

Reflections

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB



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© Ellen Burke

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UP CLOSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Here we are, at the end of the club year! It went by so fast. What a great experience, working with all of the committees and club members, planning events, etc. I've been involved in many organizations where it's hard to get people involved in doing the work that needs to be done to keep an organization going, but that is not the case with SBCC. So many people are ready and willing to help out, doing the things that need to be done, it's easy to be the president of this club!



The last few months of the club year were every bit as satisfying as the previous months – in the March newsletter I wrote about some of programs we enjoyed earlier in the year. Since then, we've had several great speakers, and our usual very popular internal programs like Image Makers, New Member Showcase, Image of the Year, and more. SBCC won the Multi-club competition! We had a great Special Interest Groups presentation with 3 very active SIGs showing images from their outings. I'm proud to have started this program at SBCC and to see its success in bringing members together outside of regular club meetings. Will we add even more groups next year? Our first-ever Photojournalism Challenge was fun and educational, with 7 members presenting photojournalistic stories and receiving excellent critique by Peter Pereira. I would definitely like to see more of that sort of program. Women vs. Men was again a big hit, with plenty of friendly ribbing and an entertaining pair of judges.

I'm especially impressed by the way the club comes together to help a member in need. The compassion and generosity of our members is heartwarming.

I'm looking forward to our end-of-the-year banquet where we will socialize, eat pizza and sandwiches, and then have a meeting with awards and images, and a tribute to our 2 members who passed away in the past year, Faith and Donna.

I'm going to join the Competition Committee next year, and stay with the Tech Committee, and who knows what else?

I'll close with a heartfelt, wide-reaching, "thank you" to everyone who helped make the past year at SBCC a great one. There are too many names to list. Please join me in thanking everyone involved in keeping SBCC running.

I hope to see you all at the banquet. Looking forward to next year,

Ed

Editor's Letter

This has been another fantastic year for our club, and like most of us, I can't believe it's over. I won't repeat what Ed Szymanski said in "*Up Close with the President*," but suffice it to say that the club is thriving. And how!

Many thanks to Ellen Burke for her striking cover image of the stairway at the Race Point Lighthouse, located within the Cape Cod National Seashore. This part of the Cape just happens to be one of my favorite places on earth, and I can't wait to get back there this summer.

Do you need inspiration for new locations for a photo shoot? Check out this edition's guide to interesting locations in New England, from beautiful gardens and firework displays to vintage car shows. Also – and this is very big – **the tall ships are returning to Boston in July!** This multi-day event will be spectacular, and you won't want to miss it (see page 10 for details).

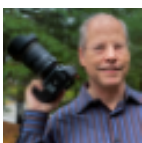
This issue pays tribute to our **Image of the Year** winners this season and also features images from some recent Volunteers! events. Through their support of local nonprofit organizations, the members of the Volunteers! Committee demonstrate the positive impact our club can have in the community. Better yet, they have a great time doing it!

For those of you who enjoy competing and showing your images to a wider audience, check out the competitions being held this summer by the *Photographic Society of America* (see page 19). The exhibition date is September 13, 2026. Deadlines are approaching, so don't delay if you are interested.

Finally, our club is so lucky to have had such good people running our organization and to have new leaders who are willing to step up to the plate. Ed has done a terrific job as President this year while also being heavily involved with Tech Committee. It's kind of like being the news announcer and the cameraman at the same time! Kudos also to Hali Sowle for her great work as Vice President, including chairing the all-important Program Committee.

We look forward to having Hali as our new President and also welcome back Ed Gooltz as Treasurer and Billi Manning as Secretary. Ed and Billi do a lot of work behind the scenes, and we really appreciate their steady presence. New to the team next season is Sue Shirley, who is our incoming Vice President. Sue and the rest of the Program Committee are already hard at work finding next year's speakers and planning other activities.

I hope everyone has a fabulous summer, plenty of great photo opportunities, and, most importantly, lots of fun shooting!



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



Congratulations to the Winners!



CLASS AA - Digital Nature:
Oyster Catcher Family
© Jean DiBattista



CLASS A - Digital Nature:
Piggyback
© Janet Walton

Congratulations to the Winners!

CLASS B - Digital Nature:

Open Wide

© Nancy Bradley



CLASS AA - Digital Open:

Grivet Momma and Baby

© Ellen Kawadler

Congratulations to the Winners!



