

**Welcome to
PSRI**

A Quick Reference Guide for New Members

Welcome to PSRI!

Welcome!

So you have decided to take the plunge and become a member of the Photographic Society of Rhode Island! Welcome, we are glad to have you!

You have joined an amazing organization, full of photographers who range in skill from beginners just starting their journey into the art of photography to very advanced photographers who have decades of experience.

PSRI gives you an amazing opportunity to learn and expand your skills in photography. This document is intended to help introduce you to the club - what we do and how we do it. It is intended to help you get started on your journey, and to help you take advantage of all the opportunities that the club offers.

About PSRI

PSRI, the Photographic Society of Rhode Island has been in existence since 1927. During that time, it has changed its name and meeting location but never its spirit. PSRI is the premiere camera and photographic society in Rhode Island, dedicated to excellence in the art and craft of photography. It has members who have been with the organization for

decades and remember the “good old days” when they ran from one pick up point to the next to collect photographs for the competitions. The group arguably represents the best photographic talent in the state and the membership has been growing every year. You can read an excellent write-up on the history of PSRI here:

http://www.psri.us/psricms/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/psri_history.pdf

The primary goal of PSRI is to further the art of photography. A full schedule of events are planned through the course of the year including image studies, mentoring nights, competitions with valuable critiques by veteran judges and presentations from experts from near and far. Lectures range from presentations on various forms of photography, software processing and a variety of other topics.

Meetings

PSRI meets on Tuesday nights at Lakewood Baptist Church in Warwick RI. PSRI starts conducting meetings in early September and continue through late May. Each year concludes with a banquet sometime during the month of June.

The first Tuesday of each month is usually a Board of Directors meeting. BOD meetings typically start at 7 PM, and are open to all members of the club. Club officers, board members and committee chairpersons use this meeting for all business related to the running of the club.

The remaining Tuesday night meetings start at 7:30 and last on average approximately one and a half to two hours. Before and after the meeting refreshments and snacks are available while club members socialize and network. These meetings can be range from presentations on photography techniques, software applications, mentoring, image study and competitions just to name some of our events.

You can find the full calendar of events on the club website here:

<http://www.psri.us/about/calendar/>

Board of Directors (BOD)

PSRI is run in accordance with the club bylaws by the Board of Directors. The BOD consists of a group of elected officers, the chairs of the various committees and three at large elected members. Officers and at large BOD members are all elected by the club membership.

Monthly BOD meetings are held in order to conduct PSRI business. These meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday of the month at Lakewood Baptist Church at 7 PM EST. Please check the PSRI calendar for the exact date, time and location of the BOD meetings.

In addition to the BOD members, there are a large number of other members that pitch in and do a whole bunch of jobs to help the club run smoothly. Competition Chair, Membership

Chair, Field Trip Chair are just a few of the positions that members hold.

You can see the current Board of Directors and Chairpersons here:

<http://www.psri.us/about/>

Volunteers

Running a large organization with a full calendar of events takes an amazing amount of work and coordination. All of the people involved in running PSRI are volunteers who devote countless hours to making the club a success.

From planning and scheduling speakers and judges, coordinating travel and lodging, to setting up chairs and projector screens and getting drinks and snacks, our volunteers make PSRI the great club that it is.

PSRI is always looking for new volunteers to help out, so if you want to get involved grab a hold of one of our leaders and volunteer. You will be helping out the club, and getting involved is a great way to get to know your fellow members!

PSRI Activities

Presentations

Based on the clubs recent polls, speakers are invited to cover a broad range of topics – the art itself (e.g. -Landscape, Nature, Portrait, travel etc.) and the processing (e.g. - software for development, printing).

The presenters for these meetings are very often members of PSRI. In addition to our club members presenters are often members of other local photography clubs from around the New England area. On occasion PSRI is able to partner with other local photography clubs in the area in order to bring in well recognized photographers from other regions of the country. Examples of such photographers have included:

- Jack Reznicki (Portrait & Commercial photography)
- Lindsay Adler (Fashion & Glamour)
- John Paul Caponigro (Landscape Photography)
- Roman Kurywczak (Night Photography)
- Jennifer Wu (Landscape and Night Photography)

Image Study

One of the most valuable ways of improving your photography is via image study. Members are invited to submit their images anonymously. Senior, well versed PSRI members will then critique images. These critiques provide great insight into understanding what works in a photograph, and ways in which an image can be improved.

