

INFOCUS



SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Editor: Alison Earl, communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org



VOL XXXX1, NUMBER 9

www.sandhillsphtoclub.org

October 2025

PRESIDENT – CAL RICE

This is the busy time of year for several of our volunteers who give their effort to make SPC the great club it is.

Each of you has three tasks in the next few weeks.

1. Renew your membership. Paying in October or November makes the bookkeeping simpler.
2. Sign up for the December 8, Holiday Party. Again, pay early to make life easier for the affected people
3. Prepare your competition entry for the year end contest. The category is "open" so any picture you have taken in the last three years is eligible. Let's set an all-time record for number of entries.



Cal Rice

Cal

Shhhhhh, don't tell SUSAN BAILEY I stole her butterfly from our Facebook page



Next Meeting: 10/13 7pm Ball Center & Zoom

SUBJECT	PAGE or DATE
• Brunch Bunch	Oct. 2 nd & 16 th
• Competitions	4-5
• Exhibits	11
• Holiday Party	Save the Date: 12/8
• Membership	8-10
• Tier 1-3 Winners	12-14
• Outings	6
• Website information	7

SAVE THE DATE FOR SPC'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

Mark your Calendar for **Monday evening December 8th, 2025**, 6:00 pm to attend our Annual Holiday Dinner.

The dinner will be held at the Longleaf Club, and the cost will be \$ 40 per person. More details to follow in coming weeks.

You do not want to miss this festive annual event: mix, mingle, cocktail time, competition awards and dinner meeting.

Jacques Wood
Vice President



Dues are coming up and can be paid at any time from now till the end of the year. The Board has voted to NOT change our membership fees.



SINGLE	\$55
Family	\$75
Student	\$20

PayPal accepted, no extra fee

For questions regarding dues, please
contact Frank Lipski, Treasurer

treasurer@sandhillsphotoclub.org

<https://www.sandhillsphotoclub.org/membershipdues>

A HUGE THANK YOU

TO OUR MEMBERSHIP FOR THEIR FEEDBACK ON THE
MEMBER SATISFACTION SURVEY!!!!

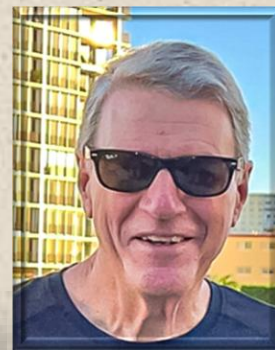
STAY TUNED FOR NEXT STEPS...

FROM YOUR SPC BOARD

Competition Results, October 13, 2025

- ☒ **OCT) The Color Red** – The image must contain a dominant overall color of red or the subject of the image must be red. (3-year limit)

Judge: Mary Presson Roberts



MikeSassano

Mary Presson Roberts

Photographer
www.themaryphotographer.com

Mary Presson Roberts is a visual artist, author, and educator based in Tega Cay, South Carolina. Mary uses her camera and digital tools to focus on the beauty in this world as well as to explore her thoughts and emotions associated with life events and concerns.

Mary received her Bachelor's Degree from Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC, and her Master's Degree from the Citadel, Charleston, SC. Mary has been an educator in the Carolinas for more than three decades.

In 2015, Mary combined her passions for photography and education. She leads photography workshops and photo tours, provides private photography instruction, and gives inspirational presentations of her photographic journey. Mary has a diverse interest in photographic subjects.

Mary has exhibited works in the United States and Internationally. She has been published in *Our Magnificent Planet* by LensWork, *Nature's Best Photography International Awards*, and *FotoNostrum Magazine*. She has also had a portfolio of her work published in *LensWork Magazine*.



