

PHOTO NOTES

Park West
Camera Club

March 2025



This Issue

Volume 87 • Issue 6

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Over 90 members' images inside!



The Park West Camera Club is an independent not-for-profit corporation. Guests are always welcome to our weekly Zoom meetings.

The PWCC newsletter, *Photo Notes*, is published every month by and for the members of the Park West Camera Club. Subscriptions are included with Club membership. Yearly subscriptions are available to non-members by email free of charge.

Submissions of full-length articles or smaller items of photographic or general interest are always accepted. The staff of *Photo Notes* reserves the right to edit any submissions which are published.

Photo Notes is optimized for viewing digitally.

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www.parkwestcameraclub.org

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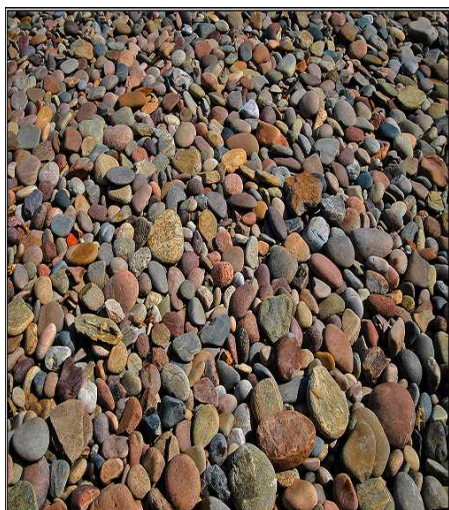
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PWCC

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Cover Photo
Pebbles
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Club Officers

President	Chuck Pine
V. President	Michael Schleiff
Corres. Sec.	Helen Bohmart Pine
Rec. Sec.	Christine Doyle
Treasurer	Joe Nawy
At-Large	Betsy Currier Jeff Langford

Committee Chairs

Competition	Hedy Klein
Membership	Marlene Schonbrun
Photo Notes	Chuck Pine
Program	Marilyn Fish-Glynn Alice Somma
Social	Vacancy
Website	Michael Schleiff Christine Doyle
Workshop	Ed Lee Bruce Byers

Currently Inactive Committees

Archive, Field Trip,
Gallery, House

President's Message

Photo Clubs of NYC

When I first joined Park West Camera Club way back in 1971, it was one of more than 30 photography clubs that met somewhere in the boroughs of the Big Apple. About half of these were open only to people who worked for the company that sponsored them, such as the Telephone Company, Citibank, and a dozen or so others. The other half of the clubs were open to anyone who had an interest in the photographic arts. They were spread throughout the City.

There was one umbrella organization, the Metropolitan Camera Club Council, which coordinated activities throughout the area. They provided judges, speakers, workshops, and field trips as well as held monthly competitions. There were over 100 clubs in the so-called Met Council.

Believe it or not, there were weekly columns in the *New York Post*, the *Daily News*, and the *New York Times* which were all about camera clubs and photography in the City.

Wow, have things changed!

A few weeks ago, for some unknown reason, I started to research camera clubs in the New York City area. I did Google searches. I went to the websites of current umbrella groups—PSA (Photographic



Society of America), the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs, the Photo Federation of Long Island, and the newest in the group, the New York Metro Area Camera Council.

I was shocked at what I found. Many of the groups at which I have judged their competitions, to which I have presented programs and/or slide shows, and to which I

have been a member are no longer in business. They are extinct! They no longer exist! Some of these include the Gateway Photographers of Staten Island, the New York Botanical and Zoologic Camera Club (renamed the Bronx Photographic Society in recent years), the Camera Club of Manhattan, and the Flushing Camera Club, not to mention the New York City Audubon Society Photo Group.

I could find only eight camera clubs that are still up and running in New York City. Here they are, with a little info on each of them...

Continued on page 16

Photo Notes

Publisher: Park West Camera Club

Editor: Chuck Pine

Committee: Madeleine Barbara, Ann Broder, Renée Harper, Gladys Hopkowitz, Hedy Klein, Paul Perkus, Helen Pine, Puneet Sood, and Julie Wosk

Contributors: Evelyne Appel, Bruce Byers, Karen Corrigan, Julie Foehrenbach, Richard Gold, Hedy Klein, Jeff Langford, Natalie Manzano, Chuck Pine, Helen Pine, Larry Rubin, and Michael Schleiff

Photo Notes is produced on a MacBook Pro using Apple Pages and Adobe Photoshop software.

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PWCC 2024-2025 Schedule

September

- 1 Chuck Pine Labor Day Picnic
- 2 No Meeting (Labor Day)
- 9 Welcome Back—Summer Photos
- 16 Guest Speaker
- 23 Club's Night Out
- 26 PDI Workshop
- 30 Business Meeting #1

October

- 7 Competition #1
- 14 My Favorite Image
- 21 Guest Speaker
- 24 PDI Workshop
- 28 Workshop—B&W

November

- 4 Competition #2
- 11 You be the Judge—Architecture
- 18 Guest Speaker
- 21 PDI Workshop
- 25 Business Meeting #2

December

- 2 Competition #3
- 9 Guest Speaker
- 16 Club's Night Out
- 23 No Meeting (Winter Break)
- 30 No Meeting (Winter Break)

January

- 6 Competition #4
- 13 Workshop—Light Painting
- 20 Guest Speaker
- 23 PDI Workshop
- 27 Theme Night—Street Photography

February

- 3 Competition #5
- 10 Theme Night—Planes, Trains, and Autos
- 17 Guest Speaker
- 20 PDI Workshop
- 24 Portfolio Night—Dealer's Choice

March

- 3 Competition #6
- 10 Interpretations
- 17 Guest Speaker
- 24 You be the Judge—Food
- 27 PDI Workshop
- 31 Business Meeting #3

April

- 7 Competition #7
- 14 PDI Workshop
- 21 Guest Speaker
- 28 Theme Night—After Dark

May

- 5 Competition #8
- 12 Guest Speaker
- 19 Business Meeting #4
- 22 Expanding Visions 31—Introduction
- 26 No Meeting (Memorial Day)
- 29 Expanding Visions 31—Earth

June

- 2 Year End Competition
- 5 Expanding Visions 31—Water
- 9 Otto Litzel Memorial Dinner
- 12 Expanding Visions 31—Air
- 16 ExCom Meeting
- 19 Expanding Visions 31—Fire
- 23 Summer Programming Begins
- 26 Expanding Visions 31—Bugs
- 30 No Meeting

For full details see the "Schedule of Activities" at the end of each issue of *Photo Notes*.

All Club Monday night meetings will be held using Zoom software unless otherwise stated in the "Schedule of Activities."



Zooming

Zoom is a web-based video-conferencing software tool that allows users to meet online. Zoom is compatible with Macs, Windows, smart-phones, and tablets. Zoom software is free to download to your devices.

The Club is using Zoom software to conduct all of its meetings. An email will be sent to all PWCC members prior to meetings. This email will contain the link to join the Zoom meeting. All you have to do is click on the link.

To download Zoom, go to www.zoom.us/download and click on the "Download" button. It's that simple!

Non-members who would like to join our Club meetings may request the link by sending an email to pwccny@gmail.com

Pop-Up Trips

The Club instituted Pop-Up field trips several years ago. Just what is a Pop-Up (also called a Drop-In) trip, I hear you cry? It is a field trip that any one of our Club members wishes to go on without a lot of pre-planning and fanfare.

You decide where you want to go and when you want to go there. You send a message via our Google Groups to all the other PWCCers who have signed up. It's that easy!

Whoever shows up will be a surprise. All you've got to do is shoot away and have fun doing it.

As an afterthought, it would be appreciated if all those who attend send a few images from the trip for *Photo Notes*. A short article would be nice but isn't necessary.

Submitting Images

The Club has over a dozen activities this year which ask you to submit images. These include competitions, theme nights, workshops, classes, and more. Here's what you need to know:

Images must be .jpg, with a resolution of 72 ppi, 2,000px on the longest side, and maximum size of 2MB.



Competition images must be titled as follows:

LastNameFirstInitial_Month
Year_Title.jpg

for example

JonesM_Jan23_Flower.jpg



Other images should be titled as follows:

Name_Number_Title

You may use your first and/or last name/initial. If you want your images shown in a particular order, number them 01, 02, etc. Use a real title, not the image number that came out of the camera.

for example

MaryJ_07_Flower

Emailing PWCC

Send your competition images to...

pwcccompetition@yahoo.com

Send your articles, images, etc. for *Photo Notes* to...

pwccny@aol.com

Send all other email to...

pwccny@gmail.com

To contact Executive Committee members directly see the PWCC membership list for their personal email addresses.





Sunshine Fund

A motion was passed at a Club business meeting to establish a Sunshine Fund as part of the Social Committee. The responsibilities of this new entity are to acknowledge birthdays, deaths, births, illnesses, and any other life events that impact our Club members and their families.

Long-time Club member Natalie Manzino has volun-

teered to take on this task for the Club. She has already purchased the necessary stationery to be able to express the sentiments of the Club and its members.

But Natalie needs your help in achieving the Club's goals through this committee. It would be great if each and every member could give her the month and day of their birthday (no years, please).

In addition, if you could let Natalie know of any life events that occur to any of our members, you or someone else, both present and past members, that would be great, too.

917-757-7086

<bklynnnat@hotmail.com>



Club Meeting Times

All Park West Camera Club Monday night meetings will begin at 7 p.m. (except for our competitions which will begin at 6:30 p.m.). You may sign into Zoom 15 minutes earlier to ask questions, for chit-chat with members, or just to hang out before the meeting.

The link to join the Zoom meetings is sent out to Club members and friends of the Club in our *Weekly Reminder* every Friday.

PWCC Image Deadlines

<u>Event</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>	<u>Event Date</u>
You Be the Judge (Food)	Feb. 25th	Mar. 24th
Interpretations	Mar. 8th	Mar. 10th
PDI Workshop	Mar. 26th	Mar. 27th
Competition #6	Mar. 31st	Apr. 7th
PDI Workshop	Apr. 13th	Apr. 14th
Theme Night (After Dark)	Apr. 26th	Apr. 28th

Club Participation Nites

This coming year there will be 11 Monday night programs that require Club members to participate. Here's a quick rundown on these fun and educational activities...

[Note—the entry deadlines for most of these activities is two days prior to the event, but the *You Be the Judge* nights have a one month lead time!!!]

- September 9th—*Welcome Back* What'd you do over the summer months? Share up to 10 images to tell your story. Entry deadline: September 7th.

- October 14th—*My Favorite Image* You'll probably have to open up your archives for this assignment. Pick your absolutely favorite image to share. Be prepared to explain the who, what, where, when, why, and how of this photo. Entry deadline: October 12th.



- October 28th—*Theme Night: (B&W)* There's more than one way to skin a cat and to change an image to black-and-white. Show us what you can do in monochrome. Limit of 10 images, please. Entry deadline: October 26th.

- November 11th—*You Be the Judge (Architecture)* You may submit one architectural image that has never before been seen at any Club activities. It may be an entire building or just a detail shot. Each entry will be scored and commented on by all participating Park West members. Entry deadline: October 15th.

- January 27th—*Theme Night: (Street Photography)* Share up to 10 of your images that feature chance encounters and random incidents on the street. Entry deadline: January 25th.



- February 10th—*Theme Night: (Planes, Trains, and Automobiles)* Share up to 10 of your images where "planes, trains, and/or automobiles" are the main theme. Choose one form of transport or you may mix and match. Entry deadline: February 8th.

