



# Shutterbug Times

Official Newsletter of the Olympia Camera Club

Olympia, WA

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

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## Spring has Sprung



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**President's Corner**

Welcome to official spring. There are a ton of things coming up to do, field trips to attend, Phototunities to take advantage of and interesting articles to read in this issue.

Note that due to the way the calendar worked out, all our meetings are pretty late this month, so please take a look at our OCC calendar to make sure you have the dates right.

I finally talked Don Dimitratos into running for the Vice President position for next year and judging by the job he's done on Member Sharing, I think he'll make a great one. Of course, that means we need someone to take over running the member sharing meetings and coming up with the themes for next year. It's not a task that takes a lot of time, and since those meetings are on Zoom, it can be almost anyone in the club regardless of location. Normally, we ask that the committee chairs also attend the board meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, but that can also be waived as long as you send in the report on the upcoming topic. If you look at what Don has done, publicizing the meetings on Facebook and writing up the planned meetings for the newsletter, it's an excellent example of how to do the job well.

Rosalind Philips has expressed a desire to finally step down as our equipment guru, so we're looking for someone to fill that post next year. A knowledge of computers, software and projection is helpful, or a willing-

ness to learn and certain aptitude for that will also work. If interested, please contact Rosalind for more details.

Lastly, Christy Sterling is finally getting her youngest out of the nest and is looking forward to more travel in the summer months, so she would like to get someone to take her position as co-superintendent of the Thurston County Fair Photography Exhibition. I have been handling the physical setup and judge recruitment, we've been working together on the exhibitor's guide which gets a revision each year and she's been doing the coordinating of the intake, labeling, Fair Entry system, etc. She also has been storing all the supplies. Cynthia Whelan has expressed an interest in helping, but she is traveling nine months of the year, so someone more available and who has room to store some stuff would be a welcome addition to the team. If you're interested, please contact Christy for more details.

Sorry for the long discussion of needed positions, but they're what make this club run.

I hope you all can get out and enjoy the lovely spring weather we've been having. The flowers are really coming on, the birds are coming back and it's just a glorious time to be alive and a photographer.

**Dates to Remember****April**

- 14 April Practical Photography**
- 21 April Member Sharing Night**
- 28 April General Meeting**
- 30 April OCC Field Trip**

**May**

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

## Monthly Meetings

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

### **Practical Photography (Hybrid Meeting, Capitol H.S. or Zoom) April 14, 2026 7-9 pm**

Rosalind Phillips will present the third and final session on digital image management and editing. This presentation will focus on the more advanced features of the Lightroom Develop module such as complicated masking.

While Rosalind will use Lightroom Classic for this presentation, much of what is discussed is applicable to other software photo editing programs with some adaptation.

Join us for a hybrid meeting either on zoom or in person at Capital High School - Pod A, 2707 Conger Ave NW, Olympia, WA 98502 <https://goo.gl/maps/PjV2D> link to maps Park in the upper parking lot (Teachers and Visitors) and enter through the main Administration doors at the east end of the school. Follow signs once inside the door to Pod A.

*Jeff Martin, Coordinator*

### **Member Sharing Night (Zoom only) April 21, 2026 7-9 pm**

The theme for April Member Sharing is "Pets." Show off your pet photos on our Zoom meeting. Upload your photos to the April Member Sharing folder on our Club Dropbox.

In our definition of "pets" we would include birds you feed and animals like deer who like your gardens. So let's see some interesting photos at the meeting.

*Don Dimitratos, Coordinator*



### **General Meeting (Zoom only) April 28, 2026 7-9 pm**

Join us for a presentation by Bert Sirkin on the effects of AI on Photography. This should be a very interesting topic and one that everyone needs to make their own decisions about.

Bert will explain in simple terms how AI works, what you can do with AI and how you can combine AI with the tools and skills we already have as photographers. He will present perspectives you may not have yet have thought of and show you some of the more useful AI options available to photographers today. We'll look at how these tools can be combined to open up a whole new world of creativity.

Take a look at his website to learn more about our presenter: <https://pbworkshops.com/>



## April Field Trip to Rowena Crest

**Date: Thursday April 30, 2026**

**Time: 9:00 am**

Spring is here - would you like to grab some gorgeous wildflower photographs with the backdrop of the beautiful Columbia Gorge? Come join other Olympia Club members at the Tom McCall Preserve in Rowena, Oregon. The Rowena Crest/Tom McCall Preserve, best visited from April through early May, features a vibrant display of wildflowers, notably yellow arrow leaf, balsamroot and purple lupine.



Rowena Crest is a stunning viewpoint which looks down on Mayer State Park and the gorge. The view also includes the iconic Rowena Loops - the horseshoe curves that wind up the viewpoint are "a true engineering marvel" and extremely photogenic!



The Rowena Plateau Trail is also an available hike with gorge views and is described as easy at 1.9 miles and a 246 ft gain.

The preserve is also home to many other flowers/plants and to Western Meadowlark, Horned Lark, Canyon Wren and Red-winged blackbirds. Golden Eagles and Bald Eagles can be seen soaring above the point. The Pacific Chorus Frog and Mule deer also thrive here.

No restrooms are at the crest and picnicking is not allowed (no tables either). Perhaps bring a sack lunch or plan for lunch in the Dalles or Hood River. Do not forget to grab a shot of Multnomah Falls on your way up or way back home.

We will plan to meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot. You may want to consider staying the night in the Gorge or even in Portland - as it is about a three hour drive from Olympia. Dawn Barrowcliff will be the group leader. She visited for the first time last spring and was star struck just from the parking lot views and flowers.

Hope to see you there!!!!

## Luminary Procession and Procession of the Species

**April 24-25, 2026**

*by Ed Tromble*

Of all the downtown events the Luminary Procession on the evening of April 24 and the Procession of the Species on April 25 are my favorites. They are Olympia's celebration of earth day and many people have spent all year creating representations of animals and the elements from all manner of materials.

