

Club Meetings

Unless otherwise specified, meetings will be held online with the GoToMeeting app using the following link:

<https://www.gotomeet.me/LPhotographicSociety>

Tuesday, September 7

LPS Board Meeting

6:30 PM

Open to All

Saturday, September 11

Photo Bull Session

The Muse Coffee & Tea
1629 W. 8th, Loveland
8:30–10:30 AM

Monday, September 13

Monthly Club Meeting

6:30–8:30 PM

Monday, September 20

Photo Review Session

6:00–8:00 PM

Please mute your microphone during the online meetings except when you are speaking, to avoid extraneous noises.

September Meeting Agenda

An Inside Look at Nature Judging Presentation by Judging Panel

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) relies on participating clubs to host the judging of the three rounds of competition annually in its interclub divisions. Each club is expected/encouraged to serve as the host judging panel at least once. The panel evaluates images from a different group than the one in which their club is a participant.

In the past, LPS has been the host for the Pictorial Print Division, and in February of 2021, LPS members J.R. Schnelzer, Jeanie Sumrall-Ajero, and Ruth Sprain served as the three-judge panel for round 2 of the PSA Nature Division interclub competition. This was accomplished digitally, and due to the health risks, it was acceptable by PSA for the judges to view the photos projected on a television screen rather than calibrated computer monitors, to allow for more distancing between persons. Lorie Smith also attended as the tabulator, keeping the record of the scores and any necessary comments.

At our September meeting, all of the images submitted by Group B clubs will be shown, and J.R., Jeanie, and Ruth will comment on selected images from that competition and discuss the elements they looked at as judges when deciding on a score.

Because there can be a little anxiety involved in having one's photograph critiqued in a public setting, this meeting session will provide a way for us to follow the judges' critiques and reasoning in a non-personal way, since these images are not from our club members. As LPS utilizes the PSA guidelines for nature photos, this will also give members an opportunity to see nature photos that have been entered in the PSA Nature Division competition.

Although not all photographers enter competitions, either at the local or national/international level, understanding what judges are looking for can be helpful in learning to look at your own photos with a critical eye and finding ways to improve.

LPS Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

— DAN KOZLOWSKI

VICE PRESIDENT

— RICH KREBS

TREASURER

— SANDY LOUCKS

SECRETARY

— SCOTT SPRAIN

PROGRAMS

—SHELLY KELLY

—RICH KREBS

— RUTH SPRAIN

MEMBERSHIP

— SANDY LOUCKS

COMPETITION

— JEFF STEPHENSON

LPS Officers

FIELD TRIPS

— LYNNE LEWIS

GREETING HOST

SHELLY KELLY

FORUM DIRECTOR

— INGRID JACOBSON

PUBLICITY

— OPEN

SCHOLARSHIPS

— RUTH SPRAIN

NEWSLETTER

— ARDETH CARLSON

WEBMASTER

— BILL SHANAHAN

PSA REPRESENTATIVE

— LISA SCHNELZER

InFocus

The e-Newsletter for the
Loveland Photographic Society

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 7604 • Loveland, CO 80537

Public Facebook Page

[https://www.facebook.com/
LovelandPhotographicSociety/](https://www.facebook.com/LovelandPhotographicSociety/)

Members Only Facebook Group

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/237033251716/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/237033251716/)

Submitting Pictures for the Monthly Competition or Photo Review Session

- Log on to the LPS.CC website
- Mouse over the **Competitions** dropdown on the Home Page.
- Select menu item:
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.

The monthly competitions allow a single image per category. The photo review session allows up to three images. Include your last name in the title; this will allow us to limit the number of images if it is necessary.

2021 LPS Elections

LPS traditionally holds elections for open offices in November. This year the club will be looking for volunteers for **two openings: board secretary** and **webmaster**. Both Scott Sprain and Bill Shanahan have been serving LPS for a number of years and are ready to pass these responsibilities to other members. Newly elected officers will assume their duties in January of 2022. Information on the duties of secretary and webmaster is found on page 3 of the newsletter.

To continue functioning as a source of photography information, fellowship with like-minded folks, and photo opportunities, our club relies on volunteers. The board is asking each member to consider how to use their abilities to share in the ongoing viability of LPS. For more information or to express an interest about either of the upcoming openings, contact Scott or Bill or any member of the board.

LPS PICNIC UPDATE

The upcoming LPS picnic on September 2 has had such a good response in reservation numbers that the event location has been changed to Shelter #2 at the Loveland Sports Park, 950 North Boyd Lake Road. The club will be providing the BBQ meat plus utensils and drinks; attendees should bring a side dish or dessert to share, and lawn chairs are suggested. The meeting time has also been changed and will now begin at 5:30 and food will be served until 8:30 p.m. Dan can use help with setup around 5 p.m. According to the 10-day forecast, weather looks good for outdoor food and fellowship. For any questions, contact Dan Kozlowski at dkozphoto@gmail.com.

