

INFOCUS



SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



Editor: Alison Earl, communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org

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JUNE 2026

JUNE 8: Trains, Planes & Automobiles Competition

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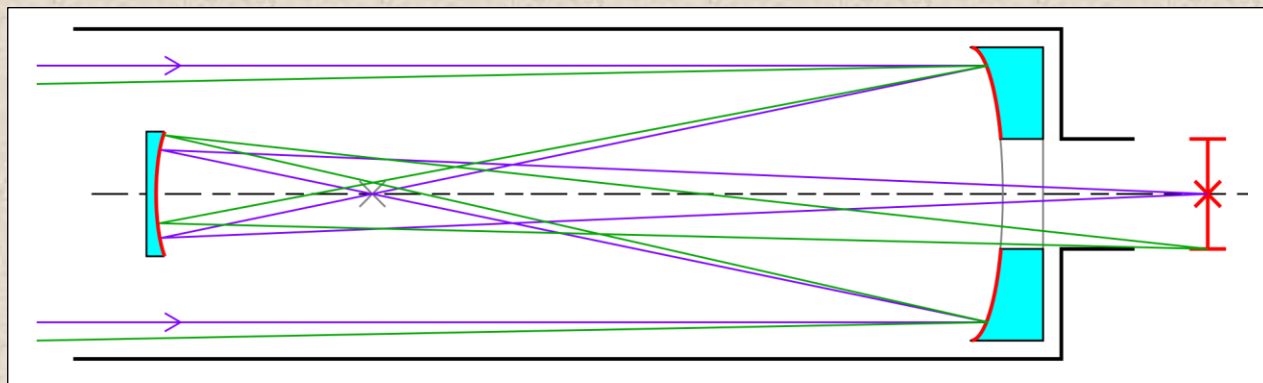
June Outing - Carolina Horse Park
June 6th
Raeford, NC

JOIN US

Greetings as we come close to ending the first half of 2026. Time flies when you are having fun. I realized in sitting down to write this that I had promised to answer the question of why the Hubble telescope produces 4 diffraction spikes on its' images and the Webb telescope produces 6 diffraction spikes on its' images if neither has a variable aperture. Since nobody asked me about it seems that the question did not generate a great deal of interest, but I will give you the answer in case you someday need to know to impress your friends and neighbors. Both telescopes are Gregorian types constructed with a large primary mirror and a smaller secondary mirror located on the center axis of the primary mirror which reflects the image back to a hole in the center of the primary mirror containing the image sensor.



Phil Lewis



The presence of the diffraction spikes is caused by the supports holding the secondary mirror in place above the primary mirror. The Hubbel telescope is contained in a tube to protect the mechanism from stray light sources. The secondary mirror is held in place by four supports equally spaced at 90 degrees around the tube. The Webb telescope contains no tube but instead has a large light and heat shield on the rear of the telescope to control stray light and keep the telescope at the cold temperature of space since its' sensors detect in the infrared range. The secondary mirror on the Webb telescope is held in place above the primary mirror by a tripod arrangement (three supports at 120 degrees). Remember an even number of diffraction points (diaphragm blades in a lens or the secondary mirror supports in a reflecting telescope) produce the same number of diffraction spikes and an odd number produce twice the number of diffraction spikes. Thus, Hubble produces 4 diffraction spikes and Webb produces 6 diffraction spikes.

Now, on to the topic for this month, hyperfocal distance. There are two technical definitions for hyperfocal distance, but the non-technical definition that conveys the reason that you may want to know it is this: the hyperfocal distance is the closest focusing distance that allows objects at infinity to be acceptably sharp. So, when you set your lens at the hyperfocal distance, your depth of field extends from half the hyperfocal distance to infinity.

