

Reflections

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STONY BROOK CAMERA CLUB



Volume 48 No. 1 | September - December 2023

© Jim Borrebach

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Editors' Notes

By Donna Parker and Tom Amsterburg



As we wrap up the year 2023, it brings us great joy to extend warm wishes to each and every one of you in this holiday season.

Let us not only celebrate the technical prowess we've gained this year but also the friendships we've forged along the way. Photography, for us, is not just about capturing moments; it's about sharing experiences and learning from one another.

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the contributors who have made this edition of *Reflections* a visual feast. Jim Borreback's magnificent image, "The Lion King," graces our cover. It was captured during Jim's recent safari to Africa, which is featured in this issue. A special thanks also to Joe Kennedy for his beautiful images and essay on the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. Joe is a long-time contributor, and we always love to showcase his work. Thanks as well to Joe Cormier ("Photography and the Philosophy of Life") and Silvana Della Camera ("Printing an Image Makes it a Photograph") for their excellent articles.

Reflections is YOUR newsletter, so we really depend on you for articles and other content. There are so many incredible and gifted photographers in our club, and we would really love to share your work. Please consider sharing your love and knowledge of photography with all of us by submitting an article or photo essay on a topic of your choice. Anything photography related is fair game.

As always, we are very interested in receiving your feedback on this newsletter. Please let us know what you like, what you don't like, or what you would like to see in future issues of *Reflections*.

Wishing you all a holiday season filled with warmth, joy, and the company of loved ones.

To provide feedback on *Reflections* or to contribute an article, please send an email to Donna Parker (Parkerdonna1@comcast.net) and Tom Amsterburg (tslhusa@comcast.net).

Sherrie Vallie

New Member Questionnaire

1. WHAT OR WHO BROUGHT YOU TO THE CLUB

I was invited by Silvana to attend as a guest and I was so Impressed with the members' work, their welcoming attitude and the overall club structure and opportunities.



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

I am a night photographer who will chase the Milky Way all summer long. However, my true passion is light painting and I can't wait to share this experience with the club. I have also started to appreciate the daylight hours and I am expanding my photo interests such as dabbling with landscapes.

3. WHERE IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO PHOTOGRAPH?

I have a few "go to" spots that are mostly along the shore such as Hull and Plymouth. For the night I love urban 'scapes and for light painting, anyplace that is dark including my backyard!

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

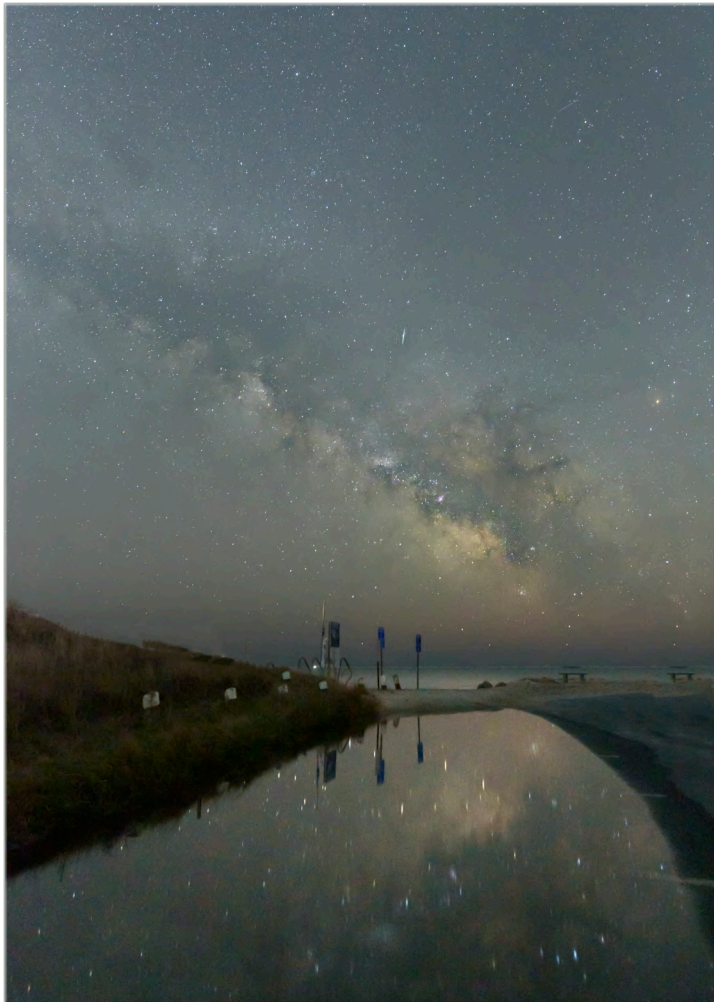
I hope to join other people on photo shoots as so much knowledge is "tribal" and every day is an opportunity to learn something new or try something new. This club seems to have an open mind to different aesthetics and I want to be part of that.