CLASS A - Digital Open:
Moonrise over Good Harbor Beach
© Charles Call

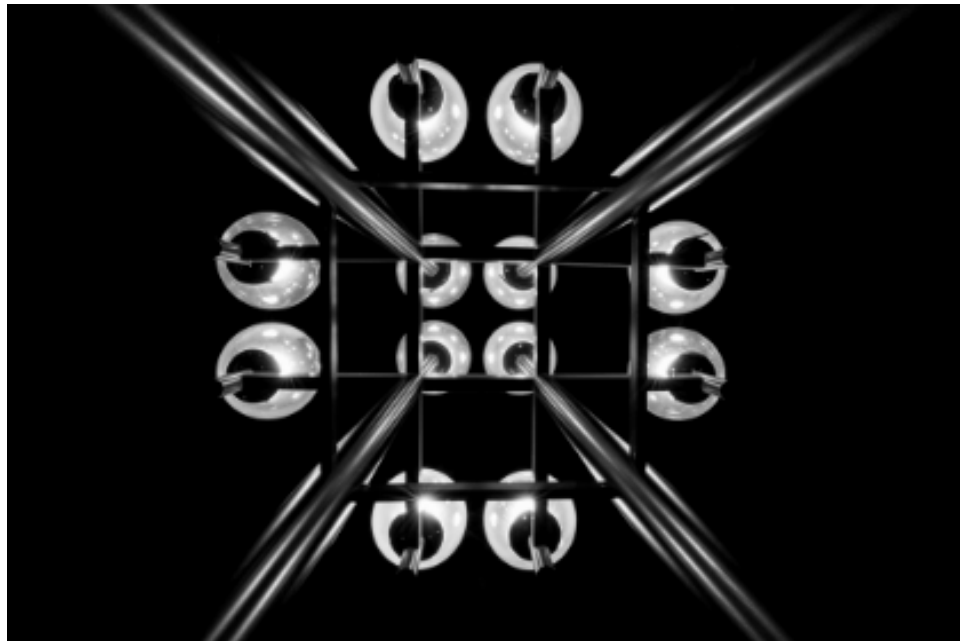


CLASS B - Digital Open:
American Heritage Prison Scene
© Suki Hanfling

Congratulations to the Winners!



Digital People & Portraits:
The Innocence of a Newborn
© Linda Rondeau



Digital Black & White:
Under the Lights
© Ginny Castro

Congratulations to the Winners!



Color Print:

Still Life Berries in a Vase

© Debra Boucher



Monochrome Print:

Holy Cross Cathedral

© James West

Places to Visit for Photo Shoots

Boston

Arnold Arboretum

125 Arborway, Boston

Google Maps: <https://tinyurl.com/5ykpcm4m>



Boston Public Garden & Boston Common

Google Maps (Public Garden): <https://tinyurl.com/48yvh47c>

Google Maps (Boston Common): <https://tinyurl.com/msmk4zre>



Larz Anderson Park (free) and Larz Anderson Auto Museum

Goddard Avenue & Newton Street, Brookline

Google Maps: <https://tinyurl.com/ybrt89wy>

Website: <https://www.larzanderson.org/>



Massachusetts Institute of Technology Campus - Cambridge

Website: <https://tinyurl.com/3prpf3s4>



Sail Boston 2026 - The Tall Ships Return to Boston - July 11-16, 2026

Google Maps: <https://www.sailboston.com/>



The Garden at Elm bank – Massachusetts Horticultural Society (\$14/adult)

900 Washington Street, Wellesley

Google Maps: <https://tinyurl.com/2rushcub>

Website: <https://www.masshort.org/the-garden-at-elm-bank>



Outside of Boston

Cruise Night at Patriot Place (100s of old cars!)

Thursdays @ 4 pm on: 7/23, 7/30, 8/13, 8/20, 9/3, 9/17, 10/1, 10/15

Patriot Place, Foxboro

Website: <https://www.patriot-place.com/masscruisers/>



Fireworks - Full list of Fireworks in Massachusetts this Summer

https://www.bostoncentral.com/events/massachusetts_fireworks_2010/p5389.php

Places to Visit for Photo Shoots

Francis William Bird Park

135 Polley Lane, East Walpole

Google Maps: <https://tinyurl.com/2bb7xj79>



Heritage Museums & Garden (\$22/adult)

67 Grove Street, Sandwich

Google Maps: <https://tinyurl.com/3muevfx>

Website: <https://heritagemuseumsandgardens.org/>



New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill (\$20 adult)

11 French Drive, Boylston

Google Maps: <https://tinyurl.com/3muevfx>



Rockport Harbor / Motif #1 (Fishing Shack)