The technical method of determining hyperfocal distance uses the following formula:

$$\text{Hyperfocal dist.} = (\text{focal length in mm}^2 / (\text{f-stop} \times \text{circle of confusion})) + \text{focal length in mm}$$

So, what is this "circle of confusion"? (I love that term). The CoC is a function of the lens sharpness, magnification, distance, degree of enlargement of the final image, and sensor size. In simple terms, the CoC for a given lens/camera combination is the largest "blur spot" that is indistinguishable from a perfectly focused point source. Calculation of the CoC is done at a viewing distance of 25 cm for a final image size of 8"

Continued Next Page →

x 10". A human with normal vision can generally distinguish 5 line pairs/mm at 25cm which is equivalent to a circle of 0.2mm on an unmagnified sensor image. The final CoC for a system is the unmagnified CoC divided by the magnification factor. For a 35mm full frame camera, an 8x10 image requires an enlargement of 7.14 so the final CoC is 0.2/7.14 or 0.028mm. Most tables calculating hyperfocal distance for 35mm assume a magnification factor of 7 yielding a CoC of 0.029mm. The magnification required to get to an 8x10 print increases as the sensor size decreases, so the CoC consequently decreases. The CoC for an APS-C system is 0.018 and for a Micro 4/3 system is 0.015. Using the formula above, the following table illustrates the effect that focal length, aperture size and sensor size have on the hyperfocal distance of a camera system.

200mm focal length lens				
Sensor size	Hyperfocal distance (meters) at f2.8	Distance to infinity with acceptable focus (meters) at f2.8	Hyperfocal distance (meters) at f8	Distance to infinity with acceptable focus (meters) at f8
35mm	492.8	246.4	172.4	86.2
APS-c	793.8	396.9	277.8	138.9
MFT	952.4	476.2	333.3	166.7
10mm focal length lens				
Sensor size	Hyperfocal distance (meters) at f2.8	Distance to infinity with acceptable focus (meters) at f2.8	Hyperfocal distance (meters) at f8	Distance to infinity with acceptable focus (meters) at f8
35mm	1.23	0.62	0.43	0.22
APS-c	1.99	1.0	0.69	0.35
MFT	2.38	1.19	0.83	0.42

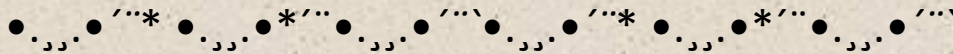
As can be seen from the table, increasing the focal length and using a wider aperture will increase the hyperfocal distance while decreasing the focal length and using a narrower aperture will decrease the hyperfocal distance. Many photography instructors advocate using the “double the distance” method to estimate hyperfocal distance. Using this method, the photographer estimates the distance from the camera to the closest object he wants in focus, doubles that distance to set the focus point, then uses the smallest aperture which will not result in diffraction fuzziness to take the image. While this is a very valid method to ensure that the entire scene is in acceptable focus and a great rule of thumb, the “estimated hyperfocal distance” can be wildly inaccurate and still result in a good result if a small enough aperture is used. I hesitate to call this estimating the hyperfocal distance. It’s more like using your experience to guess what settings will get you by. If you are using a wide enough lens and a small enough aperture it’s not difficult to get everything in focus. Using a longer focal length lens wide open will render this method ineffective very quickly. In those cases, a more accurate estimation of the hyperfocal distance is necessary. There are printed tables which will tell you the hyperfocal distance for a lens and camera systems and most manual focus lenses have a depth of field scale which will indicate the DOF for a particular aperture which can then be used

Continued Next Page →

to estimate the hyperfocal distance. Perhaps the easiest and most accurate way of determining the hyperfocal distance for a lens at a particular aperture is one of the apps that are available for iOS and Android cell phones. All of these methods are approximations since the degree of enlargement, unique lens characteristics and visual acuity of the observer will influence the determination of acceptable sharpness of the image.

The advent of focus stacking technology in cameras and imaging programs has introduced the ability to get an entire scene in focus by combining the in-focus parts of several images of a scene with different focus points into a single image. However, this requires both the camera and the scene to be absolutely still while the focus point is changed. Even a slight wind moving the leaves around can give you some funky results. So, being able to accurately estimate the hyperfocal distance is a skill that can still be very useful in landscape photography.

Phil Lewis



Tip of the Month from Neva Scheve

If you haven't heard of Matt Kloskowski, check him out at this link: <https://marrk.com>



Neva Scheve



Matt is a great source for Lightroom and Photoshop tutorials. Most are paid subscriptions, but he also offers free tutorials quite often. His courses are very clear and easy to understand.

