

Reflections

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB



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© James West

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UP CLOSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Happy Spring!

The brutal winter made it seem like spring would never arrive, but it's finally here! I was out shooting photos of my bees gathering pollen from the Witch Hazel shrubs this afternoon, happy that we planted these for an early source of food for the overwintered colonies. Plenty more flowers to come!



As long as the winter seemed to be, it does feel like the club year is going by quickly. We have had a great lineup of speakers this year, thanks to the Program Committee, and we still have a few more to come. Our intra-club activities give us opportunities to get to know each other better – Cabin Fever was a fun night as always, Special Interest Groups meet and get out to shoot together, groups of like-minded SBCC members get together for coffee, lunch, or a walk to chat about photography, travel, life, etc. I've made so many new friends since I joined a few years ago. And there's also our great workshops that get us out interacting with each other, and Facebook challenges to get us shooting outside of our usual routines. We still have the New Member Showcase, Women vs Men, Image Makers, SIG showcase, and our first-ever Photojournalism Challenge. The Multi-Club competition gives us a chance to interact with other clubs, and the Volunteers Meetups give us a chance to give something back to the greater community.

Personally, I really enjoy competitions, they give me the chance to improve my photography through the critiques of our great judges, show off my work to the club, and have some fun competing, all in fun, with club members. I encourage everyone to give it a try.

Photography is a vehicle for creative individuals to express themselves, and within SBCC, we celebrate that throughout the year. The friendliness and camaraderie I have found in this club are wonderful. I look forward to our continuing interactions.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the club meeting year, and feel free to reach out with any comments or suggestions you have that will make this club even better.

Ed Szymanski

Editor's Letter

By Tom Amsterburg

As the first signs of spring begin to emerge - longer days, softer light, and the welcome return of color - it feels like a natural moment of renewal for both our photography and our club community. After the stillness of winter, this is a season that invites us to step outside, experiment, and see familiar scenes with fresh eyes.

Spring also reminds us that our club year is still very much in full bloom. With three months remaining, we have a rich calendar of events ahead: more guest speakers, the Multi-Club Competition, the Photojournalism Challenge, Image makers, Women vs. Men, and more. Whether you have been actively participating all season or are looking to re-engage, there is still plenty of time to jump in and make the most of what the club has to offer.

Speaking of the **Multi-club Competition**, just a reminder of the key dates that are fast approaching:

- Image creation: April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026
- Members submit images online by: April 7, 2026 (Competitions > Submit Images to a Competition)
- Member voting starts: April 8, 2026
- Member voting ends: April 14, 2026
- Selection committee submits to judges: April 23, 2026
- Competition: May 13, 2026
- Members may choose to submit two digital photographic images in any or all of the eight categories detailed below.

Here's to a vibrant and inspiring spring and to making the most of the exciting months still ahead!



To provide feedback on *Reflections* or to contribute an article, please send an email to:
Tom Amsterburg (tslhusa@comcast.net).



Upcoming Events - April 2026

April 9, 2026 - Creative Expression Through Coastal Imaging with Steve Koppel

Steve explores creative techniques in the field, making water, sand, and light appear to “move” across the scene. Steve’s presentation will share the specific field techniques he uses to create his coastal imagery and will also demonstrate the specialized Lightroom and Photoshop techniques he uses to craft his images into his own artistic vision.

BIO: Steve is the owner of EXPRESSIONS Gallery (www.expressionsgallery.com) in Chatham center. He has published three books, has been featured in multiple publications, and leads popular Cape Cod photography retreats. He also teaches his techniques through online instructional programs, including the newly launched EXPRESSIONS Online community (www.expressions-online.com).

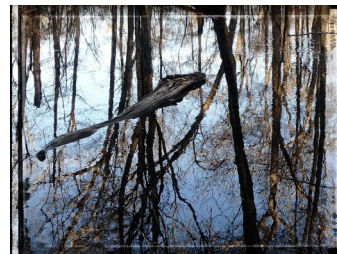
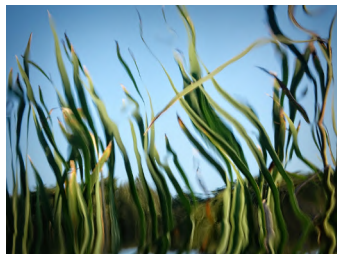


April 12, 2026 (Rain Date April 26) - Newport Architecture & Harbor Photowalk w/ Chuck Noel

April 16, 2026 - Reflecting on Reflections with Shane Gutierrez

Working with reflective surfaces, one can create an intentional interruption between the real and reflective. Shane will present new ways of seeing such as making two photographs in one - the image reflected and its surrounding - whether using water, glass, mirrors, or mylar.