The luminary procession features creations lit from within and is a smaller event than the Procession on Saturday. That said, it is my favorite for photography. It starts at 8:30 pm at Washington and 4<sup>th</sup> street and ends Sylvester Park. Bring a



monopod and a fast lens and have some fun.

The Procession on Saturday Starts at 4:30 pm and is a much larger event. The crowd gathers early with free chalk for the kids and various events during the day. Also anyone who dresses up is welcome to join the parade. It is a great place to wander around and get some shots. See you there.



## Olympus Rally

April 17-19, 2026

by Susan Bradley

The home of stage rally is in the breathtaking forests of the Olympic Peninsula. Competitors from around the globe come to race on our twisting long and winding stage roads, some in excess of 20 miles. Join us and experience the rush of adrenaline as drivers compete to be the fastest in the Olympic Forests.

The Olympus Rally is more than just a race; it's an adrenaline-fueled journey through the heart of rally history is held just outside Shelton, WA. Join your local PNW Rally community as we slide through corners, tackle treacherous terrain, and celebrate the spirit of rally racing. Whether you're a seasoned competitor or a curious spectator, [OlympusRally.com](http://OlympusRally.com) will catch you up on the latest news, and get you ready for the next hairpin turn. Buckle up—it's rally time!

### Spectator Safety

Please obey all Marshall's Instructions.

Marshalls can be identified by their reflective safety vests or badges. These volunteers are here to keep you safe in the designated spectating locations. Please keep pets on leash at all times.

Please respect our landowners.

They have graciously allowed us to use their property, so that we may continue racing on the best Rally roads in North America.

We are the guests of Green Diamond Resource Company and they ask us to follow a few simple rules:

NO SMOKING

NO ALCOHOL

PLEASE STAY IN DESIGNATED SPECTATOR AREAS

PLEASE KEEP THE FOREST CLEAN

Olympus Rally fans are some of the hardest spectators in North America. They have to brave the elements to witness the challenges that the competitors face as they battle each other and the clock over the most demanding stages the American Rally Association National Championship can offer. The chance to witness the extraordinary talents of the drivers inevitably leads to an assault on the senses of speed and noise, not to mention the smell of race fuel, glowing brakes and watch gravel fly. For many, this is what attracts them to the Olympus Rally.

Find your spot in the designated spectator location, take lots of video and pictures!

## Prairie Appreciation Days

Saturday, May 9, 2026

by Dennis Plank

This annual [event](#) to celebrate the rare ecosystem of the South Puget Sound Prairies will be held on the second Saturday of May. The primary location is Thurston County's [Glacial Heritage Natural Area Preserve](#). For those with mobility issues, there are also paved trails at the DNR [Mima Mounds Natural Area](#) about 3 1/2 miles north of Glacial Heritage.

Mima Mounds opens at 8:30 am and the event at Glacial Heritage begins at 10:00 and the gate closes at 2:00 for new entrants so people can make it through the Activity area by 3:00 when the event ends. If you wish to get there earlier, the gate will be open for a bird walk by 7:00 and you can start walking the longer "Self-guided Trail" at that time.



This event provides a couple of very diverse photographic opportunities. Since it is a festival with multiple Activity stations on a relatively short loop, there is a good opportunity for event photography. However, there is also a much longer 4 mile loop (with multiple shortcuts to reduce the length) around the entire preserve with lots of opportunities for landscape and flower photography.

If you do go, it would be very much appreciated if you would send copies of some of your images to [dennis.r.plank@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.r.plank@gmail.com) for use on the event website. We're particularly interested in photos of people enjoying the event. While I've been at every one since 2004, I never have time to do photography, so we would really appreciate it if those you who like to do street photography would drop by and spend some time documenting the people enjoying it for our website.



**Save the Date**  
**Wednesday! Wednesday! Wednesday!**  
**Annual Potluck and Business Meeting**

The Annual Potluck and business meeting will be Wednesday, June 24, 2026. The setup is at 5:30, dinner at 6 pm. Make your voice heard and be there!



**The 2026 Annual Meeting and Banquet**

*by Rosalind Philips*

This slide show is a great opportunity to share your images with members during our meeting.

**2026 Olympia Camera Club Official Slide Show Rules**

This year, members will have two ways to participate in Banquet Slide Show entertainment.

Submit one image for each of the 10 words below. You may take as many images as you like and do as much processing as you like, but you can only submit one image for each word.

**OR**

Submit 5-10 of your favorite/best images taken between 6/1/2025 and 6/1/2026. You may do as much processing as you like on the images.

**Rules**

All images must be JPEGs – no RAW or TIFF images. The images must be 1024 or 2048 pixels on the long side. The resolution should not exceed 72 dpi.

Scavenger Hunt Images. Name your images as Sxx\_Name\_word.jpg where S means scavenger hunt, xx is the number of the word and word is the category. For example, an image submitted for the 5<sup>th</sup> word Mineral would be named S05\_RosalindPhilips\_Mineral.jpg.

Favorite/Best of 2025-26 images. Name your images as Bxx\_Name\_ImageName.jpg .

B means Favorite/Best of 2025-26, xx is the number of the image, Name is your name and ImageName is the name of the image. For example the eighth image I submit would be named,

B08\_RosalindPhilips\_BergyBit.jpg.

Please include a self Identification Image as your 11<sup>th</sup> image.

Please put your images in a folder with your name on it

ready for when a Dropbox has been created for the images.

Images are due no later than June 10, 2026.

**2026 Scavenger Hunt Word List**

**Composition:** Arrangement of elements in the frame (e.g., Rule of Thirds).

**Rule of Thirds:** Placing subjects along imaginary lines or intersections for balance.

**Chiaroscuro:** Dramatic use of strong contrasts between light and dark.

**Forced Perspective:** Creating optical illusions to make objects seem closer/farther or different sizes.

**Vignetting:** Darkening of image corners, can be natural or intentional.

**Lens Flare:** Light streaks or haze from bright light hitting the lens.

**Motion Blur:** Intentional blurring of moving subjects or camera movement.

**Macro:** Extreme close-up photography.

**Candid Photography:** Unposed, natural moments.

**Decisive Moment:** Capturing a fleeting, meaningful instant (popularized by Cartier-Bresson).

We will view the slide show at the Annual Meeting.