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

I have very eclectic tastes and so am interested in just about anything. I am looking forward to joining the club photography trips. And I am retired so if anyone is looking for a "wingman" to go take pictures, give me a holler!



**Photos ©
Sherrie Vallie**



Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

By Joe Kennedy

Back in 2003, I planned on a month's long trek to the Southwest. My bookings were all scheduled around the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta (ABQ) to be held during the first week in October. It's a week-long celebration of hot air balloons with most of the activities scheduled around dawn and dusk. One of my planned activities was to book a spot on a hot-air balloon!



(Me aboard the California Dreamin' balloon)

One of the unique opportunities at ABQ is the ability to be on the field while the balloons are inflating!



I likened this to their "wake-up call!" Just before dawn they are inflated.



Each envelope is spread out on the field and the burner is ignited!

Eventually it reaches its intended temperature and height. The pilot just needs to wait for the official signal from one of the "zebras" (officials in striped tops who oversee the launchings) to allow lift-off.



Standing on the Fiesta field and watching the balloons ascend can be exhilarating BUT being a passenger ON one of the balloons is a whole different world!

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

By Joe Kennedy



It was Friday already and time for my maiden voyage on one of the commercially-run balloons. "California Dreamin'" was my assigned ride. About eight of us squeezed into the gondola for the "hop" - term used to describe a hot-air balloon ride. There were to be two groups assigned to this balloon for about thirty minutes each. Fortunately, I was on the first thirty minutes, "fortunately" because our pilot was unable to land us in a safe place. Our half-hour hop lasted AN HOUR! I had three cameras and plenty of film (pre-digital days) so I was ready. The views were beyond description as we floated among those special shapes the entire time!



Being up there with the special shapes and the teardrops was unbelievable! I didn't know which way to turn in the gondola. Fire away! With a couple of different lenses I was able to draw in those inflatables that had wandered away. Then looking down, I could see others filling up with hot air, getting ready to launch.



Off to the left there was a special shape trying to land while a pack of them just drifted by . . .

On the ground the gondola and balloon need to be secured. It is common practice to see cars pulling over to lend a hand - the gondola weighs several hundred pounds and needs to be bundled onto the back of the chase vehicle.

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

By Joe Kennedy



If you are planning to spend some time at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, treat yourself to a “hop” on one of the passenger balloons - pricey but well worth it!

The venue in ABQ offers many unique opportunities for any hot-air balloon enthusiast. First and foremost is the weather, in particular, the winds. In the Fall the unique “Albuquerque Box” takes center stage. This weather pattern keeps the balloons within a specific area which is ideal for the balloonists! Another draw for ABQ is the sheer volume. Some time ago I was invited to see the balloons in Upstate NY. When I heard there would be about 75, I yawned, “Ho, hum. . .” In 2003, ABQ played host to over SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY balloons! And, you are allowed on the field as they are inflating. What a sight! As you watch a half-dozen ascend, there are another twenty or thirty behind them waiting their turn to set off! Soon the morning sky is littered with hundreds of colorful floating shapes! I saved the best for last, the Special Shapes!



Being the “Granddaddy of Balloon Festivals,” pilots from all over the world wrap up their gondolas and balloons of special shapes to be part of the festivities.



(Darth Vader's Helmet)



(The Little Bees)

Here you may see Noah's Ark (“Arky”), or Darth Vader's helmet, vehicles of all kind, and much more. Typically, about seventy-five of these masterpieces will be in attendance!



(Arky)

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

By Joe Kennedy

“Teardrops, Sphericals, and Ellipticals, Oh My. . .”

