

# Cobb Photographic Society



January 2024



November's Monthly Competition Theme: *2<sup>d</sup> Chance*

(Cover) Winner- Monochrome  
*30 Seconds Over the Danube*

Paul Shimek

(Above) Winner- Color  
*Dasenech Man*

Paul Shimek



Winner- Novice  
*Autumn Reflections*  
Rob Herman

- 4 Upcoming Activities and Events**
- 7 Notes From Around Our Club**
- 16 Member-2-Member Classifieds & Websites**
- 18 Articles, Photo News, Tips & Tricks, & Featured Website**

# Upcoming Activities and Events

## January 2024

**Mon, 1 Jan, 3 PM. Competition: Deadline for Digital Images, Theme: *General: Vintage*.** For January's competition only, submit ANY digital photo, regardless of the theme or date of the photograph; it's a wide open, fun competition! Using the updated CPS entry form [here](#), email the form and photos to [cpsdigital2023@gmail.com](mailto:cpsdigital2023@gmail.com). **Club members only.**



**Sat, 6 Jan, 6 AM. Field Trip: Sandhill Cranes.** Join **Ümit Yüksel** as we venture to Alabama to photograph Sandhill Cranes. We will coordinate carpooling. RSVP/Sign up [here](#). **Club members only.**

**Mon, 8 Jan, 7 PM. Competition: Monthly Competition Evening, Theme: *General: Vintage*.** For January's competition, be ready for a wide open, fun competition filled with "blasts from the past"! Join us in-person at [Sewell Mill Library/Cultural Center](#) or via Zoom [here](#). After the meeting, we'll head out for social time and food at a nearby establishment. **All are welcome.**

**Mon, 15 Jan, 7 PM. Continuing Education: Presentation Evening.** Join our evening's Zoom-only educational presentation [here](#). **All are welcome.**

**Tue, 16 Jan, 7 PM. New Members: CPS Welcome/New Member Zoom Orientation.** **Dee Dee Bonesteel**, our club's Secretary and Welcome Chair, welcomes our newest members to learn about our club resources and review the process of competing in our monthly competitions. Q&A time is included. The Zoom meeting URL will be emailed to new members a couple of days before the Zoom session. **New members only.**



**Sat, 20 Jan, 8 PM. Learning Workshop/Field Trip- #2a: Light Painting Basics: Ambient Lighting: Onsite workshop.** Join us near Marietta Square area as we test out our new light wands and concentrate on the techniques used in the third photo: **ambient lighting** in a lit environment. Websites and videos providing an overview of light wand photography and training resources will be emailed to all members signed up for the overall program. RSVP/Sign up [here](#). Photos by Eric Pare, Pedro Bomfin, and LAPP-PRO. **Club members only.**

**Mon, 22 Jan, 7 PM. Zoom: Learning Workshop- #2b: Light Painting Basics: Ambient Lighting Zoom Post-Editing.** Join us online as we share editing techniques from last weekend's photo session near Marietta Square. RSVP/Sign up [here](#). Photos by Eric Pare, Pedro Bomfin, and LAPP-PRO. **Club members only.**

**Mon, 29 Jan, 3 PM. Competition: Deadline for Digital Images, Theme: People.** Using the updated CPS entry form [here](#), email the form and photos to [cpdigital2023@gmail.com](mailto:cpdigital2023@gmail.com). **Club members only.**

## Future Activities and Events

**Mon, 5 Feb, 7 PM. Competition: Monthly Competition Evening, Theme: People.** Join us in-person at [Sewell Mill Library/Cultural Center](#) or via Zoom [here](#). **All are welcome.**

**Sat, 10 Feb, TBA. Field Trip: Sloss Furnace.** Join us to a visually interesting old industrial structure in Birmingham, AL. General website info [here](#). RSVP/Sign up [here](#). **Club members only.**

**Mon, 19 Feb, 7 PM. Continuing Education: Presentation Evening.** Join our evening's Zoom-only educational presentation [here](#). **All are welcome.**

