



Snapshot

Sun City Photography Club Newsletter

October 2023



President's Corner

Alan Utzig

2023 Photography Club President

Registration for our annual exhibit and competition will begin soon. In anticipation of that event, one of our members asked me what it takes to win a ribbon, so I thought I would share what I said. Remember, judging isn't easy, so judges look for reasons to exclude the photo before they look for reasons to give it an award. Knowing that, keep these things in mind:

1. Your photo must be interesting. It should "wow" the judges. No matter how beautiful the light or perfect the composition, an uninteresting photo will be tossed.
2. Your image must be well composed. Following common composition rules like the rule of thirds, filling the frame and using leading lines, will usually assure a good composition, but composition errors like horizons that aren't level or including distractions, mergers and cutoffs or not providing adequate "breathing space" will keep your image out of contention for an award.
3. Everything that should be in focus must be in focus and the image must be sharp. Unless you are intentionally using selective focus for a specific purpose, parts of an image that are unintentionally out of focus tell the judges that your image does not deserve an award. The same is true for sharpness. A photo that isn't sharp is out of contention.
4. Your photos must be properly exposed. If the whites are blown out or there is no detail in the blacks, there will be no ribbon.
5. In your post-processing, fix dust spots, don't oversaturate colors and be careful not to create sharpening halos. These are three more reasons for a judge not to pick your image for an award.

If you enter a photo and none of these "knock outs" are evident, you will be in the running for an award.

So, how do the judges decide between 1st, 2nd and 3rd? Often it comes down to presentation. If an otherwise outstanding photo has a wrong color mat, or the frame is scratched or if regular glass with a lot of glare was used rather than glare free glass, the photo may fall in the judges' rankings.

There are no guarantees when submitting a photo in a competition. It all boils down to the judges' subjective opinions. That said, you can improve your chances of winning an award by doing all you can to make it the best photo possible.

General Meeting Info
October 11 - 2:00 - 4:00
Georgetown/Florence Room, Cowan Creek

Guest Speaker: Cheri Freeman
Capturing the Beauty Around Us: Nature Photography in Focus



Cheri is a photographer based in Williamson County, Texas who found her passion during the COVID pandemic lockdown of 2020. She began photographing anything she could in her own home and yard, venturing out to explore as soon as it was possible. Her primary focus is on nature and wildlife which brings her a sense of connection and joy which she loves sharing with others.

Featured Photographer at The Georgetown Photography Festival, 2023

Exhibitions: Texas Through Her Lens, Williamson Museum; Cancer-Never Give Up; SoloS - 7th International Solo Exhibitions

Featured in: The Photograp[her] and Shoutout Colorado Magazines

October's Training

Register on the Photography Club's website calendar for:

October 17 - 9:30 - 11:00 - B&W Photography

October 23, 25 and 27 - Understanding iPhone Photography
w/field trips on 10/24 & 10/26

October's Events

Register to have your photo evaluated by one of the
Photography Club's top-notch photographers

October 9 - 10:00 - 11:30 - One on One Photo Evaluation

October 13 - 10:00 - 11:30 - One on One Photo Evaluation

October 16 - 10:00 - 11:30 - One on One Photo Evaluation



2023 PRINT COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION

Registration for the Competition and Exhibition opens on **October 2nd**. At that time, the links contained in the document on the website will become "live" and you will be able to register. You will also receive an email to remind you the registration is open.



The Hill Country Arts & Crafts Fair 2023 *November 4-5, 2023*

The Sun City Photo Club has participated in the annual Hill Country Arts & Crafts Fair in November for several years. The fair is open to the public and attendees come from all over Central Texas. This is a great opportunity for the club to promote itself to residents and others, while funding some of our future programs. This year, we are going to try a gallery-style exhibition where more members can contribute, and the club can potentially make more money.

We are asking for members to contribute up to three (3) images, printed 8x10 and unmatted. These images can be any subject* and in color or black & white. Texas-themed subjects tend to do very well. The club will provide mats and sleeves, and the photos will be uniformly displayed in our area in the Social Center. Your prints are a donation to the club and will be sold (\$25 each) with the proceeds going to the club. We are only selling the 8 x 10s in the gallery, and no notecards this year.

