

JANUARY 2026

Schedule Meetings/Locations:

NOTE – IN GENERAL, MEETINGS ON THE 2ND MONDAY WILL BE HELD IN PERSON. ALL OTHER MEETINGS WILL BE VIRTUAL. (Unless otherwise noted in the schedule.)

Board Meeting:

1st Monday of the Month* 7:00 PM
(Zoom-virtual)

In Person Meeting:

2nd Monday of the Month* 7:15 PM
First Baptist Church of West
Hartford
90 North Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107

Competition Meeting:

3rd Monday of the Month* 7:15 PM
(Zoom-virtual)

General Meeting:

4th Monday of the Month* 7:15 PM
(Zoom-virtual)

*Unless otherwise noted in schedule

Above meetings are held from
September through April (except
December)

Charter Oak Photographic Society, Inc. [COPS]



General Schedule of Events

Charter Oak Photographic Society, Inc. 2025-2026 Schedule

Month	In Person Meetings**	Competition Judging (Virtual by Zoom)	General Meetings (Virtual by Zoom**)	Other Activities
September	Monday, September 22, 2025 "Photographing Models" with Tom Cuchara, HonNEC of Hamden, CT	N/A	Monday, September 29, 2025 "Finding Your Creative Voice" by Richard Lewis of New Jersey	Check the FOCUS for details on other opportunities as they come up.
October	Monday, October 13, 2025 "Small Group Photo Sharing and Critiques" by COPS Members	Monday, October 20, 2025 Specified Topic: PSA Nature	Monday, October 27, 2025 "Printing Demystified" by Robert Chaplin of Florida	
November	Monday, November 10, 2025 "In the Style of..." by Stan Tetrault of Tolland, CT; "Favorite Places to Photograph in CT" by COPS Members	Monday, November 17, 2025 Specified Topic: Intentional Camera Movement	Monday, November 24, 2025 "A Foundation for the Macro World" by Doug Johnson of Colorado	
December No Meetings in December (Happy Holidays!)			
January	Monday, January 12, 2026 "Small Group Photo Sharing and Critiques" by COPS Members	Monday, January 19, 2026 Specified Topic: Within 30 Minutes of Your Home	Monday, January 26, 2026 "Inside Smart Photo Editor" by Hazel Meredith of Tennessee	*Note: Special Dates for These Events **Unless otherwise noted
February	Monday, February 9, 2026 "Fix Your Photo" by Mark Teitelbaum of West Hartford and Steve Silk of Farmington, CT	Monday, February 16, 2026 Specified Topic: Geometry in Nature (Macro)	Monday, February 23, 2026 "Photographing Nome Alaska" by Henry Doyle of Kentucky	
March	Monday, March 9, 2026 "Zoo Photography" by Meredith Harris of Farmington, CT	Monday, March 16, 2026 Specified Topic: Cell Phone Photographs	Monday, March 23, 2026 "Nightscape/Astro Photography" by Royce Bair of Utah	
April	Monday, April 13, 2026 "TBD" by Phil Atiyeh of Cheshire, CT	Monday, April 20, 2026 Specified Topic: In the Style of Famous Photographers	Monday, April 27, 2026 "Capturing Motion" by Betsy Wilson of Pennsylvania	
May	None	Monday, May 11, 2026* Judging for Annual Awards JUDGES ONLY – CLOSED TO MEMBERS	Monday, May 18 2026* "Mini Shows" by COPS Members (IN PERSON)	
..... No Meetings during the Summer				

TWO MORE NEW MEMBERS!

We have two new/returning members: Martin Futoma of Newington jfutoma@cox.net and Edith Parizo, also of Newington, eparizo@sbcglobal.net. Please reach out to them and make them feel genuinely welcome.

