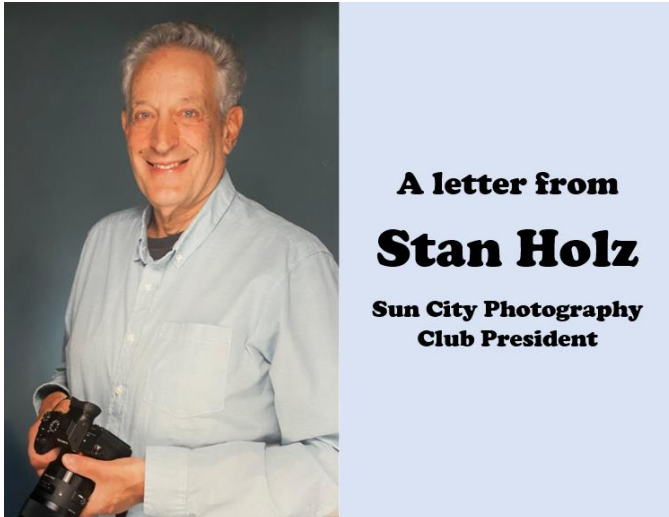


# Photography Club of Sun City - December Newsletter

December 1, 2025

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Sort of amazing, but our last meeting of 2025 is quickly approaching. Our December 9th meeting will mark the end of our 2025 season, although it seems as if it just started a few weeks ago. In the spirit of the upcoming holiday season, we will have snacks available for our members.

I'd like to congratulate three of our members whose wins at the last competition have moved them up. Mike Wahl has progressed from Novice to Intermediate, Sandy Holz moved from Intermediate to Advanced, and Jonathan Chase has gone from Advanced to Expert. Well done all.

This meeting marks the end of my two year tenure as Club President. It has been an honor to serve our club and work with the dedicated group of volunteers who make up our Board and our committees. Our club really depends on people stepping up to help whenever and wherever needed, and we have been fortunate to have so many members who have offered their time and skills to make our club as successful as it has been. Thank you all.

A happy holiday season to all, and have a safe and Happy New Year!

Stan Holz

# Monthly Meeting

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 7 pm.

**In-Person**

**Meeting Location:** Hidden Cypress.

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

## Competitions

**Contest Theme:** People's Choice – The winners will be announced at the Photography Club meeting on Tuesday, December 9th at Hidden Cypress.

Voting for the 2025 People's Choice Awards will be conducted by e-mail. The email was sent by the club's listserv email address ([suncityphotographyclub@islc.net](mailto:suncityphotographyclub@islc.net)) to all members on Tue, Nov 25, 8:15 AM and a reminder was sent on Nov 28, 2025, 8:48 AM with complete instructions and a link to the electronic ballot.

The voting will be for the best in each competition category of Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Expert, as well as for the Best of Show. All First Place Awards by competition category in the monthly competitions throughout the year are eligible and have been already entered.

Voting will end at Midnight on Wednesday, December 3rd.

**Speaker:** Sophia Schade

**Presentation Topic:** Why Go to the Other Side of the World for Photography?

- Where I know no one except traveling companion, Lucy & Sandy
- Where I don't know the language, customs, currency, etc.
- And it takes 30+ hours to get there.....
- I ask, why not? Mystery and adventure ahead

I was born in Athens, Greece, and spent my teenage years in Maryland. My job took me across the US and abroad, and in 2015, my husband Dennis and I retired to Bluffton, South Carolina. It was here, surrounded by the beauty of the Lowcountry, that I discovered my passion for photography.

Living in Sun City, I started photographing the stunning birds and wildlife that make this area so special. What began as a hobby quickly grew into a deep love for capturing

the natural world. For me, photography is not just about taking pictures; it's about telling stories and preserving memories that can last a lifetime.

As a wildlife photographer, my goal is to share the beauty and wonder I see every day. Each photograph is a chance to invite others into the incredible world of nature, to inspire and evoke emotions. I am constantly amazed by the splendor around us, and I strive to convey that through my images.

I am a proud member of the Sun City Photographers Club, the Beaufort Camera Club, the Hilton Head Camera Club, CNPA, PSA, and GNPA. Being part of these communities has enriched my journey and allowed me to grow as a photographer. Every day, I am grateful for the joy and fulfillment that photography brings into my life, and I am excited to share this passion with others.