- February 24th—*Portfolio Night: (Dealer's Choice)* Submit from 6 to 10 images on a theme of your choice (humor, Covid, travel, etc.). Entry deadline: February 22nd.

- March 10th—*Interpretations* The Club will provide the base images. The members will alter them in any way they see fit. Let your imagination and software skills be limitless. Entry deadline: March 8th.



- March 24th—*You Be the Judge (Food)* You may submit one image pertaining to the culinary arts that has never before been seen at any Club activities. You are only limited by your appetite! Each entry will be scored and commented on by all participating Club members. Entry deadline: February 25th.

- April 28th—*Theme Night: (After Dark)* Astrophotography, traffic, street lights—the possibilities are endless—as long as your 10 submissions were shot after the sun has set. Entry deadline: April 26th.

PDI Workshops

Projected Digital Image workshops are held throughout the year—usually on Thursday evenings. There will also be a PDI workshop on Monday, April 14th. All entry deadlines are the previous day.

Images of the Month

March 2025

PDI-of-the-Month

Abandoned Farm by Natalie Manzino.

Honors

Iceberg #2 Iceland by Madeleine Barbara

Italian Parking Car by Jay Bitkower

Costa Rica Great Green Macaws by G. Corbin

Gokayama Village by George Corbin

Cleft by Betsy Currier

Post No Bills by Nicole Dosso

Grace by Sonia Durante

Water Lily by Sonia Durante

Mom With Kids by Florence Forman

Stripes by Florence Forman

Dog and Fountain by Mike Iannuzzi

Apprehensive by Doris King

Waiting by Hedy Klein

Cards in the Park by Jeffrey Langford

America by Alan Lauer

Canyonlands Mesa Arch by Eliot Nierman

Finger Licking' Good by Chuck Pine

Twombly by Larry Sapadin

Magical Night by Alice Somma

Diagonal Lines by Janet Susin

Waverly Eyes Brothers by Julie Wosk

44 Park West Camera Club members submitted a total of 88 images this month. 32 of them (36%) received a score of A or above.

This month's winners—the PDI-of-the-Month, the Honors images, and the "A" images—are shown on the following 7 pages.

Cumulative Points

(Through March 2025)

by Hedy Klein

Sonia Durante	92	Barry Fahrer	56
Elena Pierpont	90	Jeff Langford	56
Natalie Manzino	86	Ann Broder	54
Janet Susin	86	Christine Doyle	54
Chuck Pine	84	Mike Iannuzzi	54
Nicole Dosso	78	Larry Sapadin	54
Charles Levin	78	Raylie Dunkel	50
Alec Rill	78	Julie Foehrenbach	46
Florence Forman	76	Dottie Mills	46
Hedy Klein	76	Puneet Sood	44
Marlene Schonbrun	76	Will Aimesbury	42
Evelyn Appel	74	Remy Deyglun	42
Madeleine Barbara	74	Karen Corrigan	38
Michael Schleiff	70	George Corbin	36
Julie Wosk	70	David Miller	36
Betsy Currier	68	Larry Rubin	36
Laura Toledo	68	Peggy Winkelman	34
Bill Apple	66	Dov Bieber	30
Paul Grebanier	66	Allan Lauer	30
Doris King	66	Bruce Byers	24
Dudley Slater	66	Ruth Yashpan	22
Carlton Johnson	62	Eliot Nierman	18
Alice Somma	62	Renée Harper	16
Albyn Davis	60	Michael Padwee	12
Richard Gold	60	Elayne Dix	10
Jill Greiss	60	Paula Paterniti	6
Jay Bitkower	58	Aubrey Thomas	4

Thank you to this month's judge, Marilyn Stern, for her constructive criticism and consistent scoring

Congratulations to the winners in this season's sixth monthly competition. And a great big "thank you" to all who entered and watched.



Image of the Month
Abandoned Farm
© Natalie Manzino

Continued on next page



A with Honors
Iceberg #2 Iceland
© Madeleine Barbara



Italian Parking Car
© Jay Bitkower



A with Honors
Costa Rica Great Green Macaws
© George Corbin



A with Honors
Gokayama Village
© George Corbin



A with Honors
Cleft
© Betsy Currier

Continued on next page



A with Honors
Post No Bills
© Nicole Dosso



A with Honors
Grace
© Sonia Durante



A with Honors
Mom With Kids
© Florence Forman



A with Honors
Water Lily
© Sonia Durante



A with Honors
Stripes
© Florence Forman

Continued on next page



A with Honors
Dog and Fountain
© Mike Iannuzzi



A with Honors
Apprehensive
© Doris King



A with Honors
Waiting
© Hedy Klein



A with Honors
Cards In The Park
© Jeff Langford



A with Honors
America
© Alan Lauer

Continued on next page



A with Honors
Canyonlands Mesa Arch
© Eliot Nierman



A with Honors
Finger Lickin' Good
© Chuck Pine



A with Honors
Twombly
© Larry Sapadin



A with Honors
Magical Night
© Alice Somma



A with Honors
Diagonal Lines
© Janet Susin

Continued on next page



A with Honors
Waverly Eyes Brothers
© Julie Wosk



A
Misty Morning
© Marlene Schonbrun



A
Sled Boys
© Richard Gold



A
Kent Waterfall
© Ann Broder



A
Chicago DMV
© Laura Toledo

Continued on next page



A
Bryce National Park
© Eliot Nierman



A
Speed Bump
© Hedy Klein



A
Abstract
© Albyn Davis



A
Lucknow Shopkeeper
© Albyn Davis



A
Escalator
© Bill Apple

A
Lily Pads
© Will Aimesbury



President's Message

[continued from page 3]

Staten Island Camera Club
has 3 meetings per month
all meetings on Zoom
<www.statenislandcameraclub.com>

Southeast Queens Camera
Club
has 3 meetings per month
all meetings in-person
<www.seqcc.org>

Manhattan Miniature Camera
Club
has 2 meetings per month
all meetings on Zoom
<www.mmcc-nyc.org>

Pictorial Photographers
of America
has 2 meetings per month
all meetings on Zoom
<www.ppa-photoclub.org>

Sierra Photo Committee
has 1 meeting per month
some hybrid/some Zoom only
<www.sierraphotonyc.com>

Flushing ?Camera Club
has 2 meetings per month
all meetings are hybrid
<www.nycflushingcameraclub.wildapricot.org>

Professional Women
Photographers
has 1 meeting per month
all meetings on Zoom
<www.pwponline.org>

Baxter St. at the Camera Club
of New York
no scheduled meetings
<www.baxterst.org>

Park West Camera Club
4+ meetings per month
all meetings on Zoom
<www.parkwestcameraclub.org>

What do you think about
all of this? Let me know your
thoughts.
All the best...

Chuck

Correction

The image of the saxophonist and the conductor appearing
on page 19 of the February issue of Photo Notes was mis-
credited. The photographer was actually Charles Levin.



Member Bios

Old and New Members

All new Club members are
asked to submit an autobiog-
raphy to help us get to know
you better. The Membership
Committee will be glad to
assist you with this.

We now would like to ask
not-so-new PWCC members
to do the same. Tell us some-
thing about yourself—what
you like to shoot, your back-
ground in photography, what-
ever you think would interest
your fellow Park West Camera
Club members.

Please submit your bio to
<pwccny@aol.com> It will
be published in a future issue
of *Photo Notes*. Please also
include a photo of yourself
and a couple of your images
with the article.

Print Salon

by Jeff Langford

The print salon continues to thrive as a subset of Park West Camera Club. There are about eight members attending our meetings once a month.



We are avid about print-making and discussing the challenges of transferring our images from a computer screen to photo paper. One added benefit of our meetings is that they bring us face to face to share not only techniques of print-making but also related questions of composition, cropping, and the impact of using different paper types.

We encourage other PWCC members to form their own print salons and explore the final step in the process of bringing images to life.

If any other Club members would like to join us, send an email to me at jlaford@msmny.edu for all the pertinent info—date, time, location, directions, etc.



Name Dropping

compiled by Richard Gold

February's competition judge, Tommy Mintz, did a great job with constructive criticism of our images while weaving in plenty of photography history and background information. During the evening Tommy mentioned a bunch of names, many of whom we should check out and learn from.

Here's the list...

Aaron Siskind
Imogen Cunningham
William Klein
Meredith Allen
Ansel Adams
Alec Soth
Henri Cartier-Bresson
Dorothy Lange
Henry Fox Talbot
Clarence Voon
Charles Sheeler
Andreas Gursky
Bernd Becher
Gregory Knudson
Alvin Langford Coburn
Margaret Bourke-White
Frank Kunishige
Jerry Uelsmann
Sebastian Salgado
Robert Adams
Sera Petras
Minor White
Robert Frank
Paul Strand
August Sander



Active

Chuck Pine
Helen Pine
Natalie Manzino
Ed Lee
Bill Apple
Marilyn Fish-Glynn
Myron Galef

Inactive

Gary Koulisch
Linda Safran
Paul Perkus

Deceased

Ann Jackson
Fran Wetzstein
Gordon Watson
George Archibald
Sarah Corbin
Geraldine Cooke
Otto Litzel
Myron Brenton



Curtain Raisers

by Helen Pine

Curtain raisers are short (*no more than five minutes*) photography programs (*with a minimum of narration*) presented by Club members prior to our guest speakers.

Sep 16th — Paul Grebanier
Oct 21st — Evelyn Appel
Nov 18th — Bruce Byers
Dec 9th — Raylie Dunkel
Jan 20th — Elena Pierpont
Feb 17th — Karen Corrigan
Mar 17th — Dinorah Capota
Apr 21st — Dudley Slater
May 12th — Madeleine Barbara



March Birthdays

by Natalie Manzino

Here's the list of the Club members who celebrate their birthday during this month:

Bruce Byers
Marjorie Gurd
George Herman
Tom Kirkman
Hedy Klein
Natalie Manzino
Alice Somma



Committee Liaisons

The Executive Committee (ExCom) has decided to continue for this coming year with the committee liaison model to spread the responsibility among the entire Executive Committee.

Here's how it'll work:
Each ExCom member will be assigned committees as a liaison. Each committee chair or co-chair will report to the ExCom through this liaison. In this manner, it is felt that communication will flow much more smoothly, in both directions, between the committees. In addition, any concerns raised by the ExCom will be passed along to the committee chairs through the liaisons.

Here are the committee liaison assignments for the 2024-2025 Club year:

Competition	Michael
Membership	Helen
Photo Notes	Chuck
Print Salon	Jeff
Program	Christine
Social	Betsy
Website	Michael
Workshop	Joe

Inactive Committees

Archive
Field Trip
Gallery
House



Photo Notes Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
September	Aug 19th
October	Oct 7th
November	Nov 4th
December	Dec 2nd
January	Jan 6th
February	Feb 3rd
March	Mar 3rd
April	Apr 7th
May	May 5th
Summer	Jun 2nd

The sooner articles and items are submitted to *Photo Notes*, the quicker the editing and revision process can begin. Once all items are in place the draft copy of *Photo Notes* will be sent to the editors who will then have several days to edit and return their comments.

Upon completion, the *Photo Notes* issue will be sent to all members and to the Website Committee to be uploaded to www.parkwestcameraclub.org





PSA Membership

The Club is a member of PSA, the Photographic Society of America. Are you?

Individual Member Benefits

- Online Photography Classes
- Webinars
- Individual Competitions
- Travel Advisors
- Monthly *PSA Journal*
- Study Groups
- Personal Gallery Page
- Individual Competitions
- Member Discounts (photo hosting and sharing; camera and lighting equipment; fine art master class; KelbyOne; software offerings)

Did You Know?

