

FEBRUARY 2026

Schedule Meetings/Locations:

NOTE – IN GENERAL, MEETINGS ON THE 2ND MONDAY WILL BE HELD IN PERSON. ALL OTHER MEETINGS WILL BE VIRTUAL. (Unless otherwise noted in the schedule.)

Board Meeting:

1st Monday of the Month* 7:00 PM
(Zoom-virtual)

In Person Meeting:

2nd Monday of the Month* 7:15 PM
First Baptist Church of West
Hartford
90 North Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107

Competition Meeting:

3rd Monday of the Month* 7:15 PM
(Zoom-virtual)

General Meeting:

4th Monday of the Month* 7:15 PM
(Zoom-virtual)

*Unless otherwise noted in schedule

Above meetings are held from
September through April (except
December)

Charter Oak Photographic Society, Inc. [COPS]



General Schedule of Events

Charter Oak Photographic Society, Inc. 2025-2026 Schedule

Month	In Person Meetings**	Competition Judging (Virtual by Zoom)	General Meetings (Virtual by Zoom**)	Other Activities
September	Monday, September 22, 2025 "Photographing Models" with Tom Cuchara, HonNEC of Hamden, CT	N/A	Monday, September 29, 2025 "Finding Your Creative Voice" by Richard Lewis of New Jersey	Check the FOCUS for details on other opportunities as they come up.
October	Monday, October 13, 2025 "Small Group Photo Sharing and Critiques" by COPS Members	Monday, October 20, 2025 Specified Topic: PSA Nature	Monday, October 27, 2025 "Printing Demystified" by Robert Chaplin of Florida	
November	Monday, November 10, 2025 "In the Style of..." by Stan Tetrault of Tolland, CT; "Favorite Places to Photograph in CT" by COPS Members	Monday, November 17, 2025 Specified Topic: Intentional Camera Movement	Monday, November 24, 2025 "A Foundation for the Macro World" by Doug Johnson of Colorado	
December No Meetings in December (Happy Holidays!)			
January	Monday, January 12, 2026 "Small Group Photo Sharing and Critiques" by COPS Members	Monday, January 19, 2026 Specified Topic: Within 30 Minutes of Your Home	Monday, January 26, 2026 "Inside Smart Photo Editor" by Hazel Meredith of Tennessee	*Note: Special Dates for These Events **Unless otherwise noted
February	Monday, February 9, 2026 "Fix Your Photo" by Mark Teitelbaum of West Hartford and Steve Silk of Farmington, CT	Monday, February 16, 2026 Specified Topic: Geometry in Nature (Macro)	Monday, February 23, 2026 "Photographing Nome Alaska" by Henry Doyle of Kentucky	
March	Monday, March 9, 2026 "Zoo Photography" by Meredith Harris of Farmington, CT	Monday, March 16, 2026 Specified Topic: Cell Phone Photographs	Monday, March 23, 2026 "Nightscape/Astro Photography" by Royce Bair of Utah	
April	Monday, April 13, 2026 "TBD" by Phil Atiyeh of Cheshire, CT	Monday, April 20, 2026 Specified Topic: In the Style of Famous Photographers	Monday, April 27, 2026 "Capturing Motion" by Betsy Wilson of Pennsylvania	
May	None	Monday, May 11, 2026* Judging for Annual Awards JUDGES ONLY – CLOSED TO MEMBERS	Monday, May 18 2026* "Mini Shows" by COPS Members (IN PERSON)	
..... No Meetings during the Summer				

YET ANOTHER NEW MEMBER!

We have another returning member! Don Weston (bladnut@gmail.com), an accomplished photographer of New Britain, fortunately decided to rejoin the Charter Oak community.

Please reach out to him and make him know that he is genuinely welcome.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT **[from Gert Perry]**

Charter Oak has welcomed fifteen new members so far this season...the largest number in recent years! Our enthusiasm, dedication, and offerings have certainly been made evident with this influx. Having more members (along with current ones) gives an even wider range of input and ideas. If you know someone who would be interested in visiting and/or joining, please invite them to attend a meeting. After all, if a current member brings in a new one, they get a ticket toward our year end raffle....a free membership for the 2026-2027 season!

Among our many appealing resources, we have a marvelous website, our newsletter...The Focus, photo galleries, and links to topics related to photography.

