PHOTO NOTES

Park West
Camera Club

November 2026



This Issue

Volume 89 • Issue 3

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Over 110 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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Cover Photo
Orange Bird
© Chuck Pine

Club Officers

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V. President	Michael Schleiff
Corres. Sec.	Helen Bohmart Pine
Rec. Sec.	Christine Doyle
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Field Trip	Vacancy
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Program	Marilyn Fish-Glynn Alice Somma
Social	Vacancy
Website	Michael Schleiff Christine Doyle
Workshop	Ed Lee Bruce Byers
Year End Project	Ann Broder Christine Doyle Marlene Schonbrun

President's Message

Judgement Day

"Judgment Day is a theological concept across many religions (including Christianity, Islam, and Judaism) describing the final, eternal adjudication of all human beings by God."

It's also the first Monday of the month when Park West Camera Club members sit in front of their computers, cell phones, and iPads wondering (in anticipation) what a judge will say about their two images and what score she or he will give to them.

Why do I mention this? A week or so ago, Helen and I were sitting around the iMac watching the monthly contest at one of our Florida camera clubs. It's similar to our Club's competitions—the judge has a few seconds to look at each image and then has to make a few comments and assign a score to it.

After this meeting, which was the day after Park West's November competition, as we were having dinner (home-made lentil soup with cut-up hot dogs), we discussed and compared the two evening's events, particularly the judges and their styles of judging.

The judge at the Coral Springs Camera Club was Peter Lekos. In his former life, he was a dentist in suburban New Jersey, a camera club member,



© Larry Rubin

and one of the winningest PSA (Photographic Society of America) competitors in the nature and wildlife categories.

Peter's judging was very PSA-like. His comments were centered around technical and compositional issues such as exposure, cropping, rule of thirds, and the like. It was very informative and educational. I'm sure the members of CSCC learned a lot and could use Pete's comments to improve their images.

On the other hand, at Park West's competition, our judge was Melanie Einzig. Her line of commentary was more along emotion and how she reacted to an image's content. Her comments made the photographers feel that they were on the right track with what they were doing, and that they should continue to explore shooting those subjects.

Is one style better than the other? Or are they just different ways of judging? What do you think? Let me know.

Thanks, and keep shooting,

Chuck

Photo Notes

Publisher:	Park West Camera Club
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2026 - 2027 Schedule

September	
6	Club Picnic
7	No Meeting—Labor Day
14	Welcome Back!—Show and Tell *
21	No Meeting—Yom Kippur
24	PDI Workshop *
28	Business Meeting #1
October	
5	Competition #1 *
12	Model Shoot (Columbus Day)
19	Guest Speaker
22	PDI Workshop *
26	"Halloween" Scavenger Hunt *
November	
2	Competition #2 *
9	Theme Night—Model Shoot *
16	Guest Speaker
19	PDI Workshop *
23	You Be the Judge—Night *
30	Business Meeting #2
December	
7	Competition #3 *
14	Holiday Party
21	Guest Speaker
28	No Meeting—Holiday Break
January	
4	Competition #4 *
11	Theme Night—Mannequins *
18	Guest Speaker (ML King Day)
21	PDI Workshop *
25	Workshop—Bookmaking
February	
1	Competition #5 *
8	Theme Night—Water *
15	Guest Speaker (Presidents' Day)
18	PDI Workshop *
22	Interpretations *
March	
1	Competition #6 *
8	Workshop—Table Top
15	Guest Speaker
18	PDI Workshop *
22	Before and After *
29	Business Meeting #3
April	
5	Competition #7 *
12	Theme Night—Table Top *
19	Guest Speaker
22	PDI Workshop *
26	You Be the Judge—Weather *
May	
3	Competition #8 *
10	Theme Night—Speed *
17	Guest Speaker
24	Business Meeting #4
31	No Meeting (Memorial Day)
June	
7	Year-End Competition *
14	TBA
21	OLMD (Flag Day)
28	TBA

* indicates members' images requested

PARK WEST CAMERA CLUB

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

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

Club Participation Nites

This coming year there will be 12 Monday night programs, (plus our competitions and PDI workshops) in which Club members participate. Here's a quick rundown on these fun and educational activities…



September 14th—*Welcome Back* What'd you do over the last few months? Share up to 10 images to tell your story. Entry deadline: Sept. 12th.

Been there, done that!

October 26th—*Scavenger Hunt* We're asking members to bring in 10 images—but it's not what you think. See page 19 in this issue of *Photo Notes* for all the nitty-gritty details. Deadline: Oct. 24th.

Come and gone!

November 9th—*Theme Night: Model Shoot* We shot a model last month (on Columbus Day). Tonight we'll share up to 10 images from that shoot. Entry deadline: Nov. 7th.

November 23rd—*You Be the Judge: Night and/or Low Light* You may submit one image pertaining to the subject that has never been seen at any previous Club function. Each entry will be commented on and scored by all participating Club members. Entry deadline: Oct 19th.



January 11th—*Theme Night: Mannequins* We've just gotten through the holiday season. The stores and windows have been filled with mannequins. Show us how you captured them. (Call this photography for dummies?) Limit of 10 pix, please. Deadline: Jan. 9th.

February 8th—*Theme Night: Water* Most of us live on an island—we're surrounded by water. You may submit up to 10 images of H_2O in any of its forms (solid, liquid, or gas). Entry deadline: Feb 6th.



February 22nd—*Interpretations* The Club will provide the base images. The members will alter them in any way they see fit. Let your imagination and your software skills run amok. Entry deadline: February 20th.

March 22nd—*Before and After* We're always asking each other "How did you do that?" This evening we'll get the answers as Club members present their 'Before and After' images of the same shot,… and explain what they did and why they did it. Join us as we learn from each other. Deadline: Mar 20th.

April 12th—*Theme Night: Table Top* Last month's workshop on table top photography laid the groundwork. Now it's your turn to show us what you can do. Submit up to 10 still life images Deadline: Apr. 12th.



April 26th—*You Be the Judge: Weather* You may enter one image that depicts any aspect of weather as long as it has never been seen at any past Club activity. Each entry will be commented on and scored by the Club membership. Deadline: Mar. 22nd.

May 10th—*Theme Night: Speed* Speed describes "how fast" something moves. Submit up to 10 images that convey speed or motion. Deadline: May. 8th.

PDI Workshops

Our Projected Digital Image workshops are held monthly on Thursday evenings. All entry deadlines are the previous day.

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

Upcoming Image Deadlines

Event	Submission Deadline	Event Date
Theme Night	Nov. 7th	Nov. 9th
PDI Workshop	Nov. 18th	Nov. 19th
Competition #3	Nov. 30th	Dec. 7th
Competition #4	Dec. 28th	Jan. 4th
Theme Night	Jan. 9th	Jan. 11th

Suggestions

The Club is always looking for ways to keep our members active in and excited about photography. This may include new kinds of programs, field trip destinations, speakers and judges, ideas for workshops, and the list goes on and on.

If you have any thoughts that you'd like to share with us, please send an email to either of the Club's email addresses or to any of the Executive Committee members.

Club Meeting Times

The Park West Camera Club's Monday night meetings this coming year will all begin at 6:30 p.m.



You may sign into the Zoom meetings 15 minutes earlier to participate in the the lively member conversations.

Simon Says

Steve Simon is known as the passionate photographer. He leads workshops around the world. Check his website at <www.thepassionatephotographer.com> In a recent email from Steve, he listed some photography lessons that he keeps going back to.

You can find some of them spread throughout this issue of *Photo Notes…*





Holiday Party

The Park West Camera Club's annual Holiday (Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Festivus, or whatever) Party will be held this year on Monday evening, December 14th, from 6 to 9 p.m. All Park West members, as well as their families, and friends of the Club are invited to join us on this festive night.



We'll dine and celebrate the season at Arte Cafe. It's located on the Upper West Side at 106 West 73rd Street (just off of Columbus Avenue).



The Prix Fixe Menu (see at right) will cost only $50 per person. (The Club will use its tax exempt status to cover the 8.875% New York City and New York State sales taxes. The restaurant has agreed to waive their 5% administrative fee for group reservations. The Club members will vote at the November business meeting to cover the 20% gratuity.)



Send your check made out to "Park West Camera Club" to our Treasurer…

Joe Nawy
205 East 77th Street #5F
New York, NY 10075

Please make sure your payment gets to Joe no later than Monday, December 7th. [*Note—the "Christmas Rush" slows down the delivery times which are usually 1 to 5 days.*]

Zelle

You may also send your payment using Zelle. Send the funds to <jnawy1@gmail.com> and it will be deposited in the Club account.





Menu

The three-course dinner includes…

Appetizer (choose one)



- Nonna's Meatballs in tomato sauce
- Calamari Fritti in spicy tomato sauce
- Caesar Salad

Main Course (choose one)



- Rigatoni alla Norma with eggplant, ricotta, and tomato sauce
- Fettuccine Bolognese in meat sauce
- Salmone served with potatoes and sautéed spinach
- Chicken Parmigiana served with spaghetti

Dessert (choose one)



- Tiramisu
- Gelato

[*Special dietary requests will be handled at the restaurant on the day of the dinner.*]

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.



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

Inactive
Gary Koulish
Linda Safran
Paul Perkus

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

Zooming

Zoom is a web-based video-conferencing software tool that allows users to meet on-line. It is compatible with Windows, Macs, all smart-phones, and all 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 have the link to join the meeting. All you have to do is click on the link to enter.

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 send-ing an email to…
<pwccny@gmail.com>

Simon Says

Shoot a lot

Photography is learned by doing. The more you shoot, the more you strengthen your visual muscles and sharpen your instincts. Timing, framing and focus become less conscious, leaving you freer to respond to what's happening in front of you.