### Look Ahead - Meetings and Competition Themes

#### **January 2026**

Meeting Date: January 13th

Meeting Type: Zoom

Entry Format: Digital

Deadline for Submission: January 9th

Contest Theme: Architecture

Guest Speaker / Topic: Guest Speaker: Melissa & Charles Needle – Cell Phone Photography

#### **February 2026**

Meeting Date: February 3rd

Meeting Type: In Person

Entry Format: Digital

Deadline for Submission: January 30th

Contest Theme: Black & White

Guest Speaker / Topic: TBD

#### **March 2026**

Meeting Date: March 10th

Meeting Type: In Person

Entry Format: Digital

Deadline for Submission: March 6th

Contest Theme: Curves

Guest Speaker / Topic: Kenny McKeithan – “Photographing the Night Sky”

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## Feature Article

### **Leadership in Focus, Today and Tomorrow**

*by Joe Turino*

Leadership is the steady force that powers our club across every corner of its work, shaping the classes our members take, the friendships they form, and the confidence they gain every time they raise a camera or the phone in their pocket. Our club thrives because volunteers generously share their time, skills, and ideas. Incoming 2026 President Julia Parrish, who has been serving as vice president, captures that spirit clearly. “I want every member to feel proud of being part of this club,” Julia says. “We are a community of ‘Friends Helping Friends,’ where creativity is shared openly and leadership is transparent and supportive.”

Current President Stan Holz, who joined the club in 2018, has witnessed that spirit for years. He especially appreciates “the willingness of members to help each other,” along with field trips and a full calendar of classes that “keep everyone busy.” Reflecting on his role, Stan emphasizes collaboration. “Our club leadership is a collaborative effort that works on consensus and cooperation,” he explains. “Our constant goal is to preserve what works best and improve on what can be done better.” He added, “We also strive to honor those who have donated exceptional amounts of time and effort to our club.”

With Stan completing his term, Julia steps forward ready to build on that foundation. A six-year member, she says her experience as vice president has prepared her well for becoming president, and she looks forward to helping the club grow and supporting members at all levels. Julia says, “My goals include strengthening our programs, expanding opportunities for workshops and exhibitions, and creating both online and in-person spaces where our collective creativity can truly thrive.” She also plans to “take a fresh look at our processes to see where we can make improvements that benefit everyone.”

Outgoing Secretary Barbara Reeves, a member of nine years, brought warmth and precision to her four years of service. Through classes, she has watched her work evolve. “When I look back at my old photos, I can see how much I’ve grown as a photographer,” she says. Barbara also “gained a whole new appreciation for what it

takes to keep the club going,” and has been “impressed with the dedication and talent of all those who serve.”

Incoming Secretary Ellen Scott, who moved from Cape Cod and joined the club in 2021, “hopes that as secretary I can assist the president in her policies.” Not having served in a leadership role before, she plans to do her “best to fulfill any task given to me. I will assist the other officers any way I can.”

Incoming Vice President Rick VanDette joined in 2022 after attending the club sponsored “Camera in Your Pocket” program, proof that today’s photography world embraces both traditional cameras and cell phone cameras. Rick is enthusiastic about cell phone photography. “Mobile phone cameras make the possibility of photography, not just accessible and affordable, but downright amazing,” he says. As he steps into the vice president role, he wants to support the club’s strengths and champion improvements. His philosophy about leadership is direct. “Sometimes the best way to get your feet wet is to jump in head first.”

Treasurer Everett Denning, who has served in that office since late 2021, will continue in 2026. Everett has taught classes such as “Shooting Grandkids in Sports” and “Birds in Flight Photography,” helped create the Sony Group, and launched “First Saturday Sales.” What he enjoys most is summed up in three words. “The members.” He also believes “any club is only as strong as its members who volunteer, and we excel” in that area.

Current Education Chair Cindy Fiano, who has served the past two years, joined the club in 2020, soon after she and her husband, Mike, closed on their Sun City home. Cindy believes photography holds different meanings for every member, whether capturing grandchildren, exploring nature, noticing overlooked details, or documenting daily life. “The strength of our club is in the diverse experiences and passions of our membership,” she says, sharing a favorite Dorothea Lange quote. “The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see without a camera.” During her tenure she oversaw 300 class sessions with close to 1,500 registrants and expanded cell phone photography offerings, AI focused classes, and summer pop ups.

