

Reflections

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB



Volume 50 No. 1 | September - December 2025

© George Komarnicki

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UP CLOSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Happy winter! When I went out to let the chickens out this morning the temperature was 7 degrees. Many days, after that chore is complete, I think about going out to shoot somewhere. Not today! I do go out in the cold, but not that cold!

The club year is going well, I think. We have had really great presentations by top-notch speakers, thanks to the hard work by the Program Committee over the summer. Also a couple of great Image Studies and competition nights. Our last competition had a large number of entries, and our judge, Rick Cloran, did a fantastic job explaining his critical points about the images – not just what the issue was, but how to correct it or avoid it next time. Later in the year, we will have more speakers and also other special programs like Cabin Fever, Challenges, and more. These events require a significant time contribution by members to make them happen. From tech setup to workshops to our library gallery, SBCC members come through. The program year has just begun!



I'm happy to see the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) thriving. We started this a few years ago, an opportunity for a relatively small group of people with a common interest to get together and discuss their favorite subject, and also get out and shoot together. Interaction between members outside of regular meetings really builds a strong sense of camaraderie in the club. We started out with Nature, and now have 3 active SIGs – Nature, Travel, and Night Photography. In fact, a group of 7 Nature SIG members met last weekend at a place known for the presence of an uncommon winter visitor to Massachusetts – the Short-Eared Owl. Seeing them requires a walk of at least 1 ½ miles in the late afternoon over trails marked by ruts, mud, water, and ice. But we enjoyed the adventure, shared stories, camera tips, and generally had a good time together. The owls did come out on schedule, and images were captured. It was a good day.

Then there's the Volunteers! Committee. This group organizes opportunities for members to get out together and photograph community events, providing the images to the event organizers for publicity, etc. What a great way to give something back to the community. If you get a chance to participate in any of these events, please consider it, it's fun and certainly for a good cause.

This being my first President's message, I knew I wanted to say something about the spirit of welcoming I have felt from the club and the desire of club members to help other members. I'm in just my fifth year of membership, and feel like I've known many

UP CLOSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

people for far longer. As I run around the meeting space setting up, there are always conversations going on about gear, techniques, shooting locations, you name it! This club is great for that.

Then, as I was sitting thinking about what I would write to express those thoughts, I received the sad news of the unexpected passing of Faith Martin. Faith had been a member of SBCC since 2016 and was involved in many club functions, like the Program Committee, Nominating Committee, organizing Talk Photography, and more, over the years. I know many of you had known her much longer than I had and you all have fond memories of Faith. One thing that struck me about her was how welcoming she was to new members. She always went out of her way to meet new members, find out more about them, and offer her help with anything they needed. It's that spirit of helping our members succeed that makes this club great. Those good memories of Faith will live on in our hearts forever.

In closing, I want to thank everyone who makes SBCC happen. I can't possibly name everyone, so I won't try. Just know that, if you do anything to help make this club run, your work is greatly appreciated! And if you'd like to get involved in helping make SBCC tick, you can contact me or any of the committee leaders listed on our website. We'd love to have you join us. And as I kept quoting Faith in my announcements about Talk Photography, "Don't be shy".

I hope you get out to shoot despite it being winter. I'm looking forward to seeing your images.

-Ed Szymanski



It is only by selection, by elimination, and by emphasis that we get at the real meaning of things.

-Georgia O'Keeffe

Editor's Letter

By Tom Amsterburg

As the year winds down during this holiday season, the days grow shorter, the light softer, and the moments worth capturing seem to gather more closely around us. For us photographers, this time of year often brings both reflection and joy, along with plenty of opportunities to capture the beauty of the season and the connections we share as a club.

Yet this year, our enjoyment is tempered by the loss of our friend and fellow member, Faith Martin. Her absence is deeply felt and reminds us that photography is not only about images, but about the people behind the lens and beside the friendships we build along the way.

Faith was an enthusiastic “photo buddy” to so many of us, always ready for the next adventure, especially if it involved Acadia National Park! Her curiosity, enthusiasm, and generosity of spirit brightened countless outings and conversations, and she will truly be missed. Faith leaves behind not only memorable images, but lasting friendships and a strong sense of community within our club.

We are also very grateful to the many members who give their time and energy to make our club thrive: our President and Vice-President, the Program Committee, the Competition Committee, the Technology team, and all those who work behind the scenes to make meetings, presentations, and communications run smoothly.