AND 2025's LAST Competition:

- ☒ **(DEC) Open** – any subject is acceptable. Color or black & white may be submitted. (3-year limit)

Member judged.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
11/08/2025	11/15/2025	12/08/2025

2026 Topics / Dates / Definitions

(FEB) Doorknobs – Explore the unique and often overlooked details of doorknobs, revealing their historical and cultural significance. Consider photographing doorknobs in different styles, materials, or locations. Experiment with different angles and perspectives to capture the unique features of doorknobs. Try using a macro lens to get close-ups of intricate details. The image should include hardware that is designed to open the door like a doorknob like a lever or latch.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
1/10/2026	1/17/2026	2/09/2026



(APRIL) Color, Color Everywhere - Celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of color in the world around us. Look for colorful flowers, buildings, or people. Consider photographing colorful markets, festivals, or street performers. Experiment with different white balance settings to capture the true colors of the scene. You may include one or multiple colors in your photograph, but your choice of color(s) should stand out in the image.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
3/07/2026	3/14/2026	4/13/2026

(JUNE) Trains, Planes & Automobiles – Photograph the speed and movement of transportation, highlighting their impact on the environment and society. Consider capturing trains speeding through the countryside, planes taking off from airports, or cars driving through city streets. Experiment with different shutter speeds and apertures to capture the movement and energy of transportation. Try using a telephoto lens to get close-ups of vehicles or a wide-angle lens to capture the overall scene. Your options are restricted to TRAINS (engine, caboose, tracks, depot) - PLANES (large, small, in the air, on the ground) and AUTOMOBILES (Interior, exterior, headlights, taillights, tires).

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
5/09/2026	5/16/2026	6/08/2026

(AUG) Long Exposure – Create ethereal and dreamlike images by capturing motion over time. Consider photographing waterfalls, city lights, or star trails. Experiment with different shutter speeds and apertures to create different effects. Try using a neutral density filter to reduce the amount of light entering the camera and allow for longer exposures.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
7/11/2026	7/18/2026	8/10/2026

(OCT) Architecture – Explore the beauty and history of buildings, from ancient structures to modern skyscrapers. Look for interesting details, such as architectural styles, materials, or historical significance. Consider photographing buildings in different lighting conditions, such as sunrise or sunset, to create dramatic shadows and highlights. Try using a wide-angle lens to capture the overall scene or a telephoto lens to focus on specific details.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
9/12/2026	9/12/2026	10/12/2026

(DEC) Bugs – Showcase the beauty and diversity of the insect world. Look for colorful butterflies, buzzing bees, or intricate spider webs. Consider photographing insects in their natural habitats, interacting with flowers or other insects. Try to capture their unique features and behaviors.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
11/07/2026	11/16/2026	12/07/2026

OUTINGS – CINDY MURPHY

- **October 17-19 – Carolina BalloonFest – Statesville, NC**
All the information for attending and getting a ride in a hot air balloon are on their website. www.carolinaballoonfest.com
- **October 25 - Festival D'Avion – Moore Co Airport**
Get ready for some really fun action photography! We are going to the Festival D'Avion for our outing on October 25th. It will be held at the Moore County Airport (7825 Aviation Dr, Carthage). Tickets are \$17 and can be purchased ahead of time at <https://www.festivaldavion.com/>

Parking is \$5.00

We will meet at 12:00, at the terminal. We can have lunch on site and see all the cars and planes on display before finding the best spots to photograph the Golden Knights Precision Jump Team at 1pm, and the Children of Fallen Heroes Precision Jump Team at 2pm.

Please let me know if you will be able to join us.

Cindy Murphy cindy.m.8012@gmail.com.

For a more detailed schedule of events, visit <https://www.festivaldavion.com/>



Cindy Murphy

BRUNCH BUNCH – SUSAN BAILEY

BRUNCH BUNCH is this **Thursday, October 2nd** from 10am to 11:30am and **October 16th**, Panera Bread, 10862 US 15 501, Southern Pines

Come enjoy a cup of coffee and some great food while spending time with other members talking all things photo!
(you don't have to buy anything)

No need to RSVP and drop in any time.