BIO: Shane Gutierrez has been working, studying and playing with photography for over 40 years. His business opened shop in 1988 specializing in portraiture, corporate, product and architectural photography. For 17 years he was one of the core instructors for the RISD CE Digital Photography Certificate Program. He also conducts classes at the Barrington Community School, the Wickford Art Association, the South County Art Association, and the Mystic Museum of Art. He has experience as a lecturer, curator and juror and has participated in both solo and group exhibits over the years.



April 23, 2026 - Photojournalism Challenge

April 30, 2026 - Image Processing (Focus on Sharpening/Removing Noise Shiv Verma

Dave DeMarco

New Member Questionnaire

1. WHAT OR WHO BROUGHT YOU TO THE CLUB?

I heard about the club from a friend, and I liked (and like) the comradery of the membership, the diversity of the presenters and the usefulness of the feedback during competitions.



2. WHAT KIND OF PHOTOGRAPHY DO YOU LIKE TO DO?

I have a love of nature and the outdoors so anything that gets me outside I am up for. I started with landscape and seascape photography. From there I got passionate about wildlife. Recently I have enjoyed astro, macro and monochrome photography.

3. WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO PHOTOGRAPH?

I spend much of my time along the coast of New England capturing life in this part of the country. I am especially drawn to photographing in the blue hour. This is my happy place.

4. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN FROM THE CLUB AND ITS MEMBERS?

I am always looking on how to improve my craft. I appreciate differing perspectives and I greatly value competition feedback. I love to soak in any and all things photography. I am putting an emphasis this year to up my video game and to further develop my photoshop skills.

5. WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT US TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Thank you for this opportunity, it is wonderful. I am married with two wonderful grown daughters. I started my photography journey in 1978 with a wedding gift of a Canon AE-1 and haven't looked back. In 2017 I retired and wanted to start teaching photography which I have been doing since then. I am very passionate about, and love to, help people learn. I do private online learning and field shooting experiences, and I am an instructor for BlueHour Photo Ventures where I conduct cost effective workshops in RI.

Dave DeMarco



Photos © Dave DeMarco

SBCC Meetup: Chinese New Year - March 2026



© Tony Mistretta



© Dan Gyves



© Dan Gyves



© Tony Mistretta

SBCC Meetup: Chinese New Year - March 2026



© Dan Gyves



© Tony Mistretta



© Tony Mistretta



© Dan Gyves

SBCC Meetup: Chinese New Year - March 2026



© Tony Mistretta



© Dan Gyves



© Dan Gyves



© Tony Mistretta

Stony Brook Camera Club Volunteers!

Summer 2025 - Bellforge Arts Center

Steph Sioras, Jake Jacobson, Tony Mistretta, Dan Gyves, Tara Tivnan, Peter Higgins



CONTRIBUTION

SBCB Volunteers! - Whatever it takes to get those shots!

Stony Brook Camera Club Volunteers!

Summer 2025 - Del Fuegos at Bellforge Arts Center

Photos by Elizabeth Siftar



CONTRIBUTION

Stony Brook Camera Club Volunteers!

December 2025 - Bellfonge Arts Center Holiday Stroll

Photos by Elizabeth Siftar



CONTRIBUTION

Stony Brook Camera Club Volunteers!

February 2026 - Richi House, Brain Tumor Survivor's Group

Photos by Steph Sioras



The kids made Valentine's, played cards and caught up with each other after not gathering since before the holidays.

CONTRIBUTION

Stony Brook Camera Club Volunteers!

