

Focal EXPRESSIONS



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

Someday by Diana Petersen. Awarded a Purple Ribbon with 27 point in Advanced Color Photojournalism



This was taken with my iPhone at the Stetson Wright Invitational, a premier two-night bull riding event featuring top rodeo athletes, held at the Beaver County Fairgrounds in Minersville, Utah. This high-caliber event features world-champion bull riders, including Stetson Wright.

These little boys were all decked out and you just knew “Someday” they would be the ones riding the bulls.

Sometimes it’s not about your equipment it’s about being at the right place at the right time. ●

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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		

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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.

APRIL

- 7 OPENING OF THE 2026 ANNUAL OPEN PRINT COMPETITION EXHIBITION IN THE LOBBY AT THE LLOYD D. GEORGE U.S. COURTHOUSE, 333 S. LAS VEGAS BLVD., 9 AM**
Executive Board Meeting, 7 PM, on Zoom.
- 9 Judge’s Corner on Zoom, 8 PM.
- 10 PROGRAM MEETING FEATURING DAVE MCDUFFIE FROM B&C CAMERA, FELLOWSHIP HALL OF ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7 PM.**
- 11 Beginners Group. 2-4 PM. Fellowship Hall at St. Andrew Lutheran Church
- 17 Entries due for the PSA Special Competition.
- 20 Deadline to submit entry data for the April Monthly Print Competition, 11:59 PM.
- 24 MONTHLY PRINT COMPETITION, FELLOWSHIP HALL OF ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7 PM.** Club Challenge theme: *Life*
- 26 Field trip to Springs Preserve, 9 AM.
- 28 Deadline for May issue of Focal Expressions.

MAY

- 5 Executive Board Meeting, 7 PM, on Zoom.
- 8 PROGRAM MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OF ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7 PM**
- 9-10 Beginner’s Group - Scavenger Hunt Field Trip.**
- 18** Deadline to enter and pay for Monthly Electronic Image Competition, 11:59 PM.
- 22 MONTHLY ELECTRONIC IMAGE COMPETITION MEETING ON ZOOM, 7 PM.** Club Challenge: *Opposites.*

A NEVADA CAMERA CLUB CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT VOTE IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 10. DETAILS ON PAGE 4. YOUR ATTENDANCE IS ENCOURAGED.

President's Message

by Edward Lee Stiglitz, DNCC

Spring is here and it already feels like summer. And while we are making our plans for summer adventures keep in mind the camera club is still here. We will miss you when you are away but can't wait to see your images when you return. This is a great time to learn new things and develop new skills. And the camera club is here to help.



We had a great program with **Jerry Ghionis** on posing and lighting last month, then a Beginner's Group on macro photography. There's more to come, but I would like to hear from you. Is there something you want to learn about? Please let me know and we will see if it can be done.

I would like to thank all of you who have been helping when you can. E-board members, competition helpers, set up volunteers, even the CSO (cookie person) all of us make the camera club what it is. So please keep helping out, keep participating and keep sharing what you have learned. ☺

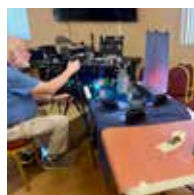
April's Club Challenge

by Edward Lee Stiglitz, DNCC

April's club challenge is "Life," one of my favorite club challenges of the year. It's a broad field which can be so much or can be so little. I think it could be a flower or plant growing in a pot or a field and yet not flowers in a vase or veggies in the supermarket. It could be a newborn or a couple dancing (living life). I can't wait to see how you interpret "Life" in your images. ☺

Beginner's Group

by Serena Scalzi



Last month's Beginners Group was a hands-on event focused on macro photography methods, including macro lenses, close up filters, and extension tubes. A good time was had by all!

This month's Beginners Group will be another hands-on event focused on mat cutting methods, including normal, circle, and oval cuts. Bring a print that you would like to have matted and we will supply the materials. We will also be giving away a deluxe mat cutting kit to one lucky attendee. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at St. Andrew Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 11 from 2pm to 4pm. Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you there! ☺

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Merits

by Linda Hicks, DNCC

Congratulations to the Nevada Camera Club members who accomplished merit awards in March.

