

Photography Club of Sun City - June Newsletter

June 1, 2026



A letter from
Julia
Parrish
Sun City Photography
Club President

As we head into the summer months, our regular club meetings will take a short seasonal break. While we will not be holding monthly meetings during the summer, there are still plenty of opportunities to stay connected, continue learning, and enjoy photography together.

Many of our User Groups will continue to meet, offering great opportunities to share ideas, learn new

techniques, and connect with fellow members who share your interests. We will also continue to schedule Pop-Up events throughout the summer, giving everyone chances to get out, photograph new subjects, and enjoy time together.

In addition, our Tuesday Help Sessions will remain available for anyone needing assistance with photography questions, software, equipment, or editing techniques. These sessions are a wonderful resource, whether you are learning something new or looking for help solving a specific challenge.

We encourage everyone to stay involved over the summer, continue photographing, and take advantage of these opportunities to learn and share your creativity. Summer is a wonderful time to explore new locations, experiment with different techniques, and capture memorable moments.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in our club activities. We look forward to seeing everyone throughout the summer and welcoming you back to our regular meetings in the fall.

Wishing you a safe, enjoyable, and creative summer.

Julia Parrish

Competitions

Announcing “Second Look”

If you entered (or will enter) a photo in any of the Photography Club’s monthly competitions in 2026 (January–November) **and it did not win an award**, this brand-new December event may be perfect for you.

It’s called **Second Look** - your second chance, with a *different* judge. Even better, it will run alongside **People’s Choice** to make the December meeting especially fun and lively.

How Second Look Works

- Open to any member who submitted an image to a monthly competition (January – November 2026) **and did not receive an award**.
- Only **one entry per member**.
- This is a **print competition with a digital entry**.
 - A physical print **must** be brought and displayed at the December 2026 meeting.
- The theme is **Open**, regardless of the image’s original theme.
- **Eligibility window:** Only (non-winning) images submitted for January–November 2026 competitions may be entered.
- Competition points will be awarded.
- Members must submit the **exact same image** originally entered — **no edits, improvements, or modifications** allowed.
- **Deadline:** Midnight, Friday, **November 20, 2026**.
- Members must enter at the **competition level they currently hold**.
 - Example: If you are now in Advanced, you may submit an image originally entered as Intermediate, but it will be judged at the Advanced level.

Instructions for submitting your entry are being finalized and will be shared soon. Stay tuned — this is going to be a fun addition to our year-end celebration.

Look Ahead - Meetings and Competition Themes

June, July & August - No Meetings

For planning purposes, here are the contest themes and entry formats scheduled through November and the themes for 2027. This overview should help you prepare your images, explore new ideas, and pace your creative work throughout the year.

September 2026

Theme: Patterns/Repetition

Entry Format: Print

October 2026

Theme: Portrait of a Person

Entry Format: Digital

November 2026

Theme: Street Photography

Entry Format: Print

December 2026

Theme: People's Choice & Second Look

2027 Themes

January – Holidays

February – Still Life

March – Black & White

April – Macro/Close-Up

May – Through a Portal

September – Family & Friends

October – Complementary Colors

November – Things Military

December – People's Choice

Feature Article

Members Favorite Photo Spots Offer Summer Inspiration

by Joe Turino

In the spirit of our club's motto, "Friends Helping Friends," several longtime club members were asked to share favorite places to photograph — or ideas for enjoyable photo outings — within about an hour of Sun City. Their suggestions revealed something exciting: whether you shoot with a DSLR, mirrorless camera, point-and-shoot, or smartphone, inspiration may be much closer than you think.

Among those sharing favorite spots were Dale Methven, Sandy Holz, John Burrack, Barbara Reeves, Michael Laferriere, Robert "Bob" Kampwirth, Ellen Scott, Gracene Peluso, Diane Brayden, and Tom Mills. Together, their recommendations painted a picture of a Lowcountry filled with opportunities for photographers of every interest and experience level.

