

# LPS INFOCUS

LOVELAND PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026

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Photo by Ardeh Carlson

## Club Meetings

Monthly club meetings are hybrid in-person plus Zoom; the Third Monday Review session is online only. No passcode is needed for the online meetings

**Monday, February 9**

### Monthly Club Meeting

Trinity United Methodist Church  
801 Cleveland Avenue, Loveland  
Social time 6:00 PM  
Meeting 6:30–8:30 PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/93226580276?pwd=eWxtbVYzTGpWbWlYY3lscGNwbWZRdz09>

**Monday, February 16**

### Third Monday Photo Review

6:30–8:30 PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95087721084?pwd=eXlMndWenQyaCt6WUV6RmppenlWdz09>

**Tuesday, March 3**

### LPS Board Meeting

Perkins Restaurant  
2222 W. Eisenhower, Loveland  
6:30 PM  
Open to All

The LPS Board meetings are open to all members. If you are interested in seeing how your leadership team tends to club business, you are welcome to attend, although only Board members can vote.

Questions about LPS?

Email [info@lps.cc](mailto:info@lps.cc)





## SMART TELESCOPES—ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY MADE EASY

### FEBRUARY PRESENTATION BY GUY TURENNE

ARDETH CARLSON, PROGRAM CHAIR

Join us at the February meeting for a fascinating presentation by LPS member Guy Turenne on shooting the galaxies! In his presentation, Guy will briefly talk about smart telescopes in general, as they have only been around for a few years, and then go into his Seestar S50 telescope in some detail. He will also talk briefly about what can be photographed and some of the problems involved in the actual use of the Seestar and what can be done to a Seestar image in post processing. He will also include some of his Seestar images. This part of Guy's presentation during the meeting can be viewed online via our Zoom connection. If weather permits, Guy can give a practical demonstration outside following the presentation, expecting that to probably last 15 to 20 minutes. Unfortunately, that would not be viewable by those online, so we encourage you to attend in person if possible.

#### Guy's profile:

"I am originally from Massachusetts. I attended Virginia Tech, receiving a B.S. in Forest Management in 1973. I spent my career as an urban forester primarily with Montgomery County, Maryland, a suburb of Washington D. C., retiring in 2006. Roxanne retired from teaching at the same time, and we moved to Fort Collins the same year. I have been a member of the Fort Collins Digital Camera Club for 18 years and joined LPS in 2010. I am primarily a wildlife and nature photographer. Over the years here in Colorado, I have had photographs exhibited in photography shows in Fort Collins, Greeley, Denver, and Parker. I have received several ribbons from PSA interclub competitions. I have also been a volunteer photographer for Larimer County Parks for four years, with photos appearing in some of their publications.



*Photos © Guy Turenne*

"My interest in astrophotography began with my first telescope purchased in 1986 for Comet Halley.

Unfortunately, Comet Halley was barely visible through the night sky light pollution of the Washington D.C. metro area. I did manage to photograph a couple of lunar eclipses while living in D.C. I could not go much beyond that, as the financial commitment to what was needed at the time for serious astrophotography was beyond my budget. My astrophotography interest remained relatively nascent until I came across smart telescopes in late 2024. Since getting my Seestar S50, I have been continually amazed at what can be done with this relatively inexpensive device."

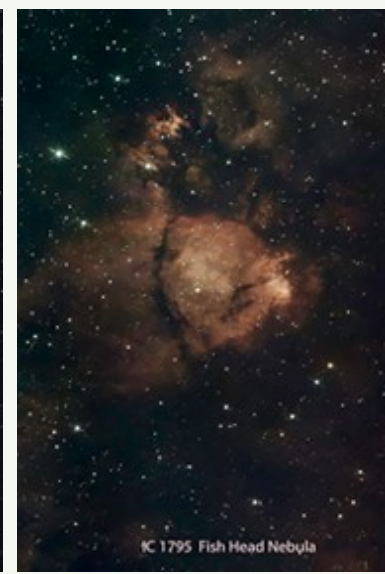
The meeting will be held at our usual venue in the Trinity United Methodist Church, 801 Cleveland Avenue, Loveland, in the lower level. Come for a social time at 6:00 PM; the meeting begins at 6:30 with any business, followed by the competition results slideshow and Guy's presentation.



M 45 The Pleiades



M 31 Andromeda Galaxy



IC 1795 Fish Head Nebula

## From the Board of Directors

### Club Meetings—Let's Snack!

In an action item at the January Board meeting, an item for providing refreshments at club meetings was approved. Look for cookies or other snacky refreshments when you arrive.

### New Name Tags

With our new LPS logo and a desire to help members and guests get to know each other, we will be printing newly designed name tags, which will be distributed by our greeter when you attend a meeting.

Many long-time members might have lost their name tags, and reprinting all name tags will provide consistency of the style, with a larger print of the names. The new name tags will also let you know if the person you are talking with is an officer or board member, who can answer questions about the club.

This might take a while to fully implement, but we encourage you to wear your name tag or use a temporary adhesive name tag if one hasn't been printed yet. You can leave your tag with the greeter after the meeting or take it home, but remember to bring it back and wear it at the next meetings.

