



Shutterbug Times

Official Newsletter of the Olympia Camera Club

Olympia, WA

Established in 1935

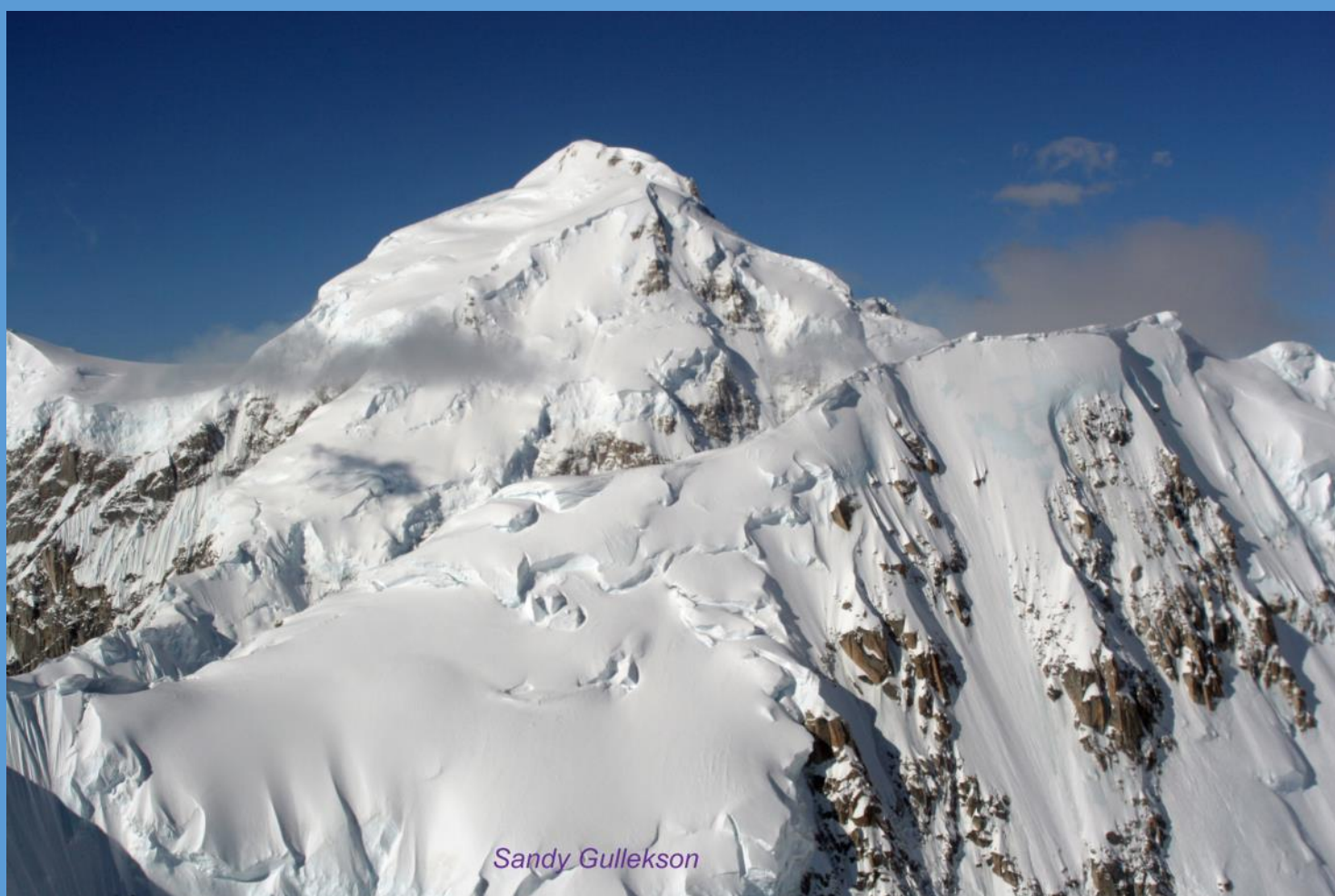
January 2024

www.olympiacameraclub.org

Volume 89, Issue 1

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/OlympiaCameraClub

Denali Summit



Sandy Gullekson

In this issue:

President's Corner p. 2
Dates to Remember p. 2
Monthly Meeting Topics p. 3
January Field Trip p. 4
February Field Trip p. 4-5
December Field Trip Report p. 5
Membership Renewal p. 5
Membership Report p. 5
5th Tuesday on Saturday p. 6
My Photographic Journey p. 6
Photography 101 p. 7-8
New Member p. 8
Save the Date Field Trip p. 8
History of Photography p. 9-11
Message From NWCCC p. 11
Table Top Photography p. 11-12
Phototunites p. 12
Go Photo a Troll p. 12
Best Field Trip p. 13-14
Board Mtg Minutes p. 15-16
Member Galleries p. 16-21
Holiday Banquet Gallery p. 22
Field Trip Gallery p. 23-24
PSA p. 25
How to Submit to Newsletter p. 25
Editor's Note p. 25
Executive Committee p. 26
Committee Contacts p. 26

President's Corner

It's a New Year. I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and has some new toys to play with. I also hope you still have \$25 to renew your club membership this month.

This will be my ninth year as a member of Olympia Camera Club. I was not new to photography when I joined the club but it had been a very long time since anyone other than friends and family had looked at my photos and given me any worthwhile input. As we all know most input from those non-photographers close to you is not exactly going to push you to new heights. This is why the camera club is so important if you want to hone your skills.

What drew me to Olympia Camera Club in particular is the emphasis on instruction and improvement. Most clubs are geared to competition and rank members by how they are judged in shows and contests. Pleasing judges is very low on the list of things I care about.

Shortly after joining I realized that without much input from other photographers and exposure to new ideas and ways of seeing, I was very much in a rut. I found the combination of instruction, sharing images, outings and hearing from speakers was exactly what I needed.

I took some time this week to look back at my last ten years of what I thought were my best photos. I can safely say I have come a long way and a bit embarrassed by what I was pleased with a decade ago. I owe a lot to Olympia Camera Club and think the \$25 a year is some of the best money I have ever spent and hope you feel the same way. Please renew and enjoy what the club has to offer.

