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For Auld Lang Syne/For Days Ahead

A New Year is Here. Now What?



Perfect Together by Karen Crisfulla

Happy New Year, fellow photographers. Can you believe that 2020 is finally

behind us? Oh wait, that's not quite right. There have been a couple more years between then and now, haven't there? What a long strange trip this decade has been so far. As is typical at this time of year, I can't help but to reflect back on the good old days. But it's important that, especially in unsettled times like these, we keep looking forward to how things could be with some imagination and a bit of effort.

Last year at this time we asked you how you felt about the SJCC experience and your valued, candid opinions helped to inform a lot of changes instituted this season. I feel the need to be candid with you all in return. It's not working. Meeting attendance and challenge (formerly competition) participation is at an all-time low. There's a general felling of malaise in the air. The world has changed a lot since a deadly virus burst on the scene, impacting the way everyone interacts. Perhaps we never return to days of auld lang syne. Perhaps things will always be a little different than they were in the good old pre-pandemic days. But that doesn't have to be a bad thing. We just need to keep evolving. And for that we need your feedback again. Please join us for Round Two of our Members Discussion Forum (2023 Edition) and tell us what you think about where we are now and how we can get our mojo back. (Meeting details can be found below.)

Meanwhile, a toast to you all. Your collective talent never ceases to amaze and inspire. Here's to a creatively fulfilling new year. Cheers!

Sara Ascalon, President

Reminder: save this email for all the dates and zoom links provided... but, just in case, you'll find a copy linked in the member drop down window at the top of our site.

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

December 30: RiverWinds Juried Exhibition Photo Pick up

January 10: Mobile Photography Users Group Meeting

January 12: Creativity with Textures and Composites by Hazel Meredith
January 17: Challenge Meeting
January 19: Members Round Table Discussion
January 21: Field Trip: Sunset in the Great Bay Wildlife Management Area
January 24: Drone Users Group Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

RiverWinds Juried Photography Exhibition

Exhibitors: pick up unsold work on December 30, 5-7pm. This time slot was chosen to accommodate those working 9-5 jobs. You may, however, pick your photos up earlier during this day if necessary. If you do, you must email us with a heads up so that all pieces are accounted for at the end of the day. **Work cannot be held after 7pm.** If you cannot pick up, you must make arrangements for someone else to get your work for you.

Mobile Photography User Group (MPUG): Tuesday, January 10 at 7pm via Zoom

From Our Mobile Photography Master, Jeff Feeny:

Happy New Year to everyone. The January theme is "Time Piece" and or "Ice". Bonus points for those who can combine them both in one image.

Please make sure you get the images to Jeff no later than the Monday night before the meeting. Send them to foneartstudio@icloud.com,

Zoom Meeting Link

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83239804273?
pwd=Vmc0czRsR0pWSDdxTWdIN3JNcy9mdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83239804273?pwd=Vmc0czRsR0pWSDdxTWdIN3JNcy9mdz09)

- Meeting ID: 832 3980 4273
- Passcode: 282398

Monthly Presentation: Thursday, January 12 at 7pm via Zoom

Creativity with Textures and Composites by Hazel Meredith

See how you can take a “ho hum” image and make it into your own “work of art”. Learn how to work with textures and compositing several images to create your own artistic vision.

Hazel will show you how to create your own textures – both from photos and with brushes in Photoshop (or Elements) – then combine them with photos to create looks from subtle to dramatic. You will learn how to do simple composites like changing a sky, as well as more complex creations with several images.

Bio:

Hazel Meredith is an award-winning photographer and a sought-after teacher, speaker, and competition judge. She began teaching in 2007, and now does seminars at camera clubs and conferences across the U.S. – both in-person and virtual. She offers her own workshops and webinars, and has done webinars for several software companies. She has written two eBooks, and released her first course, “Creating Your Own Textures”. Hazel loves the creative aspect of photography and post-processing, especially the use of textures and software to create unique images. She and her husband, Dave, produce the “Virtual Creative Photography Conference” twice a year to attendees around the world. She is actively involved with the photographic community, and has held leadership roles and received honorary distinctions from several organizations.