The aperture of a camera lens is essentially its “eye.” A larger aperture (denoted by smaller f-numbers like f/1.8) means the camera lens can open wider, allowing more light to enter. While a larger aperture aids in capturing brighter images in darker conditions, it’s only one piece of the puzzle.



by Julie Foehrenbach

In late 2021, PWCC launched its own Instagram page. Instagram—a social media platform that focuses on pictures more than words—seemed a natural for a camera club. Our goal is to attract followers and, potentially, new members to join Park West.

After every monthly competition, we post the images that received a score of A or higher and whose photographers have given their approval to have their work appear.

After a push by the (NPPA) (National Press Photographers Association), Instagram added the option of an additional layer of protection for posted images. We have added this protection to our site as well.

The platform is designed for mobile devices so if you want to post your own work, it’s pretty easy to set up your own Instagram account by downloading the app to your phone and posting from there. If you just want to see the PWCC Page, you can do that at www.instagram.com on your computer browser.

As of the end March 2025, we have 672 postings and 513 followers. Impressive!

On the Website

by Michael Schleiff

The Club has set up forums for all members to use. The topics—which you join or create—could cover any area of photography and imaging including, but not limited to, how-tos, gear, Photoshop, Lightroom, plug-ins, and more.

To get access to a forum, you must be signed in to the Club website with an active email address. After logging in, go to *PWCC Members Discussion Forums* on the dropdown menu and click to enter. As you scroll down you’ll see a basic explanation of how these forums work, along with a how-to video. At the bottom of the page, there will be a heading for *Park West Camera Club*, with a button, *View Topic*.

Once selected you will see the topics that have been set up along with a button to *Create New Topic*. You can view the topics and all the posts. You may even post a comment of your own.

All signed-up members will receive an email notice when new posts have been added. (You can easily *opt out* from any of the forums.)

Any questions, regarding the forums, contact me at my personal email address [<mrscheliff@gmail.com>](mailto:mrscheliff@gmail.com)

Thank you and enjoy the PWCC forums.

PDI Workshop

The Club's PDI (Projected Digital Image) Workshop was held on Thursday night, February 20th. Six Park West members submitted images for comments and possible alterations using Photoshop software. Over 20 PWCCers were in the gallery and took part by offering comments and many suggestions for improving the photos.



Evelyne Appel's image *Going Shopping* needed a bit of straightening. We used **Edit > Transform > Distort** and pulled down the lower left corner so the woman was not walking uphill. We then used the **Crop Tool** from the left and top to place her on a **Rule of Thirds** line. Finally, we used the **Remove Tool** to get rid of the drain pipe.



Dream Forest by Pat Garbarini was liked by all of us. We felt that the eye was drawn to the bright upper left and lower right corners. Using the **Camera Raw Filter**, we raised the **Exposure** in the **Light Panel** and added a **Vignette** using the **Effects Panel**.





Jeff Langford shared two versions of *GCT* (aka Grand Central Terminal). Both of them were liked by all of us. The only suggestion was to possibly move the silhouette of the person to the right, but it was voted down by most of the group.



Santee Alley Butts by Charles Levin was a study in color and form. We thought the composition would work better with just three rear ends in the image. We used the **Rectangular Marquee Tool** to select the black jeans, and used **Cmd/Ctrl-J** to place it on a new layer. We expanded the original image by 500 pixels on the right (using **Image > Canvas Size**) and pasted the selection onto the image (**Edit > Paste**). We then used **Image > Image Rotation > Flip Canvas Horizontal** and then the **Move Tool (V)** to slide the selection to the right side of the image, making sure it lined up properly. Next, we used the **Crop Tool (C)** to eliminate the extra space on the right and get rid of the pink jeans on the left. Finally, we filled in the background on the left using the **Clone Tool**.





Mike Schleiff submitted this shot of a colorfully graffitied abandoned building. We liked it but felt the building was leaning back a bit too much. First, we used the **Crop Tool (C)** to get rid of the black border. We then went to **Edit > Transform > Distort** and pulled out the top corners to straighten the windows and make their edges vertical; we also pulled up the top right corner to even out the roofline. We then went back to the **Crop Tool (C)**, set to **Generative Expand**, and pulled out both sides to give the windows some breathing room.



Hedy Klein's *Guy and Reflection* needed a little work to improve the image. We called on the **Exposure Slider** in the **Camera Raw Filter** to increase the overall brightness of the shot. Next, we used the **Crop Tool (C)** to eliminate unneeded information from the top of the image (being sure to keep the "One Way" signs at Hedy's request) and that slice of the building on the left.

Competition Comments

I thought he was one of the best judges. At first, I was a little annoyed at all his historical references, but then I put that judgment aside, and really listened. I liked his approach, how he looked carefully at each image, was thoughtful, and that his comments weren't repetitious. Of course, I didn't always agree with what he liked or how he graded certain images, but that's nothing new. I also appreciated Chuck for not wanting him to be faster because he was truly a teacher, and such a good one. From the feedback that I've gotten so far, he was a winner. ~ Marlene S

He was terrific and probably the most intellectual judge we've had. He was verbose, but in a good way, and it would be great to ask him back again to give us a talk or be a year-end judge (I don't remember when he spoke about his own work to the Club). I think Club members appreciated his many references to noted photographers (though mentioning the theorist Roland Barthes was a little much, however!) He did keep mentioning photographers' names (I too made a list!). I know it could be annoying but I don't think he was trying to impress people—it was just the

way his mind worked. One problem, however, is that it's not good to always be referencing well-known artists in your mind when you're looking at new work. It takes away from freshly seeing them. Yes, he did keep evaluating photos as to whether he'd want them on his wall. But he probably meant that he liked more nuanced works that he had to ponder a bit.. ~ Julie W

I thought Tommy Mintz was a great judge. A little wordy, but what we all learned from him more than made up for that. ~ Christine D

I really hated him and the way he talked about the images. It really seemed like name-dropping to me and showing off how smart and educated he was. Also, I feel that his standard "Would I want this on my wall?" is irrelevant. You can appreciate an image for what it is without wanting it on your wall. I wouldn't want *Guernica* or *The Wedding Feast at Cana* or my wall but I can appreciate them as masterpieces nevertheless. I may be in the minority with my opinion. ~ Helen P



Both images
© Tommy Mintz



Competition Question

Hi all,

I've heard that there's some discussion about limiting to one the number of submissions each Club member can make to our monthly competitions. I understand the reasoning behind the idea, but I think there's a better way forward.

Unquestionably, the monthly competition is the most highly-regarded, exciting, best-attended activity held by the Club. We wouldn't want to lose that. Members value the opportunity to have their own work critiqued by experienced professional photographers and to see what other Club members are working on photographically. Invaluable.

On the other hand, the duration of each month's presentation can become numbing both for the judges, who at some point might fall into droning repetitive commentary, and also for Club members who might tune out restlessly in the face of informational overload.

What to do about such a wonderful dilemma? How might we maximize the effectiveness of a treasured activity where excessive input can have the unintended consequence of producing participant dissatisfaction?

To me, limiting the number of submissions to one image a

month would be overkill. Yes, it would achieve one goal—reduce occasional program ineffectiveness and inattentiveness. On the other hand, it would also result in an unsatisfactory limitation on what is most crucial to the activity: having one's work professionally critiqued and having the opportunity to examine and learn from the work of our Club colleagues.

There is a better way: I'd encourage the Club to consider capping the number of images a Club member might submit during the *program year* rather than limit what they may submit each month. How might that work? Let's say there are ten monthly [*Ed—there are actually eight each year.*] competitions. The Club might set a formula within which each member would be limited to 15 image submissions a year, but no more than two in any month. So ½ the year, for example, members might submit two images/month, while only submitting one image in the other months. Thus, each Club member would decide for him- or herself when to submit two images a month and when to submit only one. The choice each month is entirely his or hers. A simple spreadsheet could monitor Club member participation.

Admittedly, while this addresses the troubling issues

outlined above, this approach would limit to a degree the member participation in the monthly competition. But on the other hand, and most importantly, it would also increase monthly attentiveness and excitement to this Club activity. ~ Larry R

Portrait Tips

Choose the Right Background

The background is almost as important as your subject in portrait photography. Avoid busy backgrounds that are distracting. Keep it simple and uncluttered. It doesn't need to be plain, however. An interesting texture or pop of color would add more character to the image.



Lens Choice

The most common focal length for portraits is around 85mm—somewhere in the 50mm to 135mm range. A lens with too wide of an angle tends to distort features. A too long telephoto lens tends to compress/flatten features.

High Dynamic Range

by Evelyne Appel

In 2009 I went to Paris with the idea to try to take pictures with the High Dynamic Range process. I strolled along the Seine River until I reached a bridge that gave me a beautiful view of Notre Dame cathedral. The fire which burned this beautiful cathedral broke our hearts. What joy to see the rebuild of this magnificent church, a vital part of the soul of Paris.

I used a very small tripod which I stood on the ledge of the bridge and took three pictures at a time. Then I walked in front of Notre Dame and took handheld pictures without breathing.

On another day I took a bus tour from Paris to a famous chateaux in the Loire valley. The Chateau de Chenonceau is my favorite so I gave it the HDR treatment handheld, without breathing.

I then went to a friend's house with a regular tripod and took HDR pictures of a lovely window and potted plants. It was much easier.



All images
© Evelyne Appel

Theme Night

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles

On Monday night, February 10th, Park West had another theme night. 23 members submitted up to 10 images on the topic of transportation. 36 PWCCers attended the meeting to view the photos. Here are some of the images...



Untitled
© Janet Susin



Subway Lady
© Alan Lauer



Untitled
© Julie Wosk



Tangiers
© Evelyne Appel

Continued on next page



Untitled
© Raylie Dunkel



Untitled
© Mike Ianuzzi



Untitled
© Natalie Manzino



Untitled
© Albyn Davis



Untitled
© Elena Pierpont

Continued on next page



Antique Subway with Passenger
© Betsy Currier



Black River and Western Railroad
© Helen Pine



Just Chillin' On a One Wheel
© Charles Levin



Untitled
© Florence Forman



Times Square
© Tom Quackenbush

Continued on next page



Switches
© Chuck Pine



Tram
© Marlene Schonbrun



Untitled
© Christine Doyle



Havana Car
© Laura Toledo



Rainy Night
© Karen Corrigan

Continued on next page



Untitled
© Sonia Durante



Untitled
© Mike Schleiff



Cuban Car Wash
© Jill Greiss



Untitled
© Hedy Klein

SD Card Mistakes

Removing a Card In Use

If the memory card is in a card reader or in the camera, taking it out before the files are fully written is a no-no. You risk disrupting the file structure that every device develops with its unique

formatting and numbering sequences. When you are done moving or taking pictures, give the device 30 seconds to finish.

You also should use a specific card for each device because cards are formatted to match their specifications. Switching cards from one to another can lead to errors.

Your odds of recovery are good in this situation, but the risks are great, so stick to one card per device.



Curtain Raiser

by Karen Corrigan

Lucknow Flower Markets

If travel expands the mind, then editing travel images rejuvenates memory. This curtain raiser resulted from editing February 2023 images captured in Lucknow, India, as part of a Harvey Stein Photography Workshop.

A review of travel images is like visiting a place again. For my early morning visit the skies were cloudy, but the overcast weather did not dampen the flow of business.

