INFOCUS

SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Editor: Alison Earl, communications@sandhillsphotoclub.org

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OUTINGS 1 – Susan Bailey

November Outing

We are looking for a fall foliage outing at a few locations: Village Arboretum in Pinehurst, Sandhills Gardens or Reservoir Park. We will have to see how the colors are coming and plan for the morning of Saturday, November 7th. I'll send an email that week. Some years the color has come later but we will try to find a great spot.





President – Phil Lewis



Welcome to the crisp mornings and clear days of Fall. It's nice to have a break from the heat of summer and the scenery that the change of seasons brings us.

I want to take this opportunity to address the recent Architecture competition held in October. Many of you are aware that the image I submitted for the competition was not the image which was submitted to the judge for scoring. This was a simple mistake that was corrected by sending the correct image to the judge for scoring immediately when the mistake was discovered, which was during the competition presentation. There was no nefarious activity involved and the same corrective action would have been taken for any member of the club regardless of their position within the club. It has been said that there is "widespread discontent" with this action among the membership. If any member feels this way or has any concerns about this competition, please let any of the board members know so the board can discuss any further action.

It is important to keep in mind the purpose of Sandhills Photography Club. Our Mission Statement is as follows:

> The Sandhills Photography Club was started in 1983 to provide a means of improving members' photographic skills and technical knowledge, for the exchange of information, and, by club activity, to develop membership potential and public interest in the art of photography.

Although not explicitly stated, I think that the club is also a vehicle whereby individuals of like interests can experience fellowship and camaraderie. The social aspect of the club is seen in the many excellent outings and field trips arranged by our Field Trips and Outings program committees. These social interactions are an important aspect of the club, and we all benefit from the opportunity to develop friendships with other photographers and artists. I think it is important for us as members to foster an atmosphere of comity within the club. Let's concentrate on learning from each other and having some fun along the way.

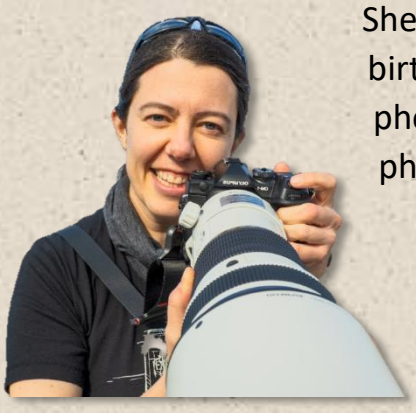
There are still many opportunities to serve the club in the coming year. A vital, vibrant club needs members who are willing to put a little time into making our club a fun and interesting place to learn about photography and share some time with some interesting folks.

Phil



November 9th Meeting: Emilie Talpin: "Fun with Water Drops"

Emilie Talpin is an OM SYSTEM Ambassador and 3 Legged Thing Pro Team.



She grew up in Chalon-sur-Saône, France, the birthplace of Nicéphore Niépce and the first photograph. Despite this background, she got into photography very late, and in 2018 joined a local camera club where she met a group of talented photographers and was inspired to dive deeper into the art of capturing moments in time.

Emilie Talpin has been published and featured in Petapixel Magazine, the Phoblographers, Sciences et Vie Junior, The Weather Channel, B & H, Adorama, Hunt's Photo and Video, OM SYSTEM, and 3 Legged Thing. She also has her own YouTube channel, where she publishes educational videos every Sunday.

Fun with Water Drops – The Art of Capturing Refraction

Description: In this program, OM SYSTEM ambassador Emilie Talpin will immerse you in the world of water drop photography, also known as refraction. If you are not familiar with this term, refraction is when the light passes from one medium and into another, affecting the direction of the light. In macro photography, the capture of a background subject into a foreground water drop is a good illustration of refraction. We will learn how to capture such images and go over the equipment needed as well as techniques and tips to make a successful photo.







