



Volume 83 - No. 6

# spsphoto.org

February 2017

# WHAT'S IN YOUR CAMERA BAG? - February 15

Hosted by Linda Tommasulo



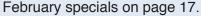
Moment Cork iPhone Case

We hope you'll join us on February 15, when some of your fellow members share the gadgets and things they can't live without when they head out into the field to take some photos. And, if there are a few things that you WISH were in your camera bag, but aren't...Hunt's Photo & Video will have tables set up with cameras, lenses and more (weather permitting, of course!).

I'll speak briefly about my new toy: the Moment Macro Lens and case for my iPhone 6s Plus. (I'm really cheating, because I carry these in my purse, not my camera bag!) Then I'll turn the floor over

to Marianne Rahn-Erickson, Dan Steen, Joan Heffler, John Ogden, John Sayville, Dave Bennett and Sean Sulllivan.

Gary Farber of Hunt's will have tables set up before, during and after the meeting, so you can view all of the latest photo gear first-hand. If there's anything you would like Gary to include, feel free to e-mail him: digitalguygary@wbhunt.com. Gary and Hunt's have been (and continue to be) huge supporters of SPS. If you're in the market for anything photographic, check out Hunt's first. They offer competitive pricing, free shipping and no sales tax to NY State. See their ad and





Moment iPhone Macro Lens



Any room in your camera bag for a few more "toys"?

# FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY TUTORIAL February 1

with David Edgecomb

David Edgecomb (www.edgemaster.com) is a photographer and IT professional in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts. He enjoys telecommuting from the beautiful and relaxing Berkshires where he is able to bridge the gap between a highly global, technical, and digital world and the basic natural rhythms of the cosmos. During the work week he designs and programs Internet applications that enable users to work more efficiently. Most of the time that work requires his skill to break down the complicated into simplistic terms. With the rest of his time, he enjoys all aspects of photography. He has produced imagery for commercial ventures, weddings, family gatherings and celebrations and also for pure enjoyment. He has collaborated with local artists to assist with their vision and to help promote their efforts. He loves to share his knowledge in order to empower and encourage others to follow their passion. As a full time student of life, he is constantly engaged in learning more in order to build and create that which did not exist yesterday.



He is the founder and facilitator of the Berkshire Photo Gathering which meets monthly at the Shaker Dam Coffeehouse in West Stockbridge (www.



berkshirephotogathering.com) and an active member of the Berkshire Museum Camera Club in Pittsfield. (www.berkshirecameraclub.com) He is available for private consultation as well as facilitating group workshops and classes.

"Using flash with your camera is easy but it isn't the most automatic of tasks if you want a photo to look natural or appealing. With such exaggerated and powerful light we often use flash only to guarantee a sharp low-light image. With the modern age of "it should work auto-magically", this is still an area that still needs a lot of human intervention. Once you understand the basic concepts and how your camera settings help, your flash will

assist you to create images unlike before. Not only will it add unique creativity to your scene but the techniques allow for creative options not available in post processing.

"We will explore together how the following settings add to your photography: Sync speed, high speed sync, slow sync, difference between 1st and 2nd curtain, the double exposure concept, adding gels and controlling white balance, reflectors and obstructions, TTL, and flash exposure compensation."





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# MIRRORLESS CAMERA ROUNDTABLE February 8

Hosted by Bob Coppola, with John Ogden

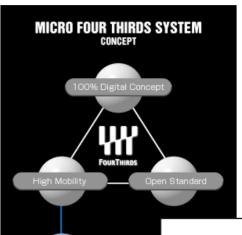
The Olympus website states... "Utilizing mirrorless technology not only reduces the size & weight of the camera, but it provides the opportunity to develop and apply advanced technologies. These revolutionary technologies provide users with levels of confidence & creative freedom they've never had before."

As a relative newbie to the Olympus mirrorless OM-D, E-M1, I believe this statement is true. So far, so good. I admit, after over a year of agonizing, I retired my full-frame Canon 5D to opt for the Olympus. A

couple of tendinitis surgeries on my hands perhaps precipitated the decision, but I'm glad I did. The image quality is more than satisfactory for my needs; and this much-newer-technology camera has capabilities I could only dream of with my old Canon.

The Olympus (as well as Panasonic and others) utilize the Micro Four Thirds system (see below). Want to learn more? Bob and John will discuss the prosand cons of this new technology. Bring your questions!

