

ANNOUNCING THE NEW “OUT AND ABOUT” PROGRAM; *by Neva Kittrell Scheve*

Your Sandhills Photo Club board of directors has been meeting these past few months to develop new ways to meet the needs and desires of the membership. The “Out and About” program was one of the results of this effort. I am excited to be co-chairing this project with Linda Piechota.

The goal of the “Out and About” program is to encourage club participation and inspire members of all skill levels to go out and shoot. We hope to provide learning opportunities for members, and to share knowledge and support to each other.

First and foremost, the “Out and About” is NOT a competition, and it doesn’t matter what kind of camera you have. You can use a DSLR, point and shoot, or even your phone or tablet. It’s open to all members from novice to advanced.

This is how it works:

At the general membership meeting each month, a prompt will be announced and it will also be put on the website the same day. This prompt will not be a particular subject like in the competitions, but more of a photographic skill or technique.

We’ll give you an explanation, some tips, and a few examples to get you started. You cannot use old work. All images submitted must be taken after the date the prompt is announced, and you will have until the next meeting to participate, when another prompt will be announced. We will be doing a new and different prompt each month. You can submit up to three images each month.

We are using SmugMug.com to host the galleries. You will be given a link to the gallery uploader and once your images are ready, you can upload them directly to the proper gallery.

The password protected gallery will be visible to all members even if you have not uploaded any of your own photos. All members will be able to make comments and read comments written by others. Of course, we expect all comments to be positive and encouraging.

Suggestions may be made as long as they are constructive, but the critiquing will be left to a few particular chosen volunteers from the advanced group who will remain anonymous. (Even I don’t know who they are, and they don’t know each other’s real identities) In addition, Carol Leigh, a professional photographer and teacher, will pick three or four images each month for a more detailed, instructive critique. (See Bio following)

This will be a great way to get feedback on your images and to develop your skills. Maybe you have a photo you like, but want feedback to improve it for a competition or exhibit. Maybe you are brand new to photography and you need some encouragement. Or, maybe you took a great shot and you want to show it off. We’re hoping that members of all skill levels will join in so we can all learn from each other. You can not only make comments, but you can ask questions, too. To encourage creativity, the usual restrictions of post processing will not apply unless specified by a particular prompt.

You can go out and shoot by yourself, or plan to get some other members together and go out for a photo shoot day. However you do it, please join in and have some fun with us.

More detailed instructions will be given at the next meeting when we announce the first prompt. If you don’t go to the meeting, check the website and newsletter for specifics.

One final note:

On the advice of Hunter Rudd, we have chosen to run this project on SmugMug.com. Because we are still learning how to use it and we are using this service a little differently than its intended purpose, the board members have been running a trial version to work out the bugs and we think we’re ready to launch. However, please be patient if there are some problems at first. We are here to help you. You can email me or Linda at outandabout@sandhillspshotclub.org.



Out and About, continued:**Carol Leigh**

Several of our SPC members have enjoyed Carol Leigh's online course instruction. Those on the field trip to Asheville with Dave Powers as our leader met Carol and were impressed with her talk to the group about having a photography project to keep you in tune. She has agreed to pick 3 or 4 images for a more detailed, instructive critique each month for our *Out and About* project.

On her website, Carol tells us...

"I'm a photographer, writer, educator based on the Oregon coast. Although I love 'pure' photography, I specialize in photomontage work, combining photos I've taken of rust, walls, peeling paint, birds, postage stamps, trees, etc. into images that are completely new, different, and often weird. When I begin a piece, I start with a concept, which quickly morphs into something totally different than I originally envisioned, and that's where the fun is. I also create physical collages, then find myself photographing parts of them to include in my photomontages. Total madness, but it's good madness!"

My career has encompassed writing guidebooks (primarily about where to photograph in California), newsletters (guides for photographers about where to photograph in the United States), leading photo workshops, and conducting online classes."

You can visit my blog here: <http://carolleigh.blogspot.com>

EXHIBITION PLANS, *Tom Reedy*, wreedy1@nc.rr.com:

We will be participating in the ***Double Takes*** exhibition at the Eye Candy Gallery in April or May, 2014. I am waiting to hear more from the gallery as are all of you who have submitted photographs for consideration. I will let you know as soon as I hear anything.

We have also confirmed a date for our fall exhibition at ***Sandhills Community College***. It will run from Thursday September 4 (with a reception) until the end of October. As yet, we have not finalized a theme. The gallery can accept about 40 to 50 photographs. For this exhibition the photographs will be mounted and matted but they do not have to be framed. Also, the SCC does not take any commission on the works that sell. The money goes directly to the photographer. I will provide more information in a future newsletter.



As of now the exhibitions for 2014 by the club or its members include:

Name	Club or Members	Venue	Date
2014			
<i>Double Takes</i>	Club	Eye Candy Gallery	April or May 2014
Sandhills CC	Club	SCC Library	September, October 2014