Incoming Education Chair Ward Litzenberg, originally from Erie, Pennsylvania, joined the club soon after moving to Sun City from Stafford, Virginia, in 2022. He first connected with the club after a community cell phone class at Hidden Cypress and loves “learning from others.” Ward looks forward to working with the education committee, instructors, and monitors to “continue providing quality classes for our membership.”

He also plans to expand cell phone focused content and “the use of pop-up classes throughout the year allowing more flexibility for instructors to try new content” and respond to member interests.

As the club looks toward 2026, it extends warm thanks to the leaders who serve through the end of 2025 and to all volunteers who keep programs vibrant and welcoming. The incoming team, Julia, Rick, Ellen, Everett, and Ward, brings enthusiasm and commitment to the motto that defines the club, Friends Helping Friends. Together, they will carry forward the excitement of learning, the joy of creativity, and the supportive spirit that make the Photography Club a place where every photographer can grow.



**First Saturday Sales:** This event takes place on Saturday, December 6th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 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 to 4:00 pm for Printing, Mounting, Matting, Camera help, or questions about the club in general.

An additional Help Session is being offered at the studio by Rich De Asla on Wednesday December 17th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

**Studio Fees:** On or about December 1st, our studio fees will be going up by 50%. That seems like a big increase, but the actual monetary amounts are modest and keep us well under outside rates.

**Club Orientation:** Orientation sessions are scheduled from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on December 29<sup>th</sup> (Mon), January 26<sup>th</sup> (Mon), February 23<sup>rd</sup> (Mon), March 30<sup>th</sup> (Mon), April 27<sup>th</sup> (Mon) and May 26<sup>th</sup> (Tue). 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 led by the club's leadership, with introductions provided by the club's officers and leadership team.

[Sign up here](#)

**Golf Course Nature Tours:** A special Golf Course Nature Tour for the Photography Club will be scheduled in the spring. Members are also encouraged to register for a tour in January or February and take their long lenses along to capture our winter birds. Register at the following link <https://www.schhgolfclub.com/nature-tours>.

The SCHH Golf Club Golf Course Nature Tours Committee will be scheduling a training session shortly for new guide and driver volunteers for tours. Knowing what naturalists we have in the photo club, they hope that a few of our members will step up to help. It's usually just a commitment of two hours a month. If you are interested, contact Freddi Hoffman at [freddih@sbcglobal.net](mailto:freddih@sbcglobal.net).

The SCHH Golf Club Golf Course Nature Tours Committee would also like to thank the Photo Club for their donation to erect the Motus tower. We are getting a few birds pinging on our tower. To see the Sub City Motus station see this link: <https://motus.org/dashboard/#e=profile&d=stations&s=15393>

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## Education



*Lake Somerset Walk Around - Phone Cameras*

It's hard to believe that the Fall Semester has ended. I hope you were able to enjoy one or more of the many diverse classes offered. If not, there are more coming right after the holidays. The Winter Semester will run from January 26 through March 27. The timeframe for the Semester registration is as follows:

January 12 - An email will be sent out via ListServ with the Winter Semester course catalog. Once you receive it, take a few days to review the offerings. Each offering will have details that include the class description, any additional requirements, camera type and level. In order to ensure that you are getting the instruction you need, please review all the details for each class to see if it is a fit for you. Additionally, the date and time(s) of the classes are noted. If there is a class you are interested in that has multiple sessions, check your calendar to make sure that you are available for all the class times. There is a reason why some classes have multiple sessions.

January 19 - An email will be sent out via ListServ with the registration link for the Winter Semester course registration. The registration link will go live that day at 2:00.



January 26 - Winter Semester opens and will run through March 27. The Education Committee's goal is to offer opportunities that will assist you on your journey of stretching your imagination and developing a personal vision with more creative and expressive images. I hope you enjoy the Winter Semester offerings.

As many of you know, my term as the Education Director is concluding at the end of this month. I would like to thank all the instructors, assistants, monitors and participants that have helped our educational program grow into a diverse series that has helped provide learning opportunities for our continually growing membership.

