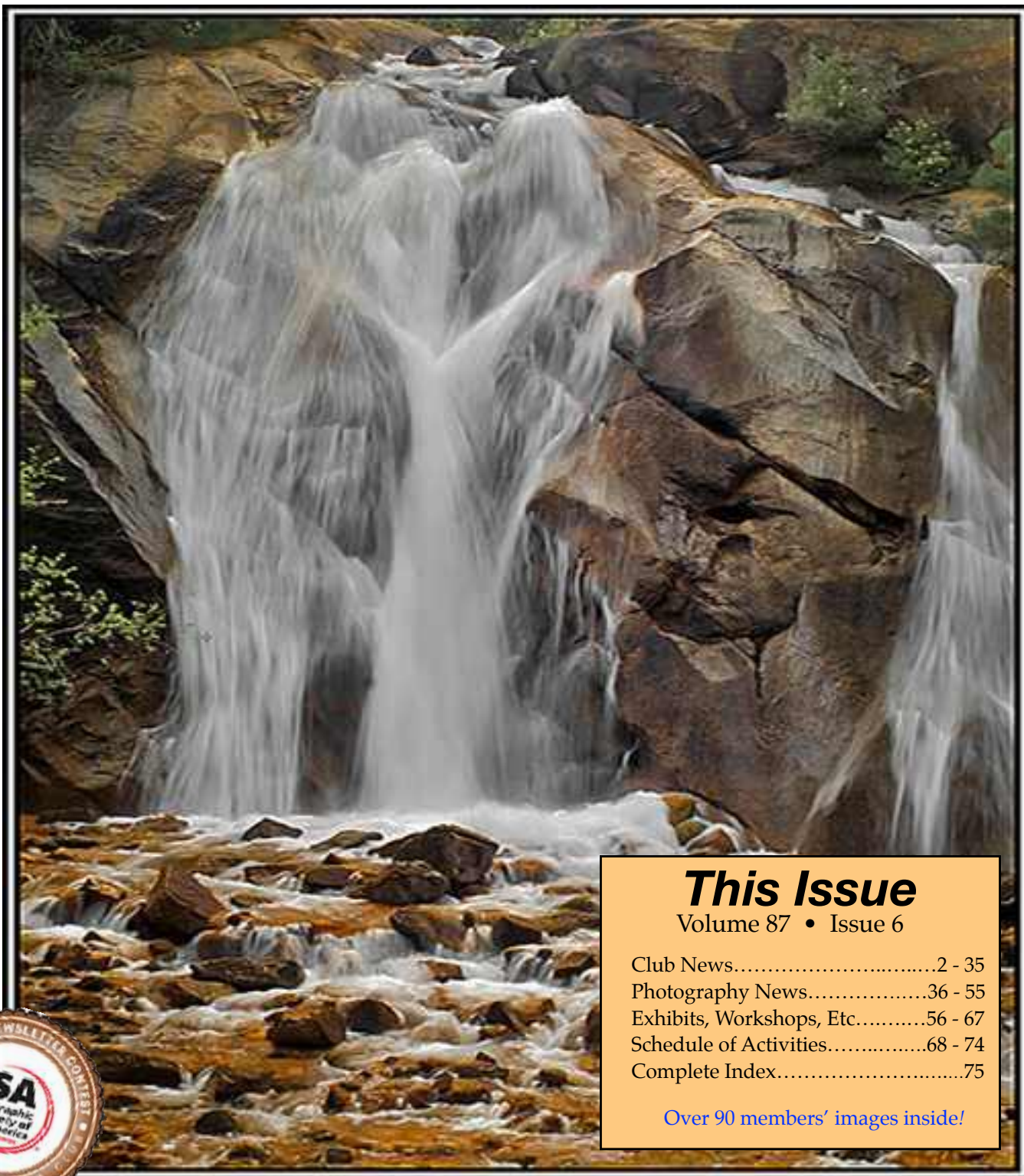


PHOTO NOTES

Park West
Camera Club

February 2025



This Issue

Volume 87 • Issue 6

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Over 90 members' images inside!



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

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

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

Photo Notes is optimized for viewing digitally.

Contact Information

Website

www.parkwestcameraclub.org

Email Addresses

General pwccny@gmail.com

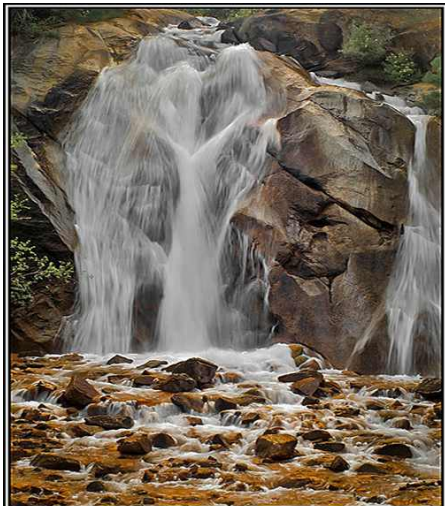
Photo Notes pwccny@aol.com

Club Mailing Address

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Cover Photo
Colorado Cascade
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Club Officers

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

Committee Chairs

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

Currently Inactive Committees

Archive, Field Trip,
Gallery, House

President's Message

Anti AI

Have you ever watched a TV show (*NCIS* or *Law & Order*, for example) in which the police, or the feds, or whomever use their computers to identify someone from a photo or video? The facial recognition software used to do this is based on artificial intelligence. The software can identify a person by comparing and analyzing patterns, shapes, and proportions of their facial features. Sounds like a great use of AI by law enforcement and other governmental organizations, doesn't it?

Why then, have researchers developed software to counter the use of facial recognition software programs?

A team of researchers from Georgia Tech University has developed a new AI model that gives users a "digital mask" to protect them from facial recognition technology. They dubbed it "Chameleon." Their mask hides faces in photos without impacting the images themselves. Once the mask has been applied to a person in a photograph, that individual cannot be detected by facial recognition as the scans will show them "as being someone else."

The researchers also noted that Chameleon's technology could be used to protect our



photos from theft by Adobe and others to be used in their generative AI programs. This could protect our images from being used without consent.

The big question we, as photographers, have to ask is... How does this affect us and our love of photography as an amateur, as a hobbyist, or as an artist?

This is just one of the many questions we could ask about the use of AI in photography post-processing software.

I don't know if there are any answers to the questions. I certainly don't got 'em. I'm not sure that I know what the questions are. Does anybody?

Therefore, I'm going to be stepping gingerly into the area of AI with my images. Yeah, I might use some AI to remove an unwanted passerby from an image. Or maybe to expand my canvas a bit to fit it to the rule of thirds.

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

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: Bill Apple, Bruce Byers, Christine Doyle, Julie Foehrenbach, Hedy Klein, Jeff Langford, Natalie Manzano, Joe Nawy, Elena Pierpont, Chuck Pine, Helen Pine, Michael Schleiff, Marlene Schonbrun, and Julie Wosk

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

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Credited images remain the sole property of their copyright holders—all rights reserved.

PWCC 2024-2025 Schedule

September

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

October

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

November

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

December

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

January

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

February

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

March

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

April

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

May

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

June

- 2 Year End Competition
- 5 Expanding Visions 31—Water
- 9 Otto Litzel Memorial Dinner
- 12 Expanding Visions 31—Air
- 16 ExCom Meeting
- 19 Expanding Visions 31—Fire
- 23 Summer Programming 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, with a resolution of 72 ppi, 2,000px on the longest side, and maximum size of 1MB.



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 Manzano 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>
You Be the Judge (Food)	Feb. 25th	Mar. 24th
PDI Workshop	Feb. 19th	Feb. 20th
Theme Night (Dealer's Choice)	Feb. 8th	Feb. 10th
Competition #5	Feb. 24th	Mar. 3rd
Interpretations	Mar. 8th	Mar. 10th
PDI Workshop	Mar. 26th	Mar. 27th

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. Pack your absolutely favorite image to share. Be prepared to explain the who, what, where, when, why, and how of this photo. Entry deadline: October 12th.



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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

PDI Workshops

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

Images of the Month

February 2025

PDI-of-the-Month

Sleeping Baby by Florence Forman

Honors

Melting Greenland Glacier by M. Barbara

Barbed Wire by Nicole Dosso

Bow Bridge IR by Richard Gold

Man Made by Charlton Johnson

Run For It by Charlton Johnson

Blackout by Alec Rill

Good Vibes by Charles Levin

New Year's Eve by Elena Pierpont

Stork In Tree by Chuck Pine

Quiet at the Oculus by Marlene Schonbrun

40 Park West Camera Club members submitted a total of 80 images this month. 28 of them (35%) received a score of A or above.

Cumulative Points

(Through February 2025)

by Hedy Klein

Elena Pierpont	82	Jay Bitkower	46
Sonia Durante	72	Ann Broder	46
Janet Susin	72	Christine Doyle	46
Charles Levin	70	Puneet Sood	44
Natalie Manzano	70	Raylie Dunkel	42
Chuck Pine	70	Jeff Langford	42
Alec Rill	70	Mike Iannuzzi	40
Evelyne Appel	66	Dottie Mills	40
Nicole Dosso	64	Larry Sapadin	40
Marlene Schonbrun	64	Julie Foehrenbach	38
Carlton Johnson	62	Remy Deyglun	36
Michael Schleiff	62	Peggy Winkelman	34
Madeleine Barbara	60	Will Aimesbury	30
Paul Grebanier	58	David Miller	28
Hedy Klein	58	Larry Rubin	28
Dudley Slater	58	Karen Corrigan	26
Florence Forman	56	Dov Bieber	24
Laura Toledo	56	Bruce Byers	24
Julie Wosk	56	Ruth Yashpan	22
Bill Apple	54	George Corbin	16
Betsy Currier	54	Renée Harper	16
Jill Greiss	52	Allan Lauer	16
Doris King	52	Michael Padwee	12
Albyn Davis	48	Elayne Dix	10
Barry Fahrer	48	Paula Paterniti	6
Richard Gold	48	Aubrey Thomas	4
Alice Somma	48		



Thank you to this month's judge, Tommy Mintz, for his constructive criticism, consistent scoring, and lesson in photographic history..

