



# Shutterbug Times

Official Newsletter of the Olympia Camera Club

Olympia, WA

Established in 1935



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[www.olympiacameraclub.org](http://www.olympiacameraclub.org)

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Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/OlympiaCameraClub](https://www.facebook.com/groups/OlympiaCameraClub)

## *An Unforgettable Evening*



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**President's Corner**

Is it possible? Are we already in the last month of this Pandemic year? What a year it has been! So here we are in the festive month of December, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa and good Holidays to everyone I may have missed. Now is the time to dust off your cameras and lenses, recharge your batteries (both in your cameras and yourselves), and click away at the colored lights, decorations and family faces. Perhaps the greatest gift we can get for Christmas this year will be an approved vaccine to help us from the relentless surge of Covid-19. There is a ray of hope in the air that maybe by the end of 2021 our world will look a bit more normal.

I have been seeing some amazing photographs coming from our club members throughout this year. Members doing exquisite portrait photography, others capturing landscapes, street images, wildlife, and creating art. In Membership Sharing I am overwhelmed by the beauty in photography our members capture and present. If anything, perhaps this Covid-19 year has made us better photographers. Many of us now have the time to view tutorials and learn new techniques to better enhance our

abilities with the equipment we have. Not only have we gotten better with taking photos, but we are getting better in the way we process the images we have

taken. Whether you are using Lightroom, Photoshop, On1, Topaz, Photoshop Elements, or Luminar, we have been able to dig in deeper to those software systems and bring out the best in our images. There is a saying "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" well; this old dog has certainly learned a few over this year. The year 2021 will make us even better. Join us on our zoom meetings, contribute what you have learned and keep taking those pictures. Don't forget to renew your membership and remain a part of this fantastic Olympia Camera Club. I leave you with these words of wisdom: **Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. It's a case of in one ear and out the udder.**



T. Walton

**Dates to Remember**

**All club meetings will be virtual on Zoom**

**December**

**8 December Practical Photography Meeting**  
**15 December Member Sharing Night**  
**19 December (Saturday) Special Guest Speaker Hazel Meredith**  
**22 December General Meeting**  
**29 December Round Table Meeting**

**January 2021**

**5 January Board Meeting**  
**7 January Articles and Images due for Newsletter**  
**12 January Practical Photography Meeting**  
**19 January Member Sharing Night**  
**26 January General Meeting**

## Monthly Meetings

**All club meetings are virtual  
taking place using Zoom**

**The Zoom link is available on the OCC Website in the  
Members Only Area - Zoom Link**

### **Practical Photography December 8, 2020 7-9 pm**

This month's Practical Photography session will be a conversation about Flash Photography and the Properties of Light. Much of what we will talk about with respect to the properties of light, apply to both natural light photography as well as flash photography. A PDF document with some of the basic concepts of light and flash will be emailed to you prior to the class. Please take some time to review these concepts, and if you have questions, jot them down and bring your questions to the meeting. Hope to see you Tuesday.



*Bruce Livingston, Coordinator*

### **Member Sharing Night December 15, 2020 7-9pm**

This month's theme is Abstract Photography. Abstract photography is no one particular style or technique. Abstract photographers reject the idea that a photograph must always be of something recognizable. Instead, abstract photographers focus on color, shape and texture. There will be examples posted on the OCC Facebook page. Take a look for ideas. Let's see what you come up with. This will be fun! Be sure to check your emails for the guidelines for submissions.

Email Clair Ferris with any questions: [ferris9811@msn.com](mailto:ferris9811@msn.com)



*Clair Ferris, Coordinator*

### **Special Guest Speaker Saturday, December 19, 2020 1-3pm**

This month we have another great speaker lined up in Hazel Meredith. She is a fine photographer, sought after judge for competitions and does seminars. She is based on the east coast and we are lucky to have her for a speaker. Her presentation is titled "Creativity with Textures" and she describes it as follows: "See how you can take a 'ho hum' image and make it into your own 'work of art'. Learn how to work with textures and to create your own artistic vision. I will show you how to create your own textures - both from photos and with brushes in Photoshop (or Elements) - then combine them with photos to create looks from subtle to dramatic. I will also use a little Topaz, Luminar and Nik in my editing. For this seminar I will be featuring some of our East Tennessee "Barns and Back Roads" shots!" Due to Hazel's location and the three-hour time difference we had to make some changes to the time and date. This meeting will take place on Saturday, December 19, 2020 at 1:00pm and run till 3:00pm on our usual Zoom platform.

*Ed Tromble, Coordinator*





## General Meeting December 22, 2020 7-9pm

This month we will continue the critique/live-post processing session we did last month. We all have both images we have finished and are happy with and would like to be critiqued and others we know could be better if we could figure out what to do with them. Please be prepared to bring two images for critique and one you would like help with or three just for critique. I would like to do this using screen sharing, so have them cued up in your editor on your screen in the background. This will enable you to have access to all the metadata and allow you to make changes in real time.

*Ed Tromble, Coordinator*

## Special Fifth Tuesday Night Meeting December 29, 2020 7-9pm

We have a fifth Tuesday this month and the opportunity for another get together. For this meeting we will have a round table focused on editing. Bring your questions about your editing software, workflow or anything else and throw it out to the group. I'm sure someone can help. It looks to be a busy month so boot up your computer and join us.

*Ed Tromble, Coordinator*

## 2021 Membership Renewals

*by Colleen Easley*

2020 has been a difficult year for the club with Covid-19 forcing us to hold our meetings via Zoom. Many of us are missing the camaraderie of joining other photographers for our regular meetings and field trips, but there is hope that those good times will return - maybe later next year once the use of vaccines is widespread. It is our hope that you will continue to support the club by renewing your membership for 2021. We'll continue to do our best to present interesting and informative presentations via our Zoom platform and hope you'll stay with us. The easiest way to renew your membership is to visit the OCC website MEMBERSHIP page. You can renew via mail or online with PayPal. Dues remain \$25 for a single membership and \$45 for couples. Student memberships are \$20.