Images of the Month

November 2026

PDI-of-the-Month

Harbormaster by Tom Quackenbush

Honors

Oradour Sur Glane by Madeleine Barbara

Harrington Harbor by John Benson

In A Row by John Benson

Child's Play, Lessons Learned by George Corbin

Ruby Red Iris B&W by Betsy Currier

Coalescing Of Moon Beams 2 by Barry Fahrer

Wells Beach by Julie Foehrenbach

Rush Hour at Grand Central by Richard Gold

The End of Days by Richard Gold

Complications by Paul Grebanier

High Key Egret by Chuck Pine

Turning Back by Peggy Winkelman

Sunset Camel by Ruth Yashpan

Cumulative Points

(Through November 2026)
by Hedy Klein

John Benson	38	Dottie Mills	18
Tom Quackenbush	36	Janet Susin	18
Ann Broder	30	Bruce Byers	16
Jill Greiss	30	Charles Levin	16
Julie Foehrenbach	28	Natalie Manzino	16
Madeleine Barbara	26	Michael Schleiff	16
Barry Fahrer	26	Marlene Schonbrun	16
Florence Forman	26	Evelyne Appel	14
Elena Pierpont	26	Betsy Currier	14
Sonia Durante	22	Elayne Dix	14
Paul Grebanier	22	Allan Lauer	14
Chuck Pine	22	Cindy Walpole	14
Larry Rubin	22	Peggy Winkelman	14
Alice Somma	22	Richard Borowsky	12
Larry Sapadin	22	George Corbin	12
Ruth Yashpan	22	Doris King	12
Dov Bieber	20	David Miller	12
Steve Cohen	20	Laura Toledo	12
Albyn Davis	20	Christine Doyle	10
Richard Gold	20	Raylie Dunkel	10
Michael Iannuzzi	20	Remy Deyglun	8
Hedy Klein	20	Jeff Langford	8
Puneet Sood	20	Renée Harper	6
Nicole Dosso	18	Karen Corrigan	4

Thank you to this month's judge, Melanie Einzig, for her comments, criticism, and consistent scoring.

This month's winning images—the PDI-of-the-Month and Honors—are shown on the following 5 pages.

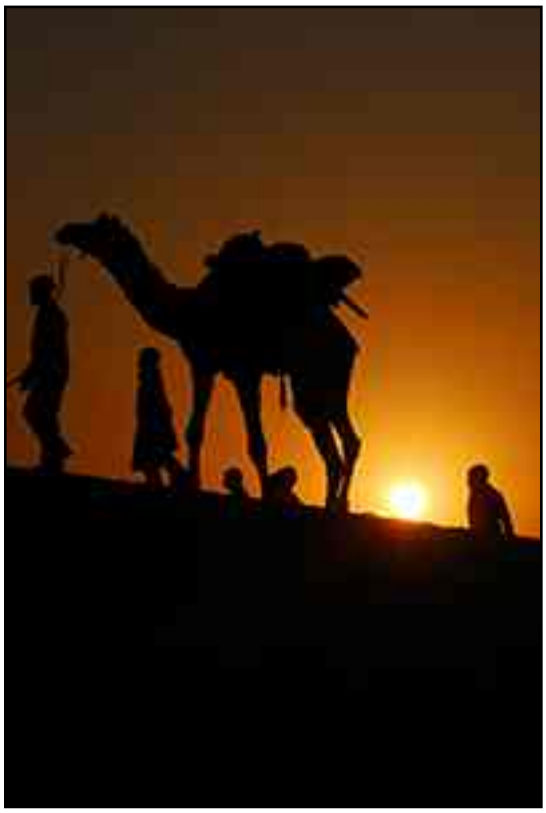
Congratulations to all the winners in the year's second monthly competition. And a great big "thank you" to all the members who competed and watched.

This month's "A" images may be found on pages 14 - 19.



Image of the Month
Harbormaster
© Tom Quackenbush

Continued on next page…



'A' with Honors
Sunset Camel
© Ruth Yashpan



'A' with Honors
Turning Back
© Peggy Winkelman



'A' with Honors
High Key Egret
© Chuck Pine

Continued on next page…



'A' with Honors
The End of Days
© Richard Gold



'A' with Honors
Ruby Red Iris B&W
© Betsy Currier



'A' with Honors
Wells Beach
© Julie Foehrenbach

Continued on next page…



'A' with Honors
Child's Play, Lessons Learned
© George Corbin



'A' with Honors
Harrington Harbor
© John Benson



'A' with Honors
Complications
© Paul Grebanier

Continued on next page…



'A' with Honors
Coalescing Of Moon Beams 2
© Barry Fahrer



'A' with Honors
Rush Hour at Grand Central
© Richard Gold



'A' with Honors
In A Row
© John Benson



'A' with Honors
Oradour Sur Glane
© Madeleine Barbara

Continued on next page…



'A'
White Picket Fence
© Janet Susin



'A'
Mirrors
© Puneet Sood



'A'
Old San Juan
© Larry Sapadin



'A'
The Jewish Cemetery, Prague
© Larry Rubin

Continued on next page…



'A'
Funny Monkey Business
© Elena Pierpont



'A'
Crosswork
© Paul Grebanier



'A'
Waterlily Landing
© Sonia Durante



'A'
Yvonne
© Dottie Mills

Continued on next page…



'A'
Mummy Dearest 2
© Raylie Dunkel



'A'
Peaked Roof Iceland
© Nicole Dosso



'A'
Untitled 4
© Dov Bieber



'A'
Done Playing
© Ann Broder

Continued on next page…



'A'
Wildflower Garden
© Madeleine Barbara



'A'
At MOMA
© Larry Rubin



'A'
In the Slot 1
© Jill Greiss



'A'
Gourd Lovers
© Florence Forman

Continued on next page…



'A'
Curious Lamb
© Julie Foehrenbach



'A'
Scarlet
© Sonia Durante



'A'
Geometricks
© Albyn Davis

Competition Stats

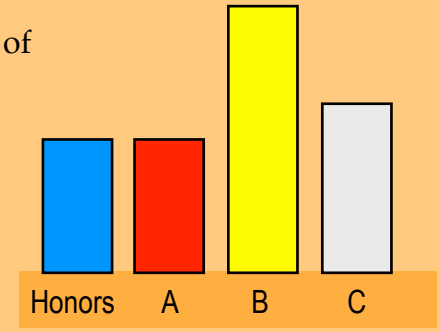
42 Club members submitted a total of 84 images for the November competition.

33 images (39%) received the score of "A."

14 of the "A" images were awarded honors (42% of the A's/17% of the total images).

33 images received the score of "B" (39%).

18 images got the score of "C" (22%).



October Guest Speaker



Our guest speaker on October 19th was Lee Hoy. He is a professional nature, wildlife, and landscape photographer living in the Davis Mountain area of western Texas. Lee's passion lies in teaching others to capture compelling images while fostering a deeper connection with the natural world. This was obvious in the presentation he gave to us which he called, *The Art & Science of Natural Light*.

Here are some of the images Lee shared with us on that evening…

Lee will be back with us next month (December 7th) to judge our monthly competition.



All images
© Lee Hoy





Print Salon

by Larry Rubin

Now in its fourth season, the Print Salon provides Park West Camera Club members an opportunity to make and discuss photographic print-making. The need for the Salon arose out of an understanding that meeting via Zoom, as the Club has generally done since COVID, made consideration of prints essentially unavailable to the membership. The Print Salon has become a venue in which to view prints, exchange ideas about how to create them, and maintain a focus on them for any and all interested Club members.





At our October meeting, we had an active discussion of different prints that print salon participants made from the same image. Members shared their thinking about choices they made in framing their images. Other salon members weighed in regarding the effectiveness of the choices their colleagues made.

Any Club member who is interested in joining the Print Salon or learning more about it should contact Larry Rubin at (917) 596-8500.

Sunshine Fund

As part of the Club's Social Committee, the Sunshine Fund has the responsibility 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 volunteers to take on this task for us. She needs 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, both present and past, that would be great, too.



917-757-7086
<bklynnat@hotmail.com>

Simon Says

Passion comes first

The strongest work begins with genuine curiosity and commitment. Choose subjects you care enough about to return to again and again. Passion gives you the energy to push through frustration, take risks, and keep going deeper.







Y·E·P

by Ann Broder

Are We Photographing What We See—or What We Feel?

Two photographers can stand in the same place, look at the same scene, and still return with entirely different images. One might notice the light falling across a building. The other might be drawn to a single figure on a bench. A third might see an interesting arrangement of shadows. The scene hasn't changed, but each photographer has responded to something different.

Perhaps photography is not simply about recording what is in front of us. It also reveals what catches our attention, stirs our curiosity, or connects with something within us. We bring all of our experiences, our memories, our moods, and our personalities, to everything we photograph.

Think about the subjects you keep returning to. Do you photograph quiet places rather than crowded ones? Are you attracted to symmetry and order, or do you prefer spontaneity and disorder? Do you find beauty in ordinary objects others might overlook?

These choices may reveal something about ourselves that raises an interesting question: Are we choosing our subjects, or are our subjects somehow choosing us?

When we begin a photo project, we usually start with an idea or an intention. We have something in mind to explore or communicate. But as we work, unexpected things may happen. A photograph takes us in different directions. We discover an emotion, a connection, or a meaning that was not part of our original plan. Should we follow that discovery, or remain faithful to our initial intention?

Perhaps one of the most satisfying aspects of photography is being surprised by what we see—and by what our photographs show about us. The next time you review your photos, try looking beyond their composition, lighting, and technical qualities and ask yourself:

- Why did this particular scene attract me?
- What was I thinking/feeling when I took the photograph?
- What do my choices reveal about the way I see the world around me?

There may be no right or wrong answers, but the most interesting discovery may be that every photograph conveys something about its subject—and often as much about the person behind the camera.

Simon Says

Learn from yourself

Your photographs are your best teacher. Look back at your work carefully and without beating yourself up.

- What keeps appearing?
- What are your strengths?
- Where are you falling short?

Pay particular attention to the photographs that almost worked. They can tell you what to look for and what to do differently the next time.



Set goals and give your photography direction.

Good intentions are easy. Turning them into images takes action. Write down what you want to shoot, break larger projects into manageable steps, and give yourself deadlines. A simple plan can turn an idea you've been carrying around for years into work that actually gets made.

Hello Yeppers,

Your three amigas were delighted to see your enthusiasm as you discussed the evening's short-story projects. Overall, your work showed that you took the assignment seriously and worked hard to understand the self-critique questions for your images, which seemed long and confusing to a few Yeppers. Nevertheless, you persevered, without letting confusion get in your wayWe could not be more prouder of you for that.

As we move forward with the program, ironing the wrinkles will always remain a priority, and we will do our best to maintain that. We will continue to support you through your challenges, listen to your thoughts, and evaluate your ideas. We are in this program to learn and grow as photographers and, most of all, to have funI

The next YEP meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 2nd. Marlene will send out the link at 5 p.m. Sign on at 6:15 p.m., and the meeting will begin promptly at 6:30p.m.

1. Images must be .jpg, with a resolution of 72 ppi, 2,000px on the longest side, and a maximum size of 2MB. (If you use an iPhone, sizing iPhone pictures can be tricky. Contact an Apple Store to learn how to do it the right way.)
2. Please label all images like this: BroderA_Dec26_Project Theme_01.
3. Attach (please don't embed) your images and email them to all three of us: Ann dzynrab@aol.com Marlene, marlenesch7@gmail.com; and Christine, christinedoyle52@gmail.com
4. After you submit pictures to us, ALWAYS look for a response from us.

