

Photography Club of Sun City - September Newsletter

September 1, 2026



A letter from
Julia
Parrish
Sun City Photography
Club President

Welcome back from a very hot summer. I hope everyone took advantage of our class pop-ups, user groups, and studio help sessions throughout the summer. We're looking forward to cooler temperatures and getting back outside to photograph the beautiful Lowcountry. And what better way to get started than with an exciting local field trip in September? We'll visit the Chapel of

Ease on St. Helena Island, then head to Fort Fremont, and finish the day in Port Royal for lunch and, if you'd like, more opportunities to photograph. It's a great chance to get out, explore some wonderful local locations, and enjoy photographing with fellow club members. Read more about this trip in this newsletter and on our website.

We will be back together on September 8th for our membership meeting at Hidden Cypress. The slideshow of competition entries will run from 6:30–7:00 PM, followed by a short business meeting. We are excited to welcome Robert Rommell as our guest speaker. Robert has been a friend of our club for many years and has led several workshops that many of our members have enjoyed and benefited from. Over the past several years, Robert has traveled extensively, photographing locations around the world, so I'm sure he will have plenty of wonderful stories and images to share with us.

Our competition theme is Patterns/Repetition, and digital entries are due September 4th by midnight. This is a print competition, so be sure to follow the competition rules when preparing and printing your entry and remember to bring your print to the meeting.

Looking ahead to October, we will have our annual Club Fair on October 3rd from 10:00 AM–1:00 PM. We have requested two tables and expect this to be a busy event, with lots of interest from new members and opportunities for sign-ups. If you would like to volunteer to help at our tables, please let me know. This is one of our most important networking and outreach events, giving us a great opportunity to connect with new and

prospective members and introduce them to all that our club has to offer. As always, it should be an exciting event, and I hope you'll join us.

We will also be introducing a new event in October that we plan to continue semiannually. Mark your calendars for "Photographic Journeys" on October 20th at Hidden Cypress Ballroom. This exciting new event will give members an opportunity to share the stories, experiences, and inspiration behind their photography while connecting with fellow photographers. Read more about the event in this newsletter, and please plan to join us. I think it will be a wonderful evening of photography, conversation, and inspiration.

It seems so long ago, but congratulations to our May "Inspired by a Song" winners. What a fun theme and winning photos have been featured in our studio window all summer.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Corky Burt, Rich de Asla, Cathy Thiem and John Burrack for their many years of excellent management and support of our studio. They aren't going anywhere, but they are stepping down from the day-to-day management of our equipment and supplies. I cannot express how much their expertise, dedication, and countless hours have benefited our club. They have done an outstanding job keeping our studio running smoothly, and they certainly leave some big shoes to fill.

I'm pleased to announce that Greg Cunningham has agreed to take on the role of Studio Manager, and Marshall Ponzi will serve as our new Studio Technology Manager. They are already in place and doing a wonderful job as they take over these responsibilities.

Please join me in thanking Corky, Rich, Cathy, and John for all they have done for our club, and in welcoming Greg and Marshall to their new roles. Thank you also to everyone who volunteers their time each Tuesday to support and help our members. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated members willing to step up and help keep our studio moving forward.

I hope to see everyone on September 8th. Until then, keep shooting and enjoying the beautiful Lowcountry.

Julia Parrish

Monthly Meeting

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 7 pm

Meeting Type: In Person

Meeting Location: Hidden Cypress Ballroom

The slideshow will begin at 6:30 pm

Competitions

Contest Theme: Patterns/Repetition

Contest Entry Format: Print

Deadline for Contest Submission: Digital entry by midnight Friday, September 4th

For print competitions, both a digital version and a printed version are required. Submit the digital version by the deadline and in accordance with the digital version [guidelines](#).

Special Reminder: Please have your print set up for display in the ballroom by **6:15 PM**. The judge reviews digital entries ahead of time, but the **final decisions are based on seeing the actual prints**. Let's make sure yours is in place and looking its best.

As a reminder, all photos must have a hard backing such as dry mounting, foam core (no thicker than 1/4") 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".

All identifying marks, such as watermarks, signatures and initials, must be removed by the photographer prior to entry. Complete anonymity is necessary to prevent any bias, favorable or unfavorable, that may exist with a particular judge.

Speaker and Competition Judge: Robert Rommel

Presentation Topic: “Creating a Sense of Place in Nature Photography”

Robert Rommel is an award-winning fine art wildlife and nature photographer whose work resides in galleries and private collections on five continents.

Robert has devoted his life to nature starting from an early childhood with every free hour spent in the marshes, beaches, swamps, forests and streams of the eastern United States, watching the salamanders, turtles, herons, and alligators that lived there. That passion led to an initial education and career in biology and ecology before the camera beckoned. In 2011 he moved full-time to Bluffton and began his photography career. Awards in national and international competitions followed, along with juried shows across the Southeast and, in 2017, his own fine art gallery in Old Town Bluffton.

For the past two years Robert has been traveling the world — five continents so far — photographing the planet's wildest remaining places, with work spanning wildlife, landscapes, and underwater.

His greatest hope is that his images build an emotional bond between people and the natural world, and that beauty inspires us to protect what's left of it.