This month's winners—the PDI-of-the-Month, the Honors images, and the "A" images—are shown on the following 6 pages.



Image of the Month
Sleeping Baby
© Florence Forman

Continued on next page



A with Honors
Melting Greenland Glacier
© Madeleine Barbara



A with Honors
Barbed Wire
© Nicole Dosso



A with Honors
Bow Bridge IR
© Richard Gold



A with Honors
Man Made
© Carlton Johnson



A with Honors
Blackout
© Alec Rill

Continued on next page



A with Honors
Run For It
© Carlton Johnson



A with Honors
Good Vibes
© Charles Levin



A with Honors
New Year's Eve
© Elena Pierpont



A with Honors
Stork In Tree
© Chuck Pine



A with Honors
Quiet at the Oculus
© Marlene Schonbrun

Continued on next page



A
At the Louvre
© Albyn Davis



A
Underpass
© Nicole Dosso



A
Swan
© Sonia Durante



A
Beach Stone
© Julie Foehrenbach



A
Repair Job
© Florence Forman



A
Fountain Group
© Mike Iannuzzi

Continued on next page



A
Textured Portrait
© Mike Iannuzzi



A
Old Windows
© Hedy Klein



A
Sing In the City
© Hedy Klein



A
Coney Island at Dusk
© Charles Levin



A
Spring Blossoms Twirl
© Natalie Manzino

Continued on next page



A
Fire Eater
© Elena Pierpont



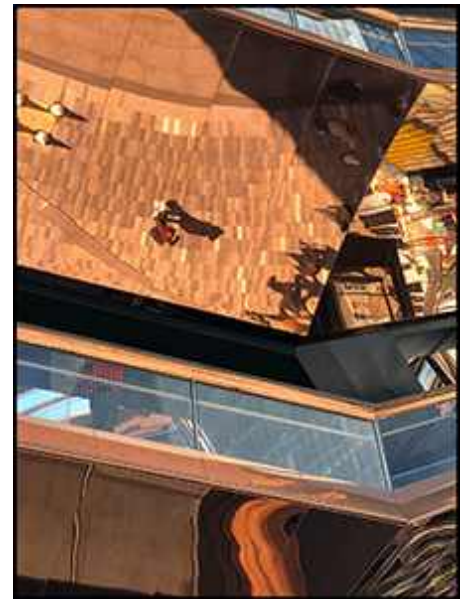
A
Circular Shadows
© Janet Susin



A
Mt. Etna
© Larry Sapadin



A
Egret Over Mooncape
© Chuck Pine



A
Jigsaw Puzzle
© Mike Schleiff



A
Tulip Girl
© Alice Somma

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

New Image Sizes

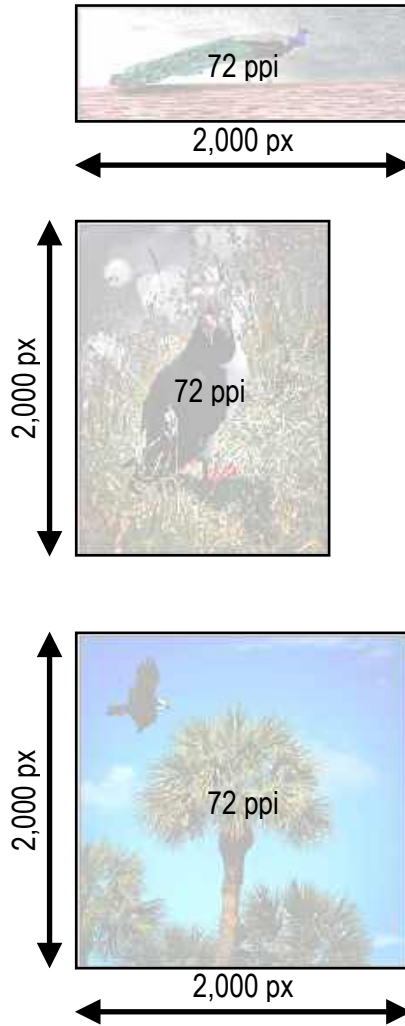
Now that just about all of our activities are on Zoom, it is time to upgrade our image sizes to take full advantage of the Zoom platform.

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* has been updated to reflect our current situation—limiting our monthly competition meeting to PDIs (projected digital images) and suspending our print competitions until further notice (if and when we go back to meeting in person).

The revised *Competition Manual* also reflects the new PDI sizes started in January for competitions and all other Club activities calling for the submission of images.

Get it on the website!

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.

Correction

This image was mis-credited in the January issue of *Photo Notes*. It was actually shot by Christine Doyle on the Club's Night out to Brookfield Place. Sorry 'bout that!



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 [<jlangford@msmny.edu>](mailto:jlangford@msmny.edu) for all the pertinent info—date, time, location, directions, etc.

The Lighter Side



War does not determine who is right—only who is left.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

To steal ideas from one person is called plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need it to skydive twice.

Change is inevitable,... except from a vending machine.

Hospitality is making your guests feel at home even when you wish they were.

The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.

To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.



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 — Evelyne 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



February Birthdays

by Natalie Manzino

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

Elayne Dix
 Julie Foenrenbach
 Puneet Sood
 Marilyn Thy-pin

Committee Liaisons

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

Here's how it'll work:

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

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

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

Inactive Committees

Archive
 Field Trip
 Gallery
 House



Photo Notes Deadlines

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

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

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





PSA Membership

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

Individual Member Benefits

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

Waterfall Tip

Composition is Key

Remember Chuck's #1 rule of photography, *No matter where you're standing to take the shot, ... it's the wrong spot*—move around to find the best possible composition. (Note: *This applies to all kinds of images, not just waterfalls!*)



Instagram

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 February 1st, we have 672 postings and 513 followers. Impressive!

On the Website

by Michael Schleiff

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you and enjoy the PWCC forums.

PDI Workshop

The Club's PDI (Projected Digital Image) Workshop was held on Thursday night, January 23rd. Eleven Club members submitted one or two images for comments and possible corrections using Photoshop software. Over 20 PWCC-ers were in the gallery and participated by offering comments and many suggestions for improving the photos.



Evelyne Appel's image of colorful *Dresses* needed a bit of **cropping** (from the top and the left). We then used the **Remove Tool** to get rid of the picture frames in the lower left corner.



We all liked Alan Lauer's image of the saxophonist and the conductor but felt that there was too much separation between them. That middle space was also quite busy and messy. One fix to the problem was to copy the right side of the image using the **Rectangular Marquee Tool** and then use the **Move Tool** to slide it over to the left while aligning the image's horizontal lines. As the final step, we cropped off the extraneous parts of the image.

Continued on next page



Good Vibes by Charles Levin had a nice feeling to it. We tried it in black-and-white but felt it lost something in the translation. We then used a **Hue/Saturation Adjustment Layer** to get rid of the color in the xylophone. But that also removed the blueness of the shirt. We used the adjustment layer's built-in **Mask** and a black **paintbrush** to add back the shirt's color tint.



Joe Nawy gave us several versions of this post-dinner image. We like what he did with his (1) **cropping** to concentrate on the people, (2) **replacing** the distracting mirror with the stone wall, and (3) **removing** the table clutter. We just felt that it could be a little more festive...



What could we say about Paul Grebanier's image of plywood in a construction site... other than it made us feel blue?

Continued on next page



The very colorful *We Are Looking At You Too* by Laura Toledo was almost perfect as shown. We decided to straighten out the bottom edge using the **Edit > Transform > Distort**. We also used the **Remove Tool** to get rid of the half person on the far left.



Helen Pine's humorous capture *At the Louvre* needed little work. We used the Orange Slider in the Color Mixer panel of Adobe Camera RAW to reduce the orange tint. That was it. (Someone suggested eliminating the wristwatch, but we felt that the juxtaposition added to the image.)

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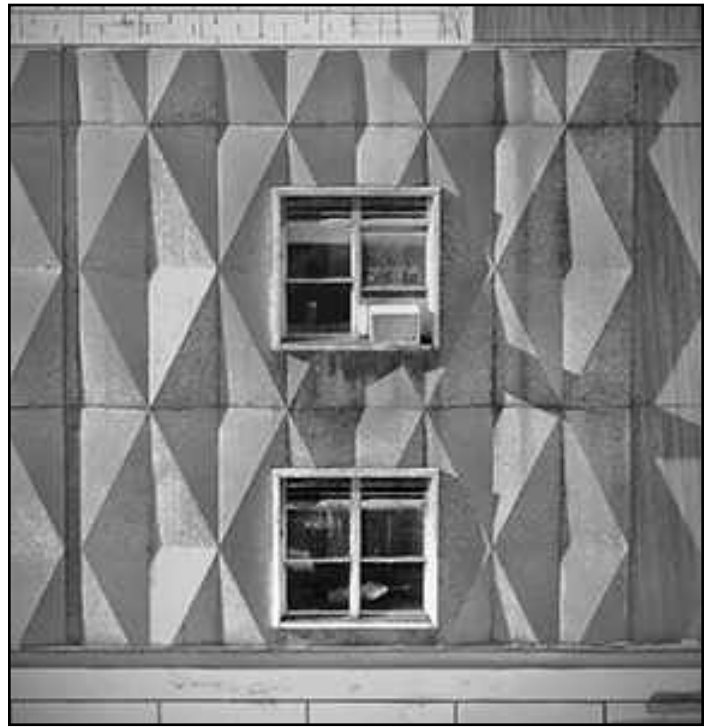


Tom Quackenbush's *Van Gogh* posed several problems, some of which could be solved in either Lightroom or Camera RAW. First we removed the blue cast in the upper right part of the image using the **Blue Slider** in the **Color Mixer Panel**. Next, in the **Light Panel**, we used the sliders to reduce the **Highlights** and lighten the **Shadows**. Then, moving to **Photoshop**, we used the **Spot Healing Brush** to eliminate a small strip of black in the upper right corner. Finally, we used the **Object Selection Tool** and **Content Aware Fill** to get rid of the stool in the bottom left corner of the image.