A club like ours works as well as it does because people are willing to step up and help out. If you have ever thought about getting more involved, please don't be shy about volunteering. Your participation really does make a difference.

This newsletter is at its best when it reflects the voices and experiences of our members. We'd love to hear from you, whether that's through photo essays, “how I made this image” stories, articles, software reviews, or any other photography-related ideas you'd like to share. No matter your experience level, your contributions help make *Reflections* more personal, engaging, and fun to read.

As we wrap up the year, we wish you and your loved ones a happy and peaceful holiday season. We hope the new year brings fresh inspiration, great light, and many chances to make and share



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



Reflections on Reflections in Photography

By David Marshak

"I love reflections because they ask you to see the world twice—once as fact, once as mystery."

— Minor White

Using reflections in photography is both easy and challenging. It's easy because almost every scene looks good with a reflection. Nature, architecture, and travel photos particularly lend themselves to beautiful images when reflections are introduced.

It's a challenge, since reflection images are so abundant that it can be difficult for the maker to differentiate their approach. In fact, it is a common photography aphorism that shooting reflections is a mark of a lazy photographer, since anyone can make good looking images just by including a reflection.

Therefore, it is important to be **intentional** with reflections. For example, your intention may be to evoke a specific emotion -- such as calmness -- using symmetry of a fall New England scene.



Reflections on Reflections in Photography

By David Marshak

Or you may want to present the magical feeling that you experienced in a classic location.



Reflections can (and should) be used to create an otherworldliness by using them in more abstract photos such as:



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Reflections on Reflections in Photography

By David Marshak

And



Personally, I like to use reflections to enhance the stories in my people photography, such as showing the frenetic environment of Mike's Pastry:



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Reflections on Reflections in Photography

By David Marshak

or the relationship between Elton John and his piano by focusing on the reflection in his glasses:



Or even as a street portrait and self-portrait:



Hopefully **your** images will reflect your intentions.

All photos © David Marshak.

CONTRIBUTION

New Member Questionnaire

1. WHAT OR WHO BROUGHT YOU TO THE CLUB?

I first heard about the club during the last photo gallery at the Norfolk Public Library. I thought it would be fun to join a club to learn from others and expand my knowledge of photography.

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

I like to mostly photograph landscapes (especially lighthouses), long exposures with light trails, blurred skies, night sky, waterfalls, and wildlife.

3. WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO PHOTOGRAPH?

Any lighthouse is a favorite place to photograph, but if I had to pick one, I would say Ned's Point Lighthouse.

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

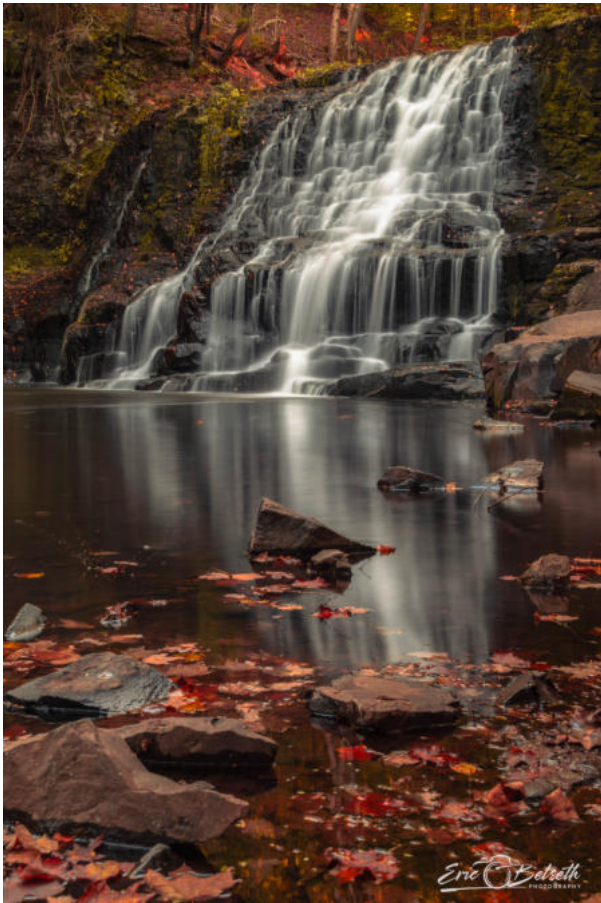
I would like to learn whatever I can, and expand my knowledge of photography. Working hands on with other people is the easiest way for me to learn.