At this time, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Education Committee members for all their hard work and continued support they offered during the past two years. The committee members consisted of Ward Litzenberg who played a large role as the registrar and expert in ALL THINGS TECHNICAL. And as you all know, Ward will be taking my place as Education Director as of January. Barb Puceta our monitor lead, worked tirelessly training and scheduling monitors for all classes and help sessions. Sue VanDette completed the most comprehensive minutes as our secretary. Ellen Scott kept the class list communications flowing to instructors in a timely manner until she was replaced by Shashi Cooduvalli. Melanie Frank and Toni McQuair kept the sometimes-overwhelming educational calendar up to date to guarantee that only one class at a time occupied the studio. Dale Methven stayed on as past educational director to offer her experiences. And to help ensure that the past educational offerings and the current needs were aligned the following folks completed the committee: Barb Reeves, Julia Parrish, Corky Burt and Tom Mills.

With the increase in membership by predominantly camera phone users, the Camera Phone Committee was formed last year. I want to thank those committee members whose purpose was to expand opportunities for smartphone photographers. They are Ward Litzenberg, Freddi Hoffman, Sue Flynn, Rick VanDette and Sue VanDette.

As you can see, it takes a lot of committed folks to run a successful program. I know there are many club members who are knowledgeable in specific areas of photography that would be of interest to others. Remember our club's slogan is "Friends Helping Friends" so consider offering a "sharing" session with others who would like to learn what you have to offer. When members share what they know, everyone benefits. And we ALL have lots to offer.

Cindy Fiano

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



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## **Club Trips**

Hope you had a great Thanksgiving Holiday!

We have completed three trips in November to the Historic Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Towns along the SC Backroads, and the Holiday Festival of Lights on James Island.

Florida Wetlands and Rocket Launch 2026 Club Trip - This Club Trip has been rescheduled to January 25th through January 28th. The aerospace companies involved with the Artemis II manned spacecraft launch project reserved all the available rooms the first week in October for a two-week period to cover any launch delays.

### **Club Trip Gallery Album**

Check out the Trip Gallery Album at [pcschh.org](http://pcschh.org) to see photos from the Smoky Mountains trip and past Club Trips posted by our members.

### **About Club Trips**

If you are new to the Photography Club or haven't been on a Club trip in a while, there are many benefits of going on Club Trips, which include but are not limited to:

- All Skill Levels and Cameras: If you are new to photography or a seasoned photographer, Club trips are open to everyone in the Photography Club.
- Make Friends: Meet and get to know other members of the Photography Club
- Cameras: All cameras are suitable for our Club trips, including your cell phones.
- Learning: By going out and photographing a variety of subjects under different conditions, you develop the photographic muscle memory you need to improve your skills. The more you shoot the better you get.
- Get Help: If you have a question about settings, composition or about your camera, all you need to do is ask one of the other members on the trip and they will help you. We are "Friends Helping Friends"
- Variety of Subject: We travel to different locations providing you with the opportunity to photograph different types of subjects from wildlife, landscapes, architecture, transportation, street photography and more.
- Destinations: We live in an ecologically and historically rich part of the country and we get to photograph it with other photographers. On our day trips, we visit

local locations and on our Multi-Day Trips, we head out to locations that require overnight stays (Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee).

- Fun: We always have a good time on Club Trips.

## First Club Trip

If you are new to the Photography Club, going on a Club Trip is one of the best ways to get the experience with your camera. You can get help from seasoned members and make new friends along the way. If you are considering going on a PCSCHH Club Trip not sure where to start, start with a Local Day Trips. These Day Trips are normally 4-6 hours long and you are home for dinner.

## Remaining 2025 Club Trips

⇒ **Savannah's Plant Riverside at Christmas** - Friday December 12<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 9 PM



We are returning to Savannah's Plant Riverside as they are fully adorned in their holiday decorations. The Plant Riverside club 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.

To register for the Savannah Plant Riverside Club Trip, Click on the following link:

<https://forms.gle/Vam3yk62yNHweKqE6>

⇒ **Darien Shrimp Boat Sunrise** - Thursday December 18<sup>th</sup> from 5 AM to 2 PM



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.

To register for the Darien Shrimp Boat Sunrise Club Trip, Click on the following link:  
<https://forms.gle/tpimhDuW2KtRCpg8A>

## 2026 Club Trips

⇒ **Florida Wetlands - Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday January 28<sup>th</sup>**



The Florida Wetlands and Cape Canaveral Rocket Launch 2026 Club Trip has been rescheduled to January due to a lack of accommodations in the Titusville area.