**Membership Report**

*by Colleen Easley*

Our 2026 membership now stands at 131. We had seven new members join this past month. Please welcome: James Bosley, Lucy Chaffin, Glenn Clarke, Scott Grimes, Pat Kidwell, Alex Kistler, and Don Maier.



Welcome!

We are glad you are here!

**Capitol Cherry Blossoms Field Trip Report**

*by Ed Tromble*

The field trip to the Capitol was a fun evening with about a dozen club members attending. The cherry blossoms were at peak form and the weather cloudy but fine for photos. This is something I never miss and it was great to share it with other club members. Thanks to everyone for showing up.

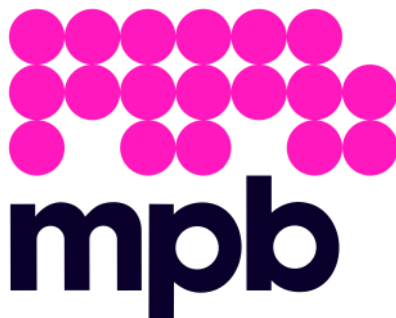
Go to page 16 to see some of the images.

## MPB Sponsorship

As a sponsor of guest speakers for our 2026 meetings, MPB is helping support our programming.

MPB helps you buy, sell or trade used camera gear at the perfect price. By recirculating over half a million items annually, MPB promotes a brighter photographic future for visual storytellers of all experience levels.

Don't wait to change gear with MPB. The planet (and your pocket) will thank you.



We transform the way that people buy, sell and trade in photo and video gear. MPB is an online platform for used photography and videography equipment, MPB is a destination for everyone, whether you've just discovered your passion for visual storytelling or you're already a pro.

Click [here](#) to see more.

## Phototunities April – May 2026

NW Cup Downhill Mountain Bike Series Round 1, Port Angeles

Day Hills Mountain Bike Trails, April 10 – 12, 2026

<https://www.visitportangeles.com/event/nw-cup-downhill-mountain-bike-series-1/>

Architectural Tours, Seattle, April 11 - 25, 2026 (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.)

Location within Seattle varies by date, \$30

<https://seattlearchitecture.org/tours/>

Tacoma Museum Night, April 16, 2026

The third Thursday of the month is free.

[Foss Waterway Seaport](#) (10 am to 8 pm)

[Museum of Glass](#) (5 to 8 pm)

[Tacoma Art Museum](#) (5 to 8 pm)

[Wash. State History Museum](#) (3 to 8 pm)

Olympic Bird Festival, Sequim, April 16-19, 2026

<https://olympicbirdfest.org/>

Olympus Rally, April 17 – 19, 2026

[https://www.olympusrally.com/spectators?](https://www.olympusrally.com/spectators?fbclid=IwY2xjawQ5OOoBHV6X-)

[fbclid=IwY2xjawQ5OOoBHV6X-](https://www.olympusrally.com/spectators?fbclid=IwY2xjawQ5OOoBHV6X-)

[blgzs180EMYObGlgWvW2-GMHIXNe4WpmJILNOekhn9gPTMkA8Hnjg](https://www.visitportangeles.com/event/port-townsend-30th-annual-victorian-heritage-festival)

Port Townsend 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Victorian Heritage Festival, April 24- 26, 2026

<https://porttownsendvictorianfestival.org/>

USA World Jet River Race Championship, North & Central Idaho, May 7 – 17, 2026 depending on location

<https://www.jetboatracingusa.com/>

Grays Harbor 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Shorebird and Nature Festival, May 1 – 3, 2026

<https://www.shorebirdfestival.com/>

Sequim Irrigation Festival, May 1 – 9, 2026

Classic Car Show, Saturday May 9

130<sup>th</sup> Grand Parade, Saturday May 9

<https://irrigationfestival.com/site/event/crazy-callen-weekend-schedule/>

Matlock Old Timers Historical Fair, May 2- 3, 2026

<https://www.explorehoodcanal.com/events/oldtimersfair>

Prairie Appreciation Day, Littlerock, WA area, May 9, 2026

<https://www.prairieappreciationday.org/>

Sequim Log Show, May 8 – 9, 2026

Logging Show, Saturday May 9

Truck and Tractor Pulls, May 8 and 9

<https://sequimloggingshow.com/Events/>

Olympia Wooden Boat Festival, May 8 – 10, 2026

<https://www.olywoodenboat.org/>

Mason County Forest Festival, May 28 – 31, 2026

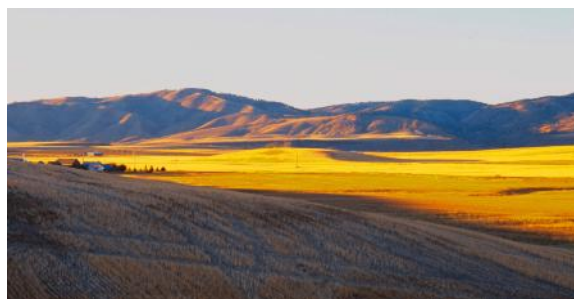
<https://www.masoncountyforestfestival.com/>

Washington Courthouses

<https://courthouses.co/us-states/v-z/washington/>

e.g. <https://courthouses.co/us-states/v-z/washington/clallan-county/>

and <https://courthouses.co/us-states/v-z/washington/jefferson-county/>



## Field Trip Report – Habitat for Humanity

by Ed Tromble

Back in February we were contacted by the local Habitat for Humanity group and asked if we would like to cover a volunteer event in Tumwater. The event was at a site where they are constructing two dozen townhouses for low income owners. Habitat as you probably know is an organization that partners volunteers and potential homeowners providing a path to ownership by maximizing sweat equity and donations to keep costs down.

