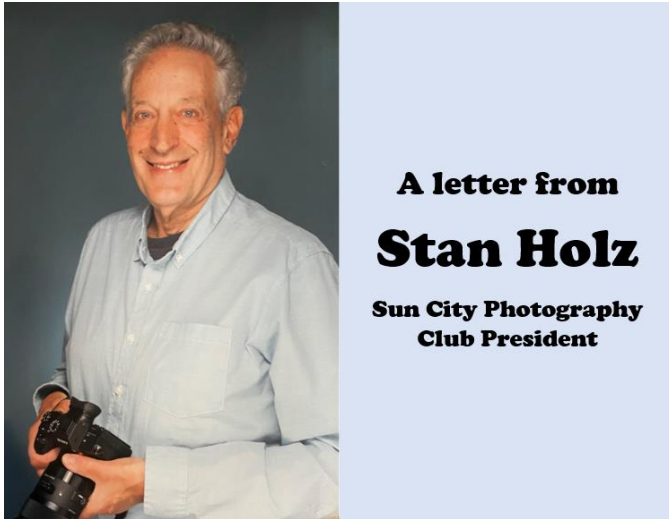


# Photography Club of Sun City - October Newsletter

October 1, 2025

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October is upon us, and with it our Tuesday October 14th meeting at the Hidden Cypress Ballroom. Our pre-Halloween competition will allow our members to display their “creepiest” and most “eeeeew” producing work .... a rare opportunity.

We are honored to present our October guest speaker, Melanie Dunea, who will also be tasked with picking the winning entries in what promises to be our most grimace generating competition ever.

Our club will have two tables at the October 4th Club Fair, and we will also have our First Saturday Sales crew busy at the studio. Volunteers will be manning our tables in the Pavilion, so try to stop by and say hi.

Tuesdays, from 1:30 to 4 PM continue to be open studio days, when any member can stop by for help with printing, matting, or advice on life in general.

October 19th through the 23rd is our annual Smoky Mountains field trip, which will round out a very busy month for our club.

Hope you all have a chance to participate in some of our activities this month.

Stan Holz

# Monthly Meeting

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 7 pm.

**In-Person**

**Meeting Location:** Hidden Cypress.

The slideshow will begin at 6:30 P.M.

## Competitions

**Contest Theme:** It Gives Me the Creeps

**Contest Entry Format:** Digital

**Deadline for Contest Submission:** Digital entry by midnight Friday, October 10th

**Special Reminder:** Please help us by taking extra care when submitting your competition entry. Be sure to name your photo file attachment this way:

Level - Photo title - Photographer's name

Example: Novice - Blue Bird - John Doe

Then Email your photo file as an attachment to: [pcschh1@gmail.com](mailto:pcschh1@gmail.com)

For more on how to enter, please refer to the [Competition and Advancement Rules and Guidelines](#).

**Speaker and Competition Judge:** Melanie Dunea @melaniedunea



Melanie is an award-winning American photographer, artist, and author whose work, always rooted in photography, explores the fascinating intersection of portraiture, interactive art, and literary projects.

A classically trained photographer with training at the studios of Richard Avedon, the Gamma Agency in Paris, and New York's Industria Superstudio, Dunea has established herself as a highly sought-after photographer and artist. She is the creator of the acclaimed My Last Supper book series, which reveals the fantasy meals of iconic chefs, her six books have been translated into several languages and have sold more than 100,000 copies worldwide. Dunea is renowned for her intimate portraits of leading figures in culture and thought, from actors such as Steve Martin and

Javier Bardem to musicians like Taylor Swift and Sting, and chefs such as Anthony Bourdain, Eric Ripert, and Ina Garten.

Beyond her portrait photography, Dunea creates immersive "Happenings" and commissioned art pieces, engaging audiences in unique and memorable ways. Her ability to blend visual storytelling with participatory art creates moments that invite collaboration and spark conversation, fostering thought-provoking shared artistic experiences.