UPCOMING OUTINGS (Rescheduled)

Saturday, November 1st
Malcolm Blue Festival (rescheduled from 9/27)
1177 Bethesda Road
Aberdeen, NC
Tickets - \$5
<https://www.thepinestimes.com/event/malcolm-blue-festival/>

Time: Meet at 10am at ticket area
Lunch Onsite

Contact: Susan Bailey susanbaileyphoto@gmail.com



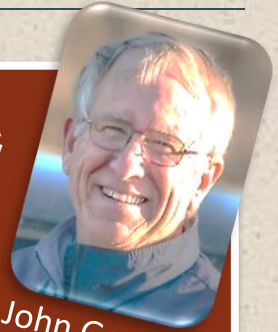
Susan Bailey

**Don't Forget:
Brunch
Bunch:
October 2nd
and 16th**



SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB'S WEBSITE

WWW.SANDHILLSPHOTOCLUB.ORG



John German

Website Notes for October 2025:

This month's featured member's website is by [Ira Miller](#). Click his name to view his gallery or the link to his gallery is on our website homepage.

Club Directory

You may view the club directory at: [Club Directory](#). If you would like to have your photo added to the directory, or change the one in the gallery, just send a favorite to me at [John German](#). I will add it to the gallery. If you need the password, please email me and I will provide it. It is included in Alison's Upcoming Events announcement sent along with the club newsletter. The Club Directory and the Member's Only page passwords are the same.

Member Galleries

Members who would like a personal gallery should let me know at website@sandhillsphotoclub.org, and I will send an upload link for their use.

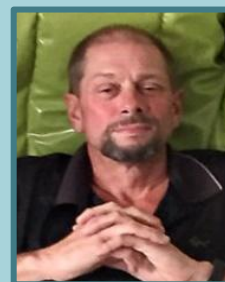
*See the website "Member Galleries" page for instructions on sizing, etc. **This link will continue to work but if you wish to change images, I must delete the old ones. You can upload at will. If you have lost your link, just let me know and I will resend it to you.***

Member Websites

If you have a personal website, please let me know and I can provide a link on the "Member's Galleries" page for you. Please view the member's websites & galleries on this tab on the club website.

PS: Please email any errors that you may notice on the website. I will correct them as soon as possible. website@sandhillsphotoclub.org

Treasure's Report – Financial Report 2024		
TOTAL FUNDS		
	Checking	\$3,018.46
	Savings	\$10,055.92
Grand Total of all Accounts		\$13,074.38



Frank Lipski

Membership –Mary Bonsall

***** A Reminder *****

Next year's membership dues are due by **December 31, 2025**.
Membership dues for 2026 remain the same as this year. Pay early and avoid the end of the year rush.



Mary Bonsall

The excitement of October...a new season for us.

Crisp nights, vibrant colors, shorter days, leaves flutter.

Get your cameras ready... for exciting photographic opportunities like golden hour, foliage closeups, reflections, fall harvest, autumn wildlife in warmer light. Don't forget Halloween with pumpkins and happy children frolicking about.

Here's some ideas for astrophotography this month... <https://www.diyphotography.net/dont-miss-these-astrophotography-opportunities-in-october-2025/>

One of my favorite parts of October is Diwali. When we lived in Trinidad, we were introduced to the Hindu holiday. Diwali will be celebrated on October 20, 2025 and is the most significant Hindu festival, popularly called the festival of lights. Diwali symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, and hope over despair. Across India and around the world, people celebrate Diwali with joy, devotion, and togetherness.

Membership Totals

Individual	83
Honorary	2
Family	13
Family +1 Member	13
Student	0
Total Members	111

Continued Next Page →

Membership, continued:

Instead of highlighting a board member and a club member, as usual, I think it's time to introduce and thank the Membership team. There are four members, **MeiKei, Jack, Patti** and **Jean**, all contributing to your experience at meetings or behind the scenes. I am very grateful to each one for volunteering and since most have been Chair, or involved longer than me, they provide a wealth of information.



Jean Antholzner

I have been a member for 3 years. I have dabbled with photography for years. I'm in very few family photos, like most photographers, I am usually behind the camera. I became interested in photography because I love to draw and paint and sometimes plein air takes more time and photos give me a chance to see more subjects for the future. I don't have a favorite genre because everything excites me.