COPS GENERAL CLUB NEWS

- 1) January's Competition Specified Topic is "Within 30 Minutes of Your Home". Here is a chance to share your beautiful work capturing a nearby location you enjoy. You are welcome to submit your images **until January 11th at 11:30pm**. The Competition Meeting will be conducted via Zoom, as usual, and is scheduled for January 19th at 7:15pm.
- 2) We are continuing the inclusion of **snacks** availability during our monthly in-person meeting. This is an opportunity to enjoy some **goodies** and chat with other Members in the kitchen both before, and during, the meeting. To make this happen, we need volunteers to bring **snacks** such as **cookies/cakes/etc.** **Please offer** to express your support by letting Gert Perry know via email at gertp@att.net prior to the in-person meetings what you are prepared to contribute.
- 3) As we approach the middle of our 2025/26 season, we would like to hear from **YOU, our membership**, on how well the current Programs and Workshops are meeting your needs and expectations.
Are there any topics which you would like to see in the future?
[e.g.- Maybe AI, portrait posing, Sport or Travel photography? How about drone photography, or any particular software issues and tools that you need help with?
Please help us help you by giving us your thoughts and suggestions and we will try our best to incorporate what you would like to see in future sessions. Send an email to Joyce Niejako (jen0922@mac.com) at your earliest convenience, so your input can be reviewed and discussed.

IN-PERSON WORKSHOP MEETING: JANUARY 12th

Our January workshop brings the return of small group image sharing. This is a chance to show and discuss our images with other COPS members, including giving and receiving feedback on the strong points of the images and potential ways to improve them. This is a great way to learn from each other in a no pressure, non-competitive situation. Bring up to 5 images to be discussed with the group. The pictures can be jpeg images (on your laptop) or prints.

Please join us in person on January 12 at **7:15 PM** at the First Baptist Church, 90 North Main Street, West Hartford, and come ahead of that for refreshments and socializing.

HEADS UP: IN-PERSON WORKSHOP: FEBRUARY 9th

Join us on February 9 for **“Fix Your Photo”**, a hands-on session where participants previously submitted RAW files (preferable) or JPEGs they’re struggling to edit—whether the problem is technical, creative, or simply “I’m not sure what this image wants to be.” In the workshop, using Lightroom/ACR, Mark Teitelbaum and Steve Silk will walk through practical, clear solutions to these challenges, showing multiple editing approaches and explaining why they work.

As described in earlier MailChimp messages sent to all Members, Mark and Steve will choose from images sent to them prior to January 3rd via email or WeTransfer.

PROGRAM MEETING: JANUARY 26th

Our speaker for January’s Program Meeting is Hazel Meredith [APSA, HonNEC] of Tennessee. She will be speaking on the subject of “Inside Smart Photo Editor”. This is an inexpensive, yet powerful, program for basic editing as well as thousands of creative looks. Give your images the look of a watercolor painting, grungy drama, and much more. Smart Photo Editor’s ever-growing community of enthusiastic users has produced thousands of sophisticated effects for you to use. This makes it the world’s largest library of effects for you to browse and use in your photographs. Effects can be easily customized and tuned to your exact needs and are grouped into styles to
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speed your workflow. You can produce artistic effects; black & white effects; double exposures and composite images in this easy-to-use program.

Hazel is an award-winning photographer and a sought-after teacher, speaker, and competition judge. She began teaching in 2007, and now does seminars at camera clubs and conferences across the U.S.— both in-person and virtual. She offers her own workshops and webinars, and has done webinars for several software companies. She has written two eBooks on working with textures, and released two creative courses. She and her husband, Dave, produce the “Virtual Creative Photography Conference” with attendees from around the world. Hazel loves the creative aspect of photography and post-processing, especially the use of textures and software to create unique images. She is actively involved with the photographic community, and has held leadership roles and received honorary distinctions from several organizations. In the Fall of 2020 she was the recipient of the Ashbrook Award for Digital Imaging Instruction from the Photographic Society of America.

MEMBER-to-MEMBER SALES/GIVEAWAYS

This space affords Members the opportunity to make a Member-to-Member sale of your photographic equipment and/or supplies. COPS Inc. will not be a direct participant and thus will have no liability in any transactions. Interested sellers are welcome to send me (Jack Strand) an email [jack_strand@yahoo.com] with the text which you request be considered for inclusion in the next issue of FOCUS.

This month

From Stan Tetrault:

- Canon EOS 5D Mark II, body only. Condition: Used, good
Workhorse of a camera, with charger and 2 batteries, CMOS sensor, approx. 21 megapixels. Some signs of wear on body. \$400.

