

MARCH 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 "Going to the Dark Side" by Royce Bair of Utah | |
| April | Monday, April 13, 2026 "Four Creative Techniques that will Rock Your World" 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 | | | | |

THE NEW MEMBER HOT STREAK CONTINUES!

We have still another new member! Edith (Edie) Parizo, a photographer living in Newington thankfully elected to join the Charter Oak community. When you see her, say “Hi” to let her know that she is genuinely welcome.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT [from Gert Perry]

As I am writing this, it's difficult to believe that Spring is around the corner because it is snowing huge flakes.

Aren't we fortunate to have two of our monthly meetings via Zoom??? Otherwise, some of our meetings might not have occurred.

Monday, the 9th, there will be another nifty in-person meeting. Club member Meredith Harris will share her “Zoo Photography” workshop, new member Edie Parizo is bringing yummy cookies, and we will have our “It's Cold Outside” print competition to be voted on by attendees.

Field Trip: There is a yearly Orchid Show in West Hartford's Town Hall on March 22. Further information will be sent to the membership soon. If you like macro....this is for you!!! Amazing orchids.... Amazing displays....

It takes many kind and generous volunteers to make Charter Oak successful. Please, please seriously consider volunteering for the following:

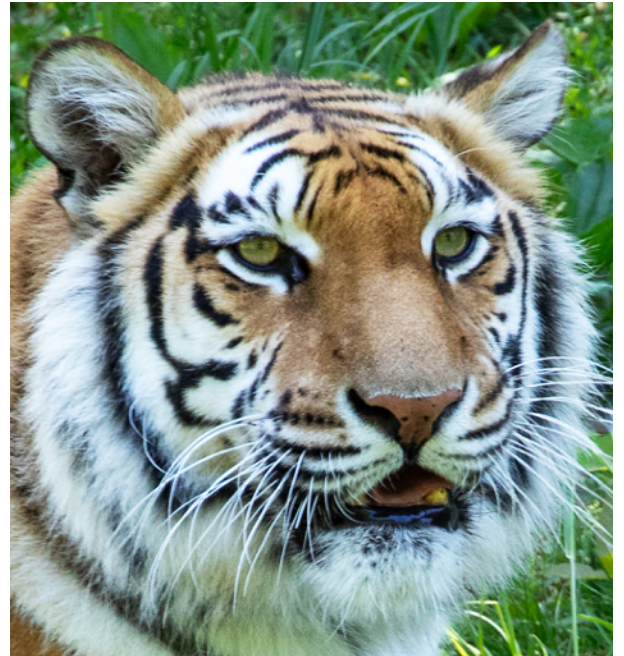
1. The **Workshop committee** needs one additional member. They are the group in charge of our monthly In Person Meetings. There are already two experienced members on this committee who will work with whoever joins the group. This role enables one of our monthly meetings.
2. **Judges Chairperson:** This person, or even better, a pair of people, book judges from other clubs for our competitions. They also find judges from among our club members to judge for other clubs. The current Judges Chairperson (Laura) will work with the incoming person(s) to get comfortable and be an ongoing guide to them. THIS KEY POSITION COMPLETELY ENABLES ONE OF OUR SIGNATURE MONTHLY MEETINGS TO OCCUR. PLEASE REACH OUT TO ME IF YOU MIGHT CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING!

IN-PERSON WORKSHOP: MARCH 9th

Zoo Photography

Our March in-person meeting talk will focus on photography at zoos. COPS member, Meredith Harris, will discuss general tips for taking images of animals and provide suggestions for dealing with the unique photographic challenges and opportunities found at zoos. An overview of some “local” zoos, wildlife refuges, and other wildlife spots will also be discussed.

Join us Monday, March 9 at the First Baptist Church, 90 North Main St. in West Hartford. The program begins at 7:15 PM EDT. Come early for refreshments and socializing. Doors open at 6:30PM EDT.



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.

PROGRAM MEETING: MARCH 23rd

"Going to the Dark Side"

How-to for Astro-Landscape Photography by Royce Bair

From Royce Bair: "Half the park is after dark" is a catchy slogan used by our national parks, and I'm encouraging people to discover this unique world with their photographic night vision.