**Tue, 20 Feb, 7 PM. New Members: CPS Welcome/New Member Zoom Orientation.** **New members only.**

**Sat, 24 Feb, 8 PM. Learning Workshop/Field Trip- #3a: Light Painting Basics: Portals and Creating Plates and Composites: Onsite workshop.** **Club members only.**

**Mon, 26 Feb, 7 PM. Zoom: Learning Workshop- #3b: Light Painting Basics: Zoom Post-Editing and Compositing. Club members only.**

**March. Learning Workshop/Field Trip- #4a: Light Painting Basics: Portraits in Silhouette: Onsite workshop. Club Members only.**

**March: Learning Workshop- #4b: Light Painting Basics: Portraits in Silhouette: Zoom Post-Editing. Club members only.**

**April/May. Learning Workshop/Field Trip- Capstone #5a: Light Painting: Bringing it all together with a model and skyline: Onsite workshop. Club Members only.**

**April/May. Learning Workshop- Capstone #5b: Light Painting: Bringing it all together with a model and skyline: Post-Editing/Compositing- Zoom or in-person. Club members only.**

**May. Exhibition: Club members exhibit at the Art Place. All are welcome.**

**Spring. Potluck Lunch/Social with Learning Workshop: Club Members and family only.**

**~Fall. Competition/Social: North GA Camera Club Council (NG3C) Shootout. Club members only.???**

**October. Exhibition: Club members exhibit at Sewell Mill Library. All are welcome.**

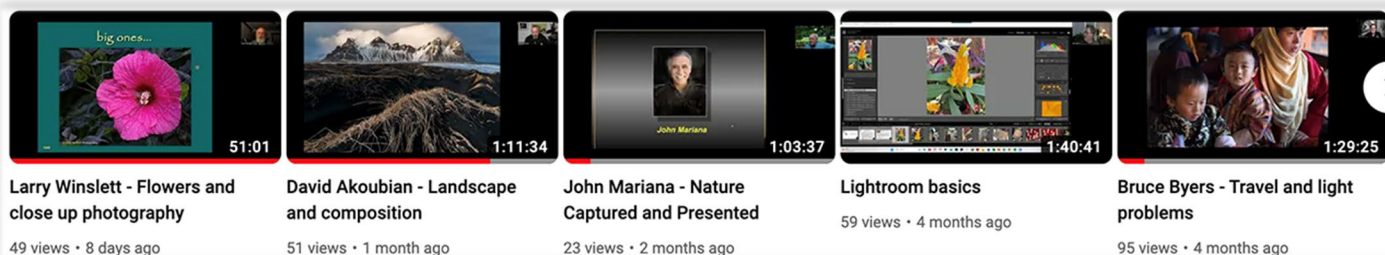
# Notes from Around Our Club

## They Say It's Your

# Birthday!

- Richard Prescott, 9 January
- Jeff Whittingham, 10 January
- Michael Birnbaum, 11 January
- Melissa Moody, 11 January
- William White, 11 January
- Guy Marlow, 12 January
- Rob Herman, 13 January
- Kimberley Koch, 29 January

## Monthly CPS YouTube Presentations.



You can review our club's presentation videos from the last 3+ years [here](#).

## CPS 2024 Survey- Guaranteed to take less than nine minutes!

### 2024 CPS Member Survey



Please complete our annual online annual survey [here](#).

This year, we have several new initiatives we would like your feedback to see if there is member support to start the initiatives going.

Your skill assessment and field trip destinations will be passed on to **Yümit Yuksel**, our Mentoring Chair, and **Rick Olson**, our Field Trip Chair.

## 2024 Competition Standings- Overall and Division.

Overall: (pending January's competition)  
Novice Division: (pending January's competition)  
Monochrome Division: (pending January's competition)  
Color Division: (pending January's competition)

## Need the Latest Club Info?

**Sat, 13 Jan, 6 AM.** **Field Trip:** Sandhill Cr. Alabama to photograph Sandhill Cr. information to come mid-December.

**Mon, 15 Jan, 7 PM.** **Continuing Education:** Zoom-only educational presentation.

**Tue, 16 Jan, 7 PM.** **New Members:** Orientation. **Dee Dee Bonesteel**, O welcomes our newest members to learn process of competing in our monthly meeting URL will be emailed to new session. **New members only.**

**Sat, 20 Jan, 8 PM.** **Learning Works:** Practicing in ambient light and Impro area as we test out our new light wa creative designs. Websites and video photography and training will be avail **members only.**

Over time, several club members have missed out on activities or events because they couldn't find the needed information in their stash of everyday emails.