We really need club members to volunteer at the Fair either on Saturday or Sunday as cashiers or helping customers in our area. We will provide training. You can volunteer on the registration form in the calendar.

More information about the Arts & Crafts Fair will be forthcoming via e-mail within the next couple of weeks.

Let's Go!! Upcoming Field Trips

October 6 - 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

The Round Rock Arts Fest and Chalk Walk is the Round Rock area's largest and most prestigious festival, drawing over 60,000 people annually to this free event during the first weekend in October. Watch, meet and photograph the artists as they create artwork on the pavement. There will also be vendors, local and regional musicians, theatrical performances, food and drinks and a children's area with performances.

Cost: admission is free! (parking fee- still not determined yet)

Location: NW corner of the Dell Diamond parking lot.

Participation: Open to as many who want to attend - Please register through the Photography Club's website calendar so Tony knows how many people to expect. We'll meet at the Social Center parking lot, at the tennis court end, at 3:30 to arrange carpooling. Please let Tony know who will be going separately, who needs a ride and who is willing to give rides.

<https://www.roundrocktexas.gov/city-departments/arts-and-culture/events/round-rock-arts-fest-and-chalk-walk/>

October 14 Ring of Fire -- Annular Eclipse

This rare event will take place Saturday morning, October 14, and the SCPC is doing a pop-up field trip to shoot it. If you've never shot an eclipse before, it's tricky! Here is a great article to study ahead of time.

<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/tips-and-solutions/how-to-photograph-a-solar-eclipse>

This is where we will meet for the shoot, starting about 9:30am. Expect other photographers to be there as well. This is a turnout over the bridge, so there are no bathrooms or other facilities. Plan accordingly.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/hCBSaNdJX6w8cZHx7>

DO NOT SHOW UP without protective eye and lens gear!!!

October 28 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

A great photo op field trip for those who love cars of all shapes, sizes and models. Also meet and talk "shop" with the owners.

Location: Main Street, Taylor, Texas

Cost: Admission is free!

Participation: No limit. Please register through the Photography Club's website calendar so Tony knows how many people to expect. We'll meet at the Social Center parking lot, at the tennis court end, at 8:45 to arrange carpooling.

Let Tony know who will be driving up alone, who needs a ride and who is willing to give ride.

<http://www.taylor.tx.gov/959/Main-Street-Car-Show>

~ Tony Kawashima, tonykphoto7@gmail.com

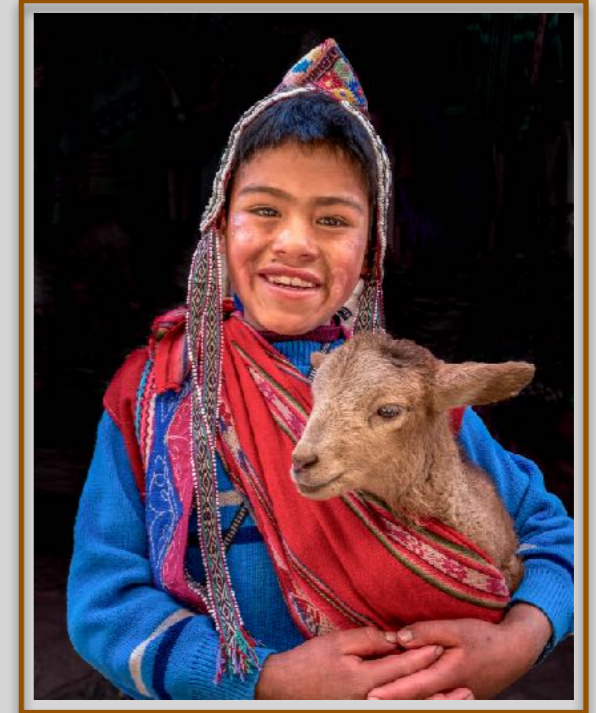
Photographer of the Month Dee Darius Sams

I began my photographic journey in 1982 when I built a black and white darkroom in the basement of my home. I used it for several years until I earned my scuba certification and began taking underwater photos. For 25 years I photographed the amazing critters who live in the beautiful oceans around the world.

