

NVPS NEWSLETTER

GREAT PEOPLE and GREAT IMAGES SINCE 1998



September 2022 Issue

This month's meeting

August 26 - Todd Pickering returns via Zoocommerce

Theme: Nature Photography

Task: Submit triptych of nature images

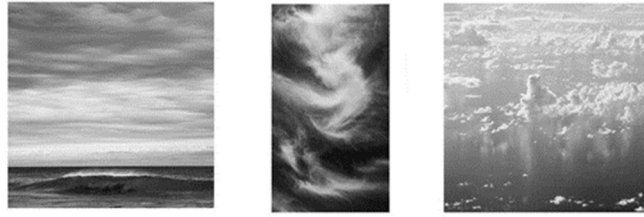
Todd Pickering returns September 26 for the final installment of his two-part presentation on nature photography.

<http://www.napavalleyphotographicsociety.org/guest-speakers--events.html>

He joins NVPS via Zoom at the club's first general meeting held at the new location, the Napa Senior Activity Center, Oak Room, 1500 Jefferson, Napa.

At this meeting members' triptychs will be reviewed during the critique segment of the meeting. These should be emailed in advance no later than the Saturday

evening prior to the monthly meeting to: NVPS.Photo.Critique@gmail.com.
See Newsletter Submittal Guidelines below for: *Members' photos for the meeting.*



Each member may submit one triptych (containing three images).

Examples of Todd Pickering's photography can be seen at <http://toddpickering.weebly.com>.

NVPS meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 7:00 pm. Starting in September the meetings will be in the Oak Room at the Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson, Napa.

No member-submitted photos for the September meeting. *For the September meeting, members may submit one triptych for critique.* Submit by September 21.

A word from the president

As summer draws to a close I am encouraged by the progress the NVPS has made. We are closing in on our membership goal, with some new members joining us. We have a new home at the Napa Senior Center. We have active participation in our field trips. We have a newsletter for the distribution of information, event notifications, and general club news. Things are looking good.

I want to thank Joe Sinclair for putting together the newsletter. I would encourage all members to send Joe anything they feel is relevant to the club, and photography in general. If you are showing your work, let Joe know. If you have news, tips, or tutorials you would like to pass on to the membership, send it to Joe. Joe can be reached at email: jt@sinclair3.com

We still have some work ahead. We need some volunteers to take on some of the duties such as Hospitality, Program Director, and Field Trip/Workshop coordinator. Some of these duties are being filled temporarily by Board members, but we would like to see some volunteers from the membership step up to take these assignments. More participation allows for fresh ideas.

Thank you to Irena Miles for setting up the field trip to the Wine Train repair facility. Thank you to Judd Howell for setting up the field trip to the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge. These field trips are designed to get us out of the house and back behind the camera. If you participate in these events please be open to answering questions and helping the less experienced photographers in the group. If you are less experienced, or think you are less experienced, please don't hesitate to ask questions. We should all be helping each other, and we can all learn from each other.

Lastly, we will have an annual Holiday Party. It will be Dec 3 from 5pm to 9 pm at the Senior Center. We have the Manzanita Room, which has a full kitchen. We will be responsible for returning the room to the state we found it in, so please stick around at the end and help clean it up. This will be a potluck type affair so I will be letting folks know what to bring.

I thank the Board for their involvement and taking on extra duties until we get positions filled. It is such appreciated. I look forward to continuing moving this club in a direction where our members are not only learning, but having fun at the same time.

Philip Venable, President

Email: philven@pacbell.net

Phone: 707-689-3092

Field trips & workshops

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)

Date: Saturday, October 22, 2022, 8:30 AM (PDT)

Location: 752 County Road 99W, Willows, CA 95988-9639, (530) 934-2801

The purpose of this field trip is to introduce Society members to:

1. National Wildlife Refuge System
2. Sacramento NWR's role in wildlife conservation in North America
3. US Geological Survey, Western Ecological Research Center (WERC)
4. WERC's role in wildlife conservation research in California
5. Waterfowl and waterbird identification
6. Opportunities for wildlife photography

Logistics:

- Meet in the main parking lot for informal presentations from SNWR and WERC staff.
- Have a brief introduction to bird identification.
- There is a 6-mile auto trail and 2 miles of walking trail for photo opportunities.
- Day use entrance fee is \$6.00 per vehicle or America the Beautiful Pass (carpooling is advised).