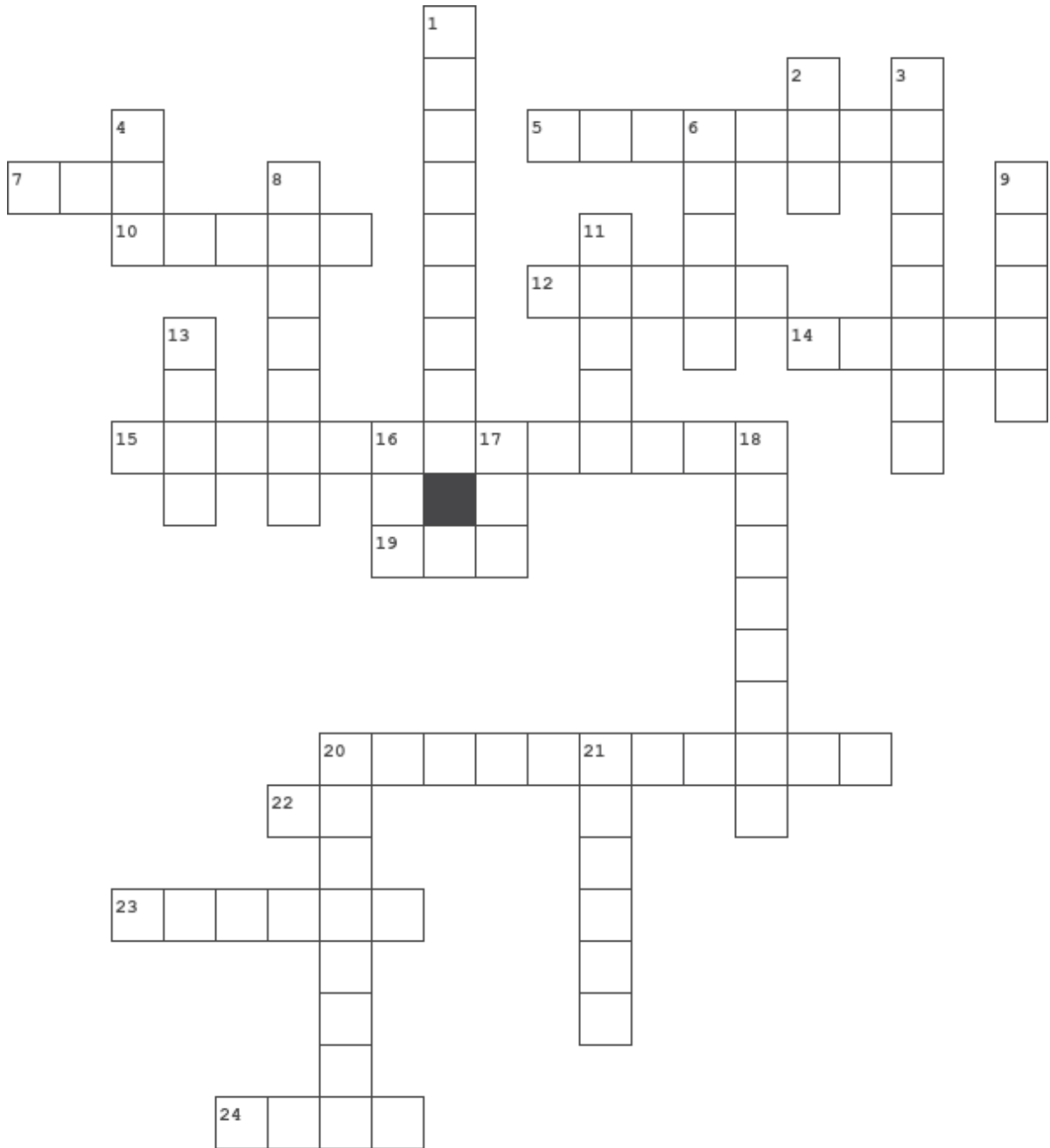
February 2026 - Bellforge Arts Center Fundraiser Conversations on Cuisines: Four Chefs Discuss Culinary Creativity

Photos by Elizabeth Siftar



CONTRIBUTION

FOCUS POCUS CROSSWORD



Across

- 5. Reduced-size image
- 7. Camera sensitivity to light
- 10. Aperture size
- 12. Light measuring tool
- 14. Speckled or colored light artifacts
- 15. Depression-era photographer
- 19. Color space (abbreviation)
- 20. Relationship between image width & height
- 22. Pixel count (abbreviation)
- 23. Photoshop feature
- 24. Compressed file format