### 2026 LPS Competition Judges

To keep our current roster of judges from needing to serve more than 3 months per year, Rob will be recruiting photographers outside of our club to judge at least three times during the year.

If you are interested in becoming an LPS judge, the qualifications are listed on our website under **Competitions>Detailed Rules>Judging Process** and also on page 7 of this newsletter. The Competition Chair makes the final decision as to whether applicants meet those qualifications. Email Rob Huffsmith at [rhuffsmith2@gmail.com](mailto:rhuffsmith2@gmail.com) with questions about judging.

## Can We Help You?

With new officers in place for 2026, the Board is looking at ways to continue service to LPS members.

With a current total of 78 members, an average of 22 members participate in the monthly competitions, and most members who participate when there are membership opportunities to share photos outside of competitions are the same members who compete. The Board recognizes that everyone goes through life stages and circumstances in which getting out with your camera takes on a lower priority, while you still maintain an interest in photography as a skill and art.

In-person attendance throughout the year fluctuates, usually being lower in the summer months, but the average is probably around 20 to 25, and online attendance is not large.

All members are truly appreciated, and we have been excited to see new members join the club and begin participating in the club competitions and meetings.

The Board is interested in hearing if there is anything you would like to see offered that we are currently overlooking.

- Do you prefer to have more speakers with expertise in their subject or more hands-on activities at meetings?
- Do you feel welcomed when you attend meetings?
- Do you have any suggestions that would interest you in participating in the competitions or other ways to share your photos?
- Are you interested in photography topics that haven't been addressed by presentations in LPS meetings?
- Would you be interested in more meet & shoot opportunities outside of monthly meetings?
- Is the lack of members responding to Jim's offered field trips due to conflicts with your personal schedule or lack of interest in group field trips? Any field trips you would like to see?

We would love to hear from you; you can respond to these or add any other comments at [info@lps.cc](mailto:info@lps.cc).

### New Members

We are happy to welcome these new members:

Mike Bamber  
Peggy Shockley  
James Snitker

## LPS Board of Directors

### ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

— J.R. SCHNELZER

VICE PRESIDENT

— DAVE CLACK

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP

— TIM KATHKA

SECRETARY

JERRE JOHNSON

### CHAIRPERSONS

PROGRAMS

— ARDETH CARLSON

COMPETITION

— ROB HUFFSMITH

WEBMASTER

MIKE TESKA

PROJECTIONISTS

— MIKE TESKA

— BRYAN JOHNSON

MENTOR

—MIKE WILCOX

PSA REPRESENTATIVE

—LISA SCHNELZER

SCHOLARSHIPS

— RUTH SPRAIN

NEWSLETTER

—ARDETH CARLSON

FIELD TRIPS

—JIM ROODE

PUBLICITY

—KEVIN FETTIG

GREETING HOST

—BILL LUNDQUIST

FORUM DIRECTOR

—INGRID JACOBSON

### Mailing Address

Loveland Photographic Society  
P. O. Box 7604  
Loveland, CO 80537

### LPS Interest Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/237033251716/>



## MEMBER PROFILE

### Tim Kathka

Growing up in Columbus, Nebraska, I knew at a young age that I wanted to be an architect or urban planner. I attended the University of Nebraska and was awarded an opportunity to work and travel in Europe during the summer of 1967. My



grandfather gifted me a basic Yashica point-and-shoot camera with which to record my travels throughout that summer, shooting with Ektachrome slide film. I graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1968. While photography has been an interest of mine since that initial adventure in Europe and a couple years later, when I was taught the basics by a pair of Navy shipmates, that interest always took a back seat to my family and career in the practice of architecture.

Reaching retirement age, I have found more time to travel and to enjoy photography. I stayed active in the Naval Reserve for 25 years after my active duty, which presented many of my opportunities for travel. While the Navy presented the opportunity to learn about photography and for travel, my career in architecture focused my interest in subject matter toward urban street scenes and architecture. I have expanded my photo subject matter to include all landscape, wildlife focused on birds and, more recently, astrophotography. My astrophotography interest is centered on shooting landscape or architecture in the middle of the night, with such subjects being placed as foreground for the Milky Way.

For planning a shoot, I primarily use the PlanIt app on my phone, supplemented with PhotoPills, ClearDarkSkies.com, and local weather forecasts. I also try to research locations with daytime road trips, in search of interesting landforms or old buildings away from urban lights. A friend and I

were featured in a Milky Way article in the May/June edition of the Colorado Life magazine.

Digital photography and computerized photo processing (primarily Lightroom) has brought an enjoyment that I remember seeing my Navy buddies have as they worked their magic in the darkroom years ago. Because I view photography as a form of art, I will sometimes use computer processing of my images to create a certain effect for which I am looking, much like the darkroom was used to create certain effects on film.

My wife and I settled in Colorado after my stint in the active Navy and lived in Centennial for 46 years, before moving to Good Samaritan Loveland Village in the middle of the Covid outbreak, July 2020. My wife passed away in September 2022, forcing me to learn how to live without my lifelong love and companion.