Your CPS staff updates the CPS website's *Upcoming Activities and Events* News webpage every month and also posts any changes as well (i.e., field trip cancelled due to rain, time change, new event).

Here's the URL to the "always the latest" club information: <https://cobbphotosociety.com/blog/>.

## 2024 Dues Reminder.

Visit our website [here](#) to see the ways to pay your \$40 annual dues and be reminded of what your annual dues provide to you as a member.



How do I pay?

\*Pay \$40 by Check:

Cobb Photographic Society,  
c/o Rob Herman, CPS Treasurer  
1020 Millridge Lane SE  
Marietta, GA 30067-5472

\*Pay \$40 by Check/Cash:

Monthly CPS meetings (face-2-face)

\*Pay \$40 by PayPal:

1

Pay with **PayPal**



## CPS 2023-2024 Monthly Competition Schedule.

Monday Deadline for Digital Submission	Monday Competition Evening	Competition Theme
<b>2024</b>		
January 1	January 8 **	General – Vintage (no theme or 2-year limit)
January 29	February 5	People
February 26	March 4	Negative Space <b>Prints-only</b>
March 25	April 1	Symmetry
April 29	May 6	Nature
May 27	June 3	Smoke / Fog / Mist <b>Prints-only</b>
July 1	July 8 *	Roadways / Paths
July 29	August 5	Frame within a Frame
September 2	September 9 *	Backlight <b>Prints-only</b>
September 30	October 7	Solitude
October 28	November 4	High Speed
November 25	Xmas Party	Winning 2024 photos compete for a 1 <sup>st</sup> place

Our Competition Chair, **Laura Prescott**, developed a document with definitions and example pictures to help you get going. View the document [here](#).

\* and \*\* July and September Competition evenings and image submission dates are always pushed back a week due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day holidays and for 2024, our January image submission and competition evening due New Year's falling on the first Monday. The presentation evening is always on the third Monday of the year (except December).

**Prints-only** competition evenings are in-person only; no simultaneous Zoom session.

Note that in August 2024, the themes for 2025 will be added to this list.

## CPS Annual Dinner Photographer Recognition (next two pages).

**Ralph Burr** did the studio work for our showcase awards photo (blue photo). **Ümit Yüksel** and **Charlie Stannard** were the event photographers. *Thank you!*

## Annual CPS Dinner and Second Chance Awards (1 of 2).



Our annual dinner/awards evening was held in a much larger space this year. Last year, the room flooded out the day before our dinner.

The first three pages of this magazine highlight the December *Second Chance* winning photographs. Following this article are the *Best of the Year* winning photographs.



Top to Bottom:

- **Rob Herman**, Second Chance, Novice\*
- **Paul Shimek**, Second Chance, Color\*
- **Paul Shimek**, Second Chance, Monochrome\*
- **Mark Chandler**, Best of the Year, Color\*\*
- **Angie Nasrallah**, Best of the Year, Monochrome\*\*
- **Joyce Harrison**, Best of the Year, Novice\*\*



\* *Second Chance* winning photos are on the first three pages of this magazine.



\*\* *Best of the Year* winning photos follow this article.

## Photographer of the Year Awards and Guest Speaker (2 of 2).



**Paul Shimek** had a most impressive load of awards to take home this evening. Paul was recognized as the Photographer of the Year, **Color-Standard Division**; Photographer of the Year, **Monochrome-Standard Division**; and the **Overall Photographer of the Year-Standard Division**.

**Anand Saokar** received well-earned recognition as the **Novice Division's Photographer of the Year**.

**Pavel Kuznetkova** was our guest speaker of the evening, entertaining and educating us with his exceptional wedding photography work and challenging us to create photographs that are not only technically excellent but also cause the viewer to feel an emotional bond with the photograph.