Crossing the Street by Jay Bitkower had two major problems—too tight a crop and too much depth-of-field. Using the **Crop Tool**, set to **Generative Expand**, we pulled on the top and left sides and let AI do its magic. We then used **Select Background**, adjusted the selection with the **Quick Selection Tool**, added a slight **Gaussian Blur**, and finally decreased the exposure with an **Exposure Adjustment Layer**. Voilà!

Continued on next page



We felt that *Air Conditioned* by Carlton Johnson lacked sufficient contrast and had a bit too many distracting details. We used the **Crop Tool** to take off a bit of the top of the image. We used the **Rectangular Marquee Tool** to select both windows and moved the **Contrast Slider** all the way to the right in a **Brightness/Contrast Adjustment Layer**. Finally, we used the **Remove Tool** on the object in the lower right corner.

Please Note... some of the techniques used in this PDI Workshop may not be admissible in our monthly competitions—using AI, sky replacements, etc. If you’re unsure, ask the Competition Committee for clarification.



Competition Comments

I thought January's judge was one of the better ones. We had over 90 images. I usually tape the judge's comments, and did so for Larry Rubin since he couldn't attend last night. All of her comments were a little less than one minute long. I think that's a reasonable amount of time that a judge fits in her evaluation of an image. After all, this is a competition and we want to learn what we can to make a better image.

Chuck's comment to remind the judge that we're only halfway done is to tell the judge that we have a lot more to go and to make it quicker. This can certainly limit the judge's comments on the images coming up next.

We're all home in the comforts of our home. If it goes on too long, people will leave, as they do anyway. For people who take the Competitions seriously, not just for the grades, but for the comments, it should take as long as it does. If the Club feels it's too long, maybe we should limit the amount of images. Just my opinion. ~ Marlene S

I agree with Marlene about Kathy Baca's judging. She gave corrective comments and mentioned ways to improve the image. In addition, she awarded an A to some PDIs even if she suggested some minor adjustments to it.

She was consistent, informative and went through the 94 images in good time. ~ Joe N

I'm going to add my voice to Marlene's and Joe's. Kathy was an excellent judge last night. Her comments were extremely informative, succinct, and consistent, and she never once meandered.

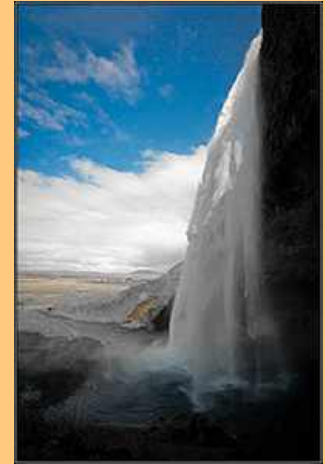
If the judges are taking too much time to give their comments, then we should revisit limiting the number of images each member can submit. And, I still think giving the score sheets to the judges in advance might move things along more quickly. (To be clear, I'm proposing this be done to give the judge a heads up on the submissions, NOT instead of the competition night judging.)

Enjoy the rest of the night and stay warm! ~ Christine D

Continued on next page



Waterfall Tips



Use Filters

A polarizing filter (CPL) and a neutral density (ND) filter are a waterfall's best friends. They can saturate colors, prevent highlights from blowing out, and reduce glare. They also enable you to take longer exposures for that "cotton candy" effect.



Protect Your Gear

Mist and splashes can add to any waterfall image, but they can also wreak havoc upon your (expensive) equipment. Use a rain jacket to protect the camera and lens. Have an absorbent towel to wipe off any moisture before it can damage the electronics.

Hi all,

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

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

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

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

To me, limiting the number of submissions to one image a month would be overkill. Yes, it would achieve one goal—

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

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

Admittedly, while this addresses the troubling issues outlined above, this approach would limit to a degree the

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

NYBG

NYBG Permits

The New York Botanical Garden (the one in the Bronx) is a collection of photo ops in every season. It offers a wide variety of spaces for shooting, including "special occasion photography" (aka weddings, anniversaries, quinceañeras, commercials, or any staged/group photoshoots).

It is now mandatory that a permit be obtained at least two weeks prior to a special occasion photography shoot. These photo sessions can take place anywhere in the Garden except for the Enid Haupt Conservatory. You may apply for these permits online at www.nybg.org



[Note—Permits are not required for other kinds of shooting in the Garden, such as individualized/personal shooting, camera clubs, field trips, and the like.]

Theme Night

Street Photography

The January theme night was on street photography. This area of our favorite hobby is defined as the genre known for spontaneity and rawness. It allows you to capture fleeting, unplanned moments that are a reflection of the vibrancy of daily life. "Street" images often present people in their natural environments, interacting with their surroundings, whether on bustling streets or in out-of-the-way nooks of the city. Each shot tells a story, capturing a slice of life that would otherwise go unnoticed.

Here are some of the best from the 25 Club members who participated with their submissions. 46 PWCCers joined in the fun—that's a shade over 50% of the Club's membership. Wow!



Street Photo
©2024 Elena Pierpont



Toy Soldier
©2025 Michael Ianuzzi



Golden 2
©2024 Raylie Dunkel



Lottery Winner
©2025 Alan Lauer

Continued on next page



Stop
©2011 Evelyne Appel



Couple
©2014 Florence Forman



Street Photo
©2021 Christine Doyle



Tokyo Street Life
©2024 Natalie Manzino



A Port in the Storm
©2025 Jeffrey Langford

Continued on next page



Street Photo
©2010 Helen Pine



NYC Street
©2024 Jill Greiss



Tourists
©2019 Albyn Davis

Children at Play
©2021 Marlene Schonbrun



Buenos Aires Mannequins
©2024 Laura Toledo

Continued on next page



Street Photo
©2022 Peggy Winkelman



Accordion
©2021 Tom Quackenbush



Fun Ride
©2023 Alice Somma



Piano Player
©2022 Barry Fahrer



Continued on next page



So Close
©2024 Ann Broder



Soaked
©2023 Charles Levin



The Night Out
©2008 Carlton Johnson



7th Avenue Stretch
©2024 Puneet Sood



Street Photo
©2023 Mike Schleiff

Long Distance Runner
©2014 Chuck Pine



First Snowfall

by Elena Pierpont

I took these pictures at 8:30 in the morning of our first snow fall this past December in Central Park. I hope you enjoy seeing them as much as I enjoyed shooting them.

All images
©2024 Elena Pierpont



Thoughts About AI

by Julie Wosk

Recently, New York photographer Sam Kanter gave a presentation about using artificial intelligence in the post-processing of street photography, and I was struck by how many times he said he was troubled about the ethics of removing people from the photos. It seemed to me that his thoughts harkened back to the time when countries like the old Stalin-era Soviet Union were “purging” people—which might include purging people in photographs. Many people at the time were deeply troubled by this practice of making people disappear.

By removing people from documentary photographs, it was falsifying the historical record. And by falsifying the historical record, we would now have to question the very notion of authenticity in photography. Today’s use of AI to transform photographs—including removing people from an image—is evoking some of the unease. Perhaps the larger question is, does authenticity matter any more or is artifice now totally acceptable in the realm of photography.

Many years ago, before Photoshop and Lightroom were available for post-processing, I attended a photography workshop at the Woodstock Center for Photography.

Right before leaving for the trip there, my contact lenses were bothering me, so I wore my glasses, something I rarely do. At the end of the workshop, the group gathered outside for a photo. It was sunny and the light must have been reflecting in my glasses. When WCP published a booklet, one of the illustrations was of my class—and I felt bad: I was no longer in the photo. It felt like I had been purged. I assumed that my glasses with their reflections might have been a distraction, so my image was burned out.

When Sam Kanter talked about using generative AI to remove people from the photo, he said he “took them out.” In Mafia and crime movies, taking someone out meant killing them. So maybe—and this is me being philosophical—Sam felt a bit of guilt about deleting people from the photo. Still, as both an artist and a photographer, I am also totally happy with deleting parts of a painting that distract from the composition. And I can also think of editing photos with the same notion of aesthetics in mind. I can accept the notion that by removing a distracting person from a photo (in street photography, not a documentary photograph) it may make it a more compelling image.

Still, I have to admit I was hurt when I was no longer a part of that photograph of my

Woodstock workshop group. For me it was hurtful, but I also recognize that people whose images are captured in street photography would often not even know they were being shot. Still, as a person who also writes books about AI and simulations, I welcome the fact that the whole discussion about artifice and authenticity has become part of the evolving and intriguing dialog of our times.

