



# Chester County Camera Club

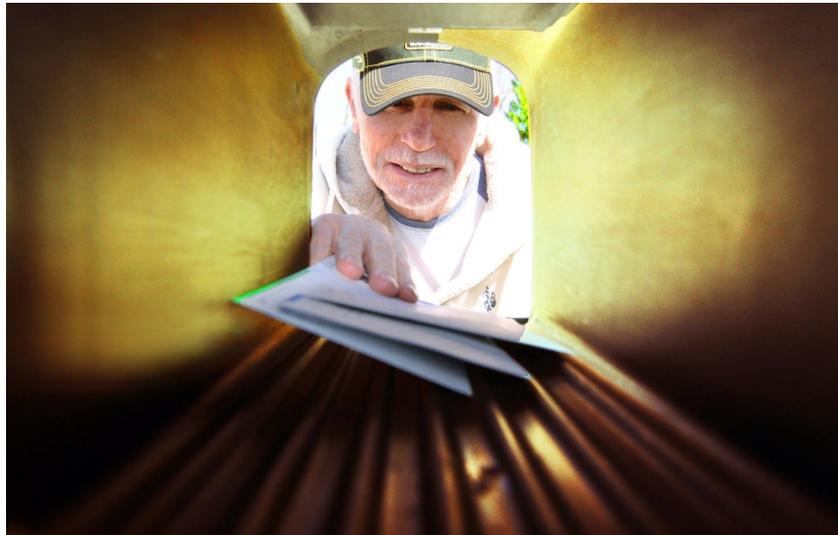
a community of photographers

May 2020 Newsletter

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## Something Different

Well that sums up not only our current state of existence, but also the most recent “Stay-at-Home” challenge to keep us all motivated to learn and create new photo masterpieces! This topic was suggested by long-time member Jim Dougherty who posted this fun image to the gallery. Makes us wonder,,,,, Jim - how did you take this shot? More images in this newsletter from members who have had a lot of fun with this challenge.



## Recognizing Our Volunteers

Anyone who has ever been involved with a non-profit organization realizes the value of active and engaged volunteers. In a group like CCCC, which is entirely run by volunteers, their effort and assistance is of utmost importance as they are the backbone of the organization. We currently have a few volunteers who are leaving their post at the end of this year and we'd like to thank them for all their hard work and dedication.



**Stephanie Vacek**, CCCC Secretary, has been dutifully recording the minutes of every meeting for the past six years. If you are ever curious to know about announcements from any past meeting, they are all available on the website (under News/Meeting Notes) thanks to Stephanie. In addition to her annual world travels, Stephanie enjoys photographing just about anything, but specializes in unique portraits of her furry friends, including adorable angora rabbits. She also enjoys and

will continue heading up the annual CCCC Summer Challenge along with Anita Bower.

**Jennifer Gidaro** has served as a Member-at-Large for several years, and as CCCC treasurer before that, providing expert financial and policy guidance. She continues as an active member contributing in many ways, including as a Mentor at the monthly Mentor Meetings and she has given a few presentations at the Member's Forums. Recently retired from her accounting career, we expect to see many more photos of her international cycling trips.



**Peter Guman** has been the other Member-at-Large for several years, and will be stepping down from that advisory role. Peter remains a key member of the Workshop Committee, and has recently taken on the role of managing the CCCC Discussion Forums, which provide a wide array of resources and topics all generated by members. Check out his newest and very timely Forum on [Online Training Opportunities](#).

**Bob Kelly** will be passing on the baton of Competition Chair, which he has masterfully managed for the past two years. And a special salute goes to Bob for not only creating the very popular Mentor Group, but for jumping in at short notice and keeping those meetings going this year. Bob will continue as webmaster, and in his new unexpected role as Zoom and Google Meeting host. And he will no doubt continue to keep us entertained with his never-ending wit and humor.



## *Stay-at-Home Photo Challenge: Food and Drink*



So maybe by now you are “Going Bananas” like in this image by Maureen Mulloney, or perhaps you are looking forward to celebrating “When it’s Over” in Howard Sundwall’s image. Whatever you are experiencing, we hope you capture it with your own photographic vision and share with the rest of us! Check out the many images from the assigned topic “Food and Drink” - (which is always on our minds now) in the [CCCC Gallery](#).

