

Southwest Missouri Camera Club

Photogram

JANUARY

Club Meeting Topics: Competitions Overview.
How to Enter a Competition. Introduction to
Capture Groups / How to Prepare a Photo for
Exhibit. Refresh Your Basic Editing Skills



The beauty of winter is
in its stillness.

What's in it for you this month?

- January 08:** Club Meeting at Firehouse Pottery * Botanical Exhibit Print Due
- January 09:** PSA Entries Due
- January 14:** Connect Social at Big Momma's Coffee & Espresso Bar
- January 17:** Field Trip - Brightspeed Ice Park
- January 22:** Club Meeting at Schweitzer Brentwood Library/Hazel Meredith
First Quarter Competition Entry Due
- January 31:** Field Trip - Drury University



Carrie's Corner

Hello, and a huge welcome to Southwest Missouri Camera Club, SWMCC! We're genuinely thrilled you've decided to join our community.

Whether you're a beginner just learning to frame a shot, a passionate hobbyist, or a seasoned professional, you've found your people.

One important thing to know is that we are an accepting and supportive club, regardless of your gear. Whether you use a modern DSLR or mirrorless system, a vintage film camera, or the powerful cell phone in your pocket, we celebrate vision, storytelling, and the sheer joy of creating – not the size of your gear bag.

SWMCC focuses on building community, making socialization and strong connections our core mission. We offer a vibrant calendar packed with activities designed to give you fresh ways to Capture, Create, and Connect. This includes monthly meetings, engaging programs and presentations, fun events like scavenger hunts, dedicated Capture Groups, exciting Create & Explore Outings, casual Connect Socials, and opportunities to showcase your work in exhibits and competitions – all part of the new and exciting initiatives we've launched this year!

This is a friendly, low-pressure place where learning and strong connections happen in a variety of fun and casual ways. We're active year-round and excited for you to participate. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the Board members with comments, suggestions, or just to introduce yourself. We can't wait to meet you and see the amazing things you capture!



Carrie Alkier
President

Meet & Greet 2026 Board Members



Lori Long
Vice President



Linda Wise
Secretary



Susan Gettys
Treasurer



Harley Dutoit
Competitions
Chair



Elaine Miller
Exhibits Chair



Jim Gulley
Field Trip Chair



Kerri Seichter
Web Admin/
Past President



Richard Baumann
Board Consultant

EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITIES

We have a full and exciting exhibit schedule this year, including five exhibits at area libraries and our ongoing rotating exhibit at the Botanical Center. These shows are open to all members, and we especially encourage those who have never exhibited before to participate. Exhibiting is a great way to grow your skills and share your photography with the community.

CAPTURE



Photo Credit: Elaine Miller

2026 BOTANICAL CENTER THEMES & DUE DATES



1/8 – Winter
3/26 – Blooming Colors / Buds
5/21 – Butterflies & Buds
7/23 – Wildlife
9/24 – Fall / Fall Festival
11/12 – Christmas



CREATE



Photo Credit: Lori Long

WINTER-THEMED PRINTS

No frames are needed. Photos should be matted in a 16" x 20" mat. Photos of any size may be used within the mat opening, although 11"x14" prints are standard and make it easy to switch images for future exhibits.

Photos for our next update at the Botanical Center are due on January 8. We will need eight winter-themed photos. Please sign up on Facebook or email elmler.photos@gmail.com if you plan to submit a photo.

If you are new to exhibiting, this is a perfect first step—supportive, accessible, and a great way to learn the process while sharing your work with the community.

CONNECT



CONNECT SOCIALS

Make a connection! Introducing a new social component to the camera club's offerings in 2026 - Connect Socials. Monthly small group social gatherings have been created to promote the sharing of similar passions, ideas, tips, techniques, or maybe just to share a cup of coffee or a sweet treat with new (or not so new) friends.

CAPTURE

FIRST QUARTER SOCIALS

- 1/14 - Big Momma's Coffee & Espresso Bar - 217 E. Commercial St. - 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- 2/11 - Neighbor's Mill Bakery & Cafe - 1435 E. Independence St. #110 - 3:00-5:00 p.m.
- 3/11 - Travellers House Coffee & Tea - 824 S. National Ave Suite A100 - 8:30-10:30 a.m.

CREATE

JANUARY FIELD TRIPS

Brightspeed Ice Park
635 E Trafficway St.

1/17 - 2:00pm

Missouri State University vs. Maryville University



Action Photo Shoot

Focus: Planning, Fast Shutter Speed,
Continuous Autofocus, Telephoto use

*Logistic Note: Safety warning for fast
moving subjects. Possible \$10 charge at door.

*Backup date, if necessary, will be January 31st
at 9:45pm (details TBD)*

CONNECT

- COLLECT -
ADVENTURES
NOT THINGS

Winter Landscape and Architectural
Structures: Drury University
900 N Benton Ave. (circle drive)

1/31/26 - 2:00-3:00 pm

Focus: Light Exposure, Composition,
Reflections, Creative Framing,
Shadowing and Structure

Logistic Note: Parking will be
assigned prior to arrival,
dress warm, no charge

Annual Awards

BANQUET

SWMCC's Annual Awards Banquet was held on December 18, 2025, at the Botanical Center. A catered meal from City Barbeque was enjoyed by approximately 40 members and their guests. The festive evening concluded with an ornament exchange, door prizes, and the end-of-the-year awards program. Past and newly-elected board members were also recognized and introduced.