Keeping Busy

PWCC member and author, Julie Wosk, has been quite busy recently. She has curated a show at the New York Hall of Science entitled *Imaging Women in the Space Age*. It highlights our fascination with space women in real life as well as in movies, television, advertising, and fashion design. (Thru June 30)

Julie was also on *The Groks Science Radio Show and Podcast*. “The rapid advancements in artificial intelligence are reshaping modern society.” How does this reflect the past and future of these representations? Dr. Julie Wosk discusses her book, *Artificial Women*. You can listen to this half-hour interview here <https://exchange.prx.org/pieces/557725?m=false>



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

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

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

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



Hill Street Gallery

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

The Gallery showcases a curated selection of limited edition photographs from professional photographer and gallery owner, Bruce Byers, spanning 40 years and 15 countries. Additionally it will feature a rotation of other artists and disciplines. The 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>

Curtain Raiser

The Club's January curtain raiser was presented by Elena Pierpont prior to the program on Post Processing by Sam Kantor. The images were shot over a ten year period; and it took Elena about 3 months to create the slide show. Here are some of her favorite pix from that night...



All images © Elena Pierpont



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.

Portrait Tip

Focus on the Eyes

"The eyes are the window to the soul." When looking at portraits, viewers always look at the subject's eyes first. They must be in sharp focus.



Better Judges?

by Bill Apple

Here's a well known Henri Cartier-Bresson print on the auction block for a minimum of \$25.5K. The image just landed in my Inbox from a photography house that sends a daily email blast

<YourDailyPhotograph.com>

I guarantee you that if this image were entered into our monthly Club competition it's likely that some prissy judge with a conventional, constipated, 1950s-style, camera-club esthetic would carp about:

- cutting off the boy's legs,
- the frenetic free-for-all background,



Rue Mouffetard, Paris
©1954 Henri Cartier-Bresson

- the kid's misdirected gaze,
- the off-kilter verticals,

- the stained sidewalk (right foreground, *un petit chien, peut être?*)
- perhaps a little more contrast
- and, probably much more

Maybe even said judge would have the *chutzpah* to advise correcting the shot in post-. What, with Adobe AI you might be able to fix all that, even the boy's eyes. And turn this photograph into something closer to *merde*. (*Pardonnez moi!*)

Which tells me that the pool from which the Club draws judges deserves to dry up and we should find better, upgraded ones with a bit more edge.

Caption This

What do you think of this image? What should it be titled? Send your suggestion, either serious or humorous, to <pwccny@aol.com>



Portrait Tip

Background Separation

Don't let the subject blend into the background. If you're shooting indoors use rim lighting to create separation. If shooting in outdoors, leave enough distance between the subject and the background to create separation.



Generative Fill

Photoshop's *Generative Fill* uses Adobe's *Firefly AI* to analyze the content of an image and generate new elements or extend the canvas seamlessly. By simply making a selection and providing a textual prompt, you can add or replace objects, extend backgrounds, or even remove unwanted elements with incredible accuracy. It's like having a digital assistant that understands your very own creative vision.

[Note—at this time the Club does not accept images in its monthly competitions with additions made using this Photoshop feature.]

Generative Fill may be used to:

- **Expand Creativity:** It enables photographers to bring their wildest ideas to life. Whether it's adding an unexpected element to a surreal composition or extending a background, the possibilities are endless.
- **Save Time:** Instead of painstakingly cloning or retouching, photographers can use it to achieve results in a fraction of the time.
- **Enhance Storytelling:** A single image can tell a more compelling story by using it to create or refine elements that enhance the narrative.



To use Generative Fill:

1. **Select the Area:** Use any selection tool (Lasso, Marquee, or Object Selection) to highlight the area you want to modify, enhance, or extend.
2. **Access Generative Fill:** Right-click the selection and choose Generative Fill from the context menu or click the button in the toolbar.
3. **Enter a Prompt (Optional):** Describe what you'd like to add or change. For instance, "add a mountain range" or "replace with a sunset sky." You can also leave the prompt blank and allow Photoshop to make context-aware decisions.
4. **Preview and Adjust:** Review the three generated options and choose the one that works best. If needed, refine your selection and try again.
5. **Finalize the Edit:** Once you're satisfied, integrate the changes and make additional adjustments as needed to blend the new elements seamlessly.

Examples:

- **Landscape Photography:** Extend a cropped image to include more of the sky or foreground. Add elements like clouds, wildlife, or even distant mountains.
- **Portrait Photography:** Remove distracting objects from the background and/or Replace dull backgrounds with location-specific scenes.
- **Product Photography:** Create professional-looking setups by filling in missing areas. Add reflections or shadows to enhance the visual appeal.
- **Creative Composites:** Experiment with surreal compositions by introducing fantastical elements. Turn ordinary images into artistic masterpieces.



Billboard 2024

With 2024 in the books, *Billboard* is celebrating another year of music coverage—much of which has been accompanied by original photography capturing some of the biggest artists and industry game-changers. [I didn't recognize any of the names—Ed]



Victoria Monét
©2024 Sami Drasin



Charli xcx
©2024 Charlotte Hadden



Kylie Minogue
©2024 Austin Hargrave



Megan Thee Stallion
©2024 Ramona Rosales



Dasha
©2023 Ashley Osborn



Teejay
©2023 Michael Buckner

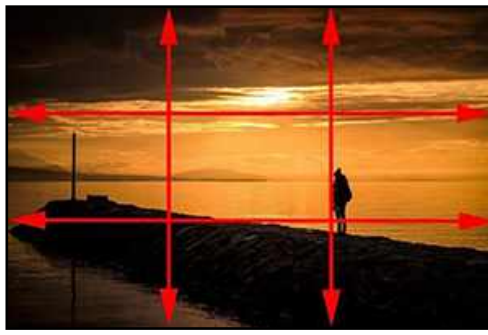


Self Assignment

Rule of Thirds

The Rule of Thirds is the number one composition rule for photographers. Divide the area of the frame into a tic-tac-toe frame. This gives you an imaginary grid with nine boxes and four intersections.

This rule states that when the subject is placed on one of the intersections, created by the Rule of Thirds grid, it creates a visual tension that makes the photograph more



interesting. Learn to use it, and then learn when your image is more interesting without it.

Assignment...

Part 1—Spend an hour or so taking pictures. Think about and apply the Rule of Thirds while taking these shots.

Part 2—Spend an hour or so taking pictures. This time create two versions of each shot: one applying the Rule of Thirds and one breaking the rule.

Part 3—Go through your existing photo files and select five that you think could be improved by cropping, or expanding, to the Rule of Thirds. Remake them using your imaging software.

Clyde Butcher



Badlands 23
Badlands National Park
© Clyde Butcher

Fake News

A number of media outlets have been caught blatantly using fake images—enhanced or fully created by artificial intelligence—as real photos!

Adobe’s vast stock image library had a small number of images for sale which were AI-rendered recreations of current ongoing international conflicts. These photos, however, were clearly labeled as being “artificial-intelligence created” (aka fakes).

A small number of news publishers bought some of these images and used them as if they were real—without any indication that they were altered, manipulated, or completely unreal.

The quality of the fake news photos is pretty good. To a reader browsing a news article or watching a news broadcast, these pictures could (and do) deceive.

News outlets have no excuse for using these AI enhanced / created images!

Let’s hope that this trend among news sources doesn’t become more pervasive in the coming years.



Low & Wide

When shooting landscapes, cityscapes, or any kind of ‘scapes’ for that matter, place your camera on a tripod and low to the ground. This will enable you to capture the foreground as well as some interesting compositional elements. The foreground objects can add texture, color, form, and leading lines that draw the viewer into your image. Also, two dimensional photographs become 3-D windows into other worlds when they have include foreground, mid ground, and background layers.



Leading Lines
© Ian Plant

Brushing Up

The brush tool in Photoshop is one of the most used tools in the program. Here are some shortcuts that you might find useful...

Decrease size	[Switch to Erase	~
Increase size]	Switch back to Paint	~
Decrease hardness	{	Undo last stroke	
Increase hardness	}	(Mac)	Cmd - z
Rotate tip 1° cw	▶	(Win)	Cntl - z
Rotate tip 1° ccw	◀		

Hasselblad Masters

Hasselblad has announced the category winners of its 2024 Masters Photo Contest. The six categories are Landscape, Architecture, Portrait, Art, and Street. (There's also a category for photographers under the age of 21.)

Entrants were asked to submit a series of three photos with a unified theme and a visual style. Winners were judged based on their photographic ability, creativity, and technique by a combination of a professional jury and voting by the public.

Winners received the title of "Hasselblad Master" and were given a Hasselblad 100MP mirrorless camera, two XCD series lenses, and a fund of €5000.

Here are the winners...



Landscape Category
Weimin Chu (China)

Architecture Category
Tiina Itkonin (Finland)



Art Category
Jan Pypers (Belgium)



Street Category
Tom Pitts (United Kingdom)

Portrait Category
Panji Indra Permana
(Indonesia)



Where to Go

Skip the Crowds

The most popular national parks in the United States, such as Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon, attracted record crowds this summer. For some, it might be worth fighting traffic or walking packed trails to see the granite monoliths in Yosemite or fireflies in the Great Smokies. But, there are 63 national parks across the country, many with far fewer visitors—and just as many epic views and wildlife-spotting photo ops.

Here are a few of them...



Channel Islands NP
California



Voyageurs NP
Minnesota



Carlsbad Caverns NP
New Mexico



Mesa Verde NP
Colorado



Dry Tortugas NP
Florida



Haleakolá NP
Hawaii



Multiple Lens Cameras

In recent years, cell phones have evolved from simple communication devices to powerful tools capable of stunning photographs. One of the noticeable advancements in this evolution is phones with multiple cameras and lenses. Why do smartphones need so many cameras and different lenses?