I took a step away from photography while I completed my move from Colorado to my new home in Texas. In 2017 I immersed myself in the digital photography world by joining the Sun City Photo Club and the Photographic Society of America (PSA). Since that time, I have completed nine of PSA's on-line photography classes, the most recent being the challenging completion of the Image Evaluation course and I was the first in the nation to complete the Image Critique course. These courses gave me the skills necessary to being to become a PSA Instructor for the Image Evaluation on-line course where I taught students from across the United States.

I was honored by PSA by being selected as one of their PSA Judges, giving me the authority and responsibility to judge national photo competitions. I continually search for ways to improve and enhance my knowledge and skills.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view my gallery (note - you will need to log into the website first.)



Each month a club member is featured to help all of us get to know each other just a little bit better. View **POM's** three printed photos at the Cowan Creek Amenity Center in November. Twelve of Dee's digital images are posted in a gallery on the club's website, along with her biography.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Outdoor Photography SIG

The Outdoor Photography SIG's goal is to encourage members to capture nature in all its splendor. We like to see your shots of all aspects (landscapes, wildlife big and small, flowers, plants, sunsets, skies, etc.) of outdoor photography—whatever YOU enjoy seeing out there. We don't care what kind of camera you use; we have lots of smartphone users and lots of DSLR users, and some do both! If you want to receive emails and notices specific to this SIG, just check the box for **Outdoor Photography SIG** on the Sun City Community Association's **MY MEMBERSHIPS** web page.

At our monthly SIG meetings, a photography-related entertaining or educational program is usually included, along with a "show and tell" of your submissions on the announced theme for the month. Themes are listed below. It's not a competition (sorry, no prizes!), so don't be afraid to participate! We often offer constructive suggestions on how our pictures could be better, but no harsh criticism allowed!

Meeting Information

- When: 3rd Monday of each month. Check the Photography Club calendar in case there are changes.
- Meeting time: 2pm
- Participation: Game Rooms 1&2 (also called the Studio) in the Activities Center

~ Debra Peak and Randy Freeman

SIG Links

iPhone Photography - Bob Bearden
Outdoor Photography - Debra Peak &
Randy Freeman
Photo Discussion - Allen Utzig &
Jim Newkirk
Photo Traveler - Marsha Larrabee
PSA Digital - Jim Reichel
PSA Print - Glenn Rudd &
Cheryl Janssen
Street Photography - Jerry Meinzer,
Jim Newkirk & Randall Best
Travel Photography - Howie DiBlasi
(last meeting is in November)

For Sale

- Tripods: Manfrotto 190 CX3 CarbonFiber w/Manf 486 Ball Head (Really Right Stuff (RR) fixture 486 and padded legs.\$400.
- Manfrotto 3444 (440CR CarbonFiber) with Manf Pistol grip head #3265 RR. \$400
- Bogen 3021 with Manfrotto 488 RC2 ball head and padded legs \$400
- Manfrotto 3205 (women's shorter) with Manfrotto Ballhead #308 RC \$200
- Silk U6600 for Accessories stand \$25
- Linhof Mono, no ball head \$20

Contact: Wes Odell, 512 863 8283

Website, Email & Snapshots

Cathy O'Connor, Webmaster - cathy0114@gmail.com

Marsha Larrabee, E-mail Blaster & Calendar Admin - marsha_larrabee@me.com

Submission Guidelines to Snapshots:

Articles must be received **by the 20th** of the month to be included in the next month's newsletter.

Lengthy articles may be edited to fit space. Links will be used for long articles.

Articles must be submitted digitally via email.

Photographs must be legally reproducible or licensed by the member submitting the photo. Include the Photographer's name, photo title, contest/show entered, placement received.

Newsletter Editor contact: Cathy O'Connor, cathy0114@gmail.com