# Extension of the Basic Concept of Four Thirds System With Priority on Compact Portability



The Micro Four Thirds System standard maintains the Four Thirds System concept of "Highpicture quality digital-dedicated design," but focuses on reducing overall system thickness and size by aiming for a highly portable compact system.

The Micro Four Thirds System also embodies our ongoing efforts to expand the Four Thirds System-based standards to meet future needs such as movie compatibility, to improve the comfort of Live View shooting and to increase the usability of existing Four Thirds System interchangeable lenses.





Lenses for all Micro Four Thirds cameras are interchangeable. MENTORING NIGHT Bring Your Cameral

# FAMILY PORTRAIT WORKSHOP February 22 Hosted by Dave Bennett

It's another fun night at SPS!
Bring your camera and dress for success for Family Portrait Night.
Dave Bennett will have the lights...
you bring the camera and the ACTION!

Dave will be available to give you tips on capturing a great family portrait.

It will also be a great opportunity to have your portrait taken. There will be lots of your friends with cameras in hand ready to accommodate.





# PSA INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS February / March

All active (paid) members are invited to participate in the PSA Interclub Competitions. It's easy! On the SPS website (www.spsphoto.org) click on: Competitions / PSA Interclub / Submit Images.

Travel - February 10, 2017 PID (General) - February 23, 2017 PID Creative - March 8, 2017 Photojournalism - March 10, 2017

For more info, check out the SPS website, www.spsphoto.org (Competitions/PSA Interclub), or contact the PSA Interclub Chair, Sean Sullivan, at sullise@gmail.com.

# ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Our Club's traveling exhibit is on the road again - to the Niskayuna Public Library for the month of February. If you're in the area, stop by!

Niskayuna Public Library 2400 Nott St. E - Niskayuna (519) 386-2249 Hours:

Monday - Wednesday: 10 am to 8 pm Thursday - Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm (Closed Sunday)

Cheers, Dow Smith

# NEW SPS WEBSITE (www.spsphoto.org) LAUNCHED!

If you haven't "logged on" recently, you're missing out on the new Schenectady Photographic Society website!



Thanks to Sean Sullivan, the SPS website has gone through a drastic overhaul. Please check it out and let us know what you think. Creative comments, suggestions and guestions are welcomed. Just email: webmaster@spsphoto.org.

Also, the new site is responsive and works better on mobile devices. Check it out on your phone or tablet.

Coming in the near future all members will receive their own members' account login. As a benefit of your membership in SPS. we will be putting some of the site's content and functions behind password-protected areas.

Enjoy the new site and please feel free to let us know about anything that does not work, could be better, or new features you would like to see in the future.

# RIGHT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD...

Here are a few exhibits to check out on dreary, cold February day:

# "Rock & Roll Icons"

Albany Institute of History & Art Photos by Patrick Harbron Thru February 12

"Captured Moments: 170 Years of Photography" - thru May 21 (www.albanyinstitute.org)

# "Pine Bush Perspectives" Photo Exhibit Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center

195 New Karner Road, Albany Thru February 28 (www.albanypinebush.org)

### "The Art of Photography"

Albany Medical Center Community Endocrine Gallery 1365 Washington Ave., Albany Thru March 3 (Info: 489-4704)

#### "Best of 2016" Show

Photo Center of Troy 404 River St., Troy Thru February 19 (www.photocentertroy.org)

## "Rolling Bones" Hot Rods

built by the Rolling Bones Hot Rod Shop Saratoga Automobile Museum 110 Avenue of the Pines Saratoga Spa State Park Thru March 24 (www.saratogaautomuseum.org)

# "Hudson Valley Ruins" Photo Exhibit

New York State Museum 222 Madison Ave., Empire State Plaza Thru December 31 (www.nysm.nysed.gov/exhibitions)

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# HOW TO DECIDE WHEN A PHOTO SHOULD BE BLACK AND WHITE by Jason D. Little

(Reprinted with permission)

Imagine this scenario: you've had a productive and enjoyable day out shooting — a couple of landscapes and cityscapes, some architecture shots, a bit of street photography, a handful of portraits, whatever floats your boat; you have finally completed the task of getting those shots off your memory card and into your photo organizer/image editor; you've culled together all your keepers. Now it's time to process these shots. Hopefully you have established an effective workflow to make post-processing less stressful, but for some photographers there is one question that seems to arise with each post-processing session:

"Should this image be color or black and white?"