The primary reason for many cameras and lenses is to give enhanced versatility. Each lens serves a specific purpose, letting users take different types of photos without the need for external equipment.

- **Wide-Angle Lenses:** Ideal for capturing landscapes or group photos, wide-angle lenses offer a broader field of view.
- **Telephoto Lenses:** These lenses bring distant subjects closer, making them perfect for zoomed-in shots without losing any image quality.
- **Macro Lenses:** For extreme close-ups of small objects, macro lenses allow users to capture intricate details.
- **Depth Cameras:** These create a natural bokeh effect (background blur).

Each of these adds a layer of functionality that would be challenging to achieve with a single lens.

Tamron Winners

Congratulations to the 2024 Tamron User Photo/Video Contest Winners! Five panels of judges selected winners and runners-up in five areas of photography including macro, landscape, portrait, wildlife, and video (the winner not shown). Here are this year's winning images...



Landscape Winner
Sagarika Roy



Portrait Winner
Sarah Landis

Wildlife Winner
Diego Rebello



Macro Winner
Sandra Lim



Portrait Tip

The Rule of Thirds

This is probably the best-known rule in all of photography and in composition generally. And this is especially true when it comes to people portraits.



Where to Go

Black History Month
Women's History Month

African-American History Month (aka Black History Month) is celebrated every February in the United States. Consecutively, Women's History Month is recognized every March. Listed here are some places around the USA where you can go to celebrate both of these national events with one photo op...



Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Nat'l Historical Park
Church Creek, MD



Fannie Lou Hamer Memorial Gardens
Ruleville, MS



Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial
Lincoln Park
Washington, DC



Rosa Parks Memorial
Newark, NJ



Sojourner Truth Memorial
Port Ewen, NY



Shirley Chisholm State Park
Brooklyn, NY

Photo Cartoon



ColorPro Awards

The fifth annual ViewSonic ColorPro Awards celebrated the brilliance of visual artistry. They unveiled their 2024 winners with the theme "Momentum." Here are some of the winning images...



Niềm vui trẻ thơ
© Phạm Quốc Dũng, Vietnam

Riders of the Volcano
© Mahendra Bakle, India



Equilibrium in Motion
© Ivan Duran, Mexico



Upside down
© Walter Fogel, Germany



Disappearing of Rubi
© Benson Apah, Nigeria

Photo Shorts

APS-C Normal Lens



The Viltrox AF 35mm *f*-1.7 Air APS-C (cropped-sensor) lens is a compact, lightweight, affordable, and well-engineered standard prime lens for all current-generation APS-C camera systems. It will be available for Fujifilm X, Sony E, and Nikon Z. (It is unknown if the lens will also be available for Canon RF cropped sensor cameras.) It measures 2½ inches x 2¼ inches, weighs a minuscule 6 ounces, and supports a 52mm filter size. Included in the box are front and rear lens caps, a lens hood, and a soft carrying pouch. All this, plus great bokeh, for just \$179.

TTL Powerhouse



Godox announced a powerful new V100 on-camera flash for Sony, Fujifilm, Nikon, Canon, OM System, Pentax and other camera bodies. It delivers 100-watt seconds of power and is adjustable from 1/1 to 1/256 stops. The V100 has a 2.3" full-

color, high-sensitivity touch-screen that makes it easier and faster to navigate the control layout and make instant and precise changes to power levels and modes. The retail price is a mere \$349.

Rainbow Cameras



Nikon has announced that its limited edition Z fc, designed in collaboration with Japan's Heralbonny, is now available in the US. They come in four different colors and designs with a DX 16-50 *f*-3.5-6.3 lens for only \$1,199.

Fastest Leica Ever



Leica kicks off its centennial with the release of the SL3-S Mirrorless Camera. It's latest hybrid interchangeable lens camera boasts a new 24MP full frame sensor capable of 30 fps capture, making it Leica's speediest camera yet. Encased in a weather-resistant metal body, the SL3-S aims to satisfy the photographer's needs for high image quality and simple workflow. (\$5,295)

Pancake Prime



Artisan announced the 18mm *f*-5.6 full-frame pancake prime lens for Sony E, Nikon Z, and L-mount (Leica, Panasonic, and Sigma) camera systems. It measures a pocketable 0.98 x 1.1" and weighs 5.2oz. At that size, you could comfortably carry it in your pocket or tucked into your bag, ready for wide angle work. It features a metal body, a single control ring for manual focus, and supports 49mm filters. Best of all, it's going for only \$89.

All-In-One



The Flow 2 Pro Smartphone Gimbal Stabilizer by Insta360 allows you to capture images with your smartphone in an all-in-one gadget that includes a built-in selfie stick, tripod legs, gimbal head, and 3-axis stabilization. It comes in gray or black, weighs 12.6 ounces, fits in your pocket, and lists for only \$159.99.

Where To Go

Winter Road Trips

Have you been hibernating this winter? If so, there's still time to get out there and take a road trip filled with winter-style photo ops. Here are a few suggestions that're all fairly close by and waiting for your camera...



The Hudson Valley
New York



The Green Mountains
Vermont



The Berkshires
Massachusetts



Cape Cod
Massachusetts



Lake Placid
New York



Panorama of the Month



Old and New ©2012 Chuck Pine

Garden Photography

Yeah, I know it's the middle of winter, and there's probably snow on the ground, but that doesn't mean we can't dream about summer, and flowers, and bugs.

The 2024 Garden Photographer of the Year Awards showcased breathtaking macro photography that brings the intricate beauty of nature to life. Presented in a striking square format, these images offer an up-close perspective of delicate petals, vibrant stamens, and the exquisite details of insects and dewdrops.



1st Place
Simulated Invisibility
©2024 Minghui Yuan



2nd Place
Hummingbird & Abutilon
©2024 Jackie Kramer



3rd Place
Emerald Damselfly on Nightshade
©2024 Tony North



Finalist
Glanville Fritillary
©2024 Raheela Rafiq



Finalist
Bioluminescent
©2024 Luca Menotti

National Parks



For more than a two years, ASMP (the American Society of Media Photographers) and NANPA (the North American Nature Photography Association), along with their sister organizations PPA (the Professional Photographers of America) and NPPA (National Press Photographers Association), have been working on a problem that has plagued photographers across the country.

Many who photograph in National Parks, had been told by park officials that they need permits to do so. This often included individual shooters into rules that were designed for large-scale productions.

Now, as signed into law by President Biden on January 6, these rules have been changed.

You can read all the details on the U.S. Congress' website <www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6492/text#toc-H5E198B78089C42B8B34ECDEECF028053>, but the primary takeaway is that most photographers will no longer need to apply for and pay for filming permits in National Parks.

The 600 Rule



There are a lot of rules in the world of photography. From composition rules like the rule of thirds, to exposure rules such as the reciprocal rule, and so on. But do you know of the 600 rule?

This rule can help you to shoot star images without blurring the stars or creating star trails.

The formula goes like this:

$$600 / \text{focal length (mm)} = \text{shutter speed (sec)}$$

For example, if you're using a 50mm lens...

$$600 / 50\text{mm} = 12 \text{ sec}$$

[Note that this formula is for full-frame cameras (and you're using a tripod). If you use a crop-sensor camera, you need to adjust the formula to take that into account. For example, if the camera has a 1.5x crop factor, replace "600" with "400." A 1.6x crop factor would mean going from "600" to "375." Etc.]

The 600 Rule becomes useful for images where you want to include the Milky Way or other fixed astral subjects as part of your image.

The S-curve

The S-curve is one of the best known rules of photographic composition, ... it did not originate with photography.



It dates back to 4th-century BC Greek sculpture and was initially called the Praxitelean curve. Praxitelean was the first artist credited with using the S-curve in his artwork.

It later became a tool used by the old master painters of central and southern Europe. Eventually, it was finally picked up by—you guessed it, Photographers!

We now have several more variations of this rule in addition to the S-curve—the Z-curve and the C-curve. *[Look them up.]* These concepts are used in photography, painting, graphic design, and illustration—just about any and all of the visual media.



Where to Go

Warm Winter Getaways

Brrr!

Baby it's cold outside. And maybe some snow is on the ground, too. For some of us, this is a great winter, filled with some great photo ops. But for the rest of us, we're asking, "Where's that sunny, warm beach with sand and surf?"

Here are a few suggestions for some great warm weather getaway spots...



San Diego
California



Grand Isle
Louisiana



St. Simons Island
Georgia



Galveston
Texas



Bald Eagle



The bald eagle, the symbol of America, appears on our coins, our bills, and even the Great Seal of the United States. It has inspired conservation efforts that saved many species from extinction. Despite being an iconic national symbol for over 240 years, Congress had never officially recognized it.

While the U.S. designated the rose as the national flower, the oak as the national tree, and the bison as the national mammal, it had not legally established a national bird—until now. On Christmas Eve 2024, President Biden signed legislation officially declaring the bald eagle as the national bird of the United States.



San Juan
Puerto Rico



Sanibel Island
Florida



Kailua
Hawaii

Sky Replacement

Sky replacement allows photographers to change a dull, uninspiring sky in their image with a more dramatic or visually appealing one from a different photograph. This is made possible with the use of various artificial intelligence algorithms in photo editing software.

The proponents of sky replacement technology argue that it is just another tool in a photographer's toolbox. Just like any other form of post-processing (adjusting contrast, saturation, sharpness, etc.) sky replacement is seen as an extension of the creative process. For example, if you have traveled to a remote location only to encounter poor weather conditions, you can substitute a new sky to better reflect your artistic vision.