Check out Robert Rommel’s Gallery of Nature: robertrommel.com

Look Ahead - Meetings and Competition Themes

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

“Photographic Journeys” to Showcase Members’ Creative Stories

by Joe Turino

This fall, our club will launch an exciting new program that takes members behind the images to discover the inspiration, challenges and creative growth that shape a photographer’s journey. “Photographic Journeys” will debut Tuesday, October 20, from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. at Hidden Cypress, celebrating members’ creativity, talent and our “Friends Helping Friends” spirit.

“We are excited about this new event for our members,” Club President Julia Parrish said. “It is a wonderful opportunity to gain experience from fellow photographers as they share what inspires them and what drives their passion for photography.”

Julia also recognized the member responsible for bringing the program to life. “A special thank you to Shashi Cooduvalli for coming up with this wonderful idea and, most importantly, for making it a reality,” she said.

Planned as a twice-yearly event, “Photographic Journeys” will display members’ work while encouraging everyone to exchange ideas, share experiences and discover new inspiration in a casual setting.

The evening will begin with an interactive gallery walk from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. A Google form will be sent to all members in September for those who wish to register to display a photograph. The first 20 members who sign up will each display one printed photograph and explain the inspiration, techniques, and story behind their work. Photographers of every level of experience, from newcomers to experts, are encouraged to participate. Light snacks will add to the relaxed, conversational atmosphere.

From 7:15 to 8:15 p.m., featured presenters Barbara Reeves, Tom Mills and Gerry Fagan will each present “My Photographic Journey Told Through My Photographs.” Using five carefully selected images, they will share milestones in their photographic growth, from early work and breakthrough moments to challenging photographs and images that helped shape their artistic vision.

Each presentation will conclude with a question-and-answer session, giving members an opportunity to gain firsthand insight into each photographer’s experiences and creative development.

The program is designed to demonstrate how photographers grow through experimentation and continual learning. Beyond displaying outstanding photography, “Photographic Journeys” will encourage conversation, foster member-to-member learning, and celebrate the diverse talents within our club.

“I felt this was a wonderful opportunity for our club members to come together and explore photographic adventures of our own,” said Shashi, who developed this idea. “It also offers a welcoming space to mingle, connect, and engage with fellow photographers while enjoying their displays.”



First Saturday Sales: This event takes place on Saturday, September 5th, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm in the photography studio and is open to all residents of Sun City.

Open Studio: Sessions are scheduled on Tuesdays from 1:30-4pm. For the remainder of the year, we will continue to provide Printing, Mounting and Matting of photos on a priority basis for those who sign up in advance. [Click Here](#) . Walk-in printing will be taken if there are openings; Bring print-ready photos on a flash drive and check in with the Monitor when you arrive to see if time is available. Open Studio is also a place to bring camera questions or information about Club activities.

Monthly Competitions Survey: Your club leadership continues to review our processes to ensure we are meeting the needs of our members. To do that effectively, we need your input to help guide us. With that in mind, we have a short survey to gather your thoughts as we look at our competition and judging processes. Your feedback will help us understand what works well and where there may be opportunities for improvement. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Your input is important and will help guide us moving forward. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. <https://forms.gle/SnwDkr4CPGJocpsa9>

Orientation: Orientation sessions are scheduled from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on September 28th, October 26th, November 30th and December 28th. These sessions are geared towards new (or newer) Photography Club members and will introduce you to the club’s website, the studio and the many facets of our 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](#)

New Studio and Palmetto Commons Displays: Be sure to stop by our two new photography displays. The studio now features a fresh collection of member images—beautifully curated and installed. Thank you to **Bob Ricketts** and everyone who helped bring it to life. We also have a new display at **Palmetto Commons**, where Sun City invited us to showcase our work in the corridor that welcomes new residents and we expect it will spark great interest from newcomers. Special thanks to **Bruce Marshall, Gracene Peluso, and Mike Davis** for coordinating and installing this exhibit. These displays offer wonderful visibility for our club and highlight the impressive talent of our members while introducing our work to the broader Sun City community.

Education

The Fall 2026 Semester kicks off on September 14 and runs through November 21. The full course catalog is now available, featuring several new classes and helpful guidance for members, especially those using phone cameras, with a recommended class sequence outlined in the first pages.

Registration opens September 7 at 2 PM. Members will receive the registration link that day. Before signing up, review your calendar to ensure you can attend all sessions of any multi-session class. After submitting the form, you'll receive an email confirming whether you're registered or waitlisted.

The Education Committee looks forward to helping you continue developing your creative vision and expanding your photographic skills. For questions, contact Ward Litzenberg at pcscheducation@gmail.com.

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Club Trips

We've got two great outings on the horizon. First up is our **September 16 morning trip** to St. Helena Island, where we'll photograph the **Chapel of Ease** and **Fort Fremont Preserve**. Both spots are easy to access, perfect for any type of camera, and best enjoyed once the sun climbs a bit higher—so no extra-early wake-up call.

Our big **Fall trip** is also set. This year we're heading back to the **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** from **October 26–30**. After juggling schedules, room availability, and budgets, this window gives us the best chance at catching beautiful **late-season color**. Expect elk (lots of elk), waterfalls, old barns, and plenty of classic Smokies scenery.

Registration is now open for the September 16 excursion, and the Smokies registration will follow shortly. Check out the [Trips](#) page on the club website.

Doug Scott
Club Trip Coordinator