

Focal EXPRESSIONS



Newsletter of the Nevada Camera Club • A Member Club of the Photographic Society of America • February 2026
 See the Nevada Camera Club Web Site at <http://nevadacc.org/>

Male Goldfinch by Cheryl Thielhorn. Awarded a Purple Ribbon with 27 point in Advanced Nature/Wildlife



The American Goldfinch is also known as the Willow Finch and is the official state bird of Washington State. They can be found year round in many areas of the USA. They are not as easily recognizable after they lose their brilliant yellow colored breeding plumage, so you may not notice that they are around during the fall and winter months. After sitting for many hours, days, and months over the past two years and taking hundreds of photos, I finally got lucky. A beautiful male posed in just the right position so all of him fell within the same focal plane for a nice sharp photo from head to tail. Taken with a Nikon Z9 camera at 1/2000 second at f/9.0 with a Nikkor 180-600mm lens, in my back yard behind a blind, with the shutter sound turned off. ☉

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NCC Calendar

Events listed in **BOLD FACE SMALL CAPS** are open to the public. Events listed in plain face are open only to NCC members. Unless noted, all General Meetings begin at 7:00 PM in the St. Andrew Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 8901 Del Webb Blvd., Las Vegas. All Executive Board Meetings begin at 7:00 PM by Zoom.

FEBRUARY

- 3 Executive Board Meeting, 7 PM, on Zoom.
- 13 **PROGRAM MEETING, FELLOWSHIP HALL OF ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7 PM.**
- 14 Beginners Group. 2-4 PM. Fellowship Hall at St. Andrew Lutheran Church
- 17 **2025 JURIED EXHIBITION AT THE LLOYD D. GEORGE US COURTHOUSE CLOSES, 9 AM.**
- 21-22 Death Valley Field Trip. Details on page 4
- 23 Deadline to submit entry data for the February Monthly Print Competition, 11:59 PM.
- 26 Deadline for March issue of Focal Expressions.
- 27 **MONTHLY PRINT COMPETITION, FELLOWSHIP HALL OF ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7 PM.** Club Challenge theme: *Planes, Trains, & Automobiles*

MARCH

- 3 Executive Board Meeting, 7 PM, on Zoom.

- 13 **TAKE-IN FOR THE 2026 ANNUAL OPEN PRINT COMPETITION 6:00-6:30 PM.**
- 13 **PROGRAM MEETING FEATURING JERRY GHIONIS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OF ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, 6:30 PM**
- 23 Deadline to enter and pay for Monthly Electronic Image Competition, 11:59 PM.
- 27 **MONTHLY ELECTRONIC IMAGE COMPETITION MEETING ON ZOOM, 7 PM.** Club Challenge: *Time*



President's Message

by Edward Lee Stiglitz, DNCC



We got a good start to the new year. In January, an interesting program followed by two great field trips and 110 images in our first competition of the year. In February, we will have a program meeting, our first in person print competition and our first Beginners Group of the year. The Beginners Group meeting on February 14 will focus on print competition, the preparation and mounting of prints and deciding which category to enter as well as titling your image. Keep in mind Beginners Group is not just for beginners. All are welcome and all questions are welcome as well.

I have received a few questions about the club's Merit award system. So here is a bit of an over view. In the Nevada Camera Club, you receive merits for a long list of things. You receive merits for attending meetings, field trips, helping out at club functions, even bringing a guest to a meeting. You also receive merits for entering images in our competitions and more merits based on the score awarded. You can receive merits for being a member of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and even get merits for winning competitions in places other than Nevada Camera Club. There is a list in your member handbook of the many ways to earn merits.

So, what happens with all those merits? At the end of the year, we give out Merit awards, and the system was designed to help keep you involved with the club and to recognize your achievements. If you attend most of the meetings and some events, enter most of the competitions and help out occasionally you should get about 250 to 300 merits a year, which means after your first year you would receive your first award, the 200-merit bar and pin. And after the 2nd year your 500-merit bar. The 1000 or Master merit bar generally comes in year 3 or 4 depending on how much you volunteer or how well you do in competitions. After that they are harder to get by design. The Associate award requires 1500 merits and the Fellow award takes 2500 merits. To reach the Horizon award, 4000 merits are required. The Horizon award also comes with a lifetime membership. That's right get 4000 merits, and you no longer need to pay dues.

So, remember to sign in at all club events and come to the award celebration which this year will be on December 5th to see how well you and other camera club members are doing. ●

February's Club Challenge

by Edward Lee Stiglitz, DNCC

The February club challenge is "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles." No that does not mean they all need to be in the same photo. It can be a photo of a plane or a train or an auto, or maybe an auto on a train or a train on a plane or maybe even a plane on a train. ●

Special Competitions

by Linda Hicks, DNCC

We have two major special competitions with entry due dates coming up in the next month and a half. The 2026 Annual Open Print Competition will have image take in on March 13 from 6-6:30 PM. Then our Special PSA competition electronic entries are due April 17. Pick your images now! Entry information is included in this newsletter, for the Open Print on page 13 and for the PSA contest on page 6. **Mac users, please note - the online Open Print entry form is best completed in a browser other than Safari.** ●

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**Did you know that the DSLR camera,
available to the general public, is only 35
years old?**



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Phone: (702) 871-1100

Website: bandccamera.com



Monthly Competition

by Craig Hicks, HNCC



For January of the new year, the monthly electronic image competition had a total of 110 entries, the most in many months. Forty members entered in 47 unique categories. To compare, the November monthly electronic competition had 78 entries from 30 members in 35 unique categories.