I read a while back that the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta was the most photographed event of the year - now I know why! A plethora (really loved sneaking that word in) of color fills the skies! It



would not be hard to get a neck sprain from the twisting and turning to catch EVERY balloon ascending. Cameras do NOT do the event justice! The most common shapes are the teardrops” - actually inverted teardrops.

I did notice a variation of this design, albeit a little slimmer (ellipticals), showing up on the grounds. These were easier to maneuver for the “key grab” and “closest to the center” competitions.



Earlier in the week, the spherical shapes took center stage as they competed for honors in distance and time in the air.



(Sphericals)

Earlier I mentioned activities at the Fiesta Park are at dawn and dusk with the former being the most popular. So during the off hours, I found several photo ops to keep me occupied as I returned for the dusk event - the **GLOW-DEO!**

As the sun begins to set, the pilots start up their burners and inflate their balloons. The result is amazing! Unfortunately, I could not move fast enough to catch a lot of the glowing characters - the special shapes take on a whole different personality during the Glow-deo.



(Carmen Miranda)



(Tweety Bird)

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

By Joe Kennedy

Due to its popularity, one needs to consider booking lodging and space aboard a balloon at least six months to a year in advance. So start looking now!

Want more? Check out this link on my website for more images from the ABQ Balloon Fiesta: <https://www.joekennedyphotography.com/f602443589>



(Suspended Animation!)

(Disclaimer: The author of this article added skies to several of these images - in no way were any of the balloons in harm's way during this process! JK)

Multi-Club Competition 2024 Information

CATEGORIES FOR THIS YEAR'S COMPETITION:

ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM

COMPLEMENTARY COLORS

CURVES

HIGH KEY / LOW KEY

MUSIC

SEASONS

STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

TENDER MOMENT(S)

Date photos are to be taken: 4/1/2023 – 3/31/2024

Submit photos to selection committee: TBA

Clubs submit photos to judges: TBA

Competition date: 4/30/2024

Happy Photographing!

From Mark S Landman (Stony Brook Camera Club)

Stony Brook Camera Club Volunteers!

Images from 2023

*National Education for Assistance Dog Services



© Stephanie Sioras



© Lynda Appel



© Lucia Hackett



Adams Farm Pumpkin Festival:
Lucia Hackett, Nancy Paradee, and Liz Siftar had a great afternoon capturing families and pumpkins at Adams Farm.

© Nancy Paradee



© Lynda Appel

African Photo Safari Adventure

By Jim Borrebach

In August 2023, I went on an 11-day safari adventure to Kenya, with my brother Dave and six other photographers from the US. The trip was organized by Steve Gettle and Nicole Sudduth of Steve Gettle Photography. I really enjoyed Nicole and Steve. Steve, who is a big man, bald with a goatee, and overtly outgoing, felt like a brother from another mother. They curated an excellent trip! The other members of the group were very nice and we all got along famously. It was truly a bucket list trip of a lifetime! Of course, I want to go back and fill that bucket again!

The tour was conducted in 4-wheel-drive safari vehicles with a pop-up top. Each photographer had a row (there are two seats in each row with a center aisle) so we could shoot out either window, or out the top in either direction. Shooting out the top may be difficult for those short of stature. Most of my favorite shots were out the side windows due to the lower perspective.

After flying into Nairobi, we visited four primary areas: Samburu Game Reserve, Solio Ranch, Lakes Bogoria and Baringo, and the Maasai Mara National Reserve. I spent a lot of time before the trip researching each location, viewing YouTube videos, studying my camera, practicing wildlife photography (with my dogs in the back yard) and looking online for tips and tricks.



African Photo Safari Adventure

By Jim Borrebach

Samburu Game Reserve, which is located north of the Ewaso Ngiro River, is known for the Samburu Five; the Beisa Oryx, Grevy's Zebra, Reticulated Giraffe, Somali Ostrich and the Gerenuk. In addition, we also saw cheetahs, lions, leopards, elephants, and many different types of antelope. A special treat was seeing a Martial Eagle fight off a Tawny Eagle who was trying to steal a ground squirrel. We met with some Samburu tribespeople and toured their village – they were very welcoming and I got to dance with some of the ladies. Their lives have been severely impacted by a prolonged drought.