Ed Tromble

**Dates to Remember**

Club meetings will be virtual on Zoom except for Practical will be hybrid

January

9 January Practical Photography
18 January Koffee Klatch
18 January OPCC/OCC General Meeting
20 January Field Trip to Ridgefield NWR
23 January Member Sharing
27 January 5th Tuesday (on a Saturday) Swap Meet

February

1 February Koffee Klatch
6 February Board Meeting
8 February Articles and Images due for Newsletter
10 February Field Trip America's Car Museum
13 February Practical Photography
15 February Koffee Klatch
15 February General Meeting
27 February Member Sharing
29 February Koffee Klatch

Monthly Meetings

**Our Practical Photography meeting is now a hybrid meeting
General and Member Sharing 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 January 9, 2024 7-9 pm

Exploring the Benefits of an Olympia Camera Club Membership

This meeting will be focused on newer and potential* members although everyone will likely learn something new about the club or be able to contribute to the meeting. OCC has a lot of great opportunities for members.

*Note: This meeting will be OPEN TO EVERYONE as we are sharing our, normally confidential, Zoom login information which will expire at the end of the month. This meeting can also be attended in-person at Capital High School.

Gene Pardee, Coordinator

General Meeting January 18, 2024 7-9 pm

Note: Use the zoom link for the Olympic Peaks Camera Club on our OCC website.

Luminosity Masks with Joe Reardon

Joe Reardon is a Master Photographer. His passion for photography began while in his teens when his dad presented him with a 35mm camera. From the moment he saw his first images he knew that photography would be his voice in the world. Joe's work has afforded him the unique opportunity to travel the world and to capture the essence of nature everywhere he has visited. Joe regularly leads workshops. He has produced numerous videos for Topaz Labs over the years and currently also teaches individuals and groups in post process editing.

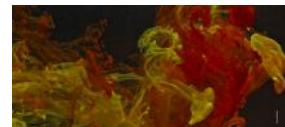
<https://epiphanyfineart.com/joe-reardon/>



Dennis Plank, Coordinator

Member Sharing Night January 23, 2024 7-9 pm

The subject is Water and Liquids. Water is a wide-open subject and adding liquid to the mix opens things up even more. Let's see what we can show this month. See you on January 23 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm for a meeting on Zoom.



Don Dimitratos, Coordinator

5th Tuesday Swap Meet at Black Lake Grange January 27, 2024 7-9pm

We will have swap and sell tables for members to place their items on and a free table will also be available. To find out more go to page 6.

Susan Bradley, Coordinator

Field Trip to Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge

by Tammy Mandeville

Saturday, January 20, 2024, 10:30 am – 4:00 pm
Field Trip Leader: Tammy Mandeville
Entry Fee: \$3

Due to the time of year, please check the calendar for cancellations. An email will be sent if the trip needs to be canceled.

The leader of the field trip will meet up with members at the visitor info booth within the refuge at 10:30 am. The refuge opens earlier for those who want to go down bright and early, but the marshy area is known to be socked in with fog during the winter months in the morning.



There is a fee to enter the park of \$3 per car, cash, or check. It is free for those who have a Federal Interagency Senior Pass. Please bring the exact amount if you plan to pay with cash. You will need to pack any food and/or drink you want. There are pit toilets but no trash cans. Pack out what you bring in.

You will be shooting from your car so you should bring a long lens and a towel or small pillow to brace your lens on when taking photos. It is suggested that there be only two people per car, the driver and one person in the back seat.

The refuge provides shelter for waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, river otter, black-tailed deer, coyotes, and other species of wildlife. Between October 1 and April 30, all visitors must remain in their vehicles while traveling the Auto Tour Route. The animals in the refuge are accustomed to seeing cars and will allow vehicles to pass by, or even stop, within a few feet without taking flight. Your car is your personal blind on wheels. Please stay in your car.

During this time of year, you may exit your vehicle only at the refuge entrance parking lot and to use the observation blind located midway along the tour route. Also, use turnouts to stop and observe wildlife or pull over to the side as much as you can to allow other vehicles to pass.

The field trip will be along the 4.2-mile auto tour route. **Be aware that if you use your own GPS system it may try to take you to the other section of the refuge.** You

will be going the right way if you take exit 14, turn right onto Pioneer St, and then take a left at the stop sign on to S 9th Ave which will become S. Hillhurst Rd. You are looking for the River S Unit/Auto Tour Route. The refuge will be on your right in about a half mile.

America's Car Museum Field Trip

by Terri Hoselton

February 10, 2024
2702 East D Street, Tacoma, WA 98421
<https://www.americascarmuseum.org/>
Trip leader: Bill Ballard

No tripods, etc. allowed in the museum.

Meet in the lobby at 10:30 am for a short get together. It would be helpful to have an idea of who is interested in attending so that your fearless leader doesn't wait too long before starting. Please send Bill an email if you plan to attend. His email is ballardcompany@earthlink.net.

Here is a picture from Bill's most recent trip that may give you some ideas when photographing the cars. Here is what he had to say for members who may not have taken photos in a car or aviation museum before.



“When going to car and aviation museums I take two cameras, one with a 7-14 mm zoom and the other a 14-100mm. I have an Olympus system so, with the crop factor, that's 14-28mm and 28-200. You could also use macro lenses for close ups; I don't, nor do I use flash. All shots are handheld without problem because of camera and lens stabilization. I shoot in manual mode with auto ISO; denoise software takes care of most low ISO issues that arise from slow shutter speeds and/or smaller apertures. The museum is a good place to practice focus stacking if you have in camera stacking. Also, you can experiment with HDR; all handheld.

The best suggestion I can give to those attending is to **TAKE - LOTS OF SHOTS AND MULTIPLE SHOTS OF THE CARS – SHOTS OF DIFFERENT AREAS OF CARS.** I find that the more shots I take the better the

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

get. I think you get in a grove. When taking some images, I visualize in my mind what I want the final edited picture to look like. Example is the blue car image and putting it on a road in a composite. I am not a purist photographer.



The museum has four floors with two ramps between each floor, all have cars. There is an elevator. Plan to spend a couple of hours to see and shoot all areas.”