I was twice named Photographer of the Year by the Englewood Camera Club, where I am still active. I served on the Program Committee here at LPS for three years and have now become your Treasurer and Membership Chair. I also currently serve as the membership chair for an association of retired Navy intelligence professionals, as president of the Good Samaritan Model RR Committee, and a member of the Northern Colorado Garden Railroaders. I play bridge twice a week with a men's bridge group. I still love to travel and will be in Scottsdale for two months when this newsletter is published.



*Photographs © Tim Kathka  
Tim's portrait shot by Cliff Lawson*

## TESKA'S TIPS

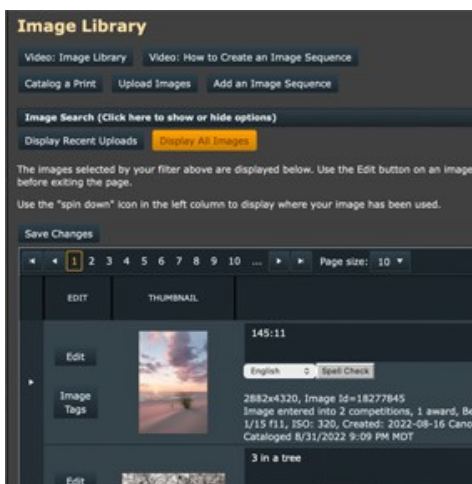
### Mike Teska

## Learning From Images on LPS.CC

The new year is always a good time to look back and review what went well and what we can improve on in the coming year. This applies to your images as a photographer, as well. The lps.cc website is a great place to review your images and learn from others. To see your images on lps.cc, on the Home page go to **My Account**, then **My Image Library**.



Click on "Display all images" and you get a nice table of all the images you've submitted to an LPS competition or Third Monday Photo Review. It also includes a thumbnail of the image, the title, the score the image received (if applicable), and the date you uploaded it into lps.cc. This table is sorted by the title of the image.



If you've been submitting a lot of images to LPS, this can be a big table, spread across multiple pages on the website. In the image shown here, it's displaying 10 images per web page, and there are over 10 pages of images. You can change the page size to have fewer pages, but if we want to go back and review our images from the past year and see those that got a score in a competition (not a Third Monday review image), manually going through that table is a lot of work! **Image Search** to the rescue!



Clicking on "Image Search" allows you to narrow down the results. Near the bottom of the Image Search page are fields for awards or scores and the "age" of the image. This shows in number of days how long since it's been uploaded to the LPS system. So in this example, let's set the minimum score to 15 and the Catalog Age to 365 days. This will show me all the images I submitted to competitions at LPS that got a score of 15 or above and was submitted in the last year. Nice! Take a look at the images that scored well and those that did not. What can you learn from them?

15 Minimum Score awarded to image

0 Maximum Score awarded to image (0=No Maximum Score)

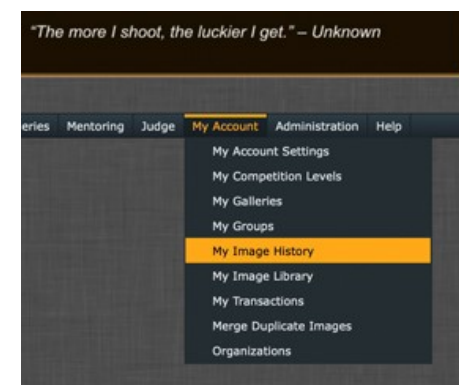
Maximum Award Numeric for an image to be selected.

[Do not filter on Award Numeric]

The "Catalog Age" is how many days from the current date you uploaded or cataloged an image. Specify the oldest age of an image to include.

Use "Catalog Age" value 365

There is a limitation to the Image Library, though. It cannot be sorted, and it cannot be exported to Excel or another spreadsheet. If you'd like to review and sort your data in a spreadsheet, **My Account**, then **Image History** is where to go.



The default information view of Image History is similar to Image Library, except it does not contain a thumbnail of the image. It does contain all of the information associated with the image, and it's in a table format. In the upper right-hand corner of the table are the buttons to export that data to the Excel format or as a CSV file.

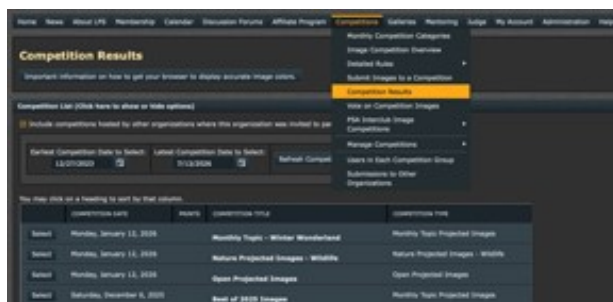
TITLE	AWARDS	EVENT DATE	COMPETITION	COMPETITION TYPE	IMAGE ID	AUTHOR'S NAME	OWNER ID	AUTHOR'S IMAGE ID	ORG ID	ORG SHORT NAME	LEVEL
145:11	ACH Score: 24.50	9/12/2022	Open Projected Images	Open Projected Images	18277845	Mike Teska	3404129	1920	3168522	LPS	3
145:11	Score: 26.50	12/12/2022	Open Projected Images - Best of Year	Open Projected Images	18277845	Mike Teska	3404129	1920	3168522	LPS	3
3 in a tree		4/20/2020	Third Monday Photo Review at the Library	Open Projected Images	11875445	Mike Teska	3404129		3168522	LPS	1