Her success has led to appearances on projects such as her own twelve-episode series for Martha Stewart and SiriusXM; an eighteen-episode video series for Yahoo; guest judging on Top Chef: All Stars; and appearances on The Today Show, NPR's The Splendid Table, and the award-winning The Mind of a Chef. She has received photographic awards from American Photography, PDN, Communication Arts, Graphis, the Society of Publication Designers, International Photography Awards, and the Lucie Foundation.

When not traveling the world on assignment, Dunea supports several international charities, including Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club, Food Bank for New York City, Wellness in the Schools, and Edible Schoolyard NYC. She has also been honored with Operation Smile's Universal Smile Award for her work in Brazil, China, Kenya, and India. A Chicago native, Dunea has resided in New York City's Tribeca neighborhood since 1995.

## Remaining 2025 Meetings and Competition Themes

### **November 2025**

Meeting Date: November 11<sup>th</sup>

Meeting Type: In-Person

Contest Theme: Open – No time limit

Contest Entry Format: **Print**

Guest Speaker: Sandy Dimke

### **December 2025**

Meeting Date: December 9<sup>th</sup>

Meeting Type: In-Person

Contest Theme: People's Choice – first place winners in each level from the year will be voted by membership and awards given for Best of Category for each level and one Best in Show award.

## Feature Article

### **Time to Renew Your Membership!**

*by Joe Turino*

It's time to lock in another year of creativity, learning, and camaraderie. Vice President Julia Parrish is encouraging every member to renew now and to invite friends who might be curious about the Photography Club to join. With 455 members currently on board, the club's January membership update is just around the corner—a major refresh where records are updated, new members are welcomed, and renewed members are set for a full year of classes, trips, and studio time. “The point is it's time to renew your membership now,” Julia says.

Originally from the Northern Virginia and D.C. area, Julia moved to Sun City in 2017 while still working as a systems engineer for the Army Chief of Staff. Upon retiring in 2019, she joined the Photography Club by signing up for a cell phone fundamentals class—a step that turned a longtime interest into a deeper passion. Like most all of us, she discovered that photography kept her active and inspired during COVID, both through Zoom sessions and independent shooting. Before long she was helping with membership records and the club website, a volunteer path that eventually led to her current leadership role. “I enjoy the club. I like the people,” she says. “It's a wonderful way to keep learning.”

That spirit of learning drives every program the club offers. “Trips, strong education, studio equipment, and studio help that is truly Friends Helping Friends. We get good speakers, competitions with ribbons,” Julia says. She loves reminding members that the photography club isn't just for those with big cameras. “Everybody's got a phone. The camera's only as good as the one you have with you.” In fact, she says about half of our members now use their cell phones—often alongside their SLR or DSLR cameras—so classes, outings, and studio hours are designed for every level. Members discover editing tools, composition techniques, and powerful apps—skills that have led to competition wins and even published photos of *Sunsations*' covers.

One of Julia's top priorities for this renewal season is the Equipment and Software Survey linked at the end of the online renewal form or for new members signing up. For those who have already renewed, only about half of members have completed it. “We want to know what equipment and software you use... so that we can target classes and user groups and other activities for the equipment and software that members have and use,” she says. If you've upgraded your gear or switched software since your last

survey, you can submit it again, and the club will use your latest answers. The survey link is also posted on the Announcements page of the club website for anyone who has already renewed but missed completing the survey. This simple step helps ensure that the club's programs reflect the real needs of members.

Julia is also asking members to consider volunteering. The Photography Club truly lives its motto—Friends Helping Friends—and more hands mean stronger programs. The club is a great place to share your skills, interests, and willingness to help. The club needs instructors, leadership volunteers, and people to assist with competitions, field trips, studio hours, and more. “We'd like to know what your life experiences are that you could then give to the club,” Julia says. Even a small commitment can make a big difference.



**First Saturday Sales:** This event takes place on Saturday, October 4th, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in the photography studio and is open to all residents of Sun City.