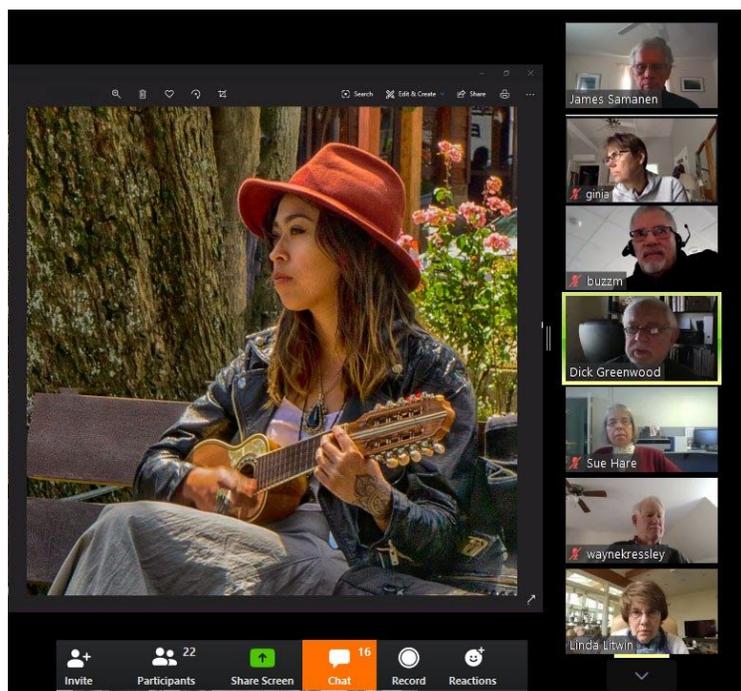


Here are a few images submitted by CCCC members to the “Food and Drink” gallery who are clearly having fun and learning new photo skills!

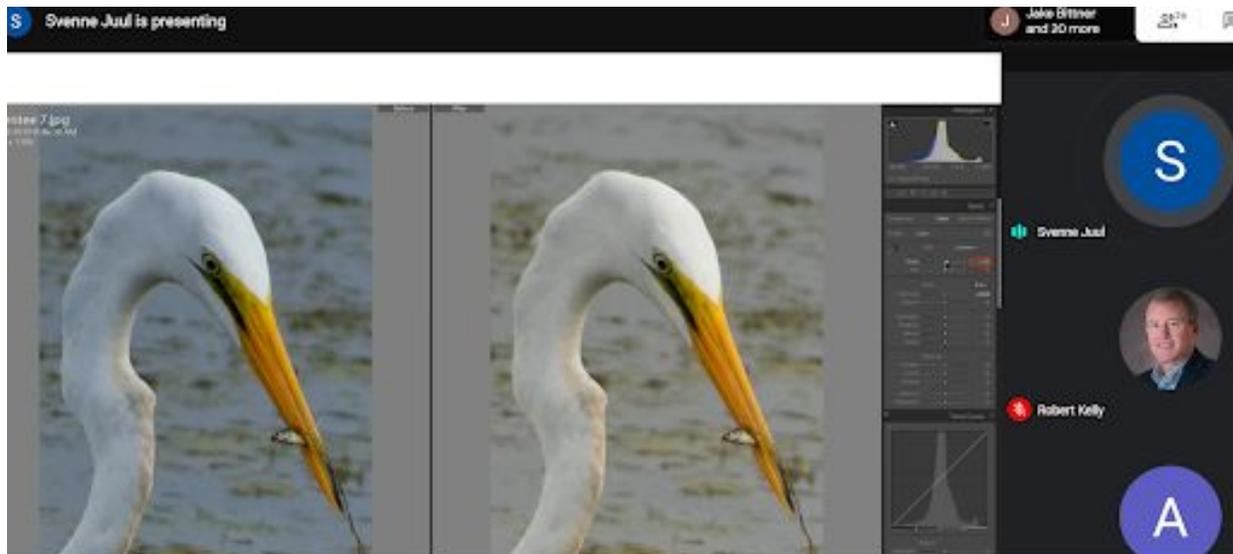


## Print Critique Group - now a Virtual Meeting!

There is a robust group of CCCC members who enjoy sharing and discussing their prints in a friendly atmosphere once a month. Organized by Jim Samanen, the group did not miss a beat, as Jim hosted a virtual meeting for those in the normal Print Critique group. The next [print critique meeting](#) will be held Sunday, May 3. Those participating in the group will receive instructions via email from Jim Samanen. Thank you to Jim for keeping this vibrant group going.

