

# *Cammeraderie*

The Newsletter of the NIH Camera Club, Bethesda, MD Vol. 62 (5); February 2023



**“Fractal Romanesco”  
By Coriolana Simon**



The NIH  
CAMERA  
CLUB

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**Monthly meeting dates and topics from website can be found here:**

<https://www.nihcameraclub.com/events/>

For comments or questions contact  
club president Margaret Sprott at  
[margaret.sprott@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.sprott@gmail.com)



# President's Chat

## February 2023

### By Margaret Sprott



I hope you all had a Happy Valentine's Day. Some of us were at the club meeting where we saw some interesting Patterns in Nature. There were fewer entries than usual, both due to the holiday but also because some of you have been ill. **Dale Lewis** is recovering from Covid and **Cathrine Sasek** is trying to recover from pneumonia. I wish them, and any others who are sick a speedy recovery.

Many of you have completed the survey that **Rhina Cabezas** developed and **Ann McDermott** sent to you. **Gosia Klosek** and I will try to determine how we can use the results to attract new members and improve the club's use of Instagram. Any of you who would like to help with this, please let me know. We have a great board and many faithful members but we need more of you to give us your ideas so we will continue to be an active and relevant club.

Gosia has told me that Instagram is a platform with a focus on sharing pictures and videos. Both she and Rhina recommend that we should use it to regularly post new images such as winners of our competitions and feel that it would be one way of alerting potential new members about the club and its activities. We have an Instagram account so all we need are a few members who could suggest additions to it. It would be a good place to recognize members who have won other recognitions for their photography.

We have a committee discussing a revision of the club's two levels of competition, Novice and Advanced. **Diane Poole**, **Quentin Fisher**, and **Dick Sprott** are on the committee and will send a proposal to all members after it is approved by the NIHCC Board.

I just logged into the educational program "From Selfie to Self-Expression" by Walter Calahan. It was just what I needed to prod me into using my new I-phone to take more photos. This was another good speaker that **Cathrine Sasek** found and after a few glitches getting started, he was very convincing about taking lots of photos with your phone in order to learn to see better which would also benefit all of your photography. His approach was knowledgeable as well as inspirational.

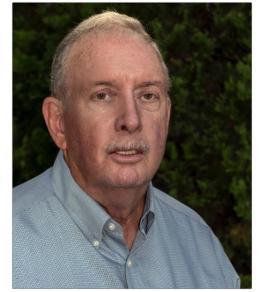
With spring approaching, I hope you all can get out and take many, many photos that you will share with the rest of the club.

**Let's get together for field trips.**

**Find images to post on Instagram!**

I am really hoping that all of you will get well, stay healthy, take care of yourself and have wonderful rest of the camera club year!





One of the PSA activities I greatly enjoy is a Phone photography study group. Study groups consist of 6 to 7 members with a similar interest, who post an image to the group once each month. Then the group members comment on each of the other images. Comments are intended to be helpful and supportive, not harsh, derogatory or unkind. This makes for a great way to get feed-back on ones work as well as make some like-minded photographer friends.

Recently, I sent an image of graffiti on the ruins of the Seneca Stone Cutting Mill, .2 miles off the C&O towpath, taken on the downstream side of the turning basin at mile 22.8. If you walk the towpath and haven't checked this out, give it a look. It is very interesting, both historically and contemporaneously for its graffiti. The image, which I have enhanced with on-phone postprocessing, and the original are shown below. Among the comments from my study group members was one I never anticipated. The comment was essentially that the member chose not to comment on my image because photographing graffiti was support for a criminal enterprise. Wow! That never crossed my mind. Thinking about it though, I could see his point even if I didn't completely agree. A little on-line research led me to an ethical issue I should have seen, given that I have commented on the ethics of photography of someone else's art in this column from time to time.

In any case, this comment from a study group compatriot is a nice example of the sort of interactions that take place in study groups. Thoughtful comments from fellow photographers can lead to positive outcomes. Thinking more broadly about our images is not only ethically responsible, it is interesting and can be fun.

Another of my group pointed out that some graffiti is not "criminal" since "some cities have set aside areas for graffiti as artistic expression." I have included my graffiti image here both to illustrate the discussion and because it can provide fodder for thoughts about how much a photographer needs to add to a straight shot of art to make it a legitimate new artistic expression. I'll let you decide in this instance.

