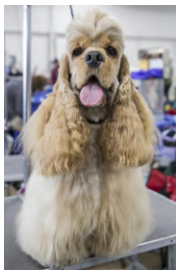
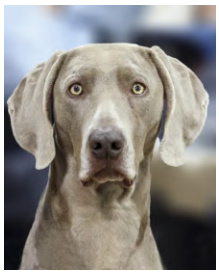
Chester County Camera Club

a community of photographers

December 2024 Newsletter

Happy Holidays from our Canine Friends!





Top image by Corinne Masur. Next row L to r: Richard Donham, Jerry Snyder, Deanna Francis, Joseph Caulfield

An outing to the National Dog Show gave us a great early start to the holiday season this year. Just look at these adorable faces all wishing us the happiest of holidays!

Our club takes a mini winter break in December, but that doesn't mean you have to take a break from your camera. Get out there and photograph holiday lights (the Philly at Night outing is a great place for that!) parades, family gatherings, and maybe even some snow! If there's no snow, the winter garden holds many surprises and details that make compelling images. If going outside in the cold isn't your idea of fun, put some holiday finery on your pets and photograph them! These furry friends look like they love having their photo taken.

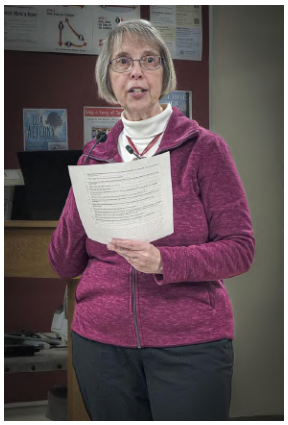
Whatever your holiday plans, and whatever holiday you celebrate, we hope you have a wonderful time. Enjoy our little winter break from our regular monthly meetings and competitions; we look forward to seeing you all in 2025!

We wish you all a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Important Announcements:

January and February Members' Forums, Monthly Meetings, Mentor Meetings, and Competitions will be Zoom Only.

November Happenings:



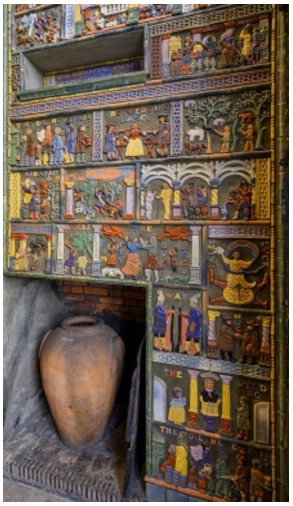
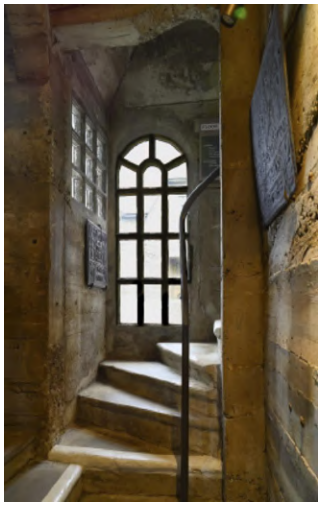
Members Forum: "Photography after Retirement" Panel Discussion

Moderated by Sue Hare, CCCC members Howard Sundwall and Susan Jones shared their stories of how they started exploring photography after or near retirement. The audience chimed in with their own experiences of transitioning from work life to enjoying a passion for photography.

Monthly Meeting: "A Different Point of View" by Betsy Wilson

CCCC member Betsy Wilson jumped in with short notice to replace a speaker who had to drop out. Betsy shared some new twists to spark ideas to make your images look different than the ordinary. A different point of view can be quite literal, such as shooting from up high or down low, or it can mean making use of other tools such as creative depth-of-field or specialty lenses. Many images and techniques were shared to enrich any photographer's portfolio of new and very different ways to add a different look and some "wow" to images. You can watch the video here.

