composited from five photos. "Pandemic" is now on display at the Estrada Garcia Gallery in Georgetown.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

COVID-19 lock-down has affected all Sun City Photography Club scheduling. Until Sun City facilities have been authorized to open and operate, check the Photo Club calendar on our website and watch for updates. Your intended event may be offered via ZOOM.



Competition SIG

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

4th Fri every Month 9am - noon Activity Center rooms 1 & 2

[Competition SIG Webpage](#)

[Competition SIG Gallery](#)

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATING 4th Fri

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 three best photos will be displayed in the Activity Center hallway.

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

Photoshop SIG

Coordinator, Allen Utzig autzig@outlook.com

[Photoshop CS-CC SIG Webpage](#)

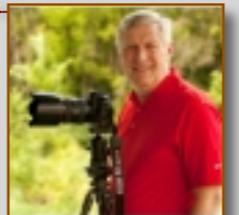
The Photoshop SIG is made up of three different groups:

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

1st Wed every Month 9am - 11a Activity Center rooms 1 & 2

[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)



iPhone Photography SIG

Coordinator, Bob Bearden rebsctx@gmail.com

2nd Fri Odd months only 10am Activity Center rooms 1 & 2

[iPhone Photography SIG Webpage](#)

[iPhone Photography SIG Gallery](#)

	SUBJECT OF THE MONTH
Sep	My Vacation Highlights
Nov	Remembering Halloween

Our next iPhone Photo SIG meeting is Friday Sep 11 at 10am in a Zoom Call.

This meeting is open to the entire club membership. All are invited to check out the iPhone Photo SIG Notes for this meeting on the SIG webpage. Here you will find the links to the videos that cover the topics of the September meeting. Please view videos that interest you before the Zoom meeting. You will have an opportunity to ask any questions or seek further clarification of material presented in the videos at the meeting.

The Sept iPhone Photo SIG will cover:

1. How to shoot Panoramas and improve pet photos
2. Why own an Apple TV?
3. "The Bucket Shot" a video about photography by Peter McKinnon
4. The basics of how to use your iPhone camera,
5. We continue our tutorial of how to use the Camera+2 app
6. We get a peak at the the upcoming iPhone 12 models.
7. **Sharing Images:** A highlight of our meetings for me is sharing the images you have captured on your iPhones and emailed to me.

So send me up to 3 iPhone photos of shadows, silhouettes, reflections or Vacation Highlights to: rebsctx@gmail.com

Please email them ASAP or NLT 9PM Thursday 9/10.



PSA Digital SIG

Coordinator, Mitch Michielutti imitchmeister@gmail.com

Activity Center rooms 1 & 2

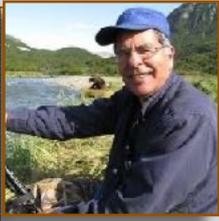
[PSA Digital SIG Webpage](#)



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.

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

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (con't)



Nature SIG

Coordinator, Carlos Rio scnaturephotosig@gmail.com

4th Fri every Month 1pm Activity Center rooms 1 & 2

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

SUBJECT OF THE MONTH

Sep Milky Way, Stars, Moon & Skies

Oct PSA Nature Competition (Digital)

Nov Patterns in Nature

Dec Fall Colors

Nature Photos SIG continues to meet throughout the Summer. Attendance has been higher than the usual Summer meeting. I wonder why? July's meeting had a theme of "Shadows and Silhouettes".

September's theme will be "Moon, Milky Way, Skies, Comets and even Clouds!"...anything in the sky, but try to take some at night! A difficult subject is always good to try!



Snow Flake by B Friedman

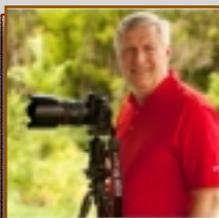


B&W Flowers by Jeff Goldberg



Bull Nettle Critters by Randy Freeman

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (con't)



PSA Nature SIG

Coordinator, Allen Utzig scnaturephotosig@gmail.com

Activity Center rooms 1 & 2

[Nature SIG webpage](#)



The Nature Competition SIG will meet via Zoom on Friday, September 25 at 1:00 PM. The meeting will cover the PSA Nature Competition rules, the judging and scoring method the SIG will use as well as details about how to participate. We will cover how our club fared in the 2019-2020 PSA competition season and we will view our member images that won awards in that competition. We will go over the process for submitting and reviewing images given the isolation situation we are living through.

We will also view winning images from previous PSA Nature competitions to get an idea of the characteristics of images that win awards. Any club member may submit up to two images to be considered for entry into the contest. Attendance at the SIG is not required. However, if you wish to participate in the selection of the club images we will enter in the competition, you must attend this meeting or a makeup meeting. Participation is required because the meeting will cover the judging and scoring methods we will use to select the images. Mark your calendars for September 25 and join us as we begin a new season of the PSA Nature Photo Competition.



PSA Print SIG

Coordinators, Glenn Rudd and Cheryl Janssen

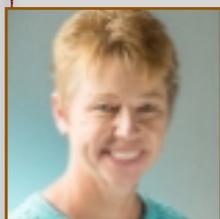
grudd2@yahoo.com or cherylj2013@att.net

Activity Center rooms 1 & 2

[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.





Field Trips

Jim Sandham, Field Trip Director jsandham77@gmail.com

Watch the Photo Club calendar and for email updates as field trips begin scheduling again.



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. Send them to me by the end of the Wednesday before that month's Fun Foto Social.



Cathy O'Connor
Webmaster
cathy0114@gmail.com

Submissions for Awards & Recognitions

Image Guidelines

No more than 3 per month

Image must:

- follow format of 1050px or fewer ▪ Wide: 1400px or fewer ▪ JPEG format
- be named **PhotogName.PhotoTitle.jpg** e.g. JaneJones.BlueBird.jpg
- be attached to your email
- be legally reproducible or licensed by the member submitting the photo
- include relevant information, e.g. contest/show entered, award received

Barbara Friedman
Webmaster
cubtf5@gmail.com



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