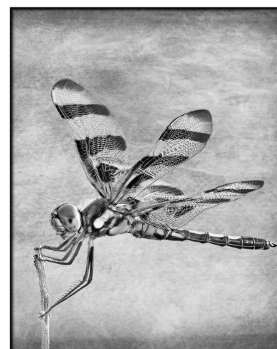
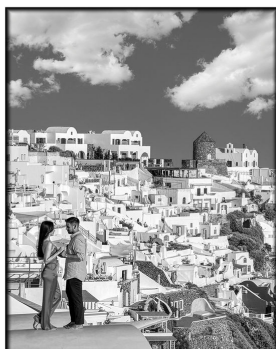
**original**



**final**



# The MPA 2023 Black & White Photo Contest



**Open Theme.....Submit Up To 4 Images**  
**Winners Announced During “Odyssey of Light”**

***Submit Your Images Today - Submission Deadline is March 31, 2023***

This Contest is Sponsored By MPA's  
Platinum Sponsors



## Subject – MPA - News You Can Use

The Maryland Photography Alliance (MPA) has new information on the Black & White contest and there is an announcement of a new workshop that may be of interest to you.

### 2023 Black & White Contest

MPA is accepting submissions to the contest beginning Wednesday, February 15. All MPA Members can submit their 1<sup>st</sup> two images for **FREE** by going to [www.mdphotoalliance.org/2023-bw-photo-contest](http://www.mdphotoalliance.org/2023-bw-photo-contest) and using our Club's Code **NIHXsF**. The contest rules are also located on this web page. Deadline for submissions is March 31. The Winners will be announced during “Odyssey of Light” on April 16.



# COMPETITION TOPICS AND DEFINITIONS 2023



For comments or questions contact  
Margaret Sprott at  
[margaret.sprott@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.sprott@gmail.com)

Competition Rules for our Club have been updated and can be found here:  
<https://www.nihcameraclub.com/competition-rules/>

## **March - Critique -**

**April - Macro -** Images that result from the use of close-up lenses, macro lenses, etc., where the magnification of the subject exceeds that obtained with a standard lens at its closest focusing distance. Close-up images of any object(s), created with or without a macro lens.

**May -Night Photography -** Night photography comprises photos taken between sunset and sunrise where the light of the sun is not visible. Night photos may be of the night sky, moon or other astrological phenomena, or other outdoor scenes that may not include the night sky in the photo but where it is obvious to the viewer that it is nighttime. Photos taken inside, but clearly showing evidence of nighttime (i.e. night sky seen through window) are also permissible. Some artificial light is acceptable but should not be a significant part of the overall composition. Images of anything obviously taken after dark.

## **June - End of Year Party-TBA**



## March 2023 Judge David Powell

David W. Powell has more than 50 years of experience using media to tell stories that illustrate and bring life to the high-impact, high-visibility, high-pressure, and fast-moving worlds of business, schools, museums, and government. Dave is an award-winning film and documentary maker, creator and producer of video and multi-screen slideshows and photographs.



<https://www.davidwpowellphotography.com/>

**Educational Night:  
March 21, 2023 -7pm  
“Travel Photography”**

# PHOTOGRAPHY

BY LES PICKER



<https://lesterpickerphoto.com/>





## Competition Winners February 2023: Topic: Patterns in Nature



### Advanced Digital

Doug Wolters	<i>Bark Study No 2</i>	1
Gosia Klosek	<i>White Sand Dune</i>	2
Nancy Axelrod	<i>Seedhead of Goatsbeard</i>	3
Karen Goldman	<i>Cryptic Crystals</i>	H
Goutam Sen	<i>Star Trail</i>	H
Coriolana Simon	<i>Fractal Romanesco</i>	H

### Novice Monochrome

Rhina Cabezas	<i>A Giant Succulent</i>	1
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### Advanced Monochrome

Michael Tran	<i>White Peacock</i>	1
Michael Tran	<i>Last Standings</i>	2
Nancy Axelrod	<i>Tree and Wheat Field</i>	3
Karen Goldman	<i>Ammonite Symmetry</i>	H

## Advanced Color



### First Place: “Bark Study No 2”

By Doug Wolters

For a long time, I have been fascinated by the variety of textures & patterns visible in tree bark. I often walk in Sligo Creek Park, which is near my house. Even along the path, it offers many trees that I have photographed. This image is one of my favorites, even though I took it quite some time ago. Taken on a tripod with my old Rebel T2i, Canon 2.8L 100mm macro lens, 0.4sec at f/ 22, ISO 400.