Solio Ranch is a renowned privately owned ranch encompassing 17,500 acres (27.5 square miles) that plays a major part in the protection and breeding of rhinoceros. We saw both white and black rhinos all of which had fully intact horns. There were plenty of babies, too. We also saw numerous giraffes and many baby giraffes, too. Some of the baby giraffes were so young their umbilical cords were still attached. A herd of Cape Buffalo made an impressive sight.

Lake Bogoria is famous for its Pink Flamingos. There were too many to count but had to be a million or more. It was difficult photographing them as there were so many. A boat tour of Lake Baringo brought us to many different birds including Fish Eagles, Malachite King Fishers, Bee Eaters, herons, and more.

The Maasai Mara is known for the wildebeest crossing of the Mara River during the Great Migration. Unfortunately, the grass was greener on the other side of the river so we didn't get to see them crossing, but we did travel across the river to where they were grazing in an area known as the Mara Triangle. Seeing close to 500,000 wildebeest was awe inspiring. Lions, elephants, hyenas, giraffes, birds and more made the Mara a truly remarkable place. All in all, I couldn't have asked for a better experience during my trip to Africa.



African Photo Safari Adventure

By Jim Borrebach



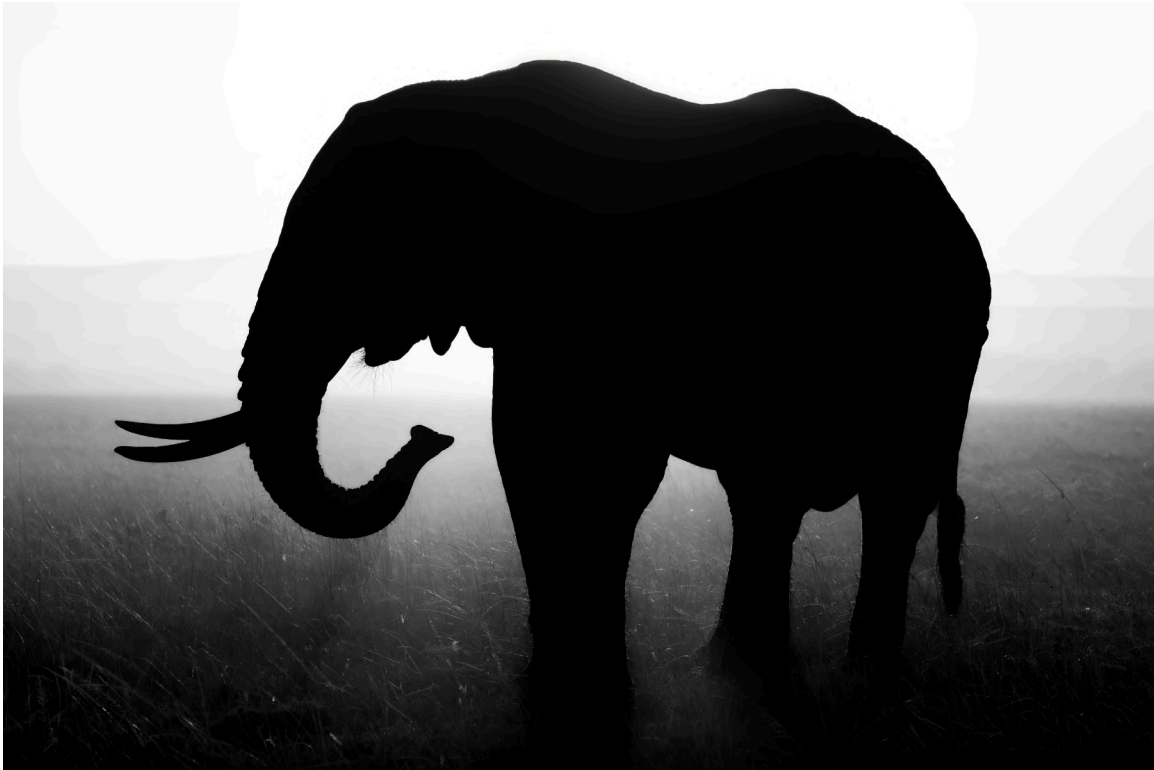
African Photo Safari Adventure

By Jim Borrebach



African Photo Safari Adventure

By Jim Borrebach



TRAVELOGUE

African Photo Safari Adventure

By Jim Borrebach



Printing an Image Makes It a Photograph

By Silvana Della Camera



© Silvana Della Camera

Think I am nuts? Maybe, but take a moment and ponder about it.