Best from your three amigas, Ann, Christine, and Marlene

Holiday Flights

Are you planning to travel this holiday season? Will any of your travels include flying? If the answer is “yes,” you have to be aware of many things that we didn’t even think about way back when.

For example…

- Will your carry on fit in the overhead compartment? (They’ve gotten smaller.)
- What’s the weight limit for your checked bag?
- What baggage fees will you have to pay? (Most are not free anymore.)
- Et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.





Check your airline’s rules…

Aer Lingus · Air Canada
Air France · Alaska Airlines
Allegiant Air · American Airlines
Avelo Airlines · Avianca
Breeze Airways · British Airways
Delta Air Lines · easyJet Emirates
Frontier Airlines · Iberia
Hawaiian Airlines · Icelandair
JetBlue · KLM · Lufthansa
Qatar Airways · Ryanair
Singapore Airlines · Southwest
Sun Country Airlines
TAP Air Portugal ·
Turkish Airlines · United Airlines
WestJet

Here are some tips that could save you time and money…

- Weigh your bags before you leave home.
- Pay the baggage fees before you arrive at the airport.
- Measure your bag to know if it will fit—be sure to include wheels and handles.
- Check the benefits that come with your credit card.
- Join the airline’s frequent flier program.
- Ask the booking agent about any special deals.
- Know which items are not included in your baggage limits.



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.

Here are the curtain raisers scheduled for 2026-2027…

~~Oct 19~~	~~Evelyne Appel~~
Nov 16	Elena Pierpont
Dec 21	Natalie Manzino
Jan 18	Ann Broder
Feb 15	Madeleine Barbara
Mar 15	Bruce Byers
Apr 19	Richard Gold
May 17	Jill Greiss



November Birthdays

by Natalie Manzino

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

Sonia Durante
Jill Greiss
Susan Hoehn
Allan Lauer
Charles Levin
Harvey Weinstein



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
Field Trip	Chuck
Gallery	Steve
Membership	Helen
Photo Notes	Chuck
Print Salon	Betsy
Program	Christine
Social	Helen
Website	Michael
Workshop	Joe
YEP	Christine

Inactive Committees
Archive
House



Photo Notes Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
~~September~~	~~Aug 17th~~
~~October~~	~~Oct 5th~~
~~November~~	~~Nov 2nd~~
December	Dec 7th
January	Jan 4th
February	Feb 1st
March	Mar 1st
April	Apr 5th
May	May 3rd
Summer	Jun 7th

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>



H·L·L·O·W·E·E·N Scavenger Hunt



© Mike Schleiff

The Club's *Halloween Scavenger Hunt* was a little different from past years. In lieu of sharing random seasonal pictures, we were asked to spell the word H-A-L-L-O-W-E-E-N in images.

15 PWCC members each submitted nine images, each one starting with one of the letters spelling out Halloween. Their tenth images was any seasonal shot appropriate for this time of year.

The images, sorted by the starting letter of each shot, may be found on the next 8 pages. Can you guess what each one stands for? Here are some of our images…



© Mike Schleiff







Continued on next page…

Halloween



© Elena Pierpont



© Sonia Durante



© Hedy Klein



© Christine Doyle



© Marlene Schonbrun

Continued on next page…

Halloween



© Evelyne Appel



© Janet Susin



© Natalie Manzino



© Julie Wosk



© Chuck Pine

Continued on next page…

HaLLoween



© Elena Pierpont



© Hedy Klein



© Peggy Winkelman



© Julie Wosk



© Sonia Durante



© Natalie Manzino



© Helen Pine

Continued on next page…

HallOween



© Sonia Durante



© David Miller



© Chuck Pine



© Julie Wosk



© Bruce Byers

Continued on next page…

Hallo Ween



© Elena Pierpont



© David Miller



© Peggy Winkelman



© Bruce Byers



© Chuck Pine

Continued on next page…

CLUB

HallowEEn



© Elena Pierpont



© Evelyne Appel



© Janet Susin



© Natalie Manzino



© Marlene Schonbrun

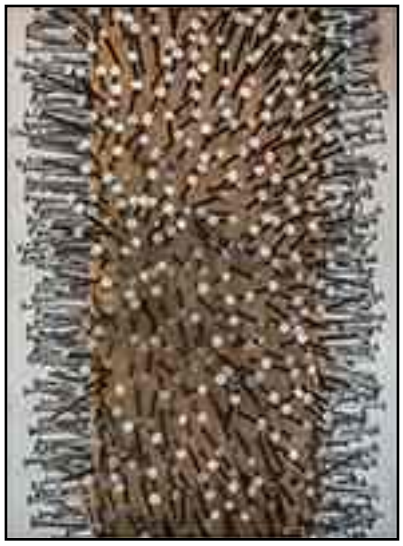


© Christine Doyle



© Peggy Winkelman

Continued on next page…



© Marlene Schonbrun



© David Miller



© Helen Pine



© Hedy Klein



© Christine Doyle

Continued on next page…

Tis the Season



© Evelyne Appel



© Helen Pine



© Chuck Pine



© Bruce Byers

Simon Says

Know your camera

Technical mastery isn't the destination. It gives you freedom. When the camera becomes intuitive, you can react quickly without losing the moment to buttons, menus, and settings. The less attention the camera requires, the more attention you can give to the world in front of you.





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

Simon Says

Slow down

We're often moving too fast, looking for the next picture, instead of fully exploring the one in front of us.

Stay longer*!*



As you become more present, you begin to notice relationships, juxtapositions, gestures, and small changes that weren't obvious at first.

Instagram

by Julie Foehrenbach

Instagram, a social media site that focuses on pictures more than words, is a natural venue for a camera club. Park West launched its own Instagram page almost four years ago. As of this week we had 1,051 postings and 625 followers.

Impressive*!*

The goal is to showcase our work and attract new members to the Club.

We only post images that have received an A or higher in our monthly competitions and are able to fit the IG format—mainly landscape and squarish images. To protect our work, we have employed settings that prevent others from stealing our images or profiles as their own.

Keep in mind that the IG program is primarily a mobile app designed to be used with a smartphone or a tablet. If you use a computer, you can look at the pages but you won't be able to post anything.

To visit the Park West page, download the Instagram app on your phone or tablet or go to <www.instagram.com> on your computer. Search for *@Parkwestcameraclub* and once you have found the site, press the *FOLLOW* button.

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 just about anything else.

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>

Thank you and enjoy the PWCC forums.

Dale Chihuly

by Evelyne Appel

An artist cannot fail: it is a success to be one ~ Charles Horton Cooley

Dale Chihuly is the most famous glass sculptor in the world. I first met his artistry in the year 2000 in Jerusalem at the Tower of David Museum. I was in awe.

In 2006 the Bronx Botanical Garden gave an exhibit of Chihuly's work—sometimes it is an advantage to live in the Bronx. His sculptures were all over the garden. In the conservatory they had a rowboat in a pond full of all shapes of sculptures. One odd shaped little sculpture met a water lily. It was a perfect day.

In 2012, on my way to Alaska, I stopped in Seattle. I went to visit the then new Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum. It was a dazzling display of colors and shapes. The most stunning small boat could be seen full of colorful balls of all sizes. In the garden, a tree made of glass was competing with real trees.

It was a beautiful life experience. I feel privileged to have visited the chef-d'oeuvres of Dale Chihuly.

Great art picks up when nature ends. ~ Marc Chagall











All images
© Evelyne Appel

My Point of View

by Elena Pierpont

Therapy Thru Photography

I recently had to put my dog Sookie down due to medical issues. I find it comforting and therapeutic to look at my photographs of her as she was a character and made me laugh all the time. It was the distraction I needed. Over a week when I first got her, she was a model for me and I took many pictures of her. Here are some of them…

All images
© Elena Pierpont



The Graduate



The Cowgirl



The Hippie



The French

Simon Says

Edit ruthlessly

Photography is as much about what you leave out as what you show.

Making photographs is only half the process. Learning to recognize your strongest work is another skill entirely.

Be demanding.

We are not always the best editors of our own work. Find a collaborator.

Don't let the effort it took to take a photo convince you that it belongs.

Your audience only sees what you choose to show.



Follow the light

Learn to recognize good light wherever you find it. Pay attention to how quickly it changes. Watch where it falls and how people and objects move through it.

Sometimes you find the subject first and wait for the light. Other times you find the light and wait for the subject.

188 Years Ago



In 1838, the first photograph of human beings was taken. It was shot by Louis Daguerre. It showed (barely) a shoe-shiner and his client in a Paris street scene. The photo is titled *Boulevard du Temple*.

But with Paris changing so much over the past 200 years, the exact spot was never known. And now, nearly 200 years later, we know exactly where they were standing.

Although the street itself has been replaced by the Place de la République, and the church is no longer there, three men—filmmaker Maximilien Van Aertryck, Axel Danielson, and Kalle Boman—carried out research, including a 3D scan of the Place de la République and the original photo to plot the distances between each building to help them reconstruct the streets as they would have appeared in 1838.

A plaque replacing two paving stones in the Place de la République now marks this historic spot.

East Ayershire Life

David Miller, our Club member in Scotland, publishes a monthly blog of images depicting his life in the lowlands. Check it out at <www.cairngormslife.com>

Signs of Autumn



Had my long lens so took some distant shots.

All images © David Miller

Frost adds a real sparkle to the humblest of plants like these remaining Honeysuckle berries.





With all the rain we have, what is normally a trickle of a stream, puts on a good show in volume.



A sure sign of Autumn.

Field Trip Report

by Raylie Dunkel



The Group (L to R)
Barry, Marlene, Ann, Elayne, Elena, Richard, and Raylie
[*shot by a passerby in the garden*]

It was a perfect day for a Club photo shoot*!*

On October 15th, Barry Fahrer, Elayne Dix, Elena PIerpont, Ann Broder, Marlene Schonbrun, Richard Edwards, Dov Bieber, and me (Raylie Dunkel) traveled downtown to the Elizabeth Street Garden. This pocket park has been on the endangered species list for a long time, being threatened by the city and developers for years. Fortunately, Mayor Mamdani recently granted the garden a permanent reprieve.

This small plot of land is the repository for all sorts of architectural detritus gathered over years from demolished buildings. And, as things evolve, others came along and planted trees, bushes and flowers. Benches and chairs appeared, creating small outdoor "rooms" for people to spend a few minutes or hours away from the hubbub of the city. On the morning we went, the sun was shining and the garden was populated with people and pets from the neighborhood, the wider city, and those visiting from afar. We met so many people, had great conversations, and took way too many pictures.