Of the 47 unique categories this month the judges chose 33 first place images with scores of 24 or higher. Twenty-five of these 33 earned blue ribbons and eight of these 33 first place images received perfect scores of 27 which earned purple ribbons. In total, 12 images earned perfect score of 27.

Congratulations for those members who earned perfect scores:

Paul Bessette	<i>Two Glasses</i>
Michael Chapman	<i>Puffin with a Fish</i>
Steven Dean	<i>Robber Fly</i> <i>Gnat-sized Lasioglossum Bee Moving on Stamens</i>
Allan Duff	<i>Nature's Modern Art</i>
Clayton Fox	<i>Colorful Glass</i>
John Geldermann	<i>Hagen Smith Takes Flight</i>
Terri Hutchings	<i>Alice Mae</i> <i>Steeplechase</i>
Jacqueline Peterson	<i>Mossy Majesty, Rufous Mot Mot in the Arenal Volcano National Park, Costa Rica</i>
Doreen Lawrence	<i>The Golden Moment</i>
Cheryl Thielhorn	<i>Male Goldfinch</i>

Thanks to those who assisted with the competition.

Set-up assistance: **Stephen Cupp, Craig Hicks, Linda Hicks, and Mary Sheets**

Announcer: **Linda Hicks**

Projectionist: **Stephen Cupp**

Score Keeper: **Mary Sheets**

Merits Recorder: **Julie Chadburn**

Judges: **Mike Chapman, Clayton Fox, Ron Fraass, Jerome Hamilton, Janice Phillips, Ed Stiglitz, and Cindy Wilson**

Four members entered images in Beginner categories, five members entered images in Intermediate categories, twenty members entered in Advanced categories and eleven entered in Master categories.

The Club Challenge topic of *Glass* received twenty-nine total entries; two in Beginner, three in Intermediate, seventeen in Advanced and seven in Master.

The next NCC Monthly Competition will be print and will take place on Friday, February 27 with entry information due no later than Monday, February 23. The February Club Challenge will be Planes, Trains & Automobiles. After submitting your entry, make sure to double check the details by clicking on the My Entries heading on the website. Up until the entry deadline, members can easily change the Division or Category there or even substitute an image if so desired. ©

Your Dues Are Due!

by Mary Sheets, DNCC

Just a reminder that everyone's dues were due January 1st. If you joined us sometime during last year, your dues are also due January 1. Your fees were prorated when you joined. You can pay at our February program meeting. I will be happy to accept your dues and update your membership records. Our membership chairman can update your badge if needed at that time.

When paying in person, please bring cash or a check. You can also pay by Zelle using the email address nevadaccdotorg@gmail.com or through the website using your credit card. Remember there is a small fee for paying on the website but no fee when paid through Zelle. ©

CLUB CHALLENGE THEMES

<u>February (print)</u> Planes, trains, & automobiles	<u>July (electronic)</u> Mirrored
<u>March (electronic)</u> Time	<u>August (print)</u> Music
<u>April (print)</u> Life	<u>September (electronic)</u> Exactly Seven
<u>May (electronic)</u> Opposites	<u>October (print)</u> Weather
<u>June (print)</u> Shadows	<u>November (electronic)</u> Death

Community E-Notice

Subscribe to Community E-Notice to receive announcements regarding the Las Vegas photographic community via E-mail. To start your subscription, modify your newsletter subscriptions in your member account on the Nevada Camera Club web site.

<http://nevadacc.org/>

Focal Expressions is published monthly by the Nevada Camera Club for its members. Focal Expressions uses a two-column format. Cost of advertising is \$10 per column inch per issue. Minimum ad size is one-half column inch (\$5). Standard business card size (2"x 3.5") is \$20; a quarter page is \$50; a half page is \$100; and a full page is \$200. Semi-annual and annual rates receive a discount.

Submit ad copy with payment to:

Nevada Camera Club
P.O. Box 19451
Las Vegas, NV 89132.

For further information contact Mary V. Sheets by phone at 702-521-9569 or by e-mail at: sheetsmva@gmail.com.
Submission deadline for March is February 26, 2026.
Linda Hicks, editor: publisher@nevadacc.org

Judging, Competition, and Awards

by Jerome Hamilton, DNCC



Every year or so we talk about the judges and the judging process. It's time to do it again so this is going to be covered at the February Program meeting. I will present, with the help of a few other members, explaining how judges look at your images, how they try to make productive comments, and how your images rank in a series of events going on during these monthly competitions. We will explain how the

competitions are structured to assist in a multitude of educational activities. Yes, you enter to win, but you also enter to learn both from comments on your images as well as comments on all the other entries.

There will be a short talk about the Merit Awards system at the beginning of the meeting, and we will jump into the Judging and competitions part of the meeting. This is a presentation, but it is also an open discussion. Please feel free to ask your questions and express your concerns and we will try to address everything this month to make everyone's competitions a better experience.

Next month we are in for a treat with the amazing **Jerry Ghionis**. Be on the look out for Jerry's program details and keep in mind we are starting a little bit earlier in March with a 6:30pm meeting to accommodate Mr Ghionis's busy schedule to fit in our group.

Jerry shared his biography and it is impressive.