On the day we were there Habitat was having college students from several schools arrive to help out for a week. This seemed like just the kind of thing we should help out with by providing some photos of the construction for them to use as they wished.



Myself, Clair Ferris and Dennis Plank met at the jobsite and in spite of the rainy day photographed the construction and learned a lot about the organization. Although advertised as a Field Trip it was actually a community outreach event.



If any club member has notice of an event such as this that we can help out with some photos let me know. It is good for the community and a good way to get our name out there.



## Local Wanderings

### Hawks Prairie Ponds and Recharge Basins 3001 Hogum Bay Road NE, Lacey, WA 98516

by Jeff Martin

The Hawks Prairie Ponds and Recharge Basins facility is a 40-acre site open to the public from dawn to dusk. Parking is free at a small gravel visitor lot off Hogum Bay Road. This site is operated by LOTT, the regional wastewater utility serving the communities of Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater in Thurston County, Washington.

This facility offers a park-like setting and consists of five wetland ponds containing class A reclaimed water. Visitors can walk the pathways, view wildlife, and relax at one of the numerous benches scattered along the main gravel pathways. Four covered informational kiosks are placed near the two largest wetland ponds. These kiosks inform visitors about the use of the ponds, recharge basins, and reclaimed water.



The main trails are wide gravel pathways. The inner loop is roughly ½ mile in length and skirts the outside of the first large wetland pond. The outer loop is roughly ¾ mile in length and surrounds both large wetland ponds. A few other pathways link other small wetland ponds but these are narrow uneven dirt paths.



The app eBird reports 150 different bird species have been sighted at this location over an 18-year period. During February of this year, twenty-four species were observed and in March, thirty-nine species were observed. More information may be found at <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L769552?yr=all&m&rank=hc>.

The landscape is covered with several species of fir trees, many oak trees, and numerous pacific madrone trees along with various species of shrubs. As you pass through the chain link fence which separates the Hogum Bay Road parking lot from the rest of the site, on the right is a large wooded area. In the spring, several types of wildflowers can be found including clumps of Henderson's Shooting Star and Oregon fawn lily.

## Regret Preventer: Nebraska Crane Migration Cranes, Cranes and more Cranes!

by Dennis Plank

Many of us have gone to the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico to photograph the large numbers of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese that overwinter there.

Some have gone on their own and others for workshops. The highlights of those visits for most are the “blast-off” of large flocks of geese when they’re startled



and the evening assembling of the cranes in their over-nighting pools. The numbers of cranes in the area of Bosque and the nearby Bernardo refuge are on the order of 10-15 thousand in a typical winter. Imagine the sight of over 500,000 of these magnificent birds! Looking on the web, I’ve seen numbers ranging from 650,000 to over 1 million from reasonably trusted sources that stop on the Platte River in spring migration. And cranes are far from the only migratory birds in the area.

**Drive** - Olympia to Socorro, NM is 1544 miles and to Kearney, NE is 1582, so the distance is essentially the same. The central population of Sandhill Cranes stops on the Platte river every March, largely concentrated between Kearney on the west and Grand Island on the east but continuing all along the Platte river. The peak dates for tours is around March 20 and if you want to really get up close and

personal with the incredible sight and sound of these birds a [reservation at one of the blinds](#) at Audubon’s Rowe Sanctuary provides that opportunity. Their reservations

go quickly and they open in early January. They offer three different levels varying by price from shooting at the visitor center, to morning or evening sessions at blinds with a group of about 20 people (plenty of win-



dows), to a special photographer’s 16 hour overnight tour in blinds that are close to the cranes’ roosting area. We took the mid-level tour on March 16, 2012 on our way to Texas and it was well worth the price of admission and the early morning arrival at the refuge. I was back in the area about the same time in 2017 and did not take the Rowe tour, but went down to other viewpoints on the river and found excellent photographic opportunities. [The Crane Trust](#) (headquarters 33 miles east of Kearney on I-80) also has blinds (from their website, more modern than the Rowe blinds) and offers a very similar set of tours.



During the day, the cranes forage on the farmer’s stubble fields all over the area and you can pick a good place where you can get off the road and have a reasonable chance of getting some dancing activity, though the distance to the cranes can make it difficult. A search on the web didn’t turn up any farms that have seen fit to put viewing blinds in their fields, though I did find a few photography and viewing tours that may have made arrangements. Some of them also have Prairie Chicken leks on their tours which would be a great additional reason for going. You might consider taking a ground cloth or pad of some sort so you can get low enough to minimize the visual effect of the stubble fields.



We also found Ducks Unlimited’s Prairie Dog Waterfowl Production Area south of the Platte river in 2012, though the light was horrible when we got there and none of my images turned out well. I was also disturbed by the numbers of empty rifle cartridges in the parking area. However, we did see quite a few prairie dogs and if I went again I’d probably be able to time it better and get some decent images. It’s definitely a long lens/tripod proposition.

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The Fort Kearny historical park is also of interest photographically and it's an information center for crane viewing as well. In 2012 we stayed at a conventional modern motel in Kearney. In 2017 I was taking the small travel trailer that we had picked up in Texas on the first trip and stayed at the campground at the [Fort Kearny State Recreation Area](#). Note that in mid-March, they had power turned on to my site, but the water was still off due to occasional freezing temperatures at night. Reservations are now required for this campground. Apparently the locals can't decide how to spell Kearney/Kearny as it is one way for the town and another for the campground. These days with AirBNB and VRBO, there are a lot more lodging options to consider as well.



If you go, remember that this is the Great Plains. There isn't a hill between it and the North Pole, so the weather can be wet and cold. Also, I've noted that the tornado season seems to be totally out of whack lately, so I'd keep my ear open for warnings.

The Rowe Sanctuary has an excellent section on their website on travel to and from the area which I highly recommend. If you drive, remember that it's still winter at higher elevations (and sometimes down here), so plan your route carefully and be prepared to change it at the last minute if the weather dictates.

