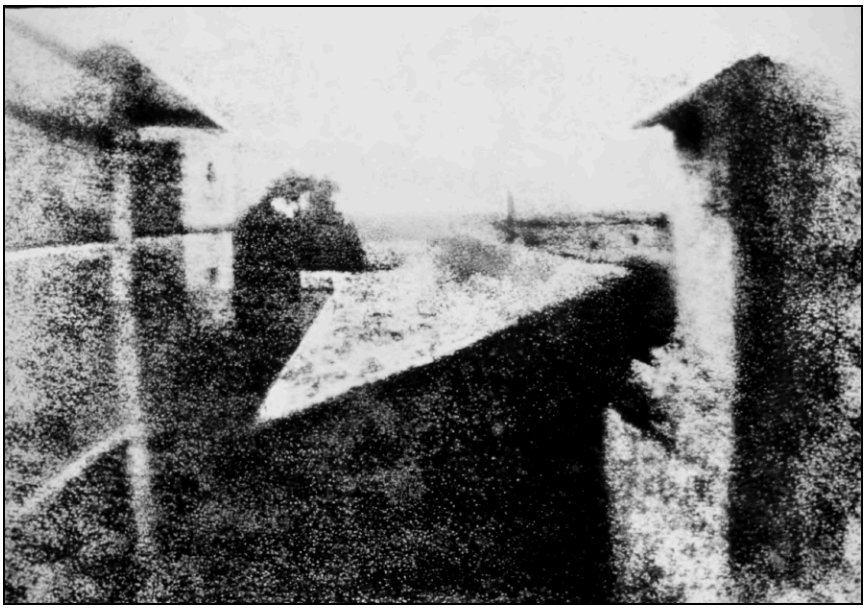
Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

January 2026 Newsletter

Happy New Year!
Happy 200th Birthday to Photography!!



The earliest surviving photograph dates back to 1826 (though some sources specify 1827) by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce, a French inventor. His photo, called "*View from the Window at Le Gras*," was created using a camera obscura and a process called heliography, which involved a long exposure of a pewter plate coated with a light-sensitive substance.

That's enough of a history lesson for now. If you want to find out more about the origins of what is now your passion, here's a detailed timeline of the History of Photography. Keep an eye out, as we may have a few surprises in store throughout the year to celebrate this 200th milestone.

Now, back to the present ~~ Have you made your New Year's Resolutions yet? Why not create some goals related to photography. How about learning something new, entering the monthly competitions, attending more outings and workshops? Get involved in the monthly critique sessions, or join an online photo group. You get the idea!!

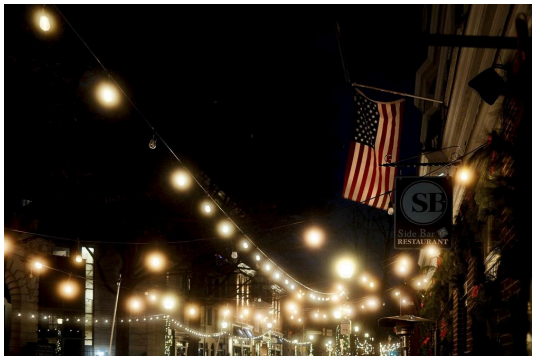
We have a creative and fun-filled 2026 planned and we can't wait to share it with all of you. Let's embrace our creativity, form new friendships, and above all, have fun!

Happy New Year to All!

December Happenings:

Club Outing- Holiday Evening in West Chester

A chilly December evening did not stop intrepid CCCC photographers from exploring and photographing the festive sights in downtown West Chester. The streets and storefronts twinkled with lights and fun decorations. And, the streets were filled with happy holiday revelers out for a jolly good time, creating opportunities for some fun street photography (think of lots of elves, santas, and young women in short skirts See more in the gallery.



West Chester Street by Francis Galvin, Silhouettes by Ralph Nigro, and West Chester Aglow by Deanna Francis

Holiday Hat Party !!!

It's a good thing that there is plenty of room at the Powell Party Barn, as the club welcomed a record attendance of CCCC members ready to enjoy holiday fun, a delicious assortment of potluck food, and meet some new members and guests!

And a shout out to our generous hosts - Jennifer and Bill Powell - *Thank You!!!*

Holiday Photo Contest - This year's theme:"Winter Light" (Golden light on snow, reflections on ice, twinkling decorations).

Voting took place at the holiday party for People's Choice of the favorite holiday and seasonal images. Prizes were awarded, including gift cards from The Photography Workshop and sensor cleaning kits. Congratulations to the winners!

First Place:
"Ice Bubble Magic"
by Rob Doerr, Jr.

Second Place:
"Winter Sunset"
by Sheila Fredericks

Third Place:
"Whispers of Winter"
by Carol DeGuiseppi

Important Announcements

All January and February regularly scheduled meetings will be via zoom only. Curl up with your beverage of choice and join in from the warmth and comfort of your own home.

Upcoming Events:

Monthly Critique Groups - *January 4*

If improving your photography is one of your New Year's Resolutions, here's a great way to start off 2026! Join this group of dedicated and enthusiastic club members for a creative and inspirational Sunday afternoon, either in person or via zoom. Contact Jim Samanen and he'll get you all set up.

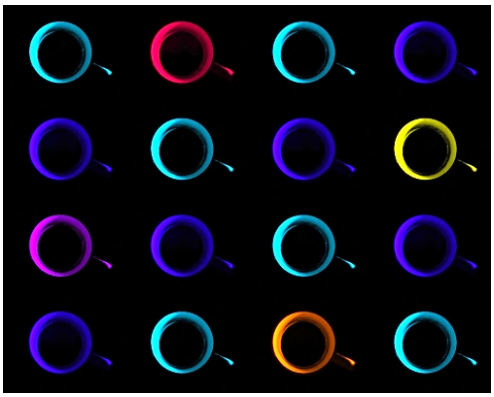
Still Life Workshop - *January 10*

This workshop was so popular and well-attended a few years ago, we're bringing it back! We'll be holding a morning and afternoon session, but register soon as they're sure to fill up. Click here for all the details and registration information.