June Outing - Carolina Horse Park



Susan Bailey

- When: **Saturday, June 6, 9:30am-noon** or later!
- Meet: Carolina Horse Park
<https://www.carolinahorsepark.com/>
2814 Montrose Road
Raeford, NC 28376
If you don't see others and want to join up, please call my cell at 919-805-0635
- What: War Horse event
Horses will be competing in three events:
dressage, cross country and show jumping
- Lunch: no lunch planned but there will be food available.
- Equipment: I suggest lenses covering 70-400mm
- Check out our last outing there in 2021 - <https://sandhillspgphotoclub.smugmug.com/Outings/2021-Outings/2021-Carolina-Horse-Park>
- RSVP: susanbaileyphoto@gmail.com

*We are asked to provide **the names of our photographers participating, so please let me know if you are planning to attend.** This will help you if asked, as they discourage any outside professionals.*

Carolina Photo/Media Policy Carolina Horse Park Photography & Videography Policy

To ensure a consistent, professional experience for competitors and to respect those who support the Park, Carolina Horse Park designates official photographers and videographers for select events. These professionals are granted exclusive commercial rights to capture and sell images and rider round videos during those competitions.

We kindly ask all attendees to extend professional courtesy by refraining from offering or conducting commercial photography or videography at these events unless approved by Carolina Horse Park.

Official Media Partners by Event:

- Professional Photography
 - High Time Photography
- War Horse Event Series

Please note: Photographers representing brands and clients may shoot photo for their client's usage only. Distribution of photo galleries or images on social media or in any other form may result on credentials revocation.

Personal photos and videos for private use are always welcome. Commercial use, sales, or promotional content requires prior approval from Carolina Horse Park.

Thank you for helping us support the talented professionals who invest in our events and for being respectful of the policies that allow us to continue hosting world-class competitions.

~ July Outing - Saturday, July 11th ~

Mark your calendars for a fun morning at **Star Ridge Aquatics** where you can photograph waterlilies, lotus, aquatic grasses, pitcher plants, etc. They also have cacti and a beautiful koi pond with big koi! The blackberries are another fun subject and good to eat!



SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB'S WEBSITE

WWW.SANDHILLSPHOTOCLUB.ORG



John German

Website Notes for June 2026:

This month's featured member's website is by [Pat Anderson](#). Click her name to view her gallery/website or the link to her gallery/website is on our website homepage.

Useful Links

Jordan Dam water flow information can be found at:

[**Jordan Dam Water Release**](#)

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

FIELD TRIPS - DEB CASTLE

Here are some photos of the Virginia Beach Trip. We had 12 total attendees, weather was forecasted to be bad - again we were lucky to have dry weather, just chilly (no bikinis!). Hope to have Fall Trip announcement by July/August.



Deb Castle



See our SPC Facebook page for more images from the trip.





(AI Flyer Image. Not for use in competitions)

Long Exposure

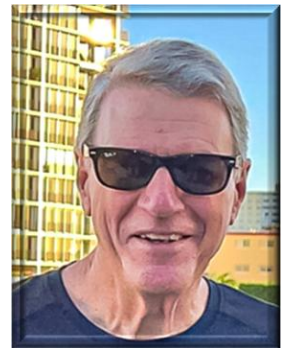
Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
7/11/2026	7/18/2026	8/10/2026

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.

Judge: Kate Sylvia

www.katesylviaphotography.com

SPC Competitions: Michael Sassano, Jerry Kozel, Dee Williams



Mike Sassano

Membership –Mary Bonsall



Mary Bonsall

SPC 2026 Membership	
Individual	74
Honorary Members	3
Family	13
Family +1	13
Student	1
Total Members	104

We have had beautiful weather in Moore County and now a week of rain arrives. The farms and aquifers need it but my tennis game does not. After finishing our state tournament just missing the semi-final, I'm a bit deflated. Trying to hang on to good competition with a great partner all season and a 12-2 record – retiring on a high note!

For all you night owls, Good Milky Way siting should be seen June 8-21. I will try for 11pm sighting, weather permitting. June's New Moon marks the real beginning of summer Milky Way core photography. Yes, the core becomes visible earlier in the year, but June is when it becomes practical. The core is higher, more accessible, and easier to frame cleanly above the horizon. For many locations, this is the first New Moon that feels worth building a night around instead of squeezing into a short window. The challenge, of course, is light. Twilight lingers. Darkness arrives late. Efficiency matters more than endurance. This is not the month for wandering without a plan. The photographers who succeed in June are the ones who arrive knowing exactly what they want to shoot and where they need to stand when the sky finally cooperates. (from tensixphotography.com)

Finally, summer has arrived. If you love flowers, this is your month. June brings flower blossoms and longer days. It's a joy to see the buds and blooms everywhere you look. Fields are flush and colorful. With longer days, more photo shoot opportunities arise with longer blue and golden hours. Even though I'm an early bird - its hard to catch the blue hour before 6am sunrise!