Research on Lucknow's Flower Markets revealed a remarkable history and ongoing traditions. Over a number of years, the District Administration of one market occupying leased land ordered vendors relocate to a remote area of the city away from the city center. This met with resistance. In July 2024, brief news articles revealed that the District Administration bulldozed the area.



Portfolio Night

On Monday night, February 24th, the Club held a portfolio night entitled *Dealer's Choice*. Each member was invited to submit a portfolio of up to 10 images on a concise theme.

What theme? Whatever the PWCCer desired!

Here are some images from the 22 members who submitted for the evening...



Abstracts
© Janet Susin



Bronx Bears
© Evelyne Appel



Badlands National Park
© Jeff Langford

Continued on next page



At the Museum
© Michael Ianuzzi



New Orleans Street Life
© Allan Lauer



Intentional Camera Movement
© Elena Pierpont



Cadillac Ranch
© Rayleigh Dunkel

Continued on next page



Black and White Flowers
© Helen Pine



Humorous Photos
© Natalie Manzino



Looking at You
© Sonia Durante



Willets Point
© Betsy Currier

Continued on next page



From My Garden
© David Miller



Artists
© Albyn Davis



The Galapagos
© Marlene Schonbrun



Joshua Tree National Park
© Jill Greiss

Continued on next page



Library Show
© Will Aimesbury



Horses
© Chuck Pine



iPhone Macro
© Mike Schleiff



Manhole Covers
© Paul Grebanier

Continued on next page



Street Fair
© Ann Broder



Intentional Camera Movement
© Hedy Klein



Construction
© Dov Bieber



A great big "thank you" to all the Park West Camera Club members who participated by sharing some of their images. You made tonight's program a great success!

Park West is a member of NYMACC (New York Metro Area Camera Council, Inc.)—an umbrella group for camera clubs and photographers in the New York metropolitan area. It held its monthly meeting on January 14th. (There was no representation from PWCC at this meeting.)

First on the agenda was a continued discussion about the planned NYMACC trip to Princeton, NJ scheduled for June 7, 2025. A “save the date” flyer was finalized and was set to be distributed.

The second item on the agenda was a discussion on how to increase membership in camera clubs. Ten members representing a dozen or so different clubs contributed to the conversation.

The next NYMACC Zoom meeting is scheduled for the 11th of February at 7 p.m. All Park West members are invited to attend to see what goes on in the group. The Zoom link for the meeting is <<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88595844651?pwd=WDhl-U1I4QkxXRUYyMGRFQVBsejVWUT09>>



Hill Street Gallery

The Hill Street Gallery is owned and operated by Park West Camera Club member Bruce Byers.

The Gallery showcases a curated selection of limited edition photographs from professional photographer and gallery owner, Bruce Byers, spanning 40 years and 15 countries. Additionally it will feature a rotation of other artists and disciplines. The current show includes paintings from renowned Cuban artists, AI illustrations and posters by Glenn Batkin, and a collection of antique prints of Catskill and the surrounding area.

The gallery is uniquely situated at the base of a secret garden and the art starts even before you walk in the door.



Bruce Byers < >
917-992-1453

<www.BruceByers.com>

Hill Street Gallery

<www.HillStreetGallery.com>

Photo Workshops

<www.cameraodysseys.com>

Instagram

<www.instagram.com/hillstreetgallerycatskill/?hl=en>



About (Y)our Website

by Michael Schleiff

Park West Camera Club's website offers an array of topics for your review. The site should be your go-to place to get information regarding the Club. Following is just a partial list of sections that can be found on the website:

- **Home Page**—This is our face to the Internet world. On it is a listing of all the latest news and upcoming schedule of events. We highlight the latest competition winners in a continual loop for everyone to see. In addition, there's a direct link to the latest edition of *Photo Notes*. New issues are uploaded immediately upon their release each month. Finally, under the masthead, there is a menu area that lists 12 different areas of various Club info, some of which are:
- **Newsletters**—10 years of past *Photo Notes* are available online and may be downloaded.
- **Organization**—features the latest PDF files containing membership information

including the PWCC Constitution and Bylaws. In addition, there is a "Resource Link" submenu. Listed here are web links to various imaging-related websites. Included are sites offering Photoshop and Lightroom help. We are always looking to add links, so if you have any photography-related websites that you would like to add, please contact us.

- **Competition Manual & Labels**—this is where the Monthly Judging Guidelines and Competition Manual are to be found. The Competition Manual includes detailed specifications on presenting PDI images for entry into competitions.
- **Member Galleries**—are available to show your work on the web. They can be accessed in the Member Galleries Menu or directly from any web browser by searching Park West Camera Club and your name. Instructions for setting up a gallery may be found at the first dropdown in the Club Members Galleries menu "Instructions to Create a Members Gallery." If you have any

questions, please follow up with the website committee.

- **How-to Videos, Notes, and Speakers**—all speaker talks have been recorded and uploaded to the website. In addition, we have how-to videos covering various techniques for editing your photographs.

Your Website Committee is continually uploading new and exciting information to the website. The goal is to make www.parkwestcameraclub.org a primary source for Club and imaging information. We are always looking to expand the website. If you have any ideas, please contact Michael Schleiff or Christine Doyle.

Street Photo Tip

Be Invisible

The best street photographers blend into their surroundings.

Dress simply, avoid flashy gear, and be patient. People often act naturally when they don't feel observed.

Use a smaller, mirrorless camera or a smartphone to be less conspicuous.

In Passing

Flo Fox

(the “Blind Photographer”)

A reportage “street shooter” since 1972, until her death at the age of 79 on March 2nd of this year due to complications from pneumonia, Florence Blossom “Flo” Fox shot over 130,000 images. Her subjects varied, but tended towards the “ironic reality” in New York City. Her work has been published internationally, exhibited worldwide in many iconic museums, and is a part of permanent collections, both public and private.

Flo viewed photography as an inherent part of her life as a single woman and artist in New York. Though visually impaired and physically challenged from Multiple sclerosis, she never went anywhere without her camera.

Flo has presented portfolios of her work to Park West in the past, as well as judged our monthly competitions on more than one occasion. During the early 1980s, she hosted her own cable television show, the *Foto Flo Show*, in which she interviewed many famous photographers such as Ruth Orkin and Ralph Gibson, on their work and methods.

Flo will be missed by many of us in the City’s photography community.



Portrait
© Gigi Stoll

All other images
© Flo Fox





Control Your iPhone

You can replace your iPhone's default camera app with Halide, a third-party option that offers advanced camera features, such as manual shutter speed, ISO selection, histograms, and even a mode that will eliminate most of Apple's AI usage processing. Halide's 2.16 update lets you add it as a control on your lock screen, which means you can use it to take pictures without unlocking your phone.

Previously, Apple's default camera app was the only one you could use without using your passcode or using some biometric authentication such as FaceID or TouchID. That gave it a speed advantage over third-party options. The tiny bit of extra time and friction could be the difference between getting the shot and missing it, and that's a big problem.

Halide's latest update lets you avoid this problem!

The one catch is that you'll have to update to iOS 18 to get this functionality. Once you're running the latest OS and have downloaded the new Halide update, you can customize your iPhone to let you jump straight to Halide from the lock screen without having to authenticate with your passcode or biometrics.

(If Halide isn't your preferred camera app, fear not; other developers should also be able to implement this feature, providing they update their apps for iOS 18.)

Halide is available from the App Store for only \$2.49 a month or \$12.49 for one year.



Jet Lag

Have you been traveling overseas to take photos? One of the problems you might have, especially if you fly east or west, is jet lag. [*Jet lag is defined as a temporary sleep disorder. It occurs when the body's internal clock is out of sync due to a new time zone.*]

Are you waking up before the sun rises? Do you roll around in the bed waiting for the alarm to go off? Or do you bury your head under pillows trying to fall back asleep?

Here's something to try the next time this happens...

Get out of bed, throw on some clothes, grab your best camera, and head outside.



The light is perfect. The city or town is (usually) peacefully quiet. Great time for shooting! Eventually some people start emerging and are busy rushing to and fro. More wonderful photo ops!

When you've had enough, head back to your hotel. or wherever you're staying for a good breakfast, to download your images to your laptop, or back to bed(?).

Street Photo Inspiration

To push your creative boundaries, especially in the genre of street photography, it's essential to study the work of legendary street shooters. Their unique approaches can serve as inspiration for your own journey.

Here are a few to start your journey on the street...

[Henri Cartier-Bresson](#): Often referred to as the father of street photography, Cartier-Bresson pioneered the idea of capturing the decisive moment, where everything aligns perfectly in a fleeting instance.



© Henri Cartier-Bresson



© Vivian Maier

[Vivian Maier](#): A nanny by profession, Maier's vast body of street photography remained hidden until discovered after her death. Her work captures the everyday life of mid-century America with a deep sense of intimacy.



© Gary Winogrand

[Garry Winogrand](#): Known for his chaotic and energetic compositions, Winogrand's work reflects the fast-paced urban life of mid-20th-century America.

[Bruce Gilden](#): Famous for his confrontational style, Gilden gets up close and personal with his subjects, using a flash to accentuate the gritty details of street life.



© Bruce Gilden

In Passing

The well-renowned American photographer George Tice passed away on January 16 at the age of 86. George was best known for his poignant and contemplative black-and-white images that captured the essence of everyday life and everyday people. He was also a noted landscape and architecture photographer, as well as a noted darkroom printer (he printed exhibition images for dozens of other photographers).

George, who was known as the “Bard of New Jersey” (with a camera), had presented his portfolio of images to Park West at the height of his career back in the mid-1980s.



All images
© George Tice

Where to Go

Parks in Bloom

Forget all those arid, dusty landscapes you thought you knew—during the spring, America's desert parks come alive with a spectacular array of wildflowers. Here are a half dozen you should consider visiting this spring...



Joshua Tree National Park
California



Saguaro National Park
Arizona



Anzo Borego Desert State Park
California



Big Bend National Park
Texas



Capitol Reef National Park
Utah



Great Basin National Park
Nevada



Picture Stories

The New York Historical Society, located on Central Park West at 77th Street, presents *Picture Stories: Photographs by Arlene Gottfried*. The exhibition of more than 30 works celebrates the recent acquisition of Gottfried's searing photographs taken during the last decades of the 20th century. It runs through May 25th.

Arlene had been to the Club on many occasions to share her images with us and to judge our competitions.



© Arlene Gottfried

She was a New York City street photographer who recorded scenes of ordinary life in some of the city's less well-to-do neighborhoods. Arlene published five books of her work. *Mommie: Three Generations of Women* was awarded *Time Magazine's* "Best Photobook Award" in 2016.

Arlene, passed away in 2017. Read more about Arlene and see her images at www.arlenegottfried.com

Advanced, timed-entry tickets may be purchased at www.ickets.nyhistory.org

Mirrorless Body/ DSLR Lens

There's no doubt that your new mirrorless camera offers more features than your old DSLR (or plain old film SLR). The question often arises, can you use your vast collection of older lenses on a new camera body?

The quick answer is yes! And it's easier than you might think!

So why not save a ton of money buying the latest lenses when your closet is overflowing with many lenses that were (and still are) the best that you could afford? Here's how...

Step 1—Buy an adapter. These assure that your lens' bayonet mount fits camera's body mount. Your best bet here is to buy one made by your camera's manufacturer. It might cost a bit more than a third party adapter, but it's well worth it (IMHO). [Note —some adapters have no electronics, while others include all the auto-focus and auto-exposure your camera offers.]

