

August 9, 2009

Greetings SPS Members,

It is less than 1 month until our first meeting of the 2009-2010 season. We will be meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of September at Reeds Landing. It appears we will be able to meet there again this year. We do not have formal or final confirmation yet as the new management formally takes over on the 17th of August. Please mark your calendars as the first meeting is only 2 days after Labor Day.

Your board members have been working hard over the summer mapping out an excellent season of competitions, presentations, activities and field trips. One of the areas we would like to focus on this season is judging. I think we all know that there is wide latitude in our abilities. We will start our season with a presentation by our own Paul Deegan on judging. Anyone who has seen one of Paul's presentations will know we are in for a special night. Please make every effort to be there. Judging is difficult and the more we know about it the better we and the club will be.

Our season will not be all hard work. We are expanding field trips to at least once a month. Our first trek will be led by Dave Porter on September 26th. It will be to the area north and west of the Quabbin and may include Bears Den Falls and the Keystone Bridge. We will be looking for support from the membership for ideas and leaders. Let us know what you would like to see and what you would like to show. Remember, these field trips are not limited to members – invite someone to join you.

This will be our 3rd season of Digital competitions. Our thanks go to Mike Martin for taking on the difficult challenge of dragging us into the future. Unfortunately Mikes' employer doesn't understand that we need his time and they outbid us. Our new VP of Digital, Beckie Bragga, has been challenged by the board to expand the Digital areas to include a Black and White category. She has implemented a new email address you will use to send your entries. The new address is sps.digitalentries@gmail.com. Please take a moment and review the process. Mikes' excellent directions are on the web site (<http://www.springfieldphotographicsociety.com>). The designation letter for the black & white class is "B".

When Reeds Landing invited us to use their facility we were told we could "hang" some photographs by members there. Over the first couple of years this was put off. In May Jim Theres asked about this and we took a look at how to hang the photos. He came up with an excellent system that presents the photographs and causes no damage to the structure. Not only did he come with a great system, he and Dave Mavlouganis followed up with an amazing effort to launch our 1st exhibit. They requested and received 6-8 photographs from several members and mounted them before the end of June. This initiative had just started on the 4th of June. I called Reeds Landing to inquire if we might be able to hold out August board meeting there. I think the first 5 minutes was

spent with Elsa gushing over the gallery and the meticulous job Jim and Dave did. On the evening of August 5th the original entries were replaced by entries from a new group of our photographers. Dave is working on a procedure for how to mount the photographs and a schedule for entries. We are asking each member to plan on providing 6 or more photographs to be displayed for 6 weeks. In February we will ask all members to enter one framed photograph. We hope the Reeds Landing residents will vote for their favorites. Dave Mavlouganis is writing up the procedure and specifications for the gallery process.

In the calendar for this year please note that we have member presentation nights scheduled for November and March. We are hoping to have time for some discussion of the presentations. Keep them under 12 minutes and sign up quickly as slots are first come first serve. This has nothing to do with the unhappy circumstances that prevented Beckie and I from presenting our shows last March, although you are officially notified that we are first and second in line for November.

The final area the board and I are asking for your help with is feedback. We need to know what you think. We will be conducting a survey of member wants and wishes. Start thinking about why you joined and what needs are or are not being served that should be. In addition we will be asking for you to complete meeting report cards for every presentation this year. The forms are being designed and more information will be forthcoming.

September 9 is the first meeting of the 72nd year of the Springfield Photographic Society. I expect it to be one of our more memorable years and I hope to see you all there.

Charlie Strong
President
Springfield Photographic Society