**TIME TO RENEW  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!**

## Take the 52frames Challenge

*by Cynthia Whelan*

The New Year is just around the corner. Thank goodness! If you are like me, I like to challenge myself to learn and develop my photographic skills by making a personal commitment to a project. In 2021 I am going to dive into 52frames <https://52frames.com/about>.

What is 52frames? 52frames offers a **guided weekly photography challenge**, designed to help you improve your skills. Every week, you get a new assignment. You have seven days to take your shot and share it with the International community. There are training videos, new ideas and you get to see how other people from around the world photograph the same challenge. There is also an opportunity to get and give feedback to help you grow. And get this, it's totally FREE.

It isn't an easy thing to create a photo a week, but just think of the possibilities. If you want a photographic challenge in 2021, check out the website <https://52frames.com/about> and join the 52frames community.



This challenge was "choose a color" where one color was dominate in the image.

## Announcing the 2020 Olympia Camera Club Annual! In Memory of Frank Townsend January 16, 2021

Every year OCC members get together to assemble a permanent collection of their recent photographic work. Due to the pandemic, we will not be having our very fun Annual party. Larry and Nandita Mallo will collect participating member images by mail, or in person, based on the participants' comfort. They will then collate the books, bind them and return the books to the participants via mail, front door drop off, or meeting elsewhere, as determined by the participant. Participants have found these books to be excellent keepsakes and inspirations. We would encourage you to get involved in this enjoyable activity. It provides a good deal of fun, a collection of your colleagues' work and a look at where we all were, photographically, in 2020.

### The Annual

Each Annual is made up of one image from each participating OCC member in good standing. Participation is voluntary, of course. It's nice but not required that the images were created during 2020. Images may be created by any photo process and may be any size from a snapshot to a maximum of 8 1/2 x 11 inches. Each participant provides one page per book so if there were 20 participants, there would be 20 books, each with one page from each participant. Binding costs will be around \$4 per book (plus extra if you want it to be mailed back to you). It looks like USPS priority mail might be the cheapest way to mail, starting at \$12, or we can arrange to meet up or drop off at your doorstep.

### Deadline

Members who wish to participate must declare their interest via e-mail directly to Larry and Nandita at: [laa-naamalloy@gmail.com](mailto:laa-naamalloy@gmail.com). **The deadline for declaring that you wish to participate will be Dec 19, 2020.** We will announce the final count on Dec 21. We will also publish this number to all declared participants.

### Publishing Party

There will be no party sadly, but Larry and Nandita will assemble the books on Martin Luther King weekend, January 16, 2021. Books will be returned to the participants after they are bound.

### Note:

Because we permanently assemble the Annual, all books must contain their complete contents. It is difficult to add or exchange images with those already included in the binder, so a fully completed Annual, ready for binding is our goal! **Please ensure that your prints are received by Larry and Nandita before January 15, 2021.**

### The Prints

#### Option 1: Mount on Paper Pages

Photos can be mounted on 8 1/2 by 11 pages with titles, etc. The preferred paper is 24 pound bond or similar. Please create your own pages and mount your prints, ready to bind before the party. You may use materials, colors, etc. of your choice. In that way you can control the placement of the print and information you want included on your page. When mounting, allow a 1/2 to 3/4 inch extra margin ("gutter") along the left hand (long) edge of the page for binding. Archival mounting materials are preferred. If gluing photos onto 8.5x11 paper, please use acid free glue.

#### Option 2: Prints Done Directly on 8 1/2 x 11 Photo Paper

You can use prints that are done directly on 8 1/2 x 11 photo paper. We will bind these into the books with no need for other materials. When printing, allow a 1/2 to 3/4 inch extra margin ("gutter") along the left hand (long) edge of the page for binding.

#### Note 1:

Regardless of printing method or binding method, please assure your prints are dry and free of any adhesive residue or substances that would harm other prints in the book.

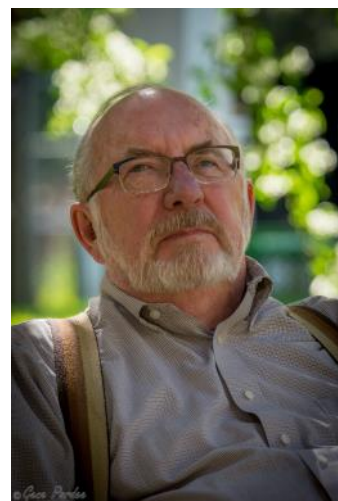
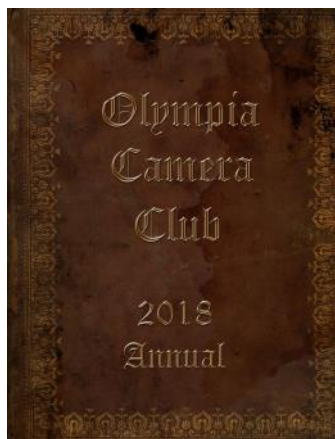
#### Note 2:

Please endeavor to get your prints completed well before the deadline. In years past, last minute print orders from Costco and others have gone awry preventing some folks' images from being included in the book so allow for possible delays and errors in your prints.

#### Note 3:

Most folks like to place the title and the name of the maker of the images somewhere on the mounting (Option 1) or in the print itself (Option 2).

If you have any questions, please call Nandita at 510-673-9383 or email at [laanaamalloy@gmail.com](mailto:laanaamalloy@gmail.com)



## PSA Interclub Competition Round 2 – February 15, 2021

*Coordinator, Pam Hoaglund*

The images for the First Round of the PSA Interclub Competition have been submitted and now it's time to start thinking about the Second Round.