Workshops – Cal Rice



Workshop: Saturday, November 14, at 9:00, in our usual Ball Center meeting room, **Using the Internet**, will be our final workshop for the year. **John German** will cover our website, and **Josh Simpson** will address some of the **online photo resources.**

Workshop: Saturday Feb 6, 2027 at 9:00am, in our usual Ball Center meeting room, we will repeat "**GETTING THE BEST IMAGE - IN THE CAMERA**" workshop.

Several people have expressed interest in this workshop but were not able to attend last September.

With all the automation these days it is easy to "point and shoot" and get a very acceptable picture. However, there are times where an understanding of the basics are helpful. We will share a number of actual situations where knowledge of the basics has made photographing easier or even possible.

For example:

- How do you determine the exposure for a full moon (or half a moon)
- What are the types of light meters and when does the one in the camera not work?
- How can you increase the dynamic range beyond what a camera sensor can record?
- Where should you focus on scenic photos, and how do you do that?

Cal Rice
SPC Workshop Chairman

TIP OF THE MONTH



The November tip is very simple. The weather will be getting cold soon and if you are shooting outside, your camera and lens may fog up when you bring it inside the house or the car.

To prevent this, keep a plastic bag handy and put your camera and lens in it before you bring it inside and let it sit until it reaches room temperature. If you are taking it in and out of your car, put it in the bag each time you put it back in the car.

Do you have a tip to share in our newsletter? If so, send it to me at ombudsman@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Short and sweet. Anything regarding photography. Just a few paragraphs and include images if you have them. Thank you!

Neva



Deb Castle

SANDHILLS HORTICULTURAL GARDENS
INAUGURAL ART SHOW
Featuring SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
JANUARY 22 thru APRIL 2, 2027

SPC will be the *First* artists to display in the Burlingame Room Gallery.

By November 14th, 2026 submit up to 3 photos
Before Uploading you must rename the image file as shown.
Your Name-Photo Title-Exhibit Size
Or it will not be accepted for gallery consideration by Sandhills Horticultural Garden Committee.

Photo Submission Link

3 Photos are requested as these photos will be available for sale. If a photo sells during the show, it can be taken right away and Sandhills Hort. Gardens request you to have the next photo ready to replace so the gallery stays full during the entire event. **You receive 100% of the sale of your photo*

Once Photo(s) are approved by Sandhills Horticultural Gardens you will pay $30 when you bring your finished photography to Burlingame Room on **January 19 or 20, 2027**

Additional information will be sent after the November 14th deadline for photos to all Photographers who are participating.

Questions? Call/email Neva Scheve or Deb Castle for any questions.

We have been invited by **Sandhills Horticultural Garden Society** to be the first group of artists to display their work in the Burlingame Room from January 22 thru April 2, 2027. This time period includes two holidays, Valentines and Easter. Your artwork will be viewed by the public during the Ball Center open hours and monitored by staff or volunteer working at the Receptionist desk **The deadline to submit (up to 3 photos) is November 14, 2026**. Please be sure to include "your name, photo title and framed finished exhibit size" in the file name. **For example: John Doe-Out of Focus-18 x 24** *Please note: the ultimate number of photos that are accepted will be determined by how many members submit.*

The November deadline is to allow everyone ample time to get photos printed, mounted, framed, and be able to still enjoy the holiday season once they are notified by November 28th. There is no theme, no size limitations, and no 3-year time limit. Do keep in mind this is a public garden and the two holidays we will be on display. Please be aware you may only have one photo accepted initially - BUT if that photo sells and is taken by the buyer, it is able to be replaced by another in your group of 3.

You will need to have your accepted photos delivered to Sandhills Horticultural Gardens Burlingame Room by January 19th or 20th. When you submit your photo(s) you will then be required to pay the $30 'show fee' to Sandhills Horticultural Gardens (via Cash, Check or Credit Card). No other monies will be charged to you after that initial fee.