Prices:

Adults (18-64): \$22

Seniors (Age 65+): \$20

Active Duty Military/Veteran (With Valid ID Card): \$20*

Youth (5-17): \$16

Child (4 and under): Free

Onsite parking is included

December Centralia Holiday Tractor Parade Report

by Terri Hoselton

The rain didn't dampen the holiday spirit of the 14th Annual Lighted Tractor Parade Centralia, WA. Attended by three hardy OCC members and lots of holiday revelers the parade did go on! High school band members donned plastic bags over their uniforms and decorated the tuba with lights. To everyone's delight, the rain lightened up for the duration of the parade.

It was fun and challenging to photograph all the Christmas lights. The rain made for interesting reflections.

This is a really well put together holiday parade and I encourage you to check it out in years to come.



2024 Membership Renewals

by Colleen Easley

Please renew your membership for 2024 before January 31, 2024. Our Zoom links will change on February 1 and non-renewed members will lose access to the Members Only section of our website. At that time, only members who have renewed will have access to the new Zoom links. In order to not miss any of our upcoming Zoom meetings and joint speaker presentations with OPCC, you must be renewed by the end of this month.



2024 continues to be a time for getting back to in-person meetings and field trips. It has been great to get together for Practical Photography meetings and outings with old and new friends. It's our hope that you will continue to support the club by renewing your membership for 2024. We'll continue to do our best to present interesting and informative presentations via our Zoom platform as well as hybrid meetings where you have a choice of attending in person or via Zoom.

The easiest way to renew your membership is to visit the OCC website MEMBERSHIP page. You can renew via mail or online with PayPal or a credit card. Dues remain \$25 for a single membership and \$45 for couples. Student memberships are \$20. PayPal fees necessitate a slightly higher rate if you pay online, but you at least can save a stamp!

Membership Report

by Colleen Easley

Our membership now stands at 166 members. Six new members joined in the past month. Please welcome Tom Blankenship, Velvet Collins, Jessica Pfundt, Roger and Katherine Roberts, and Nadine White.



Welcome!

We are glad you are here!

Sadly, we lost one member due to the passing of Signe Ann Thorsen. Our sincere condolences to her husband, Gary Goelitz.

5th Tuesday (on a Saturday) Swap, Take or Sell

by Susan Bradley

Black Lake Grange - [click for map](#)

6011 Black Lake Blvd SW

Olympia, WA 98512

January 27, 2024

2 to 4 pm

Did you get new photography gear for Christmas that updates some of your gear? Do you have duplicate non-returnable photography items? Did you sell something and then find items that went with it?



For this fifth Tuesday, expect it's on Saturday, the club will have a swap or sale at the Black Lake Grange. We will set up tables for people to place their items on and then everyone can wander around looking. We will also have a free table. If the item you want to offer at this meeting is hard to move just bring a good photo of the item and as much information as you think would be useful.

Some of ideas of what items there might be at the Swap, Take or Sale:

- Lens filters
- Printer paper
- Photography magazines or books
- Camera bags
- Camera straps
- Tripods
- Tripod heads
- Light boxes
- Lighting equipment
- Photography inspired coffee mugs

Sellers can only be active Olympia Camera Club members, but we are inviting the public to come and shop our event.

We do not have to shut the doors at 4 pm, so don't be worried that you won't have time to shop.

My Photographic Journey "Four More for 2024"

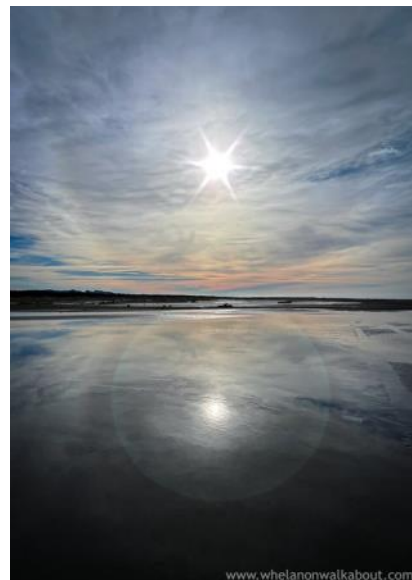
by Cynthia A Whelan

Setting goals works for me. When I think, "I don't know what to do with myself..." I re-center my focus by revisiting my list of goals for the year. I evaluate last year's goals every January and craft a new list for the new year.

This year, I am taking a different approach to my photography practice. Instead of goals, I have picked a journey. 2024 will be my photographic year in search of quality, and I picked out some strategies to help me along the way, "My Four More for 2024."

Instead of reaching a benchmark (a goal), I am choosing a process.

My journey is to learn how to create personally expressive photographs of my experiences. My 2024 photography journey is the pursuit of photographic quality.



I have identified four practices that I will take on my photographic excursions. Hopefully, they will be simple enough to guide my inner photographer on a productive journey. I call them "My Four More for 2024." "Shoot more, say more, study more, and delete more in 2024." I could turn My Photographic Journey into goals, but I feel that the question of quality is a lifelong pursuit of living a creative life. This year, I picked my signposts to follow, my "Four More for 2024." What signposts will you follow on your journey this year? Or are you going to a specific destination? Either way, a New Year is here!

Photography 101-Bokeh

by Susan Bradley

There is a difference between background blur, motion blur, and bokeh. Bokeh is not the actual blur but the aesthetic quality of that blur. Some photographers find certain bokeh shapes and forms pleasing, others find some distracting. Regardless, it is subjective. When someone uses the terms, “Bad bokeh” or “Good bokeh,” know that you are hearing opinion, not fact.

