

# Photography Club of Sun City - January Newsletter

January 1, 2026

---



**A letter from**  
**Julia**  
**Parrish**  
**Sun City Photography**  
**Club President**

Happy New Year! I am truly grateful for the trust the club has placed in me. As we begin this new year, my vision is to lead with transparency, encourage continuous improvement in our club processes, and create an environment where every member feels valued, engaged, and inspired. I am pleased to introduce our new board members: Rick VanDette (Vice President), Ellen Scott

(Secretary), and Ward Litzenberg (Education), and to welcome back Everett Denning (Treasurer). I look forward to working with this dedicated team as well as our leadership team to support a vibrant, creative community where photographers at all levels can learn, grow, and share their passion. We invite all club members to join us in strengthening our club as a place where “Friends Help Friends” and creativity flourishes.

I want to extend a special thank you to Stan Holz for his dedicated service as president. His leadership, commitment, and steady guidance have made a lasting impact on our club. We are grateful that Stan will continue to guide and advise us as he serves on the board as Past President.

Congratulations to last year’s award winners. Your creativity, commitment, and excellence continue to inspire our entire club. Tom Lehrer received the John Burrack Friends Helping Friends Award, Cindy Fiano received the Corky Burt Leadership Award and Barbara Reeves received the Richard de Asla Outstanding Contribution Award. Ward Litzenberg and Mike Laferriere received special service awards. Congratulations and thank you for your excellent service and commitment to our club. Congratulations also to our volunteers who qualified for the special star badges. Your donated time and support to the club is very much appreciated.

We will have our membership meeting via Zoom on January 13th. The January theme is Architecture. The competition entry slideshow will run from 6:30 – 7:00

followed by a short business meeting. Our speakers, Melissa and Charles Needle, will give a presentation on Cell Phone Photography.

January will end with the year's most anticipated event, Creative Vision. Please visit the show, vote and enjoy the collaborative and creative works from the Photography, All About Art, Stained Glass and Woodworkers clubs.

Happy shooting! Next month's theme is Black & White—I can't wait to see your creative interpretations! Please note that the February meeting will be held on the 1st Tuesday of the Month and competition entries are due January 30th.

Here's to a year filled with fun, learning, and beautiful photography!

Julia Parrish

---

## Monthly Meeting

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 7 pm.

**Meeting Type:** Zoom

An email with meeting information and Zoom link was sent out via listserv on Fri, Dec 26, 9:36 AM. The slideshow will begin at 6:30 P.M

## Competitions

**Contest Theme:** Architecture

**Contest Entry Format:** Digital

**Deadline for Contest Submission:** Digital entry by midnight Friday, January 9th

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

Competition Level - Photo title - Photographer's name

Example: Novice - Blue Bird - John Doe

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

For more on how to enter, please refer to the Competition and Advancement Rules and Guidelines on the [Competitions](#) page of the club's website.

## Competitions Rule Update

Three changes will be in effect starting with the March 2026 competition and beyond. This news will also be announced in a List Serve email sent to all members. These updates will be posted to the [Competitions](#) page of the club's website.

1. March 2026, Theme: "Curves", September 2026, Theme: "Patterns/Repetition" and November 2026, Theme: "Street Photography" will now become PRINT competitions. This will give 2026 three print entries and five digital entries. People's Choice remains automatic inclusion on the electronic ballot.
2. Mats will no longer be allowed in print competitions. This will level the playing field between matted and non-matted entries and save the club the expense of re-printing and mounting those entries that were matted but then later needed for the window display. Our studio window will accommodate all 16 monthly winning prints only if they are not matted.
3. For Print Competition Entries: All photos must have a hard backing such as dry mounting, foam core (no thicker than ¼") in order for the committee or judge to handle it. Mats are not permitted. The picture cannot be framed. Rectangular shaped entries must be between 14" and 16" on the long side. Sides of square entries must be between 12" and 14".