Then… as things happen, someone suggested walking over to Freeman Alley, a passageway between some buildings on the Lower East Side. This narrow passage is plastered with colorful tags and pictures that cover the walls, floors, windows, doors, and even doorknobs*!* In absolute chromatic overload, this tiny place is a tribute to the imagination of anyone with a spray can of paint.



© Elayne Dix

If you haven't been to either of these places, put them on your to-do list. You will spend a charming hour or two in two of the hidden treasures of our city.



© Ann Broder

Continued on next page…



© Barry Fahrer



© Marlene Schonbrun



© Raylie Dunkel



© Marlene Schonbrun



© Elena Pierpont



© Ann Broder



© Elayne Dix

PDI Workshop

The Club's PDI (Projected Digital Image) Workshop was held on Thursday night, October 22nd. We looked at the images submitted by five Club members for comments and alterations using Photoshop and other software. Thirteen PWCCers were present and participated by offering comments and suggestions for improving the photos.

Here are some of the images that we worked on…



Evelyne Appel felt her image, *Dunes*, needed some improvement. We began by using a **Brightness/ Contrast Adjustment Layer**, moved the **Contrast slider** all the way to the right, and the **Brightness slider** slightly to the left. We then used **Edit > Sky Replacement**, chose an appropriate sky, and clicked **OK** * Because the sky came out in color, we went to **Image > Mode > Grayscale** to change the entire image monochrome.

* *If this image was to be entered into a monthly Club competition, the sky used as a replacement must be one shot by the Club member.*





Betsy Currier's *Ruby Red Iris* had great detail and color. She wanted to remove the brown areas where the dirt showed through the leaves. We started by **Duplicating** the background layer by typing **Command-J** (on a Mac, **Control-J** in Windows). The next step was to **Select** the subject (the opened and unopened flowers) by going to **Select > Subject** in the **Menu Bar**. We placed it on its own layer (**Command/Control-J**). We then went back to the background layer copy, turned off the other layers (by clicking on the eyes at the left), reselected the flowers, used the **Lasso Tool** (while holding down the **Shift Key**) to add the dirt to the selection and then hit **Delete**. Next, we went to **Select > Modify > Expand**, added **5 pixels** to the selection, and clicked **OK**. The next step was to go to **Edit > Fill**, making sure the **Contents Box** was set to **Content-Aware**, and clicked **OK**. While still on this newly filled layer, we went to **Filter > Blur > Gaussian Blur**, set the **Radius** to **5**, and clicked **OK**. The final step was to turn on the top layer (with the flowers) by clicking on the eye at the left. Voilá*!*









We all liked Mike Schleiff's black-and-white image of leaves and their shadows. We only found two things to change. The first, the line separating the black and gray backgrounds was not vertical. We started with a **Duplicate Layer** by typing **Command/Control-J**. Next. we used **Edit > Transform > Rotate** to make this minor correction. The second was a bit more obvious—there are a half dozen or so white dots in the image. We used the **Spot Healing Brush** to get rid of them.



Paul Grebanier's reflection in a puddle was colorful and interesting,… but we thought the lower right corner was too bright. We used the **Quick Selection Tool** to select the offending area and then went to **Image > Adjustments > Brightness/Contrast** and moved the **Brightness slider** to the left.



Simon Says



Work it

When something catches your eye, that first shot is often just the beginning. Move closer. Step back. Change your angle. Watch the background. Look at the edges of the frame.

Keep looking and refining the image.

The difference between a good photo and a great one may be a few steps, a few seconds, or one more frame.

The Journey Home

by Chuck Pine

Helen and I drive to and from our cold-weather home every December and May/June. (Actually, I do all the driving.) This year we planned our trip so we would arrive home a few days before the Club's Otto Litzel Memorial Dinner. What follows (and in the next several issues of *Photo Notes*) is my daily journal…

Day Three/Thursday/June 4th

Another nice morning—sun shining, breakfast, buffet, a stop at Costco for gassing up, and then off to Interstate 95.



As we leave the state of Georgia and cross into South Carolina, we start seeing signs for an old friend—the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. We've been there several times before, but not in the last ten years. So why not? It's only another three hour drive to tonight's destination in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

The four and a half mile Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive is an unpaved dirt road that wanders in and out of mostly swampy and forested land. It appears to have been upgraded since our last visit. The turtles, alligators, wildflowers, and many bird species were all fodder for our long lenses. (We both use 600mm equivalent zoom lenses.) The highlight for me was an anhinga, aka the snake bird, so named because of the way its neck sticks up from the water while it's swimming and fishing. It was quite prolific at its task.



After about two hours of slow (10 mph) driving we head back to the I-95 and drive on to Hampton Inn Fayetteville. We check in, go to our room, and try to figure out where to go for dinner. We decide to go to a place called the Gangnam Korean BBQ and Hotpot. This was a new experience for us. It's sort of like a "do-it-yourself Benihana" with a huge buffet of raw foods (beef, chicken, veggies, pork, tons of seafood, and more). There were cooking stations at each table. It was an experience!



After dinner we went to a place called *Academy Sports + Outdoors* to buy a new cooler. We use it to keep our injectable meds on ice as we travel. (We also store some chocolates in there so they don't melt.) The one we were using shifted as we drove and fell and broke as the rear hatch of our SUV was opened last night.

Finally, we returned to our hotel for a much-needed night's sleep.



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 currently 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.

Photo Quotes

Life is a moment of pleasure and a lifetime of embarrassment; photography is a moment of embarrassment and a lifetime of pleasure. ~ Tony Benn

Photography is not about cameras, gadgets, and gizmos. Photography is about photographers. ~ Peter Adams



Meryl Meisler's first solo exhibition after retiring from teaching was *Here I Am Bushwick in the '80s* at Soho Photo in 2011. In preparing for the exhibition, she mined her extensive archive, a practice she has continued ever since.

Over the past fifteen years, her rediscovered photographs have led to exhibitions around the world, critical acclaim, four monographs, substantial press, acquisitions by private and public collections, and gallery representation. Although she has not actively pursued commercial work, invitations to license her photography for film, television, fashion, editorial, publishing and other media have come her way.

Meryl has presented her work to the Club as well as judged our competitions.

Click HERE to reserve your spot at this Zoom event.

Computer Ports

Do you know which ones are on your computer?



Set Your VCR

Do you still have a VCR? Or do you have a more modern way of recording programs? Either way, be sure to set your recorder for Wednesday, the 11th of November.

Avedon, a new film by Ron Howard, opens tonight on the Netflix channel. The life and work of photographer Richard Avedon come into focus via archival footage and new interviews in this intimate documentary.

For those not in the know, Avedon was a fashion, portrait and fine art photographer. He worked for *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vogue*, and *Elle* magazines, among others, specializing in capturing movement in still pictures of fashion, theater, and dance.

Back in the mid-1990s, when Avedon was closing his east side New York studio, I (Chuck) received a phone call from him. He offered us (the Club) thousands of dollars worth of Kodak photo printing paper. It included all sizes and finishes. The only catch, I had to come over to his studio and pick it up—pronto.

Somehow, I managed to drive over there, find a parking spot on the block, and was able to load my car with dozens of yellow boxes.

We held a special meeting to give away the paper to any interested PWCC members. Some of us used that donation for months and years in our Club darkrooms.









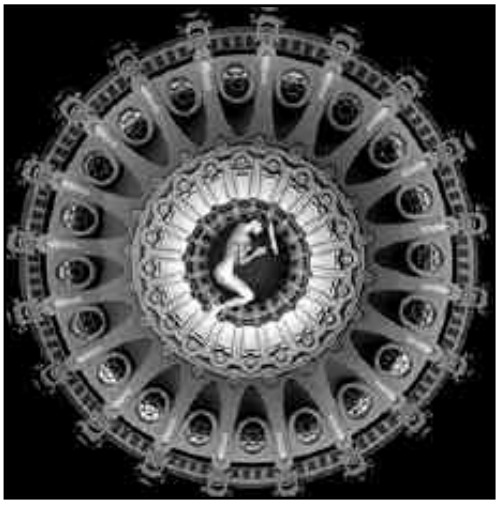


PSA Images of the Year

The Photographic Society of America recently announced the winners of its 2025 Image of the Year competitions. Here are the gold medal photos for the six different categories…



Pictorial Print Image of the Year
Learning the Look
© Debbie Sutton



Monochrome Projected Image of the Year
Away
© Ovi D. Pop



Color Projected Image of the Year
Beauty on Ribbons
© Hau Chi Chak



Photo Travel Image of the Year
Future Study
© Lewis Ka Yin Choi



Nature Image of the Year
Bloody Battle
© Rajan Panandiker



Photojournalism Image of the Year
Teacher
© Sandeep Das

Smarter Framing

Not sure how to crop one of your images?

The "Smart Compositions" feature in *Luminar* (formerly Luminar Neo) can help you find the right framing for your photos. It understands your subject, and the scene, and then suggests options based on over a dozen classic rules of composition including…

- Rule of Thirds
- Golden Ratio
- Golden Spiral
- Golden Triangle
- Center
- Subject Crop
- and more

These suggestions keep your subject in the frame, leave space around the subject, and straighten horizons—all done automatically using AI.

Luminar can work as a stand-alone program for all your image post-processing or as a plug-in to *Lightroom*, *Photoshop*, and other programs.

Worried about subscription plans? Not with *Luminar.* You pay one price upfront and then use it forever. And, best of all, it's now being offered at up to 77% off its retail price. (This is their Black Friday sale.)

Click HERE to get all the exciting details.

AI Stuff



Do you think you can tell an AI image from a real one? Now, Google has made its AI-image detector, SynthID Detector, available to everyone. Upload images and check your skills—but remember, the tool isn't perfect. It can only detect AI images that include watermarks from Google and its partners. Just because an image comes up clean on SynthID Detector doesn't mean that it's real.



Are you a musician? If so, then skip this item. If not, Suno can help you pretend you are. This AI tool creates songs, including both music and lyrics, based on prompts you give it. TechRadar gives a rundown of how it works, and at the very least, the songs look… entertaining. Unsurprisingly, though, Suno's songs are generated using music from real artists—keep that in mind when using the tool.

Claude Artifacts

Want to make an app but don't know where to start? Maybe Claude Artifacts can help. This tool isn't anything new, but it is always a fun thing to try out. Even free versions of Claude can create basic tools, so if you've ever wanted to try out what the kids are calling "vibe coding" (that is, asking AI to create technology using natural-language prompts), now's your chance.