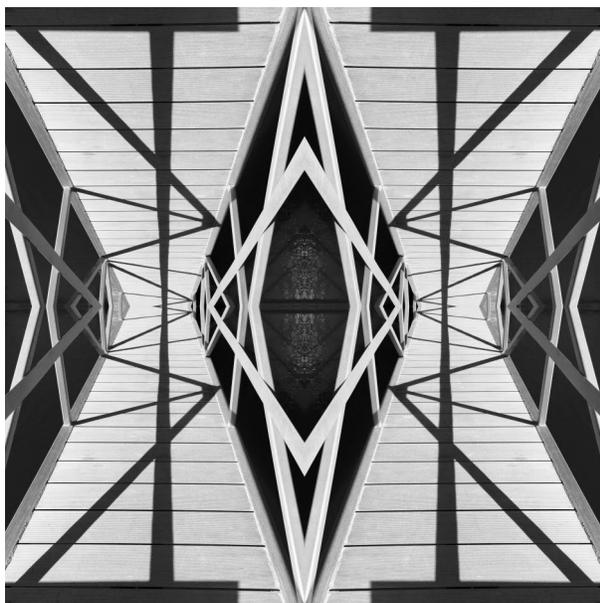


## Mentor Meeting in April



In April, the agenda came from the suggestion of Mentee, Andi Bates. - ask Mentors to edit images supplied by Mentees, and then walk everyone through the process. It was a fun meeting, with lots of learning opportunities not only on techniques, but also on the thought process of why we make edits to improve images. Bob Kelly moderated the event, and again did a great job hosting the meeting in our new virtual world. The [next Mentor Meeting](#) will be Wednesday, May 20.

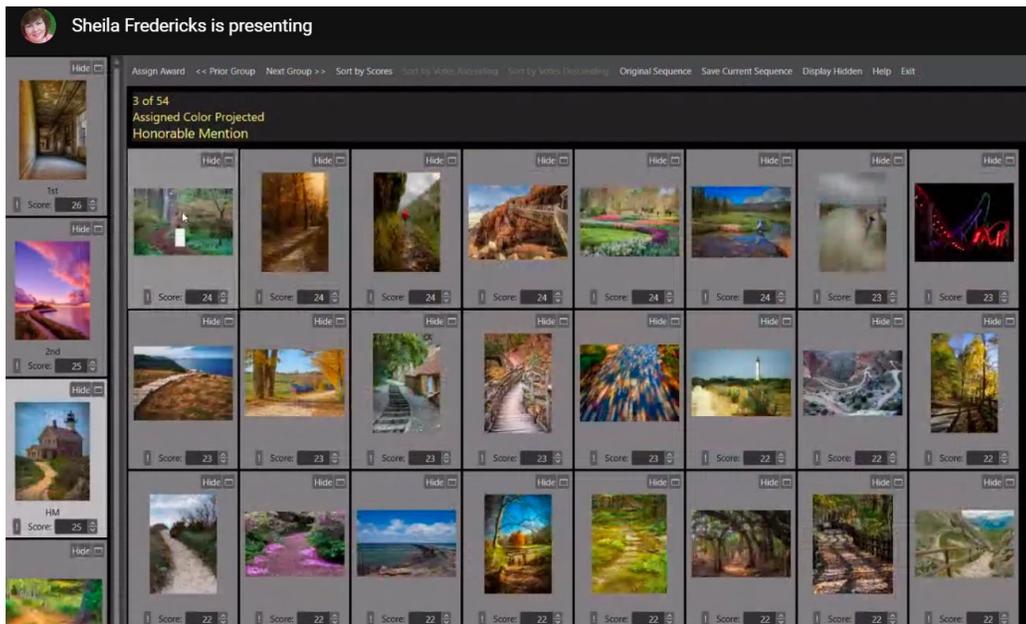
## Stay-at-Home Photo Challenge: “Something Different”