Items to bring:

Hat, sunscreen, layered clothing, sturdy walking shoes, binoculars and camera gear, lunch, water

Fieldtrip Leader: Judd A. Howell, PhD Wildlife Ecologist

Judd has studied birds and mammals over the past 40 years, first studying Ornithology at Montana State. He was an Ornithology TA at Arizona State. He studied eagles and falcons in Wyoming and is a founder of the Golden Gate

Raptor Observatory located in the Marin Headlands of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Judd also supervised scientists at the USGS Western Ecological Research Center, Sacramento and was the Director of the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, the home of the National Bird Banding Laboratory and Breeding Bird Survey.

Signup: Please email Judd directly at juddahowell@berkeley.edu

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)

<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/sacramento/contact-us>

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge is the headquarters for the entire Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex made up of five units. The refuge supports over 250 species of birds. Most notable are the huge wintering concentrations (November - January) with regular peaks of over 500,000 ducks and 250,000 geese. Raptor numbers swell as the waterfowl numbers increase, including bald eagles and peregrine falcons. Waterfowl viewing is good between October and March. In addition, shorebird numbers peak in the spring and fall, while some waterfowl and numerous migratory songbird species nest here during the summer. Many birds and mammals provide year-round viewing.

Wetland Walk: These 2-miles of trails depart from the Visitor Center located on Hwy 99W just 6 miles south of the city of Willows. The Wetland Walk will take you through wetlands, vernal pools and riparian habitat. Grab an interpretive booklet (pdf) and learn about the Complex and its wildlife and habitats. The north loop is disabled-accessible. Download Map/Brochure (pdf)

Seasonal Trails: Open only from February 15 - June 30, this area is accessed from Parking Lot D, on County Road 68. This seasonal area provides up to 6-miles of trails that meander through wetlands and vernal pools. In-ground blinds are available for photography (waders required). Download Map/Brochure (pdf)

Wildlife Species List:

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Sacramento_NWR_Complex_Wildlife_List_Brochure_508.pdf

News Release regarding drought impacts:

<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/SNWRC%20Drought-Recreation%20PR.pdf>

David Vela, Park Ranger, Sacramento NWR Complex

He manages the Visitor Services program which includes education and outreach, volunteers, Friends group, visitor facilities and provides recreational opportunities on the refuges for consumptive and non-consumptive users. The five refuges on the Complex include Sacramento, Delevan, Colusa, Sutter, and Sacramento River NWRs.

Western Ecological Research Center (WERC)

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/werc>

The Western Ecological Research Center (WERC) is a USGS Ecosystems Mission Area operation serving primarily California and Nevada. WERC scientists work closely with Federal, State, academic, and other collaborators to address a diverse array of high-profile topics. Topics include research on effects of wildfire, sea level rise, drought, energy development and more on federal Trust species.

Michael Casazza, Research Wildlife Biologist, and Andrea Mott, USGS Field Biologist

Research Interests:

Mike and his team are experts in wildlife telemetry and apply cutting edge tools to answer complex ecological questions. In addition, Mike's program also focuses on threatened and endangered species in a variety of ecosystems. Mike Casazza's research has targeted studies which provide critical species information to land managers responsible for maintaining diverse and healthy wildlife populations while trying to help recover special status species.

Andrea has her hand in most of the fieldwork of Mike's crew. She conducts trapping and transmitter placement mostly on ducks and geese but also wrangles white-faced ibis in the summer. Andrea finished her master's thesis in March

2022, on goose distribution in the Sacramento Valley, describing the exponentially growing goose population and their incredible migratory behaviors.

Having a Federal Duck Stamp will get one admission. (For more information: <https://www.fws.gov/media/duck-stamp-2022-2023>)

Two useful birding apps: MERLIN Bird ID from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (Free) and Audubon Field Guide to North American Birds.

Events

Exhibit opportunity in professional office

Members of the Napa Valley Photographic Society will have an opportunity to show photographs at the Eye Specialists office in Napa, October – December. (Coming down in early January.)