### Second Place: “White Sand Dune”

By Gosia Klosek

This image was captured at the White Sands National Park. The shape of the ripple lines created by the wind was special for me. Increasing the contrast made the lines more pronounced. I also tried transforming the image to monochrome. But in color, the image is much more interesting due to some barely perceived reds and the many shades of blue. Nikon ISO 250 135mm f/10 1/800sec.



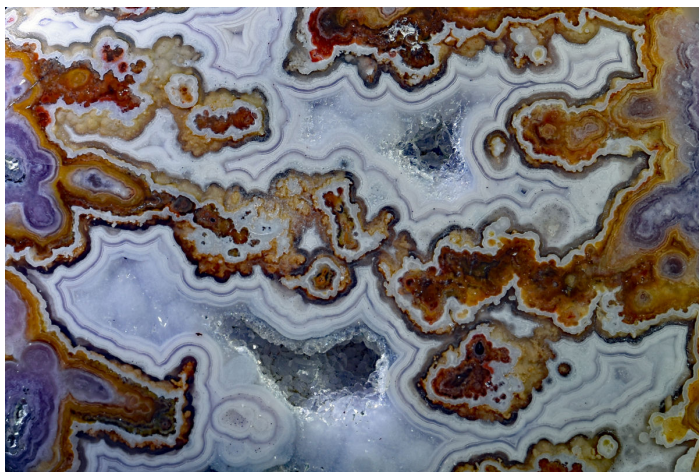
### Third Place: “Seedhead of Goatsbeard”

By Nancy Axelrod

This image was made in Provence, France. I was informed that this is a seedhead of Goatsbeard (whatever that is!). As I remember, we sprayed it lightly with water. It was placed inside of a vehicle in order to get a dark background and the blacks and contrast were enhanced in Lightroom.

Sony a6400 camera with a Sony 18-105mm lens at 86mm (129mm equivalent), 1/250”, f/22, ISO 400.





**Third Place:  
“Cryptic Crystals”  
By Karen Goldman**

This image is of a small cabochon of crazy lace agate from Mexico. Nikon D7200, 55 mm, 1 sec., f/16, ISO 100.



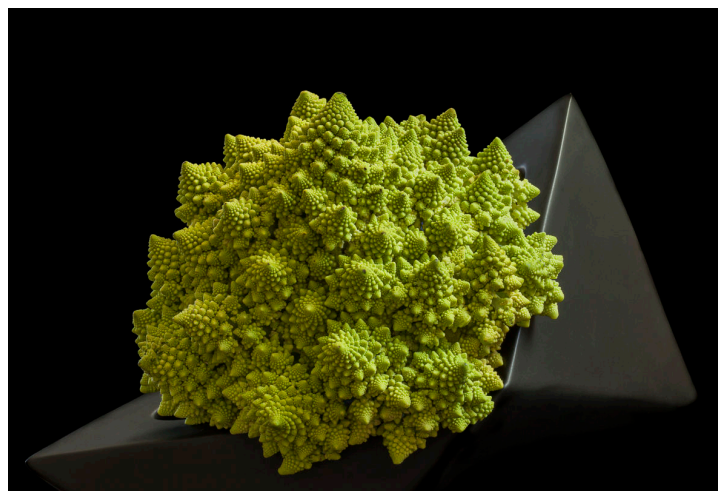
**HM: “Star Trail”  
By Goutam Sen**

**HM: “Fractal Romanesco”  
By Coriolana Simon**

A vegetable related to broccoli and cauliflower – is an extraordinary example of geometry in nature. Its entire surface is made up of intricate spiral-formation cones, and sub-cones, and sub-sub-cones. Each one, from the largest down to the tiniest, has exactly the same logarithmic spiral formation. The spirals form the pattern known in mathematics as the Fibonacci series – a pattern that occurs very often in nature. And because every spiral is proportionally identical, the pattern is described as fractal.

When I bought this Romanesco at Whole Foods, at first glance it looked interesting. But, when I began exploring it with a macro lens, I found its repeating geometry far more fascinating. To represent it photographically, I thought the entire vegetable should be shown, and not just one small section enlarged. To complement the Romanesco’s shape, I set it in a ceramic Japanese ikebana container that picked up the same kind of points and angles.

Photographed with a Canon 5D Mark II DSLR and a Canon 100mm macro lens. Exposure: 3.2 sec at f/29. Really Right Stuff tripod and ball head.