More information will be sent once we have all the photographers that are chosen to participate for this event.
Sincerely,
Art Show Committee:
Deb Castle, Neva Scheve & Mickey Walker


Susan Bailey

November Outing (See Front Page)

December Event

We do not usually have a December outing, but I want you to know about this opportunity and hope you will get a ticket during the 6 weeks it is open.

Sandhills Garden Festival of Lights

- **Dates:** Wednesdays through Sundays, November 27, 2026 – January 10, 2027
- **Location:** Sandhills Horticultural Gardens-3245 Airport Rd, Pinehurst, NC 2837
- **Highlights:**
  - Over one million twinkling lights across half of the 34-acre gardens
  - Interactive illuminated orbs
  - A grand finale feature with a giant walk-through mushroom, oversized flowers, and a rainbow caterpillar
  - Visits from Santa Claus and other holiday characters on select nights
  - Seasonal concessions offering hot chocolate and hot/cold adult drinks



- **Tickets:** Available online via the Sandhills Garden of Lights website.



Volunteer – They are hoping some of our members will help with Santa photos (using guests' phones to take the picture). There will also be characters strolling the gardens for photo ops and a display in the upper garden area with a giant mushroom a whole family could go in, etc.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in helping.
susanbaileyphoto@gmail.com

Requirements from the SHG staff:

- As part of our commitment to guest safety, every volunteer completes the required form and will be run through a basic background check. **Please confirm your participation by November 10, 2026**, so we have time to complete this process.
- Each volunteer will be required to complete a waiver on the night they work.

Fall SPC STREET PHOTOGRAPHY (all stolen from our PowerPoint presentation 😊)

Aberdeen Photographers

Susan Bailey (Captain)
Dawn Willis
Kim Butler
Gisela Danielson
Dave Powers
Alan Torppa
Sue Lyons

https://sandhillsphotoclub.smugmug.com/Workshops/2026-Workshops/2026-Street-Shoot-Workshop/2026-Aberdeen-Picks

Mike & Jerry's Favorites



SPC Street Photography

October 12, 2026

Captains

Susan Bailey – Aberdeen
Neva Scheve – Pinehurst
Sally Mason – Southern Pines

Judges

Jerry Kozel
Michael Sassano

Pinehurst Photographers

Neva Scheve (Captain)
Suzanne Priest
Diane McKay
Bill Ainsley
Barbara Ainsley
Kim Roberto

https://sandhillsphotoclub.smugmug.com/Workshops/2026-Workshops/2026-Street-Shoot-Workshop/2026-Pinehurst-Picks

Mike & Jerry's Favorites



Southern Pines Photographers

Sally Mason (Captain)
Lana Rebert
Jameson Everett
Lynn Goldhammer
Mary Bonsall
Pam Jensen
Phil Lewis

https://sandhillsphotoclub.smugmug.com/Workshops/2026-Workshops/2026-Street-Shoot-Workshop/2026-Southern-Pines-Picks

Mike & Jerry's Favorites



SPC Street Photography

Drum Roll Please…

Susan Bailey – Team Aberdeen
Neva Scheve – Team Pinehurst
Sally Mason – Team Southern Pines



SPC Street Photography

Winning Team

Southern Pines

Sally Mason (Captain)
Lana Rebert
Jameson Everett
Lynn Goldhammer
Mary Bonsall
Pam Jensen
Phil Lewis





SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB'S WEBSITE

WWW.SANDHILLSPHOTOCLUB.ORG

Website Notes for October 2026:

*This month's featured member's website is by **Phil Lewis**. Click his name to view his gallery/website or the link to his gallery/website 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

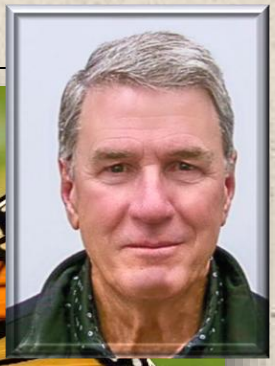
***Members who would like a personal gallery** should let me know at **website@sandhillsphotoclub.org** , and I will send an upload link for their use.*

