

APRIL 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. *Note: Special Dates for These Events **Unless otherwise noted |
| 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 | |
| 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 | | | | |

OUR NEW MEMBER HOT STREAK CONTINUES!

We now have a 16th new member (and at least one each month of this season) join us just during this 2025/2026 season! **Laura Santirocco** is a resident of West Hartford. Her email address is: laura.santirocco@gmail.com At your earliest convenience, say "Hi" to let her know we are genuinely happy that she decided to join us. Now let's keep that hot streak going!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT **[from Gert Perry]**

Isn't it grand seeing the beginnings of Spring flowers!!!!

This time of year is an opportunity to enjoy Elizabeth Park and other parks all around us. Take a Spring walk around where you live. Photos abound near and far.

This issue of FOCUS is loaded with pertinent information about our club's season end events. Check them out.

Meredith's Zoo Photography Workshop has a Field Trip coming up soon. Please respond to her email survey of possible dates. Many members wanted Field Trips back into the club's scheduled events, and now we have the perfect venue. Southwick Zoo offers a variety of topics for photography. Let's have a big turnout for this one!!!!

During the May 18th in-person meeting, we will conduct a raffle for a complementary 2026-2027 membership. It's not too late to add your name into the raffle. To do so, just bring in a new member...one ticket per member you bring into the COPS fold.

IN-PERSON WORKSHOP: APRIL 13th

The “Fab 4”: Four Creative Techniques that will Rock Your World

Phil Atiyeh, of Connecticut, will be presenting his workshop on various creative techniques on April 13. As Phil describes it:

“Photographers have a bewildering array of software available for creating artistic works of art. If I could pick just a few, it would be these **Fab 4**. Each one is unique in how it transforms an image. And when paired with other ‘bandmates’, the artistic effects will make beautiful music. Like the original **Fab 4**, you’ll find one of them...well, quite unique. Whether on stage by themselves, or playing as a group, this **Fab 4** will provide boundless photographic entertainment.”

The meeting will be in person at First Baptist Church, 90 North Main St. West Hartford, CT 06107. The meeting begins at 7:15pm, but doors open at 6:30pm. Come early to socialize and enjoy a few snacks.



MEMBER-to-MEMBER SALES/GIVEAWAYS

This space affords Members the opportunity to make a Member-to-Member sale or giveaway 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: APRIL 27th

"Capturing Motion"

Betsy Wilson of Pennsylvania will explore the world of motion photography through her unique perspective. A combination of traditional techniques of controlling shutter speed along with some non-traditional concepts using camera motion and light-painting, Betsy's images will inform and inspire us to try new ideas. Using your camera to capture motion in ways beyond what we see with our eyes results in endless creative possibilities.

Betsy began learning photography after retiring from a career as a newspaper publisher. Her husband Jim gave her his hand-me-down camera and a lot of encouragement, and now says he created a monster. Her passion for photography includes a wide variety of types including; macro, landscape and nature photography. In addition to being honored as Photographer of the Year Award at the Chester County Camera Club in Pennsylvania, she has received numerous recognitions for her artistic photography including, a Silver Medal awarded at the Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography, and First Place Award in Photography at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Betsy is an active member of the Chester County Camera Club, and has given numerous presentations to camera clubs around the country.

See some of Betsy's excellent images on the next page.



COPS GENERAL CLUB NEWS

1) **Attention Members:** The Submission Period for our April competition opened Monday March 30, on the COPS competition website, <http://charteroakphoto.visualpursuits.com>.

The deadline for entries is Sunday, April 12, at 11:30pm. As a reminder, the **Specified Topic** for April is "In the Style of Famous Photographers". So, get your images ready and submit them before the above deadline!

For a review of the workshop given by Stan Tetrault on this subject last fall, and rules for title naming, see <https://charteroakphoto.org/wpcontent/uploads/Workshops/In%20The%20Style%20of%20Presentation.pdf>

The Competition Meeting will be conducted via Zoom, as usual, and is scheduled for Monday April 20th at 7:15pm.

2) In March's competition, Members; Steve Potashner, Steve Silk, Stan Tetrault, Paula Fink, Chris Thomas, Emery Thomas, Cindy Gosselin, Mark Teitelbaum, Rich Rosania, Pam Hastings, David Hintz, and Jim Oliphant submitted award winning images. Give them your congratulations when you see them! Their terrific work is posted on the COPS Main Website. In the menu, select GALLERIES > COMPETITION WINNERS > 2025-2026 March.

3) **Here is a chance to get recognition for some of your work!** The town of Avon is seeking photos taken within its boundaries which show off the best of Avon. Guidance is provided in the flyer below.



Photo Call!

SHOW US AVON THROUGH YOUR LENS!

It's as easy as 123 !!!

- 1 Visit www.avonct.gov/photo_call.
- 2 Upload your photo.
- 3 Acknowledge our release.

You might see your photos on our website, social media or print publications!

Not sure what to send? We would love to see creative perspectives on landscapes, landmarks, flora and fauna, community spirit or anything else that showcases the best of Avon!

Contact Jennifer Worsman at jworsman@avonct.gov with questions.

COPS ANNUAL SERVICE AWARDS 2025/2026

It is once again time to think of some deserving member who has, over the past season, exemplified outstanding service to Charter Oak. Outstanding service can be in many forms; (e.g.- running field trips, hosting workshops, running meetings, encouraging new membership, toting equipment, etc.).

Please submit a name for consideration.