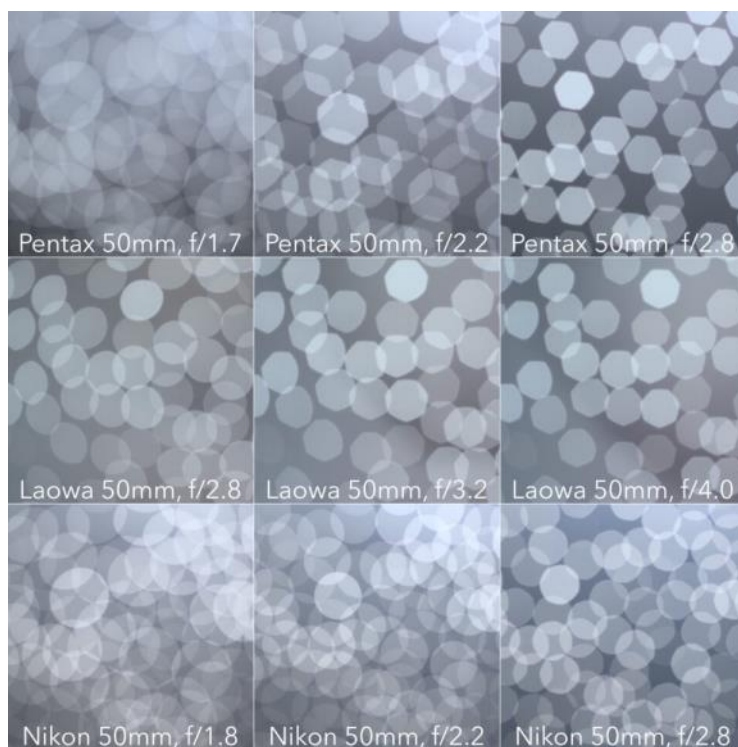
Plain background blur is, well, blurry but not the nice, rounded shape photographers strive to achieve in their image.



Motion blur is also not bokeh and is used to show movement. Background blur can be a distraction when the quality of the blur is not pleasant to the eye. It tends to have sharp edges and/or double lines. But why would you want to make the background blurry at all? Why not just have as much as possible in focus? The benefits of blurring the background are to create separation so that the subject really stands out from the background.



Bokeh is rendered by the lens, not the camera. Different lenses render bokeh differently due to their unique optical designs. Although all lenses can produce an out of focus blur, not all lenses can render beautiful bokeh. The shape of the reflected light that is out of focus depends on the lens' diaphragm (the iris of the camera). Many older lenses have straight blades in their diaphragms, whereas newer lenses often have rounded blades. Rounded blades, along with more blades, more closely approximates a perfect circle at all apertures. Take a moment to look at the image in the next column showing a lens with six straight blades, seven straight blades, and seven rounded blades.



But that doesn't mean that you can't create good bokeh if your lens has some unpleasant characteristics. If you don't have rounded aperture blades, you can shoot wide open (at your lens's maximum aperture (f/1.8 or f/2.8)) so that your bokeh circles are still round. If your bokeh circles still don't have the look you are aiming for, avoid strong points of light and choose a more uniformly lit background to get a smoother, creamier background. Keeping your background farther away will also result in less detail in your out-of-focus areas, which in turn will make it easier for your lens to render nice bokeh.

How do you find out if your lens produces good bokeh? Try this: focus on an object from a very close distance (as close as the lens will allow, keeping the object in focus), making sure that there are no objects at least 5-6 feet behind it. Make sure to be on the same level as the object itself, so that you are not looking down on it. Do not use a plain wall as your background – try to find a colorful background, preferably with some lights on it. A Christmas tree is a perfect background for a bokeh test. Out-of-focus trees outside are great because they have plenty of specular highlights coming through leaves and branches. Once you find a good test subject with a suitable background, set your camera to Aperture Priority mode, and set your aperture to the lowest number.

You can create your own bokeh shape by cutting out a design of your choice in a piece of black construction paper and covering your lens with it. There are a lot of DIY

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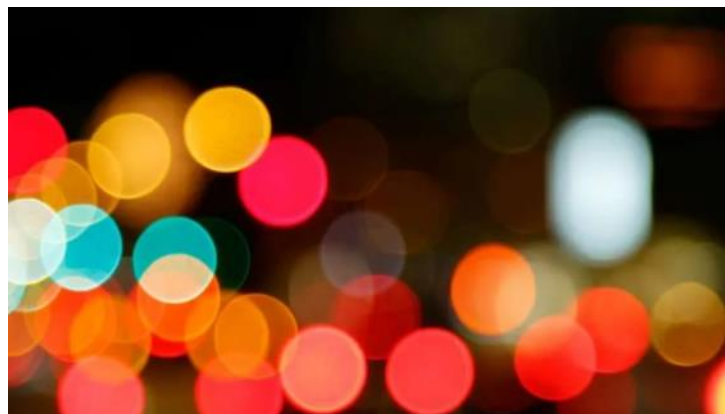
videos online that suggest different creative ideas for bokeh shapes.



There are some great tips.

Collect your favorite images of bokeh and get ready to show them to others during our member sharing on February 27.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zBfBDNyGpA>
<https://www.nikonusa.com/en/learn-and-explore/a/tips-and-techniques/bokeh-for-beginners.html>
<https://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-achieve-nice-bokeh-in-plain-english/>
<https://photographylife.com/what-is-bokeh>



Note that these custom shapes work best with bright out-of-focus regions in the photograph such as artificial lights outside of the depth of focus (how much is in focus in your image).

With all the holiday lights that are inside and outside right now it is a perfect time to play with bokeh. If you haven't tried to photograph holiday lights before or have not been successful at it check out the newsletter article from last month.

New Member Brenda Dean

What or who brought you to the club?

Shared interest

How did you get interested in photography?

I started in high school (many years ago), and I was a part of 4-H photography (again many years ago), I never lost interest I just lost the free time to pursue it.



What kind of photography do you like?

I like all photography, if it catches my eye, I try to capture it.

What equipment is in your camera bag?

As of now I am just getting started so I picked up a Canon Rebel from Costco, thinking I would like to upgrade to a Nikon down the road.

What post processing programs do you use?

None at the moment I am still exploring what is available.

What do you want to learn from the club?

Knowledge

Save the Date May Field Trip

by Terri Hoselton

The May 19, 2024, field trip will be to the Growiser Grande Ronde Overlook Wildflower Institute Serving Ecological Restoration near La Grande, OR. Check the club calendar for details and updates.

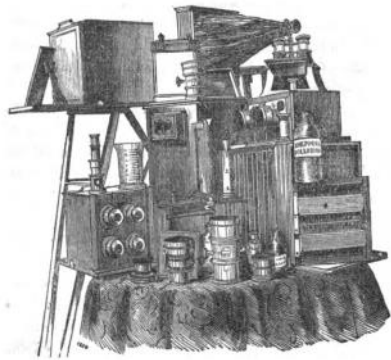


History of Photography The Era of Experimentation

by Dennis Plank

GUIDE TO PHOTOGRAPHY.