However, the use of sky replacement techniques has also generated considerable controversy. Detractors contend that part of the challenge, and therefore the art of photography, lies in the ability to capture stunning images in spite of unfavorable conditions. Sky replacement, in their view, lessens the skill and talent involved in the art and craft of photography.

The issue is not black and white (pardon the pun). Using sky replacement depends on



the context, the intent of the photographer, and the expectations of the audience. It's crucial to maintain an open dialogue about the ethical implications and to ensure that as technology continues to advance, it enhances the art of photography rather than dilutes it.

As far as we are concerned, sky replacement is acceptable as long as the new sky was shot by the Club member. A sky from any other source—the internet, a packaged set of skies, or even your editing program—is not acceptable in our competitions. *[It's fine for other uses such as Theme Nights, Curtain Raisers, etc.]*



Using Your Camera

by Chuck Pine

Digital Noise



Noise is a fact of life in digital photography! But do you know what that is?

Think about a stereo with music playing. The higher you turn up the volume, the more distorted the sound becomes. Now change that into camera words. The higher you turn up the ISO (the volume) the more noise (distortion) you will see in your image.

Lower ISO settings create little or no visible noise. When the ISO setting is raised, every digital camera will begin to show visible noise at some point. It varies by camera. You should do some testing to see where your camera begins to show digital noise.

Long exposures can also increase noise. The longer the exposure drags on, the camera sensor heats up. The more heat in the sensor, the more noise you will see in your image.

Noise always shows up first in the shadow areas of your picture.



Testing for Noise

1. Place your camera, with a remote shutter release, on a tripod.
2. Set the camera to shutter speed priority at 1/60 of a second and the ISO to 100.
3. Take the picture.
4. Raise the ISO to 200 and take another picture.
5. Continue doubling the ISO and taking pictures until you reach ISO 6,400.
7. Download the 7 images onto your computer and examine them to determine at what point the noise becomes visible.

See the *Photo Shopping* article on page 54 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for some software solutions to reduce the digital noise in your images.



Photo Shopping

by Chuck Pine

Tripods

A sturdy tripod is a must for many photographs, especially when a slow shutter speed is needed. Think low-light conditions, nighttime shooting, waterfalls, landscapes, and the like.

You'll need a tripod that's stable enough to handle your gear. If you leave the confines of your home or studio, you'll also want a tripod that's lightweight. You could buy several tripods for different shooting occasions, or you might want to balance weight, portability, and stability when selecting a single tripod for many uses.

Here are some key factors to consider...

Weight and Portability

For photographers who spend a lot of time walking, hiking, or traveling, a lightweight, portable tripod is essential. Tripods made from carbon fiber offer a sturdy yet lightweight option. They are usually lighter than aluminum tripods, but they are usually much more expensive. Weigh your options (sorry for the pun!) and consider where and how you'll be using a tripod.



Load Capacity

Make sure that the tripod can support the weight of your heaviest camera and lens duo. A tripod with insufficient load capacity can lead to disaster, especially in windy conditions and uneven terrain. Just to be on the safe side, it's a good idea to overestimate the weight your tripod must support.

Height

Consider both the minimum and maximum height of the tripod. A tripod extending to eye level without bending over is more comfortable for longer shooting sessions. Also, check its minimum height—some tripods allow for very low-angle shots, which is helpful for photographing flowers, insects, or creative perspectives near the ground.

Head Type

The tripod head is an essential factor to consider. Ball heads are flexible and easy to use, allowing you to adjust your camera in any direction with one knob. Pan-tilt heads offer more precision but can be slower to adjust. Gimbal heads offer quick adjustments along with stability, great for fast-

moving action like birds in flight or sports subjects. Choose a head that suits your style of photography.



Leg Locks

Twist locks are compact and easy to use. Lever locks are faster to set up but can be bulkier.



(ball)



(pan-tilt)



(gimbal)

Photo Shopping

by Chuck Pine

Blurry Images? Try AI.

Who hasn't done a photo shoot and found one or more blurry images? Many things can cause a photo to be blurry—camera shake, a too shallow depth-of-field, subject motion, and plain old poor focusing.

Should you accept the blurriness? Should you delete the image file?

You can save your blurry photos by using any of the powerful AI tools that are now available in just about every photo editing program.

Here are some of them...

Supersharpen

(Luminar Neo)

\$69 and up

Pros

- Masking available
- Customizable
- Consistent results
- Plug-in or stand-alone
- Subscription or purchase

Cons

- Uses hard drive space
- Limited export options



Sharpen AI

(Topaz Labs)

\$199

Pros

- Dedicated software
- Multiple customizing tools
- Great results
- Plug-in or stand-alone

Cons

- Expensive
- Uses hard drive space



Tack Sharp AI

(ON1 PhotoRAW)

\$50 (sale price)

Pros

- Customizable
- Tack Sharp + NoNoise
- Easy to use
- Free trial
- Affordable

Cons

- Uses hard drive space
- No subscription option



Fotor

free—online

download—\$40/year

Pros

- Free trial
- Affordable
- Easy to use
- Desktop & web
- Month and annual plans

Cons

- Pay to download
- Not customizable



PhotoShopping

by Chuck Pine

Removal

As it often happens, there are unwanted things in an image. There are two tools you can use to deal with this problem—the *Spot Healing Brush* and the new *Remove Tool*. Here's how...

The *Spot Healing Brush* is one of Photoshop's most popular tools for quick fixes. It allows you to remove blemishes, dust spots, or other minor distractions from an image by blending the corrected area with surrounding pixels. The tool works by sampling texture, lighting, and color from nearby areas to seamlessly integrate corrections. It is ideal for minor edits such as skin blemishes, scratches, or small distractions.

How to Use the *Spot Healing Brush*:

1. Select the tool from the toolbar or press J on your keyboard.
2. Adjust the brush size to slightly larger than the area you want to fix.
3. Click or drag over the spot to remove it. Photoshop will do the rest.



The *Remove Tool* is a newer addition to Photoshop that uses AI to handle complex edits. It's designed for use where the *Spot Healing Brush* may fall short, such as removing large objects with intricate backgrounds. The *Remove Tool* ensures the final result is clean and free of noticeable artifacts.

How to Use the *Remove Tool*:

1. Select the *Remove Tool* from the toolbar (found in the same group as the *Spot Healing Brush*).
2. Adjust the size of the tool to cover the object you want to remove.
3. Click and drag over the area, and Photoshop will intelligently remove the object, blending the area seamlessly.



Real Photographer

You know you're a real photographer when...

1. You get upset when you don't have your camera with you.
2. Lighting > Equipment
3. You make crap look good.
4. Your camera battery runs out before any other gadget.
5. You think the sound of a camera shutter is musical.
6. You get annoyed at people who buy top-of-the-line cameras only to take selfies.
7. You are offended when someone makes a harsh comment about your gear.
8. Traveling is more about photography than it is about relaxing.

B & H Event Space

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



Thu, Feb 20
Close-Up and Macro
Speaker: Lester Lefkowitz

Thu, Feb 13
On-Location: Thailand
Speaker: Reza Malayeri

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




These photos are brought to you by www.pipermackayphotography.com





Mon, Feb 17
Collecting Photography
Speaker: Reza Malayeri



Wed, Feb 19
The Creative Portrait
Speaker: Ian Spanier

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*]

Natural Exposures

Natural Exposures Photo Tours, led by Daniel J and Tanya Cox, travel the globe to the best photo destinations. Here are some of their future photo adventures...



Easter Island
Departs April 27, 2025
\$4,911 pp/ do (\$1,080 ss)



Brazil Macaw Canyon
Departs August 26, 2025
\$3,990 pp/ do (\$500 ss)

Other tours include...

- Ultimate Madagascar
- Japan Winter Wildlife
- Patagonia Pumas
- Faroe Islands

<www.naturalexposures.com>



The 2025 Audubon Photography Awards is now open for submissions until Wednesday, March 5 at 12 p.m. (noon) ET.

One of the most respected nature photography competitions in the world, the Audubon Photography Awards celebrates the beauty and diversity of birds by honoring the best photos of birdlife. The winning images, chosen from thousands of entries, capture a dazzling array of bird species and behaviors. They also illustrate the essential relationship between birds and the habitats they need to thrive.

The entry fee is \$15 per image for individuals in the U.S. and Canada (excluding Quebec). No payment is required for submissions to the Youth division for entrants who are 13 to 17 years of age.

Enter here <[### Audubon Awards Tip](https://photoawards.audubon.org/?_gl=1*vo3ia3*_gcl_au*ODMyOTE4NDY0LjE3MzIzOTQyMDk.*_ga*OTc0NzE3ODUyLjE3MzIzOTQyMTA.*_ga_X2XNL2MWTT*MTczNjk2NjE1NC4zLjAuMTczNjk2NjE1NC42MC4wLjA.></p>
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Emphasize Mood
Overcast and stormy skies create a moody atmosphere that can enhance the impact of your images.



Save the Date!

NYMACC's Field Trip to Princeton, NJ

June 7, 2025 9 AM to sunset

rain date June 21, 2025

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

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



Registration does not include food.

Reminder:

Club membership in NYMACC includes all members of that club.

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

Registrants will be notified if rain date is necessary.

The detailed itinerary will be sent a few days prior.