## 2023 CPS Awards for *Best Photos of the Year*.

Below are the three winners of the club's *Best Photos of the Year*. The pool of photos to be considered are the eleven month's first place winners and the extra *Second Chance* winner.



Judging our competition this year was **Caroline Grant**, an Atlanta area, self-taught photographer with 13 years of experience. She specializes in family portraits, newborns, and high school senior portraits. In her spare time, she keeps busy with her husband and their three children and volunteers for Camp Christian, a local church camp. She is currently Co-President of the Norcross High School Foundation.



*Beach Sunrise* by **Mark Chandler**



*Sweet Gum* by **Angie Nasrallah**



*Canyon Landing* by **Joyce Harrison**

## Reprint: Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) In Club Competition.



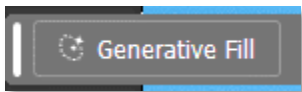
Pardon the pun, but “The (AI) cat’s out of the bag”.

There is now a swell of programs, both for the PC/Mac and iPhone/Android that use Artificial Intelligence (AI). It’s here to stay.

On one hand, AI can be a content-aware tool, helping to remove branches and phone lines from our photos by using only the existing photo’s information. **That’s OK.**

On the other hand, AI can insert/modify images/imagery that were not in the original photograph (the Ps splash screen above was generated by AI). **That’s not OK.**

During our 49 years as a photo club, we’ve insisted that every element, in every competition photograph, contain only the photographer’s work. Some of our members excel at Photoshop to tweak photographs in a most pleasing, creative, and interesting way... and that’s OK **as long as the finished product is all their work.**



**The power of AI is seductive.** I used Photoshop’s *Generative Fill* AI to create extra fill on the edges of several photographs that I photographed too tight, and I needed more room on the sides to “breathe”. The results were new AI-generated areas that were drop-dead effective and it was nearly impossible to tell AI created the filled-in areas. Using *Generative Fill* is an *AI-gone-too-far* use in our club competition photos. Because of the added AI areas, my photos are **not** competition-eligible.

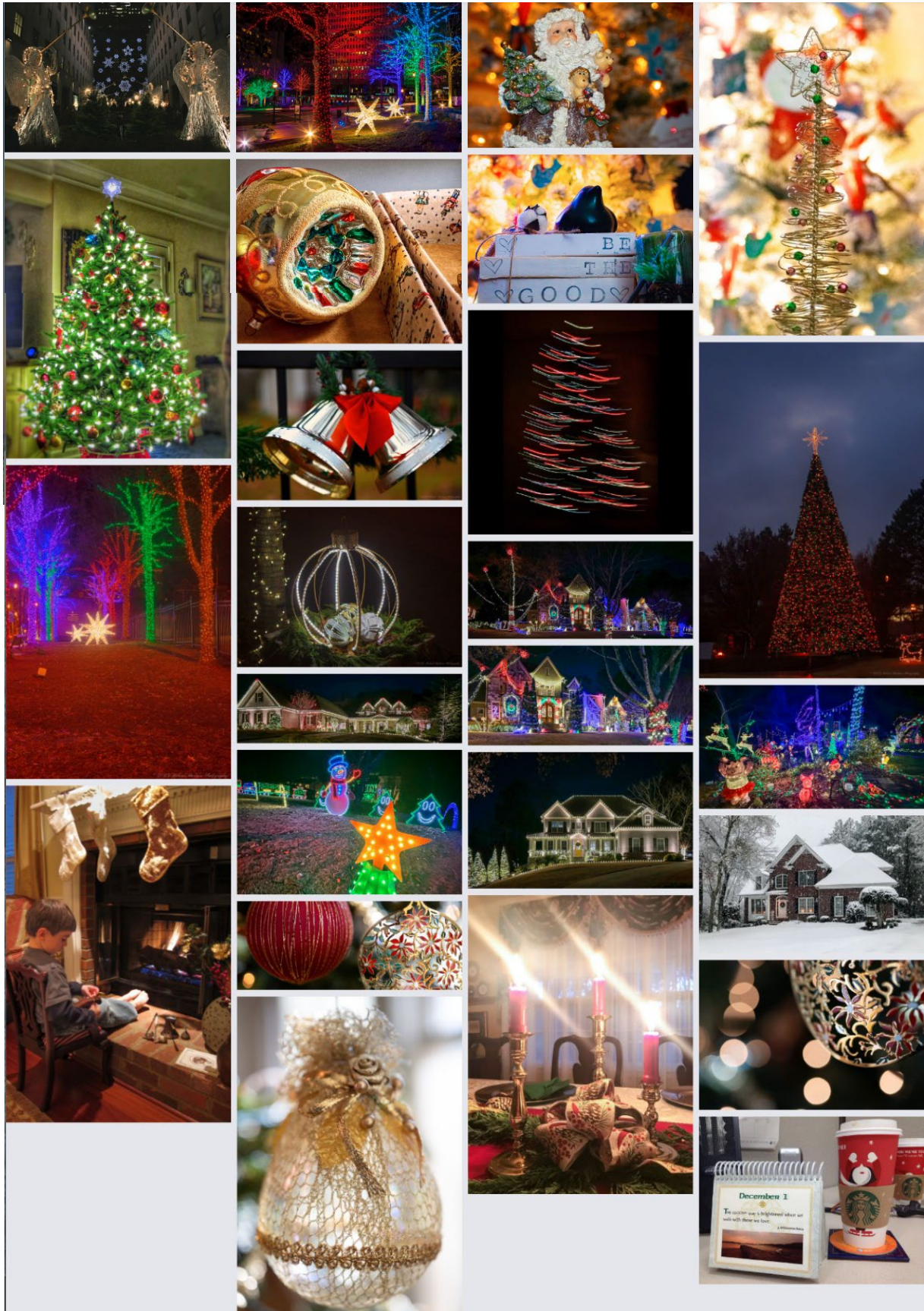
Later in this magazine is an article on our updated [entry form](#) we’ll use for 2024 and beyond that requires us to sign off that no AI was used in the competition photos and every element is our work.