---

**Speaker and Competition Judge:** Melissa Needle

**Presentation Topic:** Creative Smartphone Photography



Learn how making images with your mobile phone can make you a better photographer, and how various apps can enable you to craft creative, expressive images in this “beyond the basics” smartphone photography presentation. Melissa will briefly touch on some of the hidden native camera features in an iPhone, as well as a few helpful accessories and then dive into some shooting and editing apps that can help unleash your creative side. You’ll come away from this jam-packed session with new knowledge that will empower you to make images you never imagined possible with your smartphone!

Melissa is an iPhone user and will share her knowledge of smartphone photography through an iPhone lens. However, many of the apps she will discuss will also work on

an Android device and she will mention the Android equivalent apps when they are not compatible.

Melissa Needle is an award-winning, Colorado-based fine art photographer with 15 years of teaching experience. She is a sought-after speaker, having presented many in-person and online workshops and conference programs for national and international audiences, including the Royal Photographic Society (UK), Camversaion, the New England Council of Camera Clubs (NECCC) annual conference in 2018, the New Hampshire Audubon Society, Madeline Island School of the Arts and numerous camera clubs.

Melissa enjoys literal image making but really loves exploring her creative side with various post-processing methods. She is a full-time professional photographer whose journey began at the age of 12 with the family camera. Her career has blossomed from the passion of sharing her knowledge with others and challenging herself to learn new techniques and creative ways to express the art she sees in her life.

Melissa has received numerous awards and honors over the past 33 years. Some of her notable awards include: Gold Key and Blue Ribbon awards for “Postcard Dreams” from The Boston Globe Art Show, cover features in Cape Cod Guide magazine, MUSC Humanitas, Neuroscience, and Cancer Research, blue ribbons in the Greater Lynn Photography Association (MA) camera club monthly contests, and recognition in the Mobile Photography Awards Contest and NANPA Showcase Competition, where she won a prestigious Top-24 Image Award in 2020. In addition, Melissa’s work was selected to appear in three books: Charleston: A Photographic Portrait, Savannah: A Photographic Portrait, and Massachusetts: A Photographic Portrait. She also was recognized with an image of the year award at the Greater Lynn Photographic Association for the 2024-2025 competition cycle. She currently leads the Greater Lynn Photographic Association (MA) smartphone specialty group and was awarded the title MNEC, Master Member of NECCC in 2022.

## Look Ahead - Meetings and Competition Themes

### **February 2026**

Meeting Date: February 3rd  
Meeting Type: In Person  
Entry Format: Digital  
Deadline for Submission: **January 30th**  
Contest Theme: Black & White  
Guest Speaker: Parker Stewart

### **March 2026**

Meeting Date: March 10th  
Meeting Type: In Person  
Entry Format: Print  
Deadline for Submission: March 6th  
Contest Theme: Curves  
Guest Speaker / Topic: Kenny McKeithan – “Photographing the Night Sky”

### **April 2026**

Meeting Date: April 14th  
Meeting Type: In Person  
Entry Format: Digital  
Deadline for Submission: April 10th  
Contest Theme: It’s in the Eyes  
Guest Speaker: Jeff Coyle

### **May 2026**

Meeting Date: May 5th  
Meeting Type: In Person  
Entry Format: Digital  
Deadline for Submission: May 1st  
Contest Theme: Inspired by a Song (entry title must be a song title)  
Guest Speaker: Eric Horan

### **June, July & August - No Meetings**

## Feature Article

### **December Meeting Closes with a Picture-Perfect Celebration of Talent & Service**

*by Joe Turino*

Our club wrapped up 2025 with a picture-perfect finale at its December meeting, announcing the annual People's Choice Award winners, images selected after a year of monthly competitions judged by outside, non-member experts. Throughout the year, winning images advanced into a final pool, where club members voted to select the Best of Show People's Choice winners in each level and an overall Best of Show. The meeting also included a presentation of Service Awards recognizing outstanding contributions to the club.