1440 Daily Unbiased News

Do you crave genuine and unbiased news? Then check out 1440. The team at 1440 scours over 100+ sources ranging from culture, science, sports, politics, and more to create one email that gets you caught up on a day's events in five minutes. 1440 is 100% free. It has everything you need to be aware of for the day. And most importantly, it simplifies your life. You can sign up for 1440 here.

iPhone Tips & Tricks

Sunrise/Sunset



The lens(es) built into iPhones are great for shooting magic hour photos. To get the perfect shot, point your iPhone toward the sky. The picture will most likely be too dark due to the phone compensating for the sun's brightness. To fix this, tap on a darker area of the scene on the phone's screen before taking the picture. This brightens up the image. If it gets too bright, try tapping on a spot that is a little lighter than the last spot. Tap around until you get the perfect image.



Changing Focus

Ever taken a Portrait mode photo and wished you'd focused on something else in the shot? On an iPhone 13 or newer, you can change the focus point after the fact.

Open the image in the *Photos* app, tap Edit, then tap another area in the image to change where you want the focus to be.

It's like magic!

Camera Adjustments



Here are three adjustments that can turn an ordinary snapshot into something much more polished. And the best part? You can do it in about 10 seconds using the editing tools already on your phone.

The secret is to adjust *Highlights*, *Shadows*, *and Contrast* in that order. These three controls work together to bring out details and give your photos a more balanced appearance.

Here's what to do…

- Lower the Highlights (-20 to -40)
- Raise the Shadows (+15 to +35)
- Increase the Contrast (+5 to +15



iPhone-ography

The camera app on almost all smartphones can autofocus and even track a subject. But for more precision and power, you'll want to have manual control. *ProCamera* (for the iPhone) and *Camera FV-5* (for Android) let you adjust the vital functions…

- *Timed Shutter*—even when using a tripod, the slightest touch of your phone can cause a vibration that will blur the image. Set the timer to delay the shot. Another option is to trigger the shot using the volume-up/down verbal command.
- ISO—phones automatically set the ISO by default. You can increase the ISO to use the camera in low lighting conditions.
- *File Size*—larger images contain more information, which gives you more to work with when you edit them. Set your phone to save photos with the highest pixel dimensions and in the TIFF or RAW format so they remain uncompressed.
- *Shutter Speed*—to capture a fast-moving subject, you'll need a fast shutter speed. By playing with the shutter speed, you can also attain different effects, such as a sharp subject with a blurred background.

New From Apple



At the end of October, Apple held a three-day *Pro and Tell* event at which they announced a bunch of new products. Here's a quick rundown… They revealed the brand new touchscreen MacBook Pro. Not only does this new MacBook have a powerful and bright touch display, it comes with an M5 Pro or M5 Max chip. It is thinner and lighter than earlier generations. Apple claims a 24-hour battery life. Most gestures that you used on an iPad or iPhone will work the same or similarly on the touchscreen Mac. Prices for a 14-inch MacBook Pro Touchscreen start at $2,899 and at $3,399 for the 16-inch model.



Apple also announced their new M6 chip in both MacBook Pros and iMacs. While these new Macs are faster and more powerful than any previous models, they don't come with a touchscreen. Prices for these Macs start at $1,999 for the MacBook Pro 14-inch, $2,999 for the MacBook Pro 16-inc, and $1,499 for the iMac.



Is it an iPhone? Is it an iPad? It's the iPhone Duo*!!!* Apple's newest and most innovative device is a foldable iPhone that can be used in five different configurations. This is the biggest iPhone update since the original back in 2007. Prices start at $1,999 for 256 GB of storage and go up to $3,199 for a 2 TB model.



Apple revealed a whole new addition to the MacBook line, the MacBook Neo. This thin, lightweight laptop delivers the same great experience but at a much more accessible price. The 13-inch Neo with 256 GB of memory starts at $599.





In addition, Apple showed off the new 2026 iPad Mini, the Apple Watch 12, the Apple Watch Ultra 4, and its long-anticipated Home Collection (a lineup of smart home devices including video doorbells, deadbolt locks, thermostats and temperature sensors, and indoor and outdoor cameras).



Opposites Attract

One of the most common mistakes made by budding photographers is failing to fill the frame with their subject or the major elements of the image. Get in closer and exclude the parts that you don't want. Open space serves no purpose when the subject is too small or cannot be identified.

On the other hand, you shouldn't cut off part of your subject unless it is intentional to create an effect. Missing parts of people or objects irritate the viewer and create an incomplete image. It distracts the eye. So watch the edges of your image.

Where to Go

Unique Architecture

The US has some of the world's most diverse and interesting architecture and building designs. History, art, and aesthetics are all reflected in some of America's most unique buildings. All of these structures make for unique tourist attractions as well as great photo ops…



Chapel of the Holy Cross
Sedona, Arizona



Mesa Verde National Park
Cortez, Colorado



Salvador Dalí Museum
St. Petersburg, Florida



Bahá'í House of Worship
Wilmette, Illinois



Portland Head Light
Cape Elizabeth, Maine



The Community Bookshelf
Kansas City, Missouri



Ward Charcoal Ovens
Ely, Nevada



Taos Pueblo
Taos, New Mexico



Fallingwater
Mill Run, Pennsylvania



The Corn PalaceMitchell,
South Dakota



Smith Mansion
Cody, Wyoming

VPN

You must read this!!!

If you use public Wi-Fi—at the airport, a restaurant, a hotel, the subway, anywhere—there's something you should know…

> your personal info is at risk of being stolen by hackers, the internet service provider, and just about anyone else using that Wi-F system

What can you do about it?

You can use a VPN (virtual private network) service. It protects your information (personal, banking, etc.) from being stolen. A VPN works by doing the following…

- *Encrypting*—it scrambles your data into unreadable code (ciphertext) so outside observers cannot see what you are doing
- *Tunneling*—it creates a private, digital "tunnel" between your device and the VPN server
- *Masking*—it hides your IP address and your location and replaces it with that of the VPN service

Here are five of the best (in no particular order) VPN services on the market today. You should check them out…

Meteor Showers

A meteor shower is a night sky event where dozens of "shooting stars" streak across the sky. They occur every year as Earth passes through debris left by a comet or asteroid. There are six meteor showers coming up in the next year or so. Here are their names and their peak dates…

- Leonids—November 16–17, 2026
- Geminid—December 13–14, 2026
- Quadrantids—January 3–4, 2027
- Lyrid—April 22–23, 2027
- Eta Aquariids—May 5–6, 2027
- Perseids—August 12–13, 2026

The best place to photograph a meteor shower is in a "dark sky" location. These are usually far from the light pollution of large cities. Two of the closest to the Big Apple are Jones Beach (on Long Island) and High Point State Park (in Sussex, New Jersey).

Your best bet for dark sky shooting are some of the national parks in the western United States and Alaska. The Everglades NP is also a good choice.



Here are some settings to start with…

- Shooting Mode—Manual
- Aperture—Wide open
- Shutter Speed—10–20 seconds
- ISO—1600–6400
- Lens—14–24mm wide-angle (full-frame equivalent)
- Focus—Manual, focused on a bright star
- File Format—RAW
- Tripod and remote shutter release—definitely

[p]pano awards

The *Epson International Pano Awards* showcases the work of panoramic photographers worldwide and is the world's largest competition for panoramic photography. Here are some of the winning images from the 2026 Pano Awards…



© Daniel Viñé Garcia



© Thomás Sánchez Ruiz



© Preeti & Prashant Chacko

Grabbing Attention

Look at a photograph, any photograph. Where does your eye go first?

According to some theory or other, the eye is attracted to several things in a photograph. In no particular order, they are…

1. The brightest area.
2. The highest contrast.
3. The sharpest focus.
4. The most detail.
5. The most prominent color.

Any one of these things in an image will attract the viewer's eye. Hopefully the subject will achieve more than one of these eye magnets. The more the merrier, so to speak.

But what happens when these magnets apply to different areas in the image?

Nothing wins!

The viewer's eye wanders and rarely settles on the main subject. That's an image that doesn't work.

Think about this idea of visual magnetism the next time you're making a photograph. It can only help to improve your pictures.





Where to Go

Natural Wonders

There's a lifetime's worth of landscapes to explore and photograph all across America. These photo ops should be at the top of the priority list…



Yosemite National Park
California



* Devils Tower
Wyoming



Grand Canyon National Park
Arizona



* Denali National Park
Alaska



* Mendenhall Glacier
Alaska



* Yellowstone National Park
Wyoming/Montana/Idaho



* Crater Lake National Park
Oregon



* White Sands National Park
New Mexico



Niagara Falls
New York



Na Pali Coast
Kauai, Hawaii

The photo ops marked with an asterisk (*) were destinations of Park West field trips.v



Siena Awards

Every year, photographers worldwide capture moments that make us see the world a little differently. The Siena International Photo Awards (SIPA) brings together shooters from different countries and backgrounds, celebrating great images selected by a jury of international photographers and photo editors.

This year, the competition recognized outstanding work across 10 categories, covering everything from travel and nature to wildlife, sports, street photography, fascinating faces and characters, storytelling, documentary, photojournalism, underwater life, and short documentary films.

For more information go to <www.sienawards.com>

Here are some of the best of the year…



Amina
© Stefano Rosselli



A Weightless Morning
© Thibault Gerbaldi



Shark Portal
© Linda Ness



Barrelled
© Ben Thouard

SIENA AWARDS

Wild Traffic
© Shailza Singhal



A Powerful Onset
© Marco Di Marco



Solar Eclipse 2027

Did you know that there will be a total solar eclipse next summer, on August 2nd?



It h been nicknamed the "eclipse of the century." Why you might ask?

The length of its totality will be greater than usual. That means more time to shoot it.

Unfortunately, this eclipse will not be visible from the United States. Its path begins in the North Atlantic Ocean, sweeps over southern Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and ends in the Indian Ocean.

Interested in shooting this astronomical event? Where should you go? How should you shoot it? Et cetera, et cetera, et cetera?

The towns of Barbate and Vejer, on the Atlantic coast of Cádiz in southern Spain (not too far from Gibraltar), are planning an "escape village" for the occasion. It will provide organized access, reserved parking, dedicated eclipse observation areas, security, toilets, food and drink, shaded common seating, and lots of astronomy outreach.

For more information on BJEV27, or to book your spot, go to <www.eclipsespain.net>

2-Second Test



The next time you're not sure whether a scene will work in black-and-white, give it the 2-second squint test.

Be sure to properly squint until everything goes soft.

Squinting kills the fine detail and most of the color, and leaves you with rough blobs of light and dark. This is pretty much what the scene will look like when the color is removed.



If those blobs still make a shape you like, you've got a black-and-white photo. If it all turns to mush, you've got a color photo. Move on.

Costs nothing. Takes 2 seconds. And it works!



ViewPoint



Converging verticals caused by tilting the camera? Bowed lines caused by barrel distortion? Faces stretched at the edge of a group shot? The horizon a degree or two off horizontal?