Ultimately, **we trust you** to ensure competition photos contain only your work.

Pat

## CPS Photo Challenge: Holiday Season.

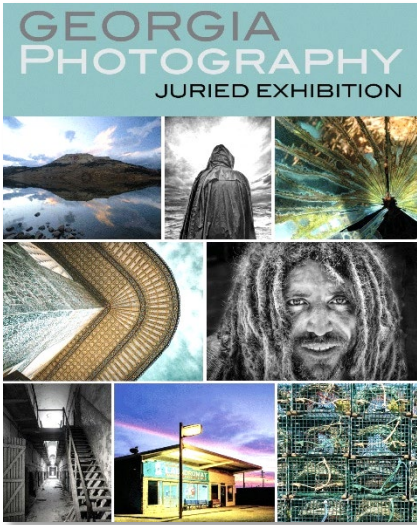
A special time of year that is a real treat to view in photos [here](#).



## Member-2-Member's Classifieds and Websites

Email [faheyatlanta@gmail.com](mailto:faheyatlanta@gmail.com) if you have photographic items for sale or events that you or your business would like to advertise in our next magazine. Advertising your business website or learning opportunities is A-OK.

### Two Club Members Featured in An Upcoming Juried Exhibition.



**Margaret Waage** and **Lori Pelych Mitchum** will have work entered in the upcoming, juried photography exhibition at the Marietta Museum of Art (MMCA). The exhibition will include photographers' works from around the state.

Says Margaret, "Opening on **January 6** are two brand new exhibitions at MCMA, "Georgia Photography Juried Exhibition" and "Narrative Artwork in the MCMA Permanent Collection." Our Opening Reception is on 1/6 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The event is free for MCMA members and \$10 for guests—admission is paid upon entry. Hors d'oeuvres served and cash/credit card bar. Membership can be purchased at the event."

### Upcoming Photo Class with Mark Chandler.



**Mark Chandler**, a widely recognized club photographer and instructor, has a new class beginning in February with the city of Smyrna.

Says Mark, "I am teaching a *Photography Basics* class beginning February 8th from 6:30 pm-8 pm. The class will go on for four weeks and will be held at the Smyrna Community Center in downtown Smyrna.

