

PHOTO NOTES

Park West
Camera Club

Summer 2025



This Issue

Volume 88 • Issue 1

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Over 145 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
Flower Monster
©2017 Chuck Pine

Club Officers

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

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

Currently Inactive Committees

Archive, Field Trip,
Gallery, House

President's Message

Coming Together

It was a long hot summer,... and it still is. At some point during the dog days my mind began to wander. I started to think about what makes for a good photograph, or even a great one. What do you have to do to create a winner?

It boiled down, at least by my thought process, to three key concepts. They are, in ascending order of importance: technique, composition, and content. Let me explain...

Technique is a combination of things. It's getting a sharp focus on what you want to be in focus. It's getting the right exposure you need to get your point across. It's selecting the right lens for the job at hand. And the list goes on...

Composition is how you arrange things in the frame. Where they go. How they interact with other things in the frame. How they lead the viewer's eye through the frame. And the list goes on...

[Note—In early October, the 13th to be precise, I will present a program at our Club meeting on the various (so-called) rules of composition. I will be using members' images to illustrate these rules. I hope you submitted some of your files.]

Content is what the image is about. It's the story. It's the creative way the camera sees



©2025 Larry Rubin

the subject. It's also known as the "WOW" factor. (Of these three imaging concepts, the last one, content, is by far the most important.)

All of these concepts should be applied to create a great photo—but all three are not always necessary.

Take for example the image of three-year-old John John (JFK Jr.) saluting his father's

coffin. The technique wasn't perfect; the lighting was off; but the subject matter made the shot so memorable. (Are you old enough to remember? Most of our members are.)

Some of your pictures can have great subject matter, too. You know the ones I mean. They are the ones that cause a murmur from the audience, or a giggle or two, or maybe even a sigh. But they, too, might be lacking in other areas—out of focus, flat lighting, etc. (And the judge lets you know it!)

Similarly, other photos can have great technique—razor sharp, the exposure is right on, and the rest—but the subject is uninteresting at best, or even

Continued on next page

Photo Notes

Publisher:	Park West Camera Club
Editor:	Chuck Pine
Committee:	Evelyne Appel, Madeleine Barbara, Ann Broder, Renée Harper, Gladys Hopkowitz, Hedy Klein, Helen Pine, Puneet Sood, and Julie Wosk
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President's Message

(continued)



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boring, or maybe nonexistent. Sometimes the subject is fine, the technique is good, but the composition is less than ideal. And at other times, the image may be flat when shadows are called for, or it might have an unpleasant color cast, or something else.

To get to the point, we have all seen, and created, good photos that have successfully achieved one of these concepts. We get them every month in our Club competitions. We've even seen and made images that combine two of these three concepts (technique & content, content & composition, or technique & composition).

But how often is it that we make, or even see, an image that combines all three of the key concepts? Every once in a while would be my guess. But

when it does come along, we just know it!

It is always our intention (or it should be) to combine the most suitable techniques, with the best rules of composition, for our interesting and most meaningful content. Our knowledge of these goals makes us photographers and not just snap shooters. Our striving to achieve these goals keeps us improving our art and our craft. After all, it is only when everything comes together that we can produce those truly once-or-twice-in-a-lifetime outstanding images.

The same is true of PWCC, or any organization for that matter. The Club is made up of members. The members work together in committees. The committees come together to make the organization the best it can be.

With your support, with your ideas, with your efforts, PWCC has risen to its position as one of the best, most active, camera clubs around. With your continued participation and enthusiasm, we will be able to continue, prosper and grow as a Club.

Here's to another great year of photography.

All the best wishes for a happy, healthy, and prosperous (photographically speaking) new year,

Chuck

Monitor Give-Away



ViewSonic VG2755-2K 27" 16:9 IPS Monitor

It has...

- 27" LCD anti-glare matte display
- 2560 x 1440 pixel (QHD) resolution
- 16:9 aspect ratio
- 1000:1 contrast ratio
- 250 nits brightness
- 16.7 million colors
- USB Type-C, HDMI, USB Type-A, and DisplayPort inputs
- USB-A 3-port hub
- 2 x 2-watt speakers
- height, tilt, rotate, and swivel adjustments
- weight (with stand) 15.2 pounds
- compatible with both Mac and Windows

Current price: \$309.99
(at B&H and Amazon)

Contact Chuck
(646) 549-0187
<bohpin@aol.com>

You must come, get it, and take it!

2025 - 2026 Schedule

Sep

- 1 No Meeting—Labor Day
- 8 Welcome Back *
- 15 Guest Speaker
- 22 No Meeting—Rosh Hashanah
- 29 Business Meeting #1

Oct

- 6 Competition #1
- 13 Workshop—Composition *
- 20 Guest Speaker
- 27 Theme—Halloween & Fall *

Nov

- 3 Competition #2
- 10 Mini Portfolio Night *
- 17 Guest Speaker
- 24 Business Meeting #2

Dec

- 1 Competition #3
- 8 Workshop—Macro and Close-Up
- 15 Guest Speaker
- 22 Holiday Party
- 29 No Meeting—Holiday Break

Jan

- 5 Competition #4
- 12 You Be the Judge—Bridges *
- 19 Guest Speaker/MLK Day
- 26 Vendor Night

Feb

- 2 Competition #5
- 9 Before & After *
- 16 Guest Speaker/President Day
- 23 Interpretations *

Mar

- 2 Competition #6
- 9 Workshop—Manipulation
- 16 Guest Speaker
- 23 Theme Night—Macro and Close-Up *
- 30 Business Meeting #3

Apr

- 6 Competition #7
- 13 Before & After—Color/B&W *
- 20 Guest Speaker
- 27 You Be the Judge—At the Museum *

May

- 4 Competition #8
- 11 Guest Speaker
- 14 ExpVis 32—Intro
- 18 Business Meeting #4
- 25 No Meeting—Memorial Day
- 28 ExpVis 32—Assignment #1

Jun

- 1 Year End Competition
- 4 ExpVis 32—Assignment #2
- 8 Otto Litzel Memorial Dinner
- 11 ExpVis 32—Assignment #3
- 15 ExCom Meeting
- 18 ExpVis 32—Assignment #4
- 22 Year-Long Project
- 25 ExpVis 32—Term Project
- 29 No Meeting

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.”

* indicates members’ images requested

Chuck Pine Picnic

This year, Park West Camera Club's annual Labor Day Picnic, in honor of President, Chuck Pine, is scheduled for Sunday of the Labor Day weekend, August 31st. The site is atop the Westminster apartment building—the home of long-time PWCC member, Gladys Hopkowitz.

The Westminster is located on the southeast corner of 7th Avenue and West 20th Street, in Chelsea. The address is 180 West 20th Street.



The roof affords views of the City in all directions plus wide-open views of Jersey—great for sunsets. There are seating options, and, did I mention, the great views? And, just in case of rain, there is an indoor party room on the ground floor.

Getting to the Westminster is easy. The closest subway stop is the 18th Street station

on the #1 line. Also within a few minutes' walk are more than a half-dozen other lines. A plethora of buses are also available should you prefer to remain above ground.

This year the Club Picnic will be a B.Y.O. affair! If you don't know, BYO stands for "bring your own." The Club will not be providing any food or drink again this year. You must bring your own!!!



Bring a sandwich from home or pick one up from Subway, or a deli, or a your favorite supermarket. Bring a box of fried chicken from KFC, Popeye's, or any other cluckin' store. A slice or two might not be a bad idea. Burgers and fries, anyone? The choices are almost endless. Don't forget your side dish, appetizer, dessert, drinks, etc.

If you'd like to bring something to share with the group—a box of cookies, a bag of chips, a bottle of wine, a six-pack of beer or soda, whatever, (at your own expense) feel free to do so.

Space is limited! Only 35 or so PWCC members and their guests can be accommodated. A list must be provided for the doorman. Therefore, we request that you reserve your spot(s) at the picnic via e-mail to us at



<pwccny@gmail.com> This is on a first come, first admitted basis.

You may start arriving around 5 p.m. You may come anytime after 5 if you've got other things to do. We'll keep the party going 'til 8 p.m. or so. (Sunset is at 7:29 p.m.)

There will be lots to do, or not. You can sit around and chat with, and get to better know, your fellow PWCC members. You may start or join in on a photo discussion—consider it an off-the-cuff workshop. You can take a field trip around the neighborhood; maybe even take a few photos along the way. You can shoot from the rooftop vantage points all around the building.

Oh, by the way, there is no cost to attend—IT'S FREE!!!

Night Photo Tips

Spread out through this issue. of *Photo Notes* are a bunch of tips for shooting nighttime photos. Many of them come from past sessions of Chuck's *Expanding Visions* classes.

Read them,... try them out,... and enjoy!

Renewal Time Is Here!

Welcome back to another year of Park West photography programs. Your membership brings with it a complement of rights and privileges. These include participation in Club competitions and admittance to all our Zoom meetings.

Club dues for the 2025-26 year are \$60 per person—*this includes the Club's honorary life members*. As usual, the ExCom will consider requests for a reduction of dues for those who request it.



Please pay your \$60 Club dues by September 30th, 2025. Make your check or money order (no cash in the mail, please) payable to PWCC. Cover your check/money order with a folded sheet of plain paper, seal it in an envelope, and mail it to our Membership Co-Chair...

Marlene Schonbrun
315 Riverside Drive, # 5E
New York, NY 10025

You may also send your \$60 payment using Zelle. Send the funds to <jnawy1@gmail.com> and it will be deposited in the Club's account.

Portfolios Wanted

Photo Notes, your monthly Park West Camera Club newsletter, is looking for portfolios of members' work. Newly shot work—of course! Old images from your archives—why not? Anything else you'd like to share—fine!



Please submit anywhere from a half dozen to ten files on a concise theme.

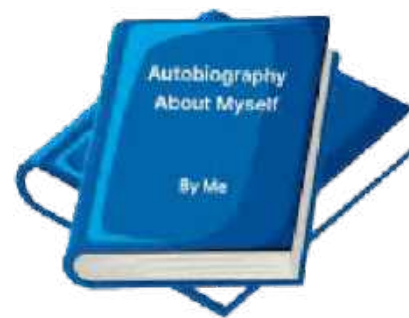
Images must be processed as if they were to be entered into a competition. [See page 7 for instructions on resolution, sizing, format, etc.] Include a short write-up (who, what, where, when) with each and every submission—spelling, grammar, and the rest don't count. We edit your words, not your images.

Even if you've submitted work in the past, we always want to see new and creative photography.



Member Bios

New Park West Camera Club members are invited to submit a short biography to help the rest of us to get to know you better. The Club's Membership Committee will be glad to help you with this task.



We also would like to ask our not-so-new Park West members to do the same. Tell us about yourself, what you like to shoot, your background and history in photography, and whatever you think would be of interest your fellow Club members and friends.



Please send us a photo of yourself and three or four of your favorite images to go with the mini bio. Send your submissions to *Photo Notes* at <pwccny@aol.com>

Zooming

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

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

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

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

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.

Pop-Up Trips

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

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

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

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

Submitting Images

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

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



Competition images must be titled as follows:

LastNameFirstInitial_Month
Year_Title.jpg

for example

JonesM_Jan23_Flower.jpg



Other images should be titled as follows:

Name_Number_Title

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

for example

MaryJ_07_Flower





Sunshine Fund

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

Long-time Club member Natalie Manzino has volun-

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

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

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

917-757-7086

<bklynnat@hotmail.com>



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.



PWCC Image Deadlines

<u>Event</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>	<u>Event Date</u>
Basic Composition	Aug. 15th	Oct. 13th
Welcome Back	Sep. 6th	Sep. 8th
Competition #1	Sep. 29th	Oct. 6th
Halloween/Fall	Oct. 25th	Oct. 27th
Competition #2	Octo. 27th	Nov. 3rd

Club Participation Nites

This coming year there will be 11 Monday night programs, (not including our monthly competitions) that require Club members to participate. Here's a quick rundown on these fun and educational activities...



- September 8th—*Welcome Back* What'd you do over the summer months? Share up to 10 images to tell your story. Entry deadline: September 6th.

- October 13th—Chuck Pine will be presenting a program on *Photographic Composition*. He would like to use your images to demonstrate the techniques. Entry deadline: mid August.

- October 27th—*Theme Night: Halloween & Fall* There's lots happening this time of year—from colorful leaves to ghosts and goblins. Show us how you interpret this season. Limit of 10 images, please. Entry deadline: October 25th.

- November 10th—*Mini Portfolio Night* Five Club members will volunteer to share a small portfolio of images on a single theme. They will explain their

concepts and then answer questions from the members. Participants will be selected in early October. Entry deadline: November 8th.

- December 8th—*Theme Night: Landscapes* Deserts, mountains, coastlines and more all fit the definition of landscapes. Use your imagination to interpret this theme as you see fit. You may submit up to 10 images. Entry deadline: December 6th.



- January 12th—*You Be the Judge: Bridges* You may submit one image pertaining to the subject that has never been seen at any previous Club function. You may interpret the topic however you wish. Each entry will be commented on and scored by all participating Club members. Entry deadline: December 12th.

- February 9th—*Before and After* We are always asking other photographers, "How did you do that?" Tonight we will 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. Entry deadline: February 7th.