All of these, and more can be corrected with the all new *DxO ViewPoint 6*.

You can even select one part of a picture instead of the whole frame. Straighten one building. Move one subject. Return one face to its natural proportions.

DxO ViewPoint 6 runs as a standalone program or as a plugin for Lightroom Classic or Photoshop.

Try it for free for 30 days. Then it's $129.99 (or make four payments of $32.49). Upgrade discounts are also available.

Foe all the information, go to <www.dxo.com>

Where to Go

Small Town America

Travel photography today is as much about finding what hasn't been discovered as it is about seeing what everyone else already has. Small towns have long offered that kind of magic. Beyond the crowds and bucket lists, they reward us with a sense of place that's difficult to manufacture. Each town on this list has fewer than 11,000 residents, great outdoor access, and. quite interesting histories…



Silver City
New Mexico



Philipsburg
Montana



Sandpoint
Idaho



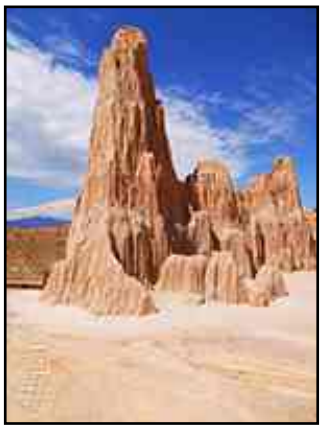
Strawberry
Arizona



Medora
North Dakota



Abingdon
Virginia



Caliente
Nevada



Sisters
Oregon



Lanesboro
Minnesota

PARK WEST
CAMERA CLUB

Photo Shorts

Smallest Full-Frame



The *Sigma FP2* is the world's smallest full-frame digital camera. But it packs plenty inside including a 24.5MB partially-stacked sensor, advanced subject-detection autofocus, 13 dedicated color modes, and a tilting rear LCD display. And, get this, it has 70GB of internal memory—you don't need memory cards. All this for $2,199.

Latest Leica



The *Leica Q3 43 Formula 1® Edition* places a 60MP full-frame sensor and an APO-Summicron 43mm *f*-2 lens into a plush body covered in a black textured microvelour with carbon-fiber accents, and red shutter-release and function-buttons. Its resolution permits digital in-camera cropping. It costs (are you seated?) $9,950. You can also get it with a plain body for $2,000 less.

Newest Nikon S-lens



Nikon has announced the *Nikkor Z 120-300mm f/2.8 TC VR S* lens for it mirrorless line of cameras. This pro-grade lens is light, fast, and features a built-in 1.4X teleconverter (extending its range to 168-420mm). It also includes 6.5 stops of image stabilization. Be aware that this not-so-hefty superzoom (only 6 pounds) comes with a pretty heavy price tag of $13,996.95.

Travel Warning



The U.S. State Department issued an updated Level 2 "Exercise Increased Caution" advisory for the *People's Republic of China*. Americans are being warned about wrongful detention and restrictions on leaving the country. Travelers are told to be aware that usual tourist activities, which carry no risk in Western countries, could be treated as criminal offenses under mainland China's security laws.

The U.S. Department of State has determined that Americans are at serious risk of wrongful detention by the Chinese Government. The advisory also warns that emails, texts, and social media could be monitored by Chinese authorities. *Some people have been detained or deported over private messages considered critical by Chinese authorities.*

Rethink planning a vacation there. If you do go, be sure it's with a reputable tour company. And, as always, think before you take that next picture*!!!*



Using Your Camera

by Chuck Pine

How Low Can You Go?

No, we're not doing the limbo.



Here's a simple suggestion that can give you dramatic images. It works with all kinds of cameras—phones, point-and-shoots, SLRs, mirrorless, you name it. It works on street shots, landscapes, and many other photographic genres.

The hardest part about doing it is that you have to get down low (and then try to get up again).

Here's what to do…

1. Take a picture as you normally would—most likely you'll be standing up, or possibly you'll be sitting down—no matter which
2. Hold your camera an inch or two above the ground—this works best if you have a tilting view screen, but it's not mandatory
3. Tilt the camera slightly upward and take the shot



Look for interesting lines, textures, or objects in the foreground. Sidewalks become dramatic leading lines. Fallen leaves look larger than life. Ordinary scenes suddenly have incredible depth.

Tips for Texture

Texture is the visual depiction of how a surface feels. It adds depth, realism, and emotional weight to an image. This is especially important when doing close-up and macro photography.

Light aimed directly at your close-up.macro subjects is typically the poorest light for revealing textures because it eliminates shadows. It will make your subject look flat or two-dimensional. The fix is to move your light to the side to create shadows. Follow these steps to get better textures…







1. Don't use your on-camera flash as your main light. It's fine as a little light, but it illuminates everything from the front.
2. Use a light you can move, like a utility light or an external flash, and put it off to the side.
3. Match the angle to the texture. Subtle texture needs a more extreme angle, with the light almost skimming across the surface. Deep bumps and ridges only need a moderate one.
4. Then move it around: side to side, up and down, until the texture jumps out at you.

Photo Shopping

by Chuck Pine

Ultra Wide Angle Zooms

An ultra-wide-angle lens is a photographic lens with a focal length of 20mm or wider on a full-frame camera (or roughly 13mm or wider on an APS-C sensor, and about 8mm on a Micro 4/3 sensor). They have these basic characteristics…

- Expanded Field of View
- Exaggerated Perspective
- Great Depth of Field

There are well over 300 ultra-wide-angle lenses listed on the B&H website. They are from both the original camera manufacturers as well as from independent lens makers. The ones shown here are all auto-focus models, all have fairly wide apertures, and are all quite expensive. They are also all great choices for landscape, architectural, close-up other kinds of creative shooting.



Canon RF 10-20mm f/4 L IS STM Lens (Canon RF)
$2,399 FF



Nikon NIKKOR Z 14-24mm f/2.8 S Lens
$1,896.95 FF



Sony FE 12-24mm f/4 G Lens
$2,298 FF



OM SYSTEM M.Zuiko Digital ED 7-14mm f/2.8 PRO Lens.
$1,499.99 4/3



Tamron 12-20mm f/2.8 Lens
$1,699 FF



Panasonic LUMIX G Vario 7-14mm f/4 ASPH. Lens
$747.99 4/3



Sigma 14-24mm f/2.8 DG DN Art Lens for Leica L
$1,439 FF

The prices quoted are from the B&H website and are accurate as of November 2nd. The blue links will get you to additional information on each lens..

Simon Says

Get closer

If your photographs aren't strong enough, sometimes you simply aren't close enough, physically and/or emotionally.

Move toward what draws you in. Talk to people. Make connections. Take chances.



Often the photographs we're most afraid to make are the ones worth pursuing.

PhotoShopping

by Chuck Pine

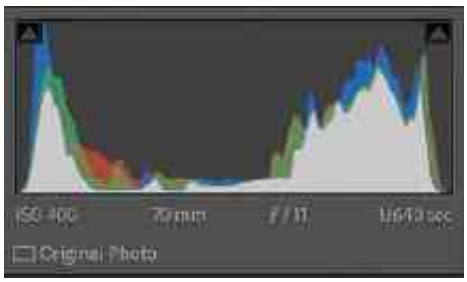
Basic Image Processing

Scenario: You've just downloaded your images from a day shooting. You open them up in Bridge or Lightroom (or any other program). And they just look terrible.

What do you do?

You basically have two choices—(1) trash them or (2) process them.

It's time to stop deleting images until you have at least attempted a few basic tweaks to see what's really in the file…



The first thing you should do is check the histogram. This histogram shows a lot of dark tones (on the left) and a lot of bright tones (on the right). But, and this is important, the graph doesn't touch either of the sides. This means that the shadows are not underexposed (blocked up) and that the highlights are not overexposed (blown out).

This image can be saved!



Start with G**lobal Adjustments** (to the whole image) in **Adobe Camera RAW** or **Lightroom's Develop Module**…

- Move the **Shadows slider** to the right (to lighten the Shadows) to reveal more detail and color in the scene.
- Move the **Highlights slider** to the left (to reduce the highlights) to reveal more detail in the sky area.
- Move the **Clarity slider** to the right to +30 to increase midtone contrast.
- Move the **Vibrance slider** all the way to the right to see its effect. Then return it back to zero. Then move the **Saturation slider** all the way to the right to compare its effect to that of the **Vibrance slider**. Choose whether moving the **Vibrance** or **Saturation** slider worked best with your image. Be careful not to overdo either one. (*You should do this comparison for each image you process since you never know in advance which one will be best for that particular image.*)

Here is a list of **Lightroom**/**Camera RAW** controls you should NEVER use when making global adjustments. It is okay to use them when using the **Masking Tools** because it will affect ONLY the masked area of the image…

- Exposure
- Contrast
- Tint
- Temp

[*You can try the **Auto button** to see what might be possible, but this button takes all the control away from you and lets the software make the decisions.*]



B & H Event Space

The B&H Photo Event Space offers an array of free seminars and inspirational lectures by talented pros from around the world. You can register online to guarantee a seat.



Mon, Nov 9
Photowalk—Fashion
Speaker: Enrique Vega



Wed, Nov 11
Photowalk—B&W Street Photo
Speaker: Derek Fahsbender



Mon. Nov 16
Photowalk—Central Park in Fall
Speaker: Tony Gale



Wed, Nov 18
Digital Archiving with Lightroom
Speaker: Stephen Mallon



Thu, Nov 19
Nikon Day
Speakers: from Nikon



Mon, Nov 30
Small Lights
Speaker: Ira Block



Tue, Dec 1
On Assignment: Chasing Cats
Speakers: Rachel Tobias
Sebastian Kennerknecht
Wai-Ming Wong