After exporting the file and opening it in your spreadsheet program, you can sort, filter, etc., to your heart's content. There are 16 columns (not all shown here) of information.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	Title	Award/AOM	Award Numeric	Score	Event Date	Competition	Competition Type	Image Id
1	145-11		1	24	2022-09-12	Open Projected Images	Open Projected Images	18277845
2	145-11		200	26	2022-12-12	Open Projected Images - Best of Year	Open Projected Images	18277845
3	3 in a tree		200	0	2020-04-20	Third Monday Photo Review at the Library	Open Projected Images	11875445
4	402A1842 image-1220134700		200	0	2024-02-12	#2 New Eyes	Open Projected Images	22351005
5	Abstract Fire Wood		200	15	2021-05-14	Open Projected Images	Open Projected Images	15086995
6	Abstract Snow Drift		200	20.5	2024-02-12	Open Projected Images	Open Projected Images	21951578
7	Alexander smoke		200	0	2024-08-19	Third Monday Photo Review Online (Zoom)	Open Projected Images	23304219
8	Aline		200	0	2020-04-29	Member's Choice April 2020	Member's Choice	11883618
9	Anna Marie		200	20.5	2024-05-13	Monthly Topic-Innocentism	Monthly Topic Projected Images	22835938
10	Apple Blossom		200	20.600009455811	2022-05-09	Open Projected Images	Open Projected Images	17753481

Okay, you've seen your images from the past, seen the scores they received, and learned something about what others like in your images by looking at the judge critiques. What if you'd like to learn from what others have done? You can easily review all the images from any competition, including the judges' comments (if any) on lps.cc. Seeing what others have done, which scored well, which images speak to you, can provide additional inspiration for your own work. To get there, click on **Competitions**, then **Competition Results**.



In the list of the competitions, choose the date and competition category you'd like to see by clicking the "Select" button to the left of that competition. This will show the competition results for the competition you selected. Note: This page defaults to only showing those images that received a Best of Show or Award of Merit award. To see all the images entered into that competition, click the box next to "Display all images." If there were comments made by any of the judges, a "Display Critiques" button shows beneath the image. Click on that button to see what impressions the judges had of the image.



Now you've got the information. Time to make some New Year's photographic resolutions!!

If you have questions or suggestions on this or other topics, please email Mike Teska at [info@lps.cc](mailto:info@lps.cc).

## Monochrome Category

The rotating category for our February competition is Monochrome. LPS is using the definition of Monochrome from the Photographic Society of America, which consists of the following:

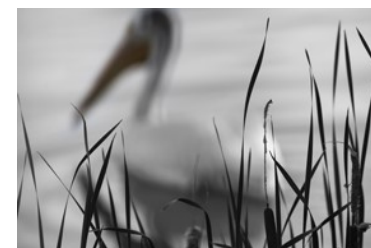
*An image is considered to be Monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (i.e. contains only shades of grey which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a greyscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image (for example, by sepia, red, gold, etc.). A greyscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi-toning or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a Color Work.*

For the LPS competition, this is not a realism category, so creativity is allowed. Avoid using spot color, and be careful that when converting a color photograph to B&W you do not allow any color tones to remain. This is different from other design definitions of monochrome in which an image or scene contains all blue or other single-color elements, for instance, along with white, black, beige, etc.

Here is an example on the left of a photograph toned in one color across the entire image, which is an acceptable submission in monochrome. The other two photos are not acceptable; the middle one has some color on the pelican beak, and the right photo is not a single color across the entire image.



Photos by Ardeth Carlson



## Monthly Topic: Patterns & Repetitions

ROB HUFFSMITH, COMPETITION CHAIR

In photography, repetition uses repeated visual elements (lines, shapes, colors, textures) to create rhythm, while a pattern is a structured, predictable repetition, like a grid or sequence, that unifies an image and draws the eye. Photographers use repetition to build impact, either by filling the frame to emphasize the pattern (like bricks on a wall) or by capturing the break in a pattern for emphasis, often making it the main subject. For this competition, the patterns and repetitions need to be from the real world and not created digitally. It is not required that they fill the frame, so composition will have a play on the impact.

If you have questions about this topic, email Rob at [rhuffsmith2@gmail.com](mailto:rhuffsmith2@gmail.com).

## LPS General Competition Rules

All images used in competition must be the property of the member and must be photographs or combinations of photographs that were taken by the member. Other photographic material from other sources is not permitted to be used unless specified in a monthly or other special topic.

1. The photographic image may not be a reproduction of another artist's work. The image entered must be the photographer's original work. If another work of art is visible in the photograph, it cannot be the central theme or message of the photograph. If the judges determine the artwork is the central theme, the image will be scored accordingly.
2. All images must begin with a photograph. They may not be totally computer generated.
3. Members may only enter in one level.
4. Images may only be entered once in a given year (except for the year-end competition where they must be entered in the same level and category as originally entered). Images that don't earn an award may be entered again the following year. Images that win any award may not be entered again.
5. Promotions to higher levels are based on a member's average score for their last 9 images during the past 12 months. If a member has less than 9 entries in the past year, their average score calculation will be padded with zeros. A member cannot win an award unless they have at least 9 entries in the past year. Competition level limits will be adjusted each year to avoid having everyone grouped into the same one or two levels.
6. There are five competition levels with 1 being the starting group and 5 being the highest score averages group.
7. All members will start out at Level 1, and they can only move up to another level once they have submitted a minimum of 9 images to competitions in the past 12 months.
8. Student members may only enter at Level 1.