Back in the day of film, once you processed your roll, you ended up with something physical. Whether it was prints or slides, you always had the physical product in your hand. In the digital world, we no longer have the physical end-product of photography unless we remember the importance of the print.

Why is the print important? A print is when your image actually becomes a photograph. No, I am not talking in circles. A monitor can display an image but until it is put down on paper, the actual frozen moment is still ephemeral. It transforms into the actual captured moment when it is in the printed form. When you can hold it. When you can look at it closely on a wall or in your hand. When you can feel the paper and revel in the quality of the print. When you can view it under different lighting conditions. When you can finally, (really) experience the quality of the image and feel the moment now long gone. As long as the digital image stays on a hard drive or in the cloud, it can disappear. For good. As if it never existed. Poof.

Very scary.

CONTRIBUTION

Printing an Image Makes It a Photography

By Silvana Della Camera

We have been conditioned on many levels to digitize our paper world. This is good and bad. On the good side, we can dispose of the piles of paper once they are scanned. We have the record in digital form. Keep in mind, that you should always keep the most recent paper copy on hand as well. Think of your bank accounts. If something happens to the systems, what proof do you have that you had those accounts? Digital is good, but digital also instills a massive false sense of security. Never dismiss the power of the physical document.

With digital photography, we are no longer bound by the 24 or 36-exposure roll of film. The rolls were finite and we were prudent with each exposure. We now can take thousands of images in a day without a second thought. The overwhelming multitude of frames makes the idea of printing unfathomable. But it shouldn't.

With a roll of film, once developed, we would pick our favorites. The prized frame would then be enlarged to a 5×7 or larger. Multiple copies would often be made to share with friends and family. This mindset should be applied to digital photography too. We still pick our favorites from a series of photos. We should finish the process by printing them.

I've photographed many weddings. The great majority of couples have no interest in prints. Some parents insist on a book or large portrait of their own. Interestingly, once the parents had their book or print, the couple wanted one too. They suddenly experienced the magic of the printed instant in time.

For photographers who belong to camera clubs, I urge you to compete in print competitions. Yes, there is an expense in printing. Given how much camera gear, software, and everything in between costs, printing is the home stretch, and you shouldn't take the all-of-sudden frugal view. Ok, I'll say it – don't be a hypocrite. Printing isn't the expensive part of photography. It is, however, the most important part. Competing in print competitions is vastly different than digital competitions. Printing is an art in itself. As a photographer, learning what makes a good print is as important as everything else that goes into creating a good image. You can print the image yourself or send it to a lab. You can make the choice of what works best for you.

Ultimately, there is an immense satisfaction in holding a beautiful physical print of a special moment.

Website: silvanadellacamera.com

Photography and the Philosophy of Life

By Joe Cormier

Have you ever heard someone say "I should have . . ." It's a phrase that you have probably heard throughout your lifetime. The "Should Have" syndrome is present in all of our lives. It's a phrase that allows us to publicly state that a past action was regrettably not taken or one that could have been redirected in a different manner.

Monday morning quarterbacking is a wonderful, never wrong approach to past deeds regardless how insignificant or serious they or their consequences present themselves. It is a review of a past action that, now having the insight provided by time and experience, gives us a much clearer picture of the nature and consequences of those past actions.

As participants in our individualized photographic journey we interact with members of our Club, members of other camera clubs as well as others all of whom are on their own individual photographic journey. Each individual's objective may be tailored to his or her photographic skills, needs, ambition or a penchant to try to perfect the photographic outcome using new techniques and equipment. Photographing previously visited sites as well as new vistas, improving skills under differing lighting conditions, trying new approaches and, above all, learning from each other is all part of the process. This, as you well know, may be accomplished in part through a viewing of the photographic work of others as well as attending lectures and workshops and of course practice, practice, practice.