Step 2—Update Your Firmware Version. To avoid compatibility issues, it's important to update the firmware of your camera and lens. It should only take a few minutes. Once accomplished, you can connect DSLR lenses to the

mirrorless camera using the adapter.

Step 3—Change the Settings. Go to the shooting menu of your camera. Disable the peripheral illumination correction, digital lens optimizer, diffraction correction, and distortion correction. You are now ready to start shooting away (and with all the cash you just saved, why not take a trip to an exciting and new destination).



Life in Another Light

The winners of the fourth *Life in Another Light* photo contest have been announced, showcasing unique views captured with infrared photography. The contest is hosted by Kolari Vision, a company specializing in infrared photography gear, camera conversions, and tips. This year's contest drew over 3,000 submissions across 11 photography categories. Here are some of the winners...



Landscape infrared – first place
Switzerland
© Gavin Spooner



Portrait – first place
Meg With Scarf
© Rob Jemmett



Black & white – first place
Alligator In Morning Mist
© Carolyn Hinton Hutchins

Aerial – first place
Black Sand Beach
© Bobby Ritchey



Where to Go

Through the Trees

The United States Forest Service manages 154 national forests which encompass more than 193 million acres of land. The national forests are one of our greatest public assets. They can be found in every one of the 50 states. Check out these breathtaking national forests for hiking, camping, paddling, or simply relaxing—and of course photography...



Green Mountain Nat'l. Forest
Vermont



Shoshone Nat'l. Forest
Wyoming



Stanislaus Nat'l. Forest
California



Nantahala Nat'l. Forest
North Carolina



Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
Nat'l. Forest
Washington

Street Photo Tip

Street photography is often unpredictable, and perfection isn't the goal. Embrace the spontaneity of it all. A bit of

motion blur, an unusual crop, or a random element in the background can add character and authenticity to your photo.

Your Best Shot

Your Best Shot brings out some of the very best from the Flickr community every year—this year was no different. With the Your Best Shot group reaching almost 13,000 members submitting a single photo to one of the five categories, the competition was friendly but tough. Here are the 2024 winners...



Grand Prize Winner
Portrait Category
Her
© Oleksandr Honchar



Open Category
Power Nap
© Alex Krasnicki



Urban Category
Geometry of Loneliness
© Milan Cvijanovic



Wildlife and Nature Category
Moody Mountains
© Carolin Juliane Krüg



Through Her/Their Lens Category
Safety Among Wishes
© Victoria Faye

Where to Go

Beach Weather

It might not be beach weather here in the Frozen Apple, but you can bet that it is somewhere in the world! Here are some of the best—and most photogenic—beaches for you to shoot...



Source D'Argent Beach
Seychelles



Navagio Beach, Greece

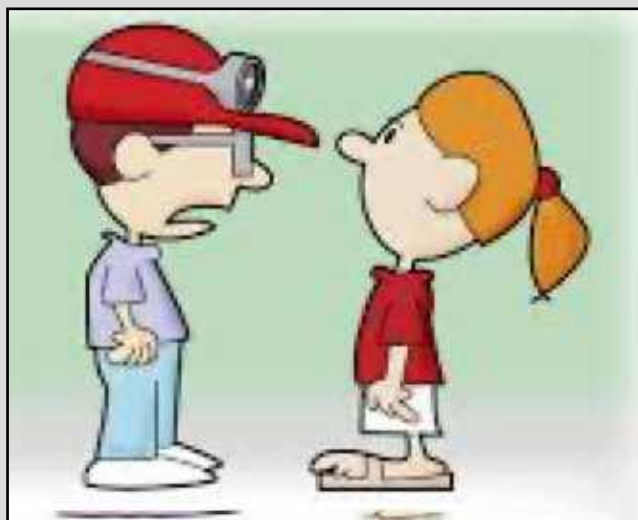


Reynisfjara, Iceland
Porthcurno, England



Trunk Bay, US Virgin Islands
Agonda Beach, India
Manual Antonia Beach
Costa Rica

Photo Cartoon



It's a web cam. I'm wearing it
so the world knows I talk to girls.

Close-Ups Winners

The winners of the sixth *Close-up Photographer of the Year* awards have been announced. Founded in 2018 by wife and husband duo Tracy and Dan Calder, CUPOTY is designed to reveal the hidden wonder of the world through close-up, macro, and micro photography. The competition is open to all photographers.

Here are some of the 2024 close-up winners...



Overall Winner
Clash of the Titans
© Svetlana Ivanenko



Underwater Winner
Everything's A-OK
© Gabriel Jensen



Plants Winner
Mosses
© Piet Haaksma

Insects Winner
Damselfly by the Waterfall
© Yong Miao



Photo Shorts

Superfast W/A



The **NIKKOR Z 35mm f-1.2 S Lens** is the first of its kind from Nikon. With its impressive *f*-1.2 maximum aperture, this lens shines when shooting in low-light environments and when great bokeh is what you want. This prime is solidly built for the Nikon mirrorless bodies. The list price—are you seated—is \$2,796.95.

Going Retro



OM SYSTEM is hearkening back to its heritage with its latest release, the **OM-3 Mirrorless Camera**, which delivers performance and creative versatility while drawing design inspiration from the iconic Olympus OM-1 SLR film camera of the 1970s. It is based around a 20.4MP Four Thirds sensor that provides up to 6.5 stops of image compensation and shoots up to 120 fps. All this, and more, for \$2,299.99.

Manual W/A



Pergear has announced its **12mm f-2 II**, an updated ultra-wide lens designed to cater to landscape, architecture, and astrophotography enthusiasts. With a lightweight build and a fast *f*-2 aperture, this lens is tailored for photographers seeking versatility without compromising image quality. This lens is designed for APS-C (cropped sensor) bodies in these mounts: Sony E, Fujifilm X, Nikon Z, Canon RF, and Micro Four Thirds. The only caveat, it's manual focus—but what do you expect for a lens that only costs \$129.

E to Z



Viltrox's new **E to Z AF lens mount adapter** enables photographers to use any Sony E-mount lens on their Nikon Z-series mirrorless cameras with full autofocus capabilities. In addition, the adapter supports camera-controlled

and lens-controlled aperture adjustments, EXIF data transmission in image files, and optical image stabilization. The best thing about it is its price—\$99.99.

Power(ful) Zoom



Nikon has just announced their first power-zoom lens, the **Nikkor Z 28-35mm F4 PZ lens**. A power-zoom lens does everything else any other zoom lens can do **plus** it can zoom automatically and smoothly at the touch of a button. In fact, this lens has 11 different zoom speeds. While this feature is designed for videography, just imagine what you can do using it for ICM fun! But, hold onto your wallet, this one is going for a whopping \$2,596.95.



More Photo Shorts
on page 54

Where To Go

State Parks

There's no denying the allure of this country's majestic national parks. But there's plenty of natural beauty to go around, and many state parks offer photo ops that shouldn't be overlooked. State parks tend to have lower entrance fees and more manageable crowds than national parks, plus there's the added bonus of not being affected by pesky government shutdowns. (Remember when The Club was trying to get into Acadia National Park!) Here are a few state parks to get you started...



Anza-Borrego State Park
California



Baxter State Park
Maine



Dead Horse Point State Park
Utah



Watkins Glen State Park
New York



Custer State Park: Custer
South Dakota



Valley of Fire State Park
Nevada



Panorama of the Month



Shenandoah Ridge ©2022 Chuck Pine

Wildlife Photo Awards

There are literally thousands of photography contests held around the world every year. So many, in fact, that it could make your head spin. Scores of these competitions focus on wildlife photography. Here are some winners from a few of these events...



Monochrome Photography Awards
© Lars Beusker



British Wildlife Photography Awards
© Ryan Stalker



Sony World Photography Awards
© Ian Ford



Nature's Best Photography Awards
© Krishna Daga



Fine Art Photography Awards
© Greg Du Toit

More Photo Shorts

Radically Simple



The 24.6MP full-frame **Sigma BF Mirrorless Camera**, reimagines the high-end digital camera interface to emphasize ease of use. The camera, which uses L-mount lenses, has only three physical controls—a multi-function dial, and two buttons (shutter release and power)—everything else is done via the rear LCD panel. It has 230GB of internal storage (no media cards needed) that holds more than 14,000 JPEG files, 4,300 uncompressed RAW files, or 2.5 hours of video. All this for only \$1,999.

Super Long Zoom



The **Sigma 300-600mm f/4 DG OS Sports Lens** is an ultra-telephoto zoom designed for sports, wildlife, and action photography. With a constant *f*-4 aperture, advanced image stabilization, and AI-enhanced autofocus, this lens delivers

the image quality of a prime with the flexibility of a zoom. It comes in E- and L-mounts (more to come) at a cost of (are you seated?) only \$5,999 in black or silver finishes.

All-In-One



The **Sigma 16-300mm f/3.5-6.7 DC OS Contemporary Lens** (available for Sony E, L-Mount, Fujifilm X, and Canon RF), is an all-in-one zoom designed for APS-C mirrorless cameras. Its optical stabilization, fast auto-focus, 67mm filter size, and close-up capabilities ensure sharp, detailed images across all focal lengths. This lens delivers outstanding performance in a highly portable, travel-friendly package and all for \$699.

Smartphone Handle



The new **Leica LUX Grip** is a smartphone attachment that pairs seamlessly with iPhone 12 and later phones and connects to the camera via the

built-in MagSafe magnetic connection. The LUX is made from machined aluminum and features a cylindrical grip for left- or right-handed users. It has a two-stage mechanical shutter button, a pair of programmable function buttons, and a dial for quick access. It is expected to retail for \$330; a leather case will also be available for \$60.

New Zeiss Lenses



Zeiss returns to the forefront of photography with the brand-new **Otus ML lens family**. These next-generation masterpieces are designed exclusively for these mirrorless mounts: Sony E, Canon RF, Nikon Z. Two focal lengths kick off the Otus ML lineup in 2025: Otus ML 1.4/50mm – Your versatile prime lens: Retail Price \$2,499—and Otus ML 1.4/85mm – The portrait expert: Retail Price \$2,999.



Even More Photo Shorts
on page 57

Prime Lenses

Prime lenses are also known as fixed focal length lenses. They are quite different from zoom lenses in several ways. Here are some of the pros and cons in deciding to choose a prime lens over a zoom...

Pros of Prime Lenses

Image Quality: Prime lenses usually offer superior image quality. They have fewer moving parts and less glass inside, which yield sharper images with less distortion.

Low Light Performance: Primes usually have wider maximum apertures (lower *f*-numbers), which let in more light. This can be a major advantage in low-light situations, and it also allows for more control over depth of field, facilitating beautiful bokeh and background blur.

Weight and Size: Prime lenses are often smaller and lighter than their zoom counterparts. This can be an advantage for photographers who need to carry their gear for long periods of time.

Price: Although there are some very expensive prime lenses, many of them are affordable.

Focus on Composition: Since you cannot adjust the focal length, prime lenses assure that you will move around and experiment with composition. This can lead to more creative (better) images.



Cons of Prime Lenses

Lack of Flexibility: The most significant disadvantage of prime lenses is that they have a fixed focal length, meaning you can't zoom in or out to adjust your composition. This lack of flexibility can be a big problem in certain situations, such as when shooting sports, wildlife, or other types of photography where you can't always control your distance from the subject.

Need for Multiple Lenses: If you need to shoot at a variety of focal lengths, you'll need to carry multiple prime lenses. This can add weight to your bag, even though individual primes are generally lighter than zooms.

Changing Lenses: If you're using primes and need to switch focal lengths frequently, you'll have to change lenses often. This can be quite time-consuming and may expose your camera sensor to dust.