Wed, Dec 2
Epson Print Academy
Speaker: Vincent Versace

Mon, Dec 7
Creating Worlds with Light
Speaker: Chloe Ramirez

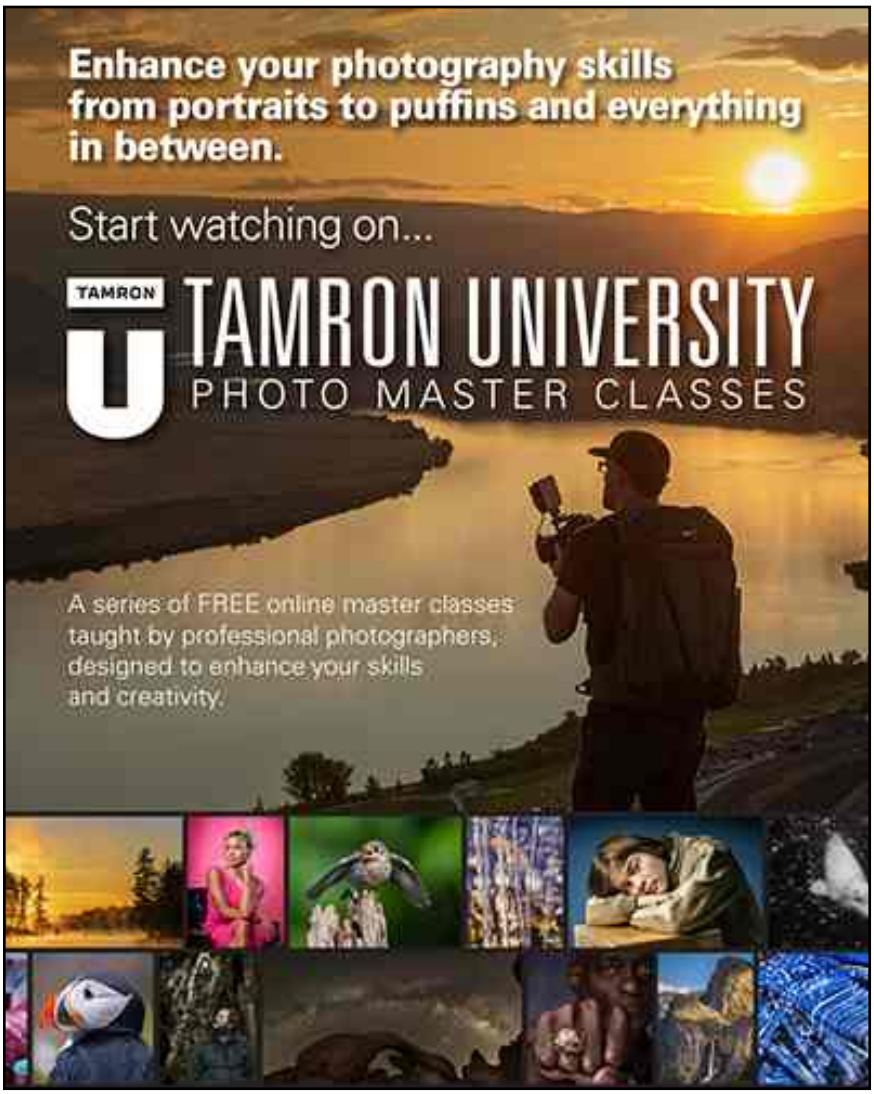
For more information and additional workshops go to <bhphotovideo.com> and click on Event Space.

Simon Says

Keep shooting

There will always be missed moments, bad days, and shots that almost worked. Learn what you can from them and move on.

The photographic process never really ends. Every time you pick up the camera, you get another chance. Your best images are still ahead of you.



Currently Available

•The Art of Storytelling with Erica Robinson
• Nature Photography with Kurt Gardner
• Commercial and Celebrity Portraiture with Hernan Rodriguez
• The Art of Photographing Birds with David Akoubian
• Cinematic Halloween Horror with Jonathan Thorpe
• Capturing The Night Skies with Sean Parker
• The Creative Photographer with Michael Gilbert
• Travel Photography in Mexico with Armando Flores
• Intimate Landscapes with Ian Plant
• Photographing the Wild West with Lisa Langell
• Mindful Photography with Kenna Klostermann
• Documentary Filmmaking with André Costantini
• Travel and Landscape In Ireland with Ken Hubbard

Register for a Tamron University Master Class HERE

NANPA Photo Tours

Winter and Spring



Yellowstone in Winter
Landscapes & Wildlife
January 28-31
with Jerry & Barb Jividen



Klamath Basin Raptors
February 5-12
with John Ehrenfeld



Hocking Hills
Waterfalls & Wildflowers
April 14–17
with Jerry & Barb Jividen



Lake Michigan &
Sleeping Bear Dunes
May 13–16
with Robert deJonge

cruiseNORWAY
Worldwide Expeditions



Norway—Land and Sea

See Norway's highlights (both literally and figuratively) in 12 days. Spend time is Oslo, fly to Kirkenes (250 miles above the Arctic circle), cruise the coast of Norway along the Northern Cape all the way down to Bergen, ride the historic Flåm Railway, and then take a Nærøyfjord cruise—all this under the truly breathtaking Northern Lights.



From $3,411 per person (not including flights to Oslo)

Longer (and more expensive) land and cruise tours are also available from Cruise Norway (and they're not only in and around Norway).

Get all the information and make your reservations at <www.cruisenorway.com>





Click HERE for details and registration.



Sierra Photo Meetings 2026-2027

Sierra Club Photo NYC has 10 meetings scheduled for the 2026-2027 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 21 Street, Room 418F. Tickets for all events must be purchased in advance on Eventbrite. Suggested donation $8.

Tues.	9/15/26	SVA *
Tues.	10/13/26	Zoom
Tues.	11/10/26	Hybrid
Tues.	12/15/26	Zoom
Tues.	1/26/27	Hybrid
Tues.	2/16/27	Zoom
Tues.	3/23/27	Hybrid
Tues.	4/13/27	Zoom
Tues.	5/11/27	Hybrid
Tues.	6/15/27	Zoom *

SVA = in-person only
Zoom = online only
Hybrid = in-person and Zoom
** members night*

After Dark

The Museum of the City of New York is announces an ongoing exhibition series. *The Photography Triennial* will take place every three years and engage different themes and issues of the city.

The next iteration of the triennial series is titled *After Dark*. It explores the vibrant and multifaceted nightlife of New York City through the lens of current photography. Delving into what nightfall means to New Yorkers, the exhibition captures the very essence of the city's nightlife and its complex layers.



MCNY is located at 1220 Fifth Avenue (at 103rd Street).

This exhibition opens on Friday, November 20th and runs through April 25, 2027.

The MCNY is open seven days a week (Closed Thanks-giving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day). The hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday), to 6 p.m. (Saturday and Sunday), and to 9 p.m. (on Wednesday).

Admission is $23 (for adults)/$18 (for seniors 65+ with ID).

VAN OS PHOTO SAFARIS
photosafaris.com | 206-463-5388



Bald Eagles & Coastal Wildlife

The road ends in Homer. Past the last fish shacks on the Spit there's only Kachemak Bay: steel-gray water, snow down to the tideline, and the Kenai Mountains rising from the far shore. In February, this is where the eagles are.

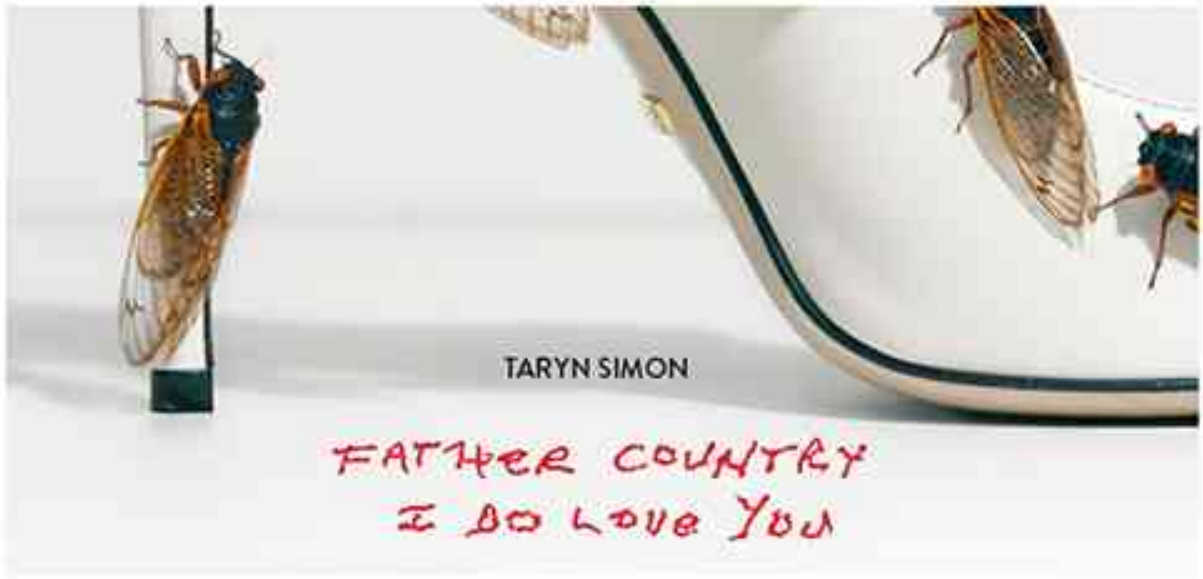
You'll see dozens of eagles at once. They drop from the spruce, wheel low over the water, and fight over a single fish in the air. Few places in North America offer this much eagle action, and few backdrops match it. Every frame comes with glaciers, serrated peaks, and old conifers along the shore.

February 21 - 27, 2027

<www.photosafaris.com/photo-tours/2027-bald-eagles-alaska>



Around Town



GUGGENHEIM
NEW YORK

through March 14, 2027



I'm So Happy You Are Here: Japanese Women Photographers from the 1950s to Now

International Center of Photography
Through January 11, 2027



Aperture Gallery
through Nov. 15, 2026

Splendido, As Seen by Chris Rhodes

At 380 Columbus Avenue, New York

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).

Most Club activities will be virtual using 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.

All Club meetings 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).





* Monday, November 9
Theme Night
Model Shoot

Members who participated in last month's model shoot of Pearls Daily will share some of their images tonight. All are welcome. Warning, some of the images may be/will be nude figure studies—to paraphrase,… *videntium emptor* (let the viewer beware).

Photo Op

through January 5th

The Big Apple Circus is back at Lincoln Center—brighter, bolder, and more breathtaking than ever. It delivers a world of wonder, all under one tent, with unforgettable feats of strength and skill. Tickets are going fast but plenty are still available through the official Big Apple Circus website <www.bigapplecircus.com>



© Kurt Komoda

Tuesday, November 10
Photo Event
Sierra Photo

Sierra Club Photo NYC will be meeting tonight both in-person at the School for Visual Arts as well as on Zoom. The guest photographer for the evening is Kurt Komoda. He is a free-lance illustrator, commercial artist, and photographer. Kurt's photographic work centers around macro and close-up shooting of insects, other bugs, and the like. You can see more of Kurt's work at <www.agonyagogo.com> This is a hybrid meeting—both on Zoom and in-person at the School of Visual Arts (136 West 21st Street, Room 418F). All tickets must be purchased on-line at <www.eventbrite.com> prior to tonight's meeting. An $8 donation is suggested.



Tuesday, November 10
Photo Event
NYMACC Meeting

The New York Metro Area Camera Council is an umbrella organization for camera clubs and other photography groups in the 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, or course. Their monthly Zoom meeting starts at 7 p.m. If you'd like to join the NYMACC meeting use this link.