The photography club, composed of many members, is not unlike the travel club to which I belong. The travel club is composed of members some of which take only one trip per year but many go on multiple varied experiences in the same time span. The members are an interesting group and, despite the advanced age of many of them, participate to the fullest extent of their capabilities. Having traveled many times and in a myriad of ways, they are experts in the types of travel as well as the geographical places that they have visited. In short, they are a walking encyclopedia of travel!

This compares closely to members in the photography club. Its members possess skills that run the gamut from that which the casual photographer may use to the professional who earns a living doing what he or she loves. Not only is it composed of individuals who represent a

Photography and the Philosophy of Life

By Joe Cormier

scattering across the age spectrum but in addition these people are also the keepers of a vast amount of photographic knowledge. They too have traveled far and wide in order to capture that perfect "shot". They have taken photographs under a variety of conditions using a wide array of techniques and equipment. They too are certainly a walking encyclopedia of photography!

All of these folks who are active travelers and or photographers are not of the "I should have" group. Most of them have experienced life's ups and downs and know that life is a tenuous thing. They know that the situation that they find themselves in today can abruptly change at a moment's notice for a variety of reasons and any future plans must be either altered or cancelled. They are not of the "I should have" group but of the "Do it while you can" cohort. Their outlook is much more pragmatic than a morbid approach.

Many of them have plans that extend from the immediate to far into the future. They are of the mindset that, to quote a phrase from the play Mame, "Life is a banquet". They also have come to realize that to live life you must participate in it and take actions that enhance your sense of purpose and enjoyment.

I personally find, like many of you, that travel, photography and the quality of life go hand in hand. The experiences of being able to explore new and diverse geographic features, cultures, foods along with the backgrounds and lives of the people that you meet along the way make for rich experiences and photographic opportunities that cannot be duplicated in any other way.

The combining of photography and travel leads us into a previously unknown territory or an area that is being revisited. This opens us up to new visions, ideas and insights that were previously unknown. It's for the adventurous and inquisitive spirit no matter the age or stage of life.

So, you have a choice, don't be a Monday Morning Quarterback about things that are on your bucket list and that you are able to accomplish. It may be to visit or revisit a photographic location or set-up, distant lands or events. Who knows what tomorrow will bring? Perhaps it will be joy or maybe sorrow. Either way it will be dealt with and you will not have to in the future say "I wish I had" or "I should have".



PSA Photo Gathering

MEMBER

2024

September 18 through 21, in Tucson, Arizona

<https://psa-photo.org/page/future-festivals>

Stony Brook Camera Club 2022 - 2023 Meeting Schedule

Date	Program	Location
9/7/2023	Sweets & Treats, Business/Budget, Volunteer, Programs, Awards?, Slideshow	In Person
9/14/2023	Competition and Image Study Overview	In Person
9/21/2023	Wayne Fisher - Architecture	Zoom
* 09/23/2023	Rick Sammon - Cell Photography Saturday	Zoom
9/28/2023	Rick Hulbert - AI in Photography	Zoom
10/5/2023	Competition - Digital BW, Nature, People/Portraits	Zoom
10/12/2023	Ellen Kawadler - Painting Your Images in Photoshop	Zoom
10/19/2023	Image Study with Ray	In Person
10/26/2023	Jackie Kramer - Artistic Floral Photography	Zoom
11/2/2023	Competition - Prints Color & BW, Digital Open	In Person
11/9/2023	Silvana Della Camera - Night Photography	In Person
11/16/2023	Image Study with Ray	In Person
11/30/2023	Chane Cullens What Judges Look For	Zoom
12/7/2023	Competition - Digital BW, Nature, People/Portraits	Zoom
12/14/2023	Cole Thompson - Black & White	Zoom
1/4/2024	Competition - Prints Color & BW, Digital Open	In Person
1/11/2024	Charles Batchelder Still Life	Zoom
1/18/2024	Image Study with Ray	In Person
1/25/2024	Jim West - Prints	In Person
2/1/2024	Competition - Digital People/Portraits, Macro/Close Up, Altered Reality	Zoom
2/8/2024	Cabin Fever * In Person Only	In Person
2/15/2024	Ugo - Tanzania Safari	Zoom
2/22/2024	Joe Brady - Panarama	Zoom
2/29/2024	John Slonina - Nature	Zoom
3/7/2024	Competition - Chane Cullen judging on Color & B/W Prints and Digital Nature	In Person
3/14/2024	Image Study with Ray	In Person
3/21/2024	Jim LaSala Street Photography	Zoom
3/28/2024	Talk Photography *Zoom Only	Zoom
4/4/2024	Competition Digital Open, B/W and Travel	Zoom maybe In Person
4/11/2024	Alyce Bender - Impressionistic Photography	Zoom
4/18/2024	Mark Bowie - Moonlit: Art of Photographing by Moonlight	Zoom
4/25/2024	Ron Wyatt - Sports Photography	Zoom
5/2/2024	Competition - Image of the Year	In Person
5/9/2024	New Member Showcase	Zoom maybe In Person
5/16/2024	S.I.Gs Special Interest Groups	Zoom maybe In Person