August Meeting Presentation Video Recording

Susan Magnano's August presentation on *Let's Get Creative with Long Exposures* is now available for viewing. You can find links to the video on the LPS website if you **login**, then go to **Membership>Resource Links>Videos**. Most of our speakers graciously allowed us to record their presentations as long as they were made available to LPS members only. Please *do not share* these links with non-members unless they are marked as shareable in the list.

Accessing the LPS website

Until Visual Pursuits, our website provider, has completed transitioning to new servers, you may need to enter www.lps.cc to access the website. Without including the www, you will likely get an error message.

The LPS Affiliate Program

The following companies have offered LPS various programs for the club and anyone who uses the special **Affiliates** link provided on the website to make purchases.

- ◆ Adorama
- ◆ Feisol
- ◆ MindShift Gear
- ◆ Red River Paper
- ◆ Think Tank Photo
- ◆ Topaz Labs

It's important to use the links on the LPS website **each time you order**. Otherwise, you and LPS will not receive the benefits of the program each company offers.

What the Web Means for LPS

BY ARDETH CARLSON

A main feature of Loveland Photographic Society is the lps.cc website, which contains information we as members really need to be able to access. Without our website, we would not be able to submit photos for the monthly competitions, allow the judges to view and score them, and give members the opportunity to view the photos and results after the judging. We would not have access to past newsletters and presenter videos. It would be difficult to maintain an email list to get information out to members. On the website you can also keep tabs on your LPS account. Our website is even more important in these times when we aren't able to meet in person. We cannot expect Bill or anyone else to fill the position of webmaster indefinitely, and when he steps down at the end of the year, someone needs to be there to take on the responsibility. I encourage any member who has the necessary technical skills to step up and volunteer.

LPS Judges Needed

For various reasons, the pool of available judges to fill the three-judge panel for LPS monthly competitions is diminishing. While it might be intimidating to consider judging the work of other photographers, training can be provided for volunteers at the Masters or Masters 2 level, and each judge's scores are averaged with the scores of the other two judges so that the results are not the opinion of a single person. Members who have achieved the upper two levels of competition are encouraged to share their knowledge of excellent images with the club; contact competition chair Jeff Stephenson.

Webmaster Duties

BY BILL SHANAHAN

The web administrator position takes 1-2 hours per month on average. I've maintained a notebook in PDF form that serves as a cheat sheet, with instructions on how to find your way around the website and how to handle routine items. There are still areas I am not familiar with, so you would have to rely on Visual Pursuits videos included under "Help."

These are the main webmaster duties:

- Upload newsletter; update newsletter page
- Update competition results
- Update web pages as needed
- Maintain email forwarding list
- Work with treasurer to pay annual fees for DNS registration
- Help users with website issues
- Update roles for new board members
- Update IP address if visual pursuits changes servers; IP address and email forwarding are maintained at Hover.com. An alias was used as of this last change, so it should be good forever.

The membership chair takes care of membership renewals, etc. The competition chair takes care of competition stuff and furnishes a list of results monthly. The forums chair takes care of the discussion forums. Galleries are taken care of by whomever creates them; galleries have to be approved for public viewing when necessary.

The policy passed on to me is to disable or hide but don't delete menus, special pages, or members. Familiarity with HTML and Perl scripts would be helpful but not necessary. There should probably be two people who have admin rights to the website.

Along with the cheat sheet, I will pass along the following items:

- Excel spreadsheet outlining the roles assigned to board members.
- Excel spreadsheet covering the newsletter index
- Perl scripts that convert the competition results and newsletter index to HTML code; this can be done in the Visual Pursuits editor, but the old hacker in me wants to edit in HTML.

LPS Board Opening: Secretary

BY SCOTT SPRAIN

By January 2022, LPS needs a new secretary. The position is essential and interesting but not too demanding.

The secretary's main task is to coordinate and record the actions at board meetings. The LPS board meets six times each year, on the first Tuesday evening of odd-numbered months. It is the secretary's job to gather and publish agenda items before each meeting, arrange a meeting location (usually a local restaurant), and take minutes during the meeting. All of that requires sending out two emails before each meeting and the word processing of the meeting's discussion.

More importantly, you can have direct access and input to all issues and decisions that the leadership of LPS needs to address.

After four years of service, it is time for me to move on and time to share the opportunity to serve with other members in a creative photo society.

Competition Corner

September Competition

Open Projected
Travel Projected
Monthly Topic: Water

Submission Deadline

Before Midnight, Monday, September 6

Please keep the judging criteria in mind:

Impact and Viewer Interest—"Wow" factor is the nebulous quality where an image "pops." This subjective aspect of judging should not preempt the technical or composition aspects of an image.

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.

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.