In the second week of December I will send out an email to the OCC membership soliciting members to send me an email of their intention to enter the February 2021 competition. The first six members that I receive an email from will be in the competition. If there are more than six emails of intention those beyond six will become alternates. Once the six entrants are identified I will send them an Image Release form to sign (if you have signed a release form in the past it is good for three years) and return to me. The deadline for submitting images for the second round will be January 22, 2021. If you have any questions regarding the competition please contact me at: [pamhoag46@gmail.com](mailto:pamhoag46@gmail.com).

### Requirements for Entering Image in PSA Interclub Competition

You must be an OCC member to participate but do not have to be an individual member of PSA.

Entry Guidelines:

1. Images are to be digital only. Film images can be scanned into digital.
2. Photographic work must be the maker's; no commercial clip art is allowed.
3. Category is General. Content is "open" and may include creative images, with all forms of manipulation permitted.
4. Color or Monochrome. Monochrome images are those that give the impression of black and white, or black and white plus one fully toned color.
5. All submitted images are judged together and are not separated by Color or Monochrome.
6. Image Release Form: signed by participating members. It guarantees the images are:
  - a. Their own work
  - b. They have the necessary model and or property release if ever needed
  - c. They give PSA permission to display their images on the PID Interclub website
  - d. They understand they alone hold all copyrights
7. Image Size:
  - a. Horizontal images will be no more than 1400 pixels wide or 1050 pixels tall.
  - b. Vertical images will be no more than 1050 pixels tall.

- c. JPEG format only, with no file size restrictions.
- d. sRGB color space is recommended
- e Suggested file name: title of image\_photographer's name.
- f. DO NOT put a watermark on the image.

## Holiday "Secret Santa" Photo Gift Exchange 2020

*An OCC Holiday Tradition with a Pandemic Twist*

We can't get together for our usual holiday party, but we can still use an old holiday tradition - sending gifts through the US Post Office.

1. First, if you wish to participate in this year's OCC Holiday Photo/ Secret Santa exchange you must SIGN UP.

2. You SIGN UP by sending your:

Name

E-mail address

Physical snail mail address in an email to Nancy Nelson at [ncnphotographer@gmail.com](mailto:ncnphotographer@gmail.com) by Midnight on Friday, December 11, 2020

3. Nancy will compile a list of people who signed up, and randomly match up givers and recipients. She will then let each person know who to send your "Secret Santa" photo gift to - name and mailing address.

4. Each participant (giver) makes one postcard, note card, or print. Keep in mind; these will need to be sent through the USPO. To keep everyone safe, please do not send glass! And keep your out-of-pocket costs to \$10 or less. You may choose to keep you identity secret or you may let your receiver know who you are.

5. Participants address your photo, card, or print, apply appropriate postage (postcards \$0.35; card or letter \$0.50) and drop it in a mailbox.

6. DO NOT SHARE the PHYSICAL ADDRESSES of anyone with anyone.

7. Check your mailbox for holiday greetings from your OCC Secret Santa.





## A Virtual Field Trip to Our National Parks January 7, 2021

by Cynthia Whelan

**Wallace Stegner** called national parks "the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst."

Share with the OCC your best photos of our National Parks. Olympia, Rainier, North Cascades, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, you know them and you've photographed them. Show us our national treasures: wildflowers, lake reflections, birds, wildlife, and of course the mountain views. It's January, so dig through your photo library and inspire us to plan our next National Park visit.

### Guidelines for Images:

**Images are due by January 7, 2021.** Members may contribute up to five images per person to the newsletter for each virtual field trip, but you may also upload up to 10 of your images to the club's website gallery by logging on to the website and choosing 'Add Images to Galleries' from the Member's Only Area.

Please size your images to 2048 pixels on the long side. Put a watermark on the image and title each image.

**Please make the file name the name of your National Park.** Example of a title: OlympicNP\_Pam Hoaglund.

Please send the images as an attachment to an email to [newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org](mailto:newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org) by midnight Thursday, January 7, 2021. Also, be sure to post them to the Virtual Field Trip Gallery by logging on to the Olympia Camera Club website and uploading them at <https://www.olympiacameraclub.org/post-image-2/>.



Badlands National Park, SD

## OCC Virtual Field Trips 2021

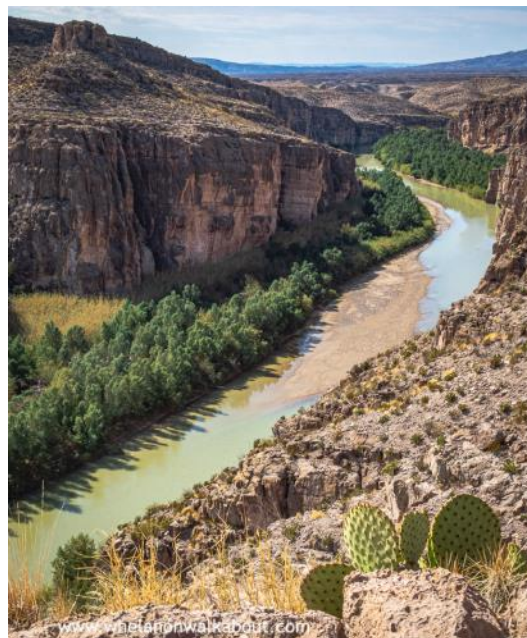
by Cynthia Whelan

The OCC Field Trip Committee met and drafted up a schedule for the 2021 Virtual Field Trip dates. They looked at the 2020 OCC Survey results and decided to keep Virtual Field Trips based on locations and places.