Stony Brook Camera Club 2023 - 2024 Meeting Schedule

5/23/2024	Show and Tell	Zoom
5/30/2024	Image Makers	Zoom
6/6/2024	Women vs Men Challenge	Zoom
6/13/2024	End of Year Banquet	In Person

Color Key:

Guest Speakers
Internal Speakers
Internal Programs
Competitions
Image Study

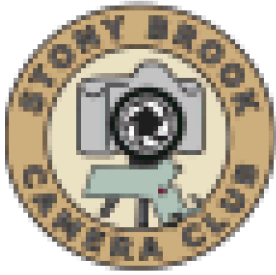
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:	Cynde Cusack
VICE PRESIDENT:	Amy Letourneau
SECRETARY:	Billi Manning
TREASURER:	Ed Gooltz
PAST PRESIDENTS:	Tom Amsterburg, Jim Borrebach, Silvana Della Camera,
COMMITTEES:	
COMPETITION COMMITTEE:	Tony Mistretta (Chair) Patricia Cabral Bob Doyle Dan Gyves Alan Litchfield Prasanth Parshak David Marshak Ed Gooltz

DIGITAL STUDY GROUP FORUMS	Jim West - Landscape/Cityscapes, Deb Boucher - Macro, Cynthia Vogan - Nature, Lynda Appel - Astro/Night, Silvana Della Camera - Infrared
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IMAGE STUDY:	Ray Guillette
NECCC REP:	Ray Guillette
NEW MEMBERS:	Cynde Cusack
NECCC DIGITAL REP:	Patricia Cabral, (Chair) Amy Letourneau
NECCC PRINTS REP:	Tony Mistretta
NOMINATIONS	Don Steele (Chair), Faith Martin, Stephanie Sioras
PSA REP	Ed Szymanski
PROGRAM COMMITTEE:	Ed Gooltz, Faith Martin, Silvana Della Camera, Hali Sowle, Allen Litchfield, Cynde Cusack, Amy Letourneau (Chair), David Marshak, Ed Szymanski, Tom Davis,
PUBLICITY:	
REFLECTIONS:	Donna Parker (Co-Editor), Tom Amsterburg (Co-Editor)
SCHOLARSHIP FUND:	Billi Manning (Chair)
Multi-CLUB COMPETITION:	Mark Landman
FOUR SCORE RAFFLE	Jim Borrebach
VOLUNTEERS	Janet Casey (chair), Cynde Cusack, Jim Borrebach, Elizabeth, Siftar, Tom Amsterburg, Nancy Paradee, Patricia Cabral, Sue Shirley, Stephanie Sioras, Donna Parker
WEBSITE:	Charlene Gaboriault (Webmaster)
WORKSHOPS	Ellen Kawadler, Donald Steele
TECHNOLOGY	David Marshak (chair), Jake Jacobson, Amos Lu, Ed Szymanski, Jim West



Donna Parker and Tom Amsterburg,
Co-Editors
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MEETINGS:

Currently the Stony Brook Camera Club meets virtually via zoom every Thursday of each month; no meetings in July and August. Consult SBCC Calendar of Events. All meetings start at 7:30PM.

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 the Stony Brook Camera Club, Franklin, MA. All issues are available [HERE](#)

WEBSITE:

Visit our Website at www.stonybrookcc.com for the latest schedule, updates and breaking news, and 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. Any questions, email David Marshak from the SBCC website email tab (you must be logged in to view).

OFFICERS:

Elected annually and serve as the executive committee with two 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: 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.