In the Best of Show Novice category, Bob Yznaga earned People's Choice honors for his photograph "The Anglers." Bob said the recognition carried special meaning because it came directly from fellow members. "Being chosen as a People's Choice winner is deeply rewarding," he said. "I'm honored to have my creativity and effort recognized by my peers." He credited the club's field trips with creating unexpected opportunities. "If it weren't for a Photo Club field trip, I never would've been in the right place at the right time," Bob added, thanking members for their support.



The Best of Show Intermediate category award went to Ron Duponte for "Spectacled Owl." Ron said, "It is very gratifying to have an image recognized by my peers. It inspires me to work harder at my craft and continue this journey of learning and creating." He described wildlife photography as a balance between preparation—choosing lenses, anticipating light, and setting exposure—and opportunity, when a subject offers a brief, decisive moment. "In this case," Ron said, "it's when the owl's gaze met the lens."





In the Best of Show Advanced category, Jonathan Chase received People's Choice honors for "There's Always One," an image that also earned Best in Show, resulting in two ribbons. Jonathan said the recognition was especially meaningful because it came from photographers whose work he admires. The image was taken on a dirt road between two pastures on a horse farm near Lexington, Kentucky, where one horse's subtle posture stood apart from the group. "I enjoy finding moments like that," Jonathan explained, "where a simple observation hints at a larger story."



The Best of Show in Expert category People's Choice award was presented to Sophia Schade for "Dark Elegance," photographed during the Anhinga mating season in one of Sun City's lagoons in spring 2025. Sophia said the award reflected a strong connection with fellow members. "Knowing that members connected with my image and took the time to vote for it makes this especially rewarding," she said. The photograph features an Anhinga perched on a fallen tree stump, its distinctive bloomage feathers and blue eyes set against a softly blurred, dark background. Sophia thanked the club for its supportive culture and congratulated the other winners, calling the recognition "truly humbling."

Before the People's Choice winners were announced, John Hock, who heads club competitions, recognized the members who work behind the scenes to ensure each competition's success. He acknowledged the Competition Committee: Diane Brayden, Bob Kampwirth, Julie Kimmel, Tom Lehrer, Stan Lituchy, Keri Ricci, Fred Andrews, and Mike Davis.

"There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes," John said, noting the teamwork required to manage judges, entries, scoring, and presentations. He offered special recognition to Bob Kampwirth, who serves as the key link between judges and photographers, manages logistics, and produces the pre-meeting slideshow. John also recognized Tom Lehrer, who once again led the People's Choice process by assembling winners, developing the electronic ballot, tallying votes, and producing the final presentation. "Without these contributions," John noted, "our competitions and People's Choice would not be the finished products they are."

Service awards were presented to the winners by outgoing President Stan Holz, who reflected on another productive year.



The John Burrack Friends Helping Friends Award was presented to Tom Lehrer for his above-and-beyond commitment to helping others. “It was a genuine surprise and an honor,” Tom said, adding that many members give generously of their time and that there are never enough awards to recognize everyone.



The Richard de Asia Outstanding Contribution Award was presented to Barbara Reeves, who called the recognition humbling and appreciated. “There are so many members who contribute significantly to the success of our club,” she said.

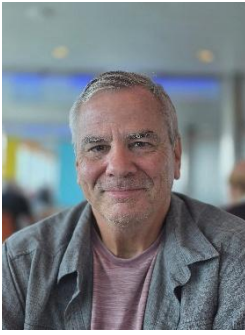


The Corky Burt Leadership Award was presented to Cindy Fiano for excellence and commitment in leadership. Cindy said she was surprised and honored. “It was a privilege to serve as education director,” she said, crediting members who teach and support classes.



Additional service recognition was presented to Mike Laferriere, who leads the club’s popular field trips. “It was an honor to receive the award and totally unexpected,” Mike said.





Ward Litzenberg, our club's newsletter editor, was also recognized for exceptional service. Ward has played a key role in enhancing Education Division processes in addition to serving as editor of the monthly newsletter. Traveling at the time of the meeting, Ward later shared, "I'm deeply honored to receive this award. Serving the photography club has been a rewarding experience, and I'm grateful to contribute to a community of Friends Helping Friends that inspires creativity and connection."