*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**



Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
11/07/2026	11/14/2026	12/14/2026

Results Event 12/14/2026 (SPC Holiday Party)

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION WINNERS – OCTOBER 2026

1ST PLACE WINNERS

Thousand Years of Prayer

5 Points



T1 Winner iPhone 17 Pro Max f1.8 1/92 sec ISO 200 7mm Suzanne Priest

Reach for the Stars

5 Points



T2 Tied 1st Place f4.5 1/2 sec ISO 100 25 mm FL Phil Lewis

The Passage of Time

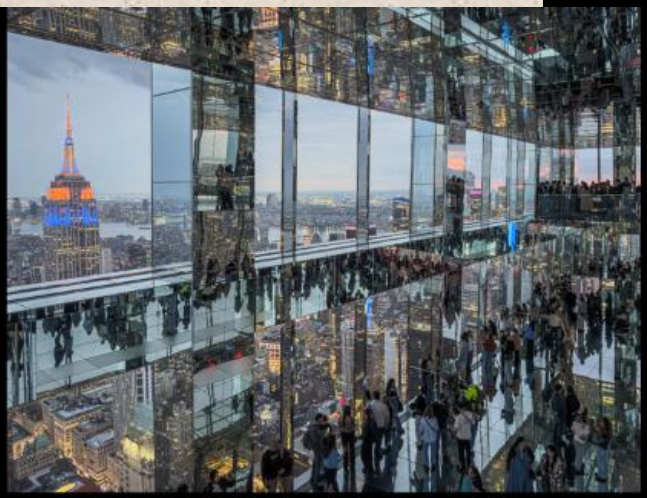
5 Points



T2 Tied 1st Place f4 1/50 sec ISO 2000 10 mm FL +2.3 EC Cindy Murphy

Sunset From the Summit One Skyscraper

5 Points



T3 – Winner Dale Jennings

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION WINNERS – OCTOBER 2026

2ND PLACE WINNERS

Roman Forum

3 Points

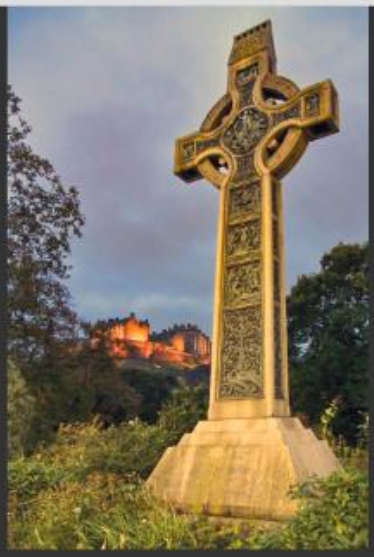
Congrats! Advance to T2 with 12 Points



T1 2nd Place f2 ISO 20 52mm FL 1/845 sec iPhone 11 Pro Jerry Kozel

Architecture of Faith

3 Points



T2 2nd Place f4 1/60 second ISO 22,800 24mm FL +.7 EC Donna Sassano

A Capital View

3 Points



T3-2nd Place f9 1/80th second ISO 72 42mm FL +0.3 EC Neva Scheve

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION WINNERS – OCTOBER 2026

3rd PLACE WINNERS

Where's the Elevator

2 Points

Congrats! Advance to T2 with 10 Points



T1 3rd Place ISO 100 108mm FL Janice Huff

Amazing Grace

2 Points



T2 3rd Place f13 1/800 second ISO 400 38mm FL Sue Lyons

2 Points



T3-3rd Place f6.3 1/640th second ISO 800 30mm FL Pat Anderson



Please Join Us

For

Sandhills Photography Club's



Holiday Dinner

Monday, December 14th

Longleaf Golf Club

10 N Knoll Road



Cocktail Hour 6:00 pm

Crudité and Cheese Display

Dinner 7:00 pm

Grilled Salmon Beef Tenderloin

Potato au Gratin, Fresh Green Beans and Caesar Salad

Lemon Cake or Chocolate Mousse Cake

Iced Tea and Soft Drinks

$45 per person

Holiday Dinner Meeting

During Dinner we will have:

- Our BUG Competition Results
- Stoffel Awards Presented
- Installation of 2026 Officers

To RSVP for this SPC Holiday Dinner for Members and Guests:

- Please use our website link for instantaneous acceptance:
  https://www.sandhillsphotoclub.org/pay-for-holiday-dinner
  $45 per person and email membership@sandhillsphotoclub.org
  with your guest's name

OR

- Mail check ($45.00 per person) with guest's name attending to:
  Sandhills Photo Club
  PO Box 763
  Southern Pines, NC 28388

OR

- Bring a check with guest's name to the SPC meeting on October 13.

We hope to see you there

* You may pay for the Holiday Dinner and Annual Dues with one check ($45 per person + $55 individual membership). **Please note purpose on the memo line of the check and include guest's name.**

Note: Your payment must be provided by November 22 to allow the Treasurer to give Longleaf a final count for ordering food. No names will be accepted without payment.

Membership –*Mary Bonsall*



Please welcome new member Lee Porter!!!!

SPC 2026 Membership	
Individual	81
Honorary Members	3
Family	14
Family +1	14
Student	1
Total Members	**113**

Reminders Membership Dues due 12.31.26 for next year.

Holiday Dinner due by 11.22.26 flyer information following pages

Notice for **Robin Frye and Robert Mobsby** recital.

I'm sorry I never got to interview Robin and Bob. Their accomplishments and beautifully trained, professional voices, solos and duets together with wonderful accompanists, make these recitals a true joy to experience.



FAREWELL

When I advised our leadership in May that this would be my last year in membership, I did not anticipate that my departure from SPC would come as early as November. Circumstances now require me to step away, and so I must say goodbye sooner than expected.

I have enjoyed being part of the club, meeting so many wonderful members, learning more about so many of you beyond the lens, and representing you in the club.

I wish everyone Peace and Joy this holiday season.

Mary
(Mary's Article and her "Member of the Month" follows)

November Through the Lens: Finding Beauty in the In-Between

November can be easy to overlook as a photography month. The brilliant colors of October are beginning to fade, winter has not quite arrived, and the days are noticeably shorter. But for photographers, November offers something special: beautiful light, rich textures, dramatic skies, and quieter scenes that invite us to look a little closer.

Catch the Last of Autumn

Early November often gives us one final opportunity to photograph fall. Look beyond the traditional wide landscape and concentrate on the details—a single colorful leaf against dark bark, fallen leaves covering an old path, reflections in a pond, or late-afternoon sunlight filtering through nearly bare trees.

As the leaves disappear, the shapes and structures of trees become subjects themselves. Bare branches against a colorful sunset or foggy morning can create wonderfully simple compositions.

Take Advantage of November Light

One of November's greatest gifts is its light. With the sun lower in the sky, beautiful side lighting and long shadows occur much earlier in the day.

The golden hour can transform an ordinary field, fence, building, or portrait into something extraordinary. Try photographing the same location at different times of day and notice how dramatically the mood changes.

And don't automatically put the camera away on cloudy days. Soft, overcast light can be perfect for portraits, close-ups, woodland photography, and scenes with subtle autumn colors.

Look for Fog, Frost and Dew

Cool November mornings can provide some of the month's most photogenic conditions.

Fog simplifies a busy landscape and adds mystery and depth. Frost turns ordinary grasses, leaves, spiderwebs, and seed heads into miniature works of art. Even morning dew can become a wonderful macro subject when photographed against the light.

These conditions don't always last long, so November rewards the photographer who is willing to head outside early.

Photograph the November Landscape

Once the leaves fall, we begin to see things that were hidden all summer: winding roads, old barns, fences, interesting architecture, streams, and the graceful shapes of trees.

This is an excellent month to practice minimalist photography. Instead of asking, "What can I add to this picture?" ask, "What can I leave out?"