## **“It's Not You, It's Me” High-Tech or High-Touch?**

*by Cynthia A Whelan*

I feel a need to make a few changes in my social relationships.

I love my stories about photography and travel. It brings me pride and purpose to publish on Medium. I like posting stories on my blog and showing my photographs on Facebook and Instagram. And I appreciate all the photog-

raphers I have met on social media and their beautiful stories.

Unfortunately, I may have misplaced some of my expectations about online relationships.

Lately, my interactions on social media feel different. Something has changed.

It's like being on a date and realizing that you actually want to spend time with someone else, not the person you've been seeing. “It's not you, it's me. Can we just be friends?”

Remember back in the 90's when we were talking about “high-touch vs high-tech”?

The conversation remains very relevant, especially amid the rise of artificial intelligence. When I asked Google about ‘high-touch vs high-tech’, the Google AI Assistant offered this: High-tech uses advanced digital tools, AI, and automation for efficiency, speed, and data-driven personalization. In contrast, high-touch prioritizes human connection, empathy, and personalized, face-to-face interaction to build deep relationships.



Rather than scratching an itch, social media didn't fulfill my desire to connect with others. I miss high-touch, dealing with quirky, inconsistent, unpredictable, fallible, weird, woeful, and wonderful people.

It took me a while to name what I was feeling, and even longer to accept it. I've decided that for now, I prefer making friends the old-fashioned way.

Life is short. I wish I could be it all, do it all, all the time. But there are only so many hours in a day, so I am going to make sure I choose my priorities wisely.

I'm going to stop pushing out content online in hopes that someone will write a response, and remember what I said, or maybe remember my name. Currently, I get more

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replies and comments from bots than I do from my friends and family.

Instead of writing about photography and posting it in the hope that someone reads it, I'll spend more time with my photography friends in the Olympia Camera Club in Washington State. I can write stories about photography for people I know. I can join other amateur photographers on field trips and try to make something worth sharing. I



can attend a club meeting to talk with photographers who have opinions and those who don't.

For example, one of my camera club friends likes to take photographs of mannequins, dummies, marionettes, decay, rust, and other rotting stuff. Susan likes old junk, and we have been out together photographing decay on Olympia Camera Club field trips.



Recently, my Terrific Traveling Partner and I were in Siracusa, Sicily and we attended a puppet show at the historic "[Teatro Museo dei Pupi](#)." While viewing the colorful and unusual puppet characters, I thought to myself, "My friend Susan (from the Olympia Camera Club) would love to photograph these puppets, and I bet she would make them really scary."

Normally, scary puppets aren't on my list of favorite photography subjects, but I found myself inspired by Susan's

photography. "I can't wait to see what she says about them!" I look forward to having an actual conversation with Susan about making rotting stuff look creepy.

I will continue to write occasionally for Medium. I appreciate the wonderful support from my editor and all the Live View writers over the past two years. Everyone's dedication to photography and writing has been inspirational. "Can we still be friends?"



And, I have decid-

ed to focus on my time on my up-close-and-personal projects: making photo books for my grandson, writing for my camera club newsletter, and securing a space to exhibit our club's printed photographs.

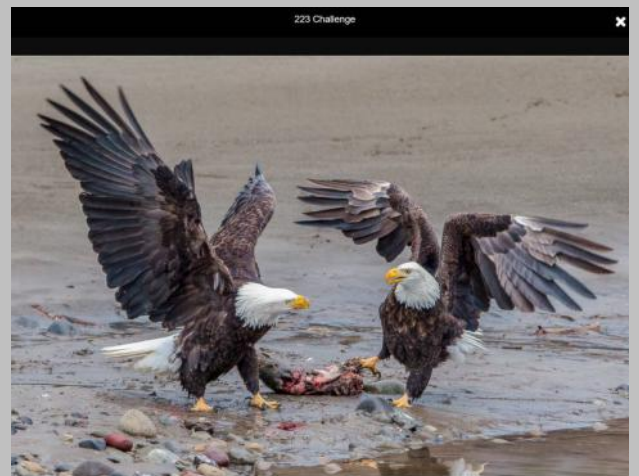
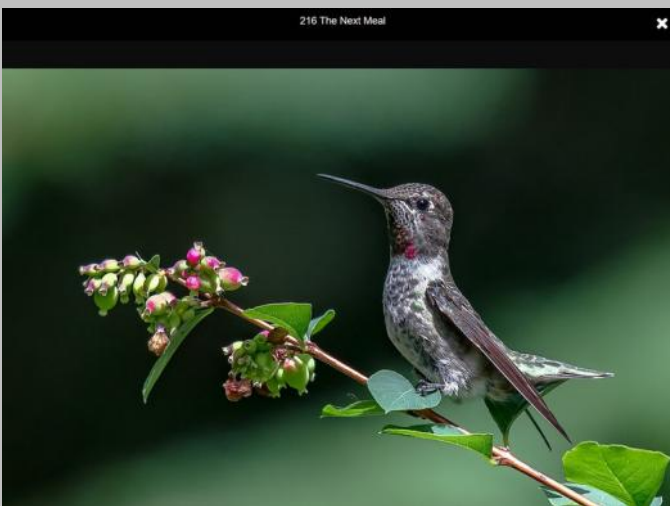
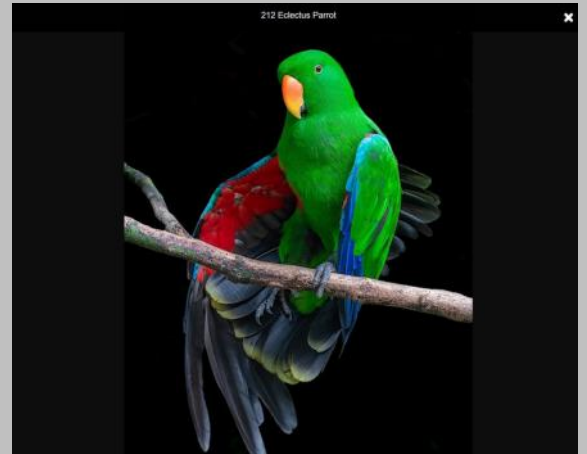
I'm not leaving social media, but this year, I decided to focus my photography on personal, face-to-face interactions and make friends the old-fashioned way. I'm going to put my best face forward, face-to-face. I took all photographs with permission from the [Teatro Museo dei Pupi](#) in Siracusa, Italy. The puppets featured in this story were created between 1921 and sometime in the 1950's by the famous Sicilian puppeteers Francesco Puzzo, Rosario Vaccaro, and Saro Vaccaro, and are now maintained by current artisans.