Savannah quickly emerged as one of the most frequently recommended destinations. Barbara, Michael, Gracene, and Tom praised the city's endless photographic possibilities, from River Street, Forsyth Park, and Savannah's famous squares to architecture, lively festivals, gardens, historic settings, and colorful people. Tom especially enjoys photographing around Forsyth Park, where musicians, markets, and spontaneous moments often unfold naturally. John added Charleston and Shem Creek for scenic day trips featuring waterfronts, plantations, architecture, cemeteries, and classic Lowcountry charm.

Beaufort and the surrounding Sea Islands ranked just as high. South Carolina's Sea Islands — including Hilton Head, Daufuskie, St. Helena, Edisto, Fripp, Hunting, Johns, James, Kiawah, and Seabrook islands — offer a rich mix of coastal scenery, history, wildlife, and Gullah culture. Dale, John, Michael, and Gracene highlighted Beaufort's waterfront views, shrimp boats, quiet streets, historic homes, churches, marshes, and Spanish moss-draped oaks that seem made for photography. Nearby Port Royal's Cypress Wetlands and Bird Sanctuary also earned praise from Sandy, Barbara, Michael, and Bob as favorite stops for birds, turtles, ducks, alligators, waterfront scenes, and seasonal wildlife activity.

Closer to home, Sun City's Butterfly Garden at Lake Somerset stood out as another clear favorite. Sandy, Barbara, Ellen, and John praised its colorful flowers, butterflies, hummingbirds, birds, bees, and changing seasonal activity that makes every visit different.

Additional ideas came from members who enjoy quieter natural settings and varied scenery. Sandy recommended Donnelley Wildlife Management Area and Pinckney Island for marshes, turtles, birds, and landscapes. Dale pointed to Audubon Trails Preserve in Hilton Head, Sgt. Jasper Park, Bluffton's Promenade area, Baynard Ruins, and Calhoun Street for flora, architecture, storefronts, signage, churches, and moss-covered streets. Gracene enjoys James Webb Wildlife Center for songbirds and wooded settings, while Diane suggested Honey Horn Plantation for trails, gardens, flowers, butterflies, and historic surroundings. Barbara also recommended Fish Haul Beach for shells, shoreline textures, and coastal views.

Tom encouraged photographers who enjoy candid people photography to visit local festivals and community events where colorful moments naturally unfold.

Bob offered an important reminder that photography inspiration does not always require travel, sharing that one favorite place to photograph is simply “his backyard” — proof that memorable images may sometimes be found just steps from home.

While our club meetings pause during June, July, and August and resume in September, summer remains a wonderful time to head out and shoot. Watch your email for pop-up classes and check the club calendar on the website for updates and activities.

As you explore this summer, members may also want to keep an eye out for patterns and repetition, the theme of September’s Monthly Competition. Meetings resume September 8, with print entries due September 4. Whether you photograph with a camera or smartphone, now is a great time to notice repeating shapes, textures, shadows, reflections, flowers, architecture, or everyday scenes that could inspire a competition entry. Most of all, get out, explore, and enjoy doing what our members love — taking photographs.

Favorite Photo Spots - Repeated Suggestions

Savannah (Forsyth Park, River Street, Squares)	Beaufort / Sea Islands	Cypress Wetlands / Port Royal Bird Sanctuary	Lake Somerset Butterfly Garden	Savannah National Wildlife Refuge	Pinckney Island / Preserve
Barbara	Dale	Sandy	Sandy	Michael	Sandy
Michael	John	Barbara	Barbara	Ellen	Dale
Gracene	Michael	Michael	John		
Tom	Gracene	Bob	Ellen		

Editorial Note: Savannah (Forsyth Park, River Street, and the Squares) are treated as one grouped destination, and Beaufort/Sea Islands as another to simplify repeated suggestions and reflect how locations are combined in the story.