"Jerry Ghionis is widely regarded as one of the world's top portrait and wedding photographers and is proud to call Las Vegas home. Known for his fusion of vintage glamour and contemporary fashion, Jerry brings soul, drama, and elegance to every frame. With the creativity of a fashion designer and the precision of an architect, he creates visual stories that are both emotionally powerful and technically masterful.

He is the most awarded photographer in WPPI history and was the first to earn their Grand Master title. He has been named among the top five wedding photographers in the world by WPPI and among the top ten by *American Photo Magazine*. He also received the United Nations Leadership Award from the International Photographic Council and was named AIPP Australian Fashion Photographer of the Year.

A Nikon Ambassador, Jerry has fronted global campaigns for the D850, Z6, Z8, and Z9 cameras. He was also named by PDN magazine as one of the world's top photography educators. As an inventor, Jerry created the Ice Light and the Omega Reflector, tools now used by photographers worldwide.

Throughout it all, the Jerry Ghionis brand has become synonymous with excellence, innovation, and a deep love for people and for the craft of photography." ●



Field Trips

by Edward Lee Stiglitz, DNCC



Photo by Linda Stiglitz-Heckendorf

Our January field trips were a great success and as we move on to February and the Death Valley trip we are hoping for a great spring flower show. The Death Valley field trip will be on the 21st and 22nd. I expect we will start on the on the morning of the 21st south of Furnace Creek and work our way north. On Sunday the 22nd, I plan on starting near Mesquite Dunes, then follow the flowers wherever they lead us. This plan may very well change as the roads open or close and the flowers move from south to north. If you are planning to go to Death Valley on the 21st or 22nd or both days please text me at (702) 271-5011 so I can keep you updated as things change.

Update on the Mono Lake field trip. Our helpful volunteers have put together an information packet including hotel and camping info. The rooms and camping sites are going fast. If you are interested, please let me know and I will forward you a packet.

Dates of other field trips in 2026

Amboy Crater March 28th

April is open. I am keeping this open at this time because I am hoping for something special this spring with flowers when we see something good, I will let you all know.

Scavenger Hunt - May 9th and 10th

Light Painting - June 13th

Mono Lake - July 3rd and 4th

Night walk on the Strip - August 15th

PSA Photo Fest - September 13th

Southern Utah - October 3rd and 4th

Wetlands Park November 21st

NCC Awards Celebration - December 5th ●

Follow Nevada Camera Club on Facebook & Instagram



PSA Liaison

by Jerome Hamilton, DNCC

When we hear the letters “PSA,” most photographers immediately think the Photographic Society of America Worldwide. Nevada Camera Club is an affiliate member of PSA. Being an affiliate member through the camera club gives you a few benefits but being an individual PSA member as well brings you the most benefits possible. I am the PSA Nevada Membership Director. If you do decide to join, let me know and we can discuss the membership options.

The PSA Photo Festival is coming to Las Vegas this year, September 13 – 19, 2026. This will be the first time that the Photo Festival has visited Vegas. Nevada Camera Club has an incredible opportunity to be involved, to be educated, and to participate with a group of this size. PSA is expecting their registration to be in the 300’s. I have already secured our spot as the Host Camera Club for the 87th Annual PSA Photo Festival. There are going to be a few opportunities for some direct involvement with PSA, and I will have a signup sheet at the February Program meeting recruiting a few volunteers to help out and work on a couple of the tours and some of the workshop rooms at the event. PSA will also have some pre-conference tours that we all might like to look at.

Make sure you have the PSA Photo Festival listed on your calendar. ●

Membership

by Mary Sheets, DNCC

We want to welcome 4 new members this month and two former members who are rejoining us.

#1500 **Diana Petersen** She is interested in landscape photography and going with us on some of our camping trips. Welcome back, Diana!

#1840 **Cheryl Thielhorn** She has a variety of interests including Abstract, Animals/Pets, Still Life, Macro, Photojournalism, Creative, and Architecture. We hope we can fulfill your interests.

#2394 **John Mastrogiacono** found us through the NCC Instagram account. He is interested in Architecture and Panoramas. Welcome, John.

2395 **Tom Rogers** found us through the WWW and is interested in Street Photography. We hope to see you at a meeting soon.

#2396 **Stephanie Phillips** was recommended by friends. Her interests are in Travel photography. Welcome aboard!

2397 **Susanne Mitchel** We need to get some more information from her, but hope to see her soon at a future meeting. ●

PRESIDENT ED NEEDS YOU!

by Edward Lee Stiglitz, DNCC

This month we need volunteers for the print competition such as print handlers, judges and ribbon writers as well as a CSO (chief snack officer) and this position needs to change monthly. I will have a sign-up sheet at the program meeting.

We are also looking for a few more e-board positions such as special competition chair and field trip chair. If you are interested, please give me a call. ●

Nevada Camera Club Facebook Page vs. Group - What’s the Difference

by Ken Lawrence, ANCC

Before creating a Facebook (FB) Group or Page, an individual or business must first create a Facebook account that represents an individual. Individual FB accounts can be either public—where anyone can send a friend request—or private, where the account owner controls who can be added as a friend. I recommend using a private FB account rather than a public one.

Friends can be added by searching for individuals and sending a friend request, or by accepting or declining requests sent to you.

A Facebook Page functions like a public stage or TV channel. It is the Nevada Camera Club’s outward-facing presence on Facebook for public, promotional, and primarily one-way communication. NCC uses the Facebook Page as a management tool to schedule daily posts for the Facebook Group and Instagram.