A Photographers Apparatus from "Guide to Photography" 1860



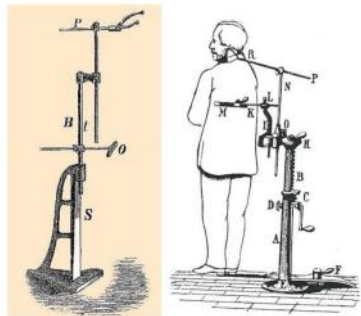
CHOICE OF APPARATUS.

The announcement of two methods of recording an image using a camera in 1839 created a huge amount of interest and people wanting to try it. While Daguerre's method was open to the public except in Great Britain and Talbot's method was

also patented in Great Britain (though contested), it didn't stop the British from adopting photography in a big way. France, Germany and the United States were also hotbeds of experimentation. Every photographer seemed to consider himself enough of a chemist to play with various formulas for shortening exposure time or improving the quality of the final image.

Exposure times weren't really suitable for portraiture. For example, a pair of photographers in this country in 1839 covered the sitters' faces with white powder, had them close their eyes and exposed them in bright sunshine for *half an hour*! The best way to sit for a portrait in that era was to die first.

The main improvement in exposure times in both methods came from using bromine in addition to or in place of nitrate or chlorine to create the sensitive silver salts. This brought exposure times down to the point where it was possible to do portraits, though the exposures, even in good light were long enough that special supports were designed for use in photo studios to help the subjects remain still.



Supports
From: *Vintage Everyday*
website: <https://www.vintag.es/2020/06/posing-stands.html>

In the Daguerreotype process, a method was developed to gild the image with a gold solution where the gold would selectively deposit on the highlights of the image and it improved contrast and appearance tremendously.



Daguerreotype: Fontayne & Porter, Cincinnati Waterfront, one of a series of eight, 1848.

Image quality in the Talbot process depended largely on the quality of the paper used. Since the negative was actually on paper, the paper needed to become transparent and as free as possible from visible texture after it was waxed to make it transparent. Also, the paper at that time had a high rag content and it wasn't uncommon for metal buttons to find their way into the process of paper making and tiny metal inclusions would get incorporated into the paper. The metal would react with the chemicals used in photography and spoil the image and contaminate the tank of development chemicals. Some paper makers responded and started producing very high grade papers.



However, the inherent texture of paper was still a problem in getting really fine detail in an image.

Calotype, William Henry Fox Talbot, Sailing Craft, 1845.

The solution to that problem was the chicken (or the egg). It was discovered by Louis Désiré Blanquart-Evrard in 1850 that egg white could be beaten thoroughly to eliminate the internal structure, let set to settle and then used as a carrier for the photographic chemicals to be painted onto paper. It turned out that it increased the exposure time too much to be used for the photographic end, but the paper could be used to create prints from the negatives with a very fine smooth finish that allowed for excellent detail. This became a standard for quite some time and large photo studios had their own poultry operations to provide sufficient egg whites. One German paper company at the height of albumen prints was using 20 million egg whites per year and despite supplying bakers with the yolks, couldn't get rid of all of them.



Albumen Paper Print, photographer unknown, Ellen Lusted, circa 1880

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

The next big development in the negative-positive process again came in Britain in 1851 when Frederick Scott Archer (who gave it away and died broke) developed the Wet Collodion Process. Collodion is created by immersing cotton in a mixture of strong sulphuric and nitric acids. It was developed to make gun cotton which was a popular explosive at that time. However, by controlling the process properly, it could be made somewhat less explosive. As a liquid it had sufficiently high viscosity that it could be used as a carrier for the photographic chemicals and would adhere to a glass plate. The main drawback was that the plate had to be exposed *and developed* while the plate was still wet.

*Frederick Scott Archer
Self-portrait, 1849.*



Frederick Scott Archer (English, 1813–1851). Self-portrait, original negative ca. 1849. Albumen print from original negative, printed later. George Eastman House collection.

The advantages were that exposure times were reduced to seconds in bright sunshine and using a glass plate for the negative provided a substrate capable of displaying as much detail as the camera was capable of producing. These advantages were so great that itinerant photographers would outfit a wagon as a darkroom so they could develop images taken in the field as was done by Matthew Brady and his crew of photographers during the Civil War in this country.

O'Sullivan, Cavalry Ambulance converted to Photography Wagon, circa 1868



The wet collodion process essentially replaced the Talbot process and the Daguerreotype within three to four years and was “the” process until about 1880.

Oddly enough there was another direct positive process called the Ferrotype, but commonly known as the Tintype that was first developed in France by Gustave Le Gray in 1849 that became extremely popular in this country and continued to be used into the 20th century. It has also recently been the subject of a retro comeback and you can find people willing to teach how to do it, though hopefully they’re using different chemicals as the preferred developer of the 1800’s was potassium cyanide.

The idea of the tintype is quite simple. A somewhat underexposed negative, when placed against a dark background looks like a positive. In practice a sheet of steel is coated with a black shellac and the photographic emulsion is painted on it. The emulsion is exposed and immediately developed. The whole process could be done in a matter of minutes, thus becoming the first essentially instant camera. Small portraits using this method were very popular and cameras were developed that took the picture, dropped the exposed “film” into developing solution below and then removed it all in one process. This kind of setup was quite popular at fairs and tourist attractions. Another development in cameras for this technology were cameras with multiple lenses so you could take a dozen pictures (or even more) of someone at once. The whole sheet of exposures would be developed, dried, and the images cut apart with tin snips.

Errtee Camera invented by Romain Talbot of Berlin. The body held up to 100 1 inch metal discs. The process of shooting development and delivery to the customer took 30 seconds. The ad beside it refers to a similar camera.

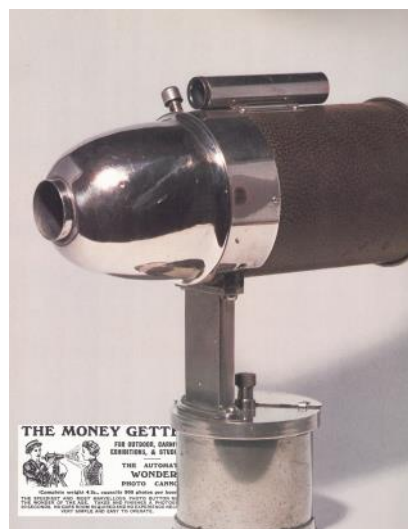


Figure 8: Gem Apparatus, J. Lancaster & Son, Birmingham England. This camera produced 12 images (less than 1" square) with a single exposure.