In closing remarks, Stan thanked the volunteers who support competitions, education, field trips, studio improvements, and communications, calling his two-year term as president a positive experience. As the club looks ahead to 2026 under incoming President Julia Parrish, the December meeting served as a reminder that the Photography Club's success is shaped not only by outstanding images, but by a community eager to learn, share, and support one another, consistent with "Friends Helping Friends."

---

## People's Choice Winner Reflections

Here are the People's Choice Winner's full answers to the three questions asked:

### **Novice Category Winner: Bob Yznaga for his photo titled "The Anglers"**

*1. How did it feel to be recognized as a People's Choice winner by fellow Photography Club members?*

Being chosen as a People's Choice winner is deeply rewarding. I'm honored to have my creativity and effort recognized by my peers.

*2. Is there anything you'd like to share about the winning photo you took?*

If it weren't for a Photo Club field trip, I never would've been in the right place at the right time.

*3. Is there anything else you'd like to add?*

Thank you to everyone in the club for your help and support.

**Intermediate Category Winner: Ron Duponte for his photo titled “Spectacled Owl”**

*1. How did it feel to be recognized as a People’s Choice winner by fellow Photography Club members?*

Art is always subjective, and sometimes what I perceive as an image that brings emotion or a feeling does not always resonate with others. I am still very much in the learning phase and trying to find my way. It is very gratifying to have an image recognized by my peers and is very much appreciated. It inspires me to work harder at my craft and continue this journey of learning and creating.

*2. Is there anything you’d like to share about the winning photo you took?*

Wildlife photography (very often in my case birds) is sometimes a culmination of: A) Preparation, what you can control. Choosing a lens, anticipating the light and distance. Making the best estimate on the settings. Setting up your equipment so you can make quick changes on the fly. B) Opportunity, what your subject will give you. These may be fleeting moments in time, where they are positioned correctly, the lighting favorable, the slight turn of a head to allow some catch light in their eyes. In this case it’s when the owl’s gaze met the lens.

*3. Is there anything else you’d like to add?*

I’m very thankful to be a member of the club, everyone I’ve had the opportunity to work with has been so helpful and kind. Having stepped away from the hobby for most of my working life there is so much to learn and catch up on. I am so looking forward to attending more classes and continuing to interact with all of the talented people we are blessed to have in this organization.

**Advanced Category Winner Category AND Best of Show Winner: Jonathan Chase for his photo “There’s Always One.”**

*1. How did it feel to be recognized as a People’s Choice winner by fellow Photography Club members?*

It was an honor. Being recognized by fellow photographers, people whose work I admire and learn from, means a great deal to me. There’s no greater compliment than knowing an image resonated with peers who understand both the creative and technical challenges behind the work.

*2. Is there anything you'd like to share about the winning photo you took?*

"There's Always One" was photographed on a dirt road between two pastures on a horse farm near Lexington, Kentucky. One group of yearlings stood calmly at the fence, watching another group across the road running and playing. What caught my attention was the subtle individuality within the group, how one horse, just slightly different in posture and presence, changed the rhythm of the scene. I enjoy finding moments like that, where a simple observation hints at a larger story without needing explanation.

*3. Is there anything else you'd like to add?*

I'm grateful to be part of a photography club that values thoughtful discussion, diverse styles, and personal vision. Thank you to everyone who took the time to view and respond to the image. It's encouragement like this that keeps me exploring and growing as a photographer.

**Expert Category Winner: Sophia Schade for her photo titled "Dark Elegance."**

*1. How did it feel to be recognized as a People's Choice winner by fellow Photography Club members?*

Being recognized as a People's Choice winner is incredibly meaningful to me. Knowing that fellow Photography Club members connected with my image and took the time to vote for it makes this honor especially rewarding. I am truly grateful for the encouragement, support, and sense of community within the club.