The Facebook Group is more like the camera club itself—a community space designed for two-way interaction among photographers; Private, two-way interaction, community driven and conversational. The Page broadcasts outward. The Group connects photographers.

If you have a Facebook account, please consider joining the Nevada Camera Club Facebook Group and becoming part of the conversation.

Why Join the Nevada Camera Club Facebook Group?

The Facebook (FB) Nevada Camera Club (NCC) Group administrators will be featuring different club photographers each month using an AI generated podcast to their work. The NCC FB Group provides open participation and conversation with other photographers in a supportive environment for learning and creative growth.

Important Membership Notes

The NCC Facebook Group is open to all photographers and is not limited to NCC club members. Membership in the NCC is not required to join or participate in the NCC FB Group. To join any FB Group, each person must have an individual (personal) Facebook account

Joining the NCC Facebook Group: Any individual Facebook account may request to join. Required membership questions must be answered (as outlined in the Group rules). Requests may be denied if questions are not answered or if the account does not appear to belong to a photographer. Group members may invite other Facebook users without prior administrator approval. ●



Join PSA

For membership information, go to

<http://www.psa-photo.org/>

or contact PSA Liaison,

Jerome Hamilton

702-682-9514

NEVADA CAMERA CLUB

2026 PSA-WORLDWIDE SPECIAL COMPETITION



For assistance contact: Special Competitions Chairperson by email at specialcomps@nevadacc.org or leave a message at 1-866-925-1447.

RULES:

1. WHO MAY ENTER

Any Nevada Camera Club member in good standing as of March 31, 2026.

2. HOW TO ENTER

Images are to be submitted electronically online. Each entrant may submit a total of six (6) images. There is no entry fee. Entries must be submitted at <https://nevadacc.org/2026-psa-worldwide-special-competition> by 11:59 PM on Friday, April 17, 2026.

3. CATEGORIES

There are no categories for this competition. Images may be either color or monochrome. All images submitted must have been taken within the state of Nevada or within 50 miles of Las Vegas. For example, images taken in Death Valley or the Mojave Preserve would be permissible. Images taken at Zion National Park or Lake Havasu (AZ) would not be.

4. MULTIMEDIA SHOWING

Images selected will be included in a multimedia presentation to the Photographic Society of America Worldwide Photo Festival to be held at the Rio Hotel in Las Vegas, September 13-19, 2026. The presentation is designed to showcase the work of Nevada Camera Club members as the host club in addition to showing attendees some of the photographic opportunities in Las Vegas and the surrounding area and the state of Nevada.

5. AWARDS

All images submitted will receive a merit point. Images selected for the presentation will each receive an additional 2 POY points.

6. JUDGING

Images will be judged by a panel of photographic judges. **The decision of the judges is final.**

7. IMAGE REQUIREMENTS

Entries must have been photographed by the entrant. Images may be horizontal, vertical or square.

Horizontal Image – The width must not exceed 1920 pixels. If the height exceeds 1200 pixels, the height should be resized to 1200 pixels or less and the width

should be adjusted to maintain the original aspect ratio.

Vertical Image – The height must not exceed 1200 pixels.

Square Image – Width and height must not exceed 1200 pixels.

Although there is no minimum size, it is to the advantage of each entrant to make the dimensions as large as possible without exceeding the maximum dimensions listed above.

File format must be **JPEG** using **.jpg** as the file extension.

Color depth must not exceed 24 bits per pixel. **All files should be set at 254 dpi.**

Nothing identifying the maker of the image, such as a signature or watermark, may be included on the image.

The entries need to comply with the above requirements to be projected, both for the judges and for the multimedia presentation. If an image is not in JPEG format, if an image exceeds 1920 pixels in width or 1200 pixels in height, if the image maker is identified in any way, it will be disqualified and will not be judged.

Images that have previously been awarded blue ribbons in Nevada Camera Club Special Competitions **are** eligible for this event.

8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The entrant grants to the Nevada Camera Club the right to display submitted images during the multimedia presentation at the 2026 PSA-Worldwide Photo Festival. The entrant also grants to the Photographic Society Of America - Worldwide permission to use chosen images on its website or in its print publications with appropriate photo credit. All other rights remain with the entrant.



Your Voice Belongs in This Newsletter

by Harry Ghuman, HNCC & Linda Hicks, DNCC



One of the greatest strengths of our camera club is the range of experience, curiosity, and creativity within our membership. We have beginners discovering new techniques, seasoned photographers refining their vision, competitors learning from judges' comments, and storytellers returning from inspiring trips and personal projects. All of that knowledge deserves a place beyond our monthly meetings—and this newsletter is where it can live, grow, and be shared.



If you've ever thought, *"I'm not sure I have anything worth writing about,"* let us reassure you: you do. You don't need to be an expert, a professional, or a polished writer to contribute. Some of the most valuable articles come from members who simply share what they learned, what surprised them, or what finally "clicked" after some trial and error.

Newsletter articles are not meant to be academic papers or gear reviews. They are conversations. They capture insights that help others avoid frustration, see differently, or try something new. If you've solved a problem, improved a skill, or learned from a mistake, you already have the core of an article.

Not Sure What to Write About?

Here are a few topic ideas that consistently resonate with readers:

- What I Learned From a Recent Shoot – A field experience, success, or failure, and what it taught you
- A Judging Comment That Changed My Photography – How feedback influenced your approach
- One Composition Habit I'm Working On – Visual weight, negative space, framing, or timing
- Editing Without Overprocessing – A simple workflow lesson
- A Personal Project in Progress – Why you started it and where it's leading
- Beginner Tips I Wish I'd Known Earlier – Especially helpful to new members
- Competition Strategy – Choosing images, titles, or categories
- Travel or Local Field Notes – Planning, patience, and lessons learned

Articles can be short or long, technical or reflective. A clear idea and an honest voice matter more than perfect prose.