9. By entering images in a Loveland Photographic Society competition the photographer gives Loveland Photographic Society non-exclusive right to use the image for purposes related to promotion of the Loveland Photographic Society and for benefit of the members. For example: these images may be used in slide shows or other presentations to the members and to outside parties for the purpose of promoting the Loveland Photographic Society.

*The LPS General Competition Rules are posted on the LPS website under **Competitions>Competition Overview**.*

## LPS Judge Qualifications

LPS competitions are judged by a panel of three people who meet the qualifications to critique photos in a knowledgeable manner. This means that judges should have significant experience as a photographer and some familiarity with a variety of photographic genres and/or experience as a photography judge.

It is important for judges to have a good understanding of the elements that comprise a well composed photograph, the ability to recognize aspects of an image that could be improved, and the ability to explain their critiques.

While the judges are most often members of LPS, it is also acceptable to use the services of non-member judges. LPS judges generally critique and score between 50 to 75 photos between Tuesday morning and Thursday at midnight the week before the meeting and need to be available to help break any ties for BOS.

If you are interested in being an LPS judge, contact Rob Huffsmith, the Competition Chair, at [rhuffsmith2@gmail.com](mailto:rhuffsmith2@gmail.com).

Final determination whether prospective judges meet the required skill set is within the authority of the Competition Chair. Judges who meet the qualifications must go through training that is specific to our club competitions.

*The Judge Training PowerPoint is on the website at **Competitions>Detailed Rules>Judge Training***

## LPS Membership

Although LPS welcomes guests to our monthly club meetings, there are benefits to joining as a member.

If you like to see how your images fare in competition, you can submit up to 3 photos each month in our club competitions. You also have the opportunity to have an image submitted in the three rounds of Photographic Society of America Worldwide interclub competitions.

The club is a great place to meet other photographers, get critiques and comments at the Third Monday Photo Review sessions, find photo-op events and activities, and have access to the recordings of meeting presentations. You might enjoy initiating meet & shoots or participating in field trips with other members. As a member, the InFocus newsletter is automatically emailed to you each month.

LPS annual dues are \$45 per individual, \$60 per couple. This goes toward our meeting venue, LPS website, Zoom administration, and other fees and expenses.

Your membership dues also fund our annual Youth Showcase, a competition for high-schoolers in the Northern Colorado area to encourage their continued interest in photographic pursuits. Prizes are given for the LPS competition, and images with high scores are also entered in the Youth Showcase competition of the Photographic Society of America, which gives the young photographers visibility nationally and even internationally.

Dues are payable through the website under **Membership>Join or Renew** or by check sent to the postal address on page 3 of the newsletter.

If you have questions about membership, contact Tim Kathka, the Membership Chair, at [tkathka@gmail.com](mailto:tkathka@gmail.com), or visit with any other board members. You can also send questions about the club to [info@lps.cc](mailto:info@lps.cc), and your question will be forwarded to the appropriate resource.

# Competition Corner

## Submitting Pictures for Competition or the Photo Review Session

- Log on to the LPS website
- Mouse over the **Competitions** dropdown on the Home Page.
- Select **Submit images to a Competition**
- Select the Competition category or the Third Monday Photo Review
- At the bottom of the screen, click on **Upload images into the Competition.**
- Then click on the button **Select** which will open a window on your computer to select an image.
- Click on **Save Images and Proceed to Edit Page.**
- Type in a title and click on **Save any changes and return to original page.**
- You can replace any photo, up to the submission deadline, if desired.
- A photo may only be submitted once in the current year except for the "Best Of" category in December. If it has won an award, it should not be submitted in competition again in future years.

The monthly competitions allow a single image per category. The photo review session allows up to three images.

*If you have questions about the monthly topic or the competition, contact the Competition Chair Robert Huffsmith at [rhuffsmith2@gmail.com](mailto:rhuffsmith2@gmail.com).*

## Monthly Competitions

### February Competition Categories

Open Projected (included every month)  
Monochrome (rotating PSA category)  
Monthly Topic: Patterns & Repetitions

Submission Deadline

Before Midnight Monday, February 2

### Please keep the judging criteria in mind:

**Impact**—Impact is the nebulous quality of an emotional response to an image. This subjective aspect of judging should not preempt the composition or technical quality aspects.

**Composition**—Good composition is a pleasing arrangement of the elements in an image. There are many guidelines for good composition that judges may consider.

**Technical Quality**—This includes sharpness, focus, color, tonal scale, contrast, appropriate depth of field and other qualities. Consideration is also given for the effect the photographer was trying to achieve such as high key, multiple exposure, or selective focus.

**Monthly Topics**—The subject matter should be related in some manner to the topic. While there are no formal deductions or penalties, judges may reduce their overall score if they feel the image does not align with the monthly topic. With that said, creative interpretation is encouraged, except in categories with specific rules such as monochrome.