500 points	Anita Rama
1500 points (Associate)	Mike Chapman
2500 points (Fellow)	Clayton Fox

The Executive Board has approved a new merit award for which members be awarded upon accruing 16000 merit points during their membership in Nevada Camera Club. This award is designated as the Platinum Award and recipients will receive a trophy honoring that accomplishment at the Annual Awards Celebration. ☺



B&C Camera

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Website: bandccamera.com



Monthly Competition

by Craig Hicks, HNCC

For the month of March, the monthly electronic image competition had a total of 118 entries. Forty-three members entered in 47 unique categories. For comparison, the January monthly electronic competition had 110 entries from 40 members who also entered in 47 unique categories.



Of the 47 unique categories this month the judges chose 39 first place images with scores of 24 or higher. Twenty-seven of these 39 earned blue ribbons and twelve of these 39 first place images received perfect scores of 27 which earned purple ribbons. In total, 15 images earned perfect scores of 27.

Congratulations for those members who earned perfect scores:

Paul Bessette	<i>Measuring Time</i> Simple Blue
Michael Braunstein	<i>WORC</i>
Valerie Christiansen	<i>Illia</i>
Steven Dean	<i>A Hummingbird Flies to Sage</i>
Allan Duff	<i>Bee Breakfast</i>
Clayton Fox	<i>Guarding the Feeder</i>
Jerome Hamilton	<i>Portrait in Jamaica</i> A Walk in a Balloon
Terri Hutchings	<i>Nora</i>
Steve O'Melia	<i>Workin on the Railroad</i>
Diana Petersen	<i>Someday</i>
Jacqueline Peterson	<i>Lunch with One of the Precious Few Gorillas</i> <i>Left, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Uganda</i> <i>A Sparkling Violetear Hummingbird, Costa Rica</i>
Janice Phillips	<i>The Painter</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: **Ed Stiglitz** assisted by **Stephen Cupp**

Score Keeper: **Mary Sheets**

Merits Recorder: **Juliana Stratton**

Judges: **Mike Chapman, Clayton Fox, Ron Fraass, Jerome Hamilton, and Janice Phillips**, with **Craig Hicks** as alternate judge.

Of the forty-three total members who entered images, three members entered images in Beginner categories, four members entered images in Intermediate categories, twenty-six members entered in Advanced categories, nine entered in Master categories and one entered in both Advanced and Master categories.

The Club Challenge topic of *Time* received thirty-four total entries; three in Beginner, four in Intermediate, twenty in Advanced and seven in Master.

The next NCC Monthly Competition will be print and will take place on Friday, April 24 with entry information due no later than Monday, April 20. The April Club Challenge is *Life*.☉

CLUB CHALLENGE THEMES

<u>April (print)</u>	<u>August (print)</u>
<u>Life</u>	<u>Music</u>
<u>May (electronic)</u>	<u>September (electronic)</u>
<u>Opposites</u>	<u>Exactly Seven</u>
<u>June (print)</u>	<u>October (print)</u>
<u>Shadows</u>	<u>Weather</u>
<u>July (electronic)</u>	<u>November (electronic)</u>
<u>Mirrored</u>	<u>Death</u>

Membership

by Julia Mejorada

Welcome to Our Newest and Returning Members!

#2342 **Milton Hudson** has rejoined us. Welcome back! Milton is interested in portraits, headshots, and personal branding.



#2401 **Cindy Rhodes** Cindy joins us as a beginner with interest in Macro photography.

#2402 **Karen Hawk-Zuk** She is drawn to wildlife and landscape photography. Karen is particularly interested in joining our local field trips.

#2403 **Ken Johnson** As a Beginner, Ken is focusing his lens on wildlife and is eager to participate in our upcoming field trips.

#2404 **David Russell** is an enthusiast of landscape photography and a Nikon Z50 II user. A Beginner, David is also looking forward to our field trips.

#2405 **Diane Bedell** Welcome, Diane! She was invited by **Doreen Lawrence** and is interested in our group field trips. Diane is an Intermediate photographer.