February 23rd—*Interpretations* The Club will provide the base images. The members will alter them in any way they see fit. Let your imagination and software skills be limitless. Entry deadline: February 21st.

- March 23rd—*Competition with a Theme: TBA* You asked for it, you got it! Just like our monthly competitions, you will be able to submit 2 images that adhere to the theme. We'll hire a judge to critique all the images and score them (but the scores won't count towards our yearly totals). Entry deadline: March 16th.

- April 13th—*Before and After: Color to Black & White* For this assignment you will share one of your favorite fully processed color images and then how you turned it into a B&W masterpiece. Entry deadline: April 11th.

- April 27th—*You Be the Judge: At the Museum* You may enter one image from or about any museum as long as it has never been seen at any previous Club activity. Each entry will be commented on and scored by participating Club members. Entry deadline: March 27th.

PDI Workshops

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

Print Salon

by Jeff Langford

The Print Salon has been dormant for the summer break but will recommence on September 9th at 4:30 p.m. (the location will be announced to interested PWCC members). At this first meeting, we plan on discussing printing issues relating to the subject of tonal values and light contrast. Each member is asked to bring some of their recent work that fits this general theme.



Generally, the Salon meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Park West Camera Club members who are interested in enhancing the quality of their printed images, whether from their own home printers or via a professional print service, are welcome.

If you are interested in joining the Club's Print Salon, please contact Betsy Currier at [<edcurrier7@gmail.com>](mailto:edcurrier7@gmail.com)

Hope to see you soon.



3-2-1

The 3-2-1 Rule is a digital data protection strategy that states:



- have **3** copies of your image files;



- stored on **2** different types of media;



- with **1** copy kept in a different location.

Night Photo Tips

Set your camera's White Balance to *daylight*. It will make your skies appear as a deep and rich blue color. It also will render any bright artificial lights with a warm yellow tinge.



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

Nostalgia



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.

Nine curtain raisers will be needed for the Club program next year. We'll be looking for volunteer presenters shortly.

See page 37 in this issue of *Photo Notes* for more info.



September Birthdays

by Natalie Manzino

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

Ann Broder
Renée Harper
Susan Rauch



Committee Liaisons

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

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

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

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

Inactive Committees

Archive
Field Trip
Gallery
House
Social



Photo Notes Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
September	Aug 18th
October	Oct 6th
November	Nov 3rd
December	Dec 1st
January	Jan 5th
February	Feb 2nd
March	Mar 2nd
April	Apr 6th
May	May 4th
Summer	Jun 1st

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>



We Asked, You Answered, We Acted!

Back on June 5th, the Club's Executive Committee granted authorization to Helen Pine, our Corresponding Secretary, to email a questionnaire to the membership requesting any comments about our yearly activities as well as the chance to make suggestions for future programs. The topics on the agenda included—monthly competitions, theme nights, guest speakers, You Be the Judge, field trips, and other.

We received 20 responses from our members, almost 25%



of the Club, many of them from some of our newer Park Westers. (According to our research, this is an excellent response to a survey.)

Thank you to all who wrote back to us.

The ExCom met again to incorporate many of these comments and suggestions for the coming year's programs.

Here are some of the changes you can look forward to...

- two of our competitions will have themes (the other six will remain "open")
- the "Guidelines" we send out to our monthly judges has been revised in order to help speed things up
- we have met with several Club volunteers and have planned photographic field trips for the first few months of the new PWCC season
- we have adopted many of your suggestions for theme nights, You Be the Judge, and other member participation nights

Thank You So Much

The following email (more or less) was sent by Club president, Chuck Pine, to many of our members...

Good Morning PWCC Members, Family, and Friends,

Thank you so much for coming last night to Park West Camera Club's Annual Otto Litzel Memorial Year-End Dinner and making it such a great success. (Whew, that's a real mouthful!)

We had 47 attendees. We were able to meet each other in person—many for the first time. It was quite a change from those little boxes at a

Zoom meeting. (By the way, we'll have more opportunities to do so during our summer schedule of every-other-week in-person meetings.)

The setting was perfect with plenty of room for us to move around, mingle, and chat. The food was tasty and quite plentiful. And the service was top-notch.

I hope you enjoyed the evening as much as I did.

*Thanks, again, for your participation,
Chuck*

Here are some responses...

*Thank you. Chuck. Nice time.
~Richard Gold*

A lovely evening indeed...and lots of good conversations! Cafe Arte was the perfect venue. ~Betsy Currier

*I thought it was an excellent evening as I got to meet the newer members as well as connect to our members whom I don't see very often. It was great exchanging hugs. I agree the service was excellent and the food ok. Glad that I came.
~Marlene Schonbrun*

*Thanks again for all the hard work you and the Executive Board do to make our Club so much fun. It was also nice to actually see everyone in person.
~Myron Galef*



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)

Night Photo Tips

A flash attachment, including the one built into the camera, has a limited range and has no effect on distant subjects. Unless you're trying to light up a person or thing in the foreground, turn it off.



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 over three years ago and so far we have posted over 750 images and have amassed more than 535 followers. 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 whose creators give us their permission to post. To protect our work, we have employed settings that prevent others from stealing our images or profiles as their own.

If you want to create your own personal page, keep in mind that Instagram is primarily a mobile app—it's designed to be used with a smartphone or a tablet. If you use a computer, you can look at the pages ("feeds") but you won't be able to post a thing. To visit the Park West page, download the Instagram app on your phone or iPad 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, Photo-shop, Lightroom, plug-ins, and more.

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

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

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

Any questions, regarding the forums, contact me at my personal email address mrscheliff@gmail.com

Thank you and enjoy the PWCC forums.

Constitution Amendment—Dissolution

The proposed amendment to the *Park West Camera Club Constitution* regarding the dissolution of the Club was tabled at the May 19th 2025 business meeting.

*Don't worry! The Club is **not** considering dissolution.* We are still a vital, exciting, and strong organization. We are, however, aware of what has happened to many other camera clubs since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic—they have failed and gone out of existence.

The tabling was initiated to enable the Executive Committee to rewrite parts of the amendment to make it more precise.

The new amendment will be voted upon at the Club's September 29th, 2025 business meeting.

Article XII Club Dissolution

Sec. 1: Should a majority of the Executive Committee conclude that the Park West Camera Club can no longer continue as a viable organization, they may call a special meeting of the Club's membership for the sole purpose of proposing dissolution of the Club. The Executive Committee must give ample prior notification and clear notice of the purpose of this meeting.

Sec. 2: At the special meeting, if two-thirds (2/3) of the members present agree that the Club should be dissolved, the Executive Committee will prepare a resolution to dissolve the Club, which then will be emailed to the full Club membership for voting.

Members will have two (2) weeks to return their email ballot. The Executive Committee will send regular reminders to members to return them. In order for the dissolution resolution to pass, three-quarters (3/4) of the Club membership must vote yes.

Sec. 3: Upon dissolution, the Executive Committee shall be responsible for the paying of all outstanding liabilities of the Club. Any and all physical property of the Club will be sold, donated, or otherwise disposed. Any money remaining in the Club's treasury will then be donated to a photography-related organization.

Images of the Month

During the 2024-2025 PWCC year we had eight monthly competitions—each one with over 80 images submitted by a total of 56 Club members.

Impressive!



Want to know what's even more impressive than these numbers alone? A different Club member won each of the Images of the Month!

*Oranges by Alec Rill
Where Are You by Carlton Johnson
Door by Albyn Davis
Union Station by Charles Levin
Sleeping Baby by Florence Forman
Abandoned Farm by Natalie Manzino.
Water Drops and Flowers by Barry Fahrer
Tube Dash by Christine Doyle*

Not enough impressiveness yet? There's more. Only one of our eight monthly winners got an award at the our Year-End Competition!



Club's Night Out

Soho Photo Gallery

Our first *Club's Night Out* summer meeting was held at the new home of Soho Photo Gallery. It's located almost as far west as you can get on 23rd Street in the Chelsea Arts District. This spacious new space is on the ground floor of the Tate Building, 539 West 23rd.

We were warmly greeted by fairly-new-Gallery-member, Chris Maliwat. When we were fully assembled (there were 14 of us in total), Chris showed us through the facility and told us about what's currently going on at the Gallery and what's in store for the coming months.

We were then given time to wander around and view the 62 winning images of SPG's 2025 National Competition which took up most of the Gallery's wall space. One of our Park West members, ExCom Member-at-Large Betsy Currier, had an image in the show, which she proudly shared with us. Another PWCC member, Marjorie Gurd, had an image on display as well.

By the way, we were glad to see that late-Gallery member Jeff Smith's *Bathroom Gallery*, was transported, in full, from the old Tribeca location and installed in the new digs.



Upon finishing our tour, five of us brought back to life an old PWCC tradition—we went out to dinner after the meeting at a local restaurant. We walked around the corner to the historic Empire Diner on 10th Avenue at 22nd Street.



The National Competition
First Place Winner
At St. Botolph
© Frances Forman



Symphony in Grey
© Betsy Currier



Family Outing
© Marjorie Gurd

Expanding Visions 31

Classical Elements

This year's Expanding Visions class, the 31st, was all about the classical Greek elements—earth, water, air, and fire. The participants submitted up to five images on each of these subjects, interpreting them as they saw fit. They also showed images of bugs for the term project. Here are some of the images shared by the 28 PWCC members who took the class...



Earth
© Evelyne Appel



Earth
© Hedy Klein



Earth
© Dinorah Capota



Earth
© Elayne Dix



Earth
© Christine Doyle



Earth
© Pat Garbarini

Continued on next page



Earth
© Richard Gold



Earth
© Mike Schleiff



Earth
© Alice Somma



Water
© Bonnie Dubin



Water
© Evelyne Appel



Water
© Betsy Currier



Water
© Elayne Dix

Continued on next page



Water
© Sonia Durante



Water
© Pat Garbarini



Water
© Julie Foehrenbach



Water
© Jill Greiss



Water
© Marlene Schonbrun



Water
© Helen Pine



Water
© Lilette Hubilla

Continued on next page



Water
© Catherine Smith



Water
© Janet Susin



Air
© Richard Gold



Air
© Allan Lauer



Air
© Jill Greiss



Air
© Doris King



Air
© Elena Pierpont

Continued on next page



Fire
© Steve Mullen



Air
© Peggy Winkelman



Air
© Marlene Schonbrun



Fire
© Christine Doyle



Fire
© Bruce Byers



Fire
© Doris King



Air
© Catherine Smith

Continued on next page



Fire
© Helen Pine



Fire
© Peggy Winkelman



Fire
© Elena Pierpont



Bugs
© Sonia Durante



Bugs
© David Miller



Bugs
© Dinorah Capota



Bugs
© Lilette Hubilla

Continued on next page



Bugs
© Hedy Klein



Bugs
© Mike Schleiff



Bugs
© Janet Susin

AI Gone Wild

Artificial Intelligence has worked its way into our photography. Just look at Topaz or DxO software, or even Photoshop. All boast some form of AI to help photographers improve their images. But it does not stop there!

“Text-to-image generation” is everywhere. Just type in a few words and the program puts out image files that it has combined from searching the internet.

For example, *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Johannes Vermeer [see above] can become whatever you type into the program [see below].



The question we have to ask ourselves, “Is it art?” Or, better yet, “Should these kinds of images be permitted in Club competitions?”

What do you think?

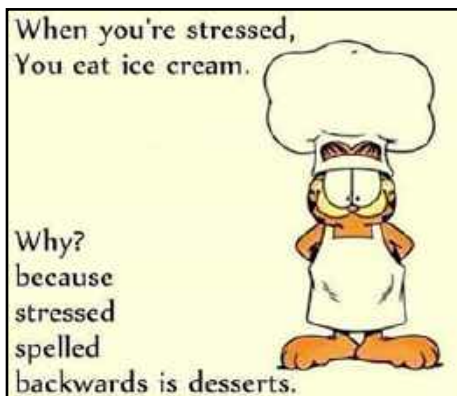
Night Photo Tips

Use a tripod! Absolute stillness is required to get the best of the slow shutter speeds you’ll be using in the low light conditions. It’s the best way to guarantee tack sharp shots.



Club's Night Out

*Ice Cream Party and Shoot...
at Brooklyn Bridge Park*



Our second *Club's Night Out* summer meeting was held at the Van Leeuwen Scoop Shop in Brooklyn Bridge Park in the shadow of the old bridge. We had a fair attendance of 16 hardy souls—11 members, two spouses, two kids, and one guest, (who has since joined the Club)—willing to come out on this hot and steamy summer night. (The free ice cream offer helped the situation—it was free to all attendees, but the Club actually paid the bill.)

Our group arrived by ferry, by subway, and by car in order to enjoy one or two scoops of their favorite flavor(s), in a cup or atop a cone, with any of the two dozen or so toppings.

Yummy!

Of course, the ice cream wasn't the only attraction of the evening—the photography was a big part, too. And to show you what I mean, here are some of our members' images to tell the story...