Here is the tentative list of 12 planned Virtual Field Trips

January - National Parks  
February - International  
March - Ridgefield NWR  
April - Cape Disappointment  
May - Oregon  
June - Washington State Capitol  
July - Beaches  
August - State Parks  
September - Mount Rainier  
October - Waterfalls  
November - California  
December - Mount St Helens

Even though there are currently no plans for in-person field trips, the OCC Field Trip Committee is looking forward to next year. They hope that this list will inspire you to get out and shoot more photographs in 2021. Maybe next year we will have more opportunities to get together and share our love of photography. If you have any comments or questions you may email Cynthia at [cawhelan@att.net](mailto:cawhelan@att.net).



Rio Grande-Big Bend National Park, TX

## NPPNW Fall Meeting Report

by Colleen Easley

On November 7, 2020 the Nature Photographers of the Pacific Northwest held their biannual meeting via Zoom. An online meeting was a completely new concept for us, but all-in-all, it turned out great. Our guest speakers were Kennan and Karen Ward. The Wards are adventurer-naturalists who have traveled the world to capture images for National Geographic, Audubon, Outdoor Photographer and others. They have written several books about wilderness and wildlife.

The program was well received and many, who had not been able to attend in recent years due to travel limitations, were able to tune in from home. After the speaker presentation, we conducted our traditional image competition on-line. Images in three categories were judged prior to the meeting by three groups of volunteers. The categories were Plant Life, Scenic, and Wildlife. Three members of the Olympia Camera Club placed high in the awards. Meredith Rafferty placed first in Wildlife for her image "Prairie Blue," D.J. Mark placed first in Plant Life for her image "Dogwood Blossom" and second place in Wildlife for her image "Above the Mist" and Judy Mason placed second in Wildlife with her image "Fawn in the Backyard Weeds" and third in Scenic for her image "Break in the Rain at Bagley Lake." Congratulations, gals!

The complete meeting was recorded and you can view it on the NPPNW website at <https://www.nppnw.org/nov-2020-video/>. We will hold our second Zoom meeting in the Spring on April 3, 2021. When details about our speaker are announced they will be posted on the NPPNW website and we'll announce it via a calendar reminder to OCC members.



Wildlife - First Place - Meredith Rafferty  
"Prairie Blue"



Plant Life - First Place - D.J. Mark  
"Dogwood Blossom"



Wildlife - Second Place - D.J. Mark  
"Above the Mist"



Wildlife - Second Place - Judy Mason  
"Fawn in the Backyard Weeds"



Scenic - Third Place - Judy Mason  
"Break in the Rain at Bagley Lake"



## NWCCC Virtual Conference Report

by Bruce Livingston

The 2020 NWCCC Conference was held “virtually” via Zoom Webinar on Saturday, November 14, 2020 with Brooks Jensen as the Keynote Speaker. Brooks’ presentations were titled *“Those Who Inspire Me and Why”* and *“Beyond the Print”*. There were presentations throughout the weekend and the following week by several notable photographers including Thibault Roland, Darrell Gulin, Steve Ball and Alyce Bender, among others. The Conference also included the judging of several competitions, including Traveling Prints, Open Digital Salon and Digital Slideshow. Winners from our Club are showcased below.

In the past, NWCCC Conferences were held as a one day event the second Saturday in November at a Northwest venue, with up to three classes, from a selection of 12 - 15 that were offered, and a bag lunch, all for the price of registration. This year, however; because it was “virtual”, there was no bag lunch, no vendors, but.....instead of signing up for your favorite three additional classes, registrants were able to attend all of the classes, that were presented “live” throughout the week, plus they were all recorded and are able to be viewed at “your convenience” through December 31, 2020.

I know that many enjoy the camaraderie of meeting in-person, having their camera sensors cleaned, and perusing the vendor tables, however; I enjoyed the opportunity to watch the presentations on my “color calibrated” computer screen, with the ability to get a cup of my cold-brewed coffee, without having to drive a substantial distance in traffic. So, for those of you who attended the conference, I’d like to hear your thoughts about what you liked (or didn’t). There is also a survey that was emailed to registrants letting the NW Council know your opinions.

### Winning Images in the Traveling Prints



Color Prints - First Place - Dennis Plank  
“Fatherhood”



Color Prints - Honorable Mention - D.J. Mark  
“Iguana Portrait”



Black & White Prints - Honorable Mention - John Gerech  
“Flamenco Guitarist”

The Olympia Camera Club placed third in the Traveling Print Competition.

Winning images continued on next page.

NWCCC winning images continued:

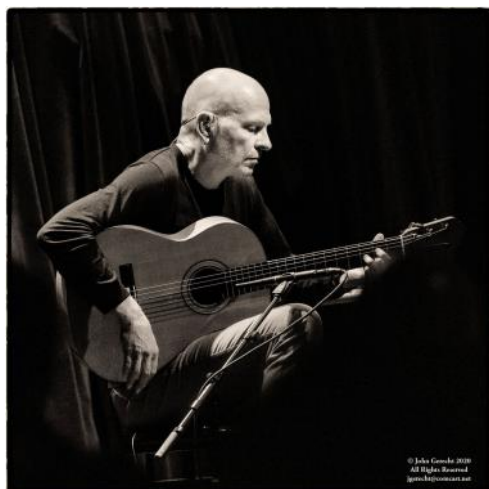
## Open Digital Salon Winners



Honorable Mention - Fred Wright  
"Antarctic Shag"



Honorable Mention - Pam Hoaglund  
"Eye to Eye"



Honorable Mention - John Gerech  
"Ottmar"

## The Story behind Santa Tony

*Submitted by Pam Hoaglund*

OCC member Tony Sinclair also had a winning image in the NWCCC Open Digital Salon Competition in November. When I emailed him requesting he send me the image for inclusion in this newsletter he replied that he was working out of state and would not be back until after Christmas. The image was on his home computer and he had no access to it while he was away but would send it to me when he got home. He included this image which peaked my curiosity. I asked him where he was playing Santa, was it for an organization and was there a story for the newsletter.