## Novice Monochrome



**HM: “A Giant Succulent”**  
**By Rhina Cabezas**

This image was taken at my family's home in El Salvador. I was walking through the garden when I saw a pot full of succulents. The greenish-gray leaves seem to create compact rosettes with a beautiful repeating pattern. It had rained the day before and a few drops of water remained in the center of the plant, giving a nice little touch to the image.

## Advanced Monochrome



**First Place: “White Peacock”**  
**By Michael Tran**

White Peacock is rarely seen around here in our nation, I was so lucky enough to capture this picture, in Florida on my photography trip. The Peacock was dancing, showed-off his beautiful and tried to get attention of the female Peacock.



## **Second Place: “Last Standings”**

**By Michael Tran**

was taken on my Autumn photography trip in West Virginia, on my way back in the afternoon was cold and windy. I spotted a section of beautiful TEASEL along the country road. Tripod was using for this image on that windy day.

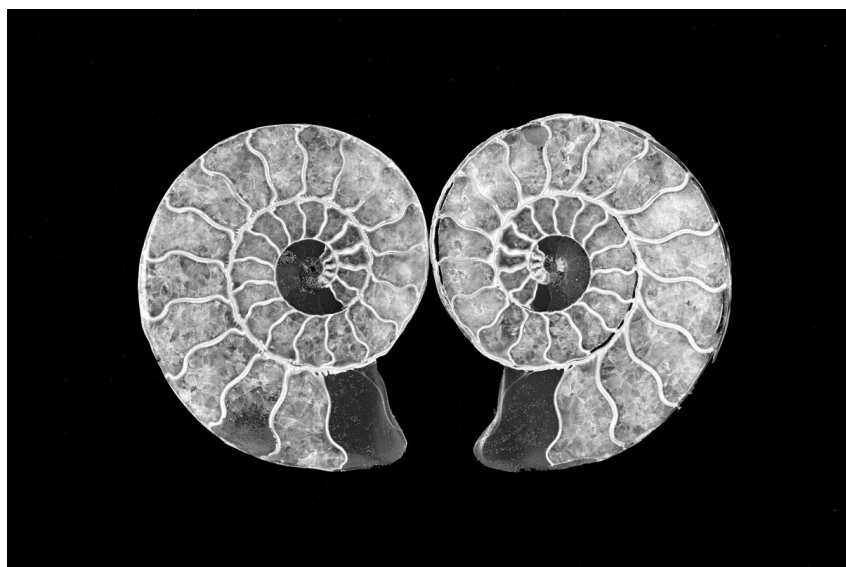


## **Third Place: “Tree and Wheat Field”**

**By Nancy Axelrod**

This image was made in Provence, France. I thought the undulating pattern of the wheat field was particularly well suited to black and white.

Sony a6400 camera with a Sony 55-210mm lens at 202mm (303mm equivalent), 1/60", f/16, ISO 400. It was converted to B&W in Lightroom.



## **HM: “Ammonite Symmetry”**

**By Karen Goldman**

This image is of the two polished halves of an ammonite fossil. Nikon D7200, 55 mm, 6 sec., f/8, ISO 1m

# Famous Photographers

## By Stephen Levitas

### #80 February 2023



## Wolfgang Tillmans (1968-)



Wolfgang Tillmans—at last I get to write about a young contemporary photographer (relatively young—he is 54). I am happy to discuss someone who is not among the long dead. His work is in color, and very daring and innovative.

Tillmans has been a winner of major prizes, member and chair of foundations and committees, a professor of fine arts, and a guest museum curator. See the Wikipedia article for details. He is by no means merely a scrappy young photographer.

Here is Tillmans' Wikipedia entry. It summarizes the multiplicity of genres that he has explored.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolfgang\\_Tillmans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolfgang_Tillmans)

This is Tillmans' official site. Notable are the photographs of his museum installations, supervised by himself and his team of skilled installers—see one below.

<https://tillmans.co.uk/>

Here is a recent New Yorker article on Tillmans:

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/10/10/the-polymorphous-genius-of-wolfgang-tillmans>. It is by the senior art critic of The New Yorker, Peter Schjeldahl, who passed away on Oct. 21, 2022, less than two weeks after this New Yorker's issue date.

Here is an article about Tillmans' famous "Free Swimmer" series of darkroom-created images—see one below.