Cost: While individual prime lenses can be more affordable than zoom lenses, the cost can add up if you need to buy multiple primes to cover the same focal length range as a single zoom.

As you can see, whether a prime lens or a zoom lens is right for you largely depends on your specific needs, your shooting style, and (of course) your budget.

Street Photo Tip

Get Close to the Action

Legendary street shooter Robert Capa said, "If your

pictures aren't good enough, you're not close enough." Don't be afraid to move in on your subject to get more intimate and engaging images.

Where to Go

Snack Time

Looking for a different kind of photo op? A tasty one? There are plenty of spots, and not too far from the City, that offer a something to nosh on as well as behind-the-scenes subjects for your lens. Here are a few of them for you to savor...

Ice Cream



Ben & Jerry's
Waterbury, VT

Chocolate



Hershey's Chocolate World
Hershey, PA

Taza Chocolate
Somerville, MA

Wilbur Chocolate
Lititz, PA

Candy



PEZ
Orange, CT

Pretzels and Chips



Sturgis Pretzel Bakery
Lititz, PA

Utz
Hanover, PA

Herr's
Nottingham, PA



Fusion Filters

Tiffin's fusion filters merge the effects of diffusion with either cutting-edge Variable Neutral Density (VND) and Circular Polarizer (CPL) technologies. These filters are of the screw-in type and come in sizes ranging from 58mm to 82mm. They all have a 10-year warranty and cost between \$69.99 to \$119.99.

The fusion filters come in four varieties...

- **Black Pro-Mist + VND:** This filter reduces highlights, lowers contrast, and softens details. It also offers up to 8 stops of light control.
- **Glimmerglass® + VND:** This filter provides a soft, radiant glow to highlights and adds a subtle sparkle effect, all with up to 8 stops of light control.
- **Black Pro-Mist® + CPL:** This filter controls highlights and contrast and increases image depth and softens features. It also can remove unwanted reflections and enhances the sky and clouds.
- **Glimmerglass® + CPL:** This filter brightens highlights, adds a subtle sparkle, and reduces reflections.

If you are a portrait or landscape photographer, these fusion filters can really change the way you make images. You won't be disappointed.

Even More Photo Shorts

New Flagship



Bringing together astounding image quality, and high-speed performance, the **Panasonic Lumix S1R II** is a full-frame mirrorless camera featuring a 44.3MP sensor, a 779-point Phase Hybrid AF system, and 8K 10-bit video recording. It is lightweight, has built-in 8-stop image stabilization, shoots up to 40 fps, and has a list price of \$3,297.99.

Even Longer Zoom



The longest E-mount lens, the **Sony FE 400-800mm f/6.3-8 G OSS Lens** is a super-telephoto that's the choice for capturing wildlife, nature, and sports images. It offers exceptional quality at a reduced cost. This lens features internal zoom for improved functionality, dual linear motors for smooth, quick AF, Optical SteadyShot stabilization including three modes, along with a focus limiter, three focus hold buttons for advanced control, and a rotating tripod foot. All this for only (?) \$2,898.

Lightweight Ultrawide



An ultrawide prime lens for E-mount full-frame mirrorless cameras, the **Sony FE 16mm f/1.8 G Lens** is a premium choice for vlogging, landscape, architecture, and street photography. It supports AF at 120 fps, weighs in at less than 11 ounces, and the front element doesn't protrude like most wide-angle optics, which allows you to attach 67mm screw-in filters. The price is a mere \$798.



SD Card Mistakes

Deleting Files In-Camera

Some camera models use a very destructive method to permanently delete photos. This leaves empty spaces on the memory card. A problem arises when you continue shooting—the camera tries to fill the digital “holes” left by the deleted pictures. This is called “backfilling.” The new files can be split between the empty spaces, which can cause serious file problems.



Instead, download all of your images to the computer (using a card reader) and delete the unwanted images from there. [Card readers cost under \$20 and prevent the camera's battery from dying while downloading and ruining your files.]



Going Blind

Sometimes photographers have to play the “stealth game” in order to get the shot. Think bird photographers, wildlife shooters, and maybe even detectives on a stakeout. Many of these situations call for using a photo blind. What follows are some of the more common types of them...



Grillie Suit
shaggy blanket or set of jacket and pants blending into tall grasses, etc.



Pop-up Tent
for long-term set-ups
these are the roomiest blinds



Floating Blind
a buoyant platform covered with cloth



Body Blind
a drape with dedicated camera opening for sitting or standing with or without a tripod

Camera RAW—Why?

It's true: JPEGs are smaller than RAW files and they need less post-processing, as well. But RAW files come with many advantages. If you're not shooting in RAW, find the Image Quality menu in your camera, and change it to "RAW." Here are a couple of reasons to do so...

1. More Detail

Extra file information often proves critical in post-production. You can get so much detail out of a RAW image—pulling back blown-out highlights and bringing back detail in the shadows, for example—that would be impossible to recover in the JPEG format.

2. More Colors

JPEG files save fewer colors than RAW files. Therefore, by shooting in RAW, you will capture as much color information as possible. This makes a big difference when processing your images.

Using Your Camera

by Chuck Pine

Horizon Placement

Capturing a scene goes deeper than just an interesting subject. It's about telling a powerful story, and placing the horizon in exactly the right place can help create a more powerful photo and express a more relevant story.



If you want to draw attention to the foreground, move the horizon line up.



If the sky appears interesting, move the horizon line down.

These movements allow you to draw the viewers' attention to the most interesting portion of the photo.



Placing the horizon line in the center of the image works well if you are capturing reflections.



Omitting the horizon line can work well in some instances.



Using Your Camera

by Chuck Pine

Moving Modes

Photography is always fun! Sometimes it's challenging, as well—especially when you are trying to shoot moving subjects. This can include sports photography, wildlife photography, and even people in the park, to name but a few.

Here are some tips on how camera modes will help your “subject in motion” photos...



Focus Mode

The **Continuous Focus** mode, or **AI Servo Autofocus** mode is most useful for keeping moving objects sharp as you track the object. As soon as you begin to depress the shutter

button, the camera goes into action and begins to focus. In this mode, the camera detects the subject's motion and refocuses to keep the object tack sharp.

locks on to the point that has the most contrast. This can be paired with the **Lock-On Focus** mode, or the **Follow Focus** mode, which has the ability to lockon to a moving object and track it

while you are following it through the viewfinder.

Bad Weather Tip

Play with Shutter Speed

Slow shutter speeds capture the movement of rain or fog, adding a creative blur that can convey the intensity of the bad weather.

Fast speeds can freeze raindrops, snow, sleet, or hail in mid-air, creating a dynamic pattern of elements.



Drive Mode

In the **Continuous** or **Burst** drive mode, your camera will keep shooting images as long as you are holding down the shutter release button. This is great when you are shooting fast-moving subjects, like birds in flight, and you want to have a sequence of photos in quick succession. You can pick and choose the best moment out of the batch of photos, or use all of them to illustrate the motion of the subject.



Focus Area Mode

The **Wide Focus Area** mode, also called **Multi Point Auto Focus**, among others, uses all of the camera's focusing points to focus on a subject. It usually



Photo Shopping

by Chuck Pine

Super Zooms

Camera manufacturers, at least most of them, also make lenses for their cameras. There are some givens about all of these lenses. One is that they are top quality optics. Another given is that they are quite expensive. This is where third party lens manufacturers come into the picture. (A third party lens will have the same mount as your camera but a different brand name. They are often less expensive than the camera maker's lenses while offering excellent performance.)

Here are some of the best third party lenses out there that are super-long at one end, yet still give you the option to get a wider angle of view. All of them come in a variety of mounts to fit your camera body and are fully automatic (exposure control, focusing, etc.). And all are great for shooting wildlife, sports, and other kinds of subjects.



Sigma 150-600mm f/5-6.3 DG DN OS Sport
\$1,499 (Sony E) \$1,489 (Leica L)



Tamron 150-500mm f/5-6.7 Di III VC VXD
\$1,199 (Sony E) \$1,299 (Fujifilm X)



Tamron 50-400mm f/4.5-6.3 Di III VC VXD
\$1,199 (Sony E & Nikon Z)
\$1,299 (Nikon Z)



Tamron 100-400mm f/4.5-6.3 Di VC USD
\$799 (Nikon F)



Sigma 100-400mm f/5-6.3 DG DN OS Contemporary Lens
\$839 (Sony E) \$849 (Leica L & Fujifilm X)

Road Trips



Pacific Coast Highway

Starting at the northwest tip of the United States in Olympic National Park and remaining within sight of the ocean all the way south to sunny San Diego, this 1,650-mile, mostly two-lane road trip, takes in everything from temperate rainforest to near desert terrain.

Some of the highlights along the Pacific Coast Route are Olympic National Park (WA), Three Capes Loop (OR), and Redwood National Park (CA)

Photo Shopping

by Chuck Pine

AI Photo Restorers

Artificial Intelligence photo restorers can fix many issues commonly present in old pix, such as scratches,, blurriness, faded details or colors. Big tears or missing parts, though, are almost impossible to fix. Perhaps generative AI is more suited for that task.

The following programs restore parts of an image—they are not enhancers. (An image enhancer sharpens the details of an image and enhances the overall quality and color. These can significantly improve an old photo but are also made to work on new photos.)

Here some to check out...

Photoshop

Pros

- Customizable
- Non-destructive
- Consistent results
- Doesn't use credits

Cons

- Slow
- Annual membership only

Hotpot.ai

Pros

- Free
- Good results
- Affordable paid option

Cons

- Daily limit when free
- Exact price only by request



Fotor

Pros

- Affordable
- Fast
- Consistent results
- Optional colorize included in browser version
- Batch restoring in browser version

Cons

- Not customizable
- No downloads with the free trial
- No groups or full-body portraits

AI Photo Restorer

Pros

- Free trial

- Fast
- Good results
- Excellent value for money

Cons

- No custom settings
 - No colorize tool
- PhotoRestore.io

PhotoRestore.io

Pros

- Free use
- Free download without watermarks
- No account needed
- Fast
- Good results

Cons

- Not suited to fix big scratches



PhotoShopping

by Chuck Pine

Healing Blemishes

Fixing blemishes is one of the most basic uses for Photoshop. They can be dust spots on digital images, marks and scratches on film scans, or ones that exist on your subject, like skin flaws. Can these blemishes be fixed, repaired? If so, how?

Photoshop has more than a half dozen tools that can do the job. Which one to use depends on the extent of the blemish and where it appears in an image. Here's a rundown of some of these tools...



- **Spot Healing Brush Tool:**
Quickly remove flaws over plain or repetitive areas.

Additional Healing Tools

- **Clone Stamp Tool:**
Clean duplication without integrated blending.
- **Generative Fill:**
Recreate lost detail, swap backgrounds, add or remove items.



- **Healing Brush Tool:**
Manual sampling for fine-tuned healing results.



- **Patch Tool:**
Versatile large-area healing with a handy Content-Aware mode.



- **Content-Aware Fill:**
Remove objects or flaws with control over sampling areas.