Let's Talk Competitions

For some time now, the LPS board has discussed the setup of the monthly photo competitions. Currently, members move up in competition level by accumulating points from winning best of show and award of merit in the LPS competitions. However, at this point, there are very few photos in the lower levels, and the majority of entries are at the Masters and Masters 2 level. Thus, most of us are competing with the same photographers every month.

A new system designed to redistribute the number of participants in each level has been formulated by Mike Teska:

- Utilize an average score of the last X images [number to be determined] in the past year
- If a member has fewer than X images in the past year, fill remaining scores with zeros
- BOS and AOM still awarded for recognition but do not influence the competition level
- Set score thresholds to even out the distribution of the levels

Members with 0 images in the competitions in the past year would be ranked as observer.

Under this system members who only compete sporadically or are new to the club would automatically compete at Level I, and the number of competing photographers in each level would change from year to year, depending on the consistency of participation and the average of image scores during a full year. This is a fledgling idea that would need further honing.

It would be helpful to leadership to discern whether this imbalance of competition levels is important to members and what changes might be most beneficial in encouraging participation in the club and in the competitions. We encourage members to contact any board member with ideas, or send opinions to the editor for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter:
Ardeth.Carlson@gmail.com.

Travel Category

LPS competition judges use the guidelines of an acceptable travel image defined by PSA:

"A Photo Travel image expresses the characteristic features or culture of a land as they are found naturally. There are no geographic limitations. Images from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography are not permitted. Close up pictures of people or objects must include features that provide information about the location.

"Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the appearance of the original scene and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome. Other derivations, including infrared, are not permitted. All images must look natural."

For inspiration, take a look at winning images in the PSA Travel Interclub competition:
<https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-photo-travel-interclub-competition>

Upcoming 2021 Monthly Topics

October: Humor
November: Still Life

PSA Interclub Competitions

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

For the **nature and travel divisions**, each club can submit up to six images by six different members in each round. Photos should be in JPG format with dimensions of horizontal no greater than 1400 pixels and vertical no greater than 1050 pixels.

In the **pictorial print division**, there are five image categories: large color, small color, large mono, small mono, and creative altered reality. Participating clubs can submit up to four prints by four different members in each category at each round.

The LPS reps are reaching out to members whose images they have noted in LPS competitions as well as in social media like Facebook but also welcome submissions by all members of the club. Photographers who are members of more than one club can only submit a specific image for one of the clubs.

LPS members who are interested in having their photos considered for our club's submissions to a PSA interclub competition can contact the LPS rep for more details.

NATURE DIVISION:
Ardeth Carlson, LPS Rep
ardeth.carlson@gmail.com

Nature Division (ND) image guidelines can be seen at <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-nature-interclub-competition>. Ardeth 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.

PICTORIAL PRINT:
Lisa Schnelzer, LPS Rep
lisaschnelzer@gmail.com

Description of the five image categories in the Pictorial Print Division (PPD) can be found on the PSA website: <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-pictorial-print-interclub-competition-entering-rules>. For further information regarding the size of prints, etc., contact Lisa.

TRAVEL DIVISION:
Rich Krebs, LPS Rep
rkrebs318@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/index.php?divisions-photo-travel>. Rich wants images that show characteristic features of a place or a people.

PSA 365-Day Challenge

Members of LPS who are also members of PSA should consider participating in the 365-day challenge. Daily assignments for every day of the year offer motivation to get out with your camera and provides a goal. However, it isn't a requirement that submitted photos be shot that day or even that year; it can also be a way to look through your photo archives and evaluate them in terms of meeting a specific theme. Most of the topics, such as earthy, adamant, wry, or imminent, can be approached from a variety of perspectives. Some are descriptive—greasy, itchy, flimsy—or some are nouns, like pot or loaf (yes, both can be read different ways!). You can view the current assignments and see examples at <https://psa-photo.org/index.php?365-day-gallery>.

PSA Photo Festival 2021

The Photographic Society of America is looking forward to holding its 2021 Photo Festival, after having to cancel in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Rapid City, South Dakota, will be the site of this year's festival.

The opening ceremony is on Wednesday, October 6, but on-site registration opens on October 4, and photo tours and a chuckwagon event also begin on that date. There is an impressive array of speakers, covering a variety of photography topics. Photo tours include Badlands National Park sunrise and sunset tours, Spearfish Canyon waterfalls tour, Mount Rushmore and Iron Mountain Road tour, Reptile Gardens morning tour, and 1880 train ride and photo shoot.

Online registration for PSA members is \$200 up to September 10; after that, on-site registration is \$230. Registration for nonmembers is \$280. One-day passes are available for \$89 each. The optional photo tours have an added fee.

The Ramkota Best Western Hotel is offering a special rate of \$84 per night for festival attendees who book through the link on the PSA website. The festival ends with a banquet on October 9.

Use this link for complete information:
<https://psa-programs.org/photo-festival-2021/index.html>

PSA is currently offering a special membership rate of \$36 per year when enrolling in a 5-year membership.