Photographers of the Year in each of the three categories were announced as follows: Beginner: Harley Dutoit, Intermediate: Lori Long, and Advanced: Ted Pagel. Photographs of the Year were also announced: Beginner - "The Final Voyage" by Harley Dutoit, Intermediate - "Alley Mill at Night" by David Strong, and Advanced - "The Smoking Gun" by Ted Pagel.



Elaine + Carrie



Kerri + Harley



Jane



Owen, Margaret + Suzanne



Sallie + Woodie



Festive Centerpiece



Lori, Ted + Harley



Sweet Treats

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **Harley Dutoit, David Strong,** and **Ted Pagel** on their winning photographs. Club members voted the following images as their top picks in the beginning, intermediate, and advanced categories at the end of 2025.

The Final Voyage



Alley Mill at Night



The Smoking Gun





JANUARY 8TH CLUB MEETING

To kick off 2026, the first meeting of the year is jammed-packed with information that sets the stage for the next 12 months. Optimum for new members, and a great review for others, attendees will learn methods to prepare photos for exhibits and/or competitions and will review the unique characteristics of the club's three main competitions and modes of entry. Lastly, a thorough explanation of the club's new Capture Groups will be introduced along with the small group leaders. Members will have an opportunity to sign up for the groups in which they are interested and will have the opportunity to participate within these groups throughout the course of the year. Get in on the ground level!

JANUARY 22ND CLUB MEETING

Refresh Your Basic Editing Skills

Universal to everyone who calls themselves a photographer, editing, in some shape or form, is a given. The focus of this meeting is on refreshing those editing skills, learning new and innovative techniques, and applying them to your photographs.

The speaker this evening is an award-winning, photographer, teacher, speaker, workshop leader and highly respected competition judge, Hazel Meredith.

Meredith began teaching editing techniques nearly 20 years ago via adult education programs. Today, she educates fellow photographers at camera clubs, conferences, and workshops and offers webinars on a variety of creative edits.

"Working with textures & Overlays: Turn Ho-Hum into a Work of Art", her first eBook, was released in 2015 and a sequel four years later. She later created two online courses titled "Creating Your Own Textures" and "Understanding Typography & Creating Word Art".

Meredith, along with her husband, Dave, began holding successful Virtual Conferences in 2021, after founding the "Creative Photography Conference" and holding live presentations. Meredith's love of creating unique images inspires her to instruct and share her techniques with photographers around the world.

She has been a leader in the photographic community and received honorary distinctions from several organizations, including the *Ashbrook Award for Digital Imaging Instruction* from the Photographic Society of America.

Camera clubs, she believes, are worthwhile avenues to share in the passion of photography while continuing to learn and share new techniques.

Owner of Meredith Images, her website can be found at meredithimages.com.

OVERVIEW/EXAMPLES OF CLUB COMPETITIONS

SWMCC hosts three photography competitions each year—Scavenger Hunt, Quarterly Competition, and PSA Interclub—offering members fun, creative, and skill-building opportunities - and maybe even a few bragging rights. These events range from themed photo challenges to worldwide contests, giving every photographer a chance to grow and be recognized.



SCAVENGER HUNT

Held twice a year, in the spring and fall, the Scavenger Hunt is designed as a fun, low-pressure contest to test your creativity, get you out and about with your camera, and compete in a friendly competition among others in the club. Pre-determined subject matter provides members the opportunity to submit their creative, and sometimes interpretive, digital images. Favorites are voted on among club members. First - third places are awarded; points for participating are also earned.



QUARTERLY COMPETITIONS

A popular competition among club members is the Quarterly Competition. Hence the name, this competition is held four times a year and is an ongoing in-club contest that encourages members of all skill levels to submit their best recent work for peer and judge feedback. There is no theme to follow; members submit their unique choice of subject matter and genre.





PSA INTERCLUB COMPETITION

This interclub competition connects our club with others worldwide, three times per year. Members have the opportunity to submit their best work in up to five categories: Color, Monochrome, Photo Travel, Photojournalism, and Nature.

PSA judges, independent of the club, are tasked with judging these entries. Results contribute to our club's global ranking each season.

SWMCC joined PSA at the end of 2023; participants have experienced respectable success in two short years. Several members from the club have been recognized and honored with various placement in this challenging competition (see below).

Note: The Facebook page is missing a few known certificates, possibly four. If you are a member who received an honorable mention, merit, or medal that is not displayed below, please share the certificate with Lori Long so the club will have a complete record and it can be archived. An updated post can then be included in the next Photogram as well.

As of the end of 2025, SWMCC's members have been competing with camera clubs in Canada, United Kingdom, Spain, Australia, Vietnam, Ireland, India, Denmark, Belgium, and New Zealand, along with a host of states across the U.S. from New York to California.



Connect

www.swmccameraclub.org
www.facebook.com/swmccameraclub
www.instagram.com/swmcc_cameraclub
swmcamera@gmail.com

Save the Date

Club Picnic 4/9
50th Anniversary Celebration 6/25
Awards Banquet 12/17