## Traveling Images March Results by Rosalind Philips

OCC judged images from the Mount Baker Camera Club. The top six images are listed below with their score. You can go to <https://nwcameraclubs.org/tis200/> if you would like to view all the images. The winning images are also shown below.

ID	Title	Score
215	In the Garden	11
216	The Next Meal	11
219	Dunlin Dance	11
221	Arizona Monsoon	9
212	Eclectus Parrot	8
223	Challenge	8



## Traveling Images March Results by Rosalind Philips

OCC images were judged by the Tacoma Photographic Society in March. The top five images are listed below with their score. You can go to <https://nwcameraclubs.org/tis100/> if you would like to view all the images. Please email [traveling-prints@olympiacameraclub.org](mailto:traveling-prints@olympiacameraclub.org) if you would like to know your score and your image was not in the top five.

<b>ID</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Score</b>
109	Incense	23
108	Hunting Harrier	11
115	Portrait of a Puffin	11
116	Private Arch	10
112	Mystical Aspen	9



## April NWCCC Traveling Images

by Colleen Easley

In April, we are voting on the images from the Puget Sound Camera Club. You should have already received an email with specific links for both the images and the voting page, but if you missed it you can go to <https://www.olympiacameraclub.org/nwccc-traveling-images/> to find the links for both the images and the voting page. The deadline for voting is April 25.

## Early Fair Information

by Christy Sterling and Dennis Plank

It's time to start thinking about the Thurston County Fair coming up in late July/early August. It's a good idea to start tagging any photos now that you may wish to enter in the fair this year. It makes it easier when the time comes for choosing which ones to enter.

The theme this year is "America Celebrates 250 Years." The Mascot is Colonel Beaks, a Bald Eagle. We're expecting a lot of entries in the fair theme this year since eagles are such popular subjects, so we've limited entries in that lot to one color and one monochrome. Food for thought.



In May we will begin taking signups for volunteers for both the set-up weekend before the fair and the Information Desk during the fair, so be thinking about how you'd like to help this year. New this year, we are asking for two people willing to stay until about 6:00 pm on the Saturday before the fair to help verify that all the images are in the correct lots for judging the next day.

We have submitted the final version of the Exhibitor's guide to the Fair and it will be available on their website in early May. The Fair is going to be using the Fair Entry System again and we'll be refreshing folks' memories on that and the rules at the June Practical Photography meeting.

## Photographic Society of America (PSA) Worldwide Photo Festival September 13 – 19, 2026 Las Vegas, Nevada



Speakers for the Photo Festival are:

- Cole Thompson with the presentation "**The Lessons My Images Have Taught Me.**" Cole says he is "uniquely unqualified" to speak on photography as he has never taken a photography class or workshop, holds no art degree, has never worked professionally as a photographer and doesn't use tools like Lightroom or layers. He says "my only qualification is my images ... nothing else matters."
- Scott Kelby will present the program "**The Stuff They Don't Tell You.**" Scott is well known as a bestselling author of photography books, hosts a weekly show "The Grid," is the CEO of KelbyOne plus many other achievements.
- John Kaplan will present "**Travel Photography Across the World.**" John is one of the most accomplished narrative photographers, honored with the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography, POY Photographer of the Year, Overseas Press Club Award plus many more awards.
- Erin Babnik will present "**Getting Things Wrong in all the Right Ways.**" Erin is an internationally recognized landscape photographer, educator, author and speaker. She is also a Canon Explorer of Light.
- Essdras M Suarez will present the program "**Panama's Birds: Diversity, Behavior and the Art of Seeing.**" Essdras is a two time Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist, educator, and author.

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(Continued from page 14)

- Hanson Fong will present the program **“A Moment Captured is More Treasured Than a Moment Lost. Time to Look Good.”** Hanson is an international award winning master photographer and one of the industry’s most respected portrait and wedding artists.

There will be pre and post festival tours and workshops to Death Valley, Zion National Park, and other stunning locations as well as planned tours during the festival.

The popular macro workshop featuring ten interactive stations will be available Thursday and Friday. In addition, a brand new food photography workshop is debuting this year.

The festival will be held at the iconic Rio Hotel and Casino. The hotel has extended an exceptional group rate to PSA attendees, including free parking, no resort fees, and 50% discount on all resort shows.

Registration opened on 1 April 2026 on the PSA Photo Festival website. <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/page/photo-festival>

## Olympia Camera Club Board Meeting April 7, 2026 Zoom

### Board Members Present

Dennis Plank, President, John Damitio, Treasurer, Rene’ Conger, Secretary, Colleen Easley, Membership Coordinator/Webmaster, Clair Ferris, Community Liaison, Ed Tromble, Field Trip Coordinator, Pam Hoaglund, PSA Representative, Don Dimitratos, Member Sharing, Jeff Martin, Practical Photography, Christy Sterling, Thurston County Fair, Gerald Pumphrey, NPPNW liaison

The Meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm with a quorum present.