Down

- 1. Multiple-shot camera setting
- 2. Unprocessed image data file
- 3. Loss of highlight or shadow detail
- 4. Area in focus (abbreviation)
- 6. Imperfect beauty
- 8. Where the camera flash goes
- 9. Quality of background blur
- 11. Camera brand
- 13. Trim image
- 16. Wide dynamic range
- 17. Automated color of light setting (abbreviation)
- 18. SBCC Treasurer
- 20. Lens opening
- 21. 3-legged photographer's friend

(Answers on page 19)



MEMBER



PSA
Photographic Society of America
WORLDWIDE

4th Photo Gathering

VIETNAM
LAND OF HERITAGE

Early bird until
31st Oct 2025

SCAN ME

JOIN US This time in VIETNAM

The most exciting photo gathering for photography lovers all around the world

Join us at the 4th PSA Photo Gathering – Vietnam, April 23–30, 2026. This extraordinary journey will take you through Ninh Binh – Bac Giang – Thai Nguyen – Hanoi, where heritage, culture, and light merge into unforgettable frames.

<https://vietnam.psa-photogathering.com/>

Stony Brook Camera Club 2025 - 2026 Meeting Schedule

Date	Club Topic	Presenter	Venue
9/4/25	Opening Night/Business Meeting	Members	Hybrid
9/11/25	New Nature Rules + Competition Committee	Rick Cloran & Tony Mistretta	Hybrid
9/18/25	Using Filters for Landscape Photography	John Gregor	Zoom
9/25/25	The Color of Water	Tony Sweet	Zoom
10/2/25	Competition: Digital Nature, Digital People/Portraits, Digital B&W		Zoom
10/9/25	Multiple Exposure Photography	Janina Wilde	Zoom
10/16/25	Wildlife Photography	David Akoubian	Zoom
10/23/25	Image Study	Ray Guillette	Hybrid
10/30/25	Conservation Photography	Soren Goldsmith	Zoom
11/6/25	Competition: Color Prints, B&W Prints, Digital Open		Hybrid
11/13/25	Digital Apps for Planning Photo Shoots	Paul Nguyen	Zoom
11/20/25	Image Study	Ray Guillette	Hybrid
11/27/25	Thanksgiving Day		Closed
12/4/25	Competition: Digital Nature, Digital People/Portraits, Digital B&W		Zoom
12/11/25	Storm Chasing	Robert Galluci	Zoom
12/18/25	Flash for Flowers	Bobbi Lane	Zoom
12/25/25	Holiday Break		Closed
1/1/26	Holiday Break		Closed
1/8/26	Competition: Color Prints, B&W Prints, Digital Open		Hybrid
1/15/26	The Power of Imaging to Push Creative Boundries	Gerri Jones	Zoom
1/22/26	Abstract Architecture and Geometry	Dan Waterman	Zoom
1/29/26	Creating Stories with Video	Mark Houde	Zoom
2/5/26	Competition: Digital Nature, Digital B&W, Digital Macro/Closeup		Zoom
2/12/26	Vision, Passion and Projects	Cole Thompson	Zoom