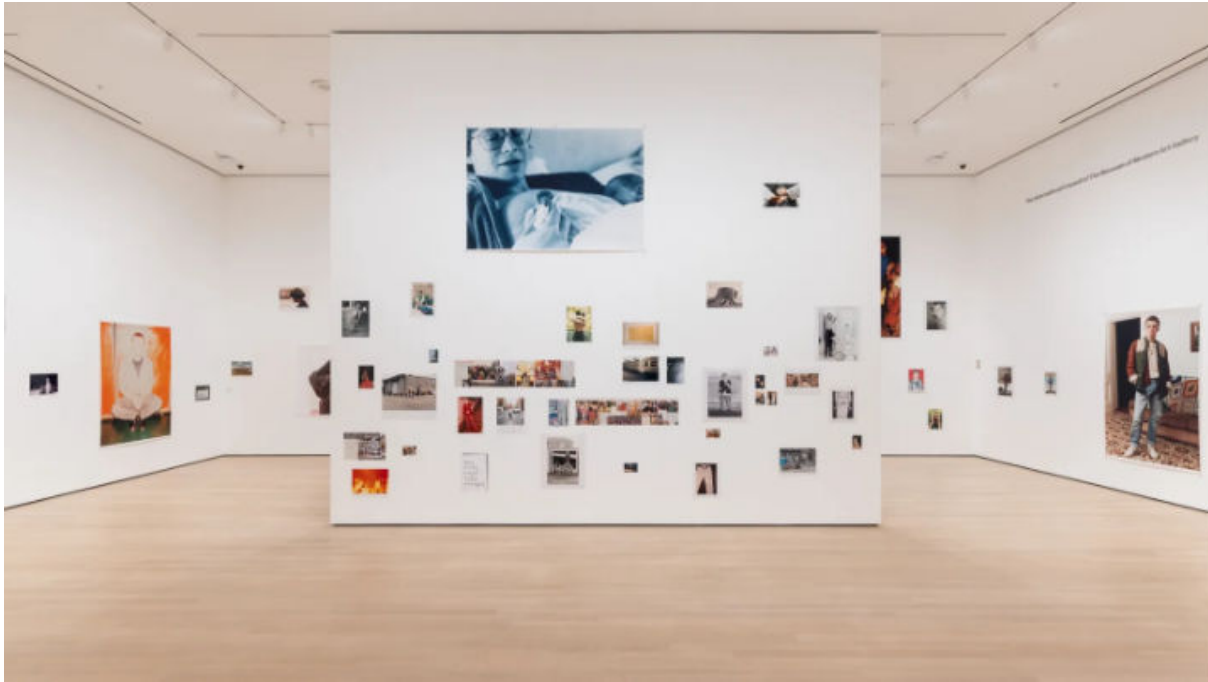
<https://www.phillips.com/article/36819653/wolfgang-tillmans-freischwimmer-series>

From this article: "Created with a manual manipulation of 'light-sources and light-emitting tools' over light-sensitive paper in the darkroom, his work references the cameraless photography of his predecessors Man Ray [#7 June 2013] and László Moholy-Nagy [#57 Jan. 2021], whose practices were similarly reduced to the most elementary components of the medium: light, paper and chemistry."



Here are a few of Tillmans' images that caught my attention.

Installation view of "Wolfgang Tillmans: To look without fear," at the Museum of Modern Art in NY, photograph by Emile Askey for The New Yorker Article.



This is a sample of Tillman's complex style of exhibition installation.



From a photograph of an exhibit showing this and other hung images.

I am fascinated by Tillmans' eye for seeing this lighting situation.



Tillmans' famous Free Swimmer images were all created in the darkroom. No camera was used. There is a bit of word play in the title, Freischwimmer—this word can also be used to indicate the swimming ability of a person, that is, that they have passed their swim test. Hence, the Freischwimmer images are named with a tone of competence.

Zhong Lin - #172.



To me, this typifies Tillmans as a completely contemporary photographer.

Dan.



Truly a unique point of view.

Lutz und Alex in den bäumen  
[Lutz & Alex in the trees], 1992.



The left image is one of Tillmans' best-known images, but I have no idea why. I cannot see why shooting two friends, essentially naked in a tree, wearing raincoats, makes a great photograph.

Lutz, Alex, Suzanne & Christophe on Beach, 1993.



Lutz, Alex, Suzanne & Christophe on Beach, 1993.

Alex & Lutz holding each other, 1992.