**Open Studio:** The studio is open each Tuesday from 1:30 pm to 4:00 for Printing, Mounting, Matting, Camera help, or questions about the club in general.

An additional Help Session is offered at the studio by Rich De Asla on Wednesday October 22nd from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

**Club Orientation:** Orientation sessions are scheduled from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on October 27th, November 24<sup>th</sup> and December 29th. These sessions are geared towards new (or newer) Photography Club members and will introduce you to the studio and the many facets of our club. Sessions are usually led by the club's President, with introductions provided by the club's officers and leadership team.

[Sign up here](#)

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## Education



*Lake Somerset Walk Around - Phone Cameras*

Welcome to the Fall Semester which runs through November 24th. You should have already received the Fall Semester catalog and registration link by email. This information is also available on the club's website [pcschh.org](http://pcschh.org) under Programs and Education where you will find all the details you need to register for an upcoming class.

The following classes in October still have openings (# seats in parentheses):

- F251002P - Using ChatGPT to Plan Photo Trip (2)
- F251003A - Precut Mats (1)
- F251003P - Using ChatGPT for Better Photographs (ZOOM – no limit)
- F251007A - Don't Say Cheese-Expressions & Poses for Portraits (2)
- F251008A - How to Make Better Landscape Photos (1)
- F251010P - A Monet Moment (2)
- F251013A - Railroad Photography Seminar (11)
- F251015P - How to Use the Studio Printers (5)
- F251016P - 4K Movies to Capture Action (9)
- F251018A - LR Presets & Profiles (12)
- F251022A - Post Processing Wildlife Photography (3)
- F251027A - Orientation (17)
- F251027P - Simple Steps for Taking iPhone Photos (2)
- F251028A - Mastering Exposure (1)
- F251029A - Lightroom Classic's Attributes as Photo Processing Software (2)
- F251029P - How to Use the Studio Printers (1)

Thank you all for your continued support.

See you in class.

Cindy Fiano

[cindyfiano@gmail.com](mailto:cindyfiano@gmail.com)



## Field Trips

What a way to kick off the Fall Field Trip season by photographing the Milky Way on St. Helena Island from Butches Rd and what a photoshoot. We had a clear sky, great weather to photograph the Milky Way. There were 20 members and their guests on this trip, who enjoyed clear skies and great evening weather for the photoshoot. Check out the Trip Gallery Album at [pcschh.org](https://pcschh.org) to see some fantastic Milky Way photos taken by our members.

### **Fall 2025 Field Trips**

#### **⇒ Historic Church of the Cross - Wednesday October 8th**



We are staying local for this Field Trip as we are going to photograph around Old Town Bluffton Historic District Architecture, sunset over the May River and the Church of the Cross. The Church of the Cross is a Gothic Revival-style house of worship and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. General William T. Sherman spared the structure during the Civil War.

We could not obtain access to the interior of the church during the evening due to security concerns. However, one of our members is a docent at the Church and has offered to let us in 30 minutes before the doors open to the public at 11:00 AM. This should give us plenty of time to get some great photos of the interior. This trip covers two separate time periods – morning and evening. You have the option of going in both segments or just one or the other. We did receive permission for full access to the grounds to photograph the exterior of the Church of the Cross.

**Registration is currently open for this field trip.**

To register the Church of the Cross Field Trip, Click on the following link:

<https://forms.gle/ZQx9TuKLeSnKdCxT7>

## ⇒ The Smoky Mountains - Sunday October 19th to Thursday October 23rd



We are going back to one of our favorite fall destinations, the Smoky Mountains. We will be travelling along the Blue Ridge Parkway on our way to our destinations in and around North Carolina and Tennessee to photograph some of areas majestic and colorful vistas. We'll be spending time at the Oconaluftee Visitors Center photographing the Elk herd in the morning and evening. We will be stopping at many of our favorite destinations including Mingus Mill, Oconaluftee Indian Village, Cherokee, Cades Cove, and the Motor Nature Trail in Gatlinburg to hopefully find a bear or two. You will have the opportunity to photograph stunning sunrises and sunsets from one of the many Overlooks. There may be a Milky Way Photoshoot or two from Waterrock Knob if conditions allow it. So, if you would like to join us on this adventure to the Smoky Mountains, your journey starts here.