This image by Nima Marsh fits right in with the most recent challenge, **“Something Different”**. The topic came from member Jim Dougherty, who is known for his unusual and creative spin on his images. As Jim put it: “Something Different”, as we all have a photo that we like for whatever reason, but would generally not enter into competition - Something that could spark curiosity”. CCCC photographers could interpret this any way they wanted, and we sure got some unusual and strange submissions!

We will put out a topic every few weeks while our meetings are in hiatus, and ask that you use your creativity and imagination to come up with one to three photographs of the topic to share in a gallery with other club members. Let’s have some fun, and hopefully, learn more about our cameras, composition and processing. Think of this as a “virtual outing”. For instructions on how to post your images, [click here](#).

# April Virtual Competition



Trails can be enchanting and inviting or they can fill prospective travelers with a sense of foreboding and mystery. With a record 54 entries into the assigned color category and another 15 in monochrome, CCCC members submitted a wide variety of interpretations that awakened emotions of mystery and wonder. Guest Judge Dain Simons was up to the task of commenting and scoring all these images, and had to narrow down a large tie-breaker to select the winning images. A photographer in his own right, Dain is also owner of Cameras Etc in Newark DE, and we appreciate his flexibility to adapt to our new virtual format. And thanks to Bob Kelly and Sheila Fredericks for setting up the Google Meet and handling the projection duties seamlessly. You can check out the [winning images](#) on our website, and click on the zoom box in the lower right corner for a larger view.

## Monthly Meeting (Virtual) ~ May 13



We're happy to welcome back Frank Smith, only this time we will not get to shake his hand! He will share his photographic passion with us virtually in the comfort of your own home. Frank is an Olympus Visionary, a group of established, award-winning professional photographers who travel the world with Olympus products to capture life's beauty and splendor. While his portfolio is very diverse, this presentation will focus on Travel Photography. Find out more about [Frank T. Smith](#) and view some of his amazing images!

## Matt Kloskowski Webinar ~~ May 6

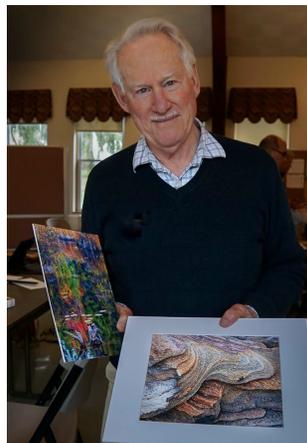
If you've ever done a Google or YouTube search for Lightroom and Photoshop experts, you surely came across the name of Matt Kloskowski. He is the founder of **Matt Kloskowski Photography and Training**. He specializes in outdoor, landscape, and nature photography along with editing with Photoshop, Lightroom, and ON1 apps. Matt was inducted into the Photoshop Hall of Fame in 2014 and is the best-selling author of over 20 books.

We are so excited to be invited to his **FREE** 90-minute webinar on Lightroom and Photoshop. This is live, so you'll be able to ask your questions and get expert answers from Matt, one of the best in the field. While this is **FREE**, you must register for the webinar. [Here's](#) more detailed information that includes a link for registration.

Volunteers are the reason our club is the best around and we want to make sure our volunteers get the recognition they deserve. This new feature section of our newsletter will showcase different volunteers each month.



Projecting and managing the digital competitions each month is more complicated than most of us realize. Preparation takes place in various software programs to gather and present all the entries. Those that run the laptop need to know the program and certain codes to assign scores and designate ribbon winners. Kudos to **Sheila Fredericks** and **Svenne Juul** who have risen to the challenge. And a special salute to Sheila for modifying the procedure to work in a virtual environment.