A lone tree, an empty bench, a country road disappearing into the distance, or one person walking through a large landscape can tell a surprisingly powerful story.

Turn Your Camera Toward Wildlife

November can also offer wonderful opportunities for bird and wildlife photography. Migrating and wintering birds begin appearing, while cooler temperatures can mean increased animal activity.

You don't necessarily need to travel far. Try a local lake, park, garden, wildlife refuge—or simply watch what visits your own backyard. Look for behavior and interaction rather than just portraits. A bird taking flight or two animals interacting often makes a stronger photograph than a perfectly posed subject.

Tell the Story of Thanksgiving

November isn't only about landscapes. It's also about people, traditions, food, and gathering.

Instead of photographing only the finished Thanksgiving table, document the story surrounding it: hands preparing an old family recipe, flour scattered across a countertop, steam rising from a dish, grandchildren helping in the kitchen, or generations gathered together.

These may never become competition photographs, but years from now they could be among the most valuable photographs you've made.

Try Something After Dark

Shorter days mean we don't have to stay up late to experiment with night photography. November is a wonderful time to try light trails, illuminated buildings, star photography, silhouettes, or long exposures during blue hour.

A tripod, slower shutter speed, and a little experimentation can turn a familiar location into something completely different.

A November Photo Challenge

Look for uniquely Sandhills opportunities to capture. Our recent street photography outing certainly identified the character of three towns but there's so much more…Weymouth, longleaf pines, lakes, reservoirs, parks, and more. As we transition from autumn to the holidays in later November, more doors will open..

Sometimes the best photography happens when we stop looking for someplace to go and start noticing what's already around us.

So grab your camera — or your phone — and take a closer look at November in the Sandhills.

Donna Ford Interview-- it was a privilege to meet and interview Donna Ford this month…within minutes she had me teary eyed. She is a beautiful soul and I hope you will enjoy and learn from her interview as I did…

Behind the Lens: A Photographer Who Learned by Doing



DONNA FORD

Sometimes the best photographers are not the ones who began with a grand plan. They are the ones who picked up a camera, became curious, and simply kept going.

That is certainly true of our featured photographer, **Donna Ford**, whose journey has taken her from family snapshots to the sidelines of Sandhills Community College, statewide recognition, magazine publication, and a place in the Sandhills Community College Hall of Fame.

Her story is also a wonderful reminder for every member of our club: **you don't have to know everything before you begin.**

From Family Photographs to the Sidelines

A lifetime Moore County resident, she grew up in a close family and remembers her great-grandparents fondly. She was raised on a tobacco farm and still has close friends in Moore County dating all the way back to kindergarten. She spoke of life on the farm beginning before dawn and where everyone helped get the job done. She even picked up sticks at age 4 and felt at home with her farming family. A friendlier time than now, she also has fond memories of neighbors who welcomed her in and gave her a cookie when they hardly could feed themselves.

Photography wasn't initially a career goal.

Like so many of us, she began with a disposable camera, photographing family occasions and everyday life. One Christmas, she received a camera as a gift and was thrilled. She took a photo of her niece, had it developed and it became her first sale when her grandma gave her $1 for it. Another magazine cover that she shared was her shot of 4 young nephews enjoying life together in the back of a pickup. Just a touching slice of life on the farm!

Then came film.

She photographed her children's activities and sports, developing an instinct for capturing the moments that disappear almost as quickly as they happen. As digital photography became more accessible, her interest grew.

A client introduced her to Sandhills Photo Club and after her photo won in an early competition, she was hooked. She recalls taking the photo while she was at a Native American event and sitting on the floor with the children. Her turquoise jewelry and shared camaraderie with the children enabled her to stay in the inner circle when other visitors were chased away.

Eventually, that interest brought her to the sidelines at Sandhills Community College.