This year I can be seen helping Mary Bonsall at the membership table before our meetings.

love SPC because the contests gives me great ideas to explore. The guests speakers ignite my imagination and teach techniques. Our brunches connect to new friends and we encourage and support each other.



Patti Cifelli

I joined SPC in 2023 after taking a course in digital photography. I hoped the exposure I got in the club would help me expand my skills. I have learned a lot through workshops, judges comments, and asking questions of fellow members. It's also helped me realize how much I don't know!

My favorite photography subjects are nature (particularly birds) and horses, but the guest speakers have opened my eyes to the beauty of macro and architecture. I very much enjoy the outings and trips that the club puts together. We go to such interesting places.

Jack Matthews

I have been a SPC member since 2016. I have been part of the Membership Committee since 2022 and served as the chair for two years.

I particularly enjoy the club competitions and the Spring and Fall field trips.

Continued Next Page →

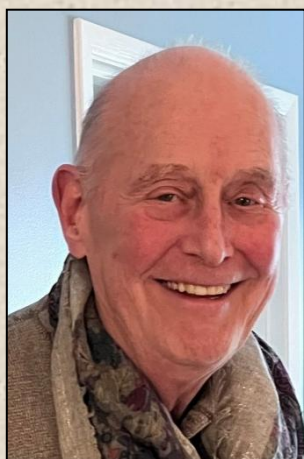
Membership, continued:



Mei Kei McDowell

Hello my SPC friends! I have been a fellow member since March 2023. I was painting in my little corner of Design Market at the time, when I met Jo Ann Sluder. She invited me as her guest to my very first club meeting and I joined right away! I served as Membership chairperson the next year before handing off the reins to Mary Bonsall at the end of last year. As far as my photography journey, I had purchased my cameras — a Sony a7c and a Sony a7RV — and a variety of lenses to help capture my own artwork reference material. After a very short while, I ended up loving photography as an art form in and of itself! I started off capturing images

of wildlife I wanted to paint or draw. I also set up mini photoshoots for any pet portrait commission I had so I could control lighting and expressions I needed for the artwork requested. Then, I had leaned into opportunities to do portrait work with a young local model, her family, and friends. I enjoy capturing beautiful portrait compositions and special moments that happen when the subject is acting naturally: I aim to capture the subject essentially being “themselves.” Finally, as a military spouse married to someone who loves travel experiences, I am blessed with many opportunities to capture images of travels — landscapes, unique objects, and interesting scenes! We head to Bali and then on to Germany at the end of this year and I am excited to fill many SD cards along the way!



Jack Matthews

I have been a SPC member since 2016. I have been part of the Membership Committee since 2022 and served as the chair for two years.

I particularly enjoy the club competitions and the Spring and Fall field trips.

Mary and team 🍁 🍁

EXHIBITS – SHARI DUTTON

This year's exhibit, titled "**Competition Photography**" will showcase our club and our talented members. The exhibit will be at the **Campbell House** in conjunction with the **Art's Council of Moore County**. We are still working on the final details, but here are some important details about the exhibit.

Over the past three years, we have had the competition categories listed below. Any photograph that falls into one of these categories can be entered (notice one of the categories is "open," so any photograph would qualify!)

You didn't need to win an award in the competition, and you didn't even have to enter that competition. However, if you did enter and placed in the competition, it would be a great photo to consider. If you entered one of these competitions and didn't win an award, this is your chance to take the judges' constructive criticism to make the photo even better!