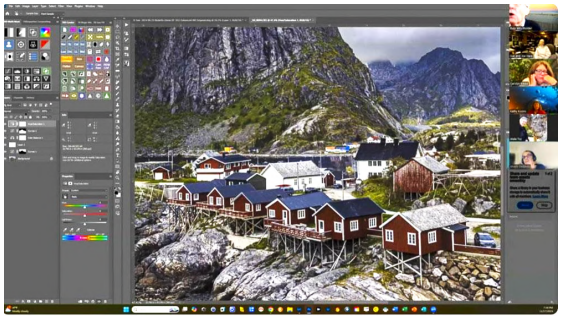
Club Outing - Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle

The Mercer Museum has an extensive collection of early tools allowing for making some very unique images. With six floors, CCCC photogs found many things that caught their eye and imagination. After a lunch break at the Mercer, the group went on a tour of the nearby Fonthill Castle, an eclectic, very unusual building full of colorful tiles and other treasures. Images shown clockwise: Alvaro Delgado, Atala Toy, Jodi Carlino, Susan Jones, Eva Connor. More images are in the club gallery.

Club Outing - National Dog Show

CCCC Photographers had a blast backstage at the National Dog Show, where they could interact with hundreds of amazing dogs and their handlers. So many pups to pet, and so many humans willing to pose their prized pups for that perfect portrait! We were treated to watching the dogs perform for the judges, and Ralph Nigro used some motion panning to capture this fun image. There are many more furry photos in the gallery - check them out!

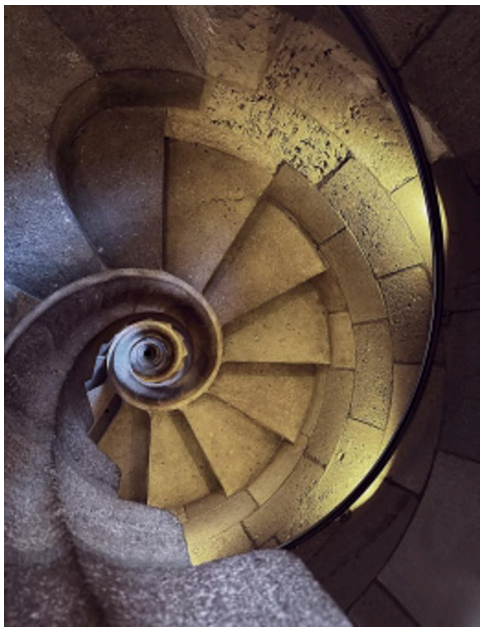


Post Processing Zoom Group

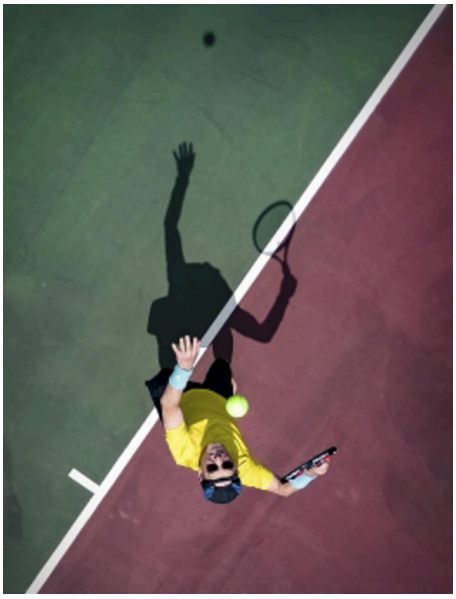
Led by Buzz Mossholder, the group discussed a few images submitted by participants. Then Buzz demonstrated how to do some post-processing edits to the images based on everyone's suggestions. Such a learning experience! Link to the video here.

November Competition - "Light and Shadow

The challenge was to capture Light and Shadow studies: Explore the interplay of light and shadow in photography, and create dramatic contrasts and evoke mood and atmosphere in your images. Guest judge, Richard Lewis, provided many observations about the strengths of images and gave some constructive tips for improvement - a learning opportunity for all!



Jennifer Powell was awarded the first place ribbon in the assigned category for prints in both color and monochrome for "Spiraling Down" and for "Fire".