While the wet plate technology had reduced exposure times and image quality, the drawbacks were many, including the handling of lots of dangerous chemicals. The silver nitrate created black stains on photographer’s clothes and hands and got photography the name of the Black Art. From its first introduction people started trying to figure out how to do a dry plate on glass that would produce the same exposure time as wet plates. Dr. Hill Norris created the first semi-successful dry plates with a collodion-gelatine surface and marketed them from 1856 to 1866.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

From there many people contributed their little pieces to the development of dry plate photography, but it wasn't until the mid to late 1870's that it erased the advantage in speed and completely replaced the wet plate process.

All materials used in

Dry Plate Photography and for Porcelain Pictures

on hand, or furnished to order. A full assortment of goods of every description, such as

Apparatus, Chemicals, Cases, Frames, Glass, Paper, Card Mounts, Card Board, Ferrotypes Plates, Roller Presses, Display Cards, Albums, Stereoscopes, and Views, etc., etc.,

kept constantly on hand, and furnished at the lowest market rates.

Especially attention given to orders received by mail, which will be packed with care, and sent with promptness and dispatch by Express, with bill for collection, if desired. Address

WILLIAM B. HOLMES,

555 Broadway, New York.

Advertisement for dry plates in the book "Dry Plate Photography" by John Towler, M.D., 1865.

A Message from NWCCC

by David Johnson

NORTHWEST COUNCIL OF CAMERA CLUBS

I am the Interim President of the NWCCC Board of Directors and I would like to invite you to our next board meeting.

Anyone can attend, but only Delegates and Board members are eligible to vote.

Please consider as an OCC member if you would be interested in being a Delegate to the Board (more than one per club is acceptable, but only one vote per club).

Any individuals might consider serving as the:

NWCCC Board President

Vice-president

Secretary

Conference Committee Chair

Here is the Zoom meeting information:

Topic: January NWCCC Board Meeting

Time: Jan 13, 2024 10:00 am Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81812562622?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81812562622?pwd=d21lbXdxMXIXME5ocGlnN1FoYXgwUT09)

[pwd=d21lbXdxMXIXME5ocGlnN1FoYXgwUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81812562622?pwd=d21lbXdxMXIXME5ocGlnN1FoYXgwUT09)

Meeting ID: 818 1256 2622

Passcode: 421516

Regards,

David Johnson

Interim-President

NWCCC Board of Directors

(360)-739-0349

If interested email, text, or phone - preferred in this order

Tabletop Photography

by T. Walton

Living in Washington during the winter months leaves us with more rainy days than there are sunny ones. The weather, however, shouldn't stop you from photography. I take advantage of these rainy days and challenge myself to what I can put on a tabletop and photograph. You don't have to invest a bunch of money to do tabletop photography, you already have the most expensive piece of equipment, your camera and your lens.

I use a clothes rack I bought from Walmart for under 10 bucks. I use it to hold up my backdrops. I use a card table that's been around for 30 years. To put on top of the card table, I use various media: cloth, poster board, acrylic pieces, wood, leaves, just about anything to create texture in the photograph.



I like using off camera flash units with a flash trigger on my camera. Beside the camera and lens, the two flash units, two flash stands and the accessories for the flashes were my biggest expense. However, before I got those pieces, I used various lighting methods, flashlight, led lights, natural light, even a ring light. When using the alternative lights, other than the flash units, it becomes more important to use lower shutter speeds and higher ISO settings. I shoot with a Nikon Z6II, a mirrorless camera. What I see on the back screen is pretty much how the photo will turn out. Moving the shutter speed to the right setting and the ISO setting to where the photo looks properly



(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

exposed, you've got yourself a photo. I prefer to keep my aperture at f/8 or higher in order to get a good depth of field.

When using the flashes, I set my shutter to its sync speed of 1/200, ISO to 100 and again, depending on the photo set up, my aperture will be f/8 or higher. Variables to the exposure comes with the flash placement and the flash energy levels. I like to bounce light from the flashes by angling white cards to reflect light on the object I'm photographing.

So, what do you put on the tabletop to photograph? Walk around your house and look at all the things you may have on shelves, collectibles, action figures, a flower arrangement, still life of a bowl of fruit, marbles in a jar. Go for some stop action of ice cubes falling into a glass, jelly beans being spilled in a jar. Try some macro photography, seeds on a dandelion, a thread going through the eye of a needle. Simply use your imagination and you will be surprised what all you may come up with. Allow your inner creative artistic juices to spill forth.

I set up my card table in my living room, or, shall I say, my special studio. When I'm finished, my special studio becomes my living room again. I thoroughly enjoy this type of photography.

To see more on how I do tabletop photography, check out my YouTube video at: <https://youtu.be/27ro0nzNqPU>



Phototunites

by Terri Hoselton

If you are going on the Ridgefield field trip and want to see some other sights, check out The North Clark County Scenic Drive on the [Clark County website](#).

Lake Chelan Winterfest - Jan 12- 21

Skagit Valley for birding all winter months

Portland Winter Light Festival Feb 2 – 10

Oak Creek Wildlife Area feeding stations - winter months check website for information

Winthrop Balloon Roundup March 1 -3

Arts Walk Olympia Festival April 26-27

Shorebird festival Grays Harbor May 4-5

Prairie Appreciation Day Mid May



Go Photo A Troll

by Cynthia A Whelan

Need an excuse to get out and take photos? Don't let dark skies and rain stop you from finding something interesting to photograph. Go troll hunting.

Thomas Dambo, a Copenhagen, Denmark based artist has graced the Pacific Northwest with his magical series of large-scale recycled artwork. There are trolls on Vashon Island, and Bainbridge Island, and like an easter egg hunt, they are a fun day trip. Dambo has an interactive way to help you on your expedition.



See Dambo's website at <https://thomasdambo.com/projects/>, or use a Google search to find numerous articles like this one from the Smithsonian Magazine <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/see-the-giant-trolls-taking-over-the-pacific-northwest-180982875/>. And don't forget your wide-angle lens. These Trolls are big!