Brooklyn Bridge Park
©2025 Helen Pine



8 Old Fulton Street
©2025 Marlene Schonbrun



Bridge Shoot
©2025 Sonia Durante



Sailboat
©2025 Chuck Pine



Brooklyn Bridge Flag
©2025 Sonia Durante



Brooklyn Bridge Park
©2025 Helen Pine



B&W Furman Street
©2025 Marlene Schonbrun



Mushroom Cluster
©2025 Chuck Pine

Winter Forecast

The Farmers' Almanac for winter 2025-2026 is predicting a season of cold and snow across the US. They forecast "Chill, Snow, Repeat" weather. The cold and snow will stretch from the Northern Plains to New England (including the NYC metropolitan area).

Are your cameras, lenses, and other photo gear ready for the big chill?



La Seine

by Evelyne Appel

The Seine River starts her journey on the Plateau de Langres, 180 miles south of Paris. She then enters her beloved Paris and creates two islands. The Ile Saint-Louis and the Ile de la Cité (home to the most renowned cathedral, Notre Dame de Paris) and to the Conciergerie (a prison during the French Revolution in 1789).

Marie Antoinette and King Louis XVI spent their last days in the Conciergerie, before losing their heads on Place de la Bastille. L'Ile de la Cité is also home to La Sainte Chapelle where you can admire the most beautiful stained glass windows.

Take a ride on the bateau mouche (small boat) and meet the Statue of Liberty who has a date with the Eiffel Tower. (It is a montage, two slides mounted together.)

The Seine leaves Paris and flows north toward Normandy. Splendid scenic views along the way, recorded by the famous impressionist painters Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro, and Paul Cézanne.

She ends her odyssey in the English Channel between Le Havre and Honfleur.

I remember a French singer who sang: "La Seine is in love and her lover is Paris"



All images
© Evelyne Appel



Club's Night Out

Model Shoot...

in Carl Schurz Park

Our third *Club's Night Out* summer meeting was held in Carl Schurz Park in Yorkville, on Manhattan's Upper East Side. We had a fair attendance of 15 Club members and two guests. The weather was quite cooperative with moderate temps and a slight breeze from the East River.

Our evening's model, Pearls Daily, came with two changes of costume, and posed in three different settings.

The model shoot was only slightly interrupted by one curious family that included four adorable and similarly-attired kids.

Here are some of our many images from the evening...



©2025 Chuck Pine



©2025 Flo Forman



©2025 Larry Rubin



©2025 Allan Lauer



©2025 Charles Levin



©2025 Helen Pine



©2025 Flo Forman



©2025 Peggy Winkelman



©2025 Helen Pine



©2025 Chuck Pine



©2025 Chuck Pine



©2025 Peggy Winkelman

Member Portfolio

Variation on a Theme

Following on the heels of the Club's model shoot in Carl Schurz Park, long-time PWCC member and the Club's Corresponding Secretary, Helen Pine, based this portfolio on one of her images of model Pearls Daily. She then used an assortment of software programs and filters to come up with all of these (and many more) variations on her theme...



To achieve her plethora of effects Helen used...

- Photoshop
- Nik Silver Efex
- Topaz Labs' Photo AI

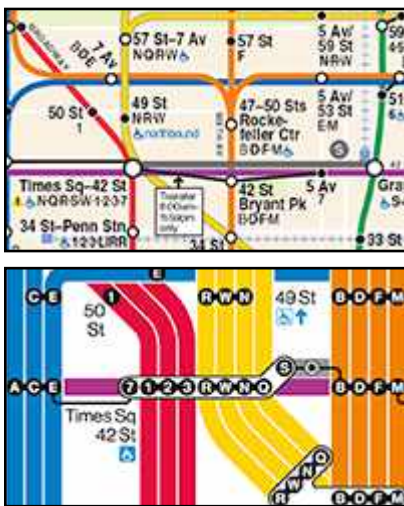
All Images
©2025 Helen Pine

Getting Around Town

The MTA (the Metropolitan Transportation Authority) has recently published new maps of their entire infrastructure. They are all in full color and are packed with all sorts of information. They can be downloaded to your tablet, computer, or phone; just go to www.mta.info/maps

The subway system comes in two different formats...

- a geographic map—this is what you probably recall from your youth (if you grew up in the metro area); the subway routes are atop an actual map of the City
- a diagram—this is new; all the routes are here, but the map is not a true layout of the City; it is redrawn to fit in more information and to make it easier to read.



Each format has three maps or diagrams—typical weekday service, late night service, and weekend service.

Want to stay above ground for your travels through the Big Apple? The MTA also has brand new maps of their bus routes for four of the five boroughs—Manhattan, The Bronx, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. (The Queens Bus Map is temporarily unavailable while the MTA redesigns the entire Queens bus network.)

Forever Costs More

As of July 13th this summer, the USPS raised the price of its first class Forever stamps by a nickel each. The cost is now 78¢ per stamp. This puts the price of a 20-stamp booklet of Forever stamps at \$15.60.

This is why the Club has decided to send E-cards rather than physical paper cards to commemorate our members' birthdays, anniversaries, illnesses, and other events.



PSA for Kids

The Photographic Society of America has launched a two-year student membership program to support and inspire young shooters. It's all digital,... and it's free!

This membership is available to photographers who are currently enrolled in school—middle school, high school, or college—and can provide a valid student ID.



PSA is proud to offer this membership as part of their commitment to foster the next generation of our photographers.

Fabulous



Fabulous Friday in Vermont
©2025 Will Aimesbury

Club's Night Out



Sunset Cruise

Our fourth *Club's Night Out* summer meeting was held aboard a Circle Line ship as we cruised through the New York Harbor. The weather was quite cooperative, and so was the sunset, as we photographed the sights of the City and the Statue of Liberty in all her green glory.

Of the 562 passengers on board the boat 22 were from our Camera Club (18 members and 4 spouses). We all had a wonderful time.

Here are some of our shots from this adventure....



City Lights
©2025 Helen Pine



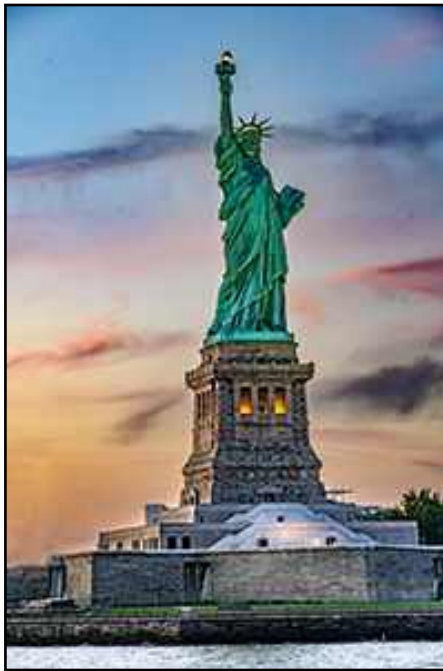
Lady Liberty
©2025 Charles Levin



Untitled
©2025 Bruce Byers



All Lit Up
©2025 Chuck Pine



Untitled
©2025 Flo Forman



Statue Sunset
©2025 Chuck Pine



Untitled
©2025 Elayne Dix



Untitled
©2025 Jeff Langford



Untitled
©2025 Marlene Schonbrun



Smoke Stacks
©2025 Sonia Durante



Untitled
©2025 Raylie Dunkel



Untitled
©2025 Daryl Corcoran



Untitled
©2025 Janet Susin



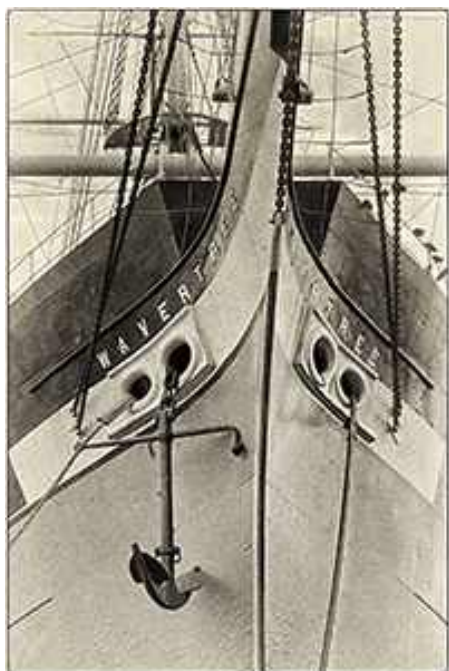
Untitled
©2025 Karen Corrigan



Untitled
©2025 Marlene Schonbrun



Untitled
©2025 Peggy Winkelman



Wavertree
©2025 Helen Pine



Untitled
©2025 Daryl Corcoran



Untitled
©2025 Karen Corrigan



Untitled
©2025 Bruce Byers



Untitled
©2025 Flo Forman



Untitled
©2025 Peggy Winkelman



Sunset
©2025 Sonia Durante



Untitled
©2025 Elayne Dix



Untitled
©2025 Raylie Dunkel



Untitled
©2025 Jeff Langford



Untitled
©2025 Janet Susin

Never Ending Darkness

by Alec Rill

For me there is nothing like capturing human emotion and telling stories about people in their environments—also known as street photography.

I am delighted to share with you the story and pictures from my trip to Cuba last year. You can read the article and see the photos by going to [Street Photography Magazine](#) and clicking on the image titled *The Darkness that Never Ends*.

Street photography today is booming. There are many outlets that cater to this ever-growing community, so quality is mixed. *Street Photography Magazine* stands out for the quality of their content which includes articles, photography, interviews, etc. If you want to follow street photography, I recommend this magazine.

If you are not a subscriber you can see one article for free. Then you can decide if you want to subscribe.

I hope you enjoy it!

Your feedback is important to me so feel free to contact me <alecrill@gmail.com> with your comments, observations, and so forth.



Cuban Dogs Barking in Spanish
©2024 Alec Rill

Around Town

by Jay Bitkower

This month, I recommend seeing *The Great Acceleration* at the International Center of Photography (ICP). It is an exposition of some 70 prints by Edward Burtynsky. There are two preternatural features of Burtynsky's work. First, many are taken from high in the sky from a helicopter or drone. Second, they often illustrate the environmental degradation of the scene caused by human activity. Interestingly, though, the setting can often be quite attractive, especially in his large-scale prints.

Burtynsky was born in a small city on Lake Ontario, not far from Toronto, where he currently lives. Edward started photographing at age 11 when a neighbor died and Burtynsky's father, who was of Ukrainian heritage, bought the deceased man's camera gear, including one roll of Tri-X film, and gave it to his son. His father made it clear that he wasn't going to subsidize this hobby. So, Edward started shooting mostly landscapes and selling them at the local Ukrainian community center for 50 cents apiece.

Burtynsky later studied photography at Ryerson University in Toronto. He cites Ansel Adams and Edward Weston as early influences in



© Edward Burtynsky

his career. Now, the 70-year old's large-scale prints are shot with a Hasselblad 100 camera and can sell for more than \$25,000 apiece.

ICP is located at 84 Ludlow Street. Hours: Wednesday-Monday, 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. (Thursday til 8 p.m.) 212-857-9700

Let me know if you would like to see the exhibit as a group <jellenbit@gmail.com>

On different subject, the Soho Gallery is featuring Kristina Trudorudo, Allyson Ely, Alan Chimacoff, Raphael Senzamici, Peter Agron, Stephanie Slate, and Arnie Kastenbaum through September 14th. The Gallery's new home is at 539 West 23rd Street, just west of the High Line and convenient to the M23-SBS bus. Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 12 p.m.-6 p.m.; (Thursday til 8 p.m.) 212-226-8571

iPhone Quick Tip

Want to see the most recent photo you've taken? It's a snap (sorry for the pun)...



1. Tap the **Photos** app icon, but do not lift your finger.
2. Without lifting your finger, slide it to **Most Recent**. Now, you can lift your finger.
3. Your most recent photo will pop open.

Night Photo Tips

If shooting moving vehicles' light trails, try shooting at dusk, to retain some color in the sky. You'll find this adds interest to the shot. An exposure of around 15 seconds usually does the trick.



PWCC at Sierra Photo

Five of our Park West members participated in the Sierra Club Photography Committee's members' night back on June 10th. They were among the 22 Sierrans who shared eight of their nature-based photos with the group. Here are some of our members' images...



© Pat Garbarini



© Chuck Pine



© Helen Pine



© Marilyn Thypin



© Justine Carson

Curtain Raisers

Park West Camera Club has nine guest photographers scheduled to present to us this coming year—one each and every month from September through May. And, prior to each guest's presentation, we start the meeting with a short program by a Club member. We call these *Curtain Raisers*.



Basically, a curtain raiser is a digital slide show of less than five minutes. Yours can have a theme,... or not. It can have a sound track (narration and/or music),... or not. But, please, you must not go over the five minute limit!!!

If you are interested, send an email to Helen Pine, our Corresponding Secretary, at [<pwccny@gmail.com>](mailto:pwccny@gmail.com) Let her know which month(s) are best for you. (Check the schedule on page 4 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for the exact dates.)



Cairngorms Life

David Miller, our Club member in Scotland, publishes a monthly blog of images depicting his life in the highlands. Check it out at [<www.cairngormslife.com>](http://www.cairngormslife.com)



You always hope for great Foxgloves to grow straight and tall, this one went a bit off course at the top.