Shari Dutton

Reflections	Old Barns/Buildings	M is for
Shapes and Patterns	Worm's Eye View	Go with the Flow
Closeup	Solitude	Leading Lines
Abstract	Rows of Things	Animals on the Move
Something Involving Water	Sports	Black & White
Faces	Arches	Open

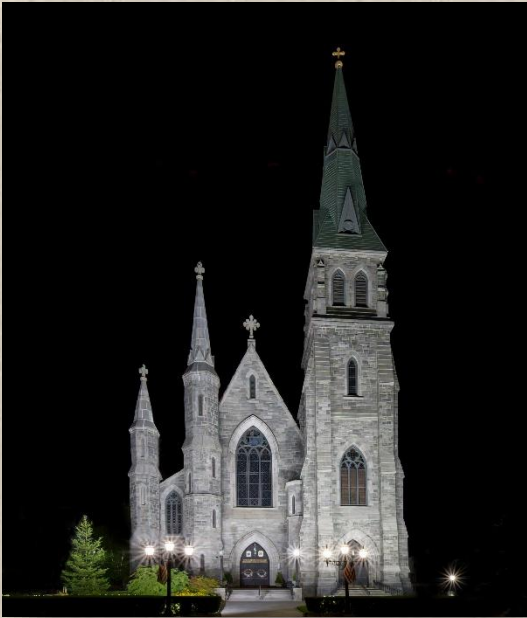
This year we are excited to announce that we will have the exhibit judged and will be **PRESENTING CASH AWARDS!** We will also have a "**people's choice**" award where the exhibit guests can vote for their favorite. This award will be presented at the Holiday Dinner in 2026.

Here are some important dates:

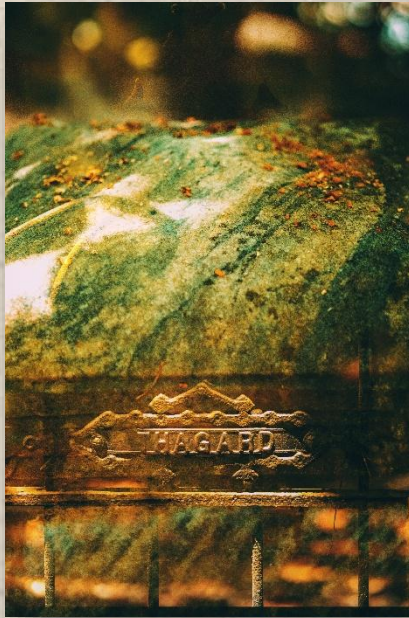
- ~~**September 5th**: Photos must be provided to the Art's Council for consideration to be on the post card mailing that goes out to their membership.~~
- **October 14**: I will need the title of your artwork, the category of the competition, and the retail price of your photograph.
- **November 3**: Artwork to be delivered to the Art's Council.
- **November 7th**: Opening Reception from 6-8 P.M. Awards will be presented at the opening reception!
- **December 20th**: Exhibit ends, and artwork will need to be picked up On Dec. 20th or Dec 22nd.

