



EMERALD PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Education • Fellowship • Building Photography Excellence

Image by Brenda Tharp – April Education Night Speaker



<https://www.brendatharp.com>

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April Upcoming Meetings & Events

- April 2th – Challenge Night – Leading Lines – see Jerry’s email
- **April 9th – Education Night – Zoom Meeting**

Speaker: Brenda Tharp

The Expressive Photograph

Expressive photography is a marriage of vision and craft—you can’t have one without the other if you hope to create impactful images. In this presentation, Brenda will focus on the vision aspect: making heartfelt connections, seeing deeply, understanding subject vs. vision, using expressive light, and more.

- **April 16th – Photo Forum – Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and in person)**

In person Meeting – Location to be determined.

- **April 23rd – Social Night**

Location: To be determined

From the President

Last month brought some challenges, but also meaningful progress. We approved significant bylaw changes that now allow for online (Zoom), in-person, and hybrid meetings. With a bit of luck, we hope to hold our first hybrid meeting in April.

For those who are out of the area or prefer not to travel, an online (Zoom) option will remain available. For those who enjoy the social aspect, we will also meet in person.

The club survey was sent out on March 23, and as of this newsletter, approximately 59% of members have responded. We’ve received valuable feedback so far and hope even more members will take a few minutes to participate. **The survey will close on April 3.** After that, we will review the results and share them with both the board and the general membership.

Based on the initial responses, the board already has some direction for moving forward:

- 49% – More group shooting events
- 49% – Hybrid meetings
- 47% – Competitions using outside judges

I believe these are positive changes that we can—and should—begin implementing as soon as possible:

- **Group shooting events** – I am working on an enhanced approach to organizing group shoots. Additionally, we are developing a new liability release form to better protect the club and its members. This should be operational in April.
- **Hybrid meetings** – With the bylaw changes in place, we can now move forward. Our goal is to hold our first hybrid meeting in April.
- **Competitions (outside judges)** – I have been in contact with another club that has agreed to judge our next event.
- **Additional opportunities** – Once the full survey results are in, we expect to identify even more areas for improvement.

New Email System Implementation

The current Members1 email address has become confusing and overloaded, as it combines official club communications with member-to-member messages.

To improve clarity, we have introduced two separate email addresses:

- **Official club announcements:**
EPS.Announce@emeraldphotographic.org
- **Member discussions and communication:**
EPS.Discuss@emeraldphotographic.org

This change will help ensure that important club information is easy to find, while still giving members a space to connect and share. **We hope you like the change.**

Thank you,
Pat Cross
President



April Photo Forum Night – New President Choice Award

Starting in April, I will select one set of images from Photo Forum Night to showcase. The goal is to highlight both the image and its creator, offering inspiration to the entire membership.

Ideally, each selected submission will include both the original (as-shot) image and the final edited version for members to review.

The photographer will also be invited to share insights into their post-processing approach, including the adjustments they made and why.

This is one of my examples. I am also planning to give a presentation during a future Photo Forum Night, where I will walk through the process from capture to final result.

<i>As Shot</i>	<i>As Adjusted</i>
 A photograph of a fox with orange and white fur, looking slightly to the left. The background is a soft, out-of-focus natural setting.	 The same fox as in the 'As Shot' image, but with enhanced detail and contrast. The fur texture is much clearer, and the colors are more vibrant. The background remains soft but with slightly more definition.
	<p>Image Title: "Cheese" Creator: Pat Cross Location: Slide Lake, Tetons area Camera: Canon R5 Mark II Lens: EF 400mm f/2.8</p>

Website

Stay tuned. The survey is giving us some good feedback on our current website.

Board of Directors

President – Pat Cross

Vice President – Open Position

Immediate Past President – Kevin Reiley

Secretary – Ken Ockfen

Treasurer – Hernando Convers

Challenge Night Chair – Jerry Gowins

Competition Night Chair – Open Position

Education Night Chair – Alex Morley

Photo Forum Chair – Tom Vickers

Social Night Coordinator – Carla Aguilar

Webmaster – Mike VanDeWalker

Board Members at Large – April Norman, Mark Gotchall, Rick LeBrun