Worried About Writing?

You don't need to be. We are here to help. If you have an idea but aren't sure how to structure it, we are happy to work with you before you write. If you have a draft that needs polishing, we can help with clarity, flow, and length. Editing is a collaborative process, not a judgment. Your voice stays yours.

You can also start small. A 400–600-word article is perfect, but even a short tip or reflection is welcome. Think of it as sharing a helpful conversation, not delivering a lecture.

How to Get Started

If you're interested in contributing:

- Email one of us a **topic idea or a rough draft** harry.ghuman@gmail.com or lhicks08@gmail.com
- Let us know if you'd like editing or structure help
- Don't worry about perfection—we'll get there together

This newsletter is strongest when it reflects the voices of our members. Your experiences, questions, and insights help make our club a more supportive and inspiring place for everyone. We look forward to hearing from you—and to sharing your stories in an upcoming issue. ●

Merit Achievements

by Linda Hicks, DNCC

Congratulations to Nevada Camera Club members for their merit achievements earned in January.

1500 merit points (Associate) - **Ken Lawrence**

Moving up to the Intermediate Class after earning 10 1st place rankings as a Beginner - **Julia Mejorada** ●

Results from the January 2026 Monthly Electronic Image Competition

Abstract

Advanced – Color

Blue	26	Anita Rama	Floral
Red	26	Cheryl Thielhorn	Swirling Colors
White	23	Philip Cenicola	Patterns in Light and Perspective

Advanced – Monochrome

Red	22	Julie Chadburn	Diagonals
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Master – Color

Red	23	Doreen Lawrence	The Curl
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Animals/Pets

Intermediate – Color

Red	21	Chris Markel	Muscles Out of Water
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Advanced – Color

Purple	27	Steven Dean	Robber Fly
Red	26	Ken Lawrence	Elegant Trogon
White	26	Michael Braunstein	Grey Fox
-----	25	Jerome Hamilton	Baby Egrets
-----	22	Jim Ludwick	Are You Looking at Me?

Master – Color

Blue	26	Janice Phillips	Beautiful but Venomous
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Creative

Beginner – Color

Blue	24	Julia Mejorada	Drops
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Advanced – Color

Red	23	Jon Hayslip	SF Water Taxi
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Master – Color

Red	23	Linda Hicks	Beach Patrol
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Documentary

Advanced – Color

Blue	25	Paul Bessette	Another Dam Image
Red	25	Sandy Cornwell	Wukoki Pueblo

Master – Color

Blue	25	Richard Bailey	Li River Mists
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Master – Monochrome

Blue	26	Clayton Fox	Covid in Las Vegas
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Nature/Wildlife

Beginner – Color

Purple	27	Jacqueline Peterson	Mossy Majesty, Rufous Mot Mot in the Arenal Volcano National Park, Costa Rica
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Red	25	Jennifer Dudek	Stark Beauty
White	22	Calvin Moore	Birds of Pahranaagat
-----	22	Calvin Moore	Taking A Stroll

Beginner – Monochrome

Red	23	Jacqueline Peterson	On the Edge, Big Horned Sheep in Palm Springs
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Intermediate – Color

Red	21	Serena Scalzi	College of Southern Nevada Gardens
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Intermediate – Monochrome

Red	23	Clark Anderson	Zebra Collision
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Advanced – Color

Purple	27	Cheryl Thielhorn	Male Goldfinch
Red	27	Allan Duff	Nature's Modern Art

White	27	Steven Dean	Gnat-sized Lasioglossum Bee Moving on Stamens
-----	26	Ken Lawrence	Making Cubs
-----	24	Diana Petersen	McWay Falls Long Exposure, Central Coast CA
-----	22	Valerie Christiansen	Handsome Egret

Master – Color

Purple	27	Michael Chapman	Puffin with a Fish
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People

Beginner – Color

Red	21	John Johnson	Pike's Market
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Advanced – Color

Blue	25	Michael Braunstein	Marilyn
Red	21	Philip Cenicola	Soft Focus

Master – Color

Blue	25	Craig Hicks	UNLV Team Entry
Red	22	Michael Chapman	Kona Fun!

Master – Monochrome

Blue	24	Stephen Cupp	The Back of the Dress
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Photojournalism

Advanced – Color

Purple	27	John Geldermann	Hagen Smith Takes Flight
Red	22	Jim Ludwick	Wrong Turn

Master – Color

Blue	25	Craig Hicks	Three Against One
Red	24	Richard Bailey	Ending The Fight

Master - Monochrome

Purple	27	Terri Hutchings	Steeplechase
Red	21	Clayton Fox	Little Finland

Pictorial

Beginner – Color

Red	23	Jennifer Dudek	Checking the Grass on the Other Side
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Beginner – Monochrome

Blue	24	Julia Mejorada	Reflecting after the Rain
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Intermediate – Color

Blue	24	Serena Scalzi	Mount Charleston
Red	22	David Parker	Through Broken Stained Glass

Intermediate – Monochrome

Blue	26	John Johnson	Cloud Beams
Red	25	David Parker	San Francisco Through the Eyes of Alcatraz

Advanced – Color

Blue	25	Allan Duff	Ship Wreck
Red	26	Jon Hayslip	Douro River @ Sunset, Porto Portugal

White	26	Michael Stratton	Vineyards Along The River Rhine
-----	25	Diana Petersen	Gifford Barn, Capital Reef National Park, UT
-----	24	Dale Kavula	Walker Lake, Alaska
-----	24	Steve O'Melia	Circles Above Inyo Mine
-----	24	Anita Rama	Bay Bridge, San Francisco
-----	23	Jerome Hamilton	Pahranaagat in the Fog

Advanced – Monochrome

Red	21	Juliana Stratton	The Big Splash
White	20	Sheri Ann Forbes	By the Pool

Master – Color

Purple	27	Doreen Lawrence	The Golden Moment
Red	23	Harry Ghuman	Along the Autumn Curve

Master – Monochrome

Blue	26	Harry Ghuman	Still on Watch
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Portraiture

Advanced – Color

Red	23	Valerie Christiansen	My Eyes are on You!
Red	23	John Geldermann	Julia

Master – Color

Purple	27	Terri Hutchings	Alice Mae
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Still Life

Advanced – Color

Blue	25	Paul Bessette	Wine With Floral Accents
Red	24	Jim Ryan	At a Parisian Flea Market
White	22	Sheri Ann Forbes	Summer Harvest

Advanced – Monochrome

Blue	26	Michael Stratton	Pattypan Squash
Red	24	Jim Ryan	Life Doesn't Get Stiller Than This

Unclassified

Intermediate – Color

Blue	26	Chris Markel	The Bridge at Sunrise
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Advanced – Color

Blue	24	Juliana Stratton	Greenhouse Reflection
Red	24	Sandy Cornwell	For the Necessities
White	22	Julie Chadburn	Arches of Arles Amphitheater
----	21	Dale Kavula	Bracket Fungus

Advanced – Monochrome

Red	23	Steve O'Melia	Cactus Black
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Master – Color

Blue	24	Stephen Cupp	My Night at the Zoo
Red	23	Janice Phillips	Wall Vine

Master – Monochrome

Blue	24	Linda Hicks	Regal Doorway
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Club Challenge

Beginner

Blue	24	Jennifer Dudek	Collecting
Red	25	Julia Mejorada	Liquid Light

Intermediate

Blue	24	John Johnson	Martini Curved Glass
Red	23	Chris Markel	Constellation in Glass
White	22	Serena Scalzi	Glass Facade

Advanced

Purple	27	Clayton Fox	Colorful Glass
Red	27	Paul Bessette	Two Glasses
White	25	Michael Stratton	Scottish Cathedral Windows
----	25	Michael Braunstein	Chihuly
----	24	Julie Chadburn	Stained Glass Window in the Saint-Trophime Cloister
----	24	Allan Duff	Shattered
----	24	Sheri Ann Forbes	Behind the Glass
----	24	Steve O'Melia	Multi-Faceted
----	24	Janice Phillips	Electrical Insulators
----	23	Jerome Hamilton	Fire Glass
----	23	Jon Hayslip	Untitled
----	23	Dale Kavula	Corn Maiden Stained Glass

----	23	Anita Rama	Art in Broken Glass
----	22	Ken Lawrence	Barrio Glass Creation
----	22	Juliana Stratton	Glass Rooster
----	21	Philip Cenicola	By the Glass
----	21	Sandy Cornwell	Blown Glass Lampshade

Master

Blue	25	Valerie Christiansen	Antique Bottles
Red	24	Linda Hicks	The Art of Making Glass
White	24	Harry Ghuman	Point of Impact
----	24	Craig Hicks	Stained Glass
----	23	Terri Hutchings	The Beauty of Glass
----	23	Doreen Lawrence	Genesis
----	23	Michael Chapman	Giant Window - Reid Airport

**January 2026 Monthly Electronic Image
Perfect Score Images**

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The images on this page were awarded perfect scores of 27 but did not place 1st in their respective categories.



Steven Dean

Gnat-sized Lasioglossum
Bee Moving on Stamens



Paul Bessette
Two Glasses



Allan Duff
Nature's Modern Art

January 2026 Monthly Electronic Image Competition 1st Place Images

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27s



Steven Dean
Robber Fly



Jacqueline Peterson
Mossy Majesty, Rufous Mot Mot in the Arenal
Volcano National Park, Costa Rica



Terri Hutchings
Alice May



John Geldermann
Hagan Smith Takes Flight



Clayton Fox
Colorful Glass



Doreen Lawrence
The Golden Moment



Michael Chapman
Puffin with a Fish



Terri Hutchings
Steeplechase

NEVADA CAMERA CLUB MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Nevada Camera Club shall be to promote the art and science of photography by sharing what is known and continuing to learn with support and respect for one another.

Nevada Camera Club E-Notice

Subscribe to NCC E-Notice to receive timely and important announcements from NCC officers and chairpersons via E-mail. To start your subscription, update your newsletter preferences in your account on the Nevada Camera Club web site.

<http://nevadacc.org>

January 2026 Monthly Electronic Image Competition 1st Place Images

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Janice Phillips
Beautiful but Venomous



Paul Bessette
Another Dam Image



Craig Hicks
Three Against One



Serena Scalzi
Mount Charleston

Blue ribbons



Anita Rama
Floral



Clayton Fox
Covid in Las Vegas



Stephen Cupp
The Back of the Dress



Linda Hicks
Regal Doorway



Julia Mejorada
Drops



Richard Bailey
Li River Mosts



Michael Braunstein
Marilyn



John Johnson
Cloud Beams



Juliana Stratton
The Green House

January 2026 Monthly Electronic Image Competition 1st Place Images

All photos © 2026 by named artists. All rights reserved.