Dennis asked that he get the minutes on Wednesday, April 8 as his week after that is hectic

### Approval of Last Month’s Minutes

Ed Tromble made motion, and Don Dimitratos seconded, to approve last month’s meetings minutes. Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

## Treasurer’s Report

John Damitio reported that membership renewals and two expenses brought our finances to \$4,782.04 in checking and \$4,104.74 in savings. Dennis asked in the MPB payment, for giving them some publicity, had cleared yet and John said it had not. Gerald asked John how this year’s finances compared with normal. John hadn’t prepared that information and said he could get it for the next meeting

### Treasurer's Report April 7, 2026

March 1 - March 31, 2026	
WSECU Checking	
Starting Balance (3/1/26)	\$5,166.50
<b>DEPOSITS</b>	
Income - 2026 Dues	144.00
Total Deposits	144.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Technology - Adobe Subscription	16.46
Insurance	512.00
Total Expenses	528.46
Ending Balance (3/31/26)	\$4,782.04

WSECU Savings	
Starting Balance (3/1/26)	\$4,104.21
Dividend Interest	0.53
Ending Balance (3/31/26)	\$4,104.74
PayPal Balance	\$ 219.24
Total Balance	\$9,106.02

## Committee Reports

### Equipment/Teleconferencing

No report.

### Membership report

We have seven new members and a total of 131 members.

### President’s Report

Dennis reported that he would be traveling during the General meeting this month and Ed Tromble had agreed to substitute and run the meeting. Don Dimitratos has agreed to run for Vice President next year and he has already started looking for a replacement for the Member Sharing position he now holds. Dennis also reported that the annual June Potluck would be on June 24, a Wednesday, due to the McLane Grange availability.

### Community Liaison

Clair Ferris was on the call, but was unable to get the audio to work, so there is no report.

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(Continued from page 15)

### **General Meeting**

Dennis reiterated that Ed would be handling this one and that the topic was AI in Photography. He couldn't recall the speaker's name, which is Bert Sirkin. Ed asked about logging into Zoom as host and he and Colleen are going to make sure he can make it work.

### **Practical photography**

Jeff Martin reported that his month's presentation is by Rosalind Philips and is the last of the three part series on the basics of file management and processing in LR.

### **Member Sharing**

This month's theme is pets.

### **Social Committee**

Don reported for Adrienne that they're ready for the June Potluck and annual business meeting.

### **Newsletter**

Susan was not available for the meeting.

### **Webmaster**

Nothing to report.

### **Thurston County Fair**

Christy reported that we'll be using Fair Entry again this year. She has asked to step down as co-superintendent. Cynthia Whelan has volunteered to replace her to some extent, but Cynthia is traveling nine months of the year, so we need someone else to supplement the team when she's traveling.

### **Field Trip Coordinator**

Ed reported that the Westport field trip last Saturday was a great success. The next field trip is to the Tom McCall preserve in the Columbia Gorge on April 30, followed by two field trips in May. One to Tami's Garden and a second to the Witherwindle Valley Farm near Rochester on May 8.

Colleen made sure she got the spelling of the latter for setting up the field trip gallery.

### **NWCCC**

Rene provided updates on NWCCC's conference planning, including the establishment of a competitions committee and a request for clubs to share resources for speakers within budget.

### **NPPNW**

Gerald reported that the meeting is on for April 11 with Paul Bannick presenting on Owls in the morning and

Woodpeckers in the afternoon. Gerald and Colleen noted that with no Zoom on the speaker's request, sign-ups are significantly down for this one.

### **PSA**

Pam reported that PSA will be having a convention in Las Vegas this year and they've already started announcing field trips, some of which are restricted in numbers. She said that if they get enough people signing up for field trips they will establish a second group for the popular ones.

### **Old Business**

#### **Filling the Vice President Position**

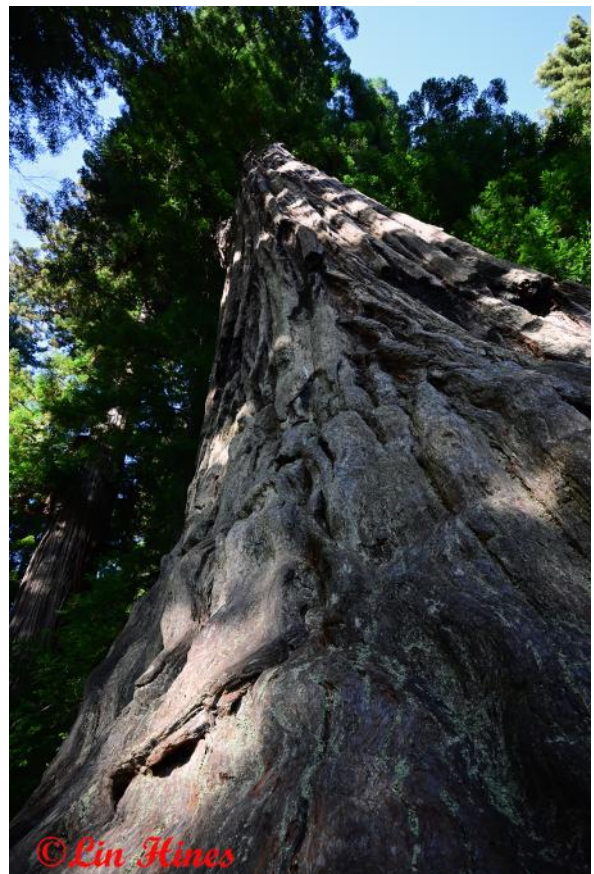
Don has volunteered.

#### **New Business**

No new business.