This was his reply:

"As for where Santa is, he is in Springfield Oregon. at Cabalas... and the story of me becoming Santa is a story in itself... my wife got me started, and my first event was a Santa Breakfast for a battered women's shelter... and after I walked out and said my Ho Ho Ho, and 30-40 kids ran up to me, I was sold..:

I've been doing it for 13 plus years and normally have 15 or so local clients, like AWB's annual Capitol Christmas Tree lighting in the dome.

I've done a few TV spots for TVW, Washington State's public affairs media network, a non-profit organization that has a contract with



Washington state government to provide gavel-to-gavel coverage of the business of state government. I normally spend time in Seattle for Children's Hospital Festival of Trees and also up in the mountains at Sun-cadia Resort, but many of these clients chose

*(Continued on page 11)*



(Continued from page 10)

not to do anything this year, so when this gig here came up I jumped at the chance.”

Who would have guessed that Santa was a member of the Olympia Camera Club.

Santa Tony's winning image will be featured in the January 2021 newsletter.



## Membership Report

by Colleen Easley

We now have 158 members. Three new members joined in November. Please welcome:

Peggy Hanson

Judi Kubes

Val Riger



Welcome!

We are glad you are here!

## Help!

by Pam Hoaglund, Newsletter Editor

Each month I receive images and articles from club members for inclusion in the newsletter. Unexpected items always bring a smile to my face because some months, I don't think I will have enough material to make the newsletter informative and educational. Newsletter images are solicited for Member Galleries, Virtual Field Trips and to illustrate announcements, etc. But I need your help! I am having a significant problem with some of the images I receive—no title and not watermarked. When I receive these images, I have to email the sender and ask them to please title and watermark their images and resend them. This is time-consuming for everyone. The newsletter takes hours to put together.

So, my plea is: **Please, double-check that you have titled and watermarked your images before hitting the send button.** I have been your newsletter editor going on five years, and I have enjoyed even the frustrating moments, but I need your help to keep our newsletter informative and educational.





## Virtual Field Trip “Gratitude”

This month we are not going to a physical place but rather we are sharing images that represent what we are grateful for especially in 2020.



### Jeanette Brooks-Milano

One of the things I am grateful for this year is OCC. This spring I was going through chemotherapy and felt sick a lot. I was about to give up on photography. I saw an email from OCC that you were doing virtual meetings. So, I joined so that I could learn about some of the techniques OCC was presenting and the meetings gave me something to look forward to. I have learned a lot through these meetings and some of the pictures I have taken this summer and fall I think are better. Thanks.



### Tammy Mandeville

As I look back on this year, I am grateful for three things, my Faith, my Family and the Fun I have with photography.

## Virtual Field Trip “Gratitude” Continued



### Cynthia Whelan

I am thankful for living near two National Parks, numerous National Wildlife Refuge areas, and countless open space areas that provide unlimited photographic learning opportunities. In one morning I can drive to Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge and be photographically challenged.



### Barbara Craven

Thanks to Fauci for keeping me healthy  
Grateful I could go on a driving trip to the Gorge and Eastern Oregon  
Olympic Peninsula empty hiking trails, so near



## Virtual Field Trip “Gratitude” Continued



### Bruce Livingston

I am Grateful for my Family, both families. I was fortunate to have thirty-four wonderful years with my first wife Carol, and am blessed to have twelve (and counting) years with Denise. My son Adam and his wife Namiko and my grandson Kai now live in Japan.



### Colleen Easley

Gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Gratitude helps you to grow and expand; gratitude brings joy and laughter into your life and into the lives of all those around you.



## Virtual Field Trip “Gratitude” Continued



**Pam Hoaglund**

I am most grateful for my Faith, my best friend Goldie and Photography.



**T Walton**

To be near my Granddaughter  
To be living in Washington



**Meredith Rafferty**

I am grateful for the love and caring of family  
and friends; they fill my heart and lift me up.

## Considerations and Recommendations for Selecting a Tripod (Part 1)

by Bruce Livingston

This is the first installment of a three part series on why you might need a tripod, how to select a tripod and a tripod head, accessories that will enhance the use and stability of your tripod and finally, how to use a tripod. I will also address monopods and monopod heads as well, since their considerations are somewhat similar.

This first article will focus on the general components that make up a tripod, and then I will address some of the critical aspects of selecting the base of a tripod - the legs.

The second article (Part II) will focus on considerations when selecting a tripod/monopod head. The third article (Part III) will focus on accessories and how to use a tripod. I will point out many (but certainly not all) of the available options, and when I have a recommendation, I will clearly state that the recommendation is based on my use and/or experience.

Choosing a tripod can be a complicated experience, based on the variety of materials and price-points that are available. And many of the variables will be based on your camera system, how you will use it, and your budget. How much weight will it support? How heavy (or light) is it? How tall is it? How much does it cost? Will you use the tripod primarily for hiking? Or will it be used out of a vehicle? These are only a few of the questions that will need to be determined as you consider a new tripod. My experience has been that choosing a tripod based on the price alone, will only cause you to buy more tripods.

**You might need a tripod for some of the following reasons:**

- To allow you to photograph at slow shutter speeds in low-light conditions, or to use a small aperture to gain more depth of field
- To use a lower ISO to increase image quality
- To shoot panoramic images that require precise framing and overlap
- To photograph golden hour, blue hour and nighttime images, like sunsets, the Milky Way, Planets, etc
- To shoot close-up/macro
- To facilitate using a long/heavy lens

One of the best advantages of using a tripod (in my opinion) is that it causes one to slow down, be deliberate, and compose the image more carefully.