For information and to register, see [website](#)."

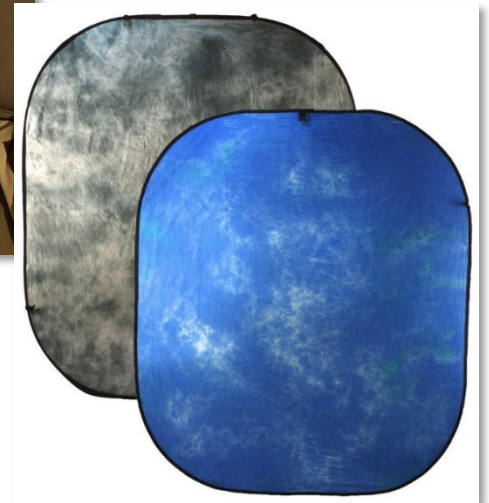
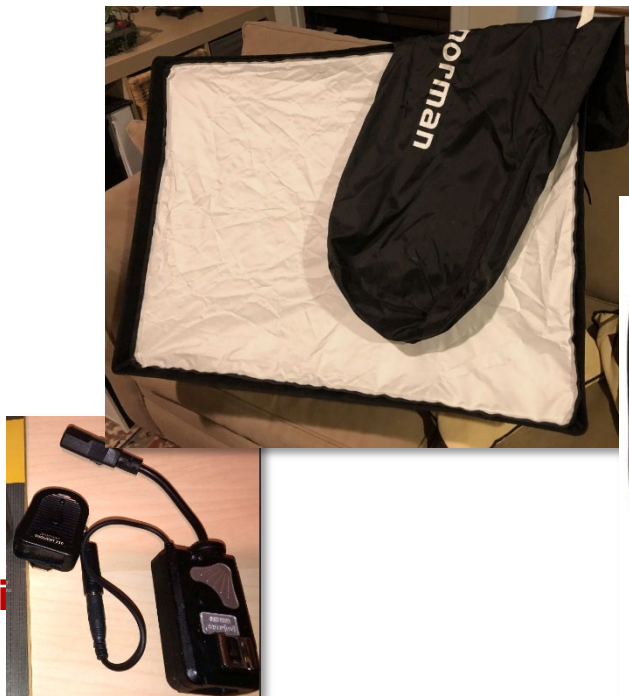
## Studio Equipment for Sale.

**Chris Lydle**, a club member, announces: "I can't set up and make proper use of my photo gear anymore, so I'd like to sell some of my gear. Used but not abused.

The first thing is a professional lighting and background setup that's pretty portable. Here's what's included: A Paul C Buff DigiBee 400 studio strobe. Its AC powered, very fast to recycle, with a strong modeling light. Here's a link to their web site [here](#). There's a Norman 24x32" collapsible soft box with a carrying sleeve. These go for \$230 at B&H, which quite frankly seems kind of high - but they're good. The DigiBee costs \$299 new and this one is nearly new.

There's a wireless flash trigger (as well as a long PC cord) the trigger was \$99 and works great but the rubber housing is kind of gummy. New batteries should arrive tomorrow, the old CR2 gave out after a couple of tests. And a double-sided pop-up background, 6' x 7'. Fold up and slip in a carry case. Promaster brand, \$159 when new. It can be propped against a wall or hung from a stand. Also, a no-name flash umbrella and a light stand.

All told, about \$800+ and I'm selling it for \$400. Email: [chrislydlepc@gmail.com](mailto:chrislydlepc@gmail.com)."



## Articles, Photo News, Tips & Tricks, & Featured Website

### Reprint: **Downside Of the New Versions of Photoshop with AI.**

In past magazine editions, we've kept you abreast of the latest changes, at the speed of light, with Lightroom and Photoshop. Why? Over half of club members use at least one Adobe file management/editing program.

It's easy to assume that all Lightroom and Photoshop club users are enrolled in the monthly Adobe subscription service. In fact, only slightly more than half of Adobe users subscribe to the Adobe subscription model that puts them in the "fast lane" of constant software changes for AI and added features in Photoshop.