Blue ribbons



Allan Duff
Ship Wreck



Craig Hicks
UNLV Team Entry



Harry Ghuman
Still on Watch



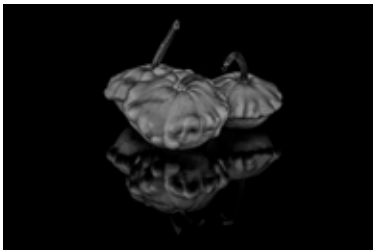
Valerie Christiansen
Antique Bottles



Julia Mejorada
Reflecting After the Rain



Stephen Cupp
My Night at the Zoon



Michael Stratton
Pattypan Squash



Chris Markel
The Bridge at Sunrise



Jennifer Dudek
Collecting



John Johnson
Martinit Curved Glass



Paul Bessette
Wine with Floral Accents

Managing Visual Weight in Photography

by Harry Ghuman, HNCC

In every strong photograph, the viewer's eye doesn't wander randomly — it moves with intention. That sense of direction is not accidental. It's the result of how visual weight is distributed within the frame. Understanding visual weight is one of the most reliable ways photographers can create images that feel balanced, purposeful, and emotionally engaging.

Visual weight refers to how strongly an image element attracts attention. Some objects immediately command the eye, while others recede into supporting roles. The photographer's job is not to eliminate heavy elements, but to control them so the viewer experiences the image as intended.



Visual weight emerges from chromatic contrast and isolation: despite the Eiffel Tower's scale and structural dominance, a single saturated red element becomes the primary focal anchor in the visual hierarchy.

Larger objects generally feel heavier than smaller ones, but position matters just as much. Elements placed near the edges or corners of the frame often feel heavier than those near the center, because they appear to pull the composition outward.

Sharpness and Detail

The eye is drawn to clarity. Sharp, detailed areas carry more visual weight than blurred or soft regions. This is why shallow depth of field is so effective — it increases the subject's weight by reducing competition.

Size and Position

Larger objects generally feel heavier than smaller ones, but position matters just as much. Elements placed near the edges or corners of the frame often feel heavier than those near the center, because they appear to pull the composition outward.

Human and Animal Presence

Faces, eyes, and recognizable human forms carry enormous visual weight. Even a tiny person in a vast landscape can dominate the image if the placement and contrast support it.

Balancing the Frame

Strong compositions are rarely about symmetry alone. More often, they rely on visual equilibrium — a balance created by multiple elements of unequal weight.

What Creates Visual Weight?

Several factors influence how heavy or light something appears in a photograph:

Brightness and Contrast

Bright areas attract attention instantly, especially when surrounded by darker tones. High-contrast edges — such as a sunlit subject against a shadowed background — pull the eye with force. Many photographers use selective brightness or tonal contrast to establish a clear focal point.

Color

Warm colors like red, orange, and yellow feel visually heavier than cool blues and greens. Highly saturated colors also outweigh muted ones. A single red element in an otherwise neutral scene will almost always become dominant, even if it's small.

A single red element in an otherwise neutral scene will almost always become dominant, even if it's small.

Where the Concept of Visual Weight Comes From

The idea of visual weight did not originate with a single photographer or artist. Instead, it evolved over more than a century through psychology, art, and design. Early 20th-century **Gestalt psychologists** studied how humans naturally perceive patterns, contrast, grouping, and balance. Their principles — such as figure-ground separation and visual continuity — explained why certain elements attract attention more strongly than others.

In the 1920s and 1930s, **Bauhaus artists and designers** translated these perceptual ideas into practical composition. They explored how color, brightness, size, texture, and placement create a sense of visual "pull" within an image.

The concept was most clearly articulated in the mid-20th century by art theorist **Rudolf Arnheim**, whose book *Art and Visual Perception* connected human perception to balance, gravity, and visual forces in images. His work remains the strongest theoretical foundation for what photographers now call visual weight.

From the 1980s onward, photography educators adopted and refined these ideas, making visual weight a core compositional tool in modern photographic practice.

Photographers achieve this through techniques such as counterweighting, in which a dominant subject on one side of the frame is balanced by a smaller or quieter element on the other. Negative space also plays a crucial role. Empty areas don't weaken a photograph; they often amplify the subject by giving it room to breathe.

Leading lines and visual flow help distribute weight across the frame. Lines, curves, and repeating patterns act as pathways, guiding the viewer's eye from one element to the next instead of letting it stall or escape.

Using Visual Weight Intentionally

Before pressing the shutter, ask yourself:

Where does my eye go first?

Where does it move next?

Is anything unintentionally distracting?

Does every element support the story or emotion?

Small adjustments — changing your shooting angle, waiting for a subject to move, darkening a background, or simplifying the frame — can dramatically shift visual weight.

Conclusion

Understanding visual weight transforms composition from guesswork into deliberate design. When photographers control what feels heavy or light within a frame, their images gain clarity, impact, and emotional resonance. Strong photographs aren't just seen — they're experienced — and visual weight is the craft that shapes that experience. ●



NEVADA CAMERA CLUB

2026 ANNUAL OPEN PRINT

For assistance contact: Special Competitions Chairperson by email at specialcomps@nevadacc.org or leave a message at 1-866-925-1447.