If you are interested, reach out to Stan at: stantetrault@comcast.net

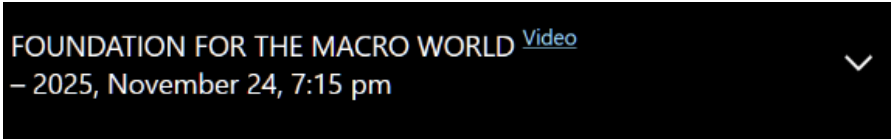
From Mark Teitelbaum: Large Assortment of Film Era Filters free to a good home. A box full of colored filters from reds through blues. They're in a variety of sizes. Also included are a few small tripods including a small spider/octopus tripod. Contact Mark Teitelbaum at 860-402-3891.

COPS MAIN WEBSITE NEWS
[from Steve Potashner]

1. Video recordings of program presentations. A recent program presentation was recorded as a video, and we will try to record upcoming presentations. These videos will be available only to members.

To view them, **members must log in**. After log in, there are three ways to access these videos:

A. In the menu, select EVENTS > PROGRAMS > then click on the word 'Video' following the presentation title (see example below). Then click on the MEMBERS AREA link > in the Members Area, click the RECORDED PROGRAMS BUTTON.



FOUNDATION FOR THE MACRO WORLD [Video](#)
– 2025, November 24, 7:15 pm

B. Use the menu to select COMPETITIONS > MEMBER LOGIN & MEMBERS AREA > click the MEMBERS AREA BUTTON > in the Members Area, click the RECORDED PROGRAMS BUTTON.

C. Use the menu to select HOME > INDEX > scroll down to Programs > click the RECORDED PROGRAMS link.

2. The slides and images from the Workshop presentations “In the style of famous photographers” and Favorite CT places to photograph” are available. In the menu, select LEARN > FROM OUR WORKSHOPS > then scroll down to the section on OTHER TOPICS.

3. Two new video tutorials on troubleshooting print brightness and color are available. In the menus, select LEARN > POST PROCESSING > then scroll down to VIDEOS.

4. The Members Area has a new look. In the menu, select COMPETITIONS > MEMBER LOGIN & MEMBERS AREA > MEMBER LOGIN BUTTON to log in and be redirected to the MEMBERS AREA.

5. For Competition Chairs. Three new tutorial videos are available about how to update the newly designed Year-To-Date spreadsheet using the Libre Office Calc program. In the menus, select COMPETITIONS > COMPETITION CHAIR > COMPETITION CHAIR PAGE > scroll down to TRAINING VIDEOS > select video 6A, 6B or 6C.

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6. Lauren Wang, a new member, has contributed a new Personal Gallery of superb under-water images. They are on view here ... <https://charteroakphoto.org/personal-galleries/>

REVISED: PERSONAL GALLERIES INTRODUCTION [from Steve Potashner]

The COPS Main Website offers an excellent opportunity to display 'Personal Galleries' of members' images. Each gallery is similar to a mini portfolio of images chosen by the participating member, and can contain up to 20 images (minimum of 6). Some or all images may be changed at any time. These galleries present an opportunity for members who do not compete regularly, and those who do, to display examples of their best images.

Examples of Personal Galleries can be found here <https://charteroakphoto.org/personal-galleries/>

If you have not yet made a Personal Gallery and are interested in displaying one, please select your images and resize them as indicated below. Then, send me an email (sjpotashner@sbcglobal.net) stating that (1) you "... would like to display images in a Personal Gallery on the COPS Main Website" and (2) attach your images to the message. We all look forward to seeing your Gallery.

If you already have a Personal Gallery, you may replace some or all of your gallery images, or enlarge your gallery (maximum of 20 images), at any time. To do so, send an email message to me (sjpotashner@sbcglobal.net) and (1) identify any images which should be deleted from your current gallery. If you want to enlarge your gallery, state that in the message. (2) Attach the new images to the message. New images should be sized as indicated below.


Image size: Longest dimension = 1440 px; resolution = up to 300 dpi; file type = .jpg; file size < 2 MB.

Remember, some email apps reduce the size of images attached to email messages, so set your email app to send full size images.


NEWS FLASH!