Of course, there is no objectively right or wrong answer to this, but there are some basic principles to keep in mind that can help with your decision.

#### Black and White vs. Monochrome

The terms "black and white" and "monochrome" are often used interchangeably. Such usage isn't always incorrect, but there is some nuance that should be addressed. A monochrome image is one that consists of varying tones of one "color." The images we commonly refer to as being black and white are indeed monochromatic, but this is just one of many ways to make a monochrome image. The photo below is an example of an image that is monochromatic, yet not black and white.



© Dom Crossley

Traditional black and white images, as they are typically created in digital photography, consist of pixels that vary across the image from black to multiple shades of grey to white, as exhibited in the following photo.



When trying to choose between creating a black and white or color image, ask yourself the questions that follow.

# What Role Does Color Play in the Photo?

This is certainly a subjective criterion, but it is something that should be a priority in your decision making process. It's easy to conclude that color is always import-

ant; if we see in color why shouldn't photos be color? The fact is color can sometimes be a distraction, or it can be rather meaningless. On the other hand, there are times when color is vital. A landscape photo that prominently features a rainbow is something that you would probably want to present in color, as the rainbow plays an important role in the scene and a black and white rainbow isn't much to look at. If the essential strength of the image does not specifically rely on color, converting it to black and white will allow you to emphasize other visual or atmospheric qualities of the image. Additionally, if your photo is marred by especially washed out colors or strong backlighting that can't be satisfactorily fixed in post-processing, converting to black and white may be able to salvage the shot.



For more great photography tips, check out: lightstalking.com - and - jdevaunphotographynow. com

© Jason Devaun

-6- Continued...

# HOW TO DECIDE WHEN A PHOTO SHOULD BE BLACK AND WHITE (Cont'd.)

# Are there Prominent or Interesting Textures in the Photo?

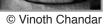
Texture is an important aesthetic component in all forms of art, from music to painting to photography. We commonly relate texture and physical touch, but this association is only one way of conveying texture. When dealing with photography, for instance, texture is conceptualized through sight rather than touch. We look at a subject like a lizard or a tree or a stone and we imagine what those things feel like — rough, bumpy, smooth, jagged. Images in which texture plays a central role benefit greatly from being converted to



black and white, as black and white tends to emphasize texture, allowing the viewer to more easily appreciate what the subject "feels" like.

© Jason Devaun

Is There Strong Contrast or Distinctive Light/ Shadows?



Contrast, in general, is all about differences. Tonal contrast, as it relates specifically to black and white photography, refers to the difference in tones from black to grey to white. Color contrast refers to how colors interact with each other. A high contrast image is one that exhibits a lot of black and white, with few or no mid (grey) tones. Strong lighting and shadows work together to create strong contrast. Once colors are removed, what remains are tonal differences — the

sort of contrast that contributes to powerful black and white images. So, when you asses a photo and notice these characteristics of light, shadow, and contrast, you have a perfect candidate for a black and white conversion.





## What Mood Do You Wish to Communicate?

Similar to texture, mood and atmosphere are somewhat abstract ideas that can be communicat-

ed through photography in creative ways. When you look at a photo showing strong clouds, falling rain, wet streets, and people carrying umbrellas, you are struck with a particular feeling. You know what it's like to walk

in the rain and are suddenly transported, mentally, to that place. The photo has done its job of conveying a certain mood. Black and white photography works especially well for creating a dreary or dramatic mood. If you want to create a somber or mysterious atmosphere



around a portrait subject, the right lighting combined with a black and white conversion is the way to go.



Final Thoughts...It is important to emphasize the subjectiveness of this issue. There are photographers who work almost exclusively in color, and those who work almost exclusively in black and white. Many more, however, fall somewhere in the middle and produce both color and black and white photos. Given the relative ease of converting color photos to black and white in post processing, there's no reason to not try your hand at doing some black and white images. Hopefully, the guidelines above will be of assistance in not only helping you determine which of your existing photos might look good in black and white, but will also help you learn to see in black and white, enabling you to use your camera in a manner consistent with creating awesome black and white shots with ease.

