

INFOCUS

SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Editor: Alison Earl, communications@sandhillsphotoclub.org



VOL XXXII, NUMBER 03

www.sandhillsphotoclub.org

March 2026

SUBJECT	PAGE or DATE	SUBJECT	PAGE or DATE
• Brunch Bunch	March 5th & 19th	• Membership	Page 11
• Contact Info	Page 20	• NAME the KAYAK Results	Page 18
• Competitions	Page 9; Winners Pages 13-15	• Outings	Page 7
• Field Trip	Page 10	• Programs	Page 6
• For SALE	Page 19	• TIP of the MONTH	Page 12
• Macro Images	Page 16-17	• Website Info	Page 8
• Meeting	March 9 th	• Workshops	Page 7

CONGRATULATIONS

to our own

SUSAN BAILEY



At CPNA Annual Meeting

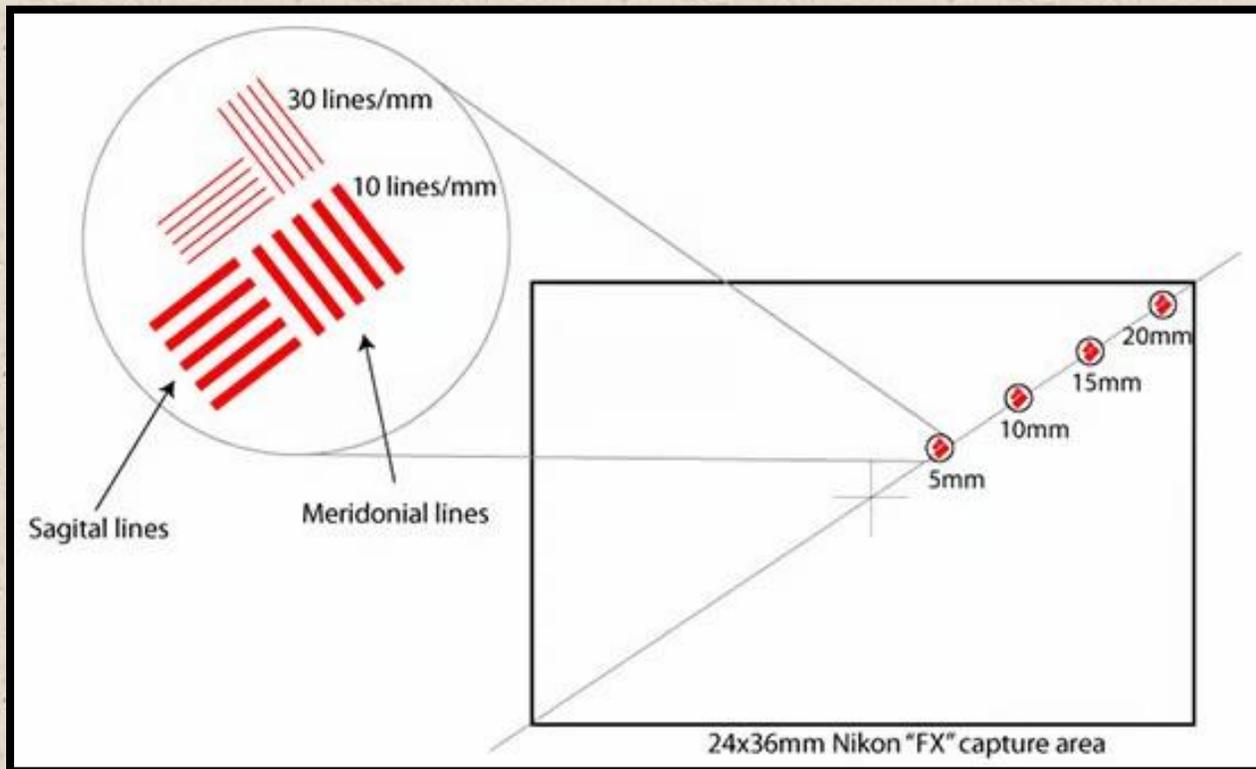
~ Artistic ~





Phil Lewis

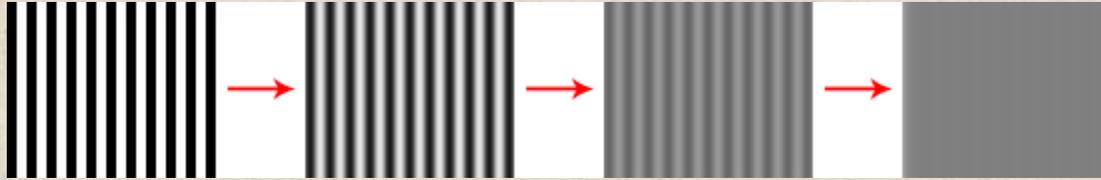
I don't know about you, but I am REALLY looking forward to warmer weather and more sunshine. I noticed that the red leaf maples are starting to bud out and it won't be long before the red bud trees, dogwoods and mimosa trees will be brightening up our landscape. So how do we determine the best lenses to capture this amazing spring color? One way is to use the manufacturer's Modulation Transfer Function (MTF) charts. MTF is not really a physical quantity. Manufacturers have complex models that combine the contrast and the resolving power of a lens to assign a number from 0 to 1 (or sometimes 0 percent to 100 percent) to represent how well the lens can discriminate between adjacent lines on a test pattern. The patterns are measured at various distances from the center of the camera sensor (i.e. the center of the lens). For full frame lenses Nikon measurements are taken at 0, 5, 10, 15 and 20 mm from the center of the sensor to one corner of the sensor. Sony uses measurements at 0, 4, 8, 12, 16 and 20mm from the center. The test patterns are placed parallel to the course of the test points (sagittal points) and perpendicular to the course of the test points (meridional points). The tests patterns are generally made at 10 lines/mm and 30 lines/mm, although that varies from manufacturer to manufacturer. The following illustration from Nikon gives an idea of how Nikon lenses are tested.