Rockport

Google Maps: <https://tinyurl.com/2ca8tzrv>



Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary

108 North Street, Norfolk

Google Maps: <https://tinyurl.com/mrcyjm4>



Wayside Inn Grist Mill / Martha Mary Chapel

72 Wayside Inn Road / 35 Dutton Road, Sudbury

Google Maps (Wayside Grist Mill): <https://tinyurl.com/bdfk96en>

Google Maps (Martha Mary Chapel): <https://tinyurl.com/5fbudaff>



Connecticut and Rhode Island

Beavertail Lighthouse

Beavertail Road, Jamestown, RI

Google Maps: <https://tinyurl.com/yukfywat>



Buttonwood Farm (Sunflowers)

473 Shetucket Turnpike, Griswold, CT

Google Maps: <https://tinyurl.com/mwf8pv99>

Website: <https://www.buttonwoodfarmicecream.com/>



Places to Visit for Photo Shoots

Mystic Seaport Museum (\$31 adult/ \$29 senior)

76 Greenmanville Ave., Mystic, Ct

Google Maps: <https://tinyurl.com/2xn522s8>

Website: <https://mysticseaport.org/>



Roger Williams Park / Botanical Center / Zoo

Providence, RI

Google Maps (Roger Williams Park): <https://tinyurl.com/4ra42pyu>

Google Maps (RWP Botanical Center): <https://tinyurl.com/5ddp3z5c>

Google Maps (RWP Zoo): <https://tinyurl.com/3nadtra>



Resources

New England

Dave Long has published a number of e-books for self-guided photo shoots in various locations around Massachusetts and New England. The e-books contain detailed descriptions of shooting locations, including address, parking & GPS link to Google Maps, as well as photography tips.

<https://davelongphoto.com/>

Lower & Mid Cape Cod/Nantucket Island (\$25)

Upper Cape & Martha's Vineyard (\$20)

Outer Cape (\$25)

Maine - Portland/Southern Coast (20)

Maine – Midcoast (\$20)

New Hampshire – White Mountains (\$10)

Rhode Island (Eastern) (\$20)

Acadia National Park

Coleen Miniuk has authored an excellent guide to photographing Acadia National Park in Maine. This book will tell you exactly where and when to make a photo and Acadia. It also offers many excellent photography tips, including the settings used in her images.

Available on *Amazon* (book only) and on her website (book and e-book):

<https://www.colleenminiuk.com/>

Photographing Acadia National Park, 2nd edition (e-book: \$12.95 / book \$24.95)

Stony Brook Camera Club Volunteers!

Attleboro Museum Flower Show



© Barbara Asacker



© Joe Kennedy



© David Marshak



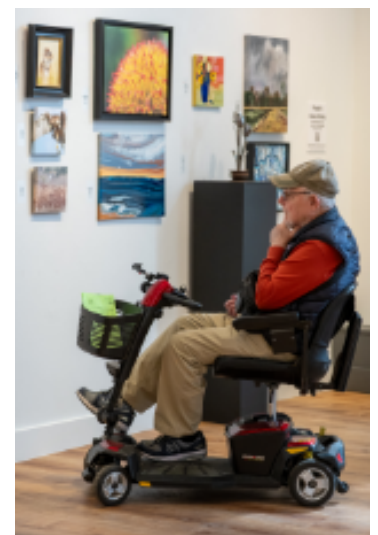
© Nancy Jacobs Best



© Billi Manning



© Steph Sioras



© Lucia Hackett

CONTRIBUTION

Stony Brook Camera Club Volunteers!

Attleboro Museum Flower Show



© Steph Sioras



© Steph Sioras

Bellfonge Arts Center - Fairy House Workshop

Photos by Joe Kennedy



CONTRIBUTION

Stony Brook Camera Club Volunteers!

Bellfonge Arts & Craft Festival

Photos by Elizabeth Siftar



CONTRIBUTION

Stony Brook Camera Club Volunteers!

Richi Foundation Carnival of Colors



© Steph Sioras



© Sue Shirley



© Steph Sioras



© Sue Shirley



© Steph Sioras



© Sue Shirley



© Steph Sioras

CONTRIBUTION

2026-27 Multi-Club Competition

2026-27 Multi-Club Competition Boston, Gateway, and Stony Brook Camera Clubs

All members of the Boston, Gateway, and Stony Brook Camera Clubs are invited to participate in the friendly 8th Annual Multi-Club Competition to be hosted online in 2027 (date TBA).

All images must be created within a one-year period beginning April 1st, 2026 and ending March 31st, 2027.

Members may choose to submit digital photographic images in any or all of the eight categories detailed below.