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

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

PRE-REGISTER

deborah.nymacc@gmail.com

The Photo Traveler

The *Photo Traveler* is a quarterly newsletter of PSA's Photo Travel Division. It is free to all members of the Photographic Society of America. You can see a copy of a recent issue by clicking [here](#) Included in this issue are fully illustrated articles on India, Indonesia, and the City Hall subway station in the Big Apple.



Portrait Tip

Camera Position

Keeping the camera at eye level is the traditional way to capture portraits. Using an unconventional angle can be used to make the subject stand out from the ordinary. For example, try to shoot looking down at the subject—give it a shot (so to speak).

52nd Westchester International Competition 2025

Sponsored by the Color Camera Club of Westchester



Photo Competition Announcement

The Color Camera Club of Westchester is pleased to sponsor their 52nd International Photography Competition. The competition is open to all interested photographers.

Calendar

Open for entries Jan 2025
 Closing date: Apr 12, 2025
 Judging date: Apr 26, 2025

Entry Fees (Paypal)

\$15 for 4 photos in Open division
 \$15 for 4 photos in Nature division
 \$15 for 4 photos in Monochrome division

How To Enter

Visit www.cccw.org click on "International Exhibition," then select "Rules and Entry link."



Competition Information

Competition Divisions:

- The "Open" Division will accept images in any style except monochrome, reflecting any subject.
- The "Nature" Division will accept images reflecting landscapes, seas and skies, and wildlife.
- The "Monochrome" Division will accept greyscale or single-toned images reflecting any subject.

Number of images: Up to four images may be submitted in each division.

Image Specifications: All images will be submitted online in JPEG format

Image Selection: All images will be judged and 75 images in each division (225 in total) will be accepted for inclusion in the catalog, slideshow, and the Club's social media. In addition, up to 48 images will be displayed in a six-month online gallery exhibition.

Awards: The top-scoring image in each division will receive a Best of Show award along with \$200. The second and third highest-scoring images will receive \$125 and \$50 awards, respectively. Certificates will be issued for these awards and for Honorable Mentions.

WOMEN STREET PHOTOGRAPHERS

be inspired. be empowered

<www.womenstreetphotographers.com>

PHOTO FESTIVAL

NEW YORK CITY

AT EL BARRIO'S ARTSPACE PS109

APRIL 10-13, 2025

Photo Beach Bash



The Coastal Camera Club's 5th Annual Virtual Photo Beach Bash is still open for registration at <<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-virtual-photo-beach-bash-february-22-23-registration-1047904088337>>

Mongolia Workshops

Mongolia is known as the country of Genghis Khan and the last true nomads in the world. It is a unique and unexplored travel destination that offers a combination of landscapes, nomadic lifestyle, and wildlife opportunities. **Kah-Wai Lin Photography** is offering several photo workshops to Mongolia in 2025. Here are the details...



Eagle Hunters' Festival & Gobi Desert

May 10th-20th
Aug 26th-Sep 5th
\$6799 (dbl) \$799 (ss)

See the cultural heritage of Kazakhs, their art of eagle falconry, and the landscape of the Altai Mountains. Then explore the Gobi Desert and photograph the herding of Bactrian camels.



Pallas Cats

Aug 18th-25th
\$4399 (dbl) \$199 (ss)

Embark on an unforgettable adventure to Mongolia's vast open wilderness in search of the elusive Pallas cat, a rare and exotic species that has never been tamed or domesticated.

For additional information, go to <www.kahwailin.com>

Gardens Workshop

Part of the fun of this NANPA (North American Nature Photography Association) workshop in Pennsylvania is the broad diversity of flower and photo opportunities that event leader Mary Louise Ravese has curated for this mid-spring event.

First off, you'll visit the area's crown jewel, Longwood Gardens, during the prime time of their spring flowering bulbs display.

You will also have a "straight out of Holland" experience at a nearby tulip farm where acres of multi-colored tulips offer possibilities for creative techniques like "shoot through" and intentional camera movement. Another spot offers a forest woodland setting with an abundance of ephemeral wildflowers including more than 5 different varieties of trillium, as well as flowering bushes and trees.

Finally, you'll visit a botanical garden on a large estate that offers a variety of romantic and whimsical garden "rooms" along a meandering path through softly rolling hills.

This longer than usual event is structured as a workshop with sessions on both photography techniques and editing approaches.



April 13 - 18, 2025
Early Registration (by February 12, 2025): \$1059
NANPA / ASMP Members,
\$1259 non-members



<https://nanpa.org/eventcalendar/pennsylvania-flower-and-garden-workshop-regional-event-april-13-18-2025/>



Visionary Workshops

No! These are not PWCC's very own *Expanding Visions* classes. This article is about Joe Reardon's *Visionary Photography Workshops*. Joe is a New Hampshire-based professional photographer and teacher/workshop leader. He offers three kinds of activities...

One Day Workshops in the northeast including Boston at Night, Rockport (Maine), and Boston Architecture.




Five Day Workshops around the USA including the Pacific Northwest, Oregon Coast, and The Palouse.



European Weeklong Trips including Croatia, Ireland, and Tuscany.

For additional information and to register go to www.visionaryphotographyworkshops.com

 **THE GREATEST | KENYA**
WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER

Originally launched in 2018 exclusively in the Maasai Mara, the competition ran successfully for six years before a temporary closure. Now relaunched independently, the revamped competition aims to highlight Kenya's diverse destinations and attractions.

By collaborating with Partner Lodges across the country, the competition showcases the unique wildlife and landscapes that Kenya offers while raising funds to support conservation partners and empower their important work.

Featuring the Greatest wildlife photography on the planet, the competition provides a platform for photographers from around the world to present their work to an ever-growing audience of wildlife enthusiasts.

1ST	US\$2,500 + 9 NIGHT SAFARI FOR TWO
2ND	US\$1,500 + 6 NIGHT SAFARI FOR TWO
3RD	US\$1,000 + 3 NIGHT SAFARI FOR TWO
BIRDLIFE	US\$500 + 3 NIGHT SAFARI FOR TWO
ANIMAL BEHAVIOR	US\$500 + 3 NIGHT SAFARI FOR TWO
PEOPLES' CHOICE	US\$500 + 3 NIGHT SAFARI FOR TWO
GUIDE'S PRIZE	US\$1,500 WORTH OF CAMERA GEAR



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

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

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

Bad Weather Tips

Play with Lighting

Diffused lighting in overcast conditions is excellent for portraits and landscapes, reducing harsh shadows and highlighting details in your subject.



Focus on Detail

Rain and fog enhance textures and can make fine details stand out. Capture close-ups of raindrops on surfaces, the texture of wet leaves, or the patterns of frost and ice. These elements can add a tactile dimension to your photographs that brings the viewer closer to the scene.



[Note—In case of lightning, play it safe. No place outside is totally safe when there are thunderstorms in the area!]



NATIONAL WILDLIFE PHOTO CONTEST

Now in its 54th year, the prestigious *National Wildlife*® Photo Contest celebrates wildlife, habitats and the natural world, with an emphasis on conservation and ethical photography honoring the well-being of animals in the wild. All entries support the National Wildlife Federation’s conservation mission, which is dedicated to saving wildlife species and habitats. Amateur and professional photographers alike are encouraged to share their best images of wildlife and wild lands, from around the world and even in their own backyards.

The entry deadline is—March 23, 2025

Submissions in nine categories are welcome:

- Birds
- Mammals
- Baby Animals
- Other Wildlife (Underwater life, reptiles, amphibians, insects, spiders, macro and more)
- Landscapes & Plants
- People in Nature
- Mobile
- Young Nature Photographers (ages 13 to 17)
- Portfolio (up to 10 images on a common theme)



There is no limit on the number of submissions allowed per entrant:

- Enter up to 15 photos for \$25: **BEST VALUE**, includes free one-year digital subscription to *National Wildlife* magazine
- Enter up to 10 photos for \$20
- Enter one photo for \$15
- Enter one Portfolio for \$20; can be combined with any other entry package

Register here <https://photocontest.nwf.org/entrant-registration-form.aspx?comp_id=BE6184E3-F1E4-49D7-A52E-20A368BF98C0>

ColorTexturePhotoTours

Scott Setterberg's tour group, ColorTexturePhotoTours, is offering the following photo adventures this year...

<www.colortexturephoto.com>



African Travel

African Travel Inc. presents their Concierge Collection of Escorted Safaris—exploring Africa has never been more seamless. Limited to just 14 guests and accompanied by a dedicated concierge, these journeys feature luxury accommodations, exclusive experiences, most meals, and all gratuities—providing you with unmatched style, ease, and great photo ops. Here are a couple of their upcoming adventures...

Southern Explorer
 11 Days
 From \$14,795 pp
 Experience the best of Southern Africa while staying in some of the region’s finest luxury accommodations. Explore Cape Town’s scenic beauty and vibrant culinary scene, encounter the Big Five in a private Kruger reserve, and marvel at Victoria Falls. With complimentary intra-Africa flights, this journey promises unparalleled luxury and seamless travel for the ultimate African adventure.

Best of Tanzania
 11 Days
 From \$8,195 pp
 Explore Tanzania’s prolific parks in comfort and style. Discover the vast plains of the Serengeti, the pink flamingos of Lake Manyara, the ancient baobabs of Tarangire, and the world-renowned Ngorongoro Crater. Encounter Africa’s iconic wildlife on expertly guided game drives. Each moment is thoughtfully curated for an unforgettable safari.

<www.africantravelinc.com>



Featured workshops and tours...