All images
© David Miller



Holly is growing on with such rich colours and so soft—not the angry winter plant that stabs me every time I walk past it.



The seed head of one of the many Aquileagis in our garden.

Connecticut Threesome

by Marlene Schonbrun

Ann Broder's son has a 2nd home in West Cornwall, CT, and I've been fortunate to get an invite from time to time. Natalie Manzino joined us this last time.

Before Natalie arrived, Ann and I experimented with macro photography for a full day. I must admit, it's not an easy genre, even with all the right equipment.

As you can see from these photos from the three of us, we did a lot of photographing in and around Cornwall. On one of our excursions, we went to a nature preserve called the Little Pond Boardwalk. It is located in Litchfield. It was so hot and humid that day that the boardwalk around the wetlands seemed endless even though it was a mere 1.2 miles!

No shade and very high humidity forced Ann and me to go back to the car and turn on the AC. Natalie, however, seemed undeterred by any discomforts and took lots of photos. She's a real trooper!

It's always special being out in nature with friends. We had a really great time!

I look forward to visiting that area in the Fall or Winter.

Here are some of the many photos we shot...



Photographed by a Stranger



©2025 Marlene Scchonbrun



©2025 Ann Broder



©2025 Natalie Manzino



“Street” Photography

by Charles Levin

Four Park West Camera Club members (Betsy Currier, Christine Doyle, Jeff Langford, and Charles Levin) will present a group show at Enoch’s Coffeehouse from September 17th to October 1st.

On The Street/Off The Street will explore different perspectives of street photography.

In *The Iron Triangle*, Betsy takes us to Willets Point, a gritty industrial neighborhood in Queens. Christine’s images give us an historic perspective of one of Manhattan’s most changed neighborhoods in *Before there was a Hudson Yards...* Jeff takes us below streets in *New York Underground*, a look at subway life. For *On The Corner*, Charles plays fly on the wall at his favorite intersection in Manhattan’s SoHo neighborhood.

Enoch’s is located at 480 10th Avenue (at 37th Street) in Manhattan’s Hudson Yards neighborhood. It is open seven days a week: weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and weekends from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Join us for a reception on Friday, September 19th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



127th & Willets Pt. Blvd.
© Betsy Currier



Hudson Yards Rising
© Christine Doyle



Running for the Bus
© Jeff Langford



SoHo Gal
© Charles Levin



Park West is a member of NYMACC (New York Metro Area Camera Council, Inc.)—an umbrella group for camera clubs and photographers in the New York metropolitan area. Its last monthly meeting was held on July 8th. (There was no representation from PWCC at this meeting.)

The next NYMACC Zoom meeting is scheduled for the 9th of September at 7 p.m. All Park West members are invited to attend to see what goes on in the group. If you would like to attend this Zoom event, write to this email for the link [<deborah.NYMACC@gmail.com>](mailto:deborah.NYMACC@gmail.com)

Night Photo Tips

Try shooting with the shutter speed set to Bulb (B). In this case, the aperture opens once the shutter button is pushed and stays open until you let it go. The bulb setting is often found when the camera is set to manual exposure mode.



Hill Street Gallery

The Hill Street Gallery, located at 65 Hill Street in the upstate town of Catskill, is owned and operated by Park West Camera Club member Bruce Byers.

Bruce was awarded a grant from Greene County to create a series of portraits of the people of Catskill. This is what Bruce has to say about this project...

Over the next few weeks, I'll be setting up a gallery space featuring a selection of my portrait work spanning the past 50 years. Visitors will be invited to have their portraits taken on-site using a backdrop setup, and I'll also be photographing people in their homes and places of work to create environmental portraits.

As the project unfolds, new portraits will be added to the gallery walls in real time, gradually building a living, growing exhibition. The goal is to create a compelling portrait of the community, culminating in a book of the images.

Some of the work will be made using 4x5" black-and-white paper negatives—a technique I've been using with my Speed Graphic camera since the 1960s. It's a bit of a blast from the past, and I'm

excited to incorporate that timeless process into this new body of work.

It should be a rich and diverse collection—honest portraits of Catskill as it is today, seen through the lens of someone who's been looking through cameras for over six decades.



I would love to invite Club members to venture up to Catskill and get their portraits taken. I know many are not from Catskill, but the portraits would be taken in Catskill so I think that counts. As always the more the merrier and you never know what will end up in front of the camera.

Online Gallery
Workshops
Book sales
Instagram
Phone

[<www.hillstreetgallery.com>](http://www.hillstreetgallery.com)
[<www.cameraodysseys.com>](http://www.cameraodysseys.com)
[<www.brucebyers.com>](http://www.brucebyers.com)
[@hillstreetgallerycatskill](https://www.instagram.com/hillstreetgallerycatskill)
(917) 992-1453

Van Gogh at NYBG

by Dinorah Capota

You've seen the paintings, now see them come to life in a way that only New York Botanical Garden can deliver—and let Vincent van Gogh's world of art and nature envelop you in a vibrant daydream during this celebration of the world acclaimed painter.

NYBG becomes the canvas for the colorful brushstrokes of one of the world's most revered artists during *Van Gogh's Flowers*, where you will revel in the beauty that inspired his iconic paintings. Find yourself immersed in botanical displays and large-scale art as you wander through a breathtaking lawn of monumental sunflowers, and see the expressive masterpieces bloom in recreations made of living flowers.

This exhibit runs through October 26 and is open daily from 10 a.m.–6 p.m.



All images
©2025 Dinorah Capota





About (Y)our Website

by Michael Schleiff

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

- Home Page—This is our face to the Internet world. On it is a listing of all the latest news and upcoming schedule of events. We highlight the latest competition winners in a continual loop for everyone to see. In addition, there's a direct link to the latest edition of *Photo Notes*. New issues are uploaded immediately upon their release each month. Finally, under the masthead, there is a menu area that lists 12 different areas of various Club info, some of which are:
- Newsletters—10 years of past *Photo Notes* are available online and may be downloaded.
- Organization—features the latest PDF files containing membership information including the PWCC Constitution and Bylaws. In addition, there is a "Resource Link" submenu. Listed here are web links to various imaging-related websites. Included are sites offering Photoshop and Lightroom help. We are always looking to add links, so if you have any photography-related websites that you would like to add, please contact us.
- Competition Manual & Labels—this is where the Monthly Judging Guidelines and Competition Manual are to be found. The Competition Manual includes detailed specifications on presenting PDI images for entry into competitions.
- Member Galleries—are available to show your work on the web. They can be accessed in the Member Galleries Menu or directly from any web browser by searching Park West Camera Club and your name. Instructions for setting up a gallery may be found at the first dropdown in the Club Members Galleries menu "Instructions to Create a Members Gallery." If you have any questions, please follow up with the website committee.
- How-to Videos, Notes, and Speakers—all speaker talks have been recorded and uploaded to the website. In addition, we have how-to videos covering various techniques for editing your photographs.

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

Night Photo Tips

Long exposures can drain your camera's battery—so make sure you have a fully charged spare battery, just in case you need it.



AI—Another Take

by Bill Apple

Here's a recent photograph, unaltered, that I shot with my new Pentax 17. It is the half-frame 35mm film camera that Ricoh started manufacturing nearly a year ago. It's the first new Pentax-brand camera in 20 years.

Essentially, my picture is a "grab" shot, as I passed by on Fifth Avenue—I did not want to chance this fellow's waking up. And because it's a *film* camera, I had no idea what would come out—there is no LCD screen, and its viewfinder is imprecise.

I was disappointed when I saw the scan the lab delivered this weekend (by email). An amputated limb offends my esthetics, of course. Time for reconstructive surgery. This is what happens when you work without a safety net.

(By the way, AI for my photos was my introduction to AI—a "gateway drug" really.

I use AI for virtually all my research for writing projects, and I pay for it, for unlimited use. It seldom disappoints: elephantine memory, spot-on output, brevity, and speed. As a professional writer, I would never ask AI to *write* for me, just deliver the research I tell it I need.

As for my photography, AI delivers pretty well: enhancements and additions, realistic reframing, etc.)



Here, AI helped me fill in the man's left foot, though inexplicably it also wanted to put a shoe on! Worse, a loudly patterned sock! Two requested AI re-dos did not fix them. AI has a mind of its own! Both shoe and sock demanded my own reworking in Photoshop.

Here is the result, plus my *routine* edits—not from AI—to enhance contrast, clean up foreground (leaves, debris), improve sharpness, etc. I have also reframed and cropped to include only the man's bench, omitting the right side of the original shot.

fixed the framing before moving down Fifth. AI gave me a second chance, a second bite at the apple.

Would a purist approve? Afraid not! But, hey, this is the 21st century. A purist from the past—as recently as the 1980s—would likely not consider Photoshop, or digital methods generally. It's all relative; eventually everything changes with the times. I've made my peace with AI.

What do you all say?

Just axing.™



Now, is this... *cheating*?

Not really! If my Pentax had shown me results, I'd have

The End of Kodak?



Eastman Kodak, the 133-year-old photography company, is warning investors that it may not survive much longer.

The company, incorporated in 1892, traces its roots back to 1879, when George Eastman obtained his first patent. Then, in 1888, they sold their first Kodak camera for \$25. The slogan was “You push the button, we do the rest.”



First Kodak Camera

At one point in the 1970s, Kodak was responsible for 90% of film and 85% of camera sales in the United States. In 1973 Paul Simon’s hit song, *Kodachrome*, topped the charts. But all this would not last because of Kodak’s own technology. (Kodak invented the digital camera way back in 1975).

Time will only tell the end of this story.

Project Indigo

One of the enduring benefits of the smartphone revolution is that it has put a camera in everyone’s pocket—one that can reliably take good photos at the press of a button. This, combined with the ease of using the same device for editing and then sharing these photos, is amazing. In fact, despite the small size of these cameras, their photos often rival those from big cameras (DSLRs and mirrorless), with high dynamic range in bright scenes and low noise in dark scenes. In fact, camera phones seem to keep getting better and better. How?

Adobe Labs has released an app called Project Indigo. It is available for iPhone in the [Apple App Store](https://www.apple.com/app-store). It offers full manual controls, a more natural (“SLR-like”) look, and the highest image quality that computational photography can provide—in both JPEG and RAW formats. Indigo also introduces new photographic experiences not available in any other camera apps.

Indigo integrates smoothly with all Adobe’s other mobile software products.

You can read all about it...
<www.research.adobe.com/articles/indigo/indigo.html>



Project Indigo Photos...



Yardsale Bonanza

One copy of Peter Henry Emerson's groundbreaking 1886 photographic masterpiece *Life and Landscape on the Norfolk Broads* was discovered in a brown paper wrapper in a closet by a 98-year-old woman in Maryland following a house clearance. It was offered at Rosebery's Fine & Decorative Art sale on July 10th.

One of only 25 copies and with an estimate of £30,000-£50,000 (\$40,374-\$67,947), this deluxe first edition is a landmark in photographic history and early art books. Between 1885 and 1895, Emerson documented the Norfolk Broads

and Great Yarmouth area in the east of England with a distinctive style that blended documentary realism and his artistic composition. His work is paired with the lyrical prose and illustrations of artist



Thomas Frederick Goodall in what is often considered the world's first "coffee table" photography book.

The final selling price was actually £52,240 (\$70,518.78).

Wow!



Above It All

The *Macy's 4th of July Fireworks* show featured 80,000 shells launched from four barges on the East River. Most of us viewed it all on TV. Some of us braved the crowds to see, and even shoot, it from the ground.

One person, though, Filip Wolak, a photographer and small plane pilot from Poland, had a different take on the event. He was 8,000 feet above the Brooklyn bridge shooting down on the scene.

Many of his images appeared in the *New York Post*. Here's one of them...

Where to Go

Solo Travel

As photographers, we love to travel,... and take pictures. But we don't always have travel partners to drag along, help share the costs, and help carry that extra body or other lens. Not to worry!

Here are some spots for your next solo trip, all of which take into account safety, single-friendly lodgings, and many activities well-suited for a single person—especially photographers. (But you'll still have to carry your own gear.)



Quebec City, Canada



Quepos, Costa Rica



Reykjavík, Iceland



Tokyo, Japan



London, United Kingdom



Bologna, Italy



José Ignacio, Uruguay



Chiang Mai, Thailand



Fundamental Editing

"Every digital image file that comes out of a camera must be post-processed in image-editing software." These are the words we heard from just about every photography instructor, read in every book about photography, and learned in every workshop and video session we ha. And things haven't changed much in the last 25 years or so. Even shots from modern cameras putting out high quality jpegs, need to be worked on.

Here are the basic steps, in the proper order, that you should (or is that must?) follow if you want to end up with a winning image...



- Properly open the digital image file
- Crop
- Noise reduction
- Global exposure adjustment
- Set the black point on the left side of the histogram (shadows)
- Set the white point on the right side of the histogram (highlights)
- Color temperature
- Color tint
- Clarity
- Vibrance
- Color saturation
- Efex - Vignette
- Efex - Dehaze
- Localized exposure & sharpening
- Global sharpening

How many of them do you actually do?

New Films

Monopan 50

Leica has announced something that film shooters will appreciate—Monopan 50. It's a brand-new black-and-white 35mm film. It was created to mark 100 years since the Leica 1 was released in 1925. This film has ultra-fine-grain, an ISO of 50, and a sensitivity that reaches up to 780nm (giving it infrared capabilities). Leica's first film ever will cost \$10 per of 36 exposure roll and should be available by the time you read this.



Kentmere Pan 200

Harman, the company that's behind the popular Ilford and (the not-so-popular) Kentmere film brands, has pulled the wrapper off Kentmere Pan 200. It's an all-new ISO 200 black-and-white emulsion aimed squarely at shooters who crave punchy tones without punishing their wallets. This film is fast enough for handheld street work and fine-grained enough for detailed work and large prints. It is set to launch for the same price as Kentmere 100 and 400—\$7.95 for a 35mm roll of 36 exposures.

Photo Cartoons



Focusing on Feathers

Photographing birds can be quite challenging. Here are some tips that might be right up your alley...



Tip #1 – Birds flying close to you are moving quite fast

relative to your camera. Birds at a distance, however, are traveling relatively more slowly. Adjust your shutter speed to fit the situation.

Tip #2 – Birds have great hearing! The sound of the camera shooting many frames per second can make a bird nervous, scared, and want to flee. Using a single shot mode ensures that the bird will stay around for a longer time.



Tip #3 – Flying or running birds don't always move in a straight line parallel to your camera. They move in zig-zag patterns. Combine a continuous shooting mode with a continuous focusing mode in order to capture all the action.

Panorama of the Month



Below the Clouds ©2022 Chuck Pine

AI Self-Portraits

What would happen if we asked Artificial Intelligence to show us its face? That's the question a New York City creative director and artist, Michael Hess, posed in an art project using the latest AI-powered text-to-image technology. The resulting self-portraits might surprise you.

Although this technology is incredible there has been some speculation around whether AI has become self-aware.

With this in mind, Hess asked AI to reveal itself with this simple text input: "Show me your face."

Here are a few of the 100 images that resulted...



To see all of the images go to <www.michael-hess.com/portfolio/ai-self-portraits>

Tamron Trinity

A holy trinity of lenses is a complete set of lenses that cover the range of focal lengths from wide-angle through telephoto with normal in the middle. *[My first trinity included a 35mm, a 50mm, and a 135mm, all were Pentax Super-Takumar lenses for my Pentax Spotmatic body back in 1969—I was elated!]*

Tamron just completed their latest trinity of zoom lenses for mirrorless full-frame camera bodies. This G2 line includes a 16-30mm,

TAMRON
Focus on the Future

28-75mm, and 70-180mm zooms for Sony E, Nikon Z, Canon RF, and Fujifilm X mount bodies.

What's amazing about the three lenses is they all have an *f*-2.8 maximum aperture at all focal lengths, they all accept 67mm filters, they all have 9-blade irises for smooth bokeh, and they all cost under \$1,000. Talk about consistency!



Where to Go

Theme Parks

The East Coast has some of the best theme parks in the world—all of which make for great photo ops—whether you take the rides or just shoot them.



Dollywood
(Pigeon Forge, TN)



Six Flags
(Six Flags New England)
(Six Flags Great Adventure)
(Six Flags Over Georgia)



Dorney Park
(Allentown, PA)



Busch Gardens
(Busch Gardens Williamsburg)
(Busch Gardens Tampa Bay)



Kings Dominion
(Doswell, VA)



Universal Orlando Resort
(Orlando, FL)



Hersheypark
(Hershey, PA)



Walt Disney World
(Kissimmee, FL)



Adobe Updates



Adobe just released some big updates to Lightroom (Lr), Lightroom Classic (LrC), and Photoshop (Ps). Check out Matt Klosowsky's website to see videos to help you get up to speed...

<www.mattk.com>

Some of the big features are:

- Noise reduction is A LOT easier to apply now
- Remove distractions and reflections in Lightroom Classic and Lightroom
- MUCH Improved Select Background and Select Subject in Photoshop.



High Gloss



Satin/Matte

GenErase

GenErase, shorthand for the Generative Erase Tool in the Luminar Neo Photo Editor, is an advanced tool that raises the bar for erasing and refining elements in photographs. It not only removes distractions from your images, but it applies content-aware (AI) techniques to replace these elements. This process results in compositions that are focused and devoid of any distractions.

It effortlessly eliminates objects like litter, street signs, utility poles, vehicles, graffiti,

crowds, and more, preserving the beauty of your images.

Luminar Neo is available as a one-time purchase for \$119 or as a 12-month subscription for only \$69. <www.skylum.com>



Metal Prints

Printing your photos on metallic surfaces has been around, it seems like, forever. But they are becoming even more popular these days. Why? They're durable, ready to hang, and made to last. In addition, they don't need to be covered with glass, or plexi, or anything else.

Today, there are basically three kinds of metal print finishes from which to choose. They each have their plusses and minuses. Here's a run-down...

- High Gloss makes colors look deeper, bolder, and more vibrant. It's rich,

reflective, and sleek. They look best when hung in galleries or other areas with controlled lighting.

- Satin/Matte has minimal glare and brings out more sophisticated and subtle image details. It works well in areas with lots of direct sunlight. It's perfect for softer scenes, black-and-white photos, or shots with pastel colors.
- Semi-Gloss strikes an even balance between high gloss and satin finishes. It fits with most images and in most lighting situations, especially mixed lighting.

The choice is yours!

Bloom vs Gigapixel

There are times when we have to enlarge our images. Maybe they were shot with an older camera that had a low pixel count; maybe you want to zoom into a small area of a photo; or maybe you want to make a huge print from a file.

Photoshop and some other programs have limited enlarging capabilities (but they are improving). So what are you to do?

Topaz Labs has some solutions. One is *Gigapixel*. Another is the newly released program, *Bloom*.

Night Photo Tips

When shooting the moon—use the *Sunny 16 Rule*. To do this for a full moon, set the shutter speed to the same number as the ISO and set the aperture to *f*-16. For a half moon, open the aperture one stop (to *f*-11) or for a crescent moon, open up another stop (to *f*-8).



Gigapixel is an upscaler developed to recover details by adding new pixels to an image to increase its resolution and size. Some of its benefits are...

- Great for photos at low-creativity levels
- 6x upscaling
- 1 output
- 6 levels of creativity
- Prompt influence
- Texture slider
- Local or cloud processing (with Cloud Credits)
- Desktop app



Bloom is a creative upscaler developed to improve AI-generated images by upping resolution and adding detail. Some of its benefits are...

- 8x upscaling (100MP max output)
- 4 variation outputs
- 5 creativity modes + Creativity Boost
- More powerful creativity controls and prompt influence
- Cloud processing
- Web app



When to Sharpen

Post-processing our image files allows us to bring out the best parts of our images, fix any imperfections, and achieve a final look that's both appealing and striking. A very important step in this workflow is known as *sharpening*.

Sharpening is the technique that increases the contrast along the edges in an image. This accentuates details, and makes the image look clearer and more refined. (But, like any tool, if used excessively or inappropriately, it can lead to undesirable artifacts like halos or increased noise.)



The required amount of sharpening varies depending on how the image will be shown. For instance, a photo meant for the internet or for emailing needs a different (lesser) degree of sharpening than one that will be printed.

Sharpening is best done at the end of the post-processing workflow when you can make adjustments according to the intended output.



Pack It and Go

Park West members love (with a capital 'L') photography. We also love to travel. Here's a checklist you should keep next to your suitcase to make sure you don't leave anything out. You can adapt the list to fit your destination, the length of the trip, etc.

Camera Equipment:

- ☐ Camera body
- ☐ Smartphone
- ☐ Lenses
- ☐ Extra camera batteries
- ☐ Charger
- ☐ Camera strap

Storage & Backup:

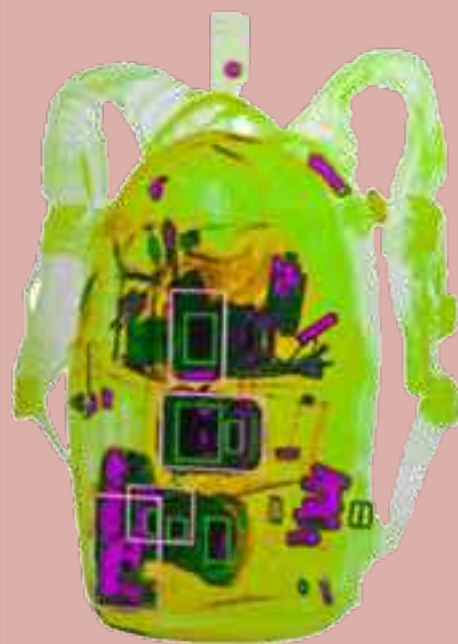
- ☐ Multiple memory cards
- ☐ Memory card case
- ☐ Card readers with USB
- ☐ Laptop with editing software
- ☐ Hard drive/USB stick

Power Solutions:

- ☐ Electricity adapters
- ☐ Power strip with surge protection

Accessories:

- ☐ Lens cleaning kit
- ☐ Lenspen
- ☐ Note pad
- ☐ Digital copy of camera manual



World Press Awards

“When the global jury got down to selecting the different contenders for Photo of the Year they started with a wide selection from each of the six regions of the world. Three topics emerged from that pool that define the 2025 World Press Photo edition: conflict, migration, and climate change. Another way of seeing them is as stories of family, resilience, and community.” as stated by Lucy Conticello, the global jury chairperson

Here are the winner and both finalists...



World Press Photo of the Year
Mahmoud Ajjour, Aged Nine
© Samar Abu Elouf



World Press Finalist
Night Crossing
© John Moore



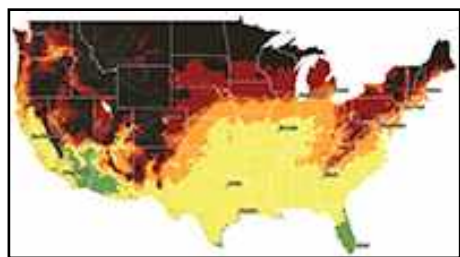
World Press Finalist
Droughts in the Amazon
© Musuk Nolte

Night Photo Tips

Night photos usually mean long exposure times—many seconds, minutes, or even longer. Be aware that longer exposure times can lead to noisy images. One way to combat this is to lower your *ISO setting*. Another is to turn on the camera's *Noise Reduction* feature. Alternatively, post processing allows you to reduce the noise in images.



Fall Photo Tips



Foliage Maps

The best fall landscape photos tend to be captured when the colors are at their peak. Use one of the many foliage maps websites to locate the highest color saturation. There are national maps, state maps, and even local maps. One favorite is <www.explorefall.com/fall-foliage-map> because it is all three rolled into one.



Shoot in Bad Weather

You can create moody autumn shots if you shoot when the sky is darkened by thick clouds. Fog and (light) rain also make for great shooting. Just make sure you bring protection for your camera and lens like a rain sleeve.

Use the Light

Direct sunlight (with the sun behind you) falling on autumn colors creates bright, saturated colors. Backlight (shooting into the sun) gives you rim effects



(white outlines), silhouettes, sunbeams, contrast, and star effects. And don't forget to try sidelight, as well.



Lens Choice

Use a wide angle lens to shoot grand scenes of color. A long lens lets you emphasize the patterns in leaves, bark, etc., plus it'll compress the scene to create a beautiful wall of trees. And don't forget close-up equipment (a macro lens, close-up filters, etc.) to get the details of autumn.



Aperture

Shoot autumn landscapes at narrow apertures, such as $f/8$ and smaller when you shoot

wide vistas. Create unique fall shots with a wide aperture, $f/2.8$ or $f/4$, to isolate the subject from the background.



ICM

Fall is a great time to try out intentional camera movement (moving your camera during a long exposure) to create abstract effects. Use a shutter speed of $\frac{1}{8}$ of a second as a starting point.



Look Up

Most fall photos are shot looking straight ahead of you. But don't forget to look up, or down, for interesting images.



Photo Shorts

Film-Inspired



The *FUJIFILM X-E5* APS-C mirrorless camera comes with their *XF 23mm f-2.8* (35mm full-frame equivalent) pancake lens *and* provides the ideal everyday carry for shooters. It boasts all the advantages of a modern digital camera, while having the look and feel of a classic rangefinder. It has a 40.2MP CMOS sensor, 7-stop in-body image stabilization, and a film simulation. All this, and more, in either black or silver, for only \$1,899.

Stability System



Manfrotto announced a new stability system for photogs with the release of three new products: the *ONE Tripod*, the *500X Fluid Head*, and the *XCHANGE Quick Release* base and plate. They combine speed, efficiency, versatility, and portability. The tripod comes in aluminum (7.5 pounds) for \$499.99 or in

carbon fiber (6.6 pounds) for \$719.99. The fluid head sells for \$219.99 and the base and plate for \$54.99.

APS-C Wide to Normal



Sigma introduces a new zoom lens for APS-C mirrorless cameras with an *f-1.8* aperture throughout the entire zoom range. The *Sigma 17-40mm f-1.8 DC Art Lens* features prime-like optical performance and a 25.5 to 60mm full-frame equivalent focal range. This beauty is available for Sony E, Fujifilm X, Canon RF, and Sigma's own L mounts (no mention, yet, of Nikon Z)—all for a price of \$919.