During the past two decades I've been able to avoid the crowds in our public lands and find amazing beauty and solitude in places that are oftentimes crawling with tourists in the daytime — it's like a whole new world of photographic opportunity!

In my "Going to the Dark Side" presentation I hope to not only get people excited about "nightsapes" but help them find new ways of seeing and enhancing their nighttime compositions. If photographers have tried astro-landscape photography in the past and found it challenging, I will help them break some of the technical barriers and help make it more fun and fulfilling.

If a seasoned photographer thinks they've already figured it out, I can assure them that there is much more to learn. I will teach advanced photographers new techniques that are opening up many exciting horizons in the nightscape genre!

Mr. Bair has been a professional magazine and advertising photographer for three decades. He is one the early innovators of a genre of night photography some call "nightsapes", and has often been called "the founding father of landscape astrophotography". His unique images have received worldwide newspaper and magazine syndication. Royce believes the foreground is just as important as the starry night sky, and may need additional natural or artificial light enhancement for better recognition and aesthetic appreciation. Lecturing throughout the world, Royce has taught various ways to accomplish this, including his public service website on "Low Level Lighting" methods.

See the next page for two examples of Royce's amazing work.

Note that members of two other clubs are invited to attend this Zoom presentation as well.

Charter Oak FOCUS MAR 2026



COPS GENERAL CLUB NEWS

- 1) The March Competition Specified Topic is “Cell Phone Photographs”. We all have these technical marvels, and use them to take lots of photos. You are welcome to submit your images in this category, and all other categories, **until March 8th at 11:30pm**. The Competition Meeting will be conducted via Zoom, as usual, and is scheduled for March 16th at 7:15pm.
- 2) In February’s competition, Members; Steve Potashner, Steve Silk, Stan Tetrault, Paula Fink, Chris Thomas, Cindy Gosselin, Laura Reinwald, Mark Teitelbaum, Marci James, Rich Rosania, Ira Scheinerman, Frank James, Martin Krucinski, Jim Brodey, and Joyce Niejako submitted award winning images. Their terrific work is posted on the COPS Main Website. In the menu, select GALLERIES > COMPETITION WINNERS > 2025-2026 February.
- 3) Don’t forget. Sunday the 8th is the beginning of Daylight Savings Time!

CALL FOR MINI-SHOW PRESENTERS [from Steve Potashner]

Invitation

On May 18 2026, as our final in-person program of the season, all COPS members are invited to share their photography with fellow members in the form of mini-shows, short slideshows usually set to music. We would love to see your work!

What is a mini show?

The short slideshows generally have a unifying theme — which can be as simple as a trip, a particular subject matter (e.g., horses), or a compositional motif (e.g., curving lines) —or it can be as complex as a narrative. People often pair the images with music, but that is not mandatory. The shows tend to be about five to eight minutes long; ten minutes is the maximum.

Deadline

The deadline for submission is one week before the screenings: Monday, May 4, 2026

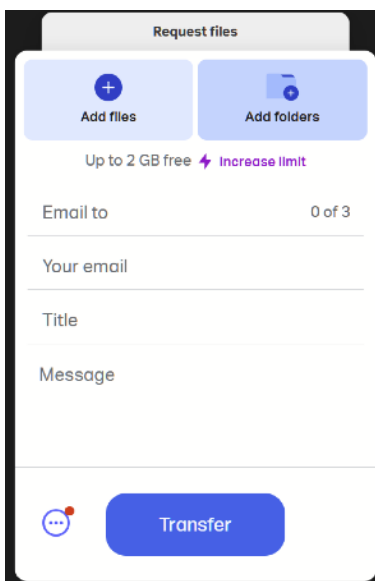
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How do I build a mini show?