*2. Is there anything you'd like to share about the winning photo you took?*

This photograph was taken in the spring of 2025 during the Anhinga's mating and breeding season in one of the Sun City lagoons. At that time of year, Anhingas display their distinctive bloomage feathers and striking blue eyes. The bird was perched on a fallen tree stump, which provided enough separation from the background to allow me to softly blur the trees behind it, creating a dark, clean backdrop that highlights the bird's profile and detail.

*3. Is there anything else you'd like to add?*

I feel honored to be part of such talented and supportive Photography Club members. Thank you to everyone who voted and to all the members who continue to inspire and challenge me creatively. Congratulations as well to the other People's Choice winners, being included among such strong work is truly humbling.



**First Saturday Sales:** This event takes place on Saturday, January 3rd, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the photography studio and is open to all residents of Sun City.

**Open Studio:** All Open Studio sessions in January will give priority to members who reserve a print time (1:30, 2, 2:30, 3 and 3:30pm). Email your printing requests to John Burrack

[John.burrack@me.com](mailto:John.burrack@me.com) including the date, time range and type of print.

**Studio Fees:** It was reported that Studio Fees would be going up by 50% in December - these new fees have not yet been updated or released. 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 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](#)

---

## Education



Lake Somerset Walk Around - Phone Cameras

Welcome to 2026. I look forward to my new role as the Education Director for the Sun City Photography Club. I would like to thank Cindy Fiano, the outgoing director, for her leadership and guidance over the past two years. Cindy will continue supporting the education committee with strategic communications so you will continue to hear from her.

Over the next two years, the Education Committee will continue to identify and address the diverse needs of our ever-growing membership. Our goal is to create meaningful educational opportunities that empower members to become the photographers they aspire to be. With that in mind, the Education Committee has been hard at work preparing an exciting Winter Semester.

**We are happy to announce these new classes:**

- Street Photography: A Day in the Life with Rich Schaars (New Instructor!)
- Photoshop 101: Getting Started with Photoshop with Gerry Fagan
- Photoshop 102: Take Your Editing Skills to the Next Level with Gerry Fagan
- Fundamentals of Smart Phone Photography with Ward Litzenberg
- Getting Started with the ProShot Camera App with Ward Litzenberg
- How to use Photopills and Photograph the Moon with Bob Seltzer
- Why Light Matters with Sophia Schade
- Travel Tips for Phone Users with Freddi Hoffmann

**Back by popular demand, and in case you missed them, we are offering:**

- How to use the Studio Printer (2 classes) with Gracene Peluso
- Precut Mats (2 classes) with Steve Tate (take Printer and Matting back to back)
- Wildlife Photography with Smartphone with Bob Kampwirth
- Railroad Photography Seminar with Doug Scott
- Getting Started - Samsung Galaxy Phone Camera with Rick VanDette
- Touch/Retouch with Barb Reeves
- Apple Photos with Bob Kampwirth
- From Street Photography to Social Landscape Photography with Jim Smith
- Simple Editing with LR Mobile with Freddi Hoffmann
- Don't Say Cheese-Expressions & Poses for Portraits with Bobby Porto
- Simple Editing - Samsung Galaxy Gallery Editor with Ward Litzenberg
- Composition Guidelines for Novices with Freddi Hoffmann
- Tell Stories Through Your Photos with Sophia Schade
- Making Your Own Photo Cards with Karen McCarthy
- Mindful Photography with Cindy Fiano

The Winter Semester classes are scheduled from January 26 through March 27. The course catalog will be emailed January 12 (club listserv by Cindy). Online registration for classes opens January 19 at 2pm. You can get a sneak peek at the schedule by reviewing the Club calendar.

If you have skills or experience in a particular area of photography, think about becoming an instructor to share what you know. "Friends Helping Friends" isn't just our motto - it's how we strengthen our club. When members share their knowledge, the whole club benefits. Every one of us has something valuable to offer.