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1st Place Assigned (Topic: Pet Portrait) "Did You Say Car?" / © Sean Sullivan

# Ist PLACE DECEMBER WINNERS / PROJECTED \



**1st Place General** "Beach Take-Off" © Brian Sherman

**PROJECTED JUDGE:** Connie Frisbee Houde has been photographing and competing for the past 30 years. In that time she has come to appreciate how valuable good constructive comments on work can be. As a day job she works as part of the curatorial staff at the New York State Museum, working with the clothing and textile collection and the World Trade Center Collection.



2nd Place General - "Shadow Staircase" © Rebekah Sokol

# 2nd PLACE DECEMBER WINNERS / PROJECTED \



2nd Place Assigned "Please Adopt Me" © Linda Tommasulo

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# 3rd PLACE DECEMBER WINNERS / PROJECTED \

3rd Place Assigned "Take Me Home" © Linda Tommasulo





# 4th & 5th PLACE DECEMBER WINNERS / PROJECTED \



4th Place General "Sunshine" © Dave Bennett



4th Place Assigned "Cadre Doggie" © Branson Quenzer



5th Place Assigned "Wrinkles" © Drue Sokol



5th Place General "Barn With Towers" © John Berninger

**1st Place Monochrome** "Barn in the Fall" / © Bob Ricketson

# Ist PLACE DECEMBER WINNERS / PRINT \



1st Place Assigned (Topic: Metal) "Heavy Metal" © Barb Lawton

1st Place General "Cloud Formation in Balloon" © Harvey Gurien



2nd Place General "Bastion Falls" © Bob Ricketson

2nd Place Assigned "The Blacksmith" © Dave Bennett





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2nd Place Monochrome "Smoke Break" © Robert Coppola

PRINT JUDGE: Julie Palyswiat became interested in photography at the age of 8 and had her first SLR when she was 13. Julie holds an Associates Degree in Photojournalism. She has been a member of SPS for a number of years, previously serving as Focus Editor and currently Co-Vice President.

# 3rd PLACE DECEMBER WINNERS / PRINT \

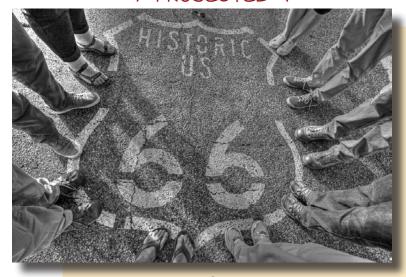
3rd Place Monochrome "Parasol Shadows" © Sean Sullivan



3rd Place Assigned "Bard Performing Arts" © Bob Ricketson

3rd Place General "Yellowstone Coyote" © Linda Tommasulo

# Ist PLACE JANUARY WINNERS / PROJECTED \



**1st Place General** "Feet on Route 66" - © Linda Buckman



1st Place Assigned (Topic: Warmth) "Cozy" © Dave Bennett

**PROJECTED JUDGE:** Evan Lauber has been a professional photographer for over 24 years, and has personally trained hundreds of photographers. Evan has photographed models, celebrities, and actors all over the United States and in Europe. His work has appeared on international best selling book covers, award winning CD covers, fashion magazine ads, several of his own calendars, and some of the finest web sites. Evan immerses his imagination and artistic vision with classic techniques while also developing new techniques as needed. Evans' work is powerful with a refreshing distinct look, often showcasing models in a new light.

2nd Place General
"Abandoned Fishing Boats on Mull"
© Dow Smith

# 2nd PLACE JANUARY WINNERS / PROJECTED \



2nd Place Assigned - "Summer Sunset" © Sean Sullivan



JANUARY WINNERS / PROJECTED \

3rd, 4th

& 5th PLACE



3rd Place General "Milkweed Fantasy" © Barb Lawton

3rd Place Assigned "It's Winter - Dogs Need Coats Too" © Linda Tommasulo

4th Place Assigned "A Very Good Year" © Robert Coppola



4th Place General "Blue" © Robert Coppola



5th Place General - "Mr. Happy" © Ken Deitcher

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IST PLACE
JANUARY
WINNERS
/ PRINT \

1st Place General

"Skating"

© Connie

Frisbee Houde



1st Place Assigned (Topic: Minimalist) "Simply Sushi" © Dave Bennett

**1st Place Monochrome** "Holocaust Memorial" © Connie Frisbee Houde

**PRINT JUDGE: Pilar Arthur-Snead** is Chief Photographer, Gallery Director and owner of Photographic Expressions Studio & Gallery, LLC of Troy, NY, established in 2009. Originally focused on event photography, Pilar has expanded her operations to include studio/on-location portraiture, interior & exterior architectural photography and editorial/lifestyle photography for feature

magazines and publications. In 2011 she interned at the Center for Photography at Woodstock; and in 2013, she earned her MFA in Photography, with honors, from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.