Although they got a reprieve for the rest of this year, here is a shout out to **Jim Samanen** and **Wayne Kressley** for coordinating and showcasing the prints at our monthly competitions. It takes a lot of coordination to display the images in the right order to match the projected view, and sometimes to be sure the print is displayed in the correct orientation - and it is accomplished in the dark!

## Upcoming Events

Replacing our in-person gatherings with virtual options has proved to be very successful and we will continue that through the month of May. All outings are tentative at this time and will be determined based on restrictions being lifted in PA and DE. Details on each outing will be communicated as we get closer to the dates, also be sure to check the website regularly for updates.

- Sun, May 3 [Print Critique Group](#) (virtual zoom meeting)
- Wed, May 6 [Matt Kloskowski Lightroom Photoshop Webinar](#)
- Wed, May 13 [Monthly Meeting](#) (virtual)
- Sat, May 16 Club Outing to [Chanticleer](#) (tentative)
- Wed, May 20 [Mentor Meeting](#)
- Wed, May 27 [Monthly Competition](#)
- Sat, May 30 Club Outing to [Mount Cuba](#) (tentative)
- Sat, June 6 Club Outing to [Valley Preferred Cycling Center](#) (tentative)
- Sun, June 7 [Print Critique Group](#)
- Sat, June 27 [Chester County Balloon Festival](#) (tentative)

Upcoming events are listed on the [CCCC Home page](#) and a full calendar is listed on the [Schedule page](#).

## Summer Challenge:



It's that time again! Time to think about the Chester County Camera Club Ultimate Summer Challenge! Although we've been sheltering in place for several weeks, it's time to dust off our cameras and start pushing some pixels. Stephanie Vacek and Anita Bower have selected another exciting and challenging topic to keep us all on our toes!

As of now, we are unsure if we will be able to have group meetups in June & July due to the Coronavirus. Let's all keep a close eye on what is permitted for group outings and plan accordingly. We plan to wrap up the summer at Helen Wagner's home for a potluck supper & photo slideshow in August.

Stay tuned for the official rollout of the Ultimate Summer Challenge in late May!

## Election Time



Members will receive an email from Howard on May 1 with a link to the online ballot. Voting will be open until May 15 and the results will be announced shortly thereafter. Just in case you missed it, here's the slate of candidates, pictured below from left to right: President - Ginia Apostolacus, VP - Carolyn Mead, Treasurer - Helen Wagner, Secretary - Pat Rhubottom, Members at Large - Paul Stewart and Steve Whitney



**Upcoming Exhibits:** Many of the local exhibits planned for this spring have been cancelled or postponed. We'll keep you updated on new dates as information becomes available.

## Conferences and Learning Opportunities



New England's Top Photography Conference is cancelled for this year, and will return next summer. If you had planned to attend and already registered, full refunds will be issued.

Check out the new CCCC Forum on **Online Training Opportunities** established by member **Peter Guman**. In addition to using this forum to find learning opportunities to help improve your photography, members can post links to online training they have found to be helpful that they would like to share with others. Want to receive an email when a new opportunity is listed? It's easy - just click on one of the forum topics and then click on Edit Subscription. Discussion Forums are on the website under [Club Information](#)/ Forums.

### Online Training Opportunities

Public Forum

Members can share links to training videos, You-Tube tutorials, photography websites, etc. And feel free to comment about training videos or websites that you found beneficial.

View Topics

# Competition Tips and Techniques

*“There are no **rules** for good photographs, there are only good photographs.” ---Ansel Adams*

This month we will live by the words of Ansel Adams as we embrace our theme for the May competition, **Breaking Compositional Rules**. We’ve all heard (and probably used) the term ‘rules are made to be broken’ so here’s your chance to be a rebel, be as daring as you want, and break those rules!

Here are two links to help provide some inspiration for breaking the rules. You can also find these and more on our [website](#) under Club Information / Competition Info

<https://expertphotography.com/break-photography-composition-rules/>

<https://contrastly.com/photography-rules-break/>

Be sure to regularly check the [CCCC Homepage](#) for news and updates, as well as links to galleries from recent outings.

If you have any information you would like considered in an upcoming monthly newsletter, please contact newsletter editors [Carol DeGuseppi](#) or [Betsy Wilson](#).