Perhaps, you know of a good place for a nearby field trip....Please let us know.

Coming up this month is another wonderful in-person Workshop presented by Steve Silk and Mark Teitelbaum. We will enjoy socializing before the meeting and learn from their presentation. We hope you are able to attend.

The Program Meeting for February is presented via Zoom by Henry Doyle of Kentucky. He is a young man who is sponsored by Hunt's Photo.

It takes many behind-the-scenes workers to make our club work well. It would be impossible without them. Perhaps, you might want to become a part of this process! If so, just inquire!

COPS GENERAL CLUB NEWS

1) February's Competition Specified Topic is "Geometry In Nature (Macro)". Looking up close to see the world a bit differently is the key here. You are welcome to submit your images in this category, and all other categories, **until February 8th at 11:30pm**. The Competition Meeting will be conducted via Zoom, as usual, and is scheduled for February 16th at 7:15pm.

2) In January's competition, we saw some really beautiful work by a good number of our fellow Members. Winning images were submitted by; Steve Potashner, Lynda Hintz, Steve Silk, Stan Tetrault, Paula Fink, Chris Thomas, Cindy Gosselin, Laura Reinwald, Mark Teitelbaum, Marci James, Rich Rosania, David Hintz, Ira Scheinerman, Jim Oliphant, Mark Fox and Pam Hastings. Their fine work is posted on the COPS Main Website. In the menu, select GALLERIES > COMPETITION WINNERS > 2025-2026 January.

3) We are continuing the inclusion of **snacks** availability during our monthly in-person meeting. This is an opportunity to enjoy some **goodies** and chat with other Members in the kitchen both before, and during, the meeting. To make this happen, we need volunteers to bring **snacks** such as **cookies/cakes/etc.** **Please offer** to express your support by letting Gert Perry know via email at gertp@att.net prior to the in-person meetings what you are prepared to contribute.

4) Now that we are past the middle of our 2025/26 season, we would like to hear from **YOU, our membership**, on how well the current Programs and Workshops are meeting your needs and expectations.

Are there any topics which you would like to see in the future?

[e.g.- AI, portrait posing, Sport or Travel photography, drone photography, or any particular software and tools that you want to know more about.]

Please help us better serve you by giving us your thoughts and suggestions. We will try our best to incorporate what you would like to see in future seasons. Send an email to Joyce Niejako (jen0922@mac.com) at your earliest convenience, so your input can be reviewed and discussed. **THANK YOU!**

IN-PERSON WORKSHOP: FEBRUARY 9th

Join us on February 9th for “**Fix Your Photo**”, a hands-on session for which participants previously submitted RAW files (preferable), or JPEGs, which they’re struggling to edit—whether the problem is technical, creative, or simply “I’m not sure what this image wants to be.” In the workshop, using Lightroom/ACR, Mark Teitelbaum and Steve Silk will walk through practical, clear solutions to these challenges, showing multiple editing approaches and explaining why they work.

As described in earlier MailChimp messages sent to all Members, Mark and Steve have chosen from images sent to them prior to January 3rd via email or WeTransfer.

Please join us in person on Monday, February 9th at **7:15 PM** at the First Baptist Church, 90 North Main Street, West Hartford, and come ahead of that for refreshments and socializing.

PROGRAM MEETING: FEBRUARY 23rd

Our speaker for February’s Program Meeting is Henry Doyle. He will be talking to us on the subject of “Nome Alaska”. Henry will describe his trip to the inspiring landscape of Nome. Within the tundra, he was able to find and photograph captivating species, like; the bluethroat, red-throated loon, and musk oxen. Join our Zoom meeting on Monday, the 23rd to enjoy some photos from his trip (see example on next page) as well as the stories behind those images.

Mr. Doyle is a 21-year-old wildlife photographer and conservation advocate specializing in avian subjects. Since picking up a camera in 2018, his work has taken him to Africa, Alaska, and beyond in pursuit of striking bird and nature imagery. A student of Economics, Sustainability, and Society at Xavier University, Henry combines his love of photography with a mission to protect the natural world. He has guided birding tours for events like The Biggest Week and Michigan Audubon and has delivered over 30 webinars on nature photography.