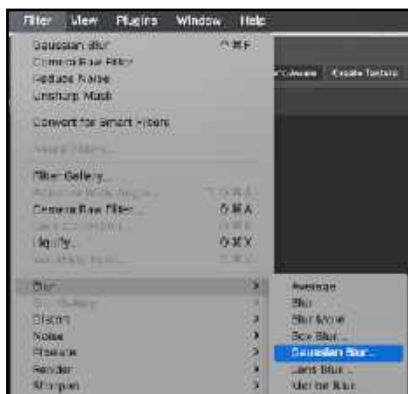
PhotoShopping

by Chuck Pine

DreamScapes — The Orton Effect

The Orton Effect was created by a Canadian photographer, Michael Orton, in the 1980s. It adds a soft glow to images and can be used in a wide variety of photography genres including portraits,, flowers, landscapes, etc.—anywhere you want to add a dreamy effect to an image.

(you don't have to name this layer). Alternately, you can type **⌘-j** on a Mac or **Cntl-j** in Windows. Set the **Blend Mode** of this layer to **Screen**.



The Orton Effect can be subtle or pronounced—it's up to you!



Originally, the effect was achieved by sandwiching two or more pieces of film together (usually slides, but negatives work as well). Nowadays you can replicate the Orton Effect without any difficulty by using post-processing software, such as Adobe Photoshop.

Here's how...

Step 1. Open an image in Photoshop. If it isn't already processed, follow your usual workflow to make it the best image you can.

Step 2. Make a duplicate layer by going to **Layer > Duplicate Layer...**, and then click **OK**

Step 3. Blur this layer by going to **Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur....** Start with a **Radius** of **25 Pixels**.

Step 4. Using the **Opacity Slider**, lower the Opacity of the blurred layer until you like what you see.

Optional Experimentation

- Go back to Step 2 and try using a different **Blend Mode**.
- Go back to Step 3 and try using a greater **Radius**, 50 Pixels, for example, or 75.
- Use a **Levels Adjustment Layer** moving the **Midtone Slider** left and/or right.

Street Photo Tip

Look for Patterns and Repetition

The streets are filled with patterns—the repetition of people walking, architectural details, shadows, and many others. Look for recurring elements that can add some rhythm and structure to your photographs.

Experiment with finding and capturing symmetrical and asymmetrical patterns for more dynamic images.

B & H Event Space

The B&H Photo Event Space offers free virtual workshops. Here are a few of the upcoming offerings:



Mon, Mar. 10
Refractions: A Conversation
Guest: Brian Wallis



Wed, Mar. 12
Finding the Keepers
Speaker: Chris Orwig



Wed, Mar. 19
Dynamic Lighting
Speaker: Matt Hernandez



Mon, Mar. 24
Refractions: A Conversation
Guest: Michael Kamber

For more information and additional workshops go to [<bhphotovideo.com>](http://bhphotovideo.com) and click on Event Space.

Don't Forget...

to check the edges of your images and make sure that there are no objects sneaking in from the sides

to have an odd number of subjects to force viewing the entire image rather than bouncing back and forth between an even number of subjects

to straighten horizon lines

Whet Your Appetite

Looking for some new photo gear? Nothing out there quite fills the bill? Here are some items that are in the "rumor mill." No official release dates or prices have been announced (nor even hinted at)... yet.



Sony 400-800mm f/6.3-8.0 G



Panasonic Lumix S1R II



Zeiss Otus ML 50mm f/1.4



Thypoch Simera 75mm f/1.4

PSA Conference



The Photographic Society of America's 2025 Photo Festival is scheduled for September 24th thru the 27th. It will be held in Portland, Oregon.

Enjoy many photographic opportunities, seminars, and workshops. Meeting member photographers from around the world.

Details for the festival are not yet available. Check the website <www.psa-photo.org> for late-breaking information and online registration.



Sierra Meetings 2024-2025

The New York City Sierra Club Photo Committee has meetings scheduled for the upcoming 2024-2025 year. Some of the meetings will be held using the Zoom Software and some will be in-person at the School for Visual Arts (SVA)—136 West 21st St, Room 418F. Tickets for the event must be purchased in advance on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). An \$8 donation is suggested.

Tues.	9/17/24	SVA
Tues.	10/15/24	Zoom
Tues.	11/12/24	SVA
Tues.	12/17/24	Zoom
Tues.	1/21/25	SVA
Tues.	2/18/25	Zoom
Tues.	3/18/25	SVA
Tues.	4/15/25	Zoom
Tues.	5/20/25	SVA
Tues.	6/17/25	Zoom

[SVA meetings are hybrid — in-person and Zoom]



October 2-5, 2025
Durango, Colorado

At its core, *Horizons* represents more than just a name, it embodies the spirit of opening your mind, widening your view, and expanding your perspectives. It is about exploring new possibilities, stretching your limits, seeing from different angles, and gaining fresh insights. The conference will encourage attendees to embrace new experiences and push the boundaries of their creativity, providing a transformative journey that inspires growth and a renewed passion for the art of photography.



Guest speakers include: [Cole Thompson](#), [Ian Plant](#), [Michele Sons](#), [Talor Stone](#) and many more.

Conference Price: \$797
<www.horizonsphoto.com>



Empire Diner
©1979 Robert Farber

Farber Exhibit

The Vero Beach Museum of Art is pleased to present a new exhibit [*Timeless: Robert Farber's Fashion Photography*](#) on view through August 31, 2025. Robert is a well renowned photographer whose five-decade career spans both commercial and fine art photography. He was a guest presenter at Park West last year. This exhibition features two of his fashion-related series: "Vintage Fashion," primarily drawn from his commercial work, and "Deterioration," a series of fashion photographs transformed by the natural aging of their film transparencies.

If you happen to be in the area of Florida's *Treasure Coast* anytime soon, why not drop by the VBMA to see this one-of-a-

kind show? And, if you drive a little further south, drop in on Chuck and Helen in Delray Beach (but be sure to call first).



Film vs Digital

In the early days of digital photography, twenty-something-years-ago, the debate was "Which is better, film or digital?" Why? Because the digital sensors didn't have the resolving power of film.

Today, it's quite a different story!

35mm film has a Digital Resolution Equivalent of approximately 20MP. This can vary slightly depending on the film type and the way it is processed. Most modern full frame digital cameras (SLRs or mirrorless models) far surpass this number.

120mm film (aka 2¼" film) has a resolution of about 80MP. (Same variables as above.) Modern medium format digital cameras can surpass this number as well.

The same holds true for all other sizes of film versus digital comparisons.

[Please note that many photographers say that there is a certain "quality" in a film image that digital cannot equal. This "*je ne said quoi*" is not measurable—it's a "look and feel" of a film image that is totally subjective. Most of us, I do believe, cannot tell the difference.]

Save the Date!

NYMACC's Field Trip to Princeton, NJ

June 7, 2025 9 AM to sunset

rain date June 21, 2025

The New York Metro Area Camera Council's field trip to Princeton, NJ
will cover several halls, gardens, historic venues, etc, etc.

Photographers of every level, various camera gear, including tripods, and eternal curiosity are welcome.
Photo ideas, techniques and support will be shared in a friendly, informal basis.



Registration does not include food.

Reminder:

Club membership in NYMACC includes all members of that club.

NYMACC member: \$10; non-NYMACC member: \$15

Registrants will be notified if rain date is necessary.

The detailed itinerary will be sent a few days prior.

Registration is limited to 30; first come, first serve.

*All who pre-register will be notified a week or two prior
to the official notice's distribution.*

PRE-REGISTER

deborah.nymacc@gmail.com

Bad Weather Tips

Capture Reflections

Rain creates puddles and wet surfaces that are perfect for reflections. Use these to add a symmetrical element to your compositions or to capture interesting distortions of everyday scenes.



Use Muted Colors

Bad weather often mutes the colors in a photo. This can work to your advantage. Brightly colored subjects, can pop against a gray or otherwise misty background. Look for these splashes of color to create focal points in your images.



Here is a list of our 2026 destinations...

- Yellowstone in Winter
- Tanzania Wildlife Adventure
- Costa Rica—A Nature Paradise
- Pumas of Patagonia
- Kenya—Great Wildlife Spectacles
- Madagascar—The Land of Lemurs
- India—Ultimate Tiger Safari
- Raptors in Flight
- Borneo
- Alaska—Brown Bears and More
- Brazil—Jaguars and other Wildlife
- Kenya—Cats of the Mara

Newest Neo

Skylum, the company behind Neo, has just announced the latest Luminar Neo 1.23.0 update. It introduces new features while enhancing many of the existing tools.

<www.skylum.com>



The February Neo update adds the following

- **Layer Merging** to merge individual layers into a single layer.
- Improved **Vignetting Tools** to automatically apply vignetting pre or post crop.
- Camera support for multiple new camera models.
- Updated lens collection profiles.
- Enhanced scrolling logic on the filmstrip.



- ✓ **Win Big** – Luxury safaris, cash prizes, and high-end camera gear
- ✓ **Support Conservation** – Entry fees are donated to six leading wildlife organizations in Kenya
- ✓ **Be Recognized** – Get your work seen by top photographers and wildlife enthusiasts worldwide.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

The competition opens for entries on January 1st and closes on October 31st. Each photo entry costs \$10 USD for Kenyans and \$20 USD for international entrants, and you can submit as many photos as you like.

The image must have been taken in the past 24 months within Kenya's national borders. There are two categories—birdlife and animal behavior—and entries of all subject matter will be accepted (landscape, wildlife, portrait, behavioral, documentary, black & white, etc).

<www.thegreatestwildlifephotographerkenya.com>



<www.mackayafrica.com>



Rockjumper Birding Tours is offering several *Bird Family Tours* this year which are designed to showcase some of the most elusive and rare species not often seen on regular birding trips. Here are a few of the offerings...

Malaysia & Borneo
10 - 21 Aug 2025 (12 days)
Tour Price: \$8,494



Papua New Guinea
31 Jul - 09 Aug 2025 (10 days)
Tour Price: \$4,976



Schedule of Activities

Park West Camera Club meets just about every Monday night (with some exceptions for a few holidays and a shortened summer schedule).

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and its aftermath, Club activities will be virtual using the Zoom software. Members will be emailed all the information necessary to log in and participate. Guests may request log-in details by emailing Park West Camera Club at <pwccny@gmail.com>

Check the Club's Website <www.parkwestcameraclub.org> for late-breaking details on PWCC meetings and other Club activities.

Meetings begin at 7 p.m. except for the competitions which begin at 6:30 p.m. You may log-on using the Zoom software 15 minutes earlier.

Listed on the following pages, and marked with an asterisk (*), are all **PWCC activities**. Also listed are **Photo Ops** (opportunities to take photos) and **Photo Events** (of interest to photographers).



DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!

* Saturday, March 8

Entry Deadline
Interpretations

The Club will provide every member with seven "base images," all minimalist in nature, in February. Park West members will then alter them in any way they see fit — change things, add things, skills and software run wild. Please stick with traditional camera and post-processing techniques—this means no AI generated images! Have fun. We'll share all the images at the meeting on Monday, March 10th. Send your images to this email <pwccny@gmail.com> by 11p.m. tonight.



* Monday, March 10

Interpretations

Tonight we'll share the images that members have altered from the original "base images." See the March 8th entry, above, for the rules of entry. This should be another great evening of Park West members sharing photos!

NYMACC

Tuesday, March 11

NYMACC Meeting

The New York Metro Area Camera Council is an umbrella organization for camera clubs and other photography groups and individuals in the New York metropolitan area. Park West is a founding member of the council. All Club members are invited to attend tonight's meeting to see what's going on around town, photographically speaking, of course. Their monthly Zoom meeting starts at 7 p.m. If you'd like to join the meeting contact NYMACC <deborah.NYMACC@gmail.com> for the Zoom link.