#2406 **Miles Young** Miles joins the club with a great deal of enthusiasm for our scheduled field trips, joining as a Beginner.☉

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 May is April 28, 2026. Linda Hicks, editor: publisher@nevadacc.org

2026 Annual Open Print Competition

by Linda Hicks, DNCC

"And the results are in! The winner of Best of Show - Color in the 2026 Annual Open Print Competition is..." No, sorry, I can't tell you. All the results are being kept under wraps until the entries go on display in the lobby at the Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse, 333 S. Las Vegas Blvd., on Tuesday, April 7, at 9 AM. We need your help to get this done. The 149 images entered were carefully examined by our panel of judges, **Dave McDuffie**, **Cathy Peck**, and **Roland Peck**. In just over three hours, they chose the award winners in each of the fourteen categories contested and picked out as well a Best of Show - Color and a Best of Show - Monochrome image.



Those helping out are reminded that a photo ID is needed to enter the courthouse. All visitors are required to go through the security screening at the front entrance. No weapons are allowed in the building.

The closest parking requires payment but for those willing to walk a couple of blocks, free spaces are available on 7th Street. ●

Field Trips

by Edward Lee Stiglitz



Photo from the Amboy Crater field trip

Our April field trip will be to Springs Preserve on Sunday, April 26th. The Preserve opens at 9am but Preserve members are allowed 8am access. Check in with me at the Botanical Garden near the watering can. I'll be sitting on the Kitty Heckendorf bench from 8:00 - 9:30.

The Springs Preserve is a wonderful place to photograph with so much to offer from the gardens to the museum's old town and the butterfly habitat. Entrance fee is \$10 or (free if only using walking trails which includes our meeting location).

Another highlight is the butterfly habitat. It will be open during our field trip. It also opens early for members, which will make it much better for photography. But there is so much more, and a year's membership will encourage you to visit often. But I encourage you to become a member. It's only \$30 and you can get in early and enjoy all there is to be seen in a less crowded environment. ●

Constitution Revision Vote Set for April 10

As dictated by Article XVI of the Nevada Camera Club Constitution & Bylaws, this serves as official notice of a vote to be taken at the General Meeting on April 10. Section 1 of Article XI currently reads that "Election of Club officers and the Board of Trustees shall be held annually at the second meeting in November." It is proposed that "the second" be struck and replaced with "a" so that it reads "Election of Club officers and the Board of Trustees shall be held annually at a meeting in November." An affirmative vote by two-thirds of the members present at the meeting is required for passage. ●

PSA Competitions

by Stephen Cupp, HNCC



So we enter NCC Competitions and have fun, right? Why not try a different competition with different rules and a chance for your images to go up against people from all over the world? Now is your chance. With the PSA Festival being in town this fall, they put on a series of competitions where the winners are shown at the festival itself. Like NCC, they have both print and electronic competitions. The rules are quite different though, so I suggest you read them. The categories and deadlines are listed at <https://psaphotoworldwide.org/general/custom.asp?page=psa-annual-images>.

When you enter a category in a PSA competition you can enter up to 4 images in that category for the same price. In print competition you just enter loose prints. No matting allowed. A small print is 8.5 x 12 or smaller and a large print is between 8x10 and 16x20. You need to allow time for them to get to their destination in the mail because those dates are for them to be received not postmarked. In PSA competitions they have awards, but a certain percentage of them are accepted. The accepted images are shown at the Photo Festival. The electronic images are shown on a projector at certain times and the prints hang in the print room. Depending on space not all the accepted images hang. It just depends on how big the room is. So up your game by entering a PSA Competition! ●

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PSA Liaison

by Jerome Hamilton, DNCC



First, let's talk about the Special Competition for NCC that is for our club's presentation during this year's PSA Photo Festival. Our "2026 PSA-Worldwide Photo Competition" is ONLY for Nevada Camera Club Members. Participation in this competition does count for merit points towards NCC but this does not count towards PSA merits and this is not a PSA sanctioned competition. The basis of this competition is for the Nevada Camera Club Members to have an opportunity to be involved with PSA and to be a part of our club's presentation during the 87th Photo Festival, here in Las Vegas, Nevada. Ed Stiglitz and I will be presenting a slideshow for the Photographic Society of America Worldwide on September 14th as a Welcome to Las Vegas segment.