A Door Opens at Sandhills

In 2008, she was photographing sports for *The Pilot* and covered Sandhills Community College also. She got extensive experience at the newspaper in a wide variety of sports. In 2016 she moved to Sandhills Community College sports. At the time, Sandhills was reintroducing its sports program, giving her an extraordinary opportunity. She became the photographer covering SCC athletics and eventually traveled with the basketball team Her photographs were more than records of games. They told the stories of the athletes, the competition and the emotion surrounding them. She told several stories where she defended them like a mom and they felt like an extension of family.

Recognition followed.

Her photographs of Sandhills athletes earned state awards, and in 2012 *The Pilot* published a magazine highlighting the men's national championship team. She shared this will me and all of the sports photographs are hers and are exceptional. She wants the players to have these photos as memories of these thrilling moments in their lives.

She continued covering SCC athletics, rarely misses a game and still photographs sports today.

One particularly meaningful honor came in 2024, when she was inducted into the **Sandhills Community College Hall of Fame**.

Learning the Hard Way—and Loving It

What makes her story particularly encouraging is the way she learned photography.

When she received her first sports assignment in football, she admits she knew very little about football in sports photography.

So she did something every photographer can learn from: **she researched it.**

She studied football, key moments to capture in sports photography, experimented, made mistakes and kept shooting.

That process taught her an important lesson. Reading about photography can only take you so far. Eventually, you have to pick up the camera and try.

Mistakes were not failures. They were teachers.

That willingness to learn by doing helped turn an enthusiastic amateur into an accomplished sports photographer.

Faith Through Life's Hardest Moments

Behind her accomplishments and enthusiasm for photography is also a story of extraordinary personal loss and perseverance.

She has endured the deaths of her mother early in life, her son who was killed in his prime and of late , a brother—losses that profoundly changed her life. More recently, she faced another major challenge when she suffered a stroke.

Through those experiences, her faith has been a source of strength. It has helped her move forward through grief, uncertainty and recovery, even when the path has been difficult.

Photography has been part of that journey as well. Picking up a camera provides a reason to get out, to look closely at the world and to notice moments of beauty that might otherwise pass unnoticed. Photography cannot erase grief, but it can provide purpose, connection and a way to remain engaged with life. It can also connect you through emotions. Her dream photograph is one that evokes strong emotions in others.

Her story reminds us that the person standing beside us with a camera may carry a history we know little about. Behind the photographs may be loss, courage, faith and the determination to keep moving forward.

That same resilience is evident in the way she approaches photography. She doesn't expect every image to be perfect. She learns, adjusts and tries again—a philosophy that seems to extend well beyond photography.

Perhaps that is one of the strongest messages of her story: faith, perseverance and a willingness to keep learning can carry us through both photography and life**.**

And sometimes, simply continuing to look through the viewfinder helps us see that there is still beauty ahead.

Competition as a Classroom

Her approach to photography competitions is equally practical.

She doesn't necessarily enter because she expects to win. Instead, she sees competition as another opportunity to improve.

Her advice is simple: envision your shot, plan well and be dogged in your drive to capture the up image you want. She describes herself as having strong determination to achieve what she envisioned and many of her photographs have deeper meaning to her and more connections to others than we see

Take the useful comments from one competition and put them into action in the next. Study what worked. Consider what didn't. Then go back out and shoot again.

She credits competitions, workshops, outings and learning from other photographers with helping her continue to grow.

Photography, after all, is never really finished. There is always another technique to try, another subject to explore and another way of seeing something familiar.

Photograph What You Love

Ask her to name one favorite photographic genre and she has a hard time choosing.

Sports remain important, but she enjoys many kinds of photography. Travel is another passion, as are animals—although traveling has become a little more complicated thanks to the **ten feral cats** she cares for, along with two senior dogs!

Her interests may be varied, but there is a common thread: curiosity.

Whether she is photographing an athlete in motion, an animal, a travel destination or an everyday subject, she is looking for the moment that tells the story.

Donna said emotion is very important in her photographs which also tells a story. She always considers good lighting and composition.