Category	Definition
1. Cars	They're everywhere, and we need them, yet we often take them for granted. Cars can be stylish, sexy, rugged, or very plain. They can be looked at from a number of different perspectives – standing still, in motion, picking up or discharging passengers. They can be viewed from different angles – a headlight, a menacing looking grille, sharp pointed tail fins, or a meticulously detailed engine compartment. How do you see this fixture in our landscape? That's what we're looking for here. It's ok if people or other objects are present in the image, but a car or cars must be the primary subject.
2. Colors in Nature	It might be a brilliantly colored rare bird like a Painted Bunting, or a colorful fall foliage scene, or those same fall colors reflected in water, or who knows? Nature displays its colors in many ways – let's see your interpretation of the beauty all around us. One thing - please, this is all about nature, so no artificial coloration or over-saturation.
3. Around the Table	The table holds a vital role in creating community. It invites us to engage. It encourages openness, vulnerability, and interaction.
4. Through the Looking Glass	This theme uses glass to explore seeing the world from an altered perspective. The presence of glass must be immediately and unmistakably clear in the photograph — whether through windows, mirrors, or other transparent surfaces — and the glass must have the effect of blurring the line between reality and illusion, adding a dimension to your visual storytelling. It's important to move beyond clichéd or overly familiar reflection images. The goal is not simply to show a reflection, but to use the glass intentionally to transform, distort, layer, or reframe the story. The resulting images offer a sense of mystery, wonder, and multiple layers of interpretation.
5. Long Exposure	Long exposures convey the passage of time within a single frame, transforming motion into something fluid, atmospheric, or abstract. Rather than freezing a moment, these images reveal what the eye cannot fully perceive—softened water flowing like silk, clouds stretching across the sky, lights tracing invisible paths, or human movement dissolving into ghostly suggestion. Long exposure images should evoke mood and continuity, emphasizing contrast between stillness and motion. Static elements often anchor the composition, while moving elements create texture, rhythm, or a sense of quiet transformation. The result may feel serene, surreal, or even otherworldly, inviting the viewer to experience time not as an instant, but as a lingering presence.

2026-27 Multi-Club Competition

2026-27 Multi-Club Competition Boston, Gateway, and Stony Brook Camera Clubs

Category	Definition
6. Silhouette	This all about storytelling through shape, contrast, and mystery. Photographs in this category should emphasize the striking outline or shape of a subject set against a brighter background. The subject is typically rendered as a dark, featureless form, with little to no visible detail, allowing its shape and relationship to the surrounding light to convey the image's impact. Strong contrast, clean edges, and a clear, recognizable subject are essential. The essence of a silhouette image lies in its ability to communicate mood, drama, mystery, or storytelling through form alone rather than detail.
7. Geometry	There is hidden geometry all around us. Photographs that capture this should feature strong geometric shapes; clean lines, triangles, circles, squares, rectangles, spirals, etc. that are created by architecture, nature, shadows, everyday objects, or urban environments. Geometry should be the main subject.
8. America at 250	We are looking for photographs that capture the spirit of America at 250 years old; photos portraying the celebration of our country by blending founding ideals with contemporary life.

Members from the clubs will be assigned to either Class A (advanced) or B (beginner and intermediate) in Multi-Club to give all photographers a chance to compete fairly with others at a similar level of experience and skill. Next April, each club will select a single final image in each category and class to compete in the event. Only one image per member may be submitted to the finals, allowing 16 members from each club (8 categories x 2 classes) to compete.

Multi-Club will once again be judged by a distinguished panel of three judges independent of the clubs. The judges will offer their comments on all finalist images, especially focused on stressing each image's impact in communicating the category definition. Awards will be given to the best image in each class/category based on the judges' rankings. Club awards will be given for best total placement across all categories in Class B, Class A and Overall. Finally, at the end of the competition, the judges will also each choose a Judge's Favorite for each class, across all categories, for a total of up to 22 individual awards (16 category winners and up to 3 across all categories in both Class B and Class A).



MEMBER



There are ten separate competitions to choose from, each with its own closing date, details, entry forms, and sections. Exhibition pages contain links to Conditions of Entry, Entry fees & Forms, Status, Results, Gallery and Catalog for each exhibition.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Digital Exhibitions: Pictorial, Nature, Photo Travel Documentary, World in Focus, Photojournalism

Print Exhibitions: Nature, Photo Travel Documentary, Photojournalism, Small Print, Large Print

<https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/psa-annual>

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

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
P.O. Box 20
Wrentham, MA 02903-0020
<https://www.stonybrookcc.com/>

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.