In the Digital division, Navjot Hanspal was awarded the blue ribbon in the Assigned category in monochrome for "Shadows", and Robert Friedman took first place in color for "Please No Double Fault"

Congratulations to all! To see all images in the competition, go to [Competitions / Competitions Results](), then choose the competition (eight categories) and be sure to check the little box "Display all images".

Upcoming Events:

Holiday Party - Saturday, December 7

Join us for our very first ***Holiday Brunch*** on Saturday, December 7 at noon. Refer to the evite you received for all the details, to rsvp, and let us know what you'll be bringing. Since many of us enjoy lounging around on the weekends, feel free to wear your holiday PJ's and share your holiday spirit. As always, it's BYOB; we'll also be serving Mimosas, Bloody Mary's and coffee drinks.

If you didn't receive your evite, contact Jennifer Powell.

Following a long-running and popular tradition, our annual ***Holiday Photo Contest*** will take place at the Holiday Brunch. Each member may submit **one** image of a holiday or winter scene. The photo shown here by Betsy Wilson was last year's 1st place winner. Deadline for submission is **Sunday, December 1st at 11:59pm** Note: this is not a competition, just a photo contest for fun - and some great prizes!

Refer to the email you received for directions on posting your image.

Monthly Critique Group - December 8

Take a break from the holiday shopping and preparations and spend a Sunday afternoon with this group of enthusiastic and dedicated photographers! It's a great opportunity to get some valuable input and inspiration from your peers. They meet both in person and via zoom, typically on the first Sunday of the month. Come on out and mix and mingle with fellow club members and get tips to improve your photos at the same time!! If this sounds like something of interest to you, simply contact Jim Samanen to get you all set up!

Upcoming Outings:

Center City Philly at Night

Saturday, December 14

If you enjoy Philly during the day, you'll love it at night. We'll arrive in time for golden hour and sunset and then stay into the night, or for as long as you want! What better time to get in the holiday spirit - Holiday lights will be sparkling and the Christmas Village will be in full swing! A great opportunity to practice night photography and more!

New Members

We're happy to extend a warm CCCC welcome to **Alvaro Delgado, Jacob Doerr,** and **Kate Santos**, our newest members. We look forward to getting to know all of you in the coming months. We hope you take full advantage of our many benefits and enjoy all that the club has to offer.

Members in the News

Jim Samanen will have his images on display in a booth at The Winter Fine Craft Fair, sponsored by the Chester County Craft Guild. It takes place Saturday and Sunday, December 14 and 15, from 11am to 4pm at the Ludwig's Corner Fire Company Hall-1325 Pottstown Pike in Glenmoore. He has some new images that will be on display, and he hopes to see some CCCC members there!

Long-time member, Dan Vacek, is in the Member Spotlight this month!

Dan has been a member of CCCC for approximately 10 years, but has been involved with photography for many years before that!

He bought a film camera after finishing college almost 40 years ago and took photos for several years on vacations, but then put it aside for a number of years. When he and Stephanie (his wife who is also an active club member and current VP) started traveling together over 30 years ago, she was already a fairly competent photographer and would spend a good portion of time on their vacations shooting. Rather than stand around watching her take photos, Dan decided to join in the fun and gradually got more involved in photography, especially after they switched over to digital. It sounds like FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) and maybe a little peer pressure paid off in this case!

Dan really enjoys street photography, capturing candid photos of unusual people in everyday life, like the image shown here that many of us have seen before! Over the years he's developed a knack for capturing people acting naturally and unaware they are being photographed. He also enjoys photographing animals of all types, architectural photos exhibiting interesting patterns or symmetry, and beautiful natural scenes.

Having had some art training, Dan has some innate talent; he has a "good eye" so finding and composing compelling photos comes naturally, but as a member of CCCC, he has learned a lot about the technical aspects of photography. He now understands proper camera settings and exposures, different photographic techniques, and post-processing (which he wishes he had more time for). He finds inspiration in seeing some members' "*exceptional photos in my area of interest, like animal photography, as well as some of the creative compositions and techniques people are using to create unusual photos with different perspectives. There is so much talent and creativity in our club.*"

Unlike many of us who are retired, Dan is actively employed as an Aerospace Engineer and Technical Fellow with Lockheed Martin. He's spent his entire 38 year career working for the company on projects that are critical to National defense, as a structural engineer/designer earlier in his career and more recently as a chief engineer for numerous projects.