Zoom Meeting Link

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84126318594?
pwd=dTBSaitSNHNoSm14bTJOUHpSNDR3Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84126318594?pwd=dTBSaitSNHNoSm14bTJOUHpSNDR3Zz09)

- Meeting ID: 841 2631 8594
- Passcode: 931327

Challenge Night: Tuesday, January 17 at 7pm, at Medford Leas and via Zoom

Judged by Mike Pillows

- **Assigned Topic: Minimalism** – Less is more. Create a compelling photograph using a minimal number of compositional elements.
- Open

Zoom Meeting Link for those not attending in person

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82330778352?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82330778352?pwd=b0lzcTBLWHR0NWxPQnBHQVFoU0NtUT09)

[pwd=b0lzcTBLWHR0NWxPQnBHQVFoU0NtUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82330778352?pwd=b0lzcTBLWHR0NWxPQnBHQVFoU0NtUT09)

- Meeting ID: 823 3077 8352
- Passcode: 733506

If you are unsure of how to upload your challenge entries, now is a good time to acquaint yourself with the process. [There are useful videos here](#). Even if you are comfortable with it, it wouldn't hurt to check to see if your password is working. Doing this before the deadline crunch will assure that we can help you sort out any problems. To avoid disqualification and disappointment, it is also advisable to [review the eligibility criteria](#).

SJCC Round Table Discussion - Round Two, Thursday, January 19, 7pm via Zoom

Thanks to your feedback at last January's Members Round Table we made quite a number of informed changes to our format for the current season. One year and several refinements later, we want to continue the discussion to hear how you feel now and learn about what can keep you engaged with and active in the club's many programs and activities. Your participation is valued and critical to our planning for 2023 and beyond.

Zoom Meeting Link

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85110154102?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85110154102?pwd=Slc4WnZjMXJMTedwTXczb3JpeUFGdz09)

[pwd=Slc4WnZjMXJMTedwTXczb3JpeUFGdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85110154102?pwd=Slc4WnZjMXJMTedwTXczb3JpeUFGdz09)

- Meeting ID: 851 1015 4102
- Passcode: 405586

Field Trip: Sunset in the Great Bay Wildlife Management Area, Saturday, January 21, 3pm - Sunset

Beautiful marsh views, Atlantic City skyline, sunset at an abandoned marina and more! Drones are prohibited. Registration via email to info@sjcameraclub.org is required. Additional details will be sent to registrants a few days prior to event.

Drone Photography User Group: Tuesday, January 24 at 7pm via Zoom

For pilots and non-pilots alike. All that's required is an appreciation of the big picture. The REALLY big picture.

Zoom Meeting Link

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81221392692?
pwd=QjAveVBwS3h3QnhQUndkcDIENGROZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81221392692?pwd=QjAveVBwS3h3QnhQUndkcDIENGROZz09)

- Meeting ID: 828 1327 3595
- Passcode: 914475

PLEASE NOTE Workshop Schedule Changes:

The **January 28 Photoshop Layers and Masks** workshop has been **rescheduled to February 18**. If you have already signed up for this program, your registration will automatically transfer to the new date. If you are registered and cannot attend, please let us know.

The **March 18/19 Still Life Workshop** has been **cancelled**. A hands on workshop, ***A Thousand Words: Storytelling through Portraiture*** has been scheduled in its place on March 18. Details can be found [on our website](#).

To register for these or any other workshop, please email us at info@sjcameraclub.org.

Zoom participants: If you are using your smartphone, sign in with the Zoom app and use the appropriate meeting ID and Password.

IMPORTANT: Our presentation and challenge meetings are recorded for members to review. The exception is when presenters do not want their presentation recorded. Links are posted in the SJCC Members Lounge Facebook group. Due to their file size, videos may be deleted after 30 days to make sure our drive has room on it. Also, please do not download them or share the links. All presentations are the intellectual property of the presenters. They allow us to record them if the videos are only viewed by club members. Out of respect for the privacy of our members, that also applies to recordings of our challenges. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding.

Challenges, Presentations, and a Bunch of Other Cool Stuff.

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