Questions? Email [pcschheducation@gmail.com](mailto:pcschheducation@gmail.com). The Education Committee hopes these classes ignite your creativity, challenge your imagination, and guide you toward developing a unique personal vision—one that shines through in more expressive and artful images.

Ward Litzenberg

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

---

## Club Trips

Hope you had a great Holiday with family and friends!

Looking back at 2025, it great year for Club Trips. There were 14 of the scheduled 15 trips completed. We had a good streak going until Mother Nature stepped in and decided the weather would not cooperate for our last Club Trip for the Darien Shrimp Boat Sunrise and Jekyll Island trip. The number of travelers on Club Trips has increased over the past four years. A couple of new areas we are tracking are Guests and Members on their 1st Club Trip.

Description	2025 Final	2024 Final	2023 Final	2022 Final
Total Planned Club Trips	15	14	18	11
Total Completed Club Trips	14	11	16	8
Total Canceled Club Trips	1	3	2	3
Total Registered Travelers	277	276	251	77
Total Cancellations	41	54	39	n/a
Total Travelers	236	222	212	n/t
Total Guests	18	n/t	n/t	n/t
1st Club Trip	23	n/t	n/t	n/t

n/t – not tracked

## **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 sites 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.

## Club Trip Parking

### Day Trips

We have a new “Meet Up/Day Trip Parking” location for Club Trips. The designated location is the parking lot across from the Photography Club Studio. This location was selected due to its proximity to the studio. A Parking Permit is not required for Day Trips.

### Overnight Parking Requirements

For Multi-Day Trips it is highly recommended the drivers pick up riders at their residence or the riders have someone drop them off at the “Day Trip Meet Up” location “A” on the Parking Diagram provided below. We do not recommend parking your vehicles in the designated Pinckney Hall Overnight Parking area “B” on the Parking Diagram unless it is absolutely necessary for multi-day trips.

### The Community Association Requirements

Section 31.3 Parking (page 44) of the “Sun City Hilton Head 2026 Schedule of Fees and Community Rules” states the following (these are the pertinent sections):

- Resident vehicles may not be parked between 2 a.m. and sunrise on residential streets, parking lots or adjacent to Community Association facilities.
- For sponsored or approved trips with transportation by bus, parking for travelers is permitted based upon availability and approval through the Lifestyle Services Department and Securitas... Travelers should carpool or be dropped off at the departure point if possible to minimize parking. **Cars must display:**
  1. A Valid Sun City Decal
  2. A Dashboard Pass provided by the trip organizer (i.e., Photo Club trip)
- A list of residents that will be utilizing the parking area shall be provided to the Main Gate.

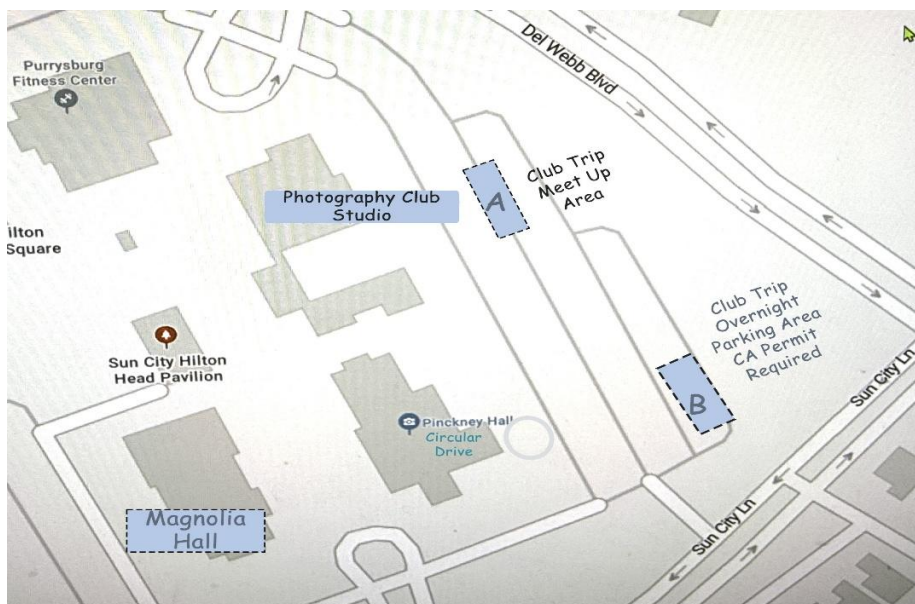
We'll be contacting Lifestyles Services and Securitas to get clarification on the parking request process. Non-Compliance will result in Securitas writing a parking ticket and fine.