Chincoteague Island Spring Workshop
 May 2-4, 2025
 8 participants
 \$645



Alaska Brown Bears & Wildlife Tour
 Aug. 10 - 18, 2025
 4-5 participants
 \$12,995



Pantanal Jaguars & Wildlife Photo Adventure
 Oct. 22-29, 2025
 6 participants
 \$8,595

More tours available. Info and registration at <www.nikhilbahl.com>



**Homewood at Frederick Announces the
3rd ANNUAL HOMEWOOD COLLECTION
Photography Competition and Exhibition
*New in 2025 – Cash Prizes for ALL 24 Winners***

Important Dates

Accepting Entries
February 15, 2025

Deadline for Entries
April 1, 2025

Artist Notification
April 26-28, 2025

Finalists Submit TIFF
Images Deadline
May 10, 2025

Gala Public Introduction
of 2024 Collection
June 20, 2025

Public Sales and
Sponsorship
June, 2025-2026

1 Year Public Exhibition
Opens June 25th, 2025

Announcing 4th Annual
Competition
January, 2026

Inquiries

HomewoodCollection@gmail.com

**Accepting Entries Beginning February 15th for the
3rd Annual Homewood Collection Competition,
Exhibition, and Sale**

Frederick, MD – Homewood at Frederick, a non-profit continuing care retirement community, in conjunction with the Homewood Foundation, is proud to announce the **3rd Annual Homewood Collection Competition**, public exhibition, and sale of photographic art. Amateur and professional photographers nationwide are invited to enter original photographs that best capture this year's theme of **"My Point of View..."**

This competition is based on the widely published evidence that exposure to the visual arts benefits people in all healthcare situations with an enhanced quality of life. This knowledge infuses the resident project team, to bring exceptional photographic art to the daily lives of all residents, staff, and visitors in The Woodlands, the assisted living unit of Homewood at Frederick.

Following selection by independent certified judge, Michael Brown, the Homewood Foundation will fund printing the 24 winning images into large format, high-definition, gallery-wrapped canvas prints. These prints will be exhibited in the Woodlands Gallery Hall assisted living unit for one year.

One image will be selected as Best-of-Show for prominent display and the photographer will be awarded a **\$500 cash prize**. During the June 20th Public Gala Event attendees will vote for a People's Choice Award and that selected photographer will be awarded a **\$250 cash prize**. The remaining winners will receive a **\$100 cash prize** for each selected image.

The prints will be offered to the public for sale and community sponsorships throughout the one-year exhibition. All proceeds will be used to sustain the annual Homewood Collection project.

All entries are to be submitted through our online platform. Click on the link below for entry Rules and Guidelines (available now) and access the image submission webpage from February 15 through April 1, 2025.

www.homewoodfrederick.com/resources/homewood-collection

Schedule of Activities

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

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and its aftermath, Club activities will be virtual using the Zoom software. Members will be emailed all the information necessary to log in and participate. Guests may request log-in details by emailing Park West Camera Club at <pwccny@gmail.com> Check the Club's Website <www.parkwestcameraclub.org> for late-breaking details on PWCC meetings and other Club activities.

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

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



* 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 quite a moving evening! [*Please 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 Chinatown and Little Italy and 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

Celebrate...



Sun. Feb. 9th
National Pizza Day



Sat. Feb. 15th
World Hippo Day



Mon. Feb. 20th
National Muffin Day

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!



© Greg Smith



* 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.



* Saturday, February 22
Entry Deadline
Dealer's Choice

The deadline for submitting images for this Monday's theme night (*Dealer's Choice*) is tonight at 11 p.m. Each Club member may submit from 6 to 10 images on a concise theme of their choice. Maybe you will choose a humorous theme; or maybe one related to the years of Covid-19 and wearing masks; or possibly images from a trip you've recently taken. Whatever. The choice is yours. Your images should

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 for the evening is Greg Smith. He will share pictures and stories from his five decades as a professional shooter for various news organizations, marketing clients, and a wide variety of documentary projects. He will focus particularly on the 20 years he spent paddling a kayak into a tidal salt marsh to photograph wildlife at sea and eye level in South Carolina, which led to his award-winning documentary short film *Keeping the May River Wild*. For additional info on the Photography Committee go to www.sierraphotonyc.com

DON'T MISS THE 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 two images for a critique and suggestions for improvement. Your images should follow the new Club sizing rules (.jpg / 72ppi / 2,000px on the longest side, maximum size of 1MB). See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for sizing and labeling directions. Images will be worked on with a variety of post-processing software. 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

follow the new Club sizing rules (.jpg/72ppi/2,000px on the longest side, maximum size of 1MB). See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for sizing and labeling directions. Send your images to this email <pwccny@gmail.com>



* Monday, February 24
Theme Night
Dealer's Choice

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 possibly next year. Instead, tonight we'll have an open theme night—we're calling it *Dealer's Choice*. See the previous entry for details.

Image 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, maximum size of 1MB). 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. The winning images will be revealed at the Club meeting on Monday, March 24th.

* Monday, March 3
March Competition

Tonight is the Club's sixth competition of the 2024-2025 season. Who will win the top honors? What will the judge say about your images? Will you agree? The only way to find out the answers to these probing questions is to enter the competition and join the Zoom meeting. Competition rules are available in the Club's new *Competition Manual* on the PWCC website. PDI entries must be submitted by midnight one week prior to today—that's February 24th. You may enter up to two PDIs. Tonight's judge is Marilyn Stern. She is a New York City-based photographer working in the fields of fine art and editorial photography. Her work has been widely shown and published in the U.S. and in Europe. She has published two books *Kval! Die Walfänger der Lofoten / The Whale Hunters of Lofoten* and *Masked Culture: The Greenwich Village Halloween Parade*, a long-term project.



© Marilyn Stern



Besides her documentary and editorial work, Marilyn is known for photo-assemblages and digital montages. She has taught a class “Beyond the Single Image” at ICP and “Combining Images” at New York University. You can see more of her images at www.sternphoto.com

Please stick with traditional camera and post-processing techniques—this means no AI generated images! Have fun. We’ll share all the images at the meeting on Monday, March 10th. Send your images to this email pwccny@gmail.com by 11p.m. tonight.

* Monday, March 10
Interpretations

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



* Saturday, March 8
Entry Deadline
Interpretations

The Club will provide every member with seven “base images,” all minimalist in nature, in February. Park West members will then alter them in any way they see fit — change things, add things, skills and software run wild.



The Photoshop Creativity Virtual Summit 2025 focuses on the creative side of Photoshop—fine art, conceptual compositing, image manipulation, fantasy images, textures, brushes, and so on. In addition to classes on creativity, inspiration, and sharing your work, it’s going to be 4 days packed with information that will include classes taught by artists and creatives.

Dates: March 23 - 26, 2025

Price: Free

VIP: Regular Price (After 1pm on March 23): \$159

Early Bird Price (Until 1pm on March 23): \$99

www.pscreativitysummit.com



Tuesday, March 11
NYMACC Meeting

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



Monday, March 17
Photo Op
Saint Patrick's Day Parade

Saint Patrick's Day, or the Feast of Saint Patrick, is a cultural and religious celebration held on March 17th (the traditional date of Saint Patrick's death). The Big Apple has the oldest and the largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the world. The parade kicks off at 11 a.m. moving up 5th Avenue from 44th Street to 79th Street. Plan to see plenty of Irish flags and

shamrocks along the way, and people decked out in Kelly green.

* Monday, March 17
Guest Speaker
Thomas Franklin

Tonight's guest photographer is Thomas Franklin. He is an award-winning photographer, multimedia journalist, and documentary filmmaker, and serves as Associate Professor of Multimedia Journalism at Montclair State University in New Jersey. Tom is best known for his photographs taken at Ground Zero on 9/11, including his iconic image (shown above), which is featured on the United States Postal Service's *Heroes* stamp. The curtain raiser for this evening is Dinorah Capota. She is an excellent photographer, quite proficient in the techniques of infrared photo imaging.



Tuesday, March 18
Photo Event
Sierra Photo

The New York City Sierra Club Photo Committee is holding its meeting tonight. This meeting will be a hybrid



© Thomas Franklin

Celebrate...



Sat. Mar. 15th
National Napping Day



Thu. Mar. 20th
National Ravioli Day



Mon. Mar. 31st
National Crayon Day

meeting—on Zoom and in-the-flesh at the SVA auditorium located on the 4th floor at 136 West 21st Street between 6th and 7th Avenues. Purchase your ticket in advance through Eventbrite. An \$8 donation is suggested. Tonight’s speaker has not yet been announced. For details about the Sierra Photo Committee and this evening’s presenter go to www.sierraphotonyc.com



* Monday, March 24
 You Be the Judge 10—Food
 The score sheets have been collected and tallied. The winners have been declared. Are you among them? Join us at this Zoom meeting to find out the answers to all these probing questions. The theme for this edition of You Be the Judge is “food”—including appetizers, entrees, desserts, snacks, and any other edible subject matter. Entries for this in-house competition were due on February 25th.



* Wednesday, March 19
 PDI Workshop Deadline

The deadline for submitting images for this Thursday’s PDI workshop is tonight at 11 p.m. Members may submit one or two images for a critique and suggestions for improvement. Your images should follow the new Club sizing rules (.jpg/72ppi/2,000px on the longest side, maximum size of 1MB). See page 5 of this issue of *Photo Notes* for sizing and labeling directions. Images will be worked on with a variety of post-processing software. 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, March 20
 PDI Workshop
 See previous entry for details. This Zoom meeting will begin

at 7 p.m. The link for this Zoom workshop meeting will be sent to the membership in the Club’s weekly reminder.



Sunday, March 30
 Photo Op
 Greek Parade

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



* Monday, March 31
 Business Meeting #3

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

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