This will *not* be our annual show but just another opportunity to present work (and hopefully generate some sales). Your dues must be current to enter.

This will be a chance for new members to learn about showing. It will also be good visibility for the Society and a way to promote the Society to potential new members.

Photos will be hung in back hallways and waiting areas. They have lots of foot traffic!

The downside is that those hallways are not open to the public, but the volume of foot traffic is huge. It's a busy, busy practice.

(And I am talking to them about a possible “open house” at some point after closing to patients so our members can see the show. They did artists’ receptions prior to covid. They are open to the idea and are looking at dates around Thanksgiving.)

Address: 800 Trancas St. (at corner of Trancas and Valle Verde). Offices of Dr. Jameson and Bosetti, etc.

Space: We can hang up to 40 – 50 photos (depending on size). Photos that have been shown before are OK. Members can submit what they have on hand. We can accept two photos each from members (and may do a second call for photos depending on participation).

Theme: “General” theme that will allow members to be flexible and submit photos on hand.

Note: We don’t have room/time to “jury” photos so we will appreciate members having their photos properly framed and “professional” looking. Metal and other presentations are OK too.

I need folks to send me a digital image of the photo(s) so I can organize them in advance.

- Need name of photo, photographer, indication of size, (and contact information in case there is interest in purchasing —or indication "not for sale"). I will do wall tags to accompany photos.
- *Deadline* for notice of intent to enter: An email to me emmnapa@aol.com by September 23 with the information above. Subject line "Show entry."
- *Members can deliver photos to the Sept. 26 meeting.* I will be in the parking lot in advance of the meeting to accept photos (details to come). Photos should be wrapped for transport. Or let me know if you need special arrangements to drop off photos or have them picked up.

Tentative hang date Sept. 28 after 4:30 pm. (Volunteer crew is being organized.)

Please contact me if you have any questions: - Betty Malmgren, emmnapa@aol.com.

Mechanics Bank

Thanks to efforts by George Bartolome, the lobby display at Mechanics Bank features members Peter Guenther and Nancy Hernandez through the end of October.



Napa Senior Center

Work by member Marissa Carlyle is featured at the Napa Senior Center through October.





City hall

Thanks to NVPS members George Bartolome, Nancy Hernandez and Marissa Carlisle for hanging photos at Napa City Hall. This ongoing project gives good recognition to NVPS. The current exhibit theme is *Growth Flowers*.

Ocean and Coastal Photography Contest

Get the information for the California Ocean and Coastal Photography Contest, a state-wide contest: <https://mycoastalphoto.com/>

Member news

Dues

Dues are \$45 annually and due at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1.

Payments can be mailed to Napa Valley Photographic Society at 2710 Beecham St., Napa CA 94558, or to PO Box 5914, Napa CA 94581. Make checks payable to: Napa Valley Photographic Society. NVPS is also acceptable.

If your dues aren't received by September 24, you will not be eligible for submitting a triptych for critique.

Triptych

For the September meeting, submit one triptych image for critique (no more than 1920 pixels on horizontal side). Three photos must be combined into one image. Submit by September 21. See Middle Age triptych in photo below.



In memory

Long time NVPS member Priscilla Upton passed away July 27 at her St. Helena home. A funeral was held Aug. 23 at the St. Helena Catholic Church.

NVPS was well represented at a "car parade" that went by her home held by her friends as an early 80th birthday gift and expression of love; she watched from her bedroom window while she was on hospice care.

An outstanding photographer and world traveler, she contributed much to her community and to NVPS over the years. She is survived by her husband Sloan, two daughters Caroline and Cecily, two grandsons, and a large family of friends. Donations in her memory can be made to Rianda House in St. Helena or Clinic Ole in Napa.

Priscilla (in red jacket) and Sloan Upton rented a house in Yosemite in 2008 and hosted NVPS club members for a winter photography adventure:



A Napa Valley College international education photography trip to Cuba (where we welcomed in the New Year 2004) was organized by now retired department chair Ron Rogers. Upon return, some participants and NVPS members Cassandra Walker, Kathy Bandrowski, Betty Malmgren, Priscilla Upton, and Pam and Ron Rogers celebrated birthdays together for years. Priscilla's photographs were included in a group show at the Mechanics Bank this spring, thanks to efforts by George Bartolome.