### Tripod Components

- Legs - tripod legs generally come in two types - tubular and non-tubular. Carbon-fiber tripod legs are almost always tubular and have a threaded twist-lock system, whereas aluminum and steel tripod legs can be tubular, square or rectangular and can utilize either the twist-lock or flip-lock locking system for the leg extension.
- Center column - a post that runs through the center, allowing to further raise the tripod head.
- Feet - most good tripods allow for changing the feet for indoor and outdoor use.
- Head - I will be specifically talking about heads in next months' article.

### The Base - Tripod Legs

So, where do I begin when looking to purchase a tripod? The factors I consider when choosing a tripod starts with the base - the legs.

My main tripod legs with 75mm bowl:



**How much weight will the tripod support?** I suggest that the tripod support at least 1.5 times the total weight of your camera with your heaviest lens. I like to keep mine at 2X the weight of my heaviest system. Why? Remember, there are times when you will be applying pressure on the camera and lens, or even resting your hands on the setup if you're shooting with a long lens. Also, I suggest that you consider an accessory that I'll be talking about in the third article in this series - a stone bag which acts as a shelf between the tripods legs to which weight can be added to help steady the tripod in wind.

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**Height:** I would recommend purchasing a tripod that matches your height. The camera should be at your eye level when it is mounted to the tripod. If it is higher than your eye level, that is OK, because you can adjust the legs lower. Let me address the center column now, because I know that many will say they can just raise the center column to bring the camera back up to eye level. Although it might seem convenient to raise the center column, I **strongly recommend against** purchasing a tripod with a center column, as it defeats the whole purpose of a tripod. It is essentially the same thing as having a monopod on top of a tripod, plus it adds unneeded weight. A general rule of thumb regarding tripod legs is: the height of the fully extended legs should be approximately the same height as your shoulders.



**Tripod weight and construction:** This is where I start to narrow down my choices. What will the main use be? Is this tripod mainly used for travel and/or hiking? If so, then I look at the weight and compactness of the tripod when collapsed. The number of leg extensions can make a tripod more compact when folded, (i.e., more extensions that are shorter will collapse smaller) but the tradeoff is it will be less stable. I like to keep the number of leg extensions to three or four. If the tripod will be mainly carried in a vehicle, then the weight and compactness is less of a consideration. Another feature that is very important to me is the leg locking system. Back when I was using a tripod mainly in the studio (years ago before digital) my Bogen tripods had a center column with braces between the legs and center column, and flip-lock legs. That was then, and this is now - I like round tripod legs with twist lock leg locks. For maintenance purposes, I can take the leg sections apart and clean and re-grease the threads. This is very important if you photograph wildlife or landscapes near (or in) saltwater. Good maintenance will extend the life of a tripod, and a good tripod is a lifelong investment. One additional feature that I want on a tripod leg system is a 75mm bowl so that I

can add a leveling base. Most bowls and leveling adapters have bubble levels. This allows easy leveling of the head, even if the terrain is uneven.

Notice there is no center column and the leveling adapter will fit down into the bowl and allow the tripod head to be leveled easily.



This shows the leveling adapter assembled into the bowl. The short post below the head is not a center column. It is a short handle that twists clockwise to loosen the adapter to level the head, then twists counter-clockwise to tighten the head in a level position. (Lefty loosey; Righty tighty):



Next month I will continue this article on tripods, where we will delve into tripod and monopod heads. Stay tuned.....



## Winter Bird Photography

by Dennis Plank

I was doing a blog post a week ago on the birds that can be seen on and around the local prairies in the winter. We tend to think there aren't many birds around in the winter, so I was mentally predisposed to think that I could count the species on my fingers. After all, that's why I've taken winter trips to wildlife refuges near and far. However, as preparation, I sat down and started listing the ones I could think of. It came to 39 species. I then asked my wife to come up with an independent list. By the time I combined the two, we were at fifty. This was just species we could see within easy walking distance of where we live and the only aquatic species I included was Canada Geese since they fly over daily.

So the birds are out there, and many of them are strongly attracted to feeders this time of year. Then what is different about winter bird photography around here?

**It's Cold and Wet** for one thing. It sure can be.

This can be mitigated in your back yard by using a blind, either temporary or permanent. A portable heater can make it sufficiently comfortable that relatively few layers are necessary and you can get by with light enough gloves to easily operate your camera.

Arrange a feeding station where you can shoot through a window. I know someone who does this for most of his home bird photography, winter and summer. He opens his window, but you can shoot through the glass with acceptable results, though shooting at angles through double or triple pane glass can create distortion.



**It's too dark.** I'll admit that winter around here is pretty gloomy. However, modern cameras and noise reduction software allow high ISO. I routinely use ISO 2000 to 3200. There are, however, a few things you need to do to make this work well.

Make sure you're keeping your exposure up—just avoid blowing out the whites. If you have to bring the exposure up in post processing, it increases the noise a lot and makes it difficult for the noise reduction software to handle it without losing detail.



Don't be afraid of low shutter speeds. Yes, you'll lose shots to motion blur both on the part of the subject and on the part of yourself. You can take care of the latter by using a good tripod and head, the former; you just have to throw away. (Unless it's a particularly artistic blur). After all, electrons are pretty cheap. If you're worried that you won't get many "keepers", remember that the bird photographers 100 years ago did it with absurd shutter speeds. Bentley Beetham in "Photography for Bird Lovers" (1911) said, "Careful observation of a bird's actions will often enable one to anticipate momentary periods of stillness, and with a little patience exposures of from a half to two seconds may be given on subjects apparently not at rest..." If he could do that, we shouldn't be afraid to get down to 1/30 sec.



Focus is very critical. Low light (high ISO) photography is all about signal to noise ratio. If you have perfect focus the barbs in a bird's feathers will be nice and crisply defined and your noise reduction software will be able to handle it while still leaving you plenty of definition. If your focus isn't perfect, you'll need to sharpen the image

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and you'll be increasing the noise as well. It's hard to do if you get a special pose, but when you're culling your images from a shoot, just trash those marginal ones (unless it has some personal meaning, like being the first photograph you've gotten of that species or its way out of its normal range). For me, this has been the hardest lesson. I'm always tempted to keep it and try to fix it, but it rarely works and never well. This Bewick's Wren is an example of one to just give up on.