Workshops

From time to time workshops are arranged for the PSRI membership. These workshops range from single day workshops conducted locally to 4-5 day workshops that are held at a variety of locations in New England and beyond. The workshops are a great way to learn in hands on fashion while being guided by an expert in the field some of whom have included John Shaw, Jack Dykinka, Jeff Foote, Dave Middleton, Shiv Verma, David Stone, and others.

Field Trips

Throughout the year PSRI arranges field trips which can be both local and distant. These informal meet ups are a great way to get out and shoot with other PSRI members. Such trips in the past have included trips to the sunflower festival in Connecticut, sunset at the fishing port of Galilee, sunset at the Castle Hill Lighthouse, and a leaf peeping trip during the fall foliage season just to name a few.

Competitions

Intraclub

PSRI runs 5 internal competitions over the course of the season. Members can compete in Digital, Print and Slide categories. The categories are broken down into different classes to allow members to compete at a level commensurate with their skill level.

Each member can submit 2 images in each category, one week in advance of the posted competition date. On the

night of competition a judge will review and score the images using a point system ranging from 0-30 points. In each category and class one First, Second and Third place ribbons are awarded. Additional Honorable Mention ribbons may be awarded on an as needed basis.

A running total is kept of each member's scores, and at the end of the year the members with the top three scores in each category and class receive awards.

More details on competition can be found on the club website here by going to <http://www.psri.us/> and hovering over the "Competition" tab.

Nature & Wildlife

In addition to the 5 competitions, there will also be a single Nature competition that will follow the PSA Nature Definition for Nature Photography. You can read more about the PSA rules on Nature Photography on the PSA website at the following link:

<http://psa-photo.org/index.php?nature-nature-definition>

Multiscreen Competition

Multiscreen is a competition in which several clubs are assigned a list of subjects to photograph between 1 May 2014 and 1 May 2015. Participating clubs have one year to create an image bank of photographs for each category, and

then to select one photograph that they feel best represents that category.

At the end of the year one of the participating clubs hosts the competition. Multiple screens are setup and all the images for a given category are presented at once. A panel of judges selects first, second, and third place based on which image best fits the category.

This competition is twofold, but not necessarily, solely about the best photograph. It is judged on two elements. The first element being; the image must clearly represent the category. When the photograph is viewed, the word for the category should be the first thing that comes to mind. The second element is the quality of the image. If two or more images truly represent the category, they will then be judged on the quality of the image; just like any other competition.

Advisory Program

PSRI wants you to have a successful club year! It is PSRI's goal to enrich the photographic experience of all of its members. Through the Advisory Program all PSRI members get the opportunity to advance their skills in the art of photography.

Advisors

At each meeting there will be a table designated for new members and guests. A seasoned PSRI member will be available to help you to understand what is going on in the

club and can help answer questions on photography. There may be times when a question or request cannot not be properly addressed that evening. In these situations PSRI has a number of volunteers that have made themselves available to offer their knowledge and expertise to those in need. If it is determined that an Advisor is needed, one will be appointed and contact information from the advisee will be collected so that the Advisor can get back to advisee in a timely manner.

We at PSRI encourage any member, new or old to take advantage of the Advisory Program.

Advisors can offer help in areas such as but not limited to, camera equipment, software, styles of photography as well as information about membership and competitions.

Social Activities

PSRI encourages its members to socialize not just before and after each PSRI meeting, but also holds a Holiday Banquet and an Annual Award Presentation Night at the end of each year. These well attended events are an excellent way to make friends with PSRI members and their families.

PSRI Online

PSRI has an online presence in several locations to help the membership access information, interact and share their photographs.

Web Site

The official PSRI website can be found at <http://www.psri.us>. It is at the web site that you can access detailed information on competition rules, and results, access the calendar of upcoming events, get discount codes for photography related products, find member websites, and a whole lot more! We strongly encourage you to point your favorite web browser to the site and spend a few minutes getting familiar with it! You won't regret it!