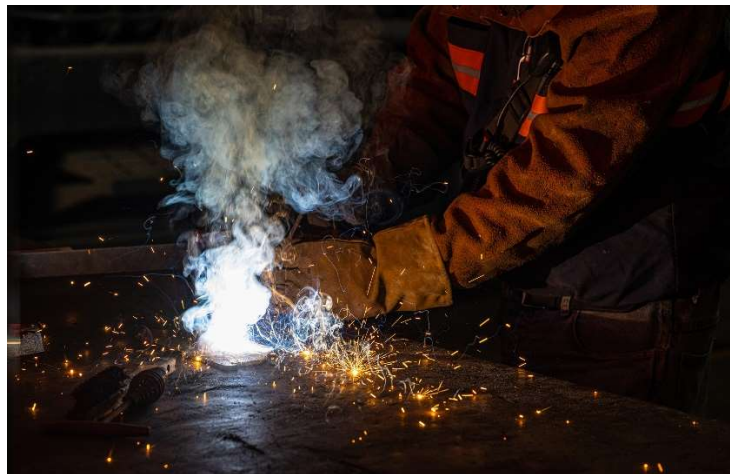


Society meetings

NVPS meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 7:00 pm. Starting in September, the meetings will be in the Oak Room at the Napa Senior Activity Center, 1500 Jefferson, Napa.

Railroad yard

Thanks to member Irena Miles for the successful field trip on September 10 to the Napa Valley Wine Train railroad yard. Photos by P. Venable (2) and J. Sinclair (2).







Marissa in St. George

Marissa Carlisle has two pieces recently chosen for art gallery display, one photograph 11 x 17, and second, a paper mache 3 x4 mixed media *Day of the Dead* sculpture. These were just juried into Southern Utah Tech in St George, Utah where Marissa is currently taking a sabbatical red desert time-out.



In St Helena

Geoff Hansen recently hung a number of prints in Gary's Wine & Marketplace in St Helena. The pieces are for sale through the store and include several black and white images of the night harvest.



Free tutorials

MATTK is offering photography-related tutorials free. See <https://mattk.com>. Sent in by Irena Miles.

Head photo submittals

Head photos (for the top of the newsletter) taken by members are needed for future newsletters. See the Newsletter Submittal Guidelines.

Holiday dinner

Saturday December 3 at the Napa Senior Center has been set for the annual holiday dinner.

Articles

Aesthetics ©2022 Joseph T. Sinclair

Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder. Margaret Wolfe Hungerford 1878



A casual review of philosophical commentary on aesthetics from Plato to Heidegger and beyond reveals attempts to establish a framework in which universal aesthetics can be determined with philosophical logic. Yet all fail to be entirely rational because they beg the question. To commence an aesthetic system, one must first make aesthetic judgments to establish a practical basis for the system to work. Thus, in an attempt to discover universal aesthetics, one always comes back to having to prime the pump, so to speak, in order to pin down what is beautiful and what is not.



A scientific/sociologic approach to aesthetics seems to be more revealing and pinpoints the nature of the quest to find the universal. How do you answer the question, What is beautiful?

The first answer is human physiology. It appears that there is something in our physiology that dictates that certain relationships in our visual perception are particularly appealing. Someone with appropriate research could establish a list of these appealing visual relationships (e.g., the golden ratio) in human visual consciousness and thereby set up a framework of hot tips for photographers and other artists to follow. In fact, the field of art has accumulated information that approximates this idea.

Regardless of what visual relationships a scientific study might list as determining aesthetics, there are always exceptions to the rules that will yield nonconforming beauty. In addition, there are always plenty of exceptional people who do not have exactly the same physiology that the rest of us do. Therefore, any attempt to define aesthetics by physiological responses to what we see is but an uncertain edifice on which to establish universal aesthetics.