Really loved our last Panera outing, I don't know if it was a record but it was a great turnout with lots of good conversation. I was lucky to draw from the social pool for this month's interviews. I don't mind refusals on non-responses and won't pester you a second time. I truly hope to highlight everyone in the club so we get more insight into our members beyond the camera.

CHECK OUT MARY'S
MEMBER INTERVIEWS
NEXT PAGES

Member Interviews:



While noshing at Panera, I learned from **Anne Gordy** that she had competed in all forms of ballroom dance and won GOLD! I needed to know more and our conversation continued into Friday at her stunning home in Pinehurst. Anne's adventurous journey began after she moved from Evanston, Il to attend Connecticut College in New London and study art. Her mom was a talented artist and encouraged her and her brother's creativity. It was there that she met her husband whose degree was in Business Administration, but who chose a career flying for United Airlines. That provided many opportunities for Anne, including skydiving in Lakewood, NJ and obtaining a private pilot's license at the Warrenton-Fauquier airport in VA. Early retirement brought them to Pinehurst in 2002.

Along the way they found some beautiful old farmhouses to renovate in pastoral settings which led to owning quarter horses and even boarding several Olympic equestrian teams' horses in their Westminster, MD bank barn for a local 3 phase event. Later Anne was surprised to reconnect with those riders in Southern Pines!

As their boys grew, they transitioned from horses to motorcycles. In Ohio they were partial owners of a BMW-Yamaha dealership. They traveled over 200,000 miles in 20 years on this continent and abroad riding two up and meeting interesting people along the way.

Anne's work career began modeling and selling teen clothing at Marshall Fields in Evanston and ended in Winchester, Virginia where she was Assistant to the Director of Special Love, Inc, founder of Camp Fantastic staffed by NIH doctors for kids with cancer. The actual camp was, and still is, held at the 4-H Center in Front Royal, VA. To meet those kids with so much spirit and mutual compassion/support was inspiring.

More of Anne's time was spent on volunteerism. It was in OH that she was certified as a Laubach Literacy Tutor Trainer and helped set up the adult literacy program Project Learn in Medina. Anne was a court advocate for victims of domestic abuse for 5 years in Winchester, VA. She valued the successes of clients who turned their lives around.

Local volunteer work here included helping Chief Phipps organize the Pinehurst Police Citizens' Academy after going through one in VA. She was an active Citizen On Patrol doing the Wednesday fingerprinting for many years She has been a regular volunteer with the Given Bookshop for 2 decades, The profit helps to support Pinehurst Given Library.

A lifelong dancer, Anne continues to study ballet with an instructor she met at Cleveland Ballet in 1980 who was a principal dancer with American Ballet Theater. Anne subsequently sat on the board of VA Youth Ballet run by Russian defector Gennadi Vostrikov and his wife Susan and always danced in their first act of The Nutcracker.

Appalachian Physical Therapy here in Pinehurst introduced Anne to ballroom dancing 15 years ago. A new Fred Astaire franchise had opened up and the PT couple were students, the wife having been a dancer in her past. That studio went independent, moved to Southern Pines, and was renamed Carolina Dance Works. Over the years Anne danced with a variety of partners but now competes exclusively with Bruce Hasson, owner of CDW. They have entered events in major eastern cities between Baltimore and Tampa. No question the biggest thrill was winning her first Top Gold trophy in Savannah and having Corky Ballas present it in 2016.

In case you don't follow Dancing with the Stars, Corky and wife Shirley are World Latin champions who trained the two Houghs and whose son Mark appeared as a professional for many seasons. Anne's photography interest began when her husband joined our club. They traveled extensively with professional photographers to workshops around the world, her preference being abstract backgrounds or geometric designs rather than stark realism. A favorite stay was in Westport, Ireland where photographer Ron Rosenstock arranged for the group's own house with a cook who came in every evening. She felt very independent exploring the town's culture. The first trip to SE Asia with Gisela Danielson and daughter Dana was so enjoyable they went back a second time for a month in Vietnam. She has always preferred less populated rural areas such as Iceland, Belize, and Cuba as opposed to big European cities, cafes and fine dining. The best is meeting local people and the Vietnamese, among her favorite, were so kind and generous.