To take advantage of all the newest software technology, you need the monthly Adobe subscription and a robust Mac/PC stuffed with RAM, a fast processor, and a good graphics card.

I read every day how some users say the latest updates are taking forever to run (almost exclusively because of the newest versions of Photoshop) because of the added processing requirements of AI and other Photoshop feature updates. And the worst case: the newest Photoshop updates won't work on their older Mac/PCs. Users are frustrated that they need to further upgrade their PC or buy a new one just to stay in the "fast lane".



Please consider:

- If you are a user who needs (or wants) the "fast lane", go for it. It's expensive but a lot of fun.
- If you are like half of the club members who use older (and entirely useful) versions of Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, let go of "version envy". The editing trip takes a bit longer but we all get our photos edited by using the tools on hand.

FYI, this coming year, we hope to add a learning workshop or two to cover editing with Photoshop Elements. We're there for you Photoshop Elements users as well.

## Reprint... Updated Competition Entry Form for 2024.

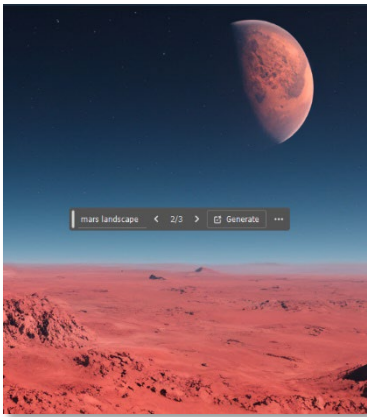


Mandatory you check this box to certify that you:

- Took the photograph entries above in the last 24 months.
  - No Generative AI Fill, Generative AI Expand, or other AI functions were used in any of my submitted photographs (including AI-generated/modified sky replacements).
- If needed, you can review the CPS competition rules before submitting.

Our club competition rules [here](#) have always stated that all elements/images used in a competition photo submission must contain only your own work.

We need to clarify our competition rules with the just-released Artificial Intelligence (AI) functionality in Photoshop and Adobe Camera Raw. The AI will allow photographers to add elements (imagery) from Adobe Stock Photos that appear to be the photographer's work. While this is perfectly OK for non-competition work, **it is not allowed in competition.**



The AI is found in the *Contextual Toolbar*. From this toolbar is a **Generative Fill** text field, that when you enter text, like "blue sky", "jewelry around neck", or "blue parrot", Adobe will search Adobe's Stock Images and offer three AI-selected images/elements to insert in your image's selection. For example, a selection above a person's shoulder and typing "blue parrot" will offer you three images of blue parrots to fit in the selection. You can also select the entire canvas and type "Mars landscape" and you'll be given three images. There's much more to this, but this gives you an idea of AI power.

Using the *Remove Tool* appears to draw information only from your image. Based on current information, the **Remove Tool is OK** for editing photographs you plan to enter in our monthly competitions.

**Do not use Generative Fill or Generative Expand in competition photos.** Currently, articles detail that Adobe's Firefly AI and Adobe Stock images are accessed and present three images that are not your work. **Not OK for our monthly competition.**

**Beginning Jan 2024**, use the Sep 2023 modified entry form [here](#). The club's competition form is modified to add another statement to the certification checkbox that states: "No Generative AI Fill, Generative AI Expand, or other AI functions were used in any of my submitted photographs (including AI-generated/modified sky replacements)."

If you are in doubt, contact our Competition Chair, [Laura Prescott](#) or any club officer.

## Tim Grey- Question of the Month



I've been a long-time subscriber to Tim's educational courses and his Q&A daily emails, *Ask Tim Grey*. You can subscribe to Tim's daily emails [here](#).

The following is a question to consider when choosing bit depths and understanding jpg and raw file formats.

### Today's Question

**“As a follow-up to your question about 16-bit versus 8-bit for derivative images created from a JPEG original, why not just use 8-bit per channel for all images that are sent to Photoshop rather than using a different setting for different images?”**

### Tim's Quick Answer:

The primary reason to use the 16-bit per channel bit depth whenever possible for images that were captured at a high bit depth is to avoid posterization, which is the loss of smooth gradations of tone or color. This is of particular concern for black and white images or images that will require strong adjustments.