1. Decide on a theme (e.g., horses, curves, cats, gardens, flowers, a city or town or country, a trip, a museum, an exhibit, an event, an activity, etc.).
2. Collect the images in one folder (the slideshow folder) on your computer. During the slideshow, each image should be visible for about 5 - 8 seconds, so each minute of the show will require 7.5 - 12 images. A slideshow can be up to 10 minutes long, but most are 5 – 8 minutes long.
3. Appropriate music is often used to accompany the images, but music is not mandatory. If music is desired, copy the music file in .mp3 format into the slideshow folder.
4. Now you need slideshow software to assemble the images and music into a slideshow, and to export the show as a video in .mp4 format. Lightroom has a slideshow module that can produce such a slideshow. Instructions can be found in [this article](#) and in a [video tutorial](#). If you are not a Lightroom user, you can do an [on-line search](#) for possible products. There are [free slideshow makers](#) available and more advanced slideshow software that can be purchased. Steve Potashner recommends [PTE AV Studio](#), and it has lots of [tutorials](#).

How do I deliver a mini show?

5. After rendering your mini show as a video in .mp4 format, the video file will be too large to send via email. You can use a free on-line service called 'WeTransfer' (<https://wetransfer.com>) to get the file to Steve Potashner. When the WeTransfer website appears, just agree to their 'Terms of Service' and use the box on the left of the screen. Fill in SteveP's email address (sjpotashner@sbcglobal.net) in the 'Email to' field, your email address, title & message, then click the 'Add Files' button to upload a large file or two from your computer to their server, and finally click the 'TRANSFER' button. WeTransfer will email SteveP a link to download your files to his computer. Then, SteveP will show the video at the mini show meeting.



REMINDER: 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/](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.

MONTHLY COMPETITION STANDINGS AS OF FEBRUARY 2026

**2025-2026
YTD Results**

| Name | TOTALS | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------|---|--------------|---------------|
| | Total # of Images Using the Highest 2 Scoring Images | Total Points | Total Points Using the Highest 2 Scoring Images | First Prizes | Hon. Mentions |
| <u>Masters</u> | | | | | |
| Steve Silk | 8.0 | 332.0 | 227.5 | 4.0 | 2.0 |
| Ira Scheinerman | 8.0 | 325.5 | 224.0 | 6.0 | 3.0 |
| Cindy Gosselin | 8.0 | 327.0 | 221.0 | 4.0 | 2.0 |
| Paula Fink | 8.0 | 314.0 | 216.5 | 3.0 | 2.0 |
| Mark Teitelbaum | 8.0 | 315.0 | 213.5 | 2.0 | 4.0 |
| Pam Hastings | 8.0 | 312.5 | 213.5 | 2.0 | 1.0 |
| Stan Tetrault | 8.0 | 311.0 | 212.0 | 2.0 | 4.0 |
| Tom Griswold | 6.0 | 225.5 | 155.5 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Chris Quallen | 4.0 | 153.5 | 104.0 | 1.0 | 2.0 |
| | | | | | |
| <u>Salon</u> | | | | | |
| Steve Potashner | 8.0 | 318.0 | 215.5 | 7.0 | 1.0 |
| Rich Rosania | 8.0 | 305.5 | 210.5 | 4.0 | 3.0 |
| Chris Thomas | 8.0 | 258.5 | 207.5 | 2.0 | 1.0 |
| Emery Thomas | 8.0 | 247.5 | 203.0 | 0.0 | 3.0 |
| Jim Oliphant | 8.0 | 295.5 | 202.5 | 2.0 | 3.0 |
| Laura Reinwald | 8.0 | 292.5 | 200.5 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Lynda Hintz | 8.0 | 291.5 | 197.5 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| David Hintz | 8.0 | 291.5 | 196.5 | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| Marci James | 8.0 | 285.5 | 196.5 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| Frank James | 8.0 | 263.0 | 196.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| Mark Fox | 8.0 | 261.5 | 194.5 | 2.0 | 0.0 |
| Martin Krucinski | 6.0 | 227.5 | 156.0 | 1.0 | 3.0 |
| Jim Brodey | 5.0 | 153.0 | 153.0 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| Mark Bamberger | 4.0 | 127.0 | 104.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 |
| Lauren Wang | 3.0 | 49.5 | 74.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |