

PHOTO NOTES

Park West
Camera Club

January 2025

Adobe Price Increase
See page 33



This Issue

Volume 87 • Issue 5

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Over 95 members' images inside!



The Park West Camera Club is an independent not-for-profit corporation. Guests are always welcome.

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

Albino Idris

©2024 Chuck Pine

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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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Membership	Marlene Schonbrun
Photo Notes	Chuck Pine
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Social	Vacancy
Website	Michael Schleiff Christine Doyle
Workshop	Ed Lee Bruce Byers

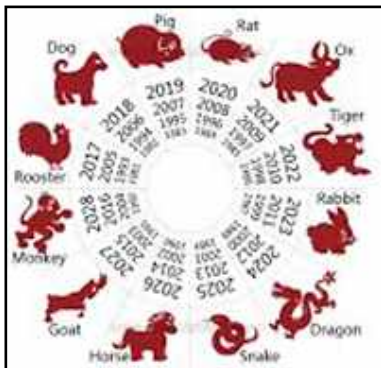
Currently Inactive Committees

Archive, Field Trip,
Gallery, House

President's Message

Happy New Year!

I hope that your New Year celebration on January 1st was relaxing, exciting, or whatever else you hoped it would be. We stayed at home. Our daughter, Lisa, and her domestic partner, Vin, joined us for dinner—a buffet of Chinese dishes catered by Ollie's To Go (the Upper West Side location).



Speaking of Chinese food, there is another new year to be celebrated later this month—the Chinese, or Lunar, New Year. It is the Year of the Snake. (The snake is one of the twelve Chinese zodiac signs.)

However, 2025 brings with it the arrival of the Wood Snake, a rare and significant combination that occurs once every 60 years. This unique pairing of the snake, known for its transformative energy and its wisdom, with the wood element, which symbolizes growth, stability, and artistic (and other) creativity.

How does the wood snake connect with the Park West Camera Club, I hear you ask?



In many ways, actually. The Club is in the midst of several transformations. We have moved from a group that meets in-person to one that gets together over Zoom (for the most part—we've got a get-together set for February 24th to see the works of our Print Salon).

We're in the midst of changing our submitted image

sizes to a larger format (from 1,400 by 1,050 pixels to 2,000 pixels on the longest side). As for wisdom, our expanded ExCom, it is hoped, will add more bright people and ideas to what goes on here.

Growth, stability, creativity are well established here at PWCC. As we transform into our new and better self, we assure you they will continue to be what we strive for.

All the best...

Chuck



Photo Notes

Publisher: Park West Camera Club

Editor: Chuck Pine

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

Contributors: Evelynne Appel, Bruce Byers, Hedy Klein, Julie Foehrenbach, Jeff Langford, Ed Lee, Charles Levin, Natalie Manzino, David Miller, Eliot Nierman, Chuck Pine, Helen Pine, and Michael Schleiff

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

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PWCC 2024-2025 ScheduleSeptember

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

October

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

November

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

December

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

January

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

February

- 3 Competition #5
- 10 Theme Night—Planes, Trains, and Autos
- 17 Guest Speaker
- 20 PDI Workshop
- 24 To Be Determined

March

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

April

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

May

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

June

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

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

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

Zooming

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

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

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

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

Pop-Up Trips

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

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

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

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

Submitting Images

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

Images must be a .jpg (JPEG), with a resolution of 72 ppi, and 2,000 pixels on the longest side.



Competition images must be titled as follows:

LastNameFirstInitial_Month
Year_Title.jpg

for example

JonesM_Jan23_Flower.jpg



Other images should be titled as follows:

Name_Number_Title

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

for example

MaryJ_07_Flower

Emailing PWCC

Send your competition images to...

pwcccompetition@yahoo.com

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

pwccny@aol.com

Send all other email to...

pwccny@gmail.com

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





Sunshine Fund

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

Long-time Club member Natalie Manzino has volun-

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

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

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

917-757-7086

<bklynnat@hotmail.com>



Club Meeting Times

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

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

PWCC Image Deadlines

<u>Event</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>	<u>Event Date</u>
PDI Workshop	Jan. 22nd	Jan. 23rd
Theme Night (Street Photography)	Jan. 25th	Jan. 27th
Competition #5	Jan. 27th	Feb. 3rd
Theme Night (Planes, Trains, and Autos)	Feb. 8th	Feb. 10th
You Be the Judge (Food)	Feb. 24th	Mar. 24th
PDI Workshop	Feb. 19th	Feb. 20th

Club Participation Nites

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

February 24th—*Print Salon Presentation* The Club's Print Salon members will be sharing some of their images tonight. Entry deadline: February 22nd.

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



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

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

PDI Workshops

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

Images of the Month

January 2025

PDI-of-the-Month

Union Station by Charles Levin

Honors

Shattered Glass by Bill Apple

Pickaboo by Remy Deyglun

Row Your Boat by Remy Deyglun

Snow Tire by Barry Fahrer

A Cry for Help by Richard Gold

Approaching Iceland Storm by Jeff Langford

Snaking Water by Jeff Langford

Lots of Buds by Elena Pierpont

Double by Alec Rill

Split View by Michael Schleiff

Vietnam Class by Marlene Schonbrun

Winter Waves by Dudley Slater

48 Park West Camera Club members submitted a total of 94 images this month. 29 of them (31%) received a score of A or above.



Cumulative Points

(Through January 2025)

by Hedy Klein

Elena Pierpont	64	Albyn Davis	36
Sonia Durante	60	Remy Deyglun	36
Janet Susin	60	Florence Forman	36
Evelyne Appel	58	Alice Somma	36
Natalie Manzino	58	Puneet Sood	36
Alec Rill	56	Raylie Dunkel	34
Betsy Currier	54	Richard Gold	34
Charles Levin	52	Dottie Mills	32
Chuck Pine	52	Will Aimesbury	30
Paul Grebanier	50	David Miller	28
Michael Schleiff	50	Larry Sapadin	28
Marlene Schonbrun	50	Julie Foehrenbach	26
Dudley Slater	50	Peggy Winkelman	26
Julie Wosk	50	Dov Bieber	24
Laura Toledo	48	Bruce Byers	24
Bill Apple	46	Mike Iannuzzi	24
Madeleine Barbara	46	Ruth Yashpan	22
Nicole Dosso	46	Larry Rubin	20
Jill Greiss	44	Karen Corrigan	18
Doris King	44	Renée Harper	16
Carlton Johnson	42	Michael Padwee	12
Hedy Klein	42	Elayne Dix	10
Jeff Langford	42	George Corbin	8
Barry Fahrer	40	Allan Lauer	8
Jay Bitkower	38	Paula Paterniti	6
Ann Broder	38	Aubrey Thomas	4
Christine Doyle	38		

Thank you to this month's judge, Kathy Baca, for her constructive criticism and consistent scoring.

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



Image of the Month
Union Station
© Charles Levin

Continued on next page



A with Honors
Winter Waves
© Dudley Slater



A with Honors
Vietnam Class
© Marlene Schonbrun



A with Honors
Lots of Buds
© Elena Pierpont



A with Honors
Approaching Iceland Storm
© Jeff Langford

Continued on next page



A with Honors
A Cry for Help
© Richard Gold



A with Honors
Snow Tire
© Barry Fahrner



A with Honors
Shattered Glass
© Bill Apple



A with Honors
Pickaboo
© Remy Deyglun

Continued on next page



A with Honors
Split View
© Mike Schleiff



A with Honors
Double
© Alec Rill



A with Honors
Row Your Boat
© Remy Deyglun



A with Honors
Snaking Water
© Jeff Langford

Continued on next page



A
The Missing Hat
© Laura Toledo



A
Boxing
© Alec Rill



A
Ambit Ecuador Quilt
© Michael Padwee



A
Roll-A-Bingo
© Charles Levin



A
Lava Field
© Betsy Currier



A
Giverny
© Evelyne Appel

Continued on next page



A
Pastel Flower
© Will Aimesbury



A
Tranquility
© Julie Wosk



A
Eilean Donan Castle
© Marlene Schonbrun



A
The Light Above
© Dudley Slater



A
Her Day
© Carlton Johnson

Continued on next page



A
Andean Bear
© Sonia Durante



A
Waterfall
© Ann Broder



A
Time Out
© Dov Bieber



A
Red Poppy
© Madeleine Barbara



A
Big Sur
© Evelyn Appel

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

Business Meeting Attendance

Our Corresponding Secretary, Helen Pine, pulled together some numbers from the Club attendance sheets recorded by the Membership Committee over the last 11 years. We have records from five and a half years (September 2014 through November 2019) preceding Covid, when we met in-person and we have four and a half years (September 2020 through November 2024) of records post-pandemic.

On average, our in-person business meetings attracted 28.9 members per meeting. Our Zoom business meetings averaged 29.1 members.

Why the slight increase in attendance for the virtual business meetings?

I believe there are two major reasons for this:

- bad weather is not a factor;
- members who cannot or do not wish to travel can (and do) attend the meetings.



It has been suggested that in lieu of holding the business meetings in person, we record these four annual meetings and post them on the website as we do with our competition and guest speaker meetings. But should we?

We certainly didn't do this when we met in-person. Plus, we have excellent minutes taken by Recording Secretary, Christine Doyle, that are both emailed to the membership and published in *Photo Notes*.

Attending the meetings is the only way to participate and share your opinions. After all, our Club functions at its best when more of the members contribute ideas and join in the discussions.

The only downside that I can see to holding business meetings on Zoom is that we are missing out on the great refreshments provided by the Social Committee and the idea of socializing with each other at the end of the meetings.

Photo Definitions

pixel: smallest unit of measurement in a digital image. Pixels are square and are measured in microns (1/1000 of a millimeter or about 1/25,000 inch). Image sensors in most consumer cameras have pixels 4 to 5 microns square.

ppi: pixels per inch. How the resolution is measured for a "capture" or "input" device (camera, scanner) and your computer monitor.

dpi: dots per inch. How the resolution is measured for a printer which outputs the image in round dots, not square pixels.

lpi: lines per inch. How the resolution is measured for offset presses. Newspapers generally print at 100 lpi and require 200 ppi images for quality reproduction. Magazines print at a 150 lpi and need 300 ppi images. Exhibition prints are usually printed at 200 lpi and need 400 ppi images.

New Image Sizes

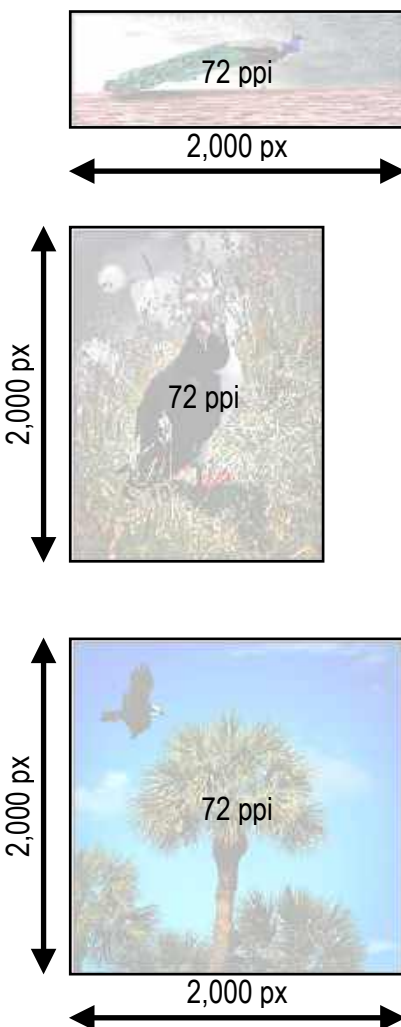
Now that just about all of our activities are on Zoom, it is time to upgrade our image sizes to take full advantage of the Zoom platform.

As of the January competition all images must now be sized as follows...

Format	JPEG (.jpg)
Resolution	72 ppi (pixels per inch)
Dimension	2,000 pixels (on the longest side)

These sizes are for all images submitted to the Club for...

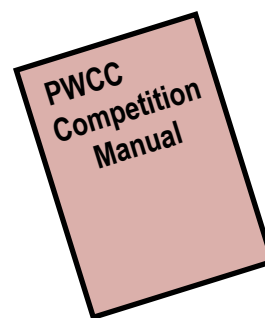
- competitions
- theme nights
- PDI workshops
- You Be the Judge
- Expanding Visions
- etc., etc., etc.



New Competition Manual

The Club's *Competition Manual* is also being revamped and updated to reflect our current situation—limiting our monthly competition meeting to PDIs (projected digital image) only and suspending our print competitions until further notice (if and when we go back to meeting in person).

The revised *Competition Manual* will also reflect the new PDI sizes starting next month for competitions and all other Club activities calling for the submission of images.



Email Regrets



I was very much looking forward to being with you tonight, but I have a problem with my hip that got considerably worse over the weekend. I am now confined to bed, but I wish you and Helen and all of the attendees of the Park West party the happiest of holidays—Elaine

Hope you have a great time and would love to see some of the shots. Brookfield Place is a must when we visit N.Y. We normally walk from Perry Street down the Hudson to there, by which time we have built up an appetite for some fast food. Then come down and take some shots of the palms and the harbour in front, before walking down to the piers before getting a taxi back to our sons on East 6th Street. So will be very envious and thinking of you all—Dave

I am so very disappointed that I won't be joining you all tonite. Dental surgery is taking me longer from which to recover. However I'm looking forward to seeing you at our next gathering. Enjoy—Bonnie



Way to Go!

The New York City Sierra Club Photography Committee asked its members to submit up to three images for a portfolio which would be used to showcase the group and to submit to galleries and other venues for the opportunity to have group exhibits. The images are limited to nature, wildlife, and landscape genres.

From the over 160 images sent in for consideration by over 60 members, only 25 made the cut.

Ten of the selected images were from Park West Camera Club members!



© Justine Carson



© Helen Pine



© Pat Garbarini



© Marjorie Gurd

Three additional images were selected from former Park West Camera Club members—two from David Francis and one from Judy Rosenblatt. That means over 50% of the best Sierra Photo has to offer were from PWCC.

Continued on next page



© Chuck Pine



© Justine Carson



© Natalie Manzano



© Helen Pine



© Justine Carson



© Chuck Pine

Wave Hill

by Evelyne Appel

William Lewis Morris bought the Wave Hill estate in 1843 where he resided with his family in a Manor overlooking the Hudson River in Riverdale. The estate was passed on to other occupants through the years and in 1903 Glyndor was built near the Manor where George W. Perkins lived with his family and the Manor was leased to notable residents including Marc Twain and the young Theodore Roosevelt. Conductor Arturo Toscanini lived in Wave Hill during the war from 1942 to 1945.

In 1960 the estate was given to the City of New York.

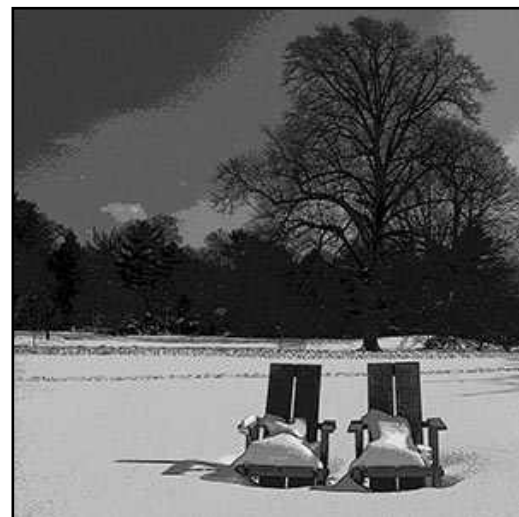
We are so privileged. Wave Hill has a pond, a rock garden, hot houses for plants and herbs, and many little trails among the trees.

When I enter the Gardens I feel a sense of serenity and peace. In the spring the trees bloom offering a splendid spectacle. You can see colorful beds of tulips (which you can't tip toe through) but are there for your pleasure to photograph at your leisure. In the early fall monarch butterflies tempt you and tease you and play hard to get before they fly south. In the winter the snow occupies the chairs you want to sit on.

Wave Hill is a paradise for us all.



All photos
© Evelyne Appel



Print Salon

by Jeff Langford

This Print Salon presentation to the Club, originally set for February 24th, has been put on the back burner... for now. The group, with only five of its dozen or so members present, met on January 7th, and came to this decision to postpone.



We decided that the best way to present our work is for each of us to lay out some prints on a table and invite the Club members to come up, examine them, and question the makers about the images. However, we are reluctant to put this idea into motion without the input of the missing Print Salon members.



The next meeting of the Print Salon, to continue this discussion, will take place in early February. If other Club members would like to join us, send an email to me at langford@msmny.edu for all the pertinent info—date, time, location, directions, etc.

Photo Quotes

When subject matter is forced to fit into preconceived patterns, there can be no freshness of vision. Following rules of composition can only lead to a tedious repetition of pictorial cliches.
Edward Weston

Black and White speaks to me in a way that I cannot put into words.
Anonymous

I really didn't have much to teach. I didn't even believe in it. I felt so strongly that everybody had to find their own way. And nobody can teach you your own way... in terms of art, the only real answer that I know of is to do it. If you don't do it you don't know what might happen.
Harry Callahan

Can photography be taught? If this means the history and the techniques of the medium, I think it can... If, however, teaching photography means bringing students to find their own individual photographic visions, I think it is impossible.
Robert Adams

Color records the image, but black and white records the feelings that lie beneath the surface of that image.
Cole Thompson



Active

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

Inactive

Gary Koulisch
Linda Safran
Paul Perkus

Deceased

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



Curtain Raisers

by Helen Pine

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

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



January Birthdays

by Natalie Manzino

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

Chuck Pine
Helen Pine
Eliot Nierman



Committee Liaisons

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

Here's how it'll work:

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

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

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

Inactive Committees

Archive
Field Trip
Gallery
House



Photo Notes Deadlines

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

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

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





PSA Membership

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

Individual Member Benefits

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

Waterfall Tip

Weather is a huge part in making great a waterfall image. Waterfalls do not photograph their best in bright sunny weather. The best time to photograph a waterfall is in overcast weather. But don't let that stop you if you're there on a nice day.



by Julie Foehrenbach

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

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

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

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

As of the end of 2024, we have 652 postings and 514 followers.

On the Website

by Michael Schleiff

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you and enjoy the PWCC forums.

Responses

The following are responses to Chuck's President's Message on the subject of, among other things, artificial intelligence, in the December *Photo Notes*...

from member Eliot Nierman:
I strongly disagree with you about use of AI beyond cleanup and adding back a small thing that was inadvertently partially cut off. Our eyes naturally do this when we view the scene. What I would not allow is sky replacement and adding other elements that were not there. I would also not include non-AI techniques such as moving things like the sun or moon to create what was not there. Such approaches may be artistic and certainly could be included in a particular competition with creation of a scene as a goal but to me using them is not photographing a scene but rather constructing one on a computer. It is a different set of skills, experiences and a different goal. If we don't care about photographing reality, at it's extreme why go anywhere at all and why not just use AI to make a picture de novo? I don't think AI in the sense of making a picture is the future of photography. I think that will be a different art form as painting and photography are different art forms. At a minimum I strongly believe it should be made clear when the photograph does not represent what was there and elements were added, skies replaced, etc.



from former member Elaine Kirchen
I belong to the Westchester Photographic Society and we, too, have had discussions about AI. FYI our rules are that anything can be removed by AI, but nothing can be added by AI. One of our Salon members submitted an entry that was entirely AI. She was asked to show the original. Since there was none, her work was disqualified. It's sometimes very hard to tell what is and what isn't.



Portrait Tip

Use the right shutter speed.

Soft portraits are caused by two related issues:

- a moving subject
- camera shake

Both of these have the same solution—use a fast enough shutter speed to freeze the motion.

How fast?

The *reciprocal rule* states “to capture sharp images, set the shutter speed to the reciprocal of the focal length of the lens. If it is a 50mm lens, set the shutter speed to $\frac{1}{50}$ of a second; with a 200mm lens use $\frac{1}{200}$ of a second; etc. This will take care of any camera shake when shooting.

[Note—using the image stabilization feature built into the camera body or lens will also help reduce camera shake.]



If the subject is moving, use a faster shutter speed. $\frac{1}{250}$ of a second should work for slow movements; higher shutter speeds may be used for faster motion.

[Note—use flash to freeze a moving portrait subject.]

Club's Night Out

A Club's Night Out was scheduled for the evening of Monday, December 16th at Brookfield Place, in the shadow of the Freedom Tower. This was in lieu of our annual holiday party at the home of Chuck and Helen Pine.

As the saying goes, "It was a dark and stormy night..." And not very many people showed up. And those who did could not find any other Club members.

But all was not lost!

There were still some great photos to be made. Here are a few of them....



©2024 Chuck Pine

©2024 Paul Grebaanier



©2024 Christine Doyle



©2024 Sonia Durante



©2024 Christine Doyle

Continued on next page



©2024 Chuck Pine



©2024 Sonia Durante



©2024 Joe Nawy



©2024 Paul Grebaanier



©2024 Sonia Durante



©2024 Chuck Pine

Cairngorms Life

by David Miller

Cairngorms Life is the blog written by Park West Camera Club member David Miller. David lives in Scotland.

"I have just got round to start writing this just a few days before publishing and the weather is even more wintry than last month so me being me I just wanted to show you what I call a proper Scottish winter and instead of the yoyo weather we have had it has stayed "proper" for a week now."



Looks like a real Christmas tree in the garden, must brave it one year and put lights up it.



So the snow started last night and when we awoke, we were confronted with these lovely scenes. Next day it all went, on a warm sunny day.



The obligatory Christmas Robin.

Photo Resolutions

Welcome to 2025! Here are a few photography-related resolutions that could help you improve your work, grow your skills, and find excitement in your life.

#1 Commit to Taking Personal Photos Weekly

Because you have a life outside of photography, it can be difficult to commit to personal photography projects. Instead of doing daily photoshoots, which is unrealistic for many of us, why not commit to taking personal photos once a week? Goals like this can be

sustainable, and they can also give you something to look forward to in your busy life.

#2 Experiment With a New Genre Every Month

The new year is a great time to leave your comfort zone. Why not commit to experimenting with a new photo genre every month? You can make a list in advance or go with the flow. Here's are some examples:

- *January - portraits*
 - *February - black & white*
 - *March - pet photography*
- ...and the list goes on. Be as flexible as you like. Pursue genres that spark ideas.



Give Away

by Eliot Nierman

I have two excellent camera bags I am happy to give to anyone who wants to pick them up. We live at 78th Street and West End Avenue. Other than cosmetic wear they are in fine shape. They are both in the ThinkTank BackLight line of backpacks—the 26L and the 36L. (On the current B&H website they are listed as *MindShift Gear Backlight Backpacks* at \$299.75 and \$329.75 respectively.)

If you're interested in either or both bags, please contact me to arrange a mutually convenient pick-up time.



Free Newsletter

by Ed Lee

Deborah Gilbert, formerly of the B&H Event Space and the B&H *Portfolio Development Program*, publishes a free, bi-monthly e-newsletter about all things photographic—the *DEVELOP Photo Newsletter*.

If you'd like to subscribe, click [here](#)



Baroque Barbie

by Charles Levin

My image, *Baroque Barbie*, of a cellist busking in a New York City subway pedestrian tunnel won second place at the Ojai Art Center's Annual Open Photography Competition.



Baroque Barbie
© Charles Levin

Panorama of the Month



The Green Wave ©2022 Chuck Pine

Remembering

International Exhibit

A few years back, in 2022 to be precise, Park West and 12 other camera clubs from around the world, were invited to join in the 70th anniversary exhibition of the South Manchester Camera Club (in northwest England, UK—not any of the 30 different towns or cities named Manchester in the United States).

11 PWCC members entered images in this show. They are Charles Levin, Bill Apple, Helen Bohmart Pine (also as Helen Pine), Christine Doyle, Virginia Lawrence, Elena Pierpont, Chuck Pine, Michael Schleiff, Alice Somma, Karin Stern, and Janet Susin. (Chuck and Helen Pine also have an image displayed through one of their Florida camera Clubs, PASFLA—Photographic Arts of South Florida.)

You can view all 196 of the images at <www.smcc.org.uk/exhibitions/70th-international-full-submissions> Please note that the images are arranged (with some exceptions) by the photographers' last names.

Take your time, relax with a refreshing drink in hand, and enjoy this beautiful array of images from scores of very talented photographers.



Rear Windows
© Charles Levin



Tree in Window
© Bill Apple



Green Heron
© Helen Bohmart Pine



Staten Island Ferry
© Christine Doyle

Continued on next page



Central Park Snow
© Virginia Lawrence



Citicorp Building
© Elena Pierpont



She Always Looks Great
© Michael Schleiff



Fireboat John J. Harvey
© Helen Pine



Beach Reflection
© Chuck Pine



Dumbo
© Alice Somma



Wall at Bethesda Fountain
© Karin Stern



Broadway Kiss
© Janet Susin

Park West is a member of NYMACC (New York Metro Area Camera Council, Inc.)—an umbrella group for camera clubs and photographers in this area. It held its monthly meeting on December 10th. Chuck and Helen Pine were representing PWCC.

First on the agenda was a discussion raised by our Club. It had to do with a dissolution clause for our constitution. As it turned out, none of the other clubs at the meeting (there were only five in total) had such a clause in any of their official documents.

The second item on the agenda was about the planned NYMACC trip to Princeton, NJ scheduled for June 2025. A “save the date” flyer was talked about.

The next NYMACC Zoom meeting is scheduled for the 14th of January at 7 p.m. All Park West members are invited to attend to see what goes on in the group. The Zoom link for the meeting is <<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88595844651?pwd=WDhl-U1I4QkxXRUYyMGRFQVBse-jVWUT09#success>>



Hill Street Gallery

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

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

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



Bruce Byers < >
917-992-1453
<www.BruceByers.com>

Hill Street Gallery
<www.HillStreetGallery.com>

Photo Workshops
<www.cameraodysseys.com>

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



About (Y)our Website

by Michael Schleiff

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

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

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

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

questions, please follow up with the website committee.

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

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

Waterfall Tip

Water flows straight down in a waterfall. If your camera is tilted when shooting it can spoil the whole image. Most modern cameras have a built-in **leveling tool**. Use it! If your camera lacks this feature, an inexpensive **bubble level** attached to the camera's hot shoe, or built into the tripod, will do the trick.

Adobe Price Increase

Adobe announced some pricing updates in mid-December that might affect any of us that use their photography programs—Photoshop, Lightroom, etc. The packages you have will not be changing; you'll still have access to the same programs, storage space, and the rest. Here's the breakdown of the prices that will go into effect on January 15th, 2025 (or later, depending*)...

If you have the Adobe Photography Plan (includes Lightroom, Lightroom Classic, Photoshop on desktop and iPad, Photoshop Express, Adobe Firefly, and 20GB of cloud storage) *and* you are paying for it with one yearly payment (\$119.88 per year)—there is no price increase.

If you have the Adobe Photography Plan (as above) but are paying for it with a \$9.99/month deduction (\$119.88 per year)—the price is going up to \$14.99 a month (\$179.88 per year).

However, you can go to Adobe at www.adobe.com and switch over to the yearly payment and keep paying the lower rate (\$119.88 per year). You *must* make the switch prior to January 15th, 2025



If you have the Adobe Photography Plan with 1TB of cloud storage—the price is going up to \$19.99 a month (\$239.88 per year, whether you pay monthly or in one annual payment).

* The actual date of the increase is your anniversary date with Adobe. In other words, if you first signed up for an Adobe plan on June 23, 2013, then your price increase will occur on June 23, 2025.

If you don't already have an Adobe Photography Plan, but want one—you must sign up before January 15, 2025 and opt for the once-a-year payment to get the lower annual price.

Just remember, there are other photo editing programs out there—some with lower monthly payments than Photoshop—some where you can buy the program with one lump sum payment and need not pay anything else—but none IMHO that are as good and as all-inclusive as what Photoshop has to offer. The choice is yours!

Lightpanel

Too many photos, and not enough time?

Every photographer knows the struggle—hours spent culling and editing hundreds of images, only to feel like there's never enough time to focus on the creative areas of photography. What if there was a better way? A faster, smarter workflow that didn't require you to learn a whole new app or leave Lightroom.



Introducing Lightpanel, the first AI assistant designed to work directly alongside Lightroom. Created by ON1 software, ON1 is aiming to redefine what photographers can accomplish by leveraging artificial intelligence to deliver unmatched speed, consistency, and efficiency throughout the post-processing workflow.

ON1's Lightpanel software is expected to arrive sometime in February for \$299.99/year.



Best of Sports

2024 was an incredible year in sports! There was a plethora of iconic images from around the world that captured the biggest moments from the Olympics, the Super Bowl, and much more. Check out some of the best...



Summer Paralympic Games
©2024 Steph Chambers



NBA Championship
©2024 Nathaniel S. Butler



WBO World Cruiserweight Title
©2024 Richard Heathcote



Summer Paralympic Games
©2024 David Ramos



SHISEIDO Tahiti Pro
©2024 Sean M. Haffey

Glow Filters

In recent decades, lens makers have been interested in image quality. While not necessarily bad, it just so happens that the sterile, crisp images tend to take away from the character of the lens and the photograph itself. Although one can alter this in post-processing, it still is not the best solution for many who prefer to capture in-camera images.

In that regard, a company that ensures photographers' artistic vision does not suffer is



Tiffen. They just announced a new lineup of diffusion lens filters called the *Glow* series.

These filters come in three variants (Soft Glow, Black Soft Glow, and Golden Glow) and

in different densities. Each one has been designed to remove the sterility of digital lenses while keeping a natural look to the contrast. As a result, the

images look distinct, with compelling highlights.

These filters are great for those who shoot architectural, landscape, portrait, and/or street photography.

Clyde Butcher



Conservation 5
Everglades National Park
© Clyde Butcher

Weather Winners

The Royal Meteorological Society has revealed the winners of the 2024 *Standard Chartered Weather Photographer of the Year Awards*, showcasing extraordinary images that capture the beauty and power of weather phenomena worldwide.

Here are some of the best images...



Overall Winner
Sprites Dancing in the Dark Night
© Wang Xin



Smartphone Winner
Volcanoes
© Nur Syaileen Natasya Binti Azaharin



Climate Winner
Rowing
© Gerson Turelly



Youth Winner
Rain Aria
© Angelina Widmann



Second Place
African Dust Over Athens
© Ellis Skelton

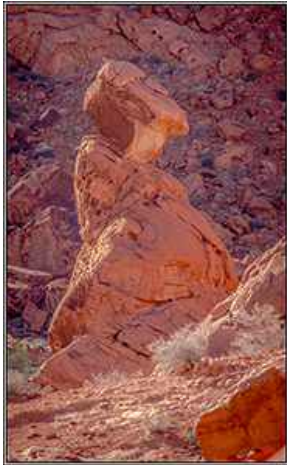


Second Place
Saturated Earth and Sky's Promise
© Ellis Skelton

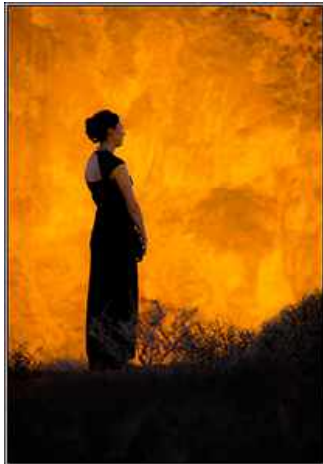
Where to Go

Las Vegas

Las Vegas, Nevada, is one of the top destinations in the country,... but not only for gamblers! The photo ops in Vegas are amazing, too! Here are a few to check out before you hit the roulette wheel...



Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area



Valley of Fire State Park



Las Vegas Strip



The Neon Museum



Freemont Street Experience

Portrait Tip

Keep the camera still.

The best way to do this is to use a tripod; second best, use a monopod; third best, use proper camera holding techniques:

- Hold your left hand under the lens
- Firmly hold the camera grip with right hand
- Keep your elbows tucked in to your body
- Make sure the camera is pressed against your face (don't extend your arms forward)
- Press the shutter release button gently.



All photos
© Chuck Pine

Surreal Photography

Surreal photography creates dreamlike, unexpected visuals, and pushes the boundaries of creativity. Everyday scenes turn into fascinating works of art. You just need to see beyond the obvious and capture images in ways that challenge reality.

Here are a few examples that prove the extraordinary is hiding in plain sight...



© Ben Zank



© Brooke DiDonato



© Gabriel Isak



© Alex Mitchell

Portrait Tip

Focus on the Eyes

"The eyes are the windows to the soul" is attributed to William Shakespeare. It predates photography by several centuries. But it can be applied to portrait photography just the same.

If you fail to capture sharp eyes, the entire image

will be ruined. On the other hand, if the eyes are in focus and the rest of the subject is not, it will be seen as a sharp portrait.

If your camera has some kind of eye auto focus, use it. If not, set the camera to center-point focus, lock it in, and then recompose. If the subject is turned sideways, focus on the closest eye.



The Future

Artificial intelligence and optics have merged to create a new imaging system that could transform photography. By combining AI-driven corrections with metalenses—flat, nanoscale lenses—researchers have overcome some of the long-standing challenges of miniaturizing lenses while maintaining image quality.

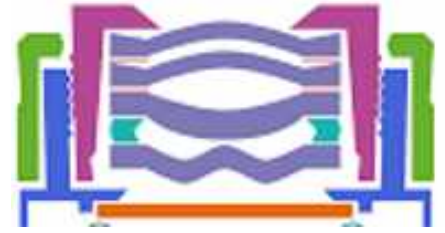
This latest advancement addresses a major limitation of traditional lenses: the balance between size and performance. Where conventional lenses use multiple glass layers to fix optical issues like chromatic and spherical aberrations, they add bulk. Metalenses, being flat and simple, have lacked this versatility—until now. The AI handles image corrections

that the lens cannot, keeping the hardware compact while improving quality.

This technology could eliminate the trade-offs that often occur between size and performance in compact devices like smartphones and drones. For mirrorless (and other) cameras, it could mean lighter, more portable gear without sacrificing quality.

Are metalenses the future of photography? There are no predictions as to when, and at what price, these lenses will become available.

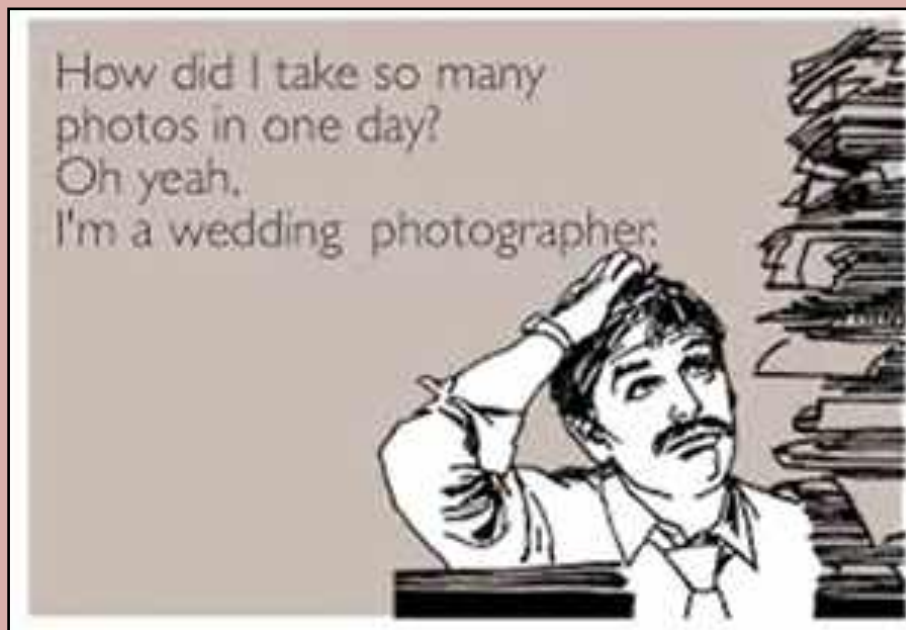
Optical Lens



Metalens



Photo Cartoon



Street Life

With our theme night on street photography coming up at the end of the month (January 27th, to be precise), we thought you might get some inspiration from these photos by the Taiwanese photographer Bi-jiun Chen...



All photos
© Bi-jiun Chen



Shooting In Snow



Snow photography can be a fun and rewarding way to express your creativity. But there are a few challenges when shooting in snow. Here are some tips that might be useful for your shooting...

Focus on contrast: Snow can be bright and featureless, so try to find subjects that provide contrast and interest. Look for dark trees, colorful hats or other elements that will stand out against the snow.

Try exposure compensation: Exposure compensation is a way to adjust the exposure of a photograph by telling the camera to make the image lighter or darker. When you photograph a scene that is predominantly white, the camera's meter may be tricked into thinking the scene is much brighter than it actually is. This can cause the camera to under-expose the image. This would result in a photograph that is too dark. Use an exposure compensation of +1 or +2 stops as a starting point and then re-evaluate the image.

Use aperture priority:

Aperture priority is the shooting mode that allows you to control the aperture (f -stop) while the camera chooses the shutter speed. This should be useful when photographing snow because you can choose a small aperture to not allow as much light into the sensor and adjust the depth of field to keep both the foreground and background in focus.



Set your white balance:

Snow appears blue in winter photographs because it reflects blue light. This can cause the

photograph to look cool and unbalanced. To correct for this, you can set your white balance to "cloudy." This will warm up the photograph and give it a more natural appearance.

Use a polarizing filter:

A polarizing filter can reduce the glare from the sun and increase the contrast between the bright snow and the darker elements in the scene. This can make the photograph more visually appealing and bring out the details in the scene.



Art from Text

We live in magical times where you can generate digital art just by typing some words. But are these programs actually producing photographs?

Technically speaking, the word photography comes from two Greek words—*graph* meaning to write or draw and *photo* meaning light.

In more common terms, photography is the capturing of an image on film or a digital sensor using a camera.

Neither of these definitions of photography coincide with any of the following “art from text” programs.

We do not permit their use in our competition images! But they are fun to play around with just the same!

Here are some of the best ones out there—and they’re all free to use.

Midjourney

- Compatible across multiple platforms
- Intuitive AI-driven design interface
- Harnesses the power of vast image databases for precise results
- Offers premium content and free and generation options



Adobe Firefly

- Currently available for Mac and Windows only
- Bases its training on the unlimited number of Adobe Stock images and other on-line content
- A recently released stand-alone app

Starry AI

- Available for Windows, Mac, Android, and iOS
- Creates text-to-image AI art with granular control
- Easy to customize images

Bing Image Creator

- Available only as a web app
- It is based on OpenAI’s DALL-E
- Works more seamlessly when used with Microsoft Edge browser
- Requires highly detailed prompts to create specific pieces of artwork

Fotor

- Available for Windows, Mac, Android, and iOS
- Offers a wide variety of free online editing tools rarely found on free AI image generators
- Easy to use



DeepAI

- Available for Windows and Mac only
- Clean, sleek interface
- A wide range of image styles and designs from which to choose

Illustration Generator

- No prompting skills are required – the easier you make it, the better result you will get
- 100% legal and ethical, no stealing from artists
- High-quality and consistent outputs

Canva

- Available for Windows, Mac, Android, and iOS
- Comes with numerous art design tools
- Easy to use
- You don’t need to set up an account to try it out



Photo Shorts

Fast Portrait Lens



Sirui, a company best known for its relatively inexpensive tripods and cinema lenses, has recently announced a lens that should appeal to shooters looking for an inexpensive portrait lens: a full-frame 85mm *f*-1.4 with autofocus for Nikon Z-, Sony E-, and Fujifilm X-mounts (on the Fuji, it'll be roughly 128mm focal length). The lens is officially known as the Sirui Aurora 85mm *f*-1.4 and lists for \$599.

Fast Mid-Range Lens



The Viltrox 135mm *f*-1.8 LAB FE is an incredible lens in so many ways. The image quality is stunning. It's also very fast, with an *f*-1.8 aperture, and it is extremely fast-focusing. On top of that, it's weather-sealed. On the downside, it's big and heavy. Best of all, though, it's got a price tag of only \$899.

Super-Wide Zoom



The Tamron 11-20mm *f*-2.8 Di III-A2 RXD lens is a fast ultra wide-angle zoom lens for APS-C mirrorless cameras from Sony (E-mount), Fujifilm (X-mount), and Canon (RF-mount). It features a constant *f*-2.8 maximum aperture and has a compact and lightweight design (only 12 ounces). This ultra-wide lens is particularly suitable for astrophotography, landscape, and architectural shooting. All should be in stock by the time you read this at a price under \$700.

One of a Kind



The Laowa 12-24mm *f*-5.6 Zoom Shift CF Lens is an ultra-wide zoom lens designed for mirrorless cameras. What makes it unique, however, is that it's a shift lens than can control perspective and straighten converging lines. It accepts 77mm filters and its nine-bladed diaphragm yields

beautiful star patterns. It comes in a variety of mounts for Canon RF and EF-M, Sony E, Nikon Z, Fuji X, and Leica L. The asking price is \$699.

Super-Wide Prime



The 7Artisans 9mm *f*-5.6 super wide angle lens for full frame cameras has a trick up its sleeve. The lens allows you to attach an ND filter at the rear end to give images extra contrast. The 9mm lens provides a 132-degree of the angle of view and with its 5-bladed aperture the lens produces no distortion. The lens comes in Sony, Leica, Canon, and Nikon mounts and lists for \$479.

Panasonic Mirrorless



The Panasonic Lumix G97 has a 12-60mm *f*-3.5-5.6 lens. This versatile Micro Four Thirds camera includes a high resolution OLED touchscreen. Its 20.3MP sensor has five-axis image stabilization. It should be available by the time you read this for \$847.99.

Supercharged



The latest Apple 24" iMac is supercharged with their M4 chip and Apple Intelligence. It delivers performance boosts to everyday activities and intense photography manipulations. The basic model comes with 16GB of RAM and a 256GB solid-state-drive. It's available in an entire rainbow of colors. It goes for \$1,199.

The base model will run Photoshop, Lightroom, and any other program you want to throw at it. However, you might think about increasing the memory to 24 or 32GB of RAM and/or the hard drive to up to 2TB of internal storage. Maxed out, the new iMac will set you back \$2,899.



With a 4480 x 2520 display, the iMac provides over one billion colors and 500 nits of brightness. The Retina 4.5K display also features the P3

color gamut which is over 26% larger than sRGB and slightly larger than the AdobeRGB color space.

The iMac comes with a built-in 12MP camera, a studio-quality microphone, and a six-speaker sound system. The purchase price includes a color-matched keyboard and either the Magic Mouse or the Magic Trackpad.



Self Assignments

Self-assignments are an effective way to improve your photography skills, get out of a creative funk, and try something that you typically wouldn't be comfortable with doing. Basically, self-assignments are photo projects that involve using your imagination to create unique photos. You can come up with a theme for your photoshoot based on your own interests or something random that you stumbled upon.

Feel free to come up with your own themes, but if you're stuck, here are a few ideas...

- Intimate landscape
- Wide-angle portrait
- Square format
- Black & white street photo
- Colorful close-up
- Extreme perspective (e.g. *very low or high angle*)



Reflection Removal

Reflections can be a blessing or a curse for photographers.

When shooting landscapes, for example, you often want to include reflections in bodies of water. On the other hand, a reflection in a store window could be quite distracting from the subject inside.

Adobe's latest feature, **Reflection Removal**, in Adobe Camera Raw, is an amazing tool if you want to capture images without annoying reflections.

Reflection Removal is now available as a "technology preview" in Adobe Camera RAW 17.1. It uses advanced artificial intelligence to remove reflections from images taken through glass. It works with most RAW files, but not on JPEG or TIFF files (at least not at this time).

Once you have the updated software version, you have to turn on the Reflection Removal tool. See the sidebar, *Turning It On*, for directions..

When the Reflection Removal tool is up and running, simply adjust the **Reflection Slider**. The slider ranges from -100 to +100.

At +100, the tool removes reflections to reveal what's behind the glass. At -100, it stresses the reflection, showing what's mirrored on the glass.

This gives you total control of the subject behind the glass



as well as the reflection in the glass surface.

The Reflection Removal tool is expected to appear in Lightroom in the near future.



Turning It On

In Camera Raw, click the gear icon in the top-right corner to open Preferences. Under the "Technology Previews" tab, enable the checkbox for AI features.

Restart Photoshop.

In Camera Raw, click on the "Remove" icon in the right toolbar. Under "Distraction Removal", you'll see a checkbox "Reflections." Click it to enable the Reflection Removal tool.



Where to Go

Aurora Sightings

Nerd alert—Solar cycles last around 11 years, with solar flares and electromagnetic activity peaking right in the middle of the cycle. More flares means breathtaking, frequent northern lights. And right now, we're smack-dab in a solar cycle's peak.

While this means you can sometimes see auroras in unexpected places like Texas or Germany, you'll want all-but-guaranteed front-row views of nature's biggest light show a little farther north.

Here are the top spots to view the northern lights...



Canada

Best time to visit: Late August to October, and mid-November to early April



Alaska

Best time to visit: August to April



Iceland

Best time to visit: Late August to mid-April



Sweden

Best time to visit: Early September to early April



Norway

Best time to visit: Late September to late March

What's Next???

Taking your dog into nature and trying to get some great photos of him or her is something many of us have done. But you've probably turned the camera away when it's time for the dog to do their business.



The 2025 *Dogs Pooping in Beautiful Places* calendar is available on Amazon for only \$11.99

Contrast

Contrast is defined as *the comparison of one thing with another, or to show the differences between two or more things*. In a photographic image this can be achieved in several ways:

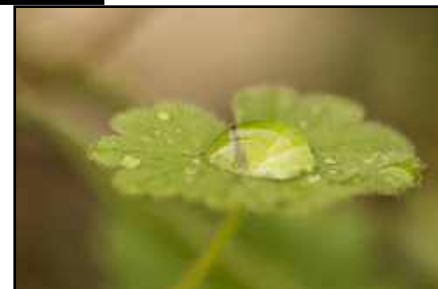


Tonal contrast is the difference between the light and dark tones in an image.

While tonal contrast

Contrasting colors make beautiful images. When composing your shots, keep an eye out for colors that are at opposite ends of the color wheel. Colors will command attention, create a visually pleasing composition, and help the subject to stand out. Pay attention to a color's saturation. While weak colors are lower in contrast, stronger, more vibrant shades have more contrast.

is often overlooked in favor of color contrast, it can have a big impact on the photo as well. Our eyes are naturally drawn to the highlights in the image. By paying attention to light and dark areas in a composition, you'll be able to use this to your advantage and create photos with clearly defined focal points.



Including different textures in your image is another way to add contrast to your images. Look for contrasting textures to incorporate into your shots: a delicate leaf resting on a solid stone, for instance, or a smooth drop of water on the surface of a fuzzy leaf.

B&W or Color

Many cameras these days allow you to set the camera to shoot in black-and-white to capture images.

Don't do it!

Why not? Because the camera is simply running automated steps without evaluating the tonal values

in the captured scene. It will just desaturate the file of its color information.

Some cameras allow you to "filter" certain colors,... blah, blah, blah. But it's still an automated process. Also, if you create the original file in color, then you will have a color file to work with if you so desire.

For your best original file, you should always set your camera to shoot in raw, at the maximum resolution, and in color. Remember, it's easier to go downhill (from a complete file) than it is to go uphill (from a stripped-down file)!

Have fun shooting.

Where to Go

Street Photography

The Big Apple is not the only place in the world for great street photography. Large cities, rural communities, and everything in between offer street photo ops. Here are just a few world cities in which you can shoot the life on the streets...



Paris



London



Rome



Barcelona



Bangkok



Hong Kong



Tokyo



Podunk

Optical Exchange

Whether you're a street photographer, a travel shooter, or just someone who likes to take pictures anytime, anywhere, you've likely faced one common problem: Having limited space in your camera bag for your gear! Not to mention the weight of it all. This is especially true if you prefer prime lenses but your shoots often require a range of different focal lengths, which means you'll have to carry around a bunch of lenses. Such a hassle, right?



Korean camera lens maker, Samyang, recently released the world's first-ever optical exchange autofocus lens. This technology lets you swap three pocket-sized optical elements in one lightweight, ultra-slim lens body—a game-changer in increasing the flexibility of your photography!

You can pre-order the Remaster Slim lens kit for Sony E-mount cameras, under the Rokinon label, for \$399. More mounts are in the works.

Lightroom Updates

If you're looking to maximize your editing workflow using Photoshop, the December 2024 update of Lightroom Desktop, also known as Lightroom Classic, brings some awesome improvements. Let's look at some of the new features and enhancements that make this release a significant step up...

Streamlined Integration with Photoshop

There are three new options for opening your images in Photoshop:

1. **Edit in Photoshop:** Sends multiple selected images to Photoshop as individual documents.
2. **Open as Layers:** Combines selected images into a single Photoshop document, with each image on its own layer, perfect for compositing.
3. **Open as Smart Object:** Sends images to Photoshop as smart objects, retaining editing flexibility for advanced workflows like Camera Raw adjustments or non-destructive effects.

Lens Blur Enhancements

The Lens Blur tool receives several notable updates, further refining this powerful feature:

- **Oval/Anamorphic Bokeh Shapes:** Adds character to your specular highlights by



simulating anamorphic lens effects.

- **Cat Eye Slider:** Mimics real-world optical distortion by narrowing bokeh shapes toward the edges of the frame, creating a realistic lens-like effect.
- **Expanded Presets:** New adaptive blur background presets provide additional creative options for crafting the perfect aesthetic.

Generative Remove After Cropping

A key improvement to the Generative Remove Tool allows users to apply edits post-crop. Previously, Lightroom factored in the full uncropped image, now, the tool focuses solely on the cropped area, making object removal more accurate and intuitive.

To access these new features, ensure your Lightroom is updated to version 8.1. Open the Creative Cloud desktop app, click the "Apps" button, and check for updates. If the update doesn't appear, a quick system reboot can often resolve the issue.

Portrait Tip

Don't forget the ISO

The exposure triangle has three sides—shutter speed, aperture, and ISO. You need to set the shutter speed to control movement. You need to set the aperture to control depth-of-field. Sometimes you need to use a fast shutter speed and a small aperture at the same time. What do you do if there's not enough light to accomplish this?

You simply raise the ISO to compensate for the lack of light, that's what!

Not too long ago, raising the ISO meant lots of digital noise in the image. Not so any more! Most modern cameras handle noise much better, and there's plenty of software on the market that can reduce or eliminate noise.

Many photographers use their cameras set to manual mode, choose the aperture and shutter speed they need, and then set the camera to an auto ISO mode.

Voilà, problem solved!



Using Your Camera

by Chuck Pine

Urban Landscapes

Urban landscape photography, aka cityscapes, at its broadest, involves capturing photos of cities and towns. Generally speaking, an urban landscape shot has an expansive field of view—capturing more than just a single subject—and is taken outdoors.

Here are some tips to help you get the best possible urban landscape images...



Use a wide-angle lens

Since there's no one-size-fits-all approach, experiment with different focal lengths, though anything wider than 35mm is a good starting point.

Use a narrow aperture

This will result in great depth of field. Just about everything in the image will be sharp. Start at $f/11$, check your LCD screen, and shoot wider or

narrower, whatever the image calls for.



Shoot at the golden-hour

Golden-hour light, the light just after sunrise and just before sunset, is soft and warm, plus it casts long shadows, which means that it'll often create wonderfully ethereal scenes.

Photograph from above

Images taken from high vantage points have the power to shock and amaze—*especially* when several tall buildings are in the image.



Use long exposures

They are nearly always stunning—and they look *especially* gorgeous when combined with moving

subjects, gleaming glass facades, and many other urban delights.

Shoot at night

If you're looking for *unique* urban landscapes, then in addition to shooting at sunrise and sunset, photograph the city after dark.

Change things up

Shoot during different seasons and weather.



Use leading lines

They are lines that move the eye through the image from one area to another. They usually start in the foreground and stretch toward the background. They add three-dimensionality to your photos.



Using Your Camera

by Chuck Pine

Skyline Tips



Just saying the word “skyline” makes my mouth water. But not over photos of the City. [Skyline is the name of a chain of Cincinnati-style chili restaurants. The chili is served over spaghetti and usually topped off with shredded cheddar cheese.]

But, I digress.

Shooting skyline images, usually of larger cities (but not always—even small towns and villages can provide fodder for a great skyline) can be exciting and yet challenging. Here are some tips to help your shooting experience...



Skyline shots are best taken from outside the town or city. Research where the best vantage points are located and how to get there. For the Big Apple, anywhere along the



Jersey side of the Hudson River, the Brooklyn/Queens side of the East River, or even the north shore of Staten Island offer great opportunities. So do Governor’s Island, Roosevelt Island, and many other smaller ones. If the location you’re trying to shoot is surrounded by hills—go up. If it rests on the bank of a river, lake, or Ocean—get on a boat (I’d suggest against wading or swimming).



Panoramas are great for cityscapes. Some cameras and smartphones have a built-in pano feature—all you have to do is push the button and pan the device. Don’t have it? Take multiple images to capture all of the skyline and then stitch them together in Photoshop or another specialized panorama software. [Note—It’s best to use a tripod when taking panoramic shots.]

Focus is key! Use the electronic viewfinder or LCD screen to make sure you nail it. Most of these let you zoom in on the subject to make sure the focus is accurate. It also helps to use a small aperture to give you extra depth-of-field.

Timing is everything, especially with night skyline shots. The *golden hour*—just after sunrise or before sunset—offers great light. But the *blue hour* (actually only minutes)—just before sunrise or after sunset—has some light in the sky but the buildings will have begun to light up. Shooting in this small window of time can produce an image with greater depth that’s less difficult to produce than one taken in a totally dark sky.



Photo Shopping

by Chuck Pine

Cold Weather Gear

Cold weather shooting has a lot to offer in the way of subject matter. But beside all the great winter photo ops, there are several drawbacks. But don't worry. Here are some items that will make the experience more pleasurable and give you better images...



Ice and snow, both common in the winter, are very reflective and can wreak havoc with your exposures. Two items, both of which are lens filters, help to tame reflections and glare from them. The **circular polarizer (CPL)** filter controls reflections, giving you the ability to have more contrasty skies, reduce haze, and boost contrast. These filters usually screw into the front of your lens. The prices vary widely, from under \$10 to almost \$1,000, depending on the filter size (diameter), construction, and quality.



Bright snow, skies, water, and ice are usually contrasted with much darker land, trees, etc.

The dynamic range of the bright and dark areas is too great for camera sensors to handle. **Graduated neutral density** filters to the rescue. These filters come in round screw-in ones, similar to the CPL filters, but I'd recommend square or rectangular filters that slip into a filter holder. The prices vary widely, from under \$10 to almost well over \$1,000 for some filter sets. The prices depend on the material used (glass or plastic). Filter holders are sold separately.



Handling photo gear with frozen fingers is no fun. It makes shooting difficult and possibly dangerous. **Photo gloves/mittens** are designed to keep your hands and fingers warm and free from frostbite while still letting you operate your gear. Prices depend on the material used and the style of the glove. They range from under \$20 to nearly \$250 (these prices are per pair, of course).

Using a tripod for winter shooting is almost a necessity. But carrying one around and setting it up, whether its aluminum, wood, or carbon fiber can be tortuous. **Tripod leg warmers/wraps** are a welcome accessory. They usually come



in sets of three (obviously). They prevent your hands (even with gloves) from coming in contact with ice cold tripod legs. Prices vary but most sets cost less than \$100.



Though not true photo gear, **hand and foot warmers** are great for sticking in pockets or in boots to keep your digits toasty and frostbite-free. Chemical hand warmers are disposable after a single use. They last for a few hours. And they are cheap. Electric, rechargeable hand warmers can be used over and over. Most cost under \$40. With either style, don't let them come in direct contact with your cameras, film, etc.



PetaPixel Predicts

For its fourth year in a row, *PetaPixel* has gathered its team together to guess the things they just *know* are going to take place over the next calendar year. (Last year, their predictions were mostly... wrong.) Here are this year's guesses...



1) Every major camera maker is going to release a point-and-shoot camera in 2025.

2) Canon will release a high resolution version of the R1.



3) Another company will release a 35mm film camera, and it'll probably be Fujifilm.

4) Nikon will announce the Z5 II and it'll use the same sensor as the Z6 II.

5) OM System will announce a new camera and it will be a successor to the OM-5 (and EM-5 Mark III).



6) Fujifilm will make a big push for faster scanning sensors in the GFX range, probably lower megapixels.

7) The Fujifilm GFX Eterna won't be the only medium format cinema camera next year.



8) Apple will release photo-editing software that sits between Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom.

9) Sigma's full-frame Foveon camera will finally arrive.

10) Sony will launch the a7R VI and it will feature a jump to 80-megapixels.

11) Pentax will announce a new film camera as under development.



13) Nikon will make its third special lens model to join the Plena and the Noct.

Four Planet Conjunction

During this month, January 2025, a planetary conjunction involving four planets—Mars, Venus, Saturn, and Jupiter—will be visible with the naked eye, according to NASA.

A few hours after the sky darkens, Venus and Saturn will become visible in the southwest with Jupiter above them and Mars to the east. Venus and Saturn will get closer each evening as the month progresses.



While spotting planets in alignment isn't uncommon, what's truly special is seeing four bright planets in the sky at once. This occurrence doesn't happen every year, so check it out while you can.



Photo Shopping

by Chuck Pine

Smartphone Apps



ProCamera, by Cocologics, for the iPhone, is an all-in-one photo, video, and editing app bursting with state-of-the-art technology. It has been called the Swiss-Army-Knife for photographers. Its features include...

- RAW capture and editing
- timer to capture a series of photos
- full screen mode to minimize controls

- anti-shake stabilization
- multi lens support
- low light capabilities
- continuous shooting/burst
- and more

It's available at the App Store for \$29.99



Camera FV-5, by FGAE Apps, for Android phones, is an application for enthusiasts, power users, professionals, and everyone in-between. It features a modern, fast camera

experience that puts DSLR-like manual camera controls at your fingertips. Its features include...

- RAW support
- total control of composition
- exposure compensation
- flexible zooming
- exposure bracketing
- built-in intervalometer
- geolocation
- and more

It's available on Google Play for \$4.99



Try This...

As a photographer, there are few things that can be more satisfying than learning a new technique. They can open up new possibilities, provide endless potential for inspiration, and can even help to get you out of a rut.

Here are some things to try, most of which have been assignments in the last 30 years of the Park West Camera Club's *Expanding Visions* classes...

Forced perspective is a fun, visual play on one's depth perception with sometimes hilarious results. When composing this kind of photo, make sure your main subject is either larger or smaller than everything else. This involves experimenting with interesting angles, and positions for your subjects.

Have fun!



Leaning Tower
©2010 Chuck Pine

Photo Shopping

by Chuck Pine

Under \$500

\$500 doesn't go very far these days, especially in the world of digital photography. (We went out to dinner with my brother and his wife a few weeks back, and spent more than any one of these cameras cost.) Here are some models that won't break the bank (the prices quoted are from the B&H website during their pre-holiday sales)...



Ricoh PENTAX WG-1000
Rugged and waterproof
Great image quality
Lightweight and compact
HD video
Flexible zoom range
\$196.95



OM System Tough G7
Water, freeze, dust, shock, crush, and fog proof
Excellent underwater camera
Compact and lightweight
RAW image and 4K video
Accessories galore
Excellent battery life
\$499.99



Sony ZV-1F Vlogging Camera
Compact and lightweight
Sharp Zeiss 20mm f/2 full-frame equivalent lens
Articulating touch screen
16fps mechanical shutter
Fantastic focus and tracking
Excellent low-light performance
\$398



Panasonic LUMIX FZ80D
Impressive 60x optical zoom
Feature packed
Full HD 4K 30p and Full HD 1080p video
Image stabilization
Excellent EVF and LCD
\$447.99



Canon EOS R100
with 18-45mm f/4.5-6.3 lens
mirrorless camera
Excellent image and video quality
Ergonomic design
EVF and LCD
\$499



Minolta MN67Z
20MP 1/2.3" CMOS Sensor
Built-In Wi-Fi
67x Optical Zoom Lens,
3.0" LCD with 920k-Dot Resolution
16GB SD Card with Adapter
Protective Carry Pouch

Full Frame vs Crop Sensor

Crop sensor cameras are best for sports and wildlife, thanks to the extended reach and the tighter field of view.

Full frame cameras are the choice for portraits due to the shallower depth of field that creates background blur.

Full framers are also the choice for landscape and architectural photography because they take advantage of a wide angle lens' field of view.

Crop sensor cameras/lenses are lighter in weight and less expensive than full frame models. Zoom lenses can have greater ranges in a single lens.

PhotoShopping

by Chuck Pine

Dodging and Burning

Dodging and burning are post-processing techniques with roots in film photography.

- Dodging selectively lightens parts of the image.
- Burning selectively darkens parts of the image.

In the darkroom, photographers dodged and burned to increase exposure separation—in other words, increasing the contrast in an image. Some areas they would expose to more light and some areas, they would block light with a card or some other object.

This was a time-consuming process and one would need to replicate it with each print. The terms from the darkroom days stuck and are used in Photoshop now.

But, how exactly do you dodge and burn in Photoshop? It's very easy...

1. Create a new layer and set its mode to Overlay.
2. Check the box that says, "fill with overlay-neutral color (50% gray)." Doing so lets you apply adjustments (dodging and burning) without manipulating the original image.



3. Select the Dodge Tool and set your brush to a small, soft setting.
4. Paint over specific areas you want to brighten using the Dodge Tool and areas you want to darken using the Burn Tool.
5. Use small strokes so as not to overdo the effects.

This can allow you to light up your subject while keeping the rest of your frame the same. Or to darken parts of an image selectively.

Travel Photo Tip

Look for the everyday

This is especially true when you're visiting a more exotic location, but it can apply to any location. don't focus so much on the landmarks, as on the actions and emotions of the locals.



B & H Event Space

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



Mon Jan 13
Refractions Interview
Speaker: Pauline Vermare



Tue Jan 14
The Documentary Approach
Speaker: Adam Isfendiyar



Wed Jan 15
Strobe Lighting
Speaker: Joel Grimes



Tue Jan 21
The New iPhone Layout
Speaker: Paul Einarsen



Speaker: Lester Berkowitz

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

PSA Conference



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

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

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



Sierra Meetings 2024-2025

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

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

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

Waterfall Tips

Not so strange is the fact that waterfalls produce mist and spray that usually end up on you, your camera, and worst of all, on your lens. A clear **filter** attached to the front of your lens will protect the lens. (A flat piece of glass or plastic is easier to wipe dry than the curved front element of a lens.) An additional advantage is that some filters help control the lighting (graduated neutral density filter, for example) and reduce or eliminate glare and reflections (polarizing filter).



Tripods are the best friend to a waterfall shooter. They hold everything steady, especially when you want to use a slow shutter speed to get that cotton candy effect in the movement of the water.



Night Photo Summit



The fifth annual Night Photo Summit — January 24-26, 2025

Online conference with more than 35 presenters, more than 40 classes, 45+ hours of night photography education, image reviews, and more.

Camaraderie, fun and community, from the comfort of home.

\$399—less than \$10 per hour!

Your ticket includes streaming replays for one year after the live event.

For the latest information and to register click on this link
<www.nightphotosummit.com>

The 2025 speakers include:

Autumn Schrock, Brennen Nichole, Cathrin Machin, Chris Nicholson, Cody S. York, Dan Zafra, Forest Chaput de Saintonge, Gabriel Biderman, Glenn Randall, Isabella Tabacchi, Jason Weingart, Jaymes Dempsey, Jennifer B. Bodine, Jessica Rojas, Joshua Snow, Jürgen Lobert, Katrina Brown, Ken Lee, Kevin Adams, Lance Keimig, Marybeth Kiczenski, Monika Deviat, Matt Hill, Nate Luebbe, Patrick Joust, Peter Mauney, Prince Berkoh, Sadeq Hayati, Sarah Mathews, Susan Magnano, Tim Cooper, Tim Little, Tyler Nordgren and Vincent Ledvina, with more coming.



NYC Winter Workshop

David Brommer's "Suspect Photography" presents an intensive and transformational shooting experience on *Street and Urban Photography* that spans an intimate three-day weekend masterclass (limited to just six students) that is designed to maximize both the learning experience and your ability to create a unique and powerful portfolio of imagery from New York City.

This is a mentorship workshop where co-leader Steve Simon meets with each participant prior to the start for a one-on-one Zoom meeting assessment of your portfolio and a tech check to discuss gear and best ways to use it regardless of your system brand. There is a pre-workshop group meeting and lecture as well as a post workshop Zoom class and post one-on-one Zoom meeting as part of the mentorship. Steve and David will be teaching you new and powerful street photography techniques guaranteed to push you from your comfort zone to new heights in your work.

January 17th-19th, 2025
Cost: \$2,000 Deposit \$99
To register and for more info, click <[here](#)>



Out of Chicago

Out of Chicago brings together passionate enthusiasts with world-class photographers, all in one epic location, where you learn and shoot side-by-side with the pros. Since 2014, they have organized hands-on photography conferences in Chicago, New York City, Moab and more. Since they are all photographers too, they understand what it takes to be inspired, get to the right place at the right time and live the best creative life.

Some of their upcoming 2025 workshops include...

Great Smoky Mountains

April 27 - May 1, 2025



An intimate photography experience in the heart of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. From capturing misty morning overlooks to exploring cascading rivers and vibrant spring wildflower trails, immerse yourself in learning, exploration, and photography in one of the world's most diverse national parks. Spend five days on the peaceful side of the Smokies,

igniting your creativity as you photograph alongside some of the world's finest landscape photographers.

\$3200

Chicago Botanic Garden

August 24 - 28, 2025



Immerse yourself in the Chicago Botanic Garden's 385 acres with 27 individual gardens full of a diverse range of dahlias, roses, waterlilies, lotuses, hummingbirds, butterflies, and native plants, along with three greenhouses that feature desert plants, tropical and semi-tropical plants. Late August is the ideal time to visit Chicago Botanic Garden when the gardens are at their lushest, and the summer crowds begin to diminish. You will have extensive time to wander the garden paths practicing mindfulness, seeing more deeply, and exploring your subjects more fully, including time to work with each of our talented instructors in the field.

\$2800

Olympic National Park

October 5 - 9, 2025



Explore the stunning wilderness of Olympic National Park as you photograph everything from dramatic seascapes, sea stacks, tide pools and crashing waves to old-growth rainforests, waterfalls, and more. Spend five days learning and being inspired alongside a creative and supportive group of instructors.

\$3200

Full details and links to registration may be found at www.outofchicago.com/conferences



Schedule of Activities

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

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

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

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

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



© Susan Magnano

* Monday, January 13 Workshop Light Painting

Light painting is the art of creating photos by setting long exposure times on a camera and using a moving light source to "paint." Instructor and guide for this evening is Susan Magnano. Susan is a professional photographer, an explorer, and an educator. After starting out as a photo-journalist, she transitioned her skill for capturing moments into shooting events and portraits. An award-winning photographer with over 15 years of experience, she shares her innovative techniques and perspectives through her own company, PhoTour Adventures. Susan typically springs into action, once the sun sets, teaching her favorite subject, ... light painting. Join us for this evening of excitement and an educational experience.

NYMACC

Tuesday, January 14 NYMACC Meeting

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

* Monday, January 20 Guest Speaker Sam Kanter

Tonight's guest photographer, Sam Kanter, is a photographer, videographer, and musician



© Sam Kanter

who lives, works and teaches in New York City. He has been awarded grants from the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) for his experimental work in the visual arts. Sam, who is currently working on his fifth book of street photography, presented to us a few months ago. Many of us were so interested in his work, especially in his post-processing workflow, that we've asked him to return and show us his magic. The curtain raiser for tonight, Elena Pierpont, is an excellent photographer and a long-time member of the Club.

Tuesday, January 21
Photo Event
Sierra Photo

The New York City Sierra Club Photography Committee is holding its monthly meeting tonight. The meeting will be held at the School of Visual Arts, 136 West 21st Street, 4th Floor, Room 418F at 6:30 p.m. It will also be broadcast on Zoom. Tickets will not be sold

at the venue. Purchase tickets (both in-person and Zoom) through Eventbrite. \$8 is the suggested donation. The guest speaker for tonight is Madhavan Parthasarthy, a fine art landscape and nature photographer based in New York City. His photographs aren't just images, "they're stories whispered by the wind, painted by sunlight, and etched by time. Each captures a moment of profound beauty, designed to evoke emotion, inspire wanderlust, and foster a deeper connection with the natural world."



© Madhavan Parthasarthy

Celebrate...



Thu. Jan 16th
National Fig Newton Day



Mon. Jan 20th
National Cheese Lovers Day



Mon. Jan 27th
Thomas Crapper Day



* Wednesday, January 22

PDI Workshop Deadline

The deadline for submitting images for this Thursday's PDI (projected digital image) workshop is tonight at 11 p.m. Members may submit one or two images for a critique and suggestions for improvement. Your images should be sent in following the new Club sizing rules (.jpg/72ppi/2,000px on the longest side). See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for sizing and labeling directions. Some images will be worked on with a variety of photo post-processing software. Only images from the first 10 members to send them in will be reviewed at this workshop. Other Club members may tune in to view and comment on the images and demonstrations. Send your images only to this website <pwccny@gmail.com>

Wed-Sun, Jan 22-26

Photo Op—

New York Boat Show

Ahoy, mates! The annual New York Boat Show, aka *Discover Boating*, is taking place this week. There are many great photo ops at this seaworthy event including, of course, the boats, the models in swimsuits,



and many other attractions.

[*Photo hint—get close and shoot the details.*] The show is open for all five days from 12 noon to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20. There is a group rate of \$16 for 10 or more people.



* Thursday, January 23

PDI Workshop

See previous 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.

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

* Saturday, January 25

Entry Deadline

Street Photography

Britannica.com loosely defines street photography as "the genre of photography that records everyday life in public places. The very publicness of the setting enables the shooter

to take candid pictures of total strangers, often without their knowledge." You may use any techniques on the street or in your software to achieve your final results. We'll share all of the images at the meeting on Monday. Your images should be sized following the new Club sizing rules (.jpg/72ppi/2,000px on the longest side). See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for sizing and labeling directions. Send no more than 10 of your images by 11p.m. today to <pwccny@gmail.com>



© Ruth Orkin

* Monday, January 27

Theme Night

Street Photography

Tonight we'll share all the images that members have shot, either candidly or openly, on the streets of the Big Apple, or anywhere else on the world. See the January 25th entry, above, for the rules of entry. This should be a great evening!





* Monday, January 27

Image Deadline

January Competition

PDI entries are due by 12 midnight tonight for next week's monthly competition—the fifth of the year. Your images should be submitted following the new Club sizing rules (.jpg/72ppi/2,000px on the longest side). See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for sizing and labeling directions. More information is available in the *PWCC Competition Manual*.

Send your two entries to <pwcccompetition@yahoo.com>

If you want confirmation that your images were received, add this email address

<hfklein@mindspring.com>



Wednesday, January 29

Photo Op—

Lunar New Year

Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival or the Chinese New Year, is the most important holiday in China



© Tommy Mintz

and Chinese communities around the world. This year is the *Year of the Snake*. It's also celebrated in Vietnam, Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore. In New York City you have the choice of Chinatowns in which to shoot today's events—the area surrounding Canal Street in downtown Manhattan, Flushing in Queens, and the Sunset Park neighborhood in Brooklyn (plus many other smaller enclaves around the metropolitan area). Google to fine out locations, dates, and times of all related activities celebrating Lunar New Year.

* Monday, February 3

Monthly Competition

Tonight is the Club's fourth competition of the 2024-2025 season. Who will win the top honors? What will the judge say about your images? Will you agree? The only way to find out the answers to these probing questions is to enter the competition and join the Zoom meeting. Full rules are

available from the Competition and/or the Membership Committees and on the PWCC website. PDI entries must be submitted by midnight one week prior to today—that's January 27th. You may enter up to two PDIs. Tonight's judge is Tommy Mintz. He is an Associate Professor of Photography at Kingsborough Community College and an Adjunct Lecturer of Animation, Photography, and Adobe Illustrator at Queens College. His art is a combination of street shooting, time lapse photography and photo collage. You can see his images at <www.tommymintz.com> and on Instagram at <www.instagram.com/tommymintznyc>





* Saturday, February 8
Entry Deadline
Planes, Trains, and Automobiles

Planes, Trains and Automobiles was a 1987 comedy movie that starred Steve Martin and John Candy. Your images for this theme night can interpret the movie title in any way you wish—be creative, use your imagination, do whatever. We'll share all of the images at the meeting on Monday. Your images should be sized using the new Club sizing rules (.jpg/72ppi/2,000px on the longest side). See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for sizing and labeling directions. Send 10 of your images by 11p.m. today to <pwccny@gmail.com>



* Monday, February 10
Theme Night
Planes, Trains, and Automobiles
Tonight we'll share the images that members have shot on the theme of Planes, Trains, and

Automobiles. See the previous entry for the rules of entry. This should be a moving evening! [*Pardon the pun,... please.*]



Tuesday, February 11
NYMACC Meeting

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



Sunday, February 16
Photo Op—New Year's Parade
Check out Chinatown's annual Lunar New Year celebration for great photo ops, tantalizing treats, and impressive live performances. This street party

features all sorts of vendors, food, and festivities for all ages to welcome the New Year—the year of the snake. It takes place on Bayard Street between Mulberry and Mott Streets from 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The parade itself winds its way through the main streets of Little Italy and Chinatown starting at 1 p.m.



Monday, February 17
Photo Op—
Presidents' Day

The birthday of U.S. President George Washington (February 22nd) was first celebrated as a federal holiday in the United States in the 1880s. In 1968 the holiday was adapted to honor the birth of President Abraham Lincoln (February 12th); it was moved to the third Monday in February; and it was renamed Presidents' Day. Here are a few things you might want to check out as photo ops: visit the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum Complex; take a ferry ride to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty; take out a loan for a helicopter tour of the Big Apple; circumnavigate the City with the Circle Line; and so it goes.



© Charles Chessler

* Monday, February 17
Guest Speaker
Charles Chessler

Tonight's guest photographer is Charles Chessler. He a New York City-based photographer whose work includes portraits and headshots, cityscapes and city life, images of wildlife, birds, and flora, and his ongoing project, "Agreeable Strangers," which celebrates the beautiful diversity of the people and faces he meets. Charles began his photo career in 2005 when he had to walk through Central Park every day to see his father in Mount Sinai Hospital. He began to carry his new camera and began to notice things that he had never seen before. Photography grabbed him with a sense of passion and purpose. The rest is history. See more about Charles at <www.charleschesslerphotography.com> The curtain raiser this evening is long-time Club member, Karen Corrigan—we're in for a real treat!



Tuesday, February 18
Photo Event
Sierra Photo

The New York City Sierra Club Photography Committee is holding its meeting tonight. This meeting will be on Zoom only. Purchase your ticket through Eventbrite. An \$8 donation is suggested. The speaker is yet to be announced. For late info go to <www.sierraphotonyc.com>

Image Deadline

* Wednesday, February 19
PDI Workshop Deadline

The deadline for submitting images for this Thursday's PDI workshop is tonight at 11 p.m. Members may submit one or

Celebrate...



Sun. Feb. 9th
National Pizza Day



Sat. Feb. 15th
World Hippo Day



Mon. Feb. 20th
National Muffin Day

two images for a critique and suggestions for improvement. Your images should follow the new Club sizing rules (.jpg/72ppi/2,000px on the longest side). See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for sizing and labeling directions. Some images will be worked on with a variety of post-processing software. Only images from

the first 10 members to send them in will be reviewed at this workshop. Other Club members may tune in to view and comment on the images and demonstrations. Send your images only to this website <pwccny@gmail.com>



* Thursday, February 20
PDI Workshop

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



* Monday, February 24
Print Salon Presentation

The Club's Print Salon group was scheduled to share some of their images tonight in a live-and-in-person meeting. This event is not going to take place tonight. It will be placed on the schedule later this spring or next year. Check next month's *Photo Notes* for the latest details for tonight's meeting activity.

DON'T MISS
THE DEADLINE!

* Monday, February 24
Image Deadline
March Competition

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



* Tuesday, February 25
Image Deadline
You Be the Judge 10—Food

This semi-competitive activity, which asks Club members to submit one (1) image of your choice. The theme for this YBTJ is "Food." We ask that the one image you submit *not* be one that has already been shown

to, or shared with, the Club in any way, shape, or form. (You may use it at a later date, if you wish.) Your image must be related to food in some way. Let your imagination run wild. See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for rules on submission of images. More information on *You Be the Judge* can be found on page 7 of this issue of *Photo Notes*. Email your one favorite food submission to <pwccny@gmail.com> so that it arrives by 11:59 p.m. tonight. You will soon receive a slide show of all the entries, a score sheet, and voting instructions.

Member Bios

Old and New Members

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

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

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

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