Go view a terrific artistic collaboration by esteemed COPS Member, Steve Silk.

Photography by
Steve Silk



Awe: Heart & Horizon



**Simsbury
Library**
January 3-30, 2025

Reception
Program Room
January 3, 3-4:30
Public Welcome

Paintings by
Kate Emery

Who: Paintings by Kate Emery; Photography by **Steve Silk**

What: “Awe: Heart & Horizon”

Where: Simsbury Public Library

When: January 3–30, 2025

For more information, contact Kate Emery at Kate@KateEmery.com or Steve Silk at silk.steve@yahoo.com

THERE's STILL TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES!

This is a friendly reminder that, if you have not done so already, you can still pay your annual dues. Recognizing that there are a variety of personal circumstances, there are five types of memberships, each with a different annual dues amount. The descriptions and requisite forms can be downloaded from the COPS Main Website at <https://charteroakphoto.org/become-a-member/>

REMINDER: NEW MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE!

We will be holding a raffle to encourage gaining more new members!

One raffle ticket will be given to each member in good standing for every new member they bring in. At the end of the club season, one ticket will be drawn. The winner will receive a **free** club membership for the upcoming season. The more new members you bring in, the better your chances to win!

PSA OPPORTUNITY FROM MARK FOX:

**PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
WORLDWIDE**

PHOTOGRAPHY FROM ABOVE
ALL ABOUT DRONES AND HOW TO
MAKE BEAUTIFUL IMAGES USING ONE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13TH
6 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME

PETER SCIFRES



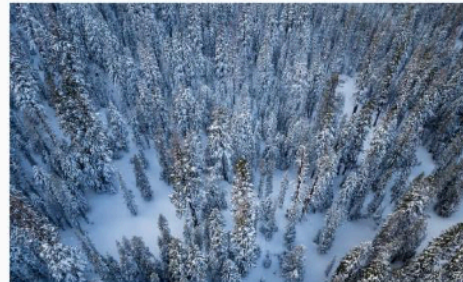
Are you looking for a new way to make original, impactful images? Then consider drone photography. While there are challenges and a learning curve, rapid improvements in technology have put this in reach of most of us. Peter is going to discuss the Whys, Whats, Wheres, and Hows of drone photography and hopefully get PSA members to consider this. Using a drone is something new, different, and exciting. It can be an excuse to revisit locations. And you can continue to spend money on photography equipment!



2026 Webinar



All Images Peter Scifres © 2025



[Webinar Registration Link](#)

MONTHLY COMPETITION STANDINGS AS OF NOVEMBER 2025

2025-2026 YTD Results

Name	Total # of Images Using the Highest 2 Scoring Images	Total Points	Total Points Using the Highest 2 Scoring Images	1st Prize	Mention
Masters					
Steve Silk	4	165.0	112.5	2	1
Ira Scheinerman	4	159.5	110.0	2	1
Cindy Gosselin	4	163.5	110.0	2	1
Tom Griswold	4	154.0	106.5	2	2
Stan Tetrault	4	152.0	104.5	2	1
Paula Fink	4	152.0	104.5	1	0
Mark Teitelbaum	4	153.0	104.5	1	2
Chris Quallen	4	153.5	104.0	1	2
Pam Hastings	4	150.5	101.5	0	0
Salon					
Steve Potashner	4	155.0	105.5	2	1
Mark Bamberger	4	127.0	104.0	1	0
Rich Rosania	4	149.0	103.5	2	2
Jim Brodey	4	101.5	101.5	0	0
Emery Thomas	4	101.5	101.5	0	3
Laura Reinwald	4	146.5	100.5	1	1
Jim Oliphant	4	145.5	100.5	2	1
David Hintz	4	145.5	98.0	0	0
Mark Fox	4	142.0	97.5	1	0
Lynda Hintz	4	143.0	96.5	0	0
Chris Thomas	4	96.5	96.5	0	0
Marci James	4	140.0	96.0	0	0
Frank James	4	112.5	91.5	0	1
Martin Krucinski	2	74.5	51.5	1	1
Lee Wilcox	0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Lily Vogelpohl	0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Joyce Niejako	0	0.0	0.0	0	0