Monday, March 17

Photo Op

Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Saint Patrick's Day, or the Feast of Saint Patrick, is a cultural and religious celebration held on March 17th (the traditional date of Saint Patrick's death). The Big Apple has the oldest

and the largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the world. The parade kicks off at 11 a.m. moving up 5th Avenue from 44th Street to 79th Street. Plan to see plenty of Irish flags and shamrocks along the way, and people decked out in green.



© Thomas Franklin

* Monday, March 17
Guest Speaker
Thomas Franklin

Tonight's guest photographer is Thomas Franklin. He is an award-winning photographer, multimedia journalist, and documentary filmmaker, and serves as Associate Professor of Multimedia Journalism at Montclair State University in New Jersey. Tom is best known for his photographs taken at Ground Zero on 9/11 (most notably his iconic image of the firemen raising the flag, which is featured on the United States Postal Service's *Heroes* stamp). The curtain raiser for this

evening is Dinorah Capota. She is a photographer par excellence, quite proficient in the techniques of infrared photo imaging.



© Denis Finnin

Tuesday, March 18
Photo Event
Sierra Photo

The New York City Sierra Club Photo Committee is holding its meeting tonight. This meeting will be a hybrid meeting—on Zoom and in-the-flesh at the SVA auditorium located on the

Celebrate...



Wed. Mar. 12th
Alfred Hitchcock Day



Sat. Mar. 22nd
International Day of the Seal



Sat. Mar. 29th
World Piano Day



4th floor at 136 West 21st Street between 6th and 7th Avenues. Purchase advance tickets on the Eventbrite website. \$8 is the suggested donation. The speaker this evening is Denis

Finnin, Photographer Emeritus at the American Museum of Natural History. His program will reflect on his decades of photography at the Museum, showcasing images from a wide range of assignments both within the museum and in the field. His work spans subjects from the microscopic to the monumental. For details about the Photo Committee and this evening's presenter go to <www.sierraphotonyc.com>



*** Wednesday, March 19
PDI Workshop Deadline**

The deadline for submitting images for this Thursday's PDI workshop is tonight at 11 p.m. Members may submit one or two images for a critique and suggestions for improvement. Your images should follow the new Club sizing rules (.jpg/72ppi/2,000px on the longest side, maximum size of 2MB). See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for sizing and labeling directions. Images will be worked on with a variety of post-processing software. Images from the first 10 Club members to send them in will be reviewed at this workshop. Other Club members may tune in to view and comment on the images and demonstrations.

Send your images only to this website <pwccny@gmail.com>



*** Thursday, March 20
PDI Workshop**

See previous entry for details. This Zoom meeting will begin at 7 p.m. The link for this Zoom workshop meeting will be sent to the membership in the Club's weekly reminder.



*** Monday, March 24
You Be the Judge 10—Food**

The score sheets have been collected and tallied. The winners have been declared. Are you among them? Join us at this Zoom meeting to find out the answers to all these probing questions. The theme for this edition of You Be the Judge is "food"—including appetizers, entrees, desserts, snacks, and any other edible subject matter. Entries for this in-house competition were due on February 25th.



**Sunday, March 30
Photo Op
Greek Parade**

The Greek Independence Day Parade has been held on Fifth Avenue since 1951. The event celebrates Greek culture and marks the anniversary of their freedom from the Ottoman Empire in 1821. The parade kicks off at 1 p.m. moving up Fifth Avenue from 64th Street to 79th Street. Get there early to stake out a good spot.



*** Monday, March 31
Business Meeting #3**

Tonight is the third business meeting of the Club year. We will finish up any items left over from November and then discuss what lies ahead for the Club. We will start the ExCom election process and discuss the Year-End Dinner. Lots more on the agenda, too.



* Monday, March 31
Image Deadline
April Competition

Please note that PDI entries are due by midnight tonight for the April competition—the sixth of the year. Your images should follow the new Club sizing rules (.jpg/72ppi/2,000px on the longest side, maximum size of 2MB). See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for sizing and labeling directions. More information is available in the updated *PWCC Competition Manual*. Send your two entries to this Club email <pwcccompetition@yahoo.com> If you want confirmation that your images were received, add this email address <hfklein@mindspring.com>



Fri-Sun, April 5-May 11
Photo Op—
Sakura Matsuri

The Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival takes place in the

Brooklyn Botanic Garden from early April through mid May—depending on the weather and other conditions. BBG is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Adult tickets are \$22, seniors (65+) are \$16. Public transportation to the Garden includes six subway lines (2, 3, 4, 5, B, & Q) and five bus lines (B16, B41, B43, B45, & B48). Be sure to check the website to make sure that the trees are actually in bloom <www.bbg.org> Other displays of cherry blossoms may be found in Riverside Park (in Manhattan) and in Branch Brook Park (in Newark, NJ), as well as in various other locations in and around New York City.

* Monday, April 7
April Competition

Tonight is the Club's seventh competition of the 2024-2025 season. Who will win the top honors? What will the judge say about your images? Will you agree? The only way to find out the answers to these probing questions is to enter the competition and join the Zoom meeting. Competition rules are available in the Club's new *Competition Manual* on the PWCC website. PDI entries must be submitted by midnight one week prior to today—that's March 31st. You may enter up to two PDIs. Tonight's judge is Bill Wadman. He is an American



© Bill Wadman

portrait photographer and has been a contributor to *Time*, *Business Week*, *Improper Bostonian*, *POZ*, and others. His images have been featured worldwide in *Le Monde*, *Der Spiegel*, *Times of London*, *USA Today*, *The New York Times*, and *Corriere della Sera*. His work tends towards traditional portraiture in both environmental and studio settings. He shoots in all formats and in both film and digital. Bill was also the co-host of the *On Taking Pictures* podcast on the 5by5 Studios network of shows. Learn more about Bill at his website <www.billwadman.com>

Don't Forget...

The black and white range in your images should run from pure black to pure white.

Shapes, texture, tones, and shadows make for the best black and white pix.

NYMACC

Tuesday, April 8
NYMACC Meeting

The New York Metro Area Camera Council is an umbrella organization for camera clubs and other photography groups and individuals in the New York metropolitan area. Park West is a founding member of the council. All Club members are invited to attend tonight's meeting to see what's going on around town, photographically speaking, of course. Their monthly Zoom meeting starts at 7 p.m. If you'd like to join the meeting contact NYMACC <deborah.NYMACC@gmail.com> for the Zoom link.



* Saturday, April 12
PDI Workshop Deadline

The deadline for submitting images for this Monday's PDI workshop is tonight at 11 p.m. Members may submit one or two images for a critique and suggestions for improvement. Your images should follow the new Club sizing rules (.jpg/72ppi/2,000px on the longest side, maximum size of 2MB). See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for sizing and

labeling directions. Images will be worked on with a variety of post-processing software. All Club members are invited to submit images and attend the meeting/workshop Send your images to this website <pwccny@gmail.com>

Workshop

* Monday, April 14
PDI Workshop

Tonight's PDI workshop is being held at our Monday night meeting to give members who are not available on Thursdays a chance to take part in the learning and fun. See the previous entry, above, for details. This Zoom meeting will begin at 7 p.m. The link to this meeting/workshop will be sent to the membership in the Club's weekly reminder.



© Nikhil Bahl

Tuesday, April 15
Photo Event
Sierra Photo

The New York City Sierra Club Photography Committee is holding its meeting tonight.

This meeting will be on Zoom only. Purchase your ticket through Eventbrite. An \$8 donation is suggested. The speaker for the evening is Nikhil Bahl. He is a full-time professional photographer, visual storyteller, author, photo educator, and environmentalist. With a profound connection to nature, Nikhil draws his inspiration from the natural world, adopting innovative approaches to capture and interpret its beauty in ways that transcend the ordinary. For additional info on Nikhil, go to <www.nikhilbahl.com> For additional info on the Photography Committee go to <www.sierraphotonyc.com>





Fri-Sun, April 18-27
Photo Op—
Auto Show

The 125th annual New York International Auto Show is being held this week at the Javits Convention Center on the west side of Manhattan. It showcases an incredible collection of cutting-edge design and extraordinary innovation. The hours are: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (including Easter Sunday). Adult admission is \$22 for ages 13+ and is valid for one day admission to the show.

Sunday, April 20
Photo Op—Easter Parade

Each year, on Easter Sunday, celebrants don festive finery and show off their very best bonnets along Fifth Avenue. Immortalized by Irving Berlin, the pageant is a New York City tradition that stretches back to the 1870s. Starting at about 10 a.m. and continuing until 4 p.m., the parade marches north



on Fifth Avenue, from 49th Street to 57th Street. The best place to watch is from the area around St. Patrick's Cathedral; better yet, bring your bonnet and join the parade.

* Monday, April 21
Guest Speaker
David Day

Tonight's guest photographer is David Day. He has always been intrigued by the interplay of light, shadows, color, and form. This interest ultimately led him to ICM (intentional camera movement) photography. His photography career focused on New England-themed black and white images for which he received many regional awards. After moving into intentional camera movement photography, David modified many commonly used ICM techniques for application to the studio environment. See more about David at <www.ddayicmart.com> The curtain raiser this evening is relatively new Club member, Dudley Slater.

Celebrate...



Fri. Apr. 4th
Walk to Work Day



Tue. Apr. 15th
Tax Day



Sat. Apr. 26th
National Pretzel Day



© David Day



* Saturday, April 26
Entry Deadline
After Dark

Astrophotography, traffic, street lights—the possibilities are endless (or is that infinite?)—as long as your 10 entries were shot after the sun has set. We'll share all of the images at the meeting on Monday. Your images should be sized using the new Club sizing rules. See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for complete sizing and labeling instructions. Send your 10 images by 11p.m. to [<pwccny@gmail.com>](mailto:pwccny@gmail.com)



* Monday, April 28
Theme Night
After Dark

Tonight we'll share our images shot after the sun has set in the west and the stars are shining bright above (whether or not they're in the photos).

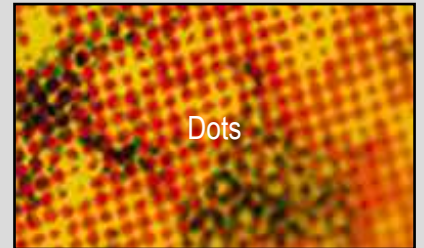
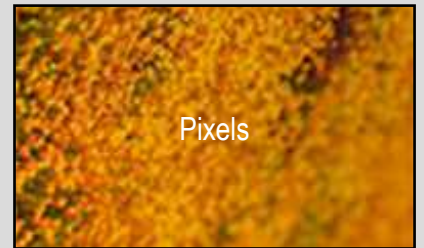
PPI vs. DPI

What is the difference between PPI and DPI? Both are related to the resolution of an image or photograph, but they are completely different measurements.

Here's the quick and simple answer to this question: "P" stands for Pixels, "D" stands for Dots. So, it's Pixels Per Inch and Dots Per Inch.

Pixels are electronic "points" of light on a digital display screen, like a computer monitor or a camera sensor. Dots are individual "drops" of ink in a printed image.

Either way, PPI and DPI are per-inch measures that help you understand the resolution of your entire image. The more



pixels or dots per inch, the higher the resolution, and the more finely detailed an image can appear.

Don't Forget...

to tone down distracting bright areas. The viewer's eye goes to the brightest and/or sharpest part of the image

if something doesn't add to the image, crop it out

not to cut off body parts

to get rid of "triangles" in the corners

to add a vignette around the corners and edges of an image, but do not overdo it.

to add a stroke around the image—especially dark images where you can't see the edge.

that moving subjects should be entering the frame, not leaving it.

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