On the Go



Transform any space into an instant entertainment hub with the *Optoma Technology ML1080UST Photon Go 650-Lumen Full HD Ultra-Short Throw Laser DLP Smart Portable Projector*. Compact and user-friendly, this projector features a built-in rechargeable battery with 1.5 hours of playback, dual 10W speakers, and it produces a 100" image (that's

over 8') from a distance of less than 10'. All this for a price of just \$999.

Tripod Trio



Peak Design has launched a brand-new lineup of tripods aimed squarely at pros and serious amateurs who are seeking portability without compromise. The three newbies are the lightweight *Pro Lite*, the standard *Pro*, and the towering *Pro Tall*. They all have carbon fiber construction for serious load capacity, a redesigned ball head with fluid panning, and fast-deploy cam locks with flush angle adjusters, making setup and breakdown quicker than ever. Availability and pricing has not yet been announced.

Night Photo Tips

A small pocket flashlight (or the one built into your phone) comes in handy when having to change camera settings in the dark.



More Photo Shorts

Pocket Powerhouse



A compact, always-there, high performance camera that rivals their professional mirrorless models, the *RX1R III* is the long-awaited third generation of the Sony fixed-lens full-frame camera. It has a high resolution 61MP sensor, great AF performance, an updated body design, larger battery, and a *ZEISS Sonnar T* 35mm f-2* prime lens. Extreme image quality in a highly portable body at a price of \$5,098.

Lenovo's Newest (and only)



Other than some webcams for computers, Lenovo is not well known in the world of photography. All that's changing with the announcement of their C55 compact camera. Not much has been released about it... yet. It's supposed to have a Sony cell-phone-sized sensor and image stabilization—but no numbers, so far. Its image does show a built-in LED ring light. Estimated price somewhere around \$70.

Going Wide



Venus Optics' *Laowa 4mm f-2.8 Fisheye Lens* is just about as wide a view as you can get! It's made for APS-C cameras from Canon, Sony, Nikon, Fujifilm, and Leica, and all Micro Four Thirds System bodies. (*Please note that its 35mm equivalent is 6mm, a little longer for the Canon and Micro 4/3s bodies*). This manual focus lens lists for \$149 for all models.

"Lifetime" VPNs



A VPN, or Virtual Private Network, creates a secure, encrypted connection over the internet, hiding your IP address and encrypting your online traffic. This allows you to browse the internet privately, access restricted content, and enhance your online security, especially over a public WiFi.

Two VPN providers—VPNSecure and BulletVPN—have recently gone out of business. Their "lifetime" subscriptions are no longer in effect.

In fact, whenever you buy a lifetime subscription to any kind of service, it's important to keep in mind that "lifetime" means the lifetime of the service, not yours.

End of Windows 10

If you use a computer that runs on Windows 10, starting on October 14th it will no longer receive support from Microsoft. What this means is that your computer will no longer be updated to patch security vulnerabilities or bugs that are discovered in Windows. Without these updates, your PC will be even more susceptible to malware and viruses than it now is, and it will keep getting worse.

What can you do about it?

Ideally, installing Windows 11 will ensure your computer is protected. Unfortunately, not all PCs are compatible with Windows 11—upgrading might not be possible for you. If that is the case, Microsoft is offering the option for users to enroll in what it's calling the [Windows 10 Extended Security Updates \(ESU\) program](#), which will ensure continuous updates for another year. After that, who knows?

If you have a PC that can upgrade to Windows 11, do it; if your machine can't, maybe it's time for a new computer!

Operating Systems

Speaking of your operating system, here are the latest from Apple for some of your devices...

macOS	15.5
iOS(iPhone)	18.5
iPadOS	18.5



New from ON1

NEW
ON1 Resize AI 2026



Go Big. Stay Sharp.
Introducing ON1 Resize AI 2026!

Ever try enlarging a small image and end up with blur, artifacts, or soft edges? **ON1 Resize AI 2026** fixes that—beautifully. Launching in early August, it features two new state-of-the-art AI models that make it the best upscaling software in the industry:

- Highest Quality** – Adds new detail for crops, AI art, and low-res photos
- Standard Quality** – High-quality results, lightning-fast processing

Whether you're restoring an old image or prepping a poster-sized print, Resize AI 2026 will give you sharp, stunning results—every time.

Ain't It the Truth?



AI/Ps Free Video



The following item comes from Dave Cross' *Educational Summits Newsletter*...

Needless to say, there's always plenty of discussion about the role of AI in Photoshop and its pros and cons. I thought I'd take a look at some ways to take advantage of AI in Photoshop, from intelligent tools to Generative AI to where Chat GPT can help.

For me, I am most interested in how I can leverage AI-based tools and functions with my own images, rather than generating images from scratch.

So I recorded a video that delves into all these areas, and you can watch it here:

www.dcross.com/AI-video

One Click

Every once in a while a small feature comes out that you'd never expect.

Now with the latest release to Camera Raw (17.5), Adobe has included a one-click Dust Removal feature that works really well (and fast!).

Check it out.

Using Your Camera

by Chuck Pine

Macro on the Cheap

Shooting macro photography is an incredible way to view the world around you in a new light as you get up close and personal with your subject. However, macro lenses can be an expensive investment. So what can you do when you want to give this genre of photography a try without spending some serious cash?

Shoot with a reversed lens! Here's how...



You will need three pieces of equipment—your camera, any lens you already have, and a *reverse mount macro adapter*. The adapter you get must fit both your camera mount and the filter size of the lens you want to use. [B&H has dozens of them to fit just about any camera mount and lens—and they all cost under \$15.]



Note—Reversing a 50 mm lens will give you a 1X (life-size) magnification. Reversing a wide-angle lens will yield greater magnification. For example, a reversed 28mm lens will give you 3X magnification. (If you are wondering, yes, you can reverse a zoom lens to get a variety of magnifications.)

Focusing is much different when using a reversed lens than the focus you're used to. When shooting macros with a reversed lens, it works best to get your subject in focus by physically moving the camera back and forth for only a few millimeters. (BTW, autofocus does not work with a reversed lens set-up.)

Caution—You cannot attach a protective filter to the rear end of a reversed lens. Be careful not to touch it, scratch it, etc.

All images
© Chuck Pine



Photo Shopping

by Chuck Pine

Cameras for Landscapes

Landscape photography is a demanding medium, requiring cameras with high resolution and dynamic range. When considering what cameras should make it on this list, *DPR* looked at factors like weather-sealing, battery life, and operability on a tripod. They selected cameras that are most likely to deliver the best possible image quality if you're going to spend hours hiking to the perfect location and waiting for the perfect light. For some picks, they also considered the best image quality you can get at a certain size and weight of camera.



Best camera for landscapes

Fujifilm GFX 100S II
102MP medium format sensor, in-body image stabilization, excellent detail capture, very high tonal quality, ready-to-go JPEG or malleable raws
\$4,999



Best camera for less

Panasonic S1R II
44MP full-frame sensor, 40fps burst shooting with pre-capture, excellent image quality, solid ergonomics
\$3,297.99



The bargain option

Nikon Z7 II
45.7MP full-frame sensor, in-body image stabilization, best image quality in its class, lovely ergonomics
\$1,946.95



The compact option

Fujifilm X-T5
Dedicated dial interface shows your settings, detailed 40MP images, photo-centric design and feature set
\$1,699.95

Road Trips



The Appalachian Trail

This driving route parallels the epic hike. From the top of New England to the heart of Dixie, it takes you through continuous natural beauty—without the sweat, the bugs, and the blisters.

Highlights along the way: Mt. Washington (NH), The Poconos (PA), Shenandoah National Park (VA), Great Smoky Mountains National Park (NC)

PhotoShopping

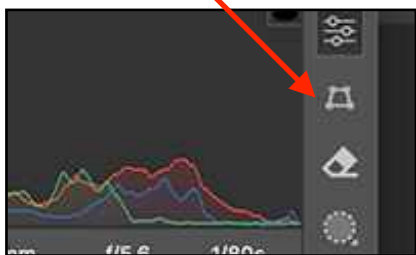
by Chuck Pine

Eliminating Reflections

The **Reflection Removal Tool** in **Adobe Camera Raw (ACR)** and **Lightroom (Lr)** lets you remove reflections from photos taken through glass windows. This tool eliminates large and prominent window reflections in just a few steps, allowing your image's subject to stand out clearly. The Reflection Removal feature supports raw and non-raw file types.

Here's how to use it...

1. Open your RAW file in Lr or ACR. If you're working on another file type (.jpg, for example) open it in **Photoshop** and then open the Camera Raw filter by going to **Filter > Camera Raw Filter....**

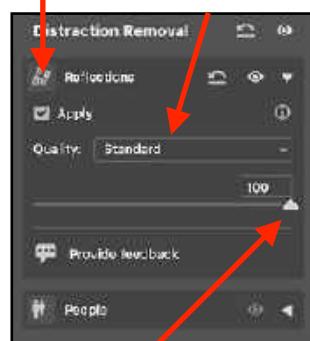


2. In the upper right corner of the ACR/Lr window, click on the **Remove Tool icon**, or just type the letter "B." The **Remove dialog box** will open.

3. At the bottom of the Remove dialog box, under **Distraction Removal**, click on **Reflections**.

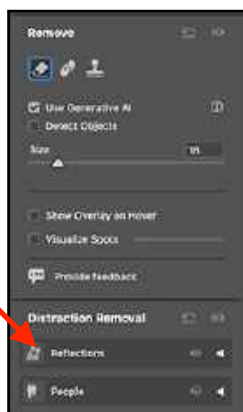


4. Under **Distraction Removal**, select the **Quality** you want—**Preview**, **Standard**, or **Best**. Then click **Apply**. *[Depending on the Quality you choose, it will take anywhere from a few seconds to a half minute or so to render your image.]*



[Note—this tool works great with reflections in glass, but not so well in metals or other substances. But this is bound to improve.]

5. You will note that the slider triangle jumps to the right, to **100**, and your image will now appear without the reflections. Move the slider back to the center, to **0**, to see the original image. You can also move the slider to the left, to **-100**, to see just the reflection.



Wow!!!



The image used in this article was shot by Club member Christine Doyle during the Expanding Visions 30 class.
(©2024 Christine Doyle)

PhotoShopping

by Chuck Pine

Adjust Colors

Color correction/manipulation are a big part of photo editing. Photoshop has numerous tools designed to simplify this time-consuming task. Version, 26.8.1 (the latest) has a new feature called **Adjust Colors** that aims to make your work easier and faster than ever before. [Note—version 26.8.0 also had this tool but corrections to its functionality have been made.]

There is no need to make any selections or masks. You can choose which colors to adjust. You can change saturation, hue, and/or lightness—all non-destructively.

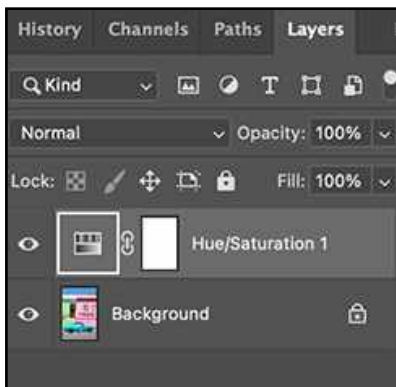
Here's how....



1. **Open** any of your images in Photoshop. The **Contextual Task Bar** will appear.



2. **Click on Adjust Colors.** It will now show six swatches representing the predominant colors of the image.
3. You will also see a **Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer** open in the Layers Panel. (Anything you do now is non-destructive.)

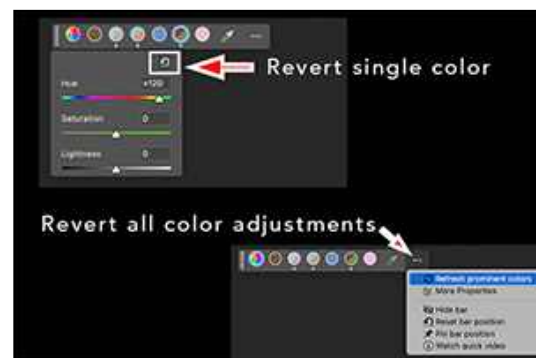


4. **Click** on any one of the swatches to choose a color to work on.
5. Move the **Hue Slider** to change the color.
6. Adjust the **Saturation** and **Lightness** sliders to suit the image. Repeat steps 4, 5, and 6 if you wish to adjust other colors.



Notes...

- A color swatch that's been adjusted will have a dot beneath it. It will also show the original color and the color it was changed to.



- You can also revert to the original color by clicking on the Arrow Icon in the top right corner of the panel.
- To return all the swatches to their original colors click the three dots on the far right and select "Refresh Prominent Colors."

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.



Thu, Sep 4

Refractions: A Conversation with Sidney and Michelle Monroe



Wed., Sep 10

Strobe Lighting

Speaker: Charles Chessler



Thu, Sep 11

Archiving Your Photos

Speaker: Peter Bennett
The Photo Managers



Thu, Sep 18

Refractions: A Conversation with Trish Lambe



Thu, Sep 18

Declutter Your Photos

Speaker: Isabelle Dervaux
The Photo Managers



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



Why Travel with Art Wolfe?