MEMBER-to-MEMBER SALES/GIVEAWAYS

This space affords Members the opportunity to make a Member-to-Member sale of your photographic equipment and/or supplies. COPS Inc. will not be a direct participant and thus will have no liability in any transactions. Interested sellers are welcome to send me (Jack Strand) an email [jack_strand@yahoo.com] with the text which you request be considered for inclusion in the next issue of FOCUS.

This month

From Stan Tetrault:

Canon EOS 5D Mark II, body only. Condition: Used, good workhorse of a camera, with charger and 2 batteries, CMOS sensor, approx. 21 megapixels. Some signs of wear on body. \$400.

If you are interested, reach out to Stan at: stantetrault@comcast.net

From Mark Teitelbaum:

Large Assortment of Film Era Filters free to a good home. A box full of colored filters from reds through blues. They're in a variety of sizes. Also included are a few small tripods including a small spider/octopus tripod. Contact Mark at 860-402-3891.

REMINDER: PERSONAL GALLERIES INTRODUCTION [from Steve Potashner]

The COPS Main Website offers an excellent opportunity to display 'Personal Galleries' of members' images. Each gallery is similar to a mini portfolio of images chosen by the participating member, and can contain up to 20 images (minimum of 6). Some or all images may be changed at any time. These galleries present an opportunity for members who do not compete regularly, and those who do, to display examples of their best images.

Examples of Personal Galleries can be found here <https://charteroakphoto.org/personal-galleries/>

If you have not yet made a Personal Gallery and are interested in displaying one, please select your images and resize them as indicated below. Then, send me an email (sjpotashner@sbcglobal.net) stating that (1) you "... would like to display images in a Personal Gallery on the COPS Main Website" and (2) attach your images to the message. We all look forward to seeing your Gallery.

If you already have a Personal Gallery, you may replace some or all of your gallery images, or enlarge your gallery (maximum of 20 images), at any time. To do so, send an email message to me (sjpotashner@sbcglobal.net) and, (1) identify any images which should be deleted from your current gallery. If you want to enlarge your gallery, state that in the message, (2) Attach the new images to the message. New images should be sized as indicated below.

Image size: Longest dimension = 1440 px; resolution = up to 300 dpi; file type = .jpg; file size < 2 MB.

Remember, some email apps reduce the size of images attached to email messages, so set your email app to send full size images.

MONTHLY COMPETITION STANDINGS AS OF JANUARY 2026

2025-2026 YTD Results					
Name	TOTALS				
	Total # of Images Using the Highest 2 Scoring Images	Total Points	Total Points Using the Highest 2 Scoring Images	First Prizes	Hon. Mentions
<u>Masters</u>					
Steve Silk	6.0	247.5	171.0	3.0	2.0
Ira Scheinerman	6.0	243.5	167.5	4.0	2.0
Cindy Gosselin	6.0	244.0	164.0	2.0	2.0
Paula Fink	6.0	233.0	161.5	2.0	1.0
Mark Teitelbaum	6.0	235.5	160.5	2.0	3.0
Stan Tetrault	6.0	232.0	159.0	2.0	3.0
Pam Hastings	6.0	230.5	157.0	0.0	1.0
Tom Griswold	6.0	225.5	155.5	2.0	2.0
Chris Quallen	4.0	153.5	104.0	1.0	2.0
<u>Salon</u>					
Steve Potashner	6.0	237.5	161.5	5.0	1.0
Rich Rosania	6.0	229.0	158.0	3.0	3.0
Emery Thomas	6.0	174.5	153.5	0.0	3.0
Jim Oliphant	6.0	223.5	153.5	2.0	2.0
Chris Thomas	6.0	178.0	151.5	0.0	1.0
Laura Reinwald	6.0	220.0	150.5	1.0	2.0
David Hintz	6.0	220.5	148.5	0.0	2.0
Mark Fox	6.0	215.5	148.5	2.0	0.0
Marci James	6.0	216.0	148.0	0.0	1.0
Lynda Hintz	6.0	217.0	147.5	0.0	1.0
Frank James	6.0	186.5	142.5	0.0	1.0
Jim Brodey	4.0	127.5	127.5	0.0	1.0
Mark Bamberger	4.0	127.0	104.0	1.0	0.0
Martin Krucinski	4.0	148.0	102.0	1.0	1.0
Lauren Wang	2.0	49.5	49.5	0.0	0.0