How to Have the Best Field Trip Experience

by Susan Bradley

A photography trip can be a great adventure as long as you go prepared for the trip. If you don't your adventure could turn into one of frustration. One way to be prepared is to have lists that cover what you will need for the trip. When I first started going out on photography field trips, I packed my world into a giant camera bag which made the trip less enjoyable. In my mind, there are three different types of trips: day trip walking, day trip with car, and overnight trip. At the end of this article, I have lists for each type of field trip. My lists are just suggestions as each trip can be very different. There are the must haves of photography such as camera, memory cards, battery and lenses, but there are also things that I have learned are a good idea to keep at least in your car. If you are not comfortable leaving items in your car maybe build a bag of these items. Then you can just grab the bag as you leave the house.

The weather can change from what is expected or be different from home once you arrive at the field trip. A warm hat and gloves, a flashlight or headlamp, a neck gaiter, rain pants, an 18% grey color lens cleaning cloth, and a microfiber towel are ideal items to keep in a going on a photography trip bag. Depending on how you wear it, the neck gaiter can keep your neck, ears, lower face, and head warm. They don't weigh very much so they can easily be stuffed into a camera bag. Rain pants aren't just for rain. They can act as a windbreaker to help you stay slightly warmer and can keep you dry while kneeling or sitting on the ground or sand. It's a good idea, in general, to have a flashlight in your car, but a headlamp is ideal for night photography and changing that flat tire in the dark.



A walking day trip means that once you arrive at the spot you will be leaving the car behind. Things you should consider are how much do you want to carry and the total weight of all that stuff. Your camera bag may be able to hold a lot of items, but the weight can ruin the day. One good lens and your camera might be all you really need for the day. Make sure to find room in your pockets or camera bag for an extra battery, lens wipes, and memory card in case they are needed.

It is important to consider security when leaving your car unattended in a parking area. Unfortunately, theft has become all too common at trailhead and refuge parking lots. Leave your extra equipment at home. If you must

bring it, make sure that it is covered and not visible from any window.

A day trip with the car means that the car will at the least be very close by or you won't be getting out of it much (Ridgefield NWR). You can take a lot of stuff since you will have an entire car to hold it. If you carpool with others, then your ability to drag everything along might get hampered a bit. In addition to the first set of items, an extra camera and tripod when the trip will include some night photography means that you might take the time to play with light painting while waiting for the Milky Way to finally appear.

An overnight trip can be more than one night. There is a balance between packing everything except the kitchen sink and minimalist packing. On these trips packing some extra food and water is really a good idea. Think back to the road washing out at Mt. Saint Helens and those people being stuck overnight or even our last group overnight to the Painted Hills in Oregon where the restaurant we had planned to have breakfast at was closed. There were no other viable options for food in the vicinity. I like to pack my laptop to work on images during the down times. Particularly when traveling with members of the camera club. Then you can get together and edit images. If you are staying in a more remote area with older hotels/motels a power strip extension cord can really help when there is only one outlet left in the room to charge all your items. As you move along on your overnight field trip it is a great idea to have a "leaving the area" check list on your phone. I have left behind my camera battery charger and had to turn back for it. I also have the ability to charge a battery in my car. It's a little old school but it lives in my car for the one time a year I need it.



To pack for a walking day trip:

- Camera – it may seem obvious, but I have left mine behind.
- Lens cleaning cloth.
- Lens blower.
- Other lenses – this is a big decision when you are going to have to carry them.
- Tripod/monopod – this is a maybe, depending on what you plan to shoot.
- Filters – circular polarizers and neutral density filters can help make the image.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

- Extra camera batteries – make sure all batteries are fully charged.
- Extra memory cards.
- Weather appropriate clothes.
- Camera manual if you are trying a new type of photography – I have downloaded the PDF version to my phone.
- Lunch, snacks, and water.
- Tripod tool
- Gallon sized or larger ziplock bags – quick and cheap rain cover for your camera.
- Phone Apps such as Photo Pills, Tides Near Me, Astrophotic, eBird, and Star Walk.
- Sturdy shoes.
- Rubber boots – if hiking to wet areas such as the beach or marshes.
- Insect repellent – those bugs can get peksy.
- Hand sanitizer
- First Aid Kit – always better to be prepared.
- Any necessary medications such as an inhaler.

To pack for a day trip with the car- Everything in the previous list plus:

- Tripod/monopod – at Ridgefield it can be used as a brace for the birds that insist on hanging out on the right side of the car.
- Towel or bean bag – to support lens when shooting out the car.
- A blanket.
- A folding chair – night photography means waiting.
- Flashlight and/or headlamp.
- Maps – for when you don't have a cell signal but see an interesting side road.
- A way to charge your camera batteries while driving.
- TP and paper towels.
- Trash bags.



- Personal items such as medications.
- Lunch, snacks, and water – some places can be remote with no other food options.
- Possible food for potluck.
- Laptop – to process your images.
- All necessary power cords, memory card reader, and external hard drive.
- Bird, flower, insect and rock guides.
- Games – cards or Bananagrams to pass time on a rainy day or evening.

<https://photographylife.com/packing-list-travel-photography>

<https://www.digitalphotomoment.com/decide-pack-photography-trip/>



To pack for an overnight trip- Everything in the previous list plus:

- Power strip extension cord.
- Camera battery charger.
- Clothes for the days of the trip.

Olympia Camera Club Business Meeting

January 2, 2024, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Zoom

Draft

Officers and Members Present

Ed Tromble, Dennis Plank, John Damitio, Tammy Mandeville, Gene Pardee, Linda Pardee, Bruce Livingston, Colleen Easley, Rosalind Philips, Pam Hoaglund, Susan Bradley, Terri Hoselton, Don Dimitratos, and Rene Conger.

The meeting was called to order by President Ed Tromble at 6:32 pm with a quorum present.