He has many other interests in addition to photography and we're impressed how he manages to do so much and still be employed. He enjoys vegetable gardening, athletics (especially powerlifting), watching sports of all kinds, (he's partial to the Pittsburgh Steelers), pencil drawing and oil painting, pistol shooting, collecting comic books, golf, birding, travel, drinking beer, and enjoying the company of their bunny and cockatiels. The image shown at the beginning shows Dan with two bunnies; one has since crossed over the rainbow bridge, so now Charlotte gets all their attention

There has been mention of animals several times in this article, and Dan's parting words to us are, "*Be kind to animals, especially rabbits.*"

Learning Opportunities

Conveniently located in West Chester, The Photography Workshop offers a wide variety of classes and workshops to help you improve your photography and post-processing skills. The new 2025 Winter Class and Workshop schedule is now available. Many opportunities sell out quickly, so check out the schedule soon!

Lot's of learning opportunities are available on our own CCCC website. Take a look under News and Presentations to see videos and pdf slide shows of past presentations. Or, go to Resource Links and Click on "Education and Training" for links to many instructional and inspirational helpful photography websites, like this one from Adorama.

Dates to Remember

Sat, Dec 7	Holiday Party - noon-3pm
Sun, Dec 8	Monthly Critique Group
Sat, Dec 14	Club Outing - Philly at Night
Wed, Jan 8	Members' Forum and Guest Speaker (Zoom Only)
Fri, Jan 10	Club Outing - State Capitol in Harrisburg
Wed, Jan 15	Mentor/Mentee Meeting (Zoom Only)
Sun, Jan 19	Post Processing Group (Zoom Only
Wed, Jan 22	Monthly Competition
Sat, Jan 25	Club Outing - Tattoo Arts Festival
Sat, May 17	Bus Trip to Annapolis and Baltimore - Hold the Date!

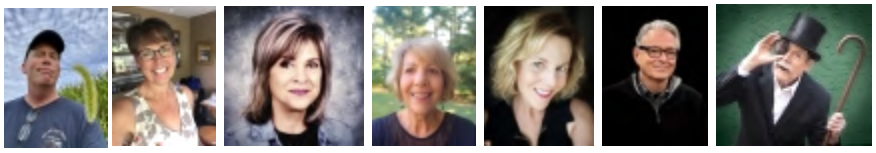
Competition Tips:

Our monthly competition is taking a holiday break in December, but that doesn't mean you can't start thinking about January's competition. The assigned theme is Panoramic Perspectives and if you need some inspiration just click here!

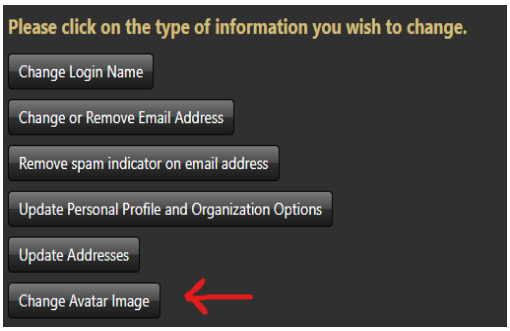
If you want to enter the print category, Jack's Cameras in Exton offers 20% off prints (in store pickup only). Use the code CCCC20 when ordering online (Online Photo Prints | Camera Spot) or mention CCCC when ordering in the store.

Website Wisdom

Let's get to know one another - Update your photo on the Membership page!



Have you met fellow members at a meeting only to forget their name later on? Many members have uploaded their image on their membership listing - it is easy to do, and we encourage all members to include a photo of yourself. It will help us to attach a name to that familiar face!
Be sure you are logged in, then go to My Account / My Account settings. Click on Change Avatar Image and upload your photo.



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 Laugh

Goes to

Wendy Summer

Wendy captured this image at the dog show, which she aptly named

"Comfy in his Chair"

It looks like he just finished his Thanksgiving dinner and he's resting up for all the eating he knows will be coming his way over the next month!