**Open Projected**—The image must begin as a photograph. From there, it is up to you. Any photograph may be entered in the Open Projected category.

## February Competition Groups

Participation in a group is determined by the average of the member's 9 previous LPS competition image scores. Here are the groups for the February competition:

Group 5—Ardeth Carlson, Dave Clack, Russell Crawford, Laurie Paulik, J.R. Schnelzer, Lisa Schnelzer, Ruth Sprain, Jeff Stephenson, Mike Teska

Group 4—Gerald Baumann, James Camp, Max Coopwood, Kevin Fettig, Kurt Flock, Tim Hitchcock, Rob Huffsmith, Dan O'Donnell, Malcolm Patten, Josemaria Quera, Alan Schuppan, Dave Van Riper, Guy Wagner

Group 3—Kevin Clarke, Jerre Johnson, Tim Kathka, Bob McDonnell, Marc Rockkind

Group 2—Jim Roode, Wayne Snodderly

All other members will compete in Group 1 until the member has 9 submitted images *within a 12-month period* that reach an averaged score for a different group. An individual member's competition group might vary from month to month.

Best of Show and Award of Merit will be given in Groups 2-5, and those photos will be published in the LPS InFocus newsletter. In order to receive an award for a competition, an image must receive a score of 18 or above.

### Group Range of 9-Score Averages

Group 5 > 22.3

Group 4 <= 22.3

Group 3 <= 21.3

Group 2 <= 20.0

Group 1 <= 18.6

## Monthly Topics

These remaining monthly topics are listed alphabetically rather than chronologically; this is not the order in which they will be scheduled:

Abandoned Places  
Color Purple  
Fall Fantasies  
Floral Fantasies  
Minimalism  
Negative Space  
Panoramic  
People Doing Things



## LPS January Competition Winners

All photos can be viewed on the LPS website under Competition Results. Select a competition and check the box "Display All." Click on an individual photo for an enlarged image and to see critiques, if any. Thank you to the January judges Ardeth Carlson, Dave Clack, and Lorie Smith.



BOS Open, Group 5  
Lisa Schnelzer



AOM Open, Group 5  
Russell Crawford



BOS Open, Group 4  
Gerald Baumann



BOS Open, Group 2  
Wayne Snodderly



AOM Open, Group 4  
Kurt Flock



BOS Open, Group 3  
James Camp



AOM Open, Group 3  
Tim Kathka

TOPIC: WINTER WONDERLAND



BOS Topic, Group 5  
J.R. Schnelzer



BOS Topic, Group 4  
Kurt Flock



BOS Topic, Group 3  
Tim Kathka



AOM Topic, Group 5  
Dave Clack



AOM Topic, Group 4  
Dan O'Donnell



AOM Topic, Group 3  
Bob McDonnell





BOS Wildlife, Group 5  
Ardeth Carlson



BOS Wildlife, Group 4  
Kurt Flock



BOS Wildlife, Group 3  
James Camp



AOM Wildlife, Group 5  
J.R. Schnelzer



AOM Wildlife, Group 4  
Dan O'Donnell



AOM Wildlife, Group 3  
Jerre Johnson

## PSA Interclub Competitions

LPS is a member club of the Photographic Society of America and participates in four divisions of interclub competition: Nature, Photojournalism, Print, and Travel. There are three rounds of competition per season, with deadlines on November 15, February 15, and April 15.

### NATURE DIVISION:

**Dan O'Donnell, LPS Rep**  
[djod@me.com](mailto:djod@me.com)

Nature Division (ND) image guidelines can be found at <https://psa-photo.org/page/nature>. Dan is looking for images that illustrate an interesting behavior or a unique point of view, not just a landscape or wildlife that is in good focus! Storytelling is an important part of the image.

### PHOTOJOURNALISM DIVISION:

**Ardeth Carlson, LPS Rep**  
[ardeth.carlson@gmail.com](mailto:ardeth.carlson@gmail.com)

Information about the Photojournalism Division (PJD) and guidelines for photojournalism images can be found at <https://psa-photo.org/page/photojournalism>. Ardeth is looking for photos that contain informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world. The image should contain a strong visual story.

### PICTORIAL PRINT DIVISION:

**Lisa Schnelzer, LPS Rep**  
[western-exposure@hotmail.com](mailto:western-exposure@hotmail.com)

The five image categories in the Pictorial Print Division (PPD) are: Small Color, Large Color, Small Monochrome, Large Monochrome, and Creative Altered Reality. For further information regarding submissions, contact Lisa.

### TRAVEL DIVISION:

**Ardeth Carlson, LPS Rep**  
[ardeth.carlson@gmail.com](mailto:ardeth.carlson@gmail.com)

A definition of a travel photo and a PDF of the Travel Division (PTD) guidelines can be found at <https://psa-photo.org/page/photo-travel>. Ardeth would like images that show characteristic features of a place or a people.  
*Serving as temporary rep, looking for a member to take this over! Let's talk!*

## PSA Competition Definitions

Because LPS, as a member club of PSA, participates in interclub competitions, we use the PSA definitions for those LPS competition categories.