Approval of December Minutes

Dennis Plank made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2023, Board Meeting. Tammy Mandeville seconded the motion. The motion was approved by near unanimous consent with one vote against.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report January 2, 2024	
December 1 - December 31, 2023	
WSECU Checking	
Starting Balance (12/1/23)	\$5,609.96
DEPOSITS	
Income - 2023 Dues	101.77
Income - 2024 Dues	945.59
Total Deposits	1047.36
EXPENSES	
Technology - Adobe Subscription	10.94
Meeting Expenses - Holiday Party	127.02
Total Expenses	137.96
Ending Balance (12/31/23)	\$6,519.36
WSECU Savings	
Starting Balance (12/1/23)	\$3,415.67
Dividend Interest	0.56
Ending Balance (12/31/23)	\$3,416.23
PayPal Balance	0.00
Total Balance	\$9,935.59

Committee Reports

Equipment / Teleconferencing

Rosalind Philips discussed posting the recorded meetings with Colleen Easley. Rosalind thought the hybrid meetings have been going well and that we have the right equipment.

Membership Report

Colleen Easley reported that we have six new members. Our total membership is now 167 members. Actual renewals, and members who have joined so far for 2024 is 53 members.

President's Report

Ed Tromble reported that NWCCC is looking for any individuals that might consider serving as Board President, Vice President, Secretary, and Conference Committee Chair. We need a delegate from our club to go to meetings. Ed reported that he will attend the January 13 meeting and will report back to OCC.

Ed Tromble led a discussion on doing a Community Outreach workshop through "Oly Arts". The location would be at the Harbor House on the boardwalk.

Community Liaison

Bruce Livingston reported that on January 15 he will be doing work for the Capitol Land Trust's Martin Luther King Jr, Day of Service at the Inspiring Kids Preserve. Anyone who wants to participate can log onto their website to get directions.

General Meeting

Dennis Plank reported that this month we will have Joe Reardon on Luminosity masks.

Practical Meeting

Gene Pardee reported that Rick Siragusa will lead this hybrid meeting with Exploring the Benefits of Olympia Camera Club Membership, which is open to everyone including non-members. A discussion ensued on how to limit attendance.

Member Sharing

Don Dimitratos reported the subject for January is Water and Liquids.

Social Chair

No report.

OPCC Coordinating Committee

Dennis Plank reported that the May meeting will have Photographer Sean Bagshaw.

Newsletter

Susan Bradley listed the articles she needs for the Newsletter.

Webmaster

No report.

Thurston County Fair

Dennis Plank will be sending in the revisions for the guide this month.

(Continued from page 15)

Field Trips

Terri Hoselton reported three members went to the Lighted Tractor Parade. January's field trip will be Ridgefield on January 13, 2024, February's field trip will be at Lemay's Tacoma Car Museum, and the March field trip will be to Westport. Terri led a discussion on ways to reduce the cost of the Car Museum entrance fee.

NPPNW

No report.

PSA

No report.

Old Business

Budget

Ed Tromble reviewed the budget and after leading a discussion, updated the line items for each category. The

budget will be voted on at the next board meeting.

New Business

5th Tuesday gear sale and swap

Ed Tromble led a discussion on the gear sale and swap meet. It was decided it will be open to the public but only members can sell. It will be at the Grange on the last Saturday of the month from 2-4 pm.

Adjournment

Dennis Plank made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Linda Pardee seconded the motion. Adjournment was approved by unanimous consent at 8:05 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Tamara Mandeville

Member Gallery



Member Gallery Continued



Member Gallery continued



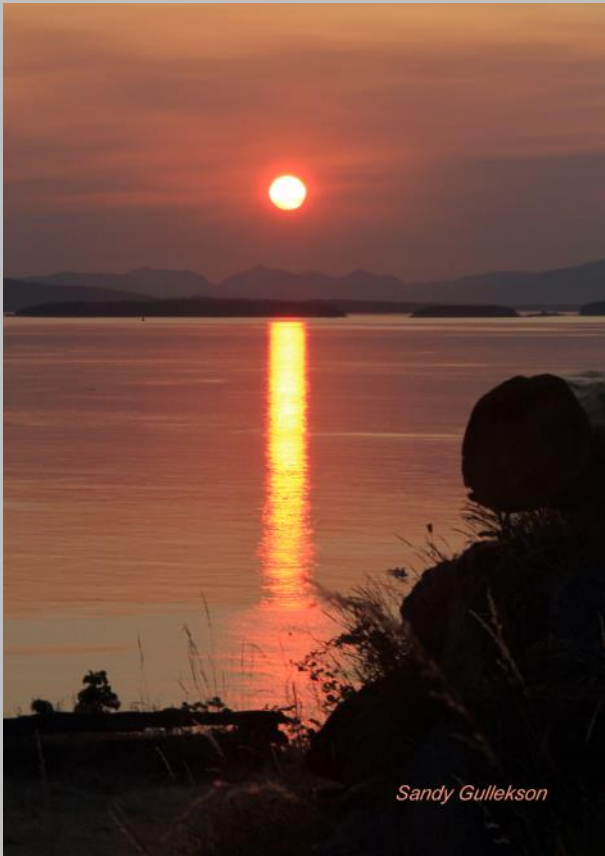
Member Gallery
Continued



Member Gallery
Continued



Member Gallery
Continued



Holiday Banquet
Gallery



Member Gallery
Tractor Light Parade Field Trip



Member Gallery
Tractor Light Parade Field Trip
Continued



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



PSA Photo Festival

**2024 85th Annual Photo Festival will be held
in Tucson, Arizona
Sept. 18-21**



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

Deadline for articles and images for the February newsletter is February 8 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 with a newsletter each month.



Susan Bradley, Editor

newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org

Executive Committee**President**

Ed Tromble

Vice President

Dennis Plank

Secretary

Tammy Mandeville

Treasurer

John Damitio

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

Bruce Livingston

Practical Photography

Gene Pardee

NPPNW Liaison

Gerald Pumphery

Equipment Custodian

Rosalind Philips

Member Sharing Night

Don Dimitratos

NWCCC Liaison

Ed Tromble

**NWCCC Traveling Print &
Open Salon Competitions**

Colleen Easley and Rosalind Phillips

Newsletter Editor

Susan Bradley

Scavenger Hunt

Rosalind Philips

Field Trip Coordinator

Terri Hoselton

PSA Representative

Pam Hoaglund

Webmaster

Colleen Easley

Membership

Colleen Easley

Thurston County FairDennis Plank and
Christy Sterling**Social Committee**

Linda Pardee

OPCC/OCC CoodiantorEd Tromble and
Dennis Plank

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