- ✓ Learn directly from a world-renowned photographer and fine art educator
- ✓ Develop both technical expertise and artistic vision
- ✓ Enjoy curated luxury accommodations and seamless logistics
- ✓ Intimate group sizes ensure hands-on instruction and mentorship

🌍 Tanzania—January 2026

Step into the heart of the Serengeti. Capture dramatic scenes of wildebeest families in motion, apex predators on the hunt, and the untamed rhythms of African wildlife in its natural habitat.

🌍 Japan—February 2026

Photograph playful snow macaques in steaming hot springs west of Tokyo, then head north to Hokkaido to capture ethereal Japanese cranes, elusive foxes, and the awe-inspiring stellar sea eagles.

🌍 Namibia—Aug/Sep 2026

Explore surreal desert landscapes in Swakopmund, rugged wildlife regions in Damaraland and Etosha, and the cultural richness of Windhoek while photographing Namibia's striking contrasts.



Sign up for a free pass—[✓](#)

Sign up for a VIP pass—[✓](#)

Arnie at Soho Photo

Arnie Kastenbaum presented his work as our guest speaker last May. Some members asked about any future exhibits of his stunning abstract images.

A show of his silver prints will be on display at the Soho



Photo Gallery's new home (539 West 23 Street) through September 14h.

I think you will agree that the real prints are more lovely than those you saw on your monitor at home.

Go visit the Gallery!



Change Your Password

An individual going by the name of Chucky_BF (definitely not our Chuck) claims to have 15.8 million username and password combinations hacked from PayPal. The truth of this claim has not yet been verified. PayPal denies it!

If you have an account with PayPal, change your password. On a computer, simply go to [<www.paypal.com>](http://www.paypal.com) and log in. Click the gear icon at the top right, click Security, then Change Password. While you're at it, make sure that you're using some form of multi-step authentication.

NYMACC Field Trip

Save the Date!
NYMACC'S Field Trip to Yale University
October 25, 2025 9AM to 1pm
Rain date Saturday, November 1, 2025

The New York Metro Area Camera Council's to Yale University will cover buildings and grounds as well as opportunities for street photography. Photographers of every level, camera brand, gear, including tripods and an eternal curiosity are welcome. Photo ideas, techniques and support will be shared in a friendly, informal basis.



Registration does not include food.
 Reminder: Club membership in NYMACC includes all members of that club.
 NYMACC Member: \$10; non-NYMACC member: \$15

Registrants will be notified if rain date is necessary.
 Registration is limited to 30; first come, first serve. All who pre-register will be notified prior to the final notice with payment information is distributed. All paid registrants will receive the full itinerary a few days prior to the field trip.

PRE-REGISTER



NYMACC Supporters TBA (in final flyer.)

New York Metro Area Camera Council



Today's smartphones are 100,000X more powerful than the computer aboard the space shuttle that first got us to the moon.



Tips for Better Panos

If you're new to shooting panoramas, these tips can help you get cleaner results and make the stitching process in your software more seamless...

1. Use a tripod when possible

While handheld panos can work, especially with fast shutter speeds, a tripod ensures better alignment—especially when using longer focal lengths. Keep the tripod level and rotate the camera smoothly to minimize distortion or misalignment.

2. Lock in exposure and focus

Inconsistent exposure or focus across frames can cause problems during stitching. Set your exposure manually, lock your focus, and use a fixed white balance (avoid auto). Also remove your polarizing filter. This helps create consistency across all frames.

3. Overlap between frames

Overlapping frames by about a quarter to a third gives the software more data to work with during stitching and reduces the chances of any stitching artifacts or gaps. For multi-row panos, maintain the same overlap vertically and horizontally.

PSA Conference



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

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

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



Sierra Meetings 2025-2026

The New York City Sierra Club Photo Committee has meetings scheduled for the upcoming 2025-2026 year. Some of the meetings will be held using the Zoom Software and some will be in-person at the School for Visual Arts (SVA)—136 West 21st Street, Room 418F. Tickets for all events must be purchased in advance on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). An \$8 donation is suggested.

Tues.	9/16/25	SVA
Tues.	10/14/25	Zoom
Tues.	11/11/25	Hybrid
Tues.	12/16/25	Zoom *
Tues.	1/20/26	Hybrid
Tues.	2/17/26	Zoom
Tues.	3/17/26	Hybrid
Tues.	4/14/26	Zoom
Tues.	5/19/26	Hybrid
Tues.	6/16/26	Zoom *

SVA = in-person only

Zoom = online only

Hybrid = in-person and Zoom

* members night



iPhone Tips

Your iPhone is packed with useful tools, but sometimes they're not that easy to find. <[iPhone Life Tip of the Day](#)> can change all of that for you.

Each morning, you'll get a free *Tip of the Day* email that reveals new (and hidden) things you can do with your phone (and other devices). In a single minute you'll learn a practical tip that shows you something new your gadget can already do. *No upgrades are required—and they're free.*



Photoshop World 2025

It's back again this year, and it's three full days, multiple training tracks, and all online. It will feature your favorite Photoshop World instructors and the Photoshop World experience, complete with an opening keynote, Midnight Madness, the attendee party, the Guru Awards—the whole nine yards as <scottkelby.com> aims to make it as close to the in-person event as possible. It's gonna be awesome, dude!



3-day conference pass
was \$399
Early Bird Price \$299
[thru September 9th/9:30 a.m.]

<www.photoshopworld.com>

It's gonna be awesome, dude!



Share the Experience

The NPF (National Park Foundation) is hosting its 2025 *Share the Experience* photo contest. Only photos taken on the lands, waters, or within facilities of these participating agencies are qualified—National Park Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Only photographs taken between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2025, will be accepted into this contest.

The contest is open to legal residents of the 50 United States and D.C. who are at least 13 years of age or older as of June 17, 2025.



2024 Grand Prize Winner
Glacier National Park
© Akshay J

All photos will be judged on the following criteria:

- artistic composition
- originality
- technical quality
- photographic technique
- showcasing the best of America's recreational opportunities.

\$18,000 in cash and other great prizes are provided by the contest's four sponsors (Booz Allen Hamilton, Yeti, Historic Hotels of America, and Celestron).

Go to <www.sharetheexperience.org/enter> to enter and get all the details.

NANPA Photo Tours

The North American Nature Photography Association is offering several photo tours over the next few months. Here's the rundown on a few of them...



Grand Tetons
Sept. 22-26, 2025

Grand Teton National Park is a phenomenal photography destination—it has it all: iconic old barns, amazing landscapes with dramatic mountains, and a diversity of wildlife from grizzly bears and bison to moose, elk, and pronghorn.



Southwest Colorado
Sept. 30 - Oct. 3, 2025
Many locations will be visited and photographed to capture all the region has to offer—from misty lakes in the cool morning air to the dramatic San Juan Mountains' peaks at sunset.



Acadia
Oct. 9-12, 2025
Maine's Acadia National Park comes alive with autumn colors and has become one of the most popular places for landscape photographers seeking autumn beauty. It's one of the most diverse and compact of all the national parks.



New River Gorge
Oct. 21-24, 2025
Photograph the beautiful change of season in New River Gorge National Park and the surrounding area including the Glade Creek Grist Mill, creeks and waterfalls and with fall foliage, and much more.



Yosemite
Nov. 1-4, 2025
Capture the iconic vistas and intimate landscapes, such as trees adorned with fall foliage, serene reflections, and misty meadows framed by dramatic granite backdrops. With some luck, an early snowstorm that coincides with the fall color can occur.

See the next page for info on the NANPA winter trip to Grand Teton National Park. It puts it all in a whole different light (so to speak).





Wildlife By The Sea

Some of the world's most extraordinary wildlife and photography opportunities are best accessed by boat. These three ship-based tours are designed for photographers who want to stay close to the action—from equatorial islands to Arctic ice and tidewater fjords.



Galápagos Islands Photo Tour
June 11 - 19, 2026

Photograph iconic species like marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, sea lions, and giant tortoises aboard a 16-passenger yacht. Each day brings new landings across multiple islands with expert guides and golden light.

<www.photosafaris.com/photo-tours/2026-galapagos>



Svalbard: Into the Ice
July 2 - 13, 2026

Cruise Arctic waters in search of polar bears, walrus, and nesting seabirds under 24-hour daylight. Our nimble 12-passenger vessel allows close access to ice floes, fjords, and remote tundra.

<www.photosafaris.com/photo-tours/2026-svalbard-into-the-ice-2>



Glacier Bay for Boomers
July 9 - 17, 2026

Travel by lux yacht deep into Glacier Bay to photograph whales, puffins, otters, and coastal brown bears. This trip is designed for a comfortable pace and is ideal for the baby boomer generation!

<www.photosafaris.com/photo-tours/2026-alaska-glacier-bay-national-park>

The Daily Preset

A preset is a “pre-defined setting that can be applied to a device or software. It allows for quick access to a specific set of parameters, eliminating the need to manually adjust each setting individually.” Presets are common in devices like radios (pre-set radio stations), cameras (photographic styles on iPhones), and other equipment.

Whether you're a post-processing newbie, or a seasoned pro, *The Daily Preset* could be for you. By joining <www.thedailypreset.com> you will get a unique preset delivered daily to transform your photos with one click. Start building your collection with these **free** Lightroom & ACR presets. You'll receive one every weekday.

ElderTreks

ElderTreks is a Canadian adventure travel company for people over the age of 50. They have been leading small group tours since 1987 to over 100 countries around the world.

Although they are not strictly devoted to photo tours, many of our members who have traveled with them were pleased with the itineraries and the time they were able spend shooting.

Here are some of their upcoming tours for the rest of this year...



[Mongolia \(Eagle Festival\)](#)

17 Days—Sep 7 - 23

From \$8,695



[Ethiopia](#)

23 Days— Sep 16 - Oct 8

From \$8,795



[Nepal](#)

19 Days—Oct 1 - 19

From \$5,995



[Morocco](#)

17 Days— Oct 5 - 21

From \$5,895



[Classic India](#)

21 Days—Oct 17 - Nov 6

From \$6,995



[Oman](#)

20 Days— Nov 6 - 25

From \$10,995

Click on the trip [title](#) for more information and to register.

Go to <www.eldertreks.com> for additional adventures.

Havana Nude Workshop

Cuba is a destination that can offer one-of-a-kind settings for nude photography. The diverse backdrops in Havana include neoclassic and art deco homes, as well as crumbling concrete structures, that create visually rich backgrounds to enhance the overall artistic experience.

- Workshop tuition includes private room and bath; two dinners (first and last nights); models; transportation to and from location sites; and photographic instruction provided by Steve Anchell and Alberto Arcos. (Travel to and from Cuba and other meals are not included.)
- These two workshops are limited to six participants each with at least one model per photographer.
- The dates are December 4th to 9th and 11th to 16th, both 2025. Every participant will have a private room and bath in a privately owned hotel at a cost of \$4,985.



- A special rate is available for non-photographer companions—\$1595. (Companions may participate in all events including dinners and critiques but not in the photo sessions.)
- Contact Steve Anchell at www.anchellworkshops.com or (503) 884-3882 or info@anchellworkshops.com

[Travel to Cuba is still legal under the Support for the Cuban People license issued by the U.S. Treasury Department to groups such as this one. There is no sign that this will be revoked anytime soon. However, if legal travel is suspended for any reason, you will receive a full refund of your deposit and/or tuition.]

Cuba Adventure

PWCC member Bruce Byers' *Camera Odysseys* will be going to Havana, Trinidad, and Viñales in February 2026. This 9-day photo workshop is for all levels of photographers.



For all the information go to www.cameraodysseys.com
You may also call Bruce at (917) 992-1453 or email him at Info@cameraodysseys.com

[For everyone that signs up for this trip from *Photo Notes*, Bruce will donate \$100 to the Park West Camera Club.]



All images
© Bruce Byers





Harvest Glow...

will feature gorgeous scenes of more than 5,000 illuminated jack o'lanterns depicting all of your favorite night animals, complete with sounds, music, fog, bubbles, and lighting. Each jack o'lantern is beautifully and individually hand-carved by talented artisans.

Thursday— Sunday evenings through October 31st

<www.bronxzoo.com/harvest-glow>

 An advertisement for Tamron University Photo Master Classes. The background is a sunset over a body of water with a person in the foreground holding a camera. The text "Enhance your photography skills from portraits to puffins and everything in between." is at the top. Below it, "Start watching on..." is followed by the "TAMRON UNIVERSITY PHOTO MASTER CLASSES" logo. A paragraph states: "A series of FREE online master classes taught by professional photographers, designed to enhance your skills and creativity." At the bottom, there is a collage of various photographs including a sunset, a person, a bird, a person sleeping, a puffin, a person, a person, a person, and a person. The URL "<www.tamronamericas.co/tamron-university>" is at the bottom.


November 3 - 7, 2025

This is the event that started it all back in 2020. As always, you can expect a stellar group of instructors sharing the latest Photoshop techniques. 40+ classes over five days will inspire you with practical Photoshop training from world-class expert teachers. You can sign up for a free pass (or pay for a VIP pass) at <www.pssummit.com>



Schedule of Activities

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

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

Check the Club's Website [<www.parkwestcameraclub.org>](http://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).