Favorite Photo Spots - Unique Suggestions

James Webb Wildlife Center - Gracene

Honey Horn Plantation - Diane

Fish Haul Beach - Barbara
Donnelley Wildlife Management Area - Sandy
Sgt. Jasper Park - Dale
Bluffton Promenade Area - Dale
Calhoun Street, Bluffton – Dale
Baynard Ruins / Sea Pines / Harbour Town / Salty Dog Area – Dale
Beaufort Sunset Launch Area (2nd Bridge) - Dale
Bonaventure Cemetery - Tom
Savannah Gardens / Forts - Tom
Your Backyard – Bob
Penn Center – John
Charleston / Shem Creek - John



First Saturday Sales: This event takes place on the first Saturday of every month from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the photography studio and is open to all residents of Sun City. Dates over the summer include June 6th, July 4th, and August 1st.

Open Studio: Open Studio will continue on Tuesdays from 1:30–4:00 PM throughout the summer. Please note that sessions may close early—around 3:00 PM—if no members are waiting for assistance at that time. Looking ahead, the September 8 General Meeting will feature a Print competition, so we'll be giving printing priority through advance sign-ups beginning August 4.

Orientation: Although orientation sessions are on hold over the summer months, you can still sign up for sessions beginning in September – just remember to put the date and time on your calendar. These sessions are designed for new or newer Photography Club members to introduce them to the Studio, our equipment, and the many facets of the club. Each session is led by members of the club's leadership team, with brief introductions from the club's officers to help you get acquainted with the people who keep the club running. [Sign up here](#)

Education

With the Spring Semester ending in mid-June, our volunteer instructors will be offering **summer pop-ups throughout July and August**. These informal sessions and meet-ups are designed for members who remain in Sun City during those HOT summer months. While the process will be more relaxed, the sessions will be just as welcoming and educational. **Information and registration details will be sent by email one to two weeks before each pop-up.**

In June, the Education Committee will begin planning classes for the **Fall Semester**, which will run from **September 14 through November 20**. The **Fall Class Catalog** is scheduled to be sent to members on **August 31**, and **registration will open on September 7**. Additional details will be shared in the September newsletter.

Within the next week, we'll be sharing an article on **Why We Edit** along with an important member survey focusing on editing that will help shape future classes and programs, all coming within the next week.

If you have a class you would like to see offered or if you are willing to offer a class, please send me an email at pcschheducation@gmail.com.

Ward Litzenberg
pcschheducation@gmail.com

Club Trips

Club Trip Leaders, Doug Scott and Laurie Kellum, are already working on Fall and Winter trips. We are currently planning a day trip for the third week of September, and we may add a summer pop-up or two if schedules allow. We also anticipate returning to Titusville, Florida in early 2027.

If anyone is interested in leading a Milky Way outing, please let Doug know. We'd love to offer one if we have a willing leader.

Doug Scott
Club Trip Coordinator

User Groups

Nikon: We will be meeting on June 12th but **we will not meet in July or August.** This forum is for Nikon camera users to learn, ask questions, and share their knowledge about Nikon cameras of all types, along with lenses and accessories. We will resume our regular schedule—the second Friday of each month at 10:30 AM in the Studio—starting in September. Contact Bob Seltzer robertseltzer6378@gmail.com for information.

Canon R-Users Group: Monthly Meetings are on the 3rd Monday of the month at 1:00 PM in the Studio and plan to continue through the Summer. The June 15th meeting topic will be about using the “HDR” settings in our Cameras. Members are asked to capture some comparison images with and without enabling HDR features and to bring images to share. Meeting topics for July and August will be sent out to the mailing list. If you want to be included for the User Group’s mailings sign up here: [PCSC Canon R-Usergroup Contact List](#)

Phone Photography: We are taking a break over the summer (**not meeting in June, July or August**). We will resume our regular schedule— on the first Wednesday each month on **ZOOM** from 1:00 - 2:30 PM—starting in September. To join this group contact Sue Flynn at sueparkerflynn@gmail.com

Sony – Mirrorless: We are taking a break over the summer (**not meeting in June, July or August**), but we will have some Sony local shooting trips over the summer. We will resume our regular schedule—every 4th Thursday from 10 AM to Noon in the studio—starting in September. In addition to the studio meetings, there are planned local field trips. Contact Everett Denning, etdenning@gmail.com for information and to get on our mailing list.