When asked about her favorite photograph, it's one I remember well from a recent competition taken at Arlington National Cemetery. A frequent visitor, she happened upon a military funeral procession, complete with caisson, honor guard and 21-gun salute. She captured a heart wrenching photo from a respectful distance that evokes many patriotic yet sad emotions.

Her Advice to New Photographers

For someone just joining the Sandhills Photography Club—or perhaps someone who still feels intimidated by all the buttons, settings and terminology—her advice is especially valuable:

Immerse yourself.

The best camera is the one you have with you when you want to capture an image. It may be a phone. She suggests shoot, shoot and shoot some more. The more photos you take, the more comfortable you will become in creating art. Attend workshops and outings. Enter competitions. Listen and learn. Volunteer for committees. Get involved with the club. Learn your subject before you photograph it.

Most importantly, make friends with other photographers.

A photography club isn't simply a place to show our best pictures. At its best, it is a place where photographers help one another become better.

And there may be no better lesson from her story than this:

You don't have to be an expert to start. You just have to start.

Pick up the camera. Make mistakes. Listen. Learn. Shoot again.

That is how photographers grow.





Apologies for not having the names of all our photographers!!!



Congratulations & MANY THANK YOUs for another great trip by our FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR

DEB CASTLE

(seen here with her 2 bodyguards!)



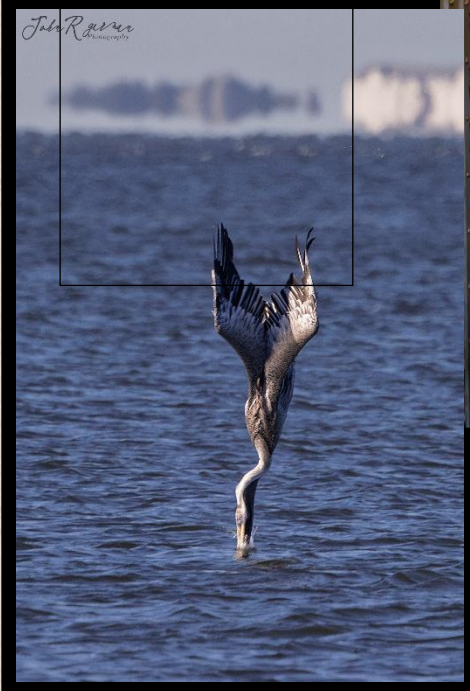
HELP NEEDED



PLEASE throw in your change (what's that?) or any bills you have laying around to get these 3 SPC Members out of Southport Jail.

They are also asking if we can raise enough to get their new friend "BONES" out of jail to. He feels like it's been years since he has seen the sun!




















Diane S McCall



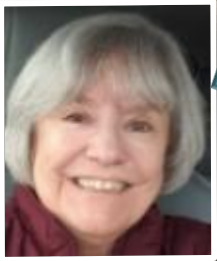

FISHY FISHY CAFE

2026 Sandhills Photography Club Board and Chairs

TITLE	NAME	EMAILS
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Vice President	Jean Antholzner	vicepresident@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Secretary	Bob Mobsby	secretary@sandhillsphotoclub.org
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Field Trips	Deb Castle	fieldtrips@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Hospitality	Sally Mason	hospitality@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Membership	Mary Bonsall	membership@sandhillsphotoclub.org
PSA Rep	Dave Powers	psarep@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Publicity	Susan Batts	publicity@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Ombudsman	Neva Scheve	ombudsman@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Outings	Susan Bailey	outings@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Past President	Cal Rice	pastpresident@sandhillsphotoclub.org
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Tech & Zoom	Josh Simpson	tech@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Web Administer	John German	website@sandhillsphotoclub.org
Workshops	Cal Rice	workshops@sandhillsphotoclub.org

Contact "In Focus" Editor Alison Earl with any questions, **concerns, ideas, submissions (including images), etc. @** communications@sandhillsphotoclub.org

Alison Earl



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