## The NIH CAMERA CLUB



Register to become a member on the NIHCC Website

Our Webmaster Jim Turner is working very hard to make our website awesome. If you haven't registered yet, please do! If you have any questions about the way things work, please feel free to e-mail Jim, and he will be able to help you with the easy process.

<http://www.nihcameraclub.com>



## Silver Spring Camera Club

You might be interested to see what our sister club, the Silver Spring Camera Club, is up to! Here is a link to their site. They also publish a newsletter, Cable Release, and it is available here.

<http://www.sscphotography.org/>



**A Proud Member of the**



**Maryland  
Photography Alliance**

<https://www.mdphotoalliance.org/>

# PSA Annual Meeting: 2023

## 2023

September 27 through 30, in Williamsburg, Virginia  
Hotel: Doubletree by Hilton in Williamsburg



**This newsletter is published monthly  
by the National Institutes of Health Camera Club, Bethesda, MD.**

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**You may now apply for, or renew, membership online at:  
<https://www.nihcameraclub.com/about-us-2/become-a-member/>.**

**You'll be directed to pay via PayPal (you don't need a PayPal account).  
If you prefer not to pay online, please print the application form below,  
then sign and mail it along with your check to the Treasurer.  
You must be a member to compete in monthly competitions.**

**You do not have to work at NIH to join the club.**

For comments or questions contact  
club president Margaret Sprott at  
[margaret.sprott@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.sprott@gmail.com)



## Club Officers and Committees

**President:** Margaret Sprott

**Vice President:** Cathrine Sasek

**Secretary:** Gosia Klosek

**Treasurer:** Stan Collyer

**Program Chair:** Cathrine Sasek

**Education, Workshop:** Cathrine Sasek

**Field Trip Chair:** Vacant

**Digital Czar(s):** Quentin A. Fisher, Dale Lewis,  
Sammy Katta

**Social Chair:** Suzanne Dater

**Membership Coordinator:** Karen Goldman

**Nominating Committee Chair:** Karen Goldman

**Communications Director:** Ann McDermott

**PSA Rep:** Dick Sprott

**Mid-Atlantic Photo Visions:** Ann McDermott

**Maryland Photography Alliance:** Diane Poole

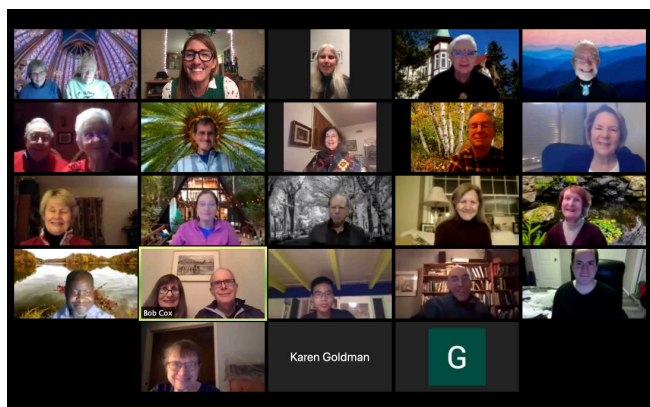
**Editor:** Diane Poole

**Webmaster:** Jim Turner

## Meeting Location



A ZOOM link will be sent a few days ahead of the meeting. You do not need a video cam to participate.



***Competition Night: Second Tuesday  
of the month***



## PSA Newsletter Awards



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION and RENEWAL FORM

National Institutes of Health Camera Club  
(NIHCC)

Membership in the NIH Camera Club historically consisted of current and former NIH employees and their families. The club is now open to anyone who has an interest in photography. The Treasurer collects Camera Club dues by September.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: HOME \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

ANNUAL DUES (please check the appropriate line):

\$\_\_ Singlemembership: **\$50**

\$\_\_ Family membership (Family members in same household): **\$75**

AMOUNT PAID \$\_\_\_\_\_ Cash\_\_\_\_\_ Check#\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NIH Camera Club

SEND TO: Stan Collyer, Treasurer  
701 King Farm Blvd.  
Apt. 522  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Email: [sccollier@aol.com](mailto:sccollier@aol.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

Please indicate how you would like to be involved in NIH Camera Club activities:

----Program Committee	----Membership Committee
----Social Committee	----Publicity Committee
----Field Trip Committee	----Newsletter Committee
----Workshop and Education Committee	----Website Committee

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## WAIVER

I hold the NIH Camera Club (NIHCC) and each member of NIHCC, individually and collectively, blameless for any injury that may occur to me or my guests, or my property while participating in any NIHCC activity or event.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date