Continued

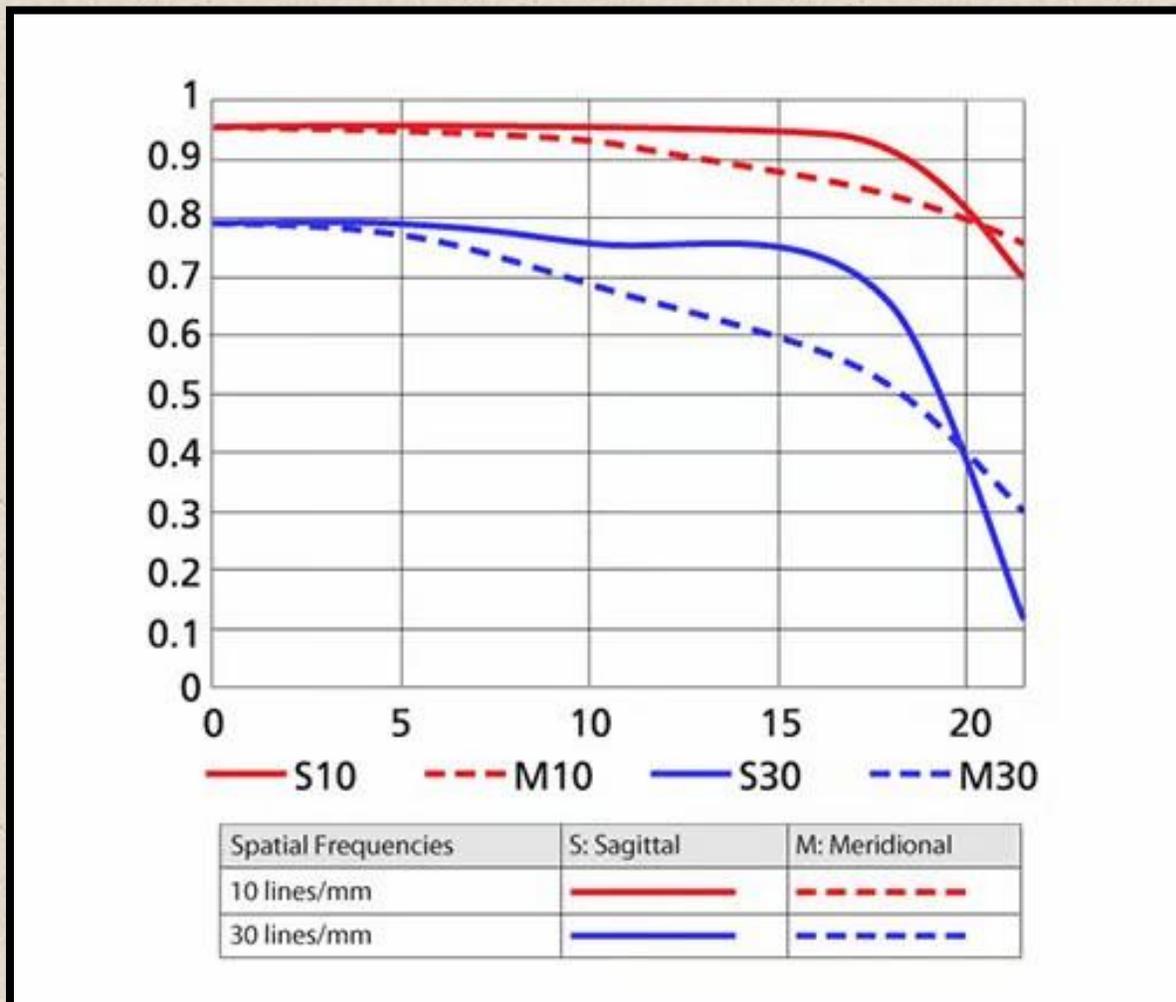


The results of the test can be expressed as a percentage or fraction of “perfection” for want of a better term. If the lines are perfectly rendered with sharp edges (resolution) and perfectly black lines and perfectly white areas between the lines (contrast), the MTF is 1 or 100 percent. If the lines are blurred into an indistinguishable grey patch, the MTF is 0 or 0 percent. Graphically, the