RULES:

1. WHO MAY ENTER

Open to anyone of any age.

2. WHERE TO ENTER

Entries will be accepted on Friday, March 13, 2026 at the Fellowship Hall of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 8901 Del Webb Blvd., Las Vegas, from **6:00 PM to 6:30 PM**.

3. HOW TO ENTER

For each print, please fill out a separate print entry form. The print entry form must be securely taped on the back of the print in the top center. Also, complete the summary form. Fill out the summary form with details on each of your entries. **Please complete the online version of this form.** Mac users - this form works best in a browser other than Safari.

4. DIVISIONS

(C) Color (M) Monochromatic

5. CATEGORIES

Categories designated with a # are governed by the Special Competitions definitions.

For category definitions, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3hkmt9ee>

(AB) Abstract	(PI) Pictorial
(AP) Animal/Pets	(PJ) Photojournalism*
(CM) Commercial	(PO) Portraiture
(CR) Creative	(ST) Still Life
(DO) Documentary*	(TR) Travel* #
(NA) Nature* #	(UC) Unclassified
(PE) People	(WL) Wildlife* #

*NOTE: No specific category is defined by technique. Subject matter must be the defining parameter. Care must be taken in the Documentary, Nature, Photojournalism, Travel, and Wildlife categories. Normal photographic processes may be used to enhance the image quality in these five reality based categories but must not be used to alter the truth of the photographic statement. This means not altering the factual representation. **All photographic elements of the entries in all categories except Creative must have been taken by the entering photographer.**

6. NUMBER OF ENTRIES AND FEES

Each entrant may submit a total of 8 prints. Entry fee is \$4.00 per print for Nevada Camera Club members and students. All others pay \$5.00 per entry.

7. JUDGING

Prints will be judged by three photographic judges. Judges have the right to recategorize prints. **The decision of the judges is final.**

8. RETURN OF PRINTS

Prints will be returned to photographers at the July program meeting of NCC in the Fellowship Hall of St. Andrew Lutheran Church. Presentation of the entry receipt by anyone will be proof that the individual has permission to pick up prints for the owner. Prints not picked up within 90 days become the property of Nevada Camera Club, P.O. Box 19451, Las Vegas, NV 89132. Under no circumstances may prints be removed from the exhibit during the show.

9. PRINT REQUIREMENTS

The long side of the print must be at least 8". Slimlines are allowed. Exceptions to this rule are allowed for contact prints (must be at least 4"x5") and Polaroid transfer prints (no minimum size). Maximum print size is 16"x20". All entries must be printed on photographic paper. Alternative materials including but not limited to wood, metal or acrylic, for example, are not acceptable. Prints must be **securely** mounted by tape or glue on RIGID stock, e.g., mount board or foamcore. **No hinge mats are allowed.** Heavy materials such as Masonite or Lucite are not acceptable. No loose prints will be accepted.

Minimum mount size is 8"x10". **Maximum mount size is 16"x 20"**. Window mat(s) are optional. No glass or plastic covering or frames are allowed. Prints not in accordance with the above will be disqualified.

10. AWARDS

At the judges' discretion, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and honorable mention ribbons may be awarded for prints in each of the 28 categories. Each category will have a Best of Category image chosen from the two first place division winners in the category. A Best of Show ribbon and a \$100.00 cash prize will be awarded in each division. (Monochromatic and Color).

11. EXHIBIT

By entering the competition, the photographer agrees to have his/her images on display for the entirety of the exhibit. Prints will be on display at the Lloyd D. George United States Courthouse, 333 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89101 from April 7 to June 18, 2026. **No prints may be removed from the exhibition prior to 9:00 AM on June 18, 2026.**

12. MISCELLANEOUS

Prints that have won a first place ribbon in a previous Nevada Camera Club Annual Print Competition are not eligible. Entries must have been photographed by the entrant. Film and prints may be commercially processed. The Nevada Camera Club and the District Court are not responsible for lost or damaged prints. Nude and semi-nude photographs and subject matter not acceptable to District Court officials may not be exhibited. They may, however, be accepted for judging only.

Entry Summary Form - 2026

Name:

Address:

Phone: Email:

CAT	DIV	IMAGE TITLE

Print this form when completed and turn in with images and entry fees.

PRINT ENTRY FORMS
ATTACH TO THE CENTER TOP BACK OF EACH ENTRY.

CATEGORY:	DIVISION:	2026	Name
TITLE OF PRINT:			

CATEGORY:	DIVISION:	2026	
TITLE OF PRINT:			

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CATEGORY:	DIVISION:	2026	
TITLE OF PRINT:			

Nevada Camera Club Contact List

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Vice President	Narcy Alprecht	702-281-2569
Secretary	Jim Ludwick	443-994-4896
Treasurer	Mary Sheets	702-521-9569

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 Linda Hicks 219-477-0750

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Allan Duff 702-682-9688
 Jackie Strat 732-829-8551

Contact us at info@nevadacc.org

Membership Information

Annual dues: \$48 for adults, \$36 for juniors (under 18) and students or seniors (63 and over). Dues are prorated for persons joining after January. Members automatically receive Focal Expressions. For further membership information call Julia Mejorada, 702-300-0348.

Meeting Location Map



Change Service Requested

First Class Mail

1-866-925-1447

Las Vegas, NV 89132

P.O. Box 19451

Nevada Camera Club