To make a Service Award Recommendation: submit, via email, a written recommendation to either; Gert Perry, Stan Tetrault or Steve Potashner (contact information below) which includes; your name, candidate's name and a listing of the candidate's qualifications for the Service Award. This might include any administrative activities, judging, teaching, lecturing, writing, or other services performed for, or on behalf of, Charter Oak Photographic Society, Inc. A member may recommend no more than one candidate in a given club year. Your recommendation for the Service Award should be sent to; Gert Perry (at gertp@att.net), Steve Potashner (at sjpotashner@sbcglobal.net) and/or Stan Tetrault (at stantetrault@comcast.net). Deadline for receipt of applications is by 4/30/2026. The Service Award Committee, consisting of Gert Perry, Steve Potashner and Stan Tetrault will select the recipient of the Service Award from among the recommendations received.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER: JOIN THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA (PSA) [from Mark Fox]

Over the past few years, the staff and volunteer members of the PSA have made significant positive changes in the structure and programs of the organization, programs and communications in order to fulfill its obligation to meet the needs of its global membership. The only thing that hasn't changed is the price of annual membership: \$45.00. A number of our members are also PSA members. Here are a few examples of benefits that might interest you enough to join them.

In February, PSA launched a Competition of member's "Quick-shot photos": shots taken without any time for camera set up. (My entry was a close-up shot of a bear climbing onto my deck). Similar Competitions are scheduled throughout the year.

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Similar to our own Zoom programs, PSA Zooms speakers from around the globe.

Another worthwhile offering is PSA's "Digital Dialogue", a place where PSA members gather and form small groups designed to align with the photography skills and interests of the participants. Every month each member posts one image for discussion by the rest of his/her group. Conversations include kudos for good work along with suggestions for image improvement at capture and in post processing.

Currently, there are 89 different groups studying topics such as General Photography, Nature, HDR, Monochrome, Macro, Flowers, Landscapes, Cityscapes, Seascapes and many more areas of interest. Whatever your interest, there's a group for you. You can expect to improve your photography, post processing skills, communication and have fun doing it. AND, best of all, Digital Dialogue is FREE.

On a personal note, my current group is made up of photographers from North Carolina, New Jersey, India, Australia and New Zealand.

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

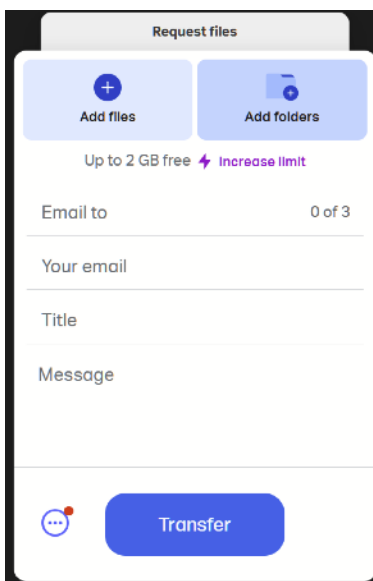
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How do I build a mini show?

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 Steve P a link to download your files to his computer. Then, Steve P will show the video at the mini show meeting.

PSA NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 2026

Photo Travel Division Mini-Essay Contest

Call for Entries! For information download the flyer here:

[Photo Travel Mini Essay Flyer](#)

Nature Division is looking for an enthusiastic volunteer with a demonstrated background in nature photography.

If you would like to join the Nature Division team, please get in touch with the Chairman Suman, at [Email](#)

Share Your Vision: Write for the PSA Journal and Earn Recognition

PSA encourages its members to submit articles for our monthly PSA Journal. We are currently looking for contributions that feature captivating, thought-provoking content from photographers at every skill level. Seize this chance to highlight your narrative skills paired with your stunning images for the PSA Journal. An engaging collection of as many as 12 images accompanied by an article!

For additional details, contact the Publications Vice President and Managing Editor of the PSA Journal, Buket Ozatay, at [Email](#)

MONTHLY COMPETITION STANDINGS AS OF MARCH 2026

| 2025-2026 YTD Results | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|--|-----------------|------------------|
| | | TOTALS | | | |
| Name | Total # of Images Using the Highest 2 Scoring Images | Total Points | Total Points Using the Highest 2 Scoring Images | First Prizes | Hon. Mentions |
| Masters | | | | | |
| Steve Silk | 10.0 | 416.0 | 284.0 | 7.0 | 2.0 |
| Cindy Gosselin | 10.0 | 405.5 | 274.0 | 5.0 | 2.0 |
| Paula Fink | 10.0 | 393.5 | 271.0 | 3.0 | 5.0 |
| Pam Hastings | 10.0 | 390.5 | 265.5 | 4.0 | 1.0 |
| Mark Teitelbaum | 10.0 | 391.0 | 265.0 | 2.0 | 5.0 |
| Stan Tetrault | 10.0 | 389.0 | 265.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 |
| Ira Scheinerman | 8.0 | 325.5 | 224.0 | 6.0 | 3.0 |
| Tom Griswold | 6.0 | 225.5 | 155.5 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Chris Quallen | 4.0 | 153.5 | 104.0 | 1.0 | 2.0 |
| Salon | | | | | |
| Steve Potashner | 10.0 | 391.5 | 265.5 | 8.0 | 2.0 |
| Rich Rosania | 10.0 | 381.5 | 263.0 | 5.0 | 3.0 |
| Chris Thomas | 10.0 | 333.0 | 258.5 | 3.0 | 1.0 |
| Jim Oliphant | 10.0 | 373.0 | 255.5 | 3.0 | 4.0 |
| Emery Thomas | 10.0 | 320.5 | 253.0 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
| David Hintz | 10.0 | 365.5 | 247.0 | 1.0 | 3.0 |
| Mark Fox | 10.0 | 331.5 | 241.5 | 2.0 | 0.0 |
| Laura Reinwald | 8.0 | 292.5 | 200.5 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Lynda Hintz | 8.0 | 291.5 | 197.5 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| Marci James | 8.0 | 285.5 | 196.5 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| Frank James | 8.0 | 263.0 | 196.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| 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 |