below diagram shows an MTF (left to right) of 1,0.67,0.33, and 0.



The measurements at 10 lines/mm give a better idea of the contrast of the lens while the measurements at 30 lines/mm give a better idea of the resolving power of the lens.

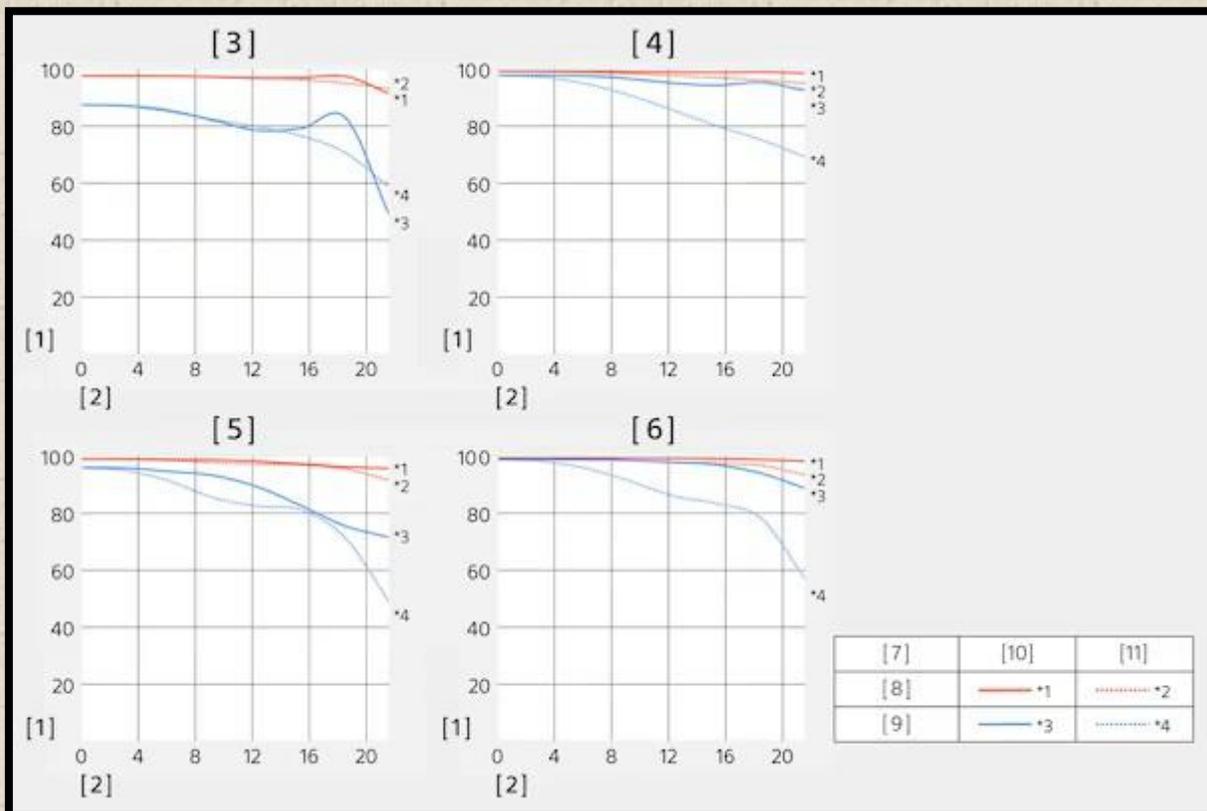
With those basics in mind, the MTF chart can give us some valuable information. A generic MTF chart is reproduced below from PhotographyLife.com as an example



Continued

This theoretical chart shows us that at the center of the lens and 10 lines/mm the lens approaches nearly perfect rendering of the lines while at 30 lines/mm the lines are considerably less perfectly rendered. That tells us that contrast of the lens is very good, but the resolution of the lens leaves something to be desired. The higher the resolution of the sensor in the camera, the more this lack of resolving power of the lens will be evident. The chart also tells us that from the center of the lens to 15mm toward the corner the lens performance at 10 lines/mm is basically unchanged and at 30 lines/mm there is minimal degradation. From 15mm out to the corner, the lens performance at both 10 lines/mm and 30 lines/mm suffers a dramatic loss in both contrast and resolution. We can also tell something from the difference between the solid and dotted lines. In a perfect lens, the MTF of the sagittal and meridional test lines would be exactly the same. The larger the difference between the sagittal and meridional test lines, the more astigmatism and chromatic aberration the lens has. Typically, the difference is minimal in the center and increases the farther out from the center you go for any lens. Thus, this lens has good contrast, mediocre resolution, noticeable chromatic aberration and much poorer performance at the edges than in the center. All that from reading the chart.

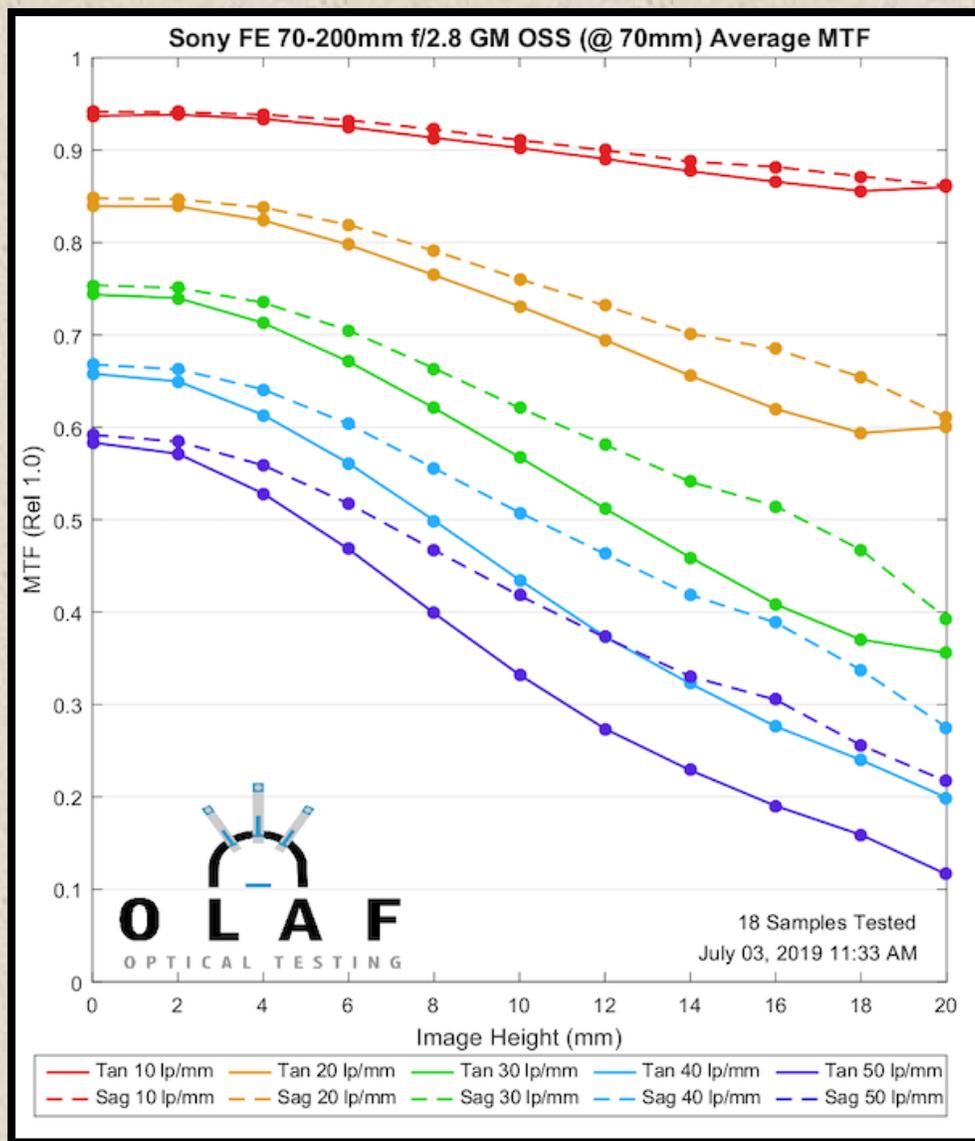
Actual MTF charts vary widely between manufacturers, but one of the most important things to check is the line spacing of the test lines used to create the chart. Because of the higher resolution sensors used in many modern cameras, some reviewers have chosen to measure the lens at higher line resolutions. For instance, the MTF chart for the Sony 70-200mm f2.8 lens is shown below



Continued 

These are charts produced by Sony from a combination of test data and theoretical modeling. The red lines are data for 10 lines/mm while the blue lines are data for 30 lines/mm.

The next chart was produced for the same lens by a third party lens evaluation service. This is the result of actual measurements taken at 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 lines/mm. The charts are not directly comparable because of different measuring methods and different algorithms used to compute the MTF. Results are only directly comparable if the lenses are tested at the same line resolutions and with the same algorithms. MTF charts are most useful when they are used to determine how well the lens performs from center to corners and how much chromatic aberration and astigmatism a lens can be expected to produce.



A more in-depth explanation of MTF charts can be found at [How to Read MTF Charts](#), which is also where the first three diagrams are found. If you really want to get into the weeds, this pdf download will give as much information as you want (probably more) [How to read MTF curves? - Part 1/2](#)

Phil Lewis

PROGRAMS – JEAN ANTHOLZNER

March 9th - How Did You Get That Shot? Get ready for some creativity! Join us as presenter Betsy Wilson shows us how to remove the roadblocks and add that spark to getting great images.



Jean Antholzner



Betsy will show a variety of different photo techniques to achieve unique and unusual images, from using different lenses and aperture choices, to incorporating special effects in-camera. She will also share a sampling of some before and after images and explain how she got from the original image to her final creation. Sometimes it is merely getting creative with cropping and some minor edits, sometimes she will blend several photos together to create something completely different. "It's not just the destination, but the journey - what I saw and felt and wanted to capture, and then the steps (and mistakes) along the journey to create the final image."

Bio: Betsy began learning photography after retiring from a career as a newspaper publisher. Her husband Jim gave her his hand-me-down camera and a lot of encouragement, and he now says he created a monster. Her passion for photography includes a wide variety of types including macro, landscape and nature photography. In addition to being honored as Photographer of the Year Award at the Chester County Camera Club, she has received numerous recognitions for her artistic photography including a Silver Medal awarded at the Wilmington International Exhibition of Photography, and First Place Award in Photography at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Betsy is an active member of the Chester County Camera Club, and has given numerous presentations for camera clubs in many states. You can see more of her images at Betsy and Jim's website www.LetsCaptureTheMoment.com



The cigars are real... the smoke is not. Betsy is not a fan of cigar smoke



March 2026 Outings

Festival D'Avion

When: **Saturday, March 21, 10 am**

Meet: 10am at the terminal

Address: Moore County Airport, Pinehurst on Hwy 22

Lunch: available onsite

Website: <https://www.festivaldavion.com/>

Description: Marking its seventh year, the Festival D'Avion features classic and military aircraft displays, flyovers, precision jump teams, sightseeing tours and classic car displays. Golden Knights jump at 12:35.

This event was cancelled last year but your tickets are still valid if you had purchased them for 2025.

Cost: Check the website as there are different options, but most are under \$20.



Susan Bailey

WORKSHOPS – CAL RICE

March Workshops

March is bonus month; we will have two workshops.

1. The first one is **Pet Photography led by Jacques Wood** which will have a zoom instruction portion on **March 25** and an in person gathering on **April 18** to share our work.
2. The second one is **Night/Astro Photography in Chapel Hill**, hosted by the Chapel Hill Photography Club, on **March 28** from noon to 3:00pm. They have three avid night photographers who recently went to New Mexico for a week of photographing after dark.



Cal Rice

Save the dates and watch for more information soon.

Cal Rice



SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB'S WEBSITE

WWW.SANDHILLSPHOTOCLUB.ORG



John German

Website Notes for March 2026:

This month's featured member's website is by [Pam Jensen](#). Click her name to view her gallery or the link to her 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

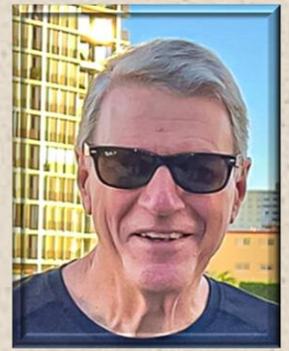
Members who would like a personal gallery should let me know at website@sandhillsphotoclub.org, and I will send an upload link for their use.

*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



Mike Sassano



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



Competition Judge



Joy Marie DeBlock The Professional Photography Group Charlotte, NC

**Deb Castle
Chair, Field Trips
937-409-1582 cell**



Deb Castle

**VIRGINIA BEACH
SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
SPRING FIELD TRIP
APRIL 27-30, 2026**



- Activities include:**
- VA Beach & Boardwalk
 - Virginia Aquarium
 - First Landing State Park
 - Military Aviation Museum
 - Norfolk Botanical Garden
 - Nauticus Museum and Battleship Wisconsin
 - Chrysler Museum and Perry Glass Studios

**SpringHill Suites by
Marriott Virginia Beach **Oceanfront****
 901 Atlantic Avenue
 Virginia Beach, VA 23451
 757-417-3982

*Indoor, Outdoor Pool and Fitness Center
 Complimentary Breakfast
 All Suites w/Balconies
 Restaurant and Bar*

**\$179.00 per night (2 Queens or King)
 3 night stay required**

Click on link below to reserve:
[**Springhill Suites**](#)

*2 more nights may be available at pricing.
 Call hotel directly to request extra days.*



**RSVP to Deb Castle
 at
 937-409-1582 text
 or email
Fieldtrips@sandhillsphotoclub.org**

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER
 3/28/2026**

Membership –Mary Bonsall

Members In Good Standing for 2026	98
Individual	69
Honorary Members	3
Family	13
Family +1	13
Student	0



Mary Bonsall

Happy Spring to all our members – Typical of March, we are already seeing vast fluctuations in temperature and significant rain. I bet our last cold morning coincides with our outing to Hounds on the Ground at Weymouth! I'm tired of bundling up especially when there's no snow or ice to encourage outdoor photography.

We recently popped up to J.C Raulston Arboretum in Raleigh to explore early blooms for macro and also landscape shots. It was actually perfect after the rain, despite the flowers being beat down, the raindrops on buds and petals, enabled use of our recent macro photography practice. Thanks to **Susan, Cindy and Kim** for the extensive prep and oversight in creating the Macro indoor 'outing'. I must have had every possible problem with my camera in a two-hour period in class. I had practiced the night before at home using extension tubes, left camera set up intact, yet camera couldn't focus in the workshop, I ran into banding effects where brown lines appeared on camera captures on LED lightboxes thinking I had a camera problem, and worst scenario was two full camera cards – which all made me want to toss this hobby!

Fortunately, spring is synonymous with awakening and I am determined to grow my basic skills and practice more! We have great opportunities this month to focus on the finer details of new blooms, look for patterns in nature and varying lighting only in floral captures. With trees still budding, it's often a good time to check out black and white images in our landscape photography. Night shots include the Worm full moon and the Milky Way should become more visible against a starry sky in March too. Also, on March 3, we have the full lunar eclipse for a challenge.

Finally, spring festivals, return of wildlife and portrait photography in the great outdoors are all opportunities to grow our skills this month.

I'm still searching for upcoming competition shots of Color, Color Everywhere and I hope you are too!

Happy Spring Shooting.

Mary

Tip of the Month from Susan Bailey



Neva Scheve

There are many tools for sharpening in Lightroom and Photoshop, but using the High Pass filter is my favorite. It allows non-destructive editing and easy use of masks to sharpen only where you want to.

Steps for High Pass Sharpening:

- **Duplicate Layer:** Duplicate your image layer (Ctrl/Cmd + J) to keep the process non-destructive.
- **Apply High Pass:** Go to Filter > Other > High Pass.
- **Adjust Radius:** Set the radius between 1 and 5 pixels. A lower radius (1–2) is best for subtle sharpness, while 3–5 works for stronger sharpening on high-resolution images. Look for a grey image where edges are barely visible.
- **Change Blend Mode:** Change the duplicated layer's blend mode to Overlay for high contrast, Soft Light for subtler, or Linear Light for very intense sharpening.
- **Refine:** Lower the layer opacity to reduce the effect, or add a layer mask to remove sharpening from areas like skin.

Here is a YouTube site that has a few extra steps, but worth looking at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cP-D_0u6G0s



STOLEN FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, shared by Lana Rebert:



**See what YOU
are MISSING if
you aren't part
of our
FACEBOOK
page?????**

How to create this:

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=G8NAPJR88RE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8NAPJR88RE)

Doorknobs Competition Winners – February 9m 2026; Judge Vickie Monteith

Tier 3

No Entry to the
Caboose



T3-3rd Place

f11 1/1250th sec ISO 7200 75mm fl

Neva Scheve

Anno Domini 1928



T3-2nd Place

f8 0.5 sec ISO 200 24mm fl -3 EV

Gisela Danielson

Final Destination



T3-Winner

f1.8 1/60th sec ISO 200 7mm fl

Dale Jennings

Doorknobs Competition Winners – February 9m 2026; Judge Vickie Monteith

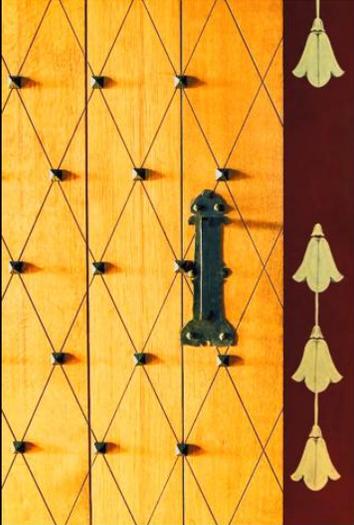
Tier 2

Unhinged



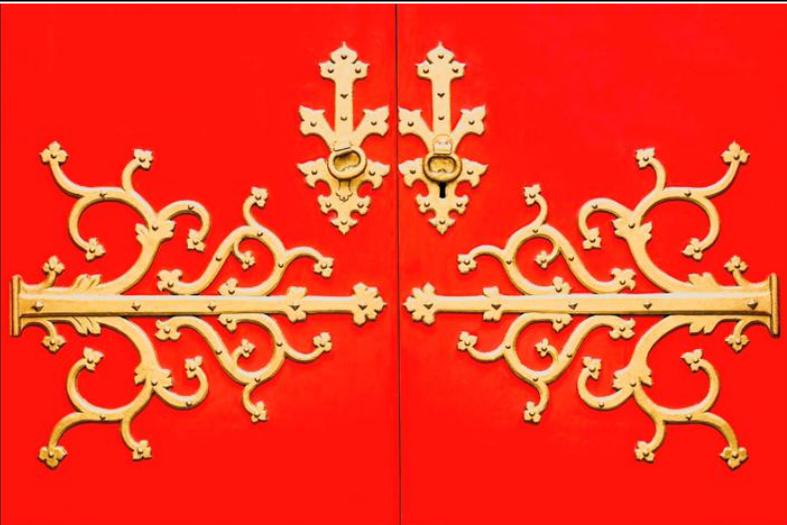
T2 3rd Place f 1.8 1/120th sec ISO 200 4mm fl Susan Batts

Artistic Entryway



T2 2nd Place f 4 1/60th sec ISO 5000 32mm fl -0.3EC Donna Sassano

Enchanted Threshold



T2 Winner f 8 1/100th sec ISO 560 37mm fl +0.3 EC Michael Sassano

Doorknobs Competition Winners – February 9m 2026; Judge Vickie Monteith

Tier 1

Portal to a Tormented Soul



T1 3rd Place f1.9 1/120 sec ISO 40 2mm fl Steve Bonsall

Door Wanted



T1 2nd Place f 1.9 1/120th sec ISO 40 2mm fl Jean Antholzner

Weathered by Faith



T1 Winner Place Mary Bonsall

MACRO PLAY DAY: we had 20 members enjoy a day of indoor photography with a variety of lighting setups and subjects.

Thanks to **Cindy Murphy, Kim Roberto** and **Susan Bailey** for leading this fun day.



Phil Lewis



Cathy Maready



Sally Mason



Jean Antholzner



Lana Rebert



Pam Jensen

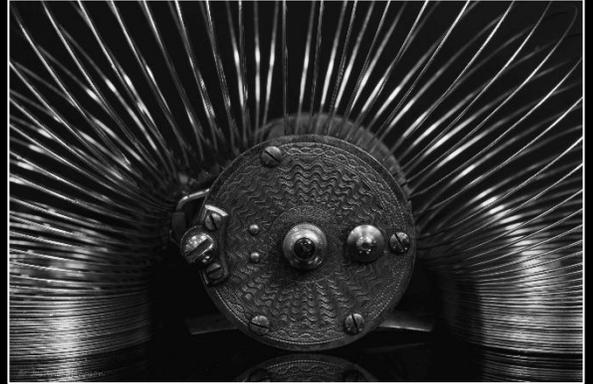


Mary Bonsall

MACRO PLAY DAY , continues



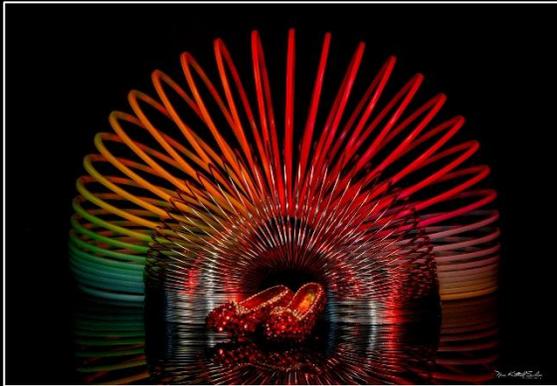
Dee Williams



Josh Simpson



Kim Butler



Neva Scheve

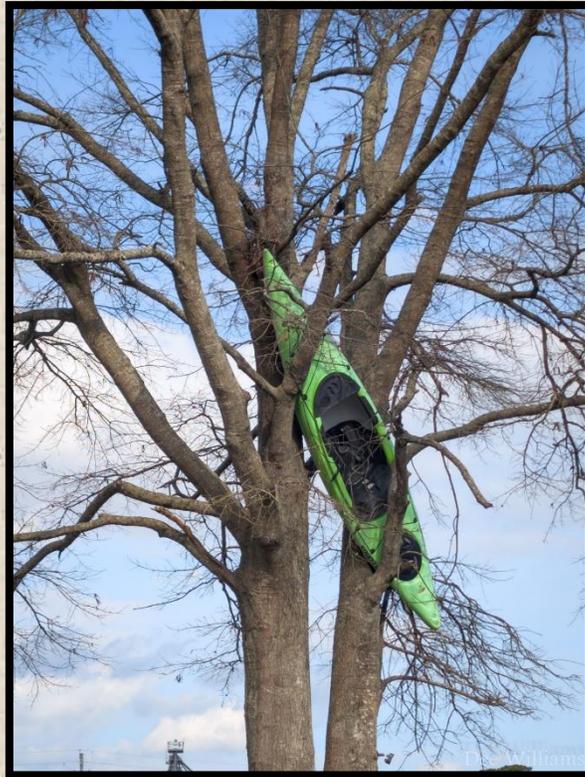


Gisela Danielson



Diane McCall

What's your BEST CAPTION for this picture from Pungo Lake & Lake Mattamuskeet Field Trip?



*Photograph by:
Dee Williams*

Responses:

<i>Kim Butler</i>	"It got the best of me"
<i>Robin Frye</i>	Oops! Paddled too hard We're gonna need a lower boat
<i>Diane McKay</i>	"I swear I was not drinking"
<i>Dee Williams</i>	"Parked illegally"

Thanks Ladies for responding! And thanks DEE for the great shot!



For Sale:

Nikon Z50 Mirrorless Camera (body only)
Will include battery & charger, 1 64GB SD card, strap,
booklet

\$450

Diane McKay
gardendonkey@gmail.com





Website: www.sandhillsphtoclub.org

Newsletter: communications@sandhillsphtoclub.org



2025 SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB BOARD AND CHAIRS

TITLE	NAME	EMAILS
President	Phil Lewis	president@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Vice President	Jean Antholzner	vicepresident@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Secretary	Bob Mobsby	secretary@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Treasurer	Steve Bonsall	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
Publicity	Susan Batts	publicity@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Ombudsman	Neva Scheve	ombudsman@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Outings	Susan Bailey	outings@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Past President	Cal Rice	pastpresident@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Programs	Jean Antholzner	vicepresident@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Tech & Zoom	Josh Simpson	tech@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Web Administrator	John German	website@sandhillsphtoclub.org
Workshops	Cal Rice	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