You still have time to enter [at https://nevadacc.org/2026-psa-worldwide-special-competition](https://nevadacc.org/2026-psa-worldwide-special-competition). You may enter up to 6 images. Entries must be in by April 17th at midnight. There is no entry fee and there are no categories, but the THEME is Las Vegas, Nevada. We want to show the best of our City and State and our close to home Mojave Desert which extends into three other states but that which is within a 50 mile limit of Las Vegas.

The 87th PSA Photo Festival runs from September 13th to the 19th at the RIO Hotel in Las Vegas. This is the very first time that PSA has brought this magical extravaganza to Las Vegas, and this is the place for photographic opportunities, workshops, speakers, tours, and coming to meet likeminded photographers from around the world.

Now, I do understand that we live here, and maybe some tours will feel regular and minimal to us but to the rest of the world it will be magical! Your NCC president and myself are trying to put together a couple of extra exciting things that we all don't see every day, but I'll have to get back to you on that. Right now, the tours scheduled for the PSA Photo Festival by the PSA team include a Murder / Mystery Dinner Theater (one seating) during which I believe a photographer might get murdered! Multiple tours are planned to Valley of Fire, Nelson Ghost Town, and Red Rock Canyon National Park. There are single tours to Shelby America, Photo Walk and the Smith Center, and the Neon Museum that is limited capacity. There will be models during two events, High Fashion Models in Red Rock National Park (limited capacity), and Springs Preserve Tour and Models (also limited capacity).

This is a great opportunity for NCC members to help showcase what makes living in the Las Vegas valley special. Be thinking about signing up and getting involved. ●



Join PSA

For membership information, go to

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

or contact PSA Liaison,

Jerome Hamilton

702-682-9514

Results from the March 2026 Monthly Electronic Image Competition

Abstract

Intermediate – Color

Red	22	Chris Markel	Technicolor
White	21	David Parker	Bench Lines

Advanced – Color

Blue	26	John Johnson	Light Bulb
Red	25	Anita Rama	Untitled-1
White	23	Jon Hayslip	Knights Helmet

Advanced – Monochrome

Blue	25	Ken Lawrence	Dew Web
Red	22	Michael Chapman	Endurance

Animals/Pets

Beginner – Color

Blue	24	Eric Courtney	Sad Pug
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Advanced – Color

Blue	25	Steven Dean	A Bumblebee Visits My Garden
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Commercial

Advanced – Color

Blue	24	Dale Kavula	Love Being Here
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Creative

Intermediate – Color

Blue	25	Stephanie Phillips	Shem Creek, Charleston, SC
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Intermediate – Monochrome

Blue	25	Serena Scalzi	Sin City Shadows
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Advanced – Color

Blue	26	Diana Petersen	Little Chief
Red	26	Julie Chadburn	Olive Branch
White	24	Gina Geldbach-Hall	Alaskan Peaks

Advanced – Monochrome

Blue	24	Gina Geldbach-Hall	Moon Over Aspen
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Master – Color

Blue	25	Linda Hicks	Star
Red	25	Terri Hutchings	Italian sunset

Documentary

Beginner – Color

Purple	27	Jacqueline Peterson	Lunch with One of the Precious Few Gorillas Left, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Uganda
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Intermediate – Color

Blue	24	Stephanie Phillips	ATM New York City
Red	23	Chris Markel	I'm Not on the Pavement

Intermediate – Monochrome

Red	23	Serena Scalzi	St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
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Advanced – Color

Blue	24	Juliana Stratton	Maine Lobster Wharf
Red	23	Sandy Cornwell	Rawley Point Lighthouse
White	24	Dale Kavula	Man and Horse in Sync, Polo Match
----	23	Sheri Ann Forbes	Front Man Jake
----	21	Philip Cenicola	Death Valley Bloom

Continued on page 6

Results from the March 2026 Monthly Electronic Image Competition

Continued from page 5

Master – Color

Blue	25	Steve O'Melia	Diesel Locomotive 250
Red	25	Craig Hicks	Nevada Petroglyphs
White	23	Harry Ghuman	Pushing the Break

Nature/Wildlife

Beginner – Color

Purple	27	Jacqueline Peterson	A Sparkling Violetear Hummingbird, Costa Rica
Red	23	David Parker	Beach Bird

Advanced – Color

Purple	27	Steven Dean	A Hummingbird Flies to Sage
Red	27	Allan Duff	Bee Breakfast
White	24	Cheryl Thielhorn	Beauty And The Beast
-----	22	Valerie Christiansen	Death Valley
-----	21	Anita Rama	American White Pelican with Fish

Advanced – Monochrome

Blue	26	Ken Lawrence	Ndutu Crossing
Red	26	Michael Stratton	Eating Fresh Caught Sushi

Master – Color

Blue	26	Doreen Lawrence	Perched in Light
Red	23	Richard Bailey	First Look at Forever

People

Beginner – Color

Red	23	Eric Courtney	Photographers Having Fun!
White	22	Scott Ryberg	Red Robin

Advanced – Color

Purple	27	Jerome Hamilton	Portrait in Jamaica
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Advanced – Monochrome

Red	21	Rolando Adriano	My Lovely Bride
White	21	Jim Ludwick	Scarey Figure in the Subway

Master – Monochrome

Purple	27	Steve O'Melia	Workin on the Railroad
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Photojournalism

Intermediate – Color

Blue	24	Julia Mejorada	Annie Leibovitz 2026
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Advanced – Color

Purple	27	Valerie Christiansen	Illia
Red	26	Michael Braunstein	Forehand Volley
White	25	John Johnson	Frank's Night Out

Advanced – Monochrome

Purple	27	Diana Petersen	Someday
Red	27	Michael Braunstein	WORC

Master – Color

Blue	25	Craig Hicks	Out of Bounds
Red	23	Richard Bailey	Whale Surfaces Near Shore
White	23	Doreen Lawrence	Echoes on Rawhide

Pictorial

Intermediate – Color

Red	23	Julia Mejorada	Spring
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Advanced – Color

Blue	26	Allan Duff	Surf and Sun
Red	24	Michael Stratton	Palouse Farm
White	24	Paul Bessette	A Quiet Spot

-----	25	Janice Phillips	Badwater Basin Sunset
-----	24	Philip Cenicola	Badwater Stroll
-----	23	Julie Chadburn	Crete Senesi

Advanced – Monochrome

Blue	25	Jon Hayslip	Cryptoportiques d'Arles
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Master – Color

Blue	26	Harry Ghuman	Path to Stillness
Red	27	Clayton Fox	Guarding the Feeder

Portraiture

Advanced – Color

Purple	27	Janice Phillips	The Painter
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Advanced – Monochrome

Blue	25	Sheri Ann Forbes	Curlers In Your Hair...!
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Master- Monochrome

Purple	27	Terri Hutchings	Nora
Red	24	Stephen Cupp	Charlie

Still Life

Advanced – Color

Purple	27	Paul Bessette	Simple Blue
Red	25	Jim Ryan	Spiral Staircase
White	21	Sandy Cornwell	Barrel Cactus Flowers

Advanced – Monochrome

Blue	25	Jim Ryan	Guardians of Pedrera
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Unclassified

Intermediate – Color

Blue	24	Jeff Hahn	Neon Bike
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Intermediate – Monochrome

Blue	25	Jeff Hahn	Bellagio Fountain
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Advanced – Color

Purple	27	Jerome Hamilton	A Walk in a Balloon
Red	26	Rolando Adriano	Neatly Stacked
White	24	Juliana Stratton	Peaceful Waterway
-----	23	Michael Chapman	Mission San Jose del Cabo
-----	22	Jim Ludwick	What the Camera Saw; What I Saw

Master – Color

Blue	26	Clayton Fox	B1B
Red	25	Stephen Cupp	My Bee on My Mexican Sunflower

Master- Monochrome

Red	23	Linda Hicks	A Touch of the Old West
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Club Challenge – Time

Beginner

Blue	24	Eric Courtney	Suspended in Time
Red	25	Scott Ryberg	Hour Glass
White	25	Jacqueline Peterson	A Century of Smiles

Intermediate

Red	23	Julia Mejorada	Chronos
White	24	Chris Markel	I'm This Many
-----	22	Serena Scalzi	Two Times Two
-----	21	David Parker	Northern Nevada Springtime Flowers

Continued on page 7

Advanced

Purple	27	Paul Bessette	Measuring Time
Red	26	Julie Chadburn	Fragments of Time
White	25	Ken Lawrence	Distance and Time, Light Years Away
----	25	Rolando Adriano	Selfies Over Time, 1982-2022
----	25	Michael Chapman	Time's Canvas
----	25	Jerome Hamilton	Time in Prague
----	25	Janice Phillips	Hanging Onto Time
----	24	Sandy Cornwell	3/4 Time
----	24	Allan Duff	Time Pieces
----	24	Sheri Ann Forbes	Sands of Time
----	24	Gina Geldbach-Hall	Meeting on Time!
----	24	Jim Ludwick	Time for Renovation of Iconic Building
----	24	Steve O'Melia	3 O:Clock CooCoo Clock
----	24	Juliana Stratton	Old Timer
----	24	Michael Stratton	Pocket Watch
----	23	Jon Hayslip	Festina
----	23	Dale Kavula	1962 Solari Board Precursor to All Flight Info Boards Today
----	22	Philip Cenicola	A Macro-second in Time
----	22	Anita Rama	Good Morning
----	21	Diana Petersen	Swallows All Gone

Master

Blue	26	Craig Hicks	Worn by Time
Red	26	Doreen Lawrence	Desert Clock
White	24	Valerie Christiansen	Sands of Time
----	24	Clayton Fox	Timex Time
----	24	Harry Ghuman	Before the Hour
----	22	Linda Hicks	It's Knight Time
----	22	Terri Hutchings	Where Time Stands Still



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>

Programs

by Jerome Hamilton, DNCC

While I was assisting with the NCC Outside Competition and helping the judges understand the Nevada Camera Club Competition Categories and Judging Guidelines I met **Dave McDuffie**. Now I have bought things from Dave at the B&C Camera store but this time I really got to talk to him and got to know him a little bit more. We had three judges present, and while they all did an amazing job, some of the comments that I heard from Mr. McDuffie stood out in my mind. It was at that point that I said to myself, "Dave would make a great program".

Dave McDuffie is already a Photographic Educator, teaching classes over at the B&C Hub, next door to the B&C Camera Store. One of the titles I have seen lately is "How to get out of Auto Mode". Other times you can find Dave helping and assisting every customer in the store as Dave owns every brand of camera (Canon, Fuji, Nikon, Pentax...I think he even told me he had an Olympus, except no Lieca. That does make him pretty well versed with the settings on just about every camera brand on the market.

I have asked Dave to come and present something on April 10th. I'm hoping for some of the comments I heard him talk about at the competition judging...lighting and direction of light...the importance of composition...not cutting off hands and feet in any people images.

Be sure to come and meet Dave McDuffie at the April Program Meeting.

See his complete biography at B&C Camera website <https://store.bandccamera.com/pages/classes>. Look for "How to Get Out of Auto Mode." ☉

Judge's Corner

by Jerome Hamilton, DNCC

"It's time to get back to another "The Judges Corner"". Well, that's what I wrote last month. As it turned out, nobody missed anything, because NCC had a plethora of electronic malfunctions. Besides the Zoom meeting mishap, we also struggled on the viewers end with the YouTube link for the monthly competition.

Now I am still in the middle of a company move, but I have carved out Thursday, April 9th for the Judges Corner. I'm going to do a later version from 8pm for about 30-45 minutes. I do have some images from last month and I have requested a couple from this past electronic competition for discussion. Please remember you can always send in more. Send images to jerome@studiotime.us and please put Judges Corner in the subject line because that is how I search for new emails. Hope to see you soon.

A photo critique is a detailed, constructive review of a photograph, analyzing its technical, artistic, and storytelling merits to help the photographer improve. Unlike simple feedback ("nice shot"), a good critique explains *why a photo works or doesn't*, covering *lighting, composition, focus, and, when needed, suggesting improvements*. ☉



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Cropping with Intent - How One Photograph Can Tell Different Stories

by Harry Ghuman, HNCC

Cropping is often treated as a final cleanup step—removing excess space or straightening a horizon. In reality, it is one of the most powerful compositional tools available to photographers. By redefining the boundaries of the frame, cropping allows us to control visual weight, simplify distractions, and guide the viewer's eye. A single photograph can support multiple visual narratives depending on how it is cropped. The following examples illustrate how different crops from the same original image can emphasize different aspects of the scene.



Cropping also allows photographers to control the edges of the frame, eliminating bright or distracting elements that can pull the viewer's eye away from the subject.

Original Image – The Environmental Context

In the original photograph, the entire landscape is visible: foreground snow, the band of trees, Mount Shasta rising behind them, and dramatic clouds overhead. This wide composition tells a story about place and atmosphere. The foreground provides depth, the trees create scale, and the clouds add visual drama.



Original Composition

Wide environmental compositions can sometimes include elements that dilute the main subject. This is where cropping becomes a powerful design decision.

Example 1 – Reducing the Foreground

In this crop, much of the lower foreground has been removed. The mountain now occupies a larger portion of the frame, and the viewer's eye reaches the subject more quickly. The band of trees remains important because it provides a sense of scale and separates the foreground from the mountain. By reducing the amount of foreground texture, the composition becomes cleaner and more focused. This type of crop is often effective in competitions because it strengthens subject dominance.



Foreground Reduction Crop

Continued on page 9

Example 2 – A Portrait of the Mountain

A tighter crop transforms the photograph from an environmental landscape into a portrait of the mountain itself. Most of the foreground is removed, leaving the mountain and the clouds as the primary visual elements.

This crop emphasizes the shape, texture, and light on the mountain. The viewer's attention is no longer divided among multiple elements; instead, the mountain becomes the clear focal point.

Cropping in this way simplifies the image and increases visual impact.



Mountain Portrait Crop

Example 3 – Emphasizing Sky and Atmosphere

Another possible approach is to emphasize the dramatic clouds above the mountain. By keeping more of the sky and reducing the foreground, the photograph becomes a study of weather and atmosphere.

In this version, the clouds become an equal partner with the mountain in telling the story of the scene.

This illustrates an important principle: sometimes the sky is not just background—it is part of the subject.



Sky Emphasis Crop

Lessons from These Crops

These examples show how cropping can dramatically change the viewer's experience of a photograph.

Cropping can:

- strengthen the dominance of the subject
- remove distracting elements near the edges
- simplify the composition
- shift the narrative of the image

Most importantly, cropping should reinforce the photographer's intent. The goal is not simply to remove pixels but to guide the viewer toward what matters most in the scene.

The next time you review an image, consider experimenting with several crops before deciding on the final frame. Often the strongest photograph is already inside the frame—you simply have to find it.

Before finalizing a crop, ask:

1. What is the clear subject?
2. Does the eye reach it quickly?
3. Are there distractions near the edges?
4. Is the foreground helping or competing?
5. Does a different aspect ratio improve the composition?

March 2026 Monthly Electronic Image Competition Perfect Score Images

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Steven Dean
A Hummingbird Flies to Sage

27s



Steve O'Melia
Workin' on the Railroad



Paul Bessette
Measuring Time



Jerome Hamilton
Portrait in Jamaica



Janice Phillips
The Painter



Valerie Christiansen
Illia



Jacqueline Peterson
Lunch with One of the Precious Few
Gorillas Left, Bwindi Impenetrable
Forest, Uganda