Use a little fill flash. By definition, this won't get your shutter speed up, but it adds a touch of extra liveliness to your subject. My typical setting is  $-2 \frac{2}{3}$  stops on the flash setting and I set it on the flash unit so I can't screw it up adjusting the camera. Sometimes I'll go as high as -2 stops, but rarely above that or it starts to look like you have used a flash, and that's not what you want. With fill flash, you don't really need to get the flash unit widely separated from the camera. I just leave mine on the hot shoe. Out of focus foreground vegetation will be uncomfortably bright, so it's not a good thing to shoot a bird perched back in the branches of a tree.



**It's Snowing.** That's perfect! Snow makes for incredibly cool shots and tends to bring out birds you rarely see.

You do need to watch your exposure. If you use spot metering and you're metering on the bird, you need to watch the snow. If you meter on snow use +3 ev. I just play with the exposure on a branch when I go out. Once I've got it figured out, I use manual and just leave it alone unless the light changes.



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**The Sun is out.** This is actually my personal bugaboo because my blind is located so I get spotty light through trees, so I'm always changing the exposure.

Once again, I shoot in manual mode and I just figure out the settings I need for the shadows and the sunlit area. Usually, I accommodate these by changing shutter speed, but that's just my preference. I was out today and shifting between 1/500 and 1/2000 pretty regularly. I really need to figure out how to do that with one button.

The other option is to just find a sunny, birdie spot to shoot. The wintering Anna's Hummingbirds are great for this.



## Olympia Camera Club Business Meeting Draft December 1, 2020, 6:30pm to 8:30pm Zoom

### Officers and Members present

Townsend Walton, Ed Tromble, John Damitio, Tammy Mandeville, Bruce Livingston, Rosalind Philips, Pam Hoaglund, Colleen Easley, Clair Ferris, Cynthia Whelan, Rene Conger and Christine Vanderburg.

The meeting was called to order by President Townsend Walton at 6:30 PM with a quorum present.

### Approval of November's Minutes

Ed Tromble made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2020 Board Meeting. Rosalind Philips seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

### Treasurer's Report

John Damitio read the Treasurer's report and it is on file in the OCC Dropbox.

Treasurer's Report December 1, 2020	
November 1 - November 30, 2020	
WSECU Checking	
Starting Balance (11/1/20)	\$2,456.48
DEPOSITS	
Income - 2021 Dues	25.00
Total Deposits	25.00
EXPENSES	
Technology - Adobe Subscription	10.93
Total Expenses	10.93
Ending Balance (11/30/20)	\$2,470.55
WSECU Savings	
Starting Balance (11/1/20)	\$3,403.89
Dividend Interest	0.28
Ending Balance (11/30/20)	\$3,404.17
PayPal Balance	\$564.22
Total Balance	\$6,438.94

## Old Business

### 1) Holiday Party

Members who want to participate in this year's OCC Holiday Photo/Secret Santa exchange must sign up by December 11, 2020. Cynthia Whelan and Nancy Nelson are coordinating the exchange and have reported 13 members have signed up so far.

### 2) Position descriptions

Townsend Walton, Rosalind Philips and Pam Hoaglund will be meeting on Thursday November 3, 2020 at 6:30 pm to go over the Position descriptions.

## Equipment/Teleconferencing

No Report.

## Membership Report

Colleen Easley reported that we have three new members. Our total membership is now at 158 members.

## President's Report

Townsend Walton reported that the meetings are going really well. He also led a discussion on future membership totals for the coming year. Townsend Walton reported that Kim Buechel will no longer be the Traveling Prints coordinator and that he (Townsend) has last year's prints and will be contacting their owners to return them.

## Community Liaison

No Report.

## General Meeting

Ed Tromble reported that December's meeting will be on critiquing with live editing, and we will have a bonus guest speaker, on Saturday December 19, 2020 at 1:00 pm with photographer Hazel Meredith. The fifth Tues-

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day, December 29, 2020 evening meeting was suggested to be a post-processing help session.

### **Practical Photography**

Bruce Livingston reported that December's meeting will be a conversation about Flash Photography and Light.

### **Member Sharing**

Clair Ferris reported that this month's theme will be on Abstract Photography.

### **Social Chair**

No Report.

### **Newsletter**

Pam Hoaglund discussed articles and photos needed for the Newsletter.

### **Webmaster**

Colleen Easley wanted to remind members to upload photos to the OCC Members Gallery.

### **Thurston County Fair**

No Report.

### **Field Trips**

Cynthia Whelan reported that our next virtual field trips

will be "National Parks". Colleen Easley noted that the full list of virtual field trips is on the Olympia Camera Club web page.

### **NPPNW / NWCCC**

NPPNW will have its next Conference in April 2021. In the NWCCC Conference, Traveling Prints awards were received by three members placing our Club in third place this year. In the NWCCC Open Digital Salon we had four members receive an award. Images will be posted in the Newsletter.

### **PSA**

Pam Hoaglund should be hearing the results for the November 15, 2020 round of the PSA Digital Inter-Club competition soon. The next round will be February 15, 2021; entries will need to be turned in by the third week of January.