### More Detail:

One of the benefits of using raw capture with your digital camera is that you're retaining the full capabilities of the image sensor, such as by maintaining high-bit data.

While we generally save our image files as either 8-bit or 16-bit per channel, cameras often capture images with bit depths in between these values. Many cameras capture at 10-bit or 12-bit for example, with top cameras supporting full 16-bit per channel bit depth.

The bit depth refers to the total number of possible tonal and color values in the image. A single bit is simply off or on, generally referred to as having a value of zero or one.

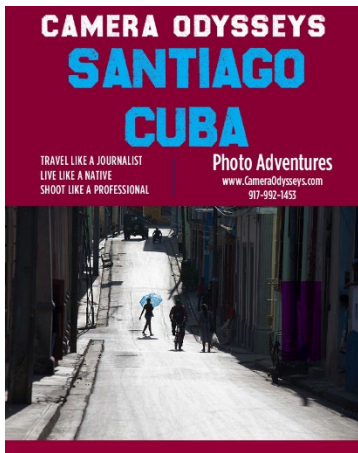
For example, 8-bit per channel can be calculated as two raised to the power of eight, which equals 256. Since there are three channels in a color photograph, that means we can cube that value (256 to the power of three) to determine that an 8-bit per channel RGB image can contain up to 16,777,216 colors.

...

I recommend keeping images in the 16-bit per channel mode unless the source image used to create a derivative image was captured in 8-bit per channel bit depth to begin with, as would be the case with a JPEG capture.”

Editor: Consider subscribing or signing up for Tim's courses, *Grey Learning* [here](#).

## Cuba Trip with Bruce Byers.



**Bruce Byers**, a professional photographer who lives in New York City (NYC), presented, to the club, an excellent Zoom essay on his photographic efforts during COVID in NYC's environs.

Via email, Bruce asked us to publicize an opportunity to visit Cuba in **Feb 2024** with a very flexible stay schedule. More information about the Santiago Cuba experience is available [here](#).

## Updated Reference Guide for 2024 Club Competition Themes.

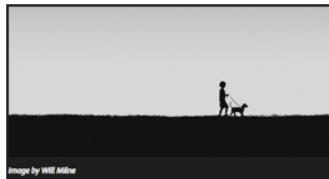
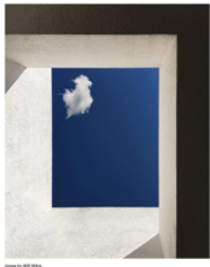
### Cobb Photographic Society Competition Theme Definitions/Explanations

Competition Date: **March 4, 2024**  
Image Submission Deadline: **February 26**  
Theme: **Negative Space**

*Below is a definition of this theme with some examples:*

"Negative space photography is related to minimalist photography. It emphasizes not just the subject but also the empty space around the subject. So, although the viewer's eyes may focus on a central figure, they can't help but notice the large section of emptiness that surrounds and defines that figure. Essentially, that emptiness (in whatever form it takes) gives definition and emphasis to the subject."

<https://www.adobe.com/creativecloud/photography/discover/negative-space-photography.html>



Our Competition Chair, **Laura Prescott**, updated her *Competition Theme Definitions/Explanations* document to assist members better grasp our monthly 2024 competition themes.

Not only does the document give visual examples but also presents text excerpts from other websites or Wikipedia.

You can download the updated CPS *Competition Theme Definitions/Explanations* [here](#).

*Nicely done, Laura!*

## Featured Website: Georgia in Pictures.

OK, the images are overly-saturated but this is a nice checklist of places to visit when you have free time or you're in the area with other business.

Enjoy the website [here](#).

Top to bottom: **Photographers unknown,**

*Starrs Mill*

*Oak Avenue*

*Old Mill at Berry College*



Did you enjoy our club's monthly magazine?

Our club is a great community to expand your photo skills and make new friendships with other photographers.

Come join us!



<http://www.cobbphotosociety.com/membership>

50 YEARS  
1974 - 2024

CPS editors: Pat Fahey and Margaret Waage