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

I've only been attempting photography for about 5 years, but I've always had a knack for framing a photo, even as a child.



Eric Belseth

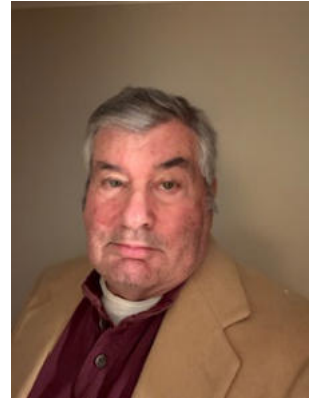


**Photos ©
Eric Belseth**

New Member Questionnaire

1. WHAT OR WHO BROUGHT YOU TO THE CLUB?

I was introduced to photography when I was 8 or 9 years old and have been taking pictures ever since, but have working pretty much in a silo. While my family and friends have always commented how much they like my images, I feel I am now ready to display my work to a wider audience and get more objective feedback. I would also like to get tips that will improve my pictures, but more about that in #4 below.



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

I like all types of photography, from birds, flowers and nature to landscapes, people and buildings that I find of interest. I try to look for beauty and interesting objects wherever I go, especially when travelling with a camera. The 3 images that I submitted with this questionnaire I believe demonstrate this.

3. WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO PHOTOGRAPH?

Pretty much anywhere, on the water, mountains and nature trails through forests, especially where the quality of light is soft. I also like more urban settings as I believe there is also great opportunities for interesting images here as well. As I stated above, I believe there is beauty all around us

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

I would like to learn more technical components of photography, especially in the use of photographic software. I have already learned a great deal about the use of different filters for certain effects as well the use of long time-exposures, especially around water. I look forward to learning more by participating in his club and becoming involved in its numerous activities.

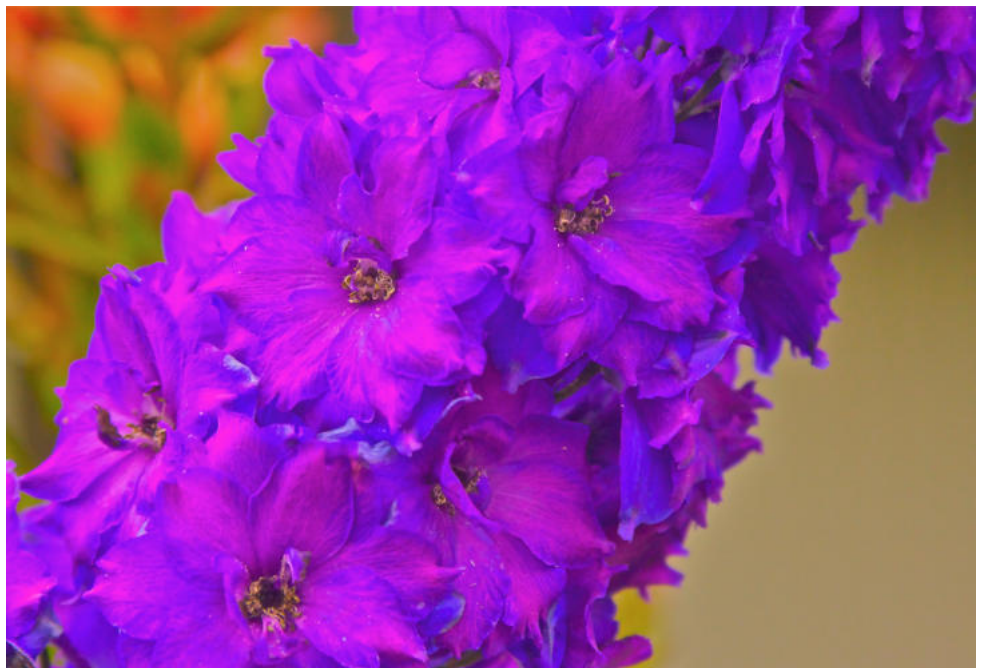
5. WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT US TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I am recently retired and look forward to spending more time pursuing my love of photography. I would think that I am not alone in remembering with great fondness, joy and amazement in watching an image appear while gently moving a piece of photographic paper in a tray of Dektol or some other developer. I was about 7 or 8 years old and have been taking pictures ever since. I look forward to getting more and more involved at SBCC and meeting new friends.

Jeff Davidoff



**Photos ©
Jeff Davidoff**



Images from the Mindful Photography Workshop

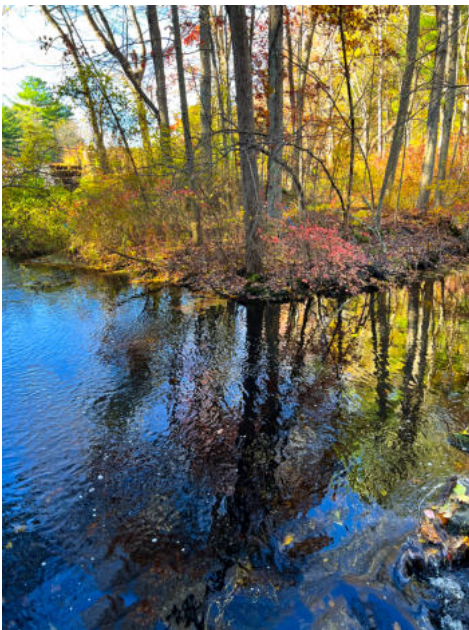
Experiencing the Essence of Nature, with Janet Casey



© David Marshak



© Eric Linter



© Eric Linter



© David Marshak



© David Marshak



© Eric Linter

Images from the Mindful Photography Workshop

Experiencing the Essence of Nature, with Janet Casey



© Janet Casey



© Jim Borrebach



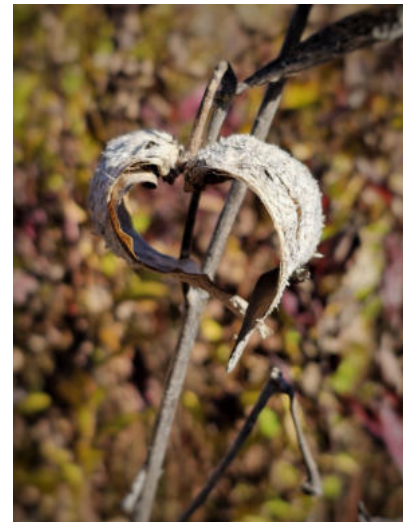
© Jim Borrebach



© Janet Casey



© Janet Casey



© Jim Borrebach

Images from the Mindful Photography Workshop

Experiencing the Essence of Nature, with Janet Casey



© Lucia Hackett



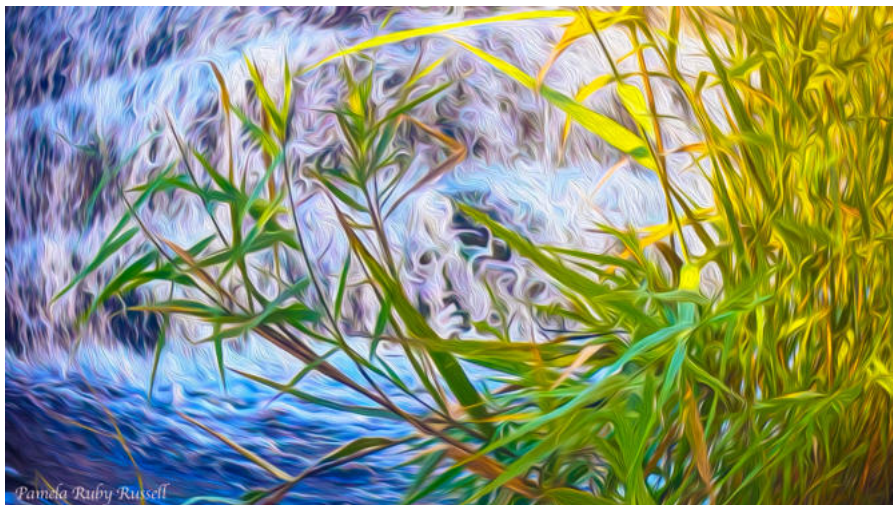
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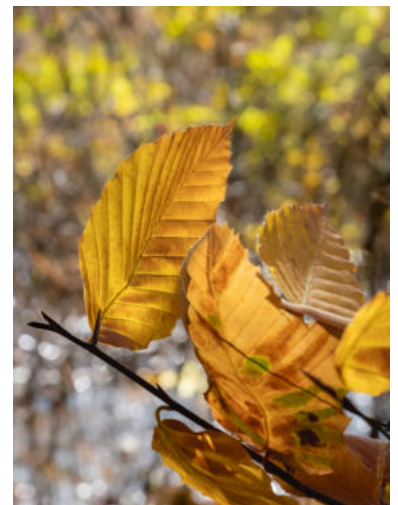
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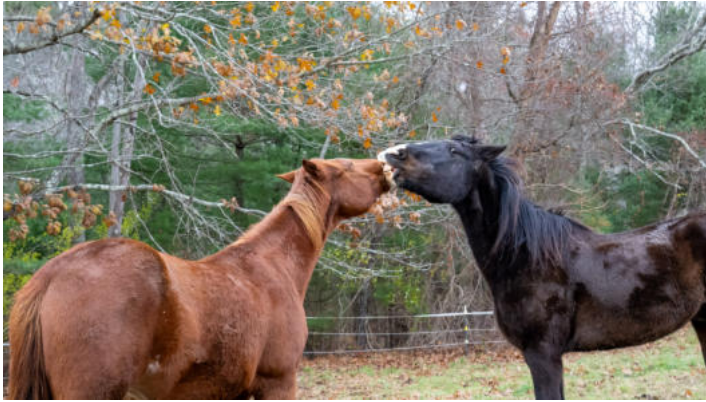


© Lucia Hackett

Stony Brook Camera Club Volunteers!

Images from Fall 2025 Activities

Veteran's Day Drop-in at Project Comeback



Clifford and Orin playing around
(© Steph Sioras)



Clifford says hello to a veteran
(© Steph Sioras)



A veteran gives Matilda some scratches
(© Steph Sioras)



*Nemi and Drummer getting some enrichment
playing with a box of chamomile*
(© Steph Sioras)

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Stony Brook Camera Club Volunteers!

Images from Fall 2025 Activities

Sunday Training at Project Comeback

*A veteran shares some oregano with Orin
while Brego waits for his turn
(© Steph Sioras)*



Richi Foundation Halloween Party



*Derek (dance mom) with a
couple of survivors
(© Steph Sioras)*

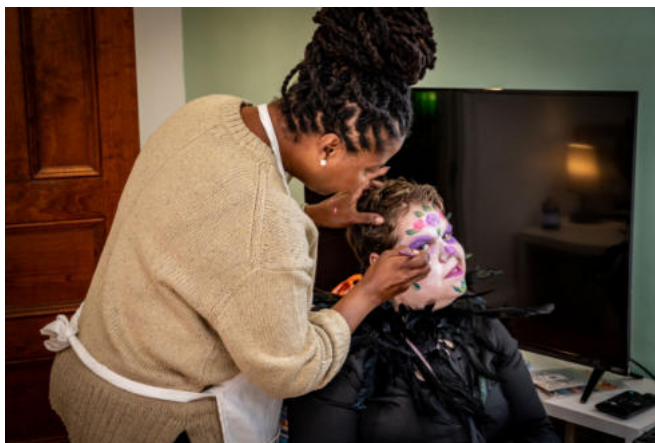


*Mom & son, who's a brain tumor survivor
(© David Marshak)*



*Richi with his cowgirl sister plus
another survivor & her mom
(© Steph Sioras)*

*Survivor gets her face painted
(© David Marshak)*



2026 Multi-Club Competition

2026 Multi-Club Competition – May 13, 2026

Boston, Gateway, and Stony Brook Camera Clubs

All members of the Boston, Gateway, Newton and Stony Brook Camera Clubs are invited to participate in the friendly 7th Annual Multi-Club Competition to be hosted online on May 13, 2026.

- All images must be created within a one-year period beginning April 1st, 2025 and ending March 31st, 2026.
- Members submit images online by: TBA (Competitions > Submit Images to a Competition)
- Members may choose to submit digital photographic images in any or all of the eight categories detailed below.