### **New Business**

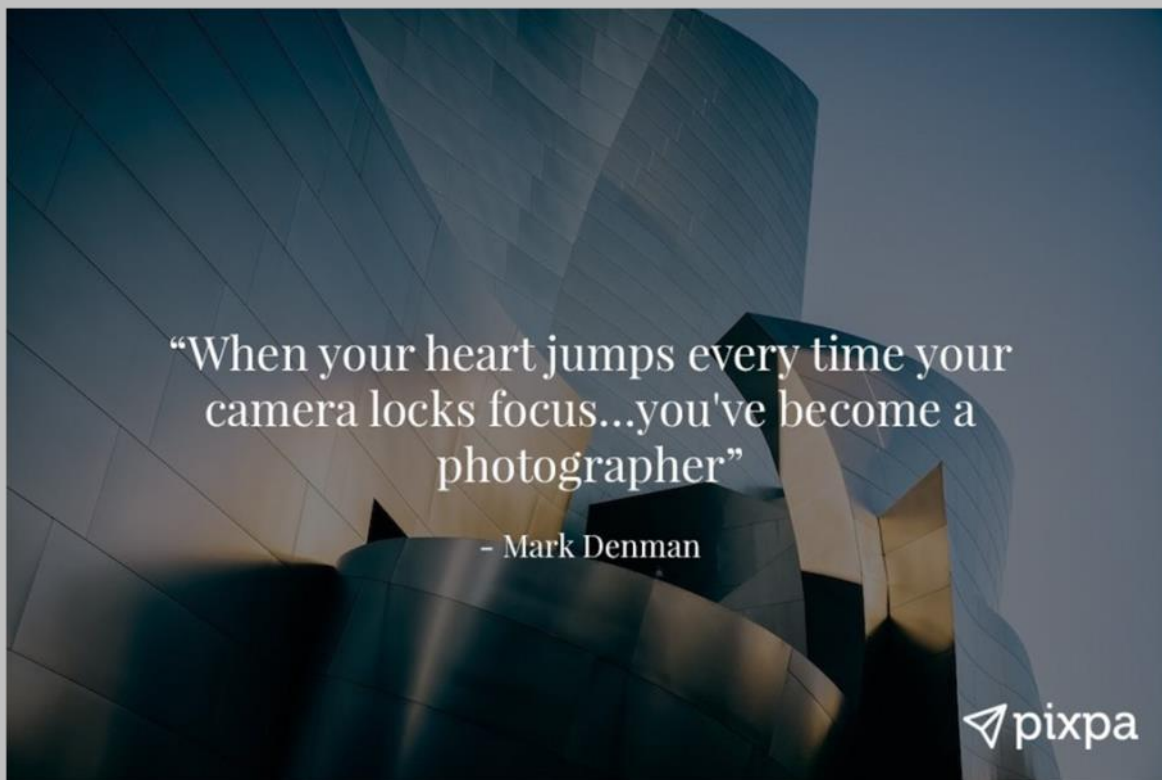
#### **1) Date to change the Zoom password in 2021**

The Zoom password will be changed in March 2021.

### **Adjournment**

Rosalind Philips moved that we adjourn the meeting. Ed Tromble seconded the motion. Adjournment was approved by unanimous consent at 7:45 PM.

*Submitted by Secretary Tammy Mandeville*



Member Gallery





Member Gallery





## Member Gallery





## Member Gallery



## Photographic Society of America (PSA)

PSA is a worldwide organization for anyone with an interest in photography. Founded in 1934, the Society is for casual shutterbugs, serious amateurs, and professional photographers.

Individual digital membership is \$45 a year.

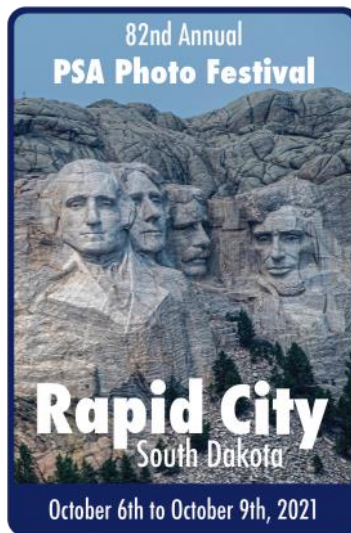
Membership offers a wide variety of services and activities:

1. Monthly Journal
2. Online photo galleries
3. Image evaluation
4. Study groups and courses
5. Competitions
6. Annual Conference
7. Discounts on photography-related products/services
8. PSA travel aide
9. Webinars

For a complete overview of membership benefits go to

[www.psa-photo.org](http://www.psa-photo.org)

## PSA Photo Festival



### Sizing Images for Newsletter

**Format: jpeg, max quality**

**Dimension: 1024 - 2048 pix long side**

**Please keep images 3MB or less**

**Please title your image and include your name in title**

**Title\_Your Name**

**Please Watermark your image!**

**All photographs in this newsletter are under copyright protection. They may not be used without permission from the individual photographers.**

**Please submit articles and photographs to:**

**[newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org](mailto:newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org)**

**Deadline for articles and images for the January newsletter is 7 January at midnight.**

### Editor's Note:

Please continue to submit images and articles to the newsletter as it is your participation that helps me provide you a newsletter each month.

Pam Hoaglund, Editor

[newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org](mailto:newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org)





**Executive Committee****President**

Townsend Walton

**Vice President**

Ed Tromble

**Secretary**

Tammy Mandeville

**Treasurer**

John Damitio

**Associate Memberships****Committee Chairs****Community Liaison**

Bruce Livingston

**Practical Photography**

Bruce Livingston

**NPPNW Liaison****Equipment Custodian**

Rosalind Philips

**Member Sharing Night**

Clair Ferris

**NWCCC Liaison****NWCCC Traveling Print & Open Salon Competitions****Newsletter Editor**

Pam Hoaglund

**Scavenger Hunt**

Rosalind Philips

**Field Trip Coordinator**

Cynthia Whelan

**PSA Representative & Interclub Competition Coordinator**

Pam Hoaglund

**Webmaster**

Colleen Easley

**Membership**

Colleen Easley

**Thurston County Fair**

Colleen and Dale Easley

**Social Committee**

Linda Pardee

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