Gerald Pumphrey made a motion and Jeff Martin seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm. It was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, Dennis Plank, President



## Field Trip Cherry Blossoms at the Capitol Campus



### Member's Gallery



**Member's Gallery  
continued**



### Member's Gallery continued



*Sandy Gullekson*



*W E Ballard*



*Ed Tromble*



### Member's Gallery continued

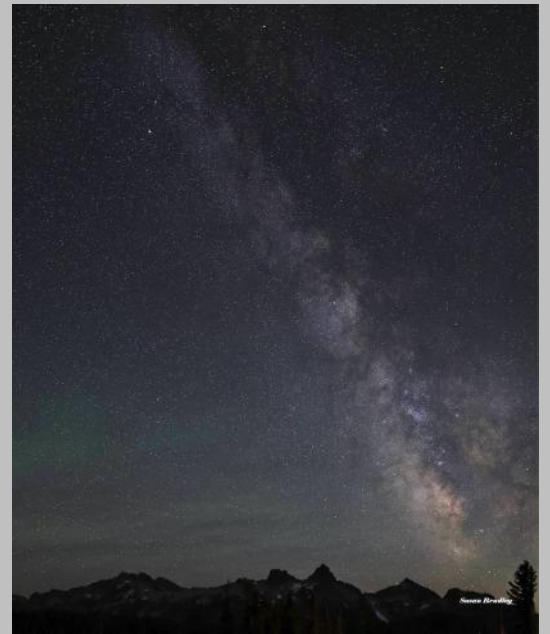
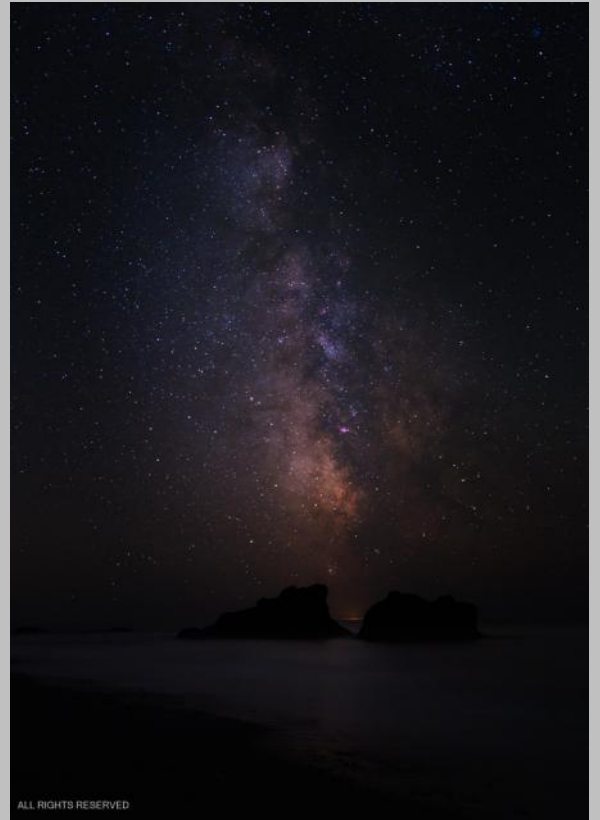


**Member's Gallery  
continued**



*©Lin Hines*

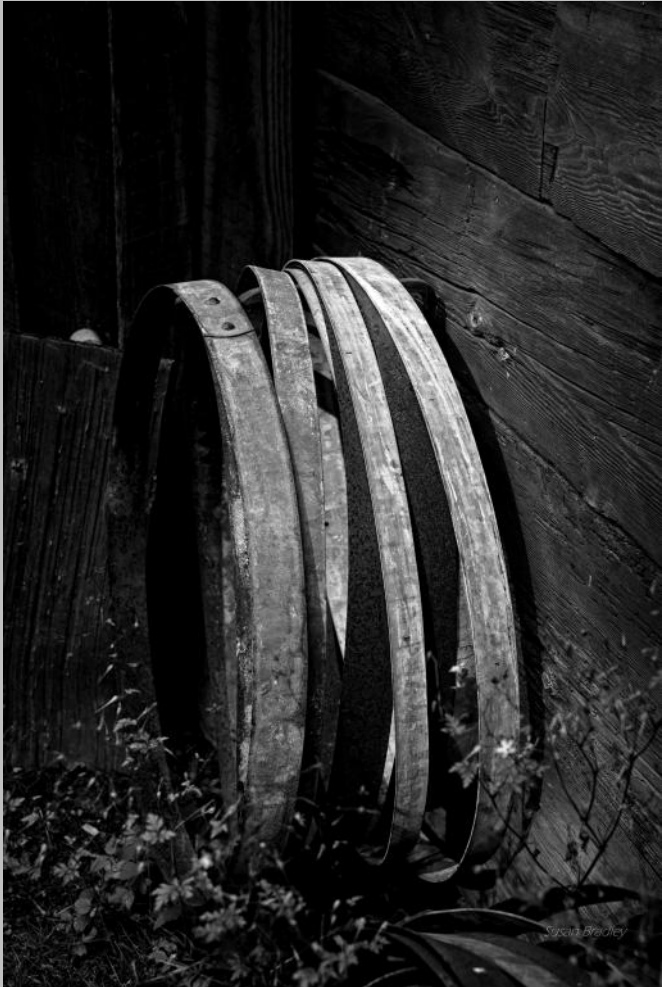
### Member's Gallery continued



### Member's Gallery continued



Member's Gallery  
continued



### Member's Gallery 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 [psaphotoworldwide.org](http://psaphotoworldwide.org)

## PSA Photo Festival

**2026 Annual Photo Festival will be held in  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
Sept. 13-19, 2026**



### 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 May newsletter is May 7 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](mailto:newsletter@olympiacameraclub.org)

**Executive Committee**

President  
Dennis Plank

Vice President

Secretary  
Tammy Mandeville

Treasurer  
John Damitio

**Associate Memberships**



**Committee Chairs**

Community Liaison  
Bruce Livingston

Equipment Custodian  
Rosalind Philips

NWCCC Traveling Print & Open Salon Competitions  
Colleen Easley and Rosalind Philips

Field Trip Coordinator  
Ed Tromble

Membership  
Colleen Easley

Practical Photography  
Jeff Martin

Member Sharing Night  
Don Dimitratos

Newsletter Editor  
Susan Bradley

PSA Representative  
Pam Hoaglund

Thurston County Fair  
Dennis Plank and  
Christy Sterling

NPPNW Liaison  
Gerald Pumphery

NWCCC Liaison  
Rene Conger

Scavenger Hunt  
Rosalind Philips

Webmaster  
Colleen Easley

Social Committee  
Adrienne Cote

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