Regarding SPC, Anne said "It really has been impressive to see the expansion of talent within the club over the years. I enjoy members with such varied interests. I try never to miss the judge's critique of competition photos as that can be so helpful".

Eldest son Adam, recruited into active military service as a medical operations officer, retired as a Lt Col in Salt Lake City. He and his wife, a Command Sergeant Major in the Reserves, are active skiers and mountain bikers. Younger son Eric became a legendary swimmer at Johns Hopkins University and owned Duke Aquatics in Orange County, NC for many years. He now is working for the state comptroller in Albany, NY.

It was a pleasure to learn of Anne's exciting and adventurous life as she is tripping the light fantastic.



My other Panera buddy is **Dennis Mally**. A regular attendee, we have learned a lot and shared life stories over the last year. Dennis is married to the lovely Antonina, who joined us at the holiday party in December. They have two children, a son David and a daughter Suzanne. They have 5 grandies and 1 great-grand. Family is located here and in Michigan mostly.

Dennis grew up in Michigan as one of 5 children to great parents. He wanted to attend the Air Force Academy but, while on a waitlist, was admitted to General Motors Institute, where he received an accredited Mechanical Engineering degree. It was a co-op program with Cadillac Motor Car in Detroit.

Most of Dennis's early jobs were in the automobile/tool industry where he worked as a manufacturing engineer and later achieved an MBA from Michigan State. He reminded me they used slide rules at the time as no personal HP calculators were available. In the machine tool industry, most businesses were started by entrepreneurs in tool and die. He had his own consulting business in this field for a few years before deciding, with a young family, a steady income would be more stable. He worked for Bendix machine tool division but began migrating into data processing. He was consulting with a team, when a headhunter found him

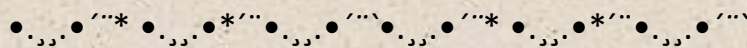
for a special EDS (Ross Perot) position. He worked on a specialized program management team in decision processing. Ultimately, this company was bought out and senior management was let go. While job searching, a former boss referred him to Wrigley Company, where, after 11 interviews, he was awarded a senior management position, then progressed to VP and on to an Elected Officer. This included a prestigious corner office in the Wrigley Building in Chicago and he loved the job itself. He and Antonina loved the city life. He travelled internationally and loved the migration from engineering to leadership roles. After ten years there, he retired and his wife and he moved to their weekend getaway in Coloma, Michigan.

Dennis was always interested in photography. He had a Brownie camera and progressed to a Yashica SLR in 1963. As a retirement gift, he bought himself a Leica M6 and accessories, of course. As he discovered and joined Berrien Springs Camera Club in the area, he discovered Andrews University, affiliated with the Adventist Church, but offering complete degreed photography programs. He took classes over the course of ten years and loved the availability of continuous learning. He then joined Twin Cities Camera Club that had 8 darkrooms and practiced and honed his craft. He then joined Fruit City Camera Club eventually holding many roles there including president. There was a Southwest Michigan Council of Camera Clubs consisting of 26 clubs and he also was president there!

In honing his art, Dennis discovered his photographic genre. What makes a photograph good? In his view, a technically, well-executed image that simply captures life as it is. A series of good photography 'sees' life as it is in a particular geographic region – the people, how and where they live, work and play – at that unique time and place.

When asked what he loves about SPC, the club's total involvement in every facet; programs, competition, outings, field trips and commitment by the Board to the club. So much more to his story...for our next Panera meet!

Mary



From Susan Bailey, Outings Chair: Our May outing to the Cameron Antique Fair was rained out. However, the Capital City Camera Club invited us to their monthly outing at the JC Raulston Arboretum. John German and I went to Raleigh and had a fun day with their club.

The group photo from last week's trip to the JC Raulston Arboretum with the Capital City Camera Club. We had a great time and got to know some of them better.



Images below and next page by Susan Bailey and John German







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