2nd Place General "Shaker Panes" © Jennifer Wilkerson

# 2nd PLACE JANUARY WINNERS / PRINT \





2nd Place Assigned "Where Do We Go From Here" © Linda Tommasulo

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# 3rd PLACE JANUARY WINNERS / PRINT \







3rd Place Monochrome "Little House" © Fred Moody

3rd Place General "Spider Webs on Mull" © Dow Smith

# DIRT TRACK RACING EXHIBIT AT GUILDERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bob Riccardo and Carol Donato will have their show, "Dirt Track Racing at Fonda Speedway" in the Guilderland Public Library for the month of February.

The library is located on Rt 20, 9/10's of a mile west of the intersection of Rt 20 And Rt 155.

Hours are: Monday through Friday: 10 am to 9 PM Saturday: 10 am to 5 PM ~ Sunday: 1 PM to 5 PM





# OUT OF ACADIA A LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY CONFERENCE // OCTOBER 1 - 5, 2017 LIMITED TO 100 PARTICIPANTS; RESERVE YOUR SPOT! SPONSORED IN PART BY HIGHER TO SPONSORED IN PART BY

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Lodging: Bar Harbor Motel & Atlantic Oceanside Hotel & Event Center

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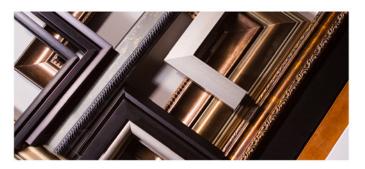
We're limiting Out of Acadia to only 100 photographers; I hope that you will be one of them! See you in Acadia.

- Chris Smith, Founder, Out of Chicago

For more info and/or to register: outofchicago.com/acadia

# www.FrameDestination.com





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- Tape/Tissue
- Stretcher Bars & Floater Frames
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# The Phoenix Gallery



Showcasing the work of artists and artisans working in various media.

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65 Bentley Dr., Troy, NY 12182 Owned and operated by Jim and Marlene Craner

# SPS members can get 5% off all their orders with Frame Destination!

You must be a registered user of the Frame Destination website as a SPS member, then you may use promo code "SPSONLY" when you a place an order to receive the discount. (Note: The promo code is not valid with other promo codes, and will not work for non-members.)

To become a registered SPS member on our website follow these steps:

- Click "Login" in the upper right of section of our site - https://www.framedestination.com
- Click "Create an Account" in the middle of the page.
- Send an email to info@framedestination.com saying you are a registered user and need your account set for SPS membership.

To see how easy it is to order custom frames on our website you can check out the video "How to Order a Custom Picture Frame..." in our video gallery: framedestination.com/video-gallery.

# ~ COMING IN MARCH ~

#### March 1

Flash Photography Critique David Edgecomb **Print Competition: Tools** 

#### March 8

Review of SPS Survey Projected Competition: Wildlife

## March 22

Stories & Images from an Adirondack **Medical Practice** Dr. Daniel Way

#### March 29

Smart Phone Photography **Presentation & Competition** 

(No Meeting March 15)

# Please support our advertisers and sponsors...

# **Hunt's January Specials\***

Canon has continued their printer rebate program. Now through January 31, 2017 or until supplies run out, we are offering the **Canon Pixma PRO 10** printer at \$379.99 before rebate (Canon sells it on their website for \$699.99). If you purchase the printer plus a package of 13x19x50 sheets of Canon Semi-Gloss or Luster paper, \$50, Canon will send you a \$250 mail in rebate! This is a pigment based printer and is always reviewed very well. Your final cost is \$129.99 plus the paper! You can't buy a decent document printer for this price, let alone an exhibition quality photo printer! If you purchase a qualifying Canon camera at the same time, Canon will increase the rebate to \$350, your final cost \$29.99 plus the paper!

