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You spoke. We listened. Big Changes are in Store.

Taking the Wraps off the New South Jersey Camera Club



Metamorphosis – Wayne Klaw

It's been a month since I wrote to you to announce some of the immediate

changes and enhancements that we were putting in place to make the SJCC experience more rewarding. Meanwhile, we've been working feverishly on some long range plans that will better serve the needs of our rapidly growing membership. I am happy to say that we're well on our way to meeting that goal.

Introducing SJCC 2.0

The meetings are too long. There's no arguing that fact. More active members mean far more competition entries. The time required to give proper consideration to all of them is a drain on our members and judges alike. Yet, in our recent member survey, you told us – by a huge majority – that the competitions are the most important benefit of membership. The second most important? The presentations. Any decision that placed one over the other would require the judgment of a Solomon. Yet, unlike the story of the biblical infant who made it through in one piece, wisdom told us that the only way to truly save the club for its members was to cleave the meeting in two. So, to that end, the 2018-19 Season will launch with a dramatic change to the club calendar. Effective September 2018, with the generous hospitality and support of our hosts at Medford Leas, we will hold separate meetings for presentations and competitions.

More Meetings, More Value

Our next season will bring extended opportunities for education, experience, and engagement. Here's what our new schedule will look like:

- **Presentations – 2nd Thursday of each month***, starting 7pm in the auditorium
- **Digital and Print Competitions – 3rd Tuesday of each month***, starting 7pm in the auditorium
- **Pre-Meeting Workshops – 3rd Tuesday of each month***, 6:15pm in the Linden Room
- **Monthly Saturday Morning Workshops*** – topics and dates to be announced. We will now be holding these in the Holly Room (the large room where our February meeting was held) to accommodate more attendees.

- **Off-site discussion groups** – Regularly scheduled, informal weekend gatherings are being planned to afford members the time and opportunity to connect socially over a shared passion.
- **Field Trips** – we will continue to organize outings to local and extended area destinations.

*except July and August

Create the experience that works for you. Your nominal membership fee will allow you to participate in any or all of our club functions. As always, guests are welcome at our meetings. Membership is required for entry in competitions as well as workshop and field trip attendance.

Now, back to this season...

We still have several months to go under our current schedule. We will do whatever we can to make the meetings run as smoothly as possible. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we continue to make the best of our allotted time. A few things worth mentioning:

The **Behind the Lens** program announced last month is scheduled for May. Next month, we'll ask you to review the updated online gallery of high-scoring images presented in competition this season and nominate your favorites for peer recognition. The makers of the most mentioned photographs will be invited to speak briefly about their creation and participate in a Q&A. Meanwhile, feel free to familiarize yourself with the contenders to date by visiting [the competition gallery](#).

The **Second Annual Reginald Wickham Memorial Exhibition**. This highly anticipated juried exhibition of exclusively black and white photography, sponsored by SJCC will be held April 22 - June 8 and will be open to the photographic community at large. The prospectus will be available and distributed shortly.

Facebook Critique Groups for Beginners/Intermediates and Advanced/Salon have launched and are abuzz with activity. You should have received an

invitation to join via Facebook or email. If you did not and are interested in participating please let us know and we'll get another invite out to you.

The **Create Impressionistic Photography Using Textures** workshop originally scheduled for this month has been rescheduled to **April 7**, 9:30-11:30 am in the Linden Room. Please make a note of the new date.

We have a field trip to **Laurel Hill Cemetery** coming up next weekend, just in time for those of you procrastinators who still need a graveyard photo for this month's print competition. [See our website for details and registration.](#)

Which brings us to..

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 20 at 7pm sharp, back in the auditorium.

- Presenter and Judge: Robert Zurfluh
- Presentation: The Canadian Rockies
- Competitions: Digital – Open, Monochrome Prints – Graveyards (A place where people, pets, etc. are buried; a place where old things are left or thrown away.)
- Submission Deadline: Sunday, March 18 at midnight
- Pre-meeting Workshop: Matting Your Prints, Bonnie Rovere, 6:15pm
Linden Room

Our club first met Robert Zurfluh last year when he judged our June competition. His insight and sense of humor made him an instant favorite. This year we welcome him back as both judge and presenter and eagerly anticipate more of the same.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Best regards,

Sara Ascalon, President

Competitions, Workshops, and Field Trips. Oh my.

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