Members' Forum - *Jan 14- Zoom Only*

Member Participation! "In the Style Of"

Here's your chance to get creative while giving a shout-out to one of your favorite artists! Create a photo of your favorite morning beverage, it could be coffee, tea, juice, or whatever you prefer. Then, edit it (***you*** edit, not AI) into the style of a photographer or painter. Doug Cinoman was the first to share his rendition of "Morning Coffee in the Style of Andy Warhol"



Monthly Meeting - *January 14 - Zoom Only*

Bad Weather Photography - Presented by Arik Gorban

What perfect timing for this topic! You plan the perfect photo vacation or outing and the weather doesn't cooperate. You can't cancel, so what do you do? You'll have to join us for this very informative session to find out!

Post Processing Group - *January 18 -Zoom Only*

Learning new tips and techniques for your post-processing work is a great way to start off the year. Buzz Mossholder leads these informative sessions focused on Lightroom and Photoshop, which both have lots of new features. Stay up to date with this group! Contact Buzz for more information and to get on the distribution list.

Technical and Creative Exchange - *January 21-Zoom Only*

It's all about the light, but your camera sees things differently than the human eye, especially when there's a lot of contrast. We'll discuss metering modes, histograms, exposure compensation, bracketing and high dynamic range (HDR) photography.

Upcoming Outings:

Simone Auto Museum - *Saturday, January 17*

We won't have to worry about bad weather for this outing - we can get out of the cold and into the warmth of the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum to photograph one of the world's largest collections of racing sports cars. If you like fancy cars even just a little bit, you'll love this outing. If you enjoy close-ups of hook ornaments like this one by Pat Rhubottom, you're in luck! Check out the collection on their website here.

Dates to Remember - Mark your Calendar!

Sat, Jan 10	Still Life Workshop
Wed, Jan 14	Members Forum "You Create" *Zoom only*
Wed, Jan 14	Monthly Presentation "Bad Weather Photography" *Zoom only*
Sat, Jan 17	Club Outing - Simeone Automotive Museum
Sun, Jan 18	Post-processing group - *Zoom only*
Wed, Jan 21	Technical and Creative Exchange - *Zoom only*
Wed, Jan 28	Competition Meeting - *Zoom only*
Sat, Jun 20	Coney island Bus Trip - Save the Date!

Chris Calhoun is in our Member Spotlight this month!

Chris joined CCCC in 2024, so is a relatively new member. He originally got involved with photography many moons ago (his words), when he was in college, as a contributor and staff for Spring Garden College's literary magazine, and as creator of the college's photography club.

Chris's favorite genre of photography is generally color and black and white landscapes, although he has been known to dabble in abstracts and travel photography. He shared that he is "*continually amazed at the quality of the photographic work by CCCC members. Being a part of the club has helped me step up my game.*"

Chris was an engineer for a large part of his career, working for Boeing as an Engineer and Project Manager for major design and construction projects, first in Ridley Park, Pennsylvania, and then in Salt Lake City Utah. Upon retiring from Boeing in 2020, he created Calhounimages, LLC, doing project management work and photography.

During the winter months, Chris is a volunteer Mountain Host at Snowbird Ski Resort in Utah. He also previously volunteered for many years as a member of the Archives crew at the Philadelphia Folk Festival, and also as a Mountain Ambassador at Killington Ski Resort in Vermont.

As you may have gathered by his volunteer activities, he has other hobbies in addition to his photography. Chris is an avid skier, hiker, traveler, outdoorsman, and music fan.

He mentioned that he may be interested in becoming more involved with CCCC and helping out in some capacity, provided it can work within his schedule. He's often out of town for approximately six weeks in the winter. (*Sounds like a volunteer opportunity is in Chris's future!*)

In closing, he wanted to share this about his membership in our club. "*Moving back to the Philadelphia area, after years in Utah and the Western US, where there are so many beautiful landscapes to photograph, seemingly around every corner, I have found it challenging to find subjects for my photography. The camera club outings and competitions have provided me with a new creative outlet, and encouragement to stretch my photography into new and different genres, which I feel has helped me grow and improve my craft.*"

Much of his work can be seen at www.calhounimages.com, and at calhounimages on Instagram.

New Members

We're happy to welcome **Jack Paolini** and **Robert Fry** to our family of photographers. We're so happy to have you and look forward to getting to know you both and your photographic styles in the coming months.

Local Exhibits

Here's the "Hot off the Press" schedule of exhibits at the Chester County Art Association for the first half of 2026. It's a great way to immerse yourself in art and get involved in the local art scene.

Competition Tips:

Competitions are a monthly feature of our club and whether or not you submit images, it's a great way to learn from the judge's comments. January's assigned theme of ***Bokeh Bliss*** is a perfect opportunity to use a shallow depth of field to create dreamy, blurred backgrounds that accentuate your subject. Here's a link that has additional ideas and inspiration for the monthly themes.

Be sure to regularly check the CCCC Homepage for news and updates, and 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 DeGuiseppi or Betsy Wilson.

The Last Hurrah

Goes to Jim Wilson for this unique shot of Tom Weisharr

We're not sure what Tom was photographing here, but we do know that Jim did an amazing job capturing a festive feeling in this image. Perhaps Tom was shooting through this shining star and thinking about all the "Star-Studded" images he will create in the New Year!