What is certain, however, is that culture establishes the way we use our physiological capabilities. For instance, what is beautiful to those in Western culture is not necessarily beautiful to those in Eastern culture. In other words, the French way of understanding aesthetics is different than the Korean way of understanding aesthetics. Sure, there's some overlap. But there's also serious non-overlap that distinguishes a Frenchman's (Westerner's) vision of art from a Korean's (Easterner's) vision of art. Culture is inculcated during the

development of the human brain, and people in different cultures are indeed different in their aesthetic perceptions.

Furthermore, events and environment after birth, and even before birth, stimulate the brain to form one's consciousness in such a way that everybody is different via different experiences growing up and living one's life even within a culture. In other words, everyone's brain works differently, as we now know from medical studies of brain development (e.g., *The Tale of the Dueling Neurosurgeons*, Sam Kean).

Although understanding culture is perhaps the best way to understand aesthetics, it doesn't take into consideration the individual human experience. What hides the fact that aesthetics is strictly personal and not universal, is that there are always those who dictate fashion; that is, what is beautiful. In art, it is the art critics, museum curators, literary commentators, outspoken artists, and others of that ilk. If you want to be a credible member of the intelligentsia, you must pay attention to what they say and more or less agree with them. But such agreement, doesn't make your aesthetics or their aesthetics any more valid than my aesthetics or anyone else's aesthetics. After all is said and done, aesthetic perception is an individual response to a visual experience.

But what about universal acclaim? Does popularity establish aesthetics? Popularity is ephemeral. In addition, undiscovered works of art may be obscure today but nonetheless very popular at some time in the future. Certainly, history proves that. But presumably if it's beautiful, it's always beautiful in a rational aesthetic evaluation. Thus, popularity can be said to distort reality and is not a reliable determinative element for aesthetics.



In the end, what does this mean to an individual photographer? It means simply that aesthetic criticism, commentary, analysis, and guidance can be useful to a photographer in learning about different points of view in regard to their works of art. Interesting for sure. But such judgements by others can never replace one's own aesthetics. *Your aesthetics are all you have.* And the more you remember that, the more creative, unique, and beautiful your works of art (photographs) will likely be. A street-talk way of saying the same is: don't copy others, do your own thing.

Note: When I visited the Louvre in 1962, the Mona Lisa was hanging on the wall with all the other paintings. One could get almost close enough to touch it. When I took the Mona Lisa photo above in 2018, the painting was hanging on its own wall behind glass strong enough to withstand five nuclear explosions. The closest one can get to it is about 20 feet. The last photo above is my own abstract art, A Window into the Evening; so very beautiful.

Equipment

Display board a nice oak 15 photo (8x10) display board (see photo) that I am giving away and am thinking that perhaps someone in the photo club might be interested in using it for their own personal photos in some capacity. It's free, and I'm willing to deliver it anywhere in the Yountville to American Canyon area, again, at no cost. For someone outside of that area, maybe we can meet somewhere. The display board is in excellent condition!

If anyone is interested give me a call or email, Chris Sauer, 707-363-6602, senor@comcast.net.



Nikon 70-300mm AF-S VR f/3.5-5.6g IF -ED new in box for sale. Only \$100!

Lanny Johnson, 707- 363-1866.

Officers & staff

Elected Board members

President - Phil Venable
Vice president - Terry Smith
Secretary - George Bartolome
Membership Secretary - open
Treasurer - Irena Miles
Past president - Gary Sampson

Appointed board members & chairs

Member-at-large - Lanny Johnson

Program chair - Betty Malmgren

Website manager - Carolyn Younger

Newsletter - Joe Sinclair

Exhibit chair - Chris Sauer

Ongoing-exhibits chair - George Bartolome

Hospitality coordinator - open

Field trips - Irena Miles (Karen Noyes, Ann Seronello, Geoff Hansen)

Workshops - Phil Venable

Publicity - Zach Berkowitz

Zoom coordinators - Roland Dumas, Phil Venable

Digital projectionist - Angie Johnson (Roland Dumas, Peter Guenther, Phil Venable)

Facebook posting - Karen Noyes

Fundraiser chair – open



Head photo: In the Gardens ©2022 Joseph T. Sinclair. All rights reserved.

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Newsletter Submittal Guidelines

Submittal deadline

The submittal deadline for newsletter text + photos (content) is the third Monday of the month.