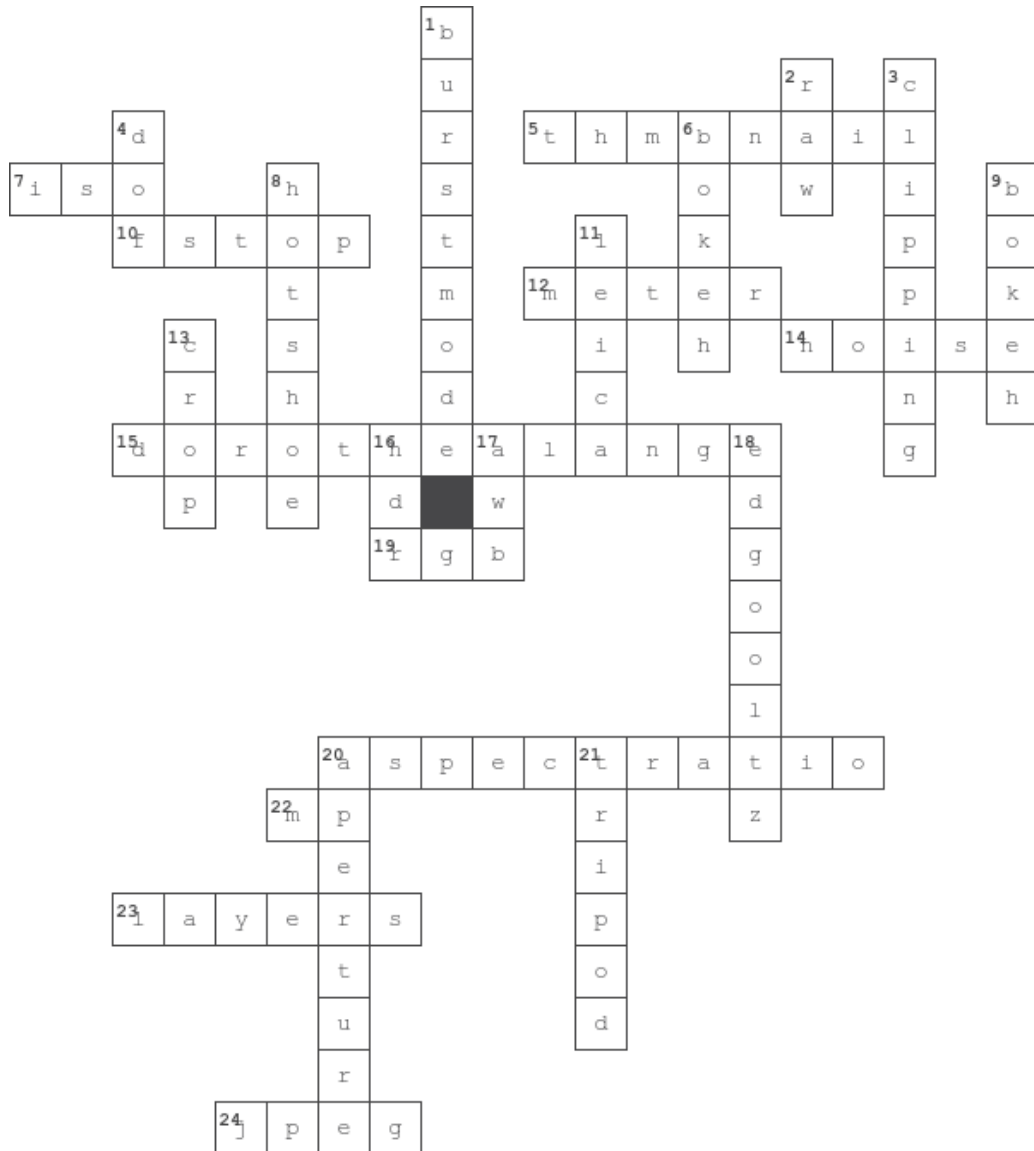
Stony Brook Camera Club 2025 - 2026 Meeting Schedule

Date	Club Topic	Presenter	Venue
2/19/26	Photographing Rhode Island	Kevin Bruff	Hybrid
2/26/26	Cabin Fever		In Person Only
3/5/26	Competition: Color Prints, B&W Prints, Digital People/Portraits		Hybrid
3/12/26	Photojournalism	Peter Pereira	Zoom
3/19/26	Image Study	Ray Guillette	Zoom
3/26/26	New Member Showcase		Zoom
4/2/26	Competition: Digital Open, Altered Reality, Travel		Zoom
4/9/26	Creative Expression Through Coastal Imaging	Steve Koppel	Zoom
4/16/26	Reflecting on Reflections	Shane Guterrez	Hybrid
4/23/26	Photojournalism Challenge		Zoom
4/30/26	Image Processing (Removing Noise & Sharpening)	Shiv Verma	Zoom
5/7/26	Competition – Image of the Year		Hybrid
5/14/26	Special Interest Groups - Showcase		Zoom
5/21/26	Drones	Derek Cameron	Zoom
5/28/26	Image Makers		Zoom
6/4/26	Women vs Men		Hybrid
6/11/26	Banquet/Business Meeting	Members	Hybrid