In the Nature Division, the PSA definitions are more restrictive than, for instance, North American Nature Photography Association competitions. In PSA nature competitions, higher scores are given to images in which there is a strong active story; thus, portraits and closeups are not apt to do as well. Images should also not be highly stylized but should represent an image that is true to real life. PSA has **updated their rules** about excepting evidence of human-caused elements, specifically such as the following update:

*...b) When they are a small but unavoidable part of the scene, such as an unobtrusive footprint or track in the background.*

Photojournalism images should include informative content and emotional impact and reflect human presence. In a specific category of Human Interest, the photo should include people or a person. Because storytelling is an important part of PSA photojournalism, the photo should not be a studio-type portrait, and people engaged in activities will probably receive a higher score. The activities depicted should not involve something specifically arranged for photographers.

In the Travel Division, images should show elements of an identifiable geographic area or culture. Photos that are simply taken while the photographer is traveling do not necessarily comply with that rule. Thus, a general photo of a forest without a feature showing an identifiable area of the world would not be acceptable.

*If the image predominantly or exclusively depicts a place, such as land-, sea- or cityscape, or a physical structure such as a building or monument, it must include characteristic and distinctive physical features. It is not necessary that the image identify the exact location.*

Full descriptions of the definitions can be found via the links listed in the column on the left.

## Submitting Interclub Photos

The LPS reps are currently collecting photos for Rounds 2 and 3 of the 2025-2026 interclub competition. Participating clubs in the Nature, Photojournalism, and Travel Divisions may submit up to 6 photos, by 6 different photographers, in each round. In the Pictorial Print Division, the club may submit 4 images in each of the 5 categories.

PSA requires a signed release by each photographer whose photos are entered in the competition. The release is valid for three years, and the reps are responsible to collect and keep on file the signed releases from LPS members. This simply allows PSA to publish your photos in the PSA Journal and to display them on the PSA website if you win an award. If you have photos you would like to be considered or questions, email the listed LPS rep.

## Reasons to Join PSA

An individual membership in the Photographic Society of America is an excellent bargain for photographers seeking to improve their photography skills. PSA offers free online photography courses, study groups, mentorships, and the opportunity to compete individually in PSA competitions.

Online image dialogue groups on various topics are open to all PSA members, in which participants in groups of 6-7 submit a photo once a month, and other members offer comments, critiques, and suggested edits.

In addition, the monthly PSA Journal is available online for download. This is a beautiful publication with a lot of information about photography locations and ideas for different photo genres plus discussion on relevant topics about photography.

The annual PSA Photo Festival is a great way to meet photographers from all over the U.S. in addition to members from other countries. The program presenters are topnotch, and the tours provide fun field trip experiences.



## Ruth Sprain Receives PSA Service Award

Board member Ruth Sprain has been serving as the organizer of the LPS Youth Showcase for many years and in 2025 was recognized by the Photographic Society of America Worldwide for her work in promoting interest in photography by northern Colorado area students. J.R. Schnelzer wrote the following in recommending Ruth for this prestigious award:

"I have known Ruth for over a decade. She is an active member of the Loveland Photographic Society (LPS) and has been a PSA member since 2014. After serving on the LPS Youth Showcase Committee for two years, she accepted the Scholarship Chair position and has tirelessly worked to sustain this program for the past 11 years.

"The LPS Youth Showcase requires about a seven-month time commitment from Ruth and her committee, spanning from October to April. Ruth is an excellent communicator and organizer, and the team contacts art and photography teachers at local high schools to distribute applications to student photographers. Photos are collected well before the deadline, allowing ample time for organizing and judging.

"Ruth coordinates the judging process with three local judges, and the top winners in each category receive ribbons and gift cards. The judges select the 'Best Senior,' who is personally invited, along with their family, to a club meeting where they are congratulated and presented with a \$250 check sponsored by LPS.

"Committee members enjoy working with Ruth, and many have been on the team for years. When one of our committee members could no longer collect photos from Denver area schools due to health reasons, Ruth successfully expanded the number of schools in northern Colorado.

"Thanks to Ruth's commitment to the Youth Showcase, LPS has been able to support the PSA Youth Showcase by sending winning prints and digital images to PSA to compete against

other high school photographers. Year after year, many of our local students have their work on display in the Print Gallery at the annual PSA Photo Festival. I wholeheartedly recommend Ruth for a PSA Service Award."

Ruth's PSA Service Award was announced last September in Portland, Oregon, at the annual Photo Festival of PSA.

## 2026 LPS Youth Showcase

Scholarship Chair Ruth Sprain is now busy finalizing plans for the 2026 LPS Youth Showcase. Serving on her committee are Kevin Fettig, Dan Kozlowski, Lynn Lewis, and Lorie Smith. Entries will be judged on March 21 by Ardeth Carlson, J.R. Schnelzer, and Lisa Schnelzer.