Members' photos for the meeting

Members may submit images for the meeting and should be prepared to make a brief verbal explanation. To submit your photos for a meeting, send your images to the regular critique site in the usual format (no more than 1920 pixels on the longest side) no later than the Saturday prior to the monthly meeting. The file name for an image should be:

members first&last name_title or theme_order number

Examples: John Everest_Harvest Time_01 and John Everest_After the Harvest_02

Send the files to: NVPS.Photo.Critique@gmail.com. Only photos taken by members accepted.

Newsletter head photo

If you desire to provide a head photo for one issue, submit a JPG 1920 pixels horizontal. The vertical can be between 450 and 900 pixels. Anything outside these parameters cannot be used. The file name should be your name plus the title of your photo, the word *head*, and the date:

name_title_head_date

Send the file to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: HEAD PHOTO (in all caps). Only photos taken by members accepted. And photos that have been published before on the NVPS website or in the NVPS newsletter are not eligible.

This month's meeting

Follow the guide for *Articles*.

Field trips & workshops

Announce of field trips and workshops should include all information including leader + contact info, date, time, meeting place, miles to location, cost, and nature of the photography as well as a general description. These are *participation* events. Announcements can run in successive issues *before* the event.

Events

This is an announcement of a photo exhibit, contest, or photo op of interest to members or one that includes a member or multiple members. It can run in successive issues *before* the exhibit.

This category also includes a call for member participants in future photo exhibits or contests with complete information on applying and participating.

If an event is a duplicate of full information elsewhere, it should be a brief announcement with a hyperlink.

Member news

This is a one-time *brief* announcement of a member's *past* achievement, such as an exhibit, a photo experience, a travel-photo experience, a photo learning experience, and the like. Use a hyperlink to indicate where full information is available.

If this is the sole information on a substantial achievement, it can be written like an article with full information; but it shouldn't be a duplicate of full information published elsewhere (use a hyperlink instead).

NVPS administrative news or other news is also appropriate for this category.

Articles

Articles (e.g., magazine-like articles) written by members can be posted in the newsletter for one issue. They will be assumed to be published by permission. They must be relevant to photography, of course.

Articles published by non-members are likely to be copyrighted. See *Copyrights* for the treatment of non-member articles.

Generally, only one article per issued will be published with membership-written articles given preference.

Equipment

Equipment for sale or giveaway can be listed here for one newsletter issue. Provide full information.

Photos for newsletter

Photos submitted for the newsletter should be: no more than 1920 pixels on the longest side. File names should be:

category_title of writing_author_title of photo_date

Photos taken by members will be assumed to be published by permission. Photos taken by non-members are likely to be copyright protected. See *Copyrights* for the treatment non-member photos.

Send the photo file to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: PHOTO (in all caps).

Photo captions

If you want captions for your photos, include them in the photos. For instance, you can attach a white strip with text (in Photoshop) at the bottom of the photo for the caption.

Submissions

For all information (text) submitted, use a file name that identifies the subject matter and author. Send the file to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: NEWSLETTER (in all caps).

Subject-line email

Unless you use the subject-line words requested for text or photos, your submission might be lost in the 400 emails received each day.

In the email, explain your submission. Example: *This photo goes with my article on shooting wildlife.*

Copyrights

For articles and photos by non-members, NVPS must have written permission for publication. The exception is articles or photos in the public domain; for such articles or photos, the author and source of the public domain archive should be stated.

One way to circumvent copyright problems is to use a hyperlink to the article or photo published elsewhere.

Typography

Use italics for emphasis. Use emphasis sparingly. Don't use bold or all-caps. Bold and all-caps are difficult to read. Nonetheless, all-caps are acceptable for acronyms and designations.

Suggestions

Suggestions for the newsletter format or otherwise should be sent to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line SUGGESTION in all caps.

Your editor

Your current newsletter editor is half-deaf with a short-term memory (25 seconds on a good day and getting shorter each year), lives in Vallejo (doesn't know Napa very well), and receives about 400 emails every day. Although the newsletter editor reserves the right to edit submissions, the newsletter editor's job is to *receive* content (information + photos) for the newsletter, not create it. So, please submit publish-ready content according to these guidelines. And please, no verbal submissions.