Category	Definition
1. Black & White Landscape	Landscape photography is the art of capturing images of vast or intimate areas in nature and the outdoors in a compelling composition. The composition can be made even more compelling in black and white as you emphasize elements such as leading lines, shadow, dark and light tones, shapes and textures. Ansel Adams' iconic images are a good example of compelling B&W landscapes. Your image must be shades of black, gray and white only. Monochrome images with any other color (e.g., sepia or cyan) are not acceptable.
2. Double Take	Show us something that makes you go, "Huh?", "Wha???" or maybe even "WTF?". The image might look ordinary at first, until you realize that there's something about it that's a little off and makes you stop and reconsider what exactly you're looking at, often with a smile, a wrinkled squint or a sense of surprise spreading across your face. Odd angles and optical illusions might come into play in creating the image or you might create the effect by compositing something in post-processing that is incomprehensible or impossible in real life.
3. Intentional Camera Movement (ICM) and/or Multiple Exposure	ICM can include any movement that produces intentional blur. It can be a vertical, horizontal, diagonal, circular or any combination of movements. Multiple exposure (ME) can be done in camera, mobile phone camera apps or in post even if your camera has a multiple exposure feature. Both techniques offer opportunities for photographers who face challenges creating tack-sharp images. With both techniques, the emphasis in this category is on creativity, originality and artistic expression.
4. Machinery	How do you make photos of machines and industrial subjects interesting? Video can show them in action, but still photography often leaves them looking static. Can you find interesting lighting, a different angle to shoot from, maybe use a macro or telephoto focal length or find some out of the ordinary setting like an abandoned or historical machine or mill? Including the machine operator or other people in an industrial setting might help, too. Machines can be simple, like a pulley or lever, or complex, like engines or other manufactured devices. They can be current, obsolete or historical, large or small, bright and shiny or past their prime.
5. Minimalism/Simplicity	Minimalist photography is a style that prioritizes simplicity, focusing on capturing impactful images with minimal elements and a clean, uncluttered aesthetic. It emphasizes a sense of calmness, peacefulness, and order, achieved by reducing the image to its essential components.

2026 Multi-Club Competition

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

Category	Definition
6. On the Road	Whether or not they show a road or are taken from one, photographs in this category should capture the sense of adventure, mystery, and discovery that ground-based travel can bring. This could include landscapes along a highway, elements of the overall experience of travel, interesting people encountered or sights like gas stations, roadside diners, quirky signs, abandoned structures, wildflowers in unplowed fields, sunsets and sunrises over the crest of a road, etc. Whether taken in rural, small town, suburban or urban settings, it's the mood of discovery while traveling along a street, road, highway or byway that's most important to capture.
7. Softness	Create an image with an effect or feeling is "soft." This can be based on animate or inanimate subjects or a by employing a technique that emphasizes softness, either in-camera or in post-processing. Typical examples include kittens, feathers and soft-focus scenes, such as with a Lensbaby or with techniques like applying a Gaussian blur or manipulating the contrast, clarity, sharpness and noise reduction sliders.
8. Textures in Nature	Texture may not be the first thing we associate with nature photography, but it's there. Texture can be captured in close-up, macro and even microscopic shots of leaves, fungi, moss, tree bark, frost, skin and feathers, among other small subjects, or in mid-range and grand vistas of water, rippling sand, forest canopies, flocks of animals and birds and rock formations. Your challenge is to find it and draw the viewer's eye to it in a way that makes it easy for them to imagine they can feel it for themselves. Other elements can be present, but it needs to be evident that the texture you've captured is what makes your image compelling.

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





VIETNAM

LAND OF HERITAGE







Early bird until
31st Oct 2025

JOIN US

This time in
VIETNAM

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

<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

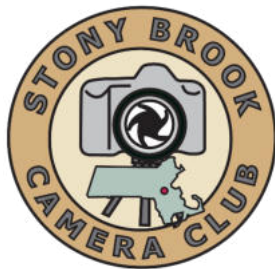
Date	Club Topic	Presenter	Venue
2/19/26	Photographing Rhode Island	Kevin Bruff	Hybrid
2/26/26	Cabin Fever		In Person Only
3/5/26	Competition: Color Prints, B&W Prints, Digital People/Portraits		Hybrid
3/12/26	Photojournalism	Peter Pereira	Zoom
3/19/26	Image Study	Ray Guillette	Zoom
3/26/26	New Member 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

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	David Marshak Faith Martin David McLaughlin Kris Moore Chuck Noel
	Silvana Della Camera	Deb Shunney
	Ed Gooltz	Donald Steele
	Ellen Kawadler	Ed Szymanski
	Amy Letourneau	
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,
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<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.