Hotel and Parking Tags - Information on hotel reservations and purchasing your Smoky Mountain Parking Tag is in the destination description in the Registration Form.

**Registration is currently open for this field trip.**

To register for The Smoky Mountains Field Trip, click on the following link:

<https://forms.gle/79qfLRuAo82u3pj79>

## ⇒ Bonaventure Cemetery - Thursday November 6th





Join us for a sunrise photoshoot of the Bonaventure Cemetery, a rural cemetery located on a scenic bluff of the Wilmington River, southeast of downtown Savannah, Georgia. The cemetery's prominence grew when it was featured in the 1994 novel *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt.

**Registration will open for sign-up at noon on October 1, 2025.**

To register for Bonaventure Cemetery Field Trip, click on the following link:

(opens at noon, October 1st) <https://forms.gle/79qfLRuAo82u3pj79>

⇒ **SC Backroads - Monday November 10th**



We are going on a road trip, taking the back roads to some of the towns that time has forgotten. We'll be stopping at a couple of different towns along the way to photograph their unique architecture, character, and southern charm. Hopefully, we will get to tour the Valentine's Cotton Mill in Cope, and the SC Backroads Trip always stops at Miller's Bread Basket for lunch. So, join us on this field trip.

**Registration will open for sign-up on October 15, 2025.**

⇒ **Holiday Festival of Lights on James Island - Tuesday November 18th**



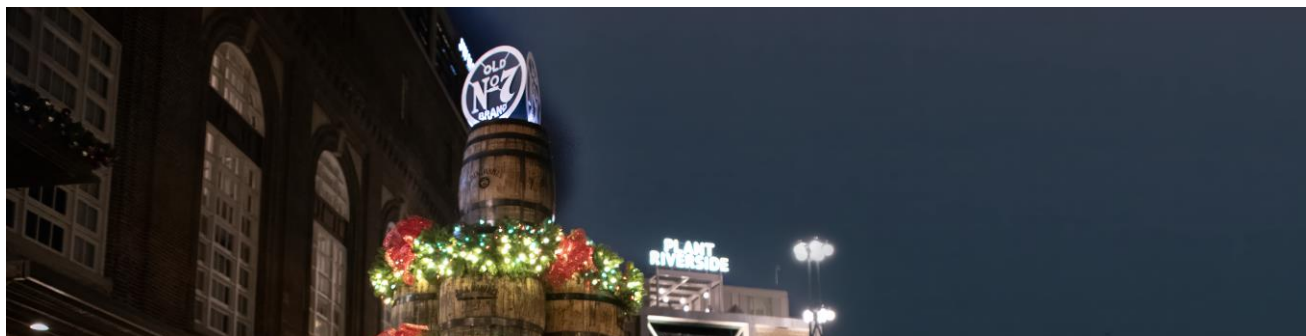
Nothing gets you into the holiday spirit than snow and colorful decorations and lights (lots of them). Well, no guarantee about seeing real snow but maybe there will be some man-made white stuff on the ground. If you do, come join us as we kick off the 2025 holiday season with the James Island Festival of Lights. This is a remarkable event that features a 3-mile loop filled with stunning holiday decorations being lit up with almost two million sparkling lights. If one loop isn't enough, you can go around again and again on the same ticket. There is an entrance fee of \$10 per vehicle (up to 15 people).

Tickets for the 2025 festival will go on sale in October.

For more information and advanced online tickets purchase, click on the following link to go to the [Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission Official Website](#).

**Registration will open for sign-up on October 15, 2025.**

⇒ **Savannah's Plant Riverside at Christmas - Friday December 12th**



We are returning to Savannah's Plant Riverside as they are fully adorned in their holiday decorations. The Plant Riverside field trip is a great opportunity for "*Street Photography*." The Plant Riverside area is filled with colorful water features, historic buildings, ship traffic, and views of the bridge and people. The Plant Riverside area has been decorated for the holidays, and the *Savannah Christmas Market* will be going on while we are there providing additional photo and shopping opportunities for the group.

This Field Trip is good for all types of Cameras.

**Registration will open for sign-up on November 1, 2025.**

### ⇒ Darien Shrimp Boat Sunrise - Thursday December 18th



The Sunrise over the Shrimp Boat Fleet in Darien is one of our favorite destinations for photographing sunrises, and this trip we will include the St. Simon's Island Lighthouse. It will be an early start, leaving at 5:15 AM to get to Darien to set up on the bridge for Blue Hour and the Sunrise over the fleet. After the sunrise photoshoot, we head off to Jekyll Island to photograph Driftwood Beach and possibly to photograph the Tall Ship LYNX as it set sail. We will stop for either breakfast or lunch during the trip.

**Registration will open for sign-up on November 1, 2025.**

### 2026 Field Trips

#### ⇒ Florida Wetlands - Monday February 2nd to Thursday February 5th



Over the past few years, the Florida Wetlands Field Trip had been scheduled during the last week in January. Although these dates were great for many members of the Photography Club, the members involved with the set-up activities in the days leading up to annual Creative Visions event were unable to go on the field trip. As a result, the dates for the Florida Wetlands Field Trip have been moved out a week to February 2-5.

**Registration will open for sign-up on November 15, 2025.**



## ⇒ **Battle at Broxton Bridge - Saturday February 28th**



If you want to have a blast, sign up for The Battle for Broxton Bridge Field Trip. Travel back in time to an epic battle between the Union and Confederate forces for Broxton Bridge. This Civil War re-enactment is well done and worth the trip to Ehrhardt SC.

**Registration will open for sign-up on January 15, 2026**

If you have any question regarding any of the Field Trips, please contact Mike Laferriere via email at: [michaellaferriere62@gmail.com](mailto:michaellaferriere62@gmail.com)

Look forward to seeing you on one of the upcoming Field Trips.

Mike Laferriere

Field Trip Coordinator Field Trip Coordinator

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## **Special Interest Groups**

### **Canon R Mirrorless**



The Canon R-Users Group (Canon R-UG) meets on the 4th Thursday each month at 3:30pm. The UG is open to members with Canon's "R" series mirror-less cameras and any member interested in learning more about them. Group members are encouraged to raise questions about camera set-up, menu items, RF series Canon lenses and shooting experiences. You are also welcome to bring some pictures to share. Each month we seek to have a member share experience with one or more unique capabilities they have explored like Focus Bracketing, HDR, Shooting Modes and etc. Use the link below to provide your contact information if you want to be included on the User Group's contact mailings: [PCSC Canon R-Usergroup Contact List](#)

## Phone Camera



The Phone Photography User Group meets on the first Wednesday each month on **ZOOM** from 1:00 - 2:30 pm. The next meeting will be on October 1st. We discuss and share information on features of both Apple and Android phone cameras. Members frequently share information and demonstrate various applications and techniques for capturing or editing their images. Each month we share phone camera photos with each other. To join this group contact Sue Flynn at [sueparkerflynn@gmail.com](mailto:sueparkerflynn@gmail.com)

## Nikon



This is a forum for Nikon camera users to learn and share their knowledge about the capabilities of Nikon cameras of all types, lenses, and accessories. Field trips are also planned. We meet the 2nd Friday of every month at 10:30 AM in the studio. Contact Bob Seltzer [robertseltzer6378@gmail.com](mailto:robertseltzer6378@gmail.com) for information.

## Lumix



The group will have field trip Wednesday October 29th at Jasper Park from 4 - 5:30 pm. If you've recently purchased a Lumix camera and are not on the UG email list, please email your information to [freddih@sbcglobal.net](mailto:freddih@sbcglobal.net).

## Sony – Mirrorless



This group of Sony mirrorless camera users was formed to give photographers using Sony mirrorless camera equipment a place to share their knowledge. We will be resuming our monthly field trips this September. Contact Everett Denning, [etdenning@gmail.com](mailto:etdenning@gmail.com) for information and to get on our mailing list.

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## MARCH MEETING NEWS

### **March Competition Winners**

Theme: Slanted/Incline

Judge: Jeff Coyle



*September Competition Winners "Slanted/Incline"*  
Photo by Joseph Turino

### **NOVICE**



1st Place - Bob Yznaga, "The Anglers"

2nd Place - Elisa Morris, "Top of the Incline"

3rd Place - Rochelle McGrath, "Slant-Incline"

Honorable Mention - Diana Sull, "Quarried"

### **INTERMEDIATE**



1st Place - Marilyn Wahl, "Going Up"

2nd Place - Susan Lange, "Butterfly Pose"

3rd Place - Diane Gray, "Which Way"

Honorable Mention - Tom Moseley, "Chef"

## ADVANCED



1st Place - Ralph Rooke, "Broken Dreams"

2nd Place - Keri Ricci, "Inclined to Fly"

3rd Place - Everett Denning, "Bird on a Branch"

Honorable Mention - Doug Scott, "Slanted"

## EXPERT



1st Place - Kathy Leonard, "Fish Tails"

2nd Place - John Burrack, "Going Down"

3rd Place - Tom Mills, "Ascent, Descent"

Honorable Mention - Theda Parks, "Morning Bridge Top"



Please join us in welcoming the Sun City Photography Club's newest members, bringing our membership count to 457 current renewed members:

Anna-Marie Altieri  
John Girardi  
Joe Fahrenbach

Stephanie Whitt  
Patricia Carlton  
Marlene Fahrenbach

Carol Milazzo  
Mark Parsons  
John Connolly

Lois Abbiate  
Edward J. Ford

If you have not renewed your membership for 2026, please go to [pcschh.org](https://pcschh.org) and click the Join/Renew button on the home page to complete your renewal. After renewing, please complete the new form to let us know what equipment and software you are using to help us plan classes, trips, speakers and more.



**Club Website:** <https://pcschh.org>

Be sure to visit our club website frequently for up-to-date information on trips, education, club meetings and competitions. View past competition winning photos as well as photos from past club trips. Newsletters and minutes from club meetings are archived there for your convenience.

Do you have ideas for things you'd like to see on the website? Email [pcschhwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:pcschhwebsite@gmail.com) with any suggestions.

### **Photographer of the Month**

Our October Photographer of the Month is Susan Lange. Go to [pcschh.org](https://pcschh.org) and access this exciting feature from the Home page or Announcements page or from Galleries on the main menu. Meet Susan and view a showcase of some of her favorite photographs.

If you would like to nominate someone as Photographer of the Month, including yourself, please email [pcschhwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:pcschhwebsite@gmail.com)

### **Monthly Slideshow**

Make sure to participate in the monthly slideshow that features our members' best photo from the prior month. Email your favorite photo to [monthly-slideshow@yogile.com](mailto:monthly-slideshow@yogile.com) and

put your Name and Photo Title in the subject line of the email. Only 1 photo per member please. All others will be deleted.

### **Member Showcases**

Don't forget to check out the new Member Showcases under Member Resources on the website. Email your portfolio locations to [pcschhgallery@gmail.com](mailto:pcschhgallery@gmail.com) to have your portfolio included.



## **“Friends Helping Friends”**

You are receiving this newsletter because you subscribed to the Sun City Photography Club's mailing list.

Ward Litzenberg, Editor

Joseph Turino, Contributing Editor

Do you have a story or want to contribute to the newsletter? Email us at

[pcschh.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:pcschh.newsletter@gmail.com)

Previous issues of the PCSCHH Newsletter: <https://pcschh.org/newsletters/>