Allan Duff
Bee Breakfast



Terri Hutchings
Nora



Paul Bessette
Simple Blue



Jacqueline Peterson
A Sparkling Violetear Hummingbird,
Costa Rica



Jerome Hamilton
A Walk in a Balloon

March 2026 Monthly Electronic Competition 1st Place Images

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Blue ribbons



Ken Lawrence
Ndotu Crossing



Dale Kavula
Love Being Here



Juliana Stratton
Maine Lobster Wharf



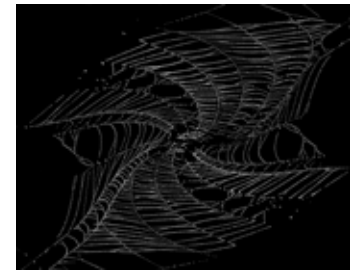
Allan Duff
Surf and Sun



John Johnson
Light Bulb



Eric Courtney
Sad Pug



Ken Lawrence
Dew Webb



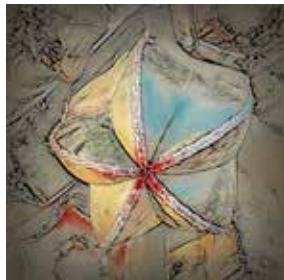
Steven Dean
A Bumblebee Visits My Garden



Diana Petersen
Little Chief



Stephanie Phillips
Shem Creek, Charleston, SC



Linda Hicks
Star



Steve OMelia
Diesel Locomotive 250



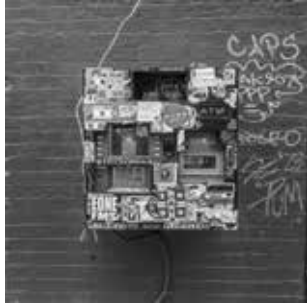
Craig Hicks
Out of Bounds

March 2026 Monthly Electronic Image Competition 1st Place Images

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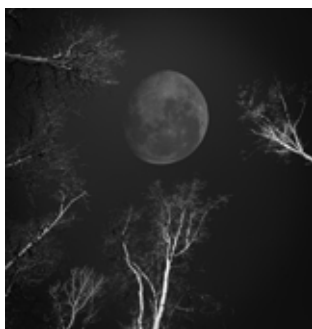
Harry Ghuman
Path to Stillness



Stephanie Phillips
ATM New York City



Jon Hayslip
Cryptoportiques d'Arles



Gina Geldbach-Hall
Moon Over Aspen

Blue ribbons



Serena Scalzi
Sin City Shadows



Doreen Lawrence
Perched in Light



Sheri Ann Forbes
Curlers in Your Hair...!



Craig Hicks
Worn by Time



Jim Ryan
Guardians of Pedrera



Julia Mejorada
Annie Lebovitz 2026



Clayton Fox
B1B



Eric Courtney
Suspended in Time

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.



Nevada Camera Club Contact List

NCC Officers

President	Edward Lee Stiglitz	702-271-5011
Vice President	Narcy Alprecht	702-281-2569
Secretary	Jim Ludwick	443-994-4896
Treasurer	Mary Sheets	702-521-9569

NCC Committees and Trustees

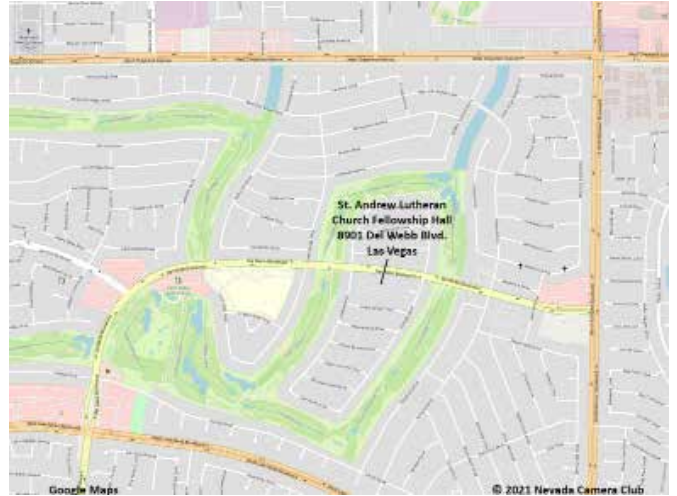
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Contact us at info@nevadacc.org

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, mejoradajulia@gmail.com

Meeting Location Map



Change Service Requested

First Class Mail

Nevada Camera Club
P.O. Box 19451
Las Vegas, NV 89132
1-866-925-1447