### 17th Annual Northern Colorado Youth Showcase 2026

Loveland Photographic Society



**WHO:** High School Students  
**WHAT:** Enter digital and/or print photos for competition in 6 categories  
**WHERE:** Get details from your art or photography teacher  
**WHEN:** Deadline for entries is Friday, Feb. 27, 2026  
**WHY:** Prizes given to winner in each category and Best Senior Award

Sponsored By:  Joe Mercante in Loveland, CO

## InFocus Editor Receives PSA Service Award

Newsletter editor Ardeth Carlson was honored to receive a PSA Service Award, with this commendation from Lisa Schnelzer:

"This award recognizes your dedication to promoting PSA Interclub Competitions and the PSA Photo Festival to Loveland Photographic Society (LPS) members. As the recent President of LPS, you made it a priority to reference PSA during our monthly business meetings. Your contributions through articles and reminders in the LPS monthly InFocus newsletter have been instrumental in encouraging participation in Interclub competitions. Your leadership as Chair of the Nature and Photojournalism Division Interclub competitions has been greatly appreciated. We deeply value your successful efforts to increase LPS member involvement in PSA activities across these various roles."

## Invitation to Enter PSA Photojournalism Exhibition

Both PSA members and nonmembers are invited to take this opportunity to participate in the PSA-recognized Ollie Fife Exhibition photojournalism competition that recognizes prominent photographer Ollie Fife, who died in 1996.

The theme for 2026 is "Unexpected Moments." You may enter up to four digital images and four prints. Accepted prints will be displayed in the gallery at the 2026 PSA Photo Festival in Las Vegas. The entry fee is \$6 for one section or \$8 for both sections.

Online entry closes February 9, but to accommodate postal delays, all prints received by the end of February will be judged. For more information or to enter the competition:

<https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/ollie-fife>

## Third Monday Photo Review

An excellent way to get feedback on your photos and for experienced photographers to share their knowledge is to participate in the Monday photo review sessions via Zoom on the third Monday of each month. Participants are allowed to submit three photos no later than noon of the session day.

The review is mentored by Mike Wilcox, who welcomes and encourages comments and suggestions by all participants. Many members have reported that they have received a greater knowledge of photo techniques and also found it helpful to see their photos in the eyes of other photographers. Because judges of the monthly competition often do not have time to offer critiques on all of the competition photos, the Third Monday Photo Review provides that helpful aspect of improving our craft.

You are also welcome to join the meeting and participate in the discussions if you haven't submitted any of your own photos. Click on the link on page 1 of the newsletter to join the Zoom meeting.

## Zoom Meeting Attendance Guidelines

LPS is happy to provide an opportunity for members to attend meetings online through Zoom streaming. However, sometimes online attendees forget to turn off the microphone and camera on their own devices; that means everyone watching the presentation can watch you eating, staring, talking to someone else, the hijinks of your cat/dog, and what's going on in your room, and we can hear your phone, your TV, your roommate, your cat/dog...!

When you log into the meeting, please automatically click on the microphone icon and the camera icon so that a red line appears over those indicating they are off. Now you can watch the presentation without everyone also watching you.

## Submitting Third Monday Review Photos Into Competition

Several members have noted that they are having difficulty with entering a photo in a monthly competition that has previously been submitted to the Third Monday Review. To do that, the competition image must be selected from your Image Library on the LPS website, not uploaded again from your computer. If you have made changes to your Third Monday photo and want to enter that in the competition, which is allowable, you need to delete the first image from your Image Library before submitting the updated photo in the competition.

## Newsletter Index

To find articles in previous issues of the LPS InFocus newsletter, go to the Newsletter Index on the website. To find a specific item, the index shows the year and month of the issue of the newsletter. In order to look at the article in which you are interested, you then need to go back to Newsletters and select the designated issue. The index goes back to 2016. and is being updated to complete the year 2025.

## LPS Website Discussion Forums and Meet & Shoot

Log in to [www.lps.cc](http://www.lps.cc) as a member.

🔗 Click on *Discussion Forums*

🔗 You can select any of the headings, such as *Upcoming Photo Opportunities & Events* or *Meet & Shoot*

🔗 Click on *View Topics* to see the posts.

If you would like to receive notifications with the latest posts for that topic, click on the Subscribe button.

The board decided to auto subscribe all members to the Field Trips heading, but if you do not want to receive notifications of those posts, click on Edit Subscription and choose your desired option.

## LPS InFocus The e-Newsletter for the Loveland Photographic Society

EDITOR

**Ardeeth Carlson**

[ardeeth.carlson@gmail.com](mailto:ardeeth.carlson@gmail.com)

Newsletter issues available at  
<https://www.lps.cc>

## LPS Speaker Recordings

Most meeting presentations have been recorded for viewing by members only. You can find links to the videos on the LPS website; go to **Membership>Resource Links>Videos**. Please *do not share* these links with non-members unless they are marked as shareable in the list.

## LPS On Facebook



Our Facebook group provides information on club meetings and events and is a place to share your photos and initiate conversation about photography topics that interest you. With a new name,

**Loveland Photographic Society Interest Group**, it is no longer required to be an LPS member to join the Facebook group, although for technical reasons it is still designated as a private group.

## JOIN THE CLUB

If you are reading this newsletter as a non-member and would like to join the Loveland Photographic Society, go to the main page on the [www.lps.cc](http://www.lps.cc) website and click on **Membership > Join or Renew**. Annual dues are \$45 or \$60 per couple. Membership dues may be paid by credit card online, mailed to the P.O. box address on page 3, or by cash or a check made out to Loveland Photographic Society and given to the LPS treasurer.