Wednesday, November 11
Photo Op
Veterans Day Parades

The New York City Veterans Day Parade will march up Fifth Avenue from 26th Street to 48th Street in Manhattan. The parade begins at 12:30 p.m., after the wreath-laying in Madison Square Park at around 11 a.m. This event is the nation's largest Veterans Day observance.



© Raquel Natalicchio

* Monday, November 16
Guest Speaker
Raquel Natalicchio

Tonight's guest photographer is Raquel Natalicchio. She is a journalist and photographer based in Houston, where she is a staff visual journalist at the *Houston Chronicle*. Her work centers on migration, social issues, political mobilization and community. Beyond the newsroom, Raquel is a curator and community organizer who has produced exhibitions, artist talks, panel discussions and public programs in Los Angeles, in Houston, and in London. She has produced, moderated, and spoken on panels about journalism, ethics, photography, and art for schools. She is a member of *Women Photograph*, *Diversify Photo* and the *National Press Photographers Association*. Due to popular demand, this is a return engagement for Raquel at Park West. You can find out more about Raquel's images at <www.raquelnatalicchio.com>



* Tuesday, November 17
Print Salon

The Club's Print Salon will be holding its meeting today to continue its discussion of all things print-making. See the article on page 21 in this issue of *Photo Notes* for detailed info on the group and how to get in touch with the leader, Larry Rubin, to receive location and time information.

Wednesday, November 18
Apple Cider Day

This timeless elixir, born from nature's bounty, captures the essence of orchards in every sip, a comforting embrace of crispness and warmth.

Can you capture all of its essence in one simple photo?

Send us your efforts for the next issue of *Photo Notes*.



* Wednesday, November 18
PDI Workshop Deadline

The deadline for submitting images for tomorrow's PDI workshop is tonight at 11:59 p.m. Members may submit one or two images for a critique and suggestions for improving them. Some images will be worked on with a variety of photo-editing software. Only images from the first 10 Club members to send them in will be reviewed at this workshop. All Club members may join in to view and comment on the images and demonstrations. Your images must be sent to <pwccny@gmail.com>



* Thursday, November 19
PDI Workshop

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





* Monday, November 23
You Be the Judge 13
Night and/or Low Light

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 *Night and/or Low Light* —interpret it as you will. All of the entries for this in-house competition were due on October 19th.

Tuesday, November 24
Kartika Purnima

This vibrant celebration is observed on the full moon day of the Kartika month in the Hindu lunar calendar. It is highly significant in both Hindu and Jain traditions. On this day, the moon shines at its brightest, symbolizing purity and inner light.



Wednesday, November 25
Photo Op—
Balloons Galore

Do you remember the opening scene of the movie Miracle on 34th Street (the original one) where Natalie Wood enjoys the pre-parade thrills of the Macy*s extravaganza? Would you like to experience the same joy and wonderment, as well as the photo possibilities? Just head up to the Museum of Natural History via the B or C train, or take the #1 train to 79th Street and walk to the Museum. Surrounding the museum, starting in the mid-afternoon, and going on all night, you'll find plenty to shoot. Be sure to bring a zoom lens and a flash to get the best shots. There're plenty of places to grab a bite and warm up.





Thursday, November 26
Photo Op—
Thanksgiving Day Parade

Before you settle down for a Thanksgiving feast, come to shoot the 99th annual Macy*s Thanksgiving Day Parade as it marches from the Museum of Natural History down Central Park West and then 6th Avenue to Herald Square. The parade will feature performances by the Rockettes, Broadway stars, and high school marching bands, as well as dozens of colorful floats and gigantic helium balloons. Santa Claus brings up the rear of the parade, kicking off the 2026 holiday (shopping) season. The parade starts at 8:30 a.m. and lasts 'til around noon.



Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving

Turkey or turkey chow mein? Whatever you're feast will be this year, remember to give thanks for all your blessings.



* Monday, November 30
Business Meeting #2

This is the second business meeting of the Club year. There's always plenty of excitement in the air. We will finish up any items left over from the September business meeting and discuss new items as well. Remember, *this* Club is run by and for its members. Your participation is greatly appreciated.



* Wednesday, December 2
YEP Meeting

The Year End Project will meet tonight on Zoom promptly at 6:30 p.m. You will be sent the link to sign-on earlier this afternoon. Participants will be sharing and discussing their 5-image stories. See pages 21 and 22 in this issue of *Photo Notes* for information on the group and how to get in touch with the YEP troika (Ann, Christine. and Marlene) if you would like to participate.



* Monday, November 30
Image Deadline
November Competition

Please note that PDI entries are due by midnight tonight for the December competition. See page 6 of this issue of *Photo Notes* on how to prepare your images. More information is available in our *Competition Manual*. Send your entries to pwcccompetition@yahoo.com> Want confirmation that your images were received? Add this address to your email <hfklein@mindspring.com>



Wednesday, December 2
Photo Op
Christmas Tree Lighting

This year's Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree, a 76 feet tall Norway Spruce from West Edmeston, NY, will be lit tonight. It's wrapped with over 50,000 multi-colored, energy efficient LED lights and crowned with a 900 pound Swarovski star. The ceremony will run from 7 to 10 p.m. The tree will be on display until mid-January. Afterwards, the tree will be milled into lumber for Habitat for Humanity.



Friday, December 4
Photo Op—
Menorah Lighting

The Jewish Festival of Lights, Chanukah, is an eight-day celebration that begins this evening. Witness the lighting of either of the world's two largest menorahs at sundown. The Grand Army Plazas in Brooklyn and in Manhattan compete for that title with their 32-foot-high, two-ton steel structures. In both of these sites, lightings take place at 3:30 p.m. this afternoon (Note: 8:30 p.m. on Saturday and 5:30 p.m. on all other nights).



© Lee Hoy

* Monday, December 6
Monthly Competition

Tonight is the third monthly competition of the year. Who will win the top honors? What will the judge say about your images? Will you agree? The only way to find out is to enter and join the Zoom meeting. Full rules are available from the Competition and the Membership Committees and on the PWCC website. Entries of one or two PDIs must be submitted by midnight one week prior to today, November 30th. The judge for tonight is Lee Hoy. Lee was our guest speaker in October. As you may recall, he is a seasoned wildlife and nature shooter based in the Davis Mountains of West Texas. Lee leads workshops worldwide—from the Galápagos to his favorite national park, Big Bend. His passion lies in teaching others to capture compelling images while fostering a connection with the natural world. Lee is an OM System (formerly Olympus) ambassador and spokesperson. See more of Lee's incredible photographs at <www.leehoyphotography.com>

Tuesday, December 8
Photo Event
NYMACC Meeting

The New York Metro Area Camera Council meets tonight. Get all the nitty gritty details in the November 10th entry in this issue of *Photo Notes*.



* Monday, December 14
Holiday Party

Save the date. PWCC's annual Holiday Party is tonight from 6 to 9 p.m. at Arte Cafe. It is located at 106 West 73rd Street, just a few steps fromColumbus Avenue. (Yes*!* This is where we held our last few parties and dinners.) The closest subway stations are at 72nd Street on the #1/2/3 and B/C lines. All the details including the menu and cost are on page 7 pf this issue of *Photo Notes*.

Tuesday, December 15
Bill of Rights Day

Today's historic celebration reminds us of the freedoms we enjoy every day in this great nation. It marks the day in 1791 when the first ten amendments to the *United States Constitution* became the law of the land. They protect our freedoms such as speech, religion and the press, and ensure rights such as a fair trial and privacy.



Tuesday, December 15
Photo Event
Sierra Photo

Sierra Club Photo NYC will be meeting tonight via Zoom. The guest photographer for the evening is Ralph Lee Hopkins. As a photographer he travels to the world's wild places on a regular basis. Ralph is author of popular guidebooks such as *Hiking the Southwest's Geology: Four Corners Region* and others. His latest book is *Nature Photography: Documenting the Wild World.* Ralph leads workshops with Lindblad Expeditions, National Geographic Expeditions, Arizona Highways Photo Workshops, and Santa Fe Photographic Workshops. See more of Ralph's photos and learn about his upcoming workshops and other activities at his website <www.ralphlee-hopkins.zenfolio.com> You must purchase your ticket for this meeting in advance—go to <www.eventbrite.com> An $8 donation is requested.



* Tuesday, December 16
Print Salon

The Club's Print Salon will be holding its meeting today to continue its discussion of all things print-making. See the article on page 21 in this issue of *Photo Notes* for detailed info on the group and how to get in touch with the leader, Larry Rubin, to receive location and time information.



* Wednesday, December 17
Field Trip
Holiday Lights

It's that time of the year again—the City is aglow with lights and store windows are filled with seasonal decorations. For this photo adventure, we'll meet in front of the 5th Avenue Apple Store (at 58th Street)at 4 p.m. We'll journey down to Saks Fifth Avenue and the tree at Rockefeller Center, shooting all the way. Please contact the trip leader, Raylie Dunkel, to let her know that yule (ha-ha) be joining us—(201) 273-0445.



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* Monday, December 21
Guest Speaker
Lewis Katz

Tonight's guest photographer is Lewis Katz. Photography has been part of his life from a young age. The camera and the images were an outlet for his feelings and artistic expression. After moving to Maryland in 2001, he joined the Baltimore Camera Club where he was honored and received many awards from the competitions. Lewis currently teaches photo classes for the Johns Hopkins Odyssey program and the Smithsonian Associates program, as well as for private students. See more of Lewis's landscapes and other imagery <www.lewiskatzphotography.com>





* Monday, December 28
No Meeting
Holiday Break

There will be no meeting tonight as we celebrate the holiday season. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Kwanza, Chanukah, or Festivus, we wish you a happy, healthy photo-filled holiday season. See you all next year.



* Monday, December 28
Image Deadline
January Competition

Please note that PDI entries are due by midnight tonight for next week's competition—the fourth of the year. Your images should follow the Club sizing rules (.jpg/72ppi/2,000px on the longest side). See page 6 in this issue of *Photo Notes* for labeling directions. More information can be found in the soon-to-be updated *PWCC Competition Manual*. Send your two entries to <pwcccompetition@yahoo.com> If you want confirmation that your images were received, add this second email address <hfklein@mindspring.com> to the email with your images.



Thursday, December 31
Photo Ops
New Year's Eve

Get out in the fresh air and do some shooting to welcome in the new year. There's the "ball drop" at Times Square. You can also go to Central Park to shoot the Midnight Run. Fireworks? Find them in Central Park, at the Statue of Liberty, and also in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, not to mention dozens of other towns around the metro area.

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