## Parking Diagram

Below is a diagram showing the designated Club Trip Parking Areas

A. Meet Up/Day Trip Parking”

B. Overnight Parking - Community Association Permit Required



## Upcoming Club Trips

2026 is shaping up to be another good year for Club Trips! The New Year starts off with two of our favorite destinations/events: the Florida Wetlands and the Battle at Broxton Bridge. The Photography Club’s Trip Committee is also evaluating the following destinations:

- St. Augustine & the Alligator Farm – March/April
- Magnolia Plantation - March/April
- Bonaventure Cemetery – March/April
- Golf Course Nature Tour – Dates TBD
- Beidler Audubon Forest – May

## ⇒ Florida Wetlands - Sunday January 25th to Wednesday January 28th



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. We are adding a new destination, Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge to this year's trip. There may be a rocket launch scheduled during our stay, but we will not know until late December/early January if there will be a launch. The Orlando Wetlands guided tram ride tour was a popular addition in 2025. We are working with the staff at the Orlando Wetlands to arrange another one on this trip.

To register for the Florida Wetlands & Cape Canaveral Rocket Launch, click on the following link: [Florida Wetlands & Cape Canaveral Rocket Launch 2026](#)

**Hotel Reservations:** If you are considering going on this Club Trip, you need to make your hotel reservations at the Hyatt Place in Titusville by January 4th to get the discounted rate. There are two ways to make your reservations at the Hyatt Place Hotel: Online or Calling the hotel. For both methods you will need the stay dates for the Group Rate to come up.

### **Stay Dates**

Check in on Sunday January 25th

Check-Out Wednesday January 28th

### **Online Reservations**

When making your hotel reservations using the Online method, Click on the following Link:

[https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/florida/hyatt-place-titusville-kennedy-space-center/mcozt?corp\\_id=G-SUN1](https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/florida/hyatt-place-titusville-kennedy-space-center/mcozt?corp_id=G-SUN1)



## Telephone Reservations

Call the Hyatt Place Hotel directly at 321-383-2280

Tell them you are with the Sun City Hilton Head Photography Group Block and confirm the stay dates above

### ⇒ 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)

Look forward to seeing on one of the upcoming Field Trips!

Mike Laferriere  
Club Trip Coordinator

## User Groups

### **Canon R Mirrorless**



The Canon R-Users Group (Canon R-UG) 2026 MEETING DATES AND TIME CHANGES: Canon R-UG will begin meeting at 1pm on the 3rd Monday of each month starting January 19, 2026. Meetings will be in the Studio unless otherwise noted on the PCSC Calendar. This Group is open to members with Canon's "R" series mirror-less cameras and any other PCSC 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 at each meeting. You are also welcome to bring some pictures to share. Each month we seek to have a member share experience with one or more equipment/menu capabilities they have explored or images captured. 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**



The LUMIX group is suspending monthly meetings but will offer some field trips in 2026. Look for emails from Freddi. 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.

---



Please join us in welcoming the Sun City Photography Club's newest members, bringing our membership count to 539 current members:

Bill Armon  
Alan Oliver

Dottie Edmondson  
Pauline Oliver

Gene Whannel  
Julie Proctor

Debby Willard

Note: We will be purging the membership files in January so if you have not renewed and wish to remain a member, please go to the website ([pcschh.org](https://pcschh.org)) and click Join/Renew to renew your membership

---



**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 January Photographer of the Month is Barbara Reeves. 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 Barbara 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 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/>