Forums

New to the PSRI web site for this year is a fully functional forum! This is a GREAT way to interact with other club member. Post a photograph for critique, ask a question about a software technique, or read a members review on a new piece of photography gear. This is also a great way to share your knowledge! Know of a great event for photographers? Post it on the forum! Know how to help someone with a software question? Give some advice. Get active, get involved and you won't be disappointed! You can access the PSRI forum at <http://www.psri.us/forums/> and get started today!

Facebook

There is no denying the social media is a great way for folks to interact on an informal basis. The PSRI Facebook Fan page provides a great place for members to talk, post information on upcoming events, and reach out to other club members to arrange meet ups and such. You can find the PSRI Facebook fan page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Photographic-Society-of-RI-PSRI/509000682460743>

Flickr

Flickr is one of the more popular photos sharing websites on the internet. PSRI has a “community” or “group” on Flickr that consists of a photo gallery and a forum. This is a private community, requiring administrator approval to join and access. Members are encouraged to share photos in the groups gallery of images and ask questions on the forum. When you go to the PSRI website you will see a sample of member photographs on the front page. The website pulls these images from the Flickr pool. Please note that the photographs are NOT removed from Flickr, but simply displayed on the web site.

Related Organizations

NECCC

The New England Camera Club Council (NECCC) is a non-profit umbrella group for camera clubs in the New England states (Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont). The Council was established in 1937 and incorporated in 1963.

The Council sponsors a variety of events and services for the photographers of New England including:

- An annual three-day photography conference each July at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA. One of the largest conferences in the United States, over 1000 photographers from the U.S. and other countries attend this event.
- An annual series of interclub competitions in electronic imaging and prints (B&W and color).
- Slide and print circuits wherein each club's work is sent to a commentator who prepares a taped commentary and selects the judge's choice awards.
- Recorded instructional lectures consisting of photographs and audio.

NECCC consists of approximately 85 individual camera clubs from the New England states. PSRI is a dues paying member of NECCC.

NECCC Interclub Competitions

NECCC conducts 3 competitions each year that any NECCC member clubs can compete in. The 3 competitions are held in the fall, winter and spring.

As a club PSRI competes in the B&W Class A and Color categories for both Digital and Print. While PSRI competes as a club, individual awards are also granted for the top images in each category.

PSRI has a member dedicated to the NECCC competitions. This member reviews all images submitted to the PSRI competitions and selects images to submit for the NECCC competitions.

PSRI historically does very well in NECCC competition, and for the most recent year (2013) PSRI came in third overall!

PSA

The Photographic Society of America (PSA) is a worldwide organization for anyone with an interest in photography. Founded in 1934, the Society is for casual shutterbugs, serious amateurs, and professional photographers.

PSA has members in over 70 countries. Individual and photo organization memberships offer a wide variety of services and activities: a monthly magazine; online photo galleries; image evaluation; study groups; courses; competitions; an annual conference; opportunities for recognition of

photographic achievement and service; and discounts on photography-related products and services.

You can view the PSA website to learn more here:

<http://www.psa-photo.org/>

Additional Competitions

Ocean State International

The Ocean State International Exhibition has been hosted by PSRI since 2005. This exhibition is a photography competition that features camera club entrants just like you from all over the world. Literally thousands of photographs are submitted from all corners of the globe!

Approximately 20 Medals (awards) are given out the top images in a variety of categories. Held in the fall of each year, this exhibition is run in accordance with all Photographic Society of America (PSA) rules and guidelines.

There is a very reasonable entrance fee for 4 images (PSRI members may enter at a discounted rate). The proceeds from this event are donated to PSRI and are a tremendous boost to the clubs bank account, and go a long way towards paying the bills for all the great events that we host throughout the year!

Greater Lynn International

The Greater Lynn Photographic Association is a photography club much like PSRI located in the city of Lynn, Massachusetts, north east of Boston. The Greater Lynn International is another international photography competition that is well regarded internationally. Like the Ocean State, there is a small entrance fee. The great folks at Greater Lynn always have a strong showing in the Ocean State, and we like to see as many PSRI members as possible enter and help out our fellow club!

Glennie Nature Competition

The George W. Glennie Memorial Nature Salon is an international all nature photography competition that has been held annually by the Merrimack Valley Camera Club. Awards are presented to both clubs and individual images.

You can read more about the Glennie here:

<http://www.mvcameraclub.org/comp-interclub/comp-interclub-01-glennie.htm>