**Phottix Multi-Function Remote** with Digital Timer TR-90, regular \$49.95, special \$42.46

All Gitzo Tripods and Heads, 10% off

SpiderPro Hand Strap, reg \$65, special \$52

All Spider Holsters, special 10% off

**Tamron SP 150-600mm** f/5-6.3 Di VC USD G2 (Nikon or Canon Mount) reg. \$1,399, special \$1,299 (We accept trade-ins on your generation 1 or almost any other cameras and lenses, call or email Alan for estimate.)

**Sigma 150-600mm** f/5-6.3 DG OS HSM Contemporary or Sport Lens (Nikon or Canon Mount) **CALL FOR SPECIAL PRICE!** 

Panasonic LUMIX 100-400mm F/4.0 - 6.3 LEICA VARIO-ELMAR Lens (200-800mm Equivalent, also fits Olympus Micro 4/3) CALL FOR SPECIAL PRICE!

FUJINON XF100-400mmF4.5-5.6 R LM OIS WR, CALL FOR SPECIAL PRICE!

#### **USED & REFURB:**

Fuji X-E2S Body \$589; Sekonic Litemaster PRO Light Meter L-478DR \$269

Refurb Tamrons: 24-70mm f/2.8, Canon \$949;

16-300, Canon \$499; 16-300, Nikon \$469

Canon 5D MK II Body \$799

Canon Lenses: 300mm f/2.8L IS \$3,199; IS II \$5,099; 100-400mm L IS \$699-\$849; 28-300mm f/3.5-5.6L IS \$1,699; 400mm f/5.6L \$899; 17-40mm f/4L \$549; 70-200mm f/2.8L IS \$999

Nikon D600 Body \$699-\$899

Nikon Lenses: 200-400mm f/4G II \$4,499; 80-400mm VR VI \$449-\$599; 17-55mm f/2.8G DX \$699

\*Specials run through January 31, 2017, or while supplies last. No rain checks! UPS Ground shipping is free. No sales tax to NYS.



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For Camera Club Specials...

Ask for Alan Samiljan, at (781) 462-2383. His hours are usually 8:30-5:30pm, Monday, Tuesday, Friday & Saturday. Leave a message or send an email (asamiljan@huntsphoto.com), and he'll get right back to you.

## **WEATHER ALERT!**

Some of us do like snow...but it certainly wreaks havoc on our meetings!

This is just a reminder that, in the event of inclement weather PLEASE check your e-mail and the SPS website before heading out.

In the event of bad weather it is up to the Program Chair to determine if a meeting will be held. Although we hate to cancel or postpone our meetings, your safety is our main concern.

# 2016-2017 Print Assigned Topics

2016

2017

October 5 Transportation

A creative shot of ANY human transportation.

November 2 Collections

Creatively show off a collection of ANYTHING.

December 7 Metal

Cold hard steel; shiny aluminum, tarnished bronze...

any metal will do.

January 4 Minimalist

Less is more. Isolate your subject using the

minimalist approach

February 1 Fantasy

Is this real life, or just fantasy? You decide.

March 1 Tools

Be Tim the Toolman of photography, and show us

some unique tool shots.

April 5 Fences

Show how they separate us, protect us or keep us in.

May 3 Print Image of the Year



# 2016-2017 Projected Image Assigned Topics

Deadline for the Projected Image competition is Sunday at midnight prior to the competition.

2016

October 19 Macro

Show us your best macro shot.

November 9 Leading Lines

Leading lines should be evident in your composition.

December 14 Pet Portrait

**2017** Finally a contest where you can use a portrait of a pet.

January 11 Warmth

A photo that will warm us up in mid-winter.

February 8 Wildlife

From an exotic place, or your backyard.

March 8 Past Prime

Show some element of decay.

April 12 Spring has Sprung

Show winter losing its grip.

May 10 Projected Image of the Year



# There are LOTS of ways to connect with the Schenectady Photographic Society:

Website: www.spsphoto.org

Facebook: "Schenectady Photographic Society"

Meetup:

http://www.meetup.com/Schenectady-Photographic-Society/



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2016-2017**

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Field Trip Coordinator Co-Chair......Phil Olivo philolivo@gmail.com

Projected Image Co-Chair.....Jeff Plant

Mentoring Group Chair......Dave Bennett

studio\_50@ymail.com

Membership Chair, Photo Essay Group Chair

Traveling Exhibit Coordinator and

Publicity ...... Dow Smith

dowsmith323@gmail.com

Judge Coordinator Chair .......Robert Coppola

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