



Members' News

July, 2024

For all things "PSA"

The Lazy Days of Summer are here

I AM STILL HERE if you need me

As your PSA Director of Membership for the Gulf Coast Region, I am here to answer any questions about PSA, and to encourage you to pursue photography. If I can be of any help, please email me at PSAMemDirGulfRegion@gmail.com and I will do my best to support you.
Melissa Cramer Sonnen



Email me your caption and possibly win a **nice power and charger cord bag, 7x9x4 inches** for traveling.

I always find way more to do in Summer than I have time for. The first thing I do is take my Olympus to the camera store for a check-up. This year my 14-42 mm lens was broken. So the first expenditure of the "shooting season" was a replacement.

Next is to look at ALL the images I have been using for photo competition and which ones have been accepted well. I culled a LOT of them, but found some that were underused. Now I know what kind of images in which categories I am looking for.

The third Summer task is to file ALL the paperwork from the last year related to contests, awards, honor applications, and USA Gulf States membership. It is always surprising how many duplicates I have printed, and how many unimportant papers I have held onto. They are all shredded.

Now the fun starts. I can 'play' with my cameras, timers, gadgets, bags, books, etc, and plan the short day-trips I can take. I actually plan them and put them on my calendar in order to solidify the trip. Yes, many other PSA duties may necessitate changing those plans, but at least I have them noted in one place.

This year, I have saved for almost 6 months for the PSA convention "trip". I am planning to take nearly a month off to visit all the spots I missed in the 10 years I lived in the desert southwest. I will make a grand circle which will include much of NM and AZ - even the Grand Canyon (again). This trip will be the photographic "cherry" on the top of my calendar. And it takes a lot of planning and scheduling to make a month-long trip. But in the end, it will be the most worthwhile adventure of the year, and will really add to my photo library.

I write all this to remind you all to PLAN SOME PHOTO FUN now for the entire Summer and reserve a spot on your calendar. If it is written down there, it may be more likely that it really happens and you end up with some fond memories and a bunch of great images. Cheers!

**PSA Exhibition Closings in
JULY = 36 , AUGUST=37**

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**Don't you think it may
be time to ENTER ONE
OF THEM???**

**DOES YOUR PSA CLUB
NEED A JUDGE?**

**Don't forget about the PSA Club Judging Service,
headed up by Heide Stover. Email her at
HeidesPhotos@Outlook.com to schedule a judge for
your PSA Club's competition this year.**

Some Words About Competitions

I really like to compete. Some folks do not like this, others thrive on it. But like it or not, competition touches all aspects of our life - from sibling contests, to employment competition for the higher position, for a suitable marriage mate, and even to social status in our neighborhoods or social groups.

Most of that stuff is past me now, but PHOTO competition is a big part of my life. I love the excitement of a successful contest where I gain recognition for my images. Mostly, those recognitions will not put food on the table, but they are a gratification that smooths out some of the rough spots present in everyday life.

As PSA members, we can take full advantage of opportunities to compete. Yes, success is gratifying, but even better, the access to all the amazing images that are sent to me via the digital "catalogues" that each photo contest publishes, shows me what truly excellent photos look like, and gives me ideas on how to improve my own work.

Also, PSA offers a plethora of creative competitions that members can use to test their own images. Then there are the Digital Dialogue and Study Groups that allow us to enter our images and actually get personal feedback from the group members. These are not competitions, but prepare us to do better when we do want to compete. Make Summer a time to try just ONE NEW THING.

PSA COMPETITIONS COMING UP !!!

Here are some deadlines for the PID Individual contests:

INDIVIDUAL LANDSCAPE Use your Summer travel images for this contest. Rounds close on the first of December, February and April.

INDIVIDUAL STILL LIFE - Love a good tabletop shoot? Here is the contest for you. Rounds close on the first of December, February and April.

INDIVIDUAL PORTRAIT - I know that some of our PSA members are also pro shooters, who have a lot of experience taking portraits. Now is the chance to enter your beautiful portraits in this contest. Rounds close on the first of October, December, and April.

INDIVIDUAL ARCHITECTURE - Includes details of all buildings - large and small . Rounds close on the first of December, February and April.

Full details about these great contests are under the **Divisions>Competitions** tabs on the PSA Home Page



HELP WANTED

This is really important.
Looking for STATE REPs
in each state to report
on any special activities,
shows, contests, etc. -
Email me if you can
help. I REALLY need the
help. Thanks!

PSA Journal is always looking for articles from members about your special interests, techniques or recent adventures. **Please email me** if you would be willing to share your experience. Our Journal is YOUR voice in our photography world. Let us know what you are doing, and share it with others. -Melissa

PHOTO FESTIVAL IS COMING SEPT. 18-21 IN TUCSON, AZ AT A LUXURY RESORT

[Go to www.psa-photo.org](http://www.psa-photo.org)

Click on "LEARN MORE" on the home screen
SIGN UP NOW - the Speakers will be GREAT.