Comp: We **will be meeting throughout the summer.** This group is designed as a next step for Fundamentals students and other non-experts. The focus is on good composition, not monthly competition themes. Critiques of assignments and/or shooting expeditions may be included. Monthly Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 1:00-3:00 PM Contact Dale Methven, dalemethven@aol.com for information.

Creativity /Critique: there will be **no Friday Critiques** in the month of **June and July.** We will return to our normal meetings—on the 3rd Friday of the month from 2:00-4:00 PM—starting in August.



MAY MEETING NEWS

May Competition Winners

Theme: "Inspired by a Song"

Judge: Eric Horan

NOVICE



1st Place - "It's Tulip Time in Holland", Barb Watson

2nd Place - "Over the Rainbow", Michael Waleryszak

3rd Place - "Rocky Raccoon", Ellen Scott

HM - "Earth Angel", Kathy Kight

INTERMEDIATE



1st Place - "Ain't No Mountain High Enough", Karen Jacobs

2nd Place - "Down Under", Mike Wahl

3rd Place - "Cocaine", Jim Faris

HM - "Mary, Did You Know", Robert Browning

ADVANCED



- 1st Place - "Starry Starry Night", Joyce Fowler
2nd Place - "Riders on the Storm", Sandy Holz
3rd Place - "Just the Two of Us", Everett Denning
HM - "Back in the Saddle Again", Barb Puceta

EXPERT



- 1st Place - "Under the Boardwalk", Julia Parrish
2nd Place - "Break On Through", Steve Tate
3rd Place - "Eleanor Rigby", Dale Methven
HM - "Teach Your Children", Jonathan Chase

Competition Category Advancements

There were no advancements as a result of the May competition.

In other news

Congratulations to Sophia Schade, who recently returned from the 4th Photography Society of America (PSA) Photo Gathering Vietnam 2026 Competition, where her image ***Ritual of Motion*** was selected as one of only ten winning photographs out of more than 258 submissions. Her image first placed in the Top 25 finalists and then advanced into the Top 10 Gold Medal winners.

Sophia shared, “This was my second PSA gathering, and I am incredibly honored to have received my second Gold Medal in a row. It was a proud and unforgettable moment to represent not only myself, but also the passion, patience, and storytelling that photography brings to my life.”

Speaking about her winning image, she explained: “While many photographers captured the obvious beauty of nearly 30 women performing the traditional drum ceremony at Bai Dinh Pagoda, I wanted to photograph something deeper — the spirit, movement, and emotion I felt standing there in that sacred space.”

She continued: “Bai Dinh Pagoda is known for its spirituality, scale, and powerful cultural presence, and as the drums echoed through the courtyard, I felt completely immersed in the energy of the moment. Instead of documenting exactly what was in front of me, I used a slow shutter iPhone app and intentional camera movement (ICM) to create an image that expressed how the scene felt rather than simply how it looked. The flowing reds and golds became a visual interpretation of rhythm, tradition, and spiritual connection — a moment where photography became emotion, movement, and memory all at once.”



Ritual in Motion - Sophia Schade- ICM



Gold Medal Winners - 4th PSA Photo Gathering



Please join us in welcoming the Sun City Photography Club's newest members, bringing our membership count to 473 current members:

Alyssa Robertson
Michael Waleryszak

Lauren O'Donnell

Michael O'Donnell

Teresa Sutherland



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 with any suggestions.

Photographer of the Month

Photographer of the Month will take a short vacation during the summer and **will return in September.**

If you would like to nominate someone as Photographer of the Month, including yourself, please email 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 and put your Name and Photo Title in the subject line of the email. Only one 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 pcschhgalleries@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

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