* Sunday, August 31
Chuck Pine
Labor Day Picnic

Save the date!!! Our annual social gathering to start off the new Club season will be held today. This yearly event brings us all together in a pleasant setting and participating in our second most cherished pastime (after photography, that is)—eating. The history of this Club activity dates back to the 1980s when Chuck invited all Club members to the presidential mansion in Far Rockaway for a BBQ every Labor Day weekend. In recent years this event has been held on the rooftop of member Gladys Hopkowitz's apartment building in the Gramercy neighborhood of Manhattan. All the details of this year's event can be found in the article on page 6 of this issue of *Photo Notes*. Hope to see you there.



Monday, September 1
Photo Ops
Parades Galore

Today is Labor Day. That means parades. Every borough of the City, and most of the surrounding towns, have a Labor Day parade (check your local listings). But, the big event of the day is the West Indian Day Parade/Carnival in Brooklyn. Many of the City's roughly one million New York residents with Caribbean ancestry—along with 1,000s of neighbors, day-trippers, and tourists—observe this raucous celebration of over-the-top costumes, fiery food, and pulsating music. If you'd like to get in on the fun, take the #4 train to the Utica Avenue Station—the parade staging area radiates from Utica and Eastern Parkway. You should be able to shoot in the staging area for over an hour and then continue to shoot as the parade kicks off at noon and marches on Eastern Parkway over to Grand Army Plaza. Bring lots

of extra media cards (or color film if you're still shooting that way), but go light on the equipment (no tripods, etc.). There are plenty of eateries on the parade route. (All parade activities end at 6 p.m. due to City ordinance, whether or not they reach the final viewing area.) Enjoy!



* Monday, September 1
No Meeting
Labor Day

Enjoy the Labor Day parades (see the above entry), go to the beach for that last dip in the ocean, have an evening picnic in one of the City's many parks, or whatever strikes your fancy.

Image Deadline

* Sunday, September 7
Image Deadline
Welcome Back

The deadline for submitting images for tomorrow's Show & Tell is tonight at 11 p.m. All Club members are invited to participate. See the next entry for details. Send your images to this email address only
<pwccny@gmail.com>



* Monday, September 8
Welcome Back
Summer Photos

This is the first meeting of the new Club season. It is also your chance to show us what you did over the summer—Club activities, shots around the City, your personal vacay, etc. Competition rules are not in effect (although PDIs must be sized correctly). Please limit your presentation to no more than twelve (12) images that were shot sometime between Memorial Day (more or less) and Labor Day (give or take). Don't miss this opportunity to share and catch up with the rest of us at the Club. Send your image files to us at <pwccny@gmail.com> no later than 11:59 p.m. Saturday, September 6th. This is a Zoom meeting. The Zoom link will be sent to Club members in the *PWCC Weekly Reminder*.



NYMA

Tuesday, September 9
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 meeting contact NYMACC <deborah.NYMACC@gmail.com> for the Zoom link.



* Thursday, September 11
Field Trip
9/11 Tribute in Light

The *Tribute in Light*, an annual remembrance of the September 11th attacks, features two beams of light projecting from Lower Manhattan, creating twin towers reaching high into the night sky. The lights are illuminated from dusk on

September 11th until dawn on September 12th. We'll meet at the western entrance to the Oculus facing the Twin Towers Reflecting Pools (at Fulton and Greenwich Streets) at 6:30 p.m. We'll shoot the twin beams from here and then wander around to do some more shooting. For those interested, we'll meet up again take the Staten Island Ferry to keep shooting. Contact the trip leader, Richard Gold, to let him know that you'll be joining us... (347) 563-1757
<rpgdocmd96@gmail.com>



Thur - Sun, September 11 - 21
Photo Op
Feast of San Gennaro

The *Feast of All Feasts*, New York City's longest-running, most revered, and biggest religious outdoor party, will be held for 11 days and evenings on the streets of historic Little Italy. Although this is a yearly celebration of faith, the Feast of San Gennaro is known the world over for its party-like

atmosphere featuring religious processions, colorful parades, free entertainment, a wide variety of ethnic foods, and the world-famous cannoli-eating contest. Since this event is always crowded, don't bother with a tripod, but do bring plenty of media cards and a spare battery; and if you're planning on being there after dark, a flash would be helpful, as well. For more information <www.sangennaronyc.org>



from *Coney Island People*
© Harvey Stein

* Monday, September 15
Guest Speaker
Harvey Stein

Tonight's guest photographer, Harvey Stein, is a professional photographer/lecturer/author, based in New York City. He currently teaches at ICP. He has also been a member of the faculty of the School of Visual Arts, New School University,

Celebrate...



Wed. Sep. 3rd
National Skyscraper Day



Sat. Sep. 13th
Uncle Sam Day



Mon. Sep. 22nd
Fall Equinox

Drew University, Rochester Institute of Technology, and the University of Bridgeport. Harvey is a recipient of the Creative Arts Public Service (CAPS) fellowship and many

artist in residency grants. His tenth and latest book, *Coney Island People 50 Years*, was published in 2022. Tonight's curtain raiser has not yet been determined.



Tuesday, September 16
Photo Event
Sierra Photo's 50th

Mark your calendars. *Sierra Photo NYC* will be celebrating their 50th anniversary as a group. This meeting will be in-person (only) at the School of Visual Arts, 136 West 21st Street, Room 203-E, for a big event, taking a look back at what they've accomplished and ahead to where they're going. This will also be a great opportunity for new members to get to know the group, and learn about what they do. All are welcome. The best way to get there is by subway—the F, N, R and the #1 trains all have stops on 23rd Street, which are a short walk from the meeting. Additionally, the A and C trains are an option with a slightly longer walk. Purchase all tickets through Eventbrite. An \$8 donation is suggested. Tickets are not sold at the door.



* Monday, September 22
No Meeting
Rosh Hashanah

There will be no Park West Camera Club meeting tonight—the first evening of the Rosh Hashanah, Jewish New Year celebration. For those of you observing, "L'shanah tovah."



* Wednesday, September 24
PDI Workshop Deadline

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



* Thursday, September 25
Field Trip
Museum of Natural History

The American Museum of Natural History is a treasure in the Big Apple. Thanks to Club member Elayne Dix, who is a volunteer at the Museum, up to 10 of us will receive free admission to the Museum, the Butterfly Vivarium and three additional special exhibits. Please go to their website for more info <www.amnh.org> Please register for this trip with Elayne by Monday night, September 22nd, at 9 p.m. She will email your ticket(s) prior to the trip. (If you're a member, and want to manage your own ticket, feel free to do so. Let Elayne know you will be joining the group). Meet at the Rose Center entrance at 56 West 81st Street at 10 a.m. We will walk through the museum complex hitting some of the highlights including the new Hall of Gems and Minerals, the Butterfly exhibit, and so much more. [Photography restrictions—hand-held cameras only (no tripods), flash is okay.] Contact the trip leader, Elayne Dix, to reserve your spot (718) 644-4111 <copake@gmail.com>



* Thursday, September 25
PDI Workshop

See the September 24th entry for 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, September 29
Business Meeting #1

Tonight is the first business meeting of the Club year. There's always plenty of excitement in the air. The ExCom (Executive Committee) members and all committee chairs will be introduced. We will discuss what lies ahead for the Club.



©2013 Peter Kolonia



* Monday, September 29
Image Deadline
October Competition

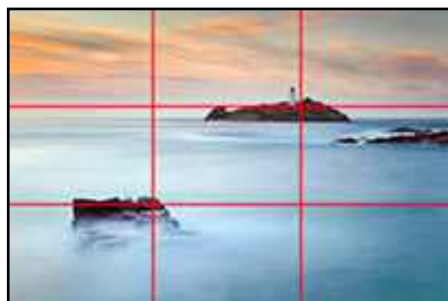
Please note that PDI entries are due by midnight tonight for next week's initial monthly competition of the 2025-2026 Club year. See page 8 of this issue of *Photo Notes* on how to prepare your images. More information is available in the *PWCC Competition Manual*. Send your two entries to [<pwcccompetition@yahoo.com>](mailto:pwcccompetition@yahoo.com). If you want confirmation that both of your images were received, add this address [<hfklein@mindspring.com>](mailto:hfklein@mindspring.com) to your email with the images.

You must pay your Club dues prior to next week's competition in order to participate.

* Monday, October 6
Monthly Competition

Tonight is the first competition of the new year. Who will win

the top honors? What will the judge say about your images? Will you agree? The only way to find out the answers to these probing questions is to enter and join the Zoom meeting. Full rules are available from the Competition and the Membership Committees and on the PWCC website. PDI entries must be submitted by midnight one week prior to today: September 29th. Just a reminder, you may enter up to two PDIs. Tonight's judge is Peter Kolonia. He was the senior editor of *Popular Photography and Imaging* (or just plain *Pop Photo* for those of us with long memories) for many years. Pete—along with others like Norman Rothschild, Cora Wright Kennedy, Bert Kepler, et alia—published the oldest and largest photography magazine for many decades. You can still find hundreds of his articles on the current *Pop Photo* website [<www.popphoto.com/authors/peter-kolonia>](http://www.popphoto.com/authors/peter-kolonia) Pete has judged and was a guest speaker to our Club in the past.



* Monday, October 13
Workshop
Composition

PWCC president, Chuck Pine, will be leading a workshop on the rules of photographic composition. Some of the many topics to be covered include the Rule of Thirds, Leading Lines, Framing, Patterns and Repetition, Textures, Symmetry, Layering, Negative Space, Minimalism, and more. The discussion will encompass when and how to use these concepts—and when it's possible to break them. The illustrations used in tonight's presentation are from Club members. Please join us for this informative, educational, and enjoyable presentation.

* Wednesday, October 15
Field Trip
NY Botanical Gardens

The fall season is in full swing and (with a little bit of help from Mother Nature) the Bronx color change should be at its peak this week. And to shoot the seasonal reds and yellows we're heading up to the New York Botanical Gardens. Meet at Grand Central Terminal clock at 9:30 a.m. for the 9:55



MetroNorth Harlem Line train. The one-way fare is \$7.50; for seniors/the disabled/or those on Medicare it is \$5. If you want to arrive some other way, meet at the Mosholu Parkway Entrance at 10:30 a.m. Admission to the Gardens is free to NYC residents all day on Wednesdays (non-City visitors can get in for free between 10 and 11 a.m. (Free admission does not include entry to the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory.) We will wander the grounds, shooting as we go, looking for fall colors and whatever else is in bloom at the time. Food/Snacks/Drinks are available at several locations or bring your own. Contact the trip leader, Pat Garbarini, to let her know you'll be joining us to shoot <patgarbar@gmail.com> (646) 530-1229.

* Monday, October 20
Guest Speaker
TBA

Tonight's guest photographer has not yet been confirmed.

Celebrate...



Tue. Oct. 7th
National Taco Day



Sun. Oct. 19th
World Toy Camera Day



Tue. Oct. 28th
National Chocolates Day

Check next month's issue of *PhotoNotes* and/or go to the PWCC website located at <www.parkwestcameraclub.org> for the latest info. Tonight's curtain raiser is also yet to be announced.

DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!

* Saturday, October 25
Entry Deadline
Halloween and Autumn

For tonight's theme night you may enter up to 10 photos that convey the Autumn season, in general, and Halloween, more specifically. They can be recent shots or images from your vault. You may use any photo techniques and any software to achieve your final results. We'll share all of the images at the meeting on Monday. All of your images should be sized as for competitions. See page 8 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for the sizing and labeling details. Send your images by 11p.m. tonight to this address only <pwccny@gmail.com>



* Monday, October 27
Theme Night
Halloween and Autumn
Tonight we'll share all the images that members have

submitted on the theme of the Fall season and Halloween. See the October 25th entry, above, for more info. This should be another great evening of Club members sharing our images!



* Monday, October 27
Image Deadline
October Competition

Please note that PDI entries are due by midnight tonight for next week's monthly/October competition. See page 8 of this issue of *Photo Notes* on how to prepare your images. More information is available in the *PWCC Competition Manual*. Send your two entries only to <pwcccompetition@yahoo.com> Want confirmation that your images were received? Add this address to your email <hfklein@mindspring.com>

Friday, October 31
Photo Op
Halloween Parade

The 52nd annual NYC Village Halloween Parade will take place tonight. Your best bet for photography is to get to the staging area between Spring and Canal Streets on Avenue of the Americas/6th Avenue at 5 p.m. The C and E trains stop right there (Spring Street);



many other trains and buses will also get you to the march participants as they leisurely prepare their costumes and props and are willing to pose and chat. When you shoot, a high ISO and/or flash will be helpful; tripods would not be convenient with all the crowds. For more information on the parade activities you can go to <www.halloween-nyc.com> At 7 p.m. the parade kicks off and heads up to 27th Street.

No-Fly No-Nos

Are you planning to hop on a plane for your next photo destination? The FAA has added several items to their no-fly list:

- Cordless curling irons or flatirons using butane gas cartridges
- Spare cartridges for curling irons or flatirons

If the TSA finds these items in your checked bags, your luggage will be confiscated (they are allowed in carry-ons.)

Hair tools with cords are fine for checked bags or carry-ons.

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