Color Key

Guest Speaker
Internal Programs
Internal Speakers
Competitions
Image Study

Answers: Focus Pocus Crossword



Across

5. Reduced-size image
7. Camera sensitivity to light
10. Aperture size
12. Light measuring tool
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15. Depression-era photographer
19. Color space (abbreviation)
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18. SBCC Treasurer
20. Lens opening
21. 3-legged photographer's friend

Stony Brook Camera Club - Officers and Committees 2025-2026

OFFICERS		
President	Ed Szymanski	
Vice President	Hali Sowle	
Treasurer	Ed Gooltz	
Secretary	Billi Manning	
Recent Past Presidents	Amy Letourneau Cynde Cusack	Tom Amsterburg Jim Borrebach
COMMITTEES		
Competition	Tony Mistretta (Chair) Patricia Cabral Bob Doyle Dan Gyves	Ed Gooltz Allan Litchfield David Marshak Prasanth Mudundi
Four Score Raffle	Josh Simons	
Image Study	Ray Guillette	
Multi-Club Competition	Mark Landman	
NECCC Rep	Ray Guillette	
NECCC Digital Competition	Patricia Cabral (Chair)	Amy Letourneau
New Members	Cynde Cusack	
Nominations	Alan Litchfield (Chair) Silvana Della Camera	David McLaughlin
PSA Representative	Ed Szymanski	
Program Committee	Hali Sowle (Chair) Tom Amsterburg Patricia Cabral Ginnie Castro Cynde Cusack Silvana Della Camera Ed Gooltz Ellen Kawadler Amy Letourneau	David Marshak Faith Martin David McLaughlin Kris Moore Chuck Noel Deb Shunney Donald Steele Ed Szymanski
Publicity	Billi Manning	
Reflections Newsletter	Tom Amsterburg	
Scholarship Fund	Jim Borrebach (Chair)	
Special Interest Group: Nature	Ed Szymanski (Chair)	
Volunteers!	Sue Shirley (Chair) Jim Borrebach Patricia Cabral Janet Casey Cynde Cusack	Joe Kennedy Nancy Paradee Donna Parker Elizabeth Siftar Stephanie Sioras
Technology	David Marshak (Chair) Amos Lu Kris Moore	Noah Sylvia Ed Szymanski Jim West
Website	Ellen Kawadler (Webmaster)	Charlene Gaboriault (Asst)
Workshops	Ellen Kawadler	Donald Steele



Tom Amsterburg,
Editor
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MEETINGS:

Currently, the Stony Brook Camera Club meets virtually on Zoom at 7:30 pm on Thursdays from September to June. Some of these meetings may be simultaneously held in person at the Anglican Church of the Redeemer in Franklin, MA. Zoom social hour begins at 7:00 pm, while the in-person social hour starts at 6:30 pm. See our calendar for the schedule of events. Our meetings feature competitions, speakers, image studies and discussions of general interest. We also sponsor a number of image-taking activities all year.

DUES:

Regular member	\$75
Student member	\$50
Senior member	\$50
Family: 2 or more regular members	\$125
Family: 2 - one senior member, one regular member	\$100
Family: 2 senior members	\$75

NEWSLETTER:

Published quarterly solely for the information, guidance, and enjoyment of members of the Stony Brook Camera Club, Franklin, MA. All issues are available here:

<https://www.stonybrookcc.com/d/fe5bd610-7d5e-4507-ad26-eff1f109a464>

WEBSITE:

Visit our website at www.stonybrookcc.com for the latest schedule, updates and breaking news, as well as photographs from our competitions, members, and activities throughout the year.

FACEBOOK:

Our Facebook page is for current Stony Brook Camera Club members. You must register with Facebook before requesting to join our group. For any questions, e-mail David Marshak from the SBCC website e-mail tab (you must be logged in to view).

OFFICERS:

Officers are elected annually and serve as the Executive Committee, together with the two most recent past presidents. SBCC is affiliated with the New England Camera Club Council (NECCC) and is a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA).

MISSION STATEMENT:

Stony Brook Camera Club's mission is to promote enjoyment and proficiency in all aspects of photography through education, fellowship, exchange of knowledge and experience, and a broad appreciation of nature and our environment.