Churches & Graveyards

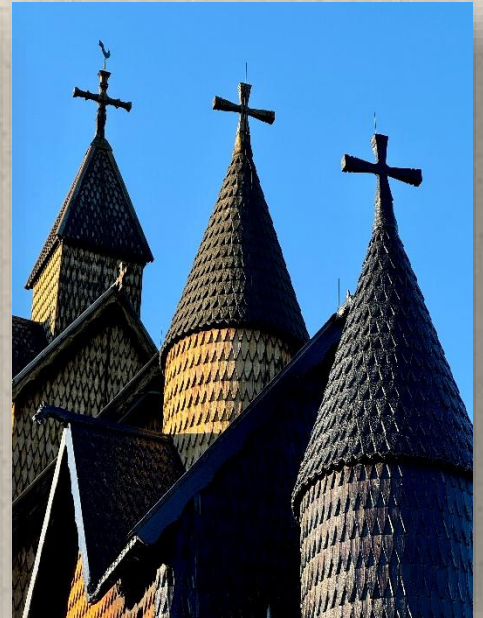
Competition Winners



***1st Pl - Phil Lewis
St. Patrick Owns the Night***



***2nd Pl - Everett Jameson
Here lies the Thagards***

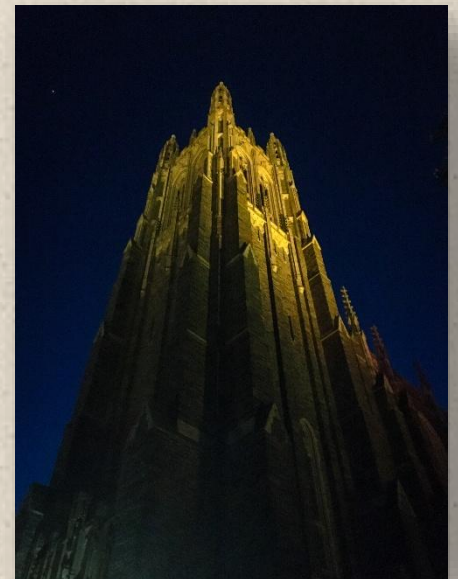


***3rd Pl - Sally Mason
Norwegian Triple Crosses***



***HM - Deborah Castle
Rock Cashel View from Hore Abbey Window***

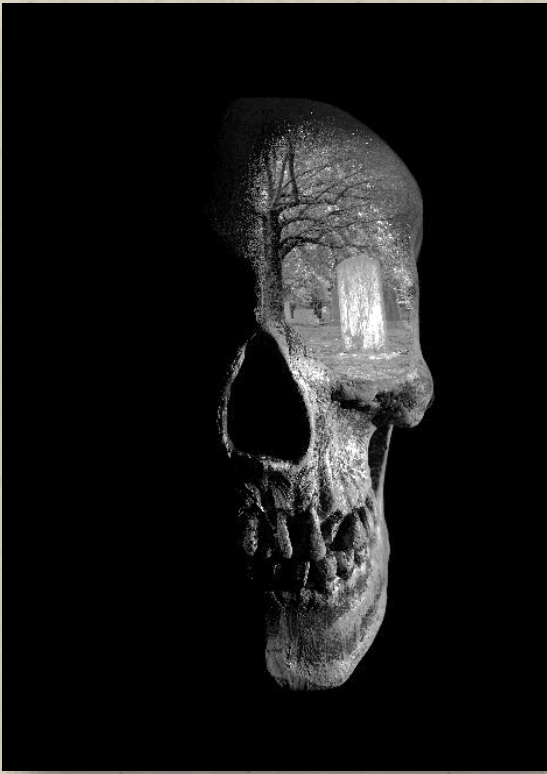
Tier 1 Winners



***HM - Kate Annette-Hitchcock
Duke Night Sky***

Tier 2 Winners

*1st Pl - Joshua Simpson
Graveyard Gaze*



*2nd Pl – Jacques Wood
Lighting the Way*



*3rd Pl – Cathy Locklear
Majestic Orthodox Church in Santorini*



Tier 3 Winners

*1st Pl – Donna Ford
Arlington*



*2nd Pl – Dee Williams
Resting Among the Flowers*



*3rd Pl – Susan Bailey
Perpetual Peace*



Website: www.sandhillsphtoclub.org
Newsletter: communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org



2025 SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB BOARD AND CHAIRS

TITLE	NAME	EMAILS
President	Cal Rice	president@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Vice President	Jacques Wood	vicepresident@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Secretary	Lynn Goldhammer	secretary@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Treasurer	Frank Lipski	treasurer@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Communications	Alison Earl	communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Competitions	Mike Sassano	competitions@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Exhibitions	Shari Dutton	exhibitions@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Field Trips	Deb Castle	fieldtrips@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Hospitality	Sally Mason	hospitality@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Membership	Mary Bonsall	membership@sandhillsphtoclub.org
PSA Rep	Dave Powers	psarep@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Ombudsperson	Neva Scheve	ombudsperson@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Outings	Cindy Murphy	outings@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Past President	Jacques Wood	pastpresident@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Programs	Jacques Wood	vicepresident@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Publicity	David Kiner	publicity@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Tech & Zoom	Josh Simpson	tech@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Web Administrator	John German	website@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Workshops	Susan Bailey	workshops@sandhillsphtoclub.org

CONTACT "IN FOCUS"
EDITOR Alison Earl with
any questions, concerns,
ideas, submissions
(including images), etc. @
communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org

Alison Earl



Sandhills Photography Club
P.O. Box 763, Southern Pines, NC 28388