Join us as we travel to the Titusville Florida area in January to photograph migrating shorebirds and other wildlife at some of our favorite destinations that include Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge, Blackpoint Drive, Gator Creek, Scrub Jay Way, Orlando Wetlands and more. Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge is a new destination added to this year's trip. There may be a rocket launch scheduled during our stay, but we will

not know until late December or early January. The Orlando Wetlands guided tram ride tour was a popular addition in 2025. We will be arranging another one on this trip.

To register for the Florida Wetlands & Cape Canaveral Rocket Launch, click on the following link: <https://forms.gle/vi4DJ2A3rGg3rqa99>

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



If you want to have a blast, sign up for The Battle for Broxton Bridge Club 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 at noon on January 15, 2026**

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

Wishing you all the best for the Holidays and a safe and prosperous New Year in 2026! Look forward to seeing you on one of the upcoming Club Trips.

Mike Laferriere  
Club Trip Coordinator

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## Special Interest Groups

### **Canon R Mirrorless**



The Canon R-Users Group (Canon R-UG) MEETING DATE AND TIME CHANGE: The next meeting will be Thursday, December 4 at 2pm in the Studio. That will be the last meeting of the year. 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 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. 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



LUMIX User Group Holiday Gathering is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5–7 pm in the studio. Members sharing holiday foods and stories and may snap a few night shots of the Community tree lighting. Freddi sent an email to current members with details. Email [freddih@sbcglobal.net](mailto:freddih@sbcglobal.net) if you wish to join this User Group.

## 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. Contact Everett Denning, [etdenning@gmail.com](mailto:etdenning@gmail.com) for information and to get on our mailing list.



## NOVEMBER MEETING NEWS

### November Competition Winners

Theme: Open

Judge: Sandy Dimke (if you missed her presentation from the November meeting, you can [view it here](#))

### NOVICE

*November 2025 Print Winners*



1st Place - Karen Jacobs, Eyes Full of Wonder

2nd Place - Janet Price, Snow Monkeying Around

3rd Place - Mike Wahl, Lonesome Cowboy

Honorable Mention - Karl Persson, Morning Tennis

### INTERMEDIATE



1st Place - Sandy Holz, Best Buds

2nd Place - Ron Duponte, Family Photo

3rd Place - Fred Andrews, Rack em up

## ADVANCED



1st Place - Jonathan Chase, There's Always One

2nd Place - Kevin Schonhaut, In the Amber Spartina

3rd Place - Susan Ball, Pretty in Pink

Honorable Mention - Shashi Cooduvalli, The Patient Bangle Seller

## EXPERT



1st Place - Sophia Schade, Dark Elegance

2nd Place - Dale Methven, Tranquility

3rd Place - Gerry Fagan, ol' Salty

Honorable Mention - Kathy Leonard, White Faced Capuchin

### Competition Category Advancements

As a result of the November competition, Mike Wahl has moved from the Novice category to Intermediate; Sandy Holz has moved from the Intermediate category to Advanced; and Jonathan Chase has moved from the Advanced category to Expert.





Please join us in welcoming the Sun City Photography Club's newest members, bringing our membership count to 532 current members:

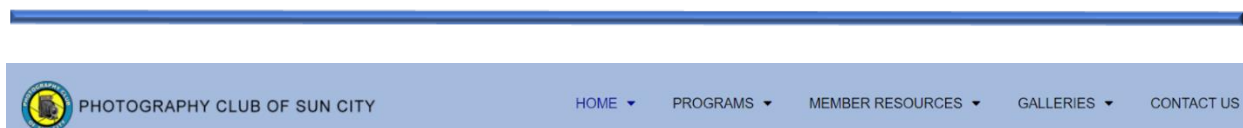
Dave Corbett  
Robert Chase  
Linda Longino  
Daniel Williams  
Doug Ching

Laura Franco  
Michael Binaco  
Bob Cragin  
Pam Volk  
Dana Perry

Elisabeth Whannel  
Sophia Binaco  
Carmen Sims  
Joseph Brooks

Kelly Hamm  
Bruce Lemert  
Jean Esteve  
Jannetje McManus

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 December Photographer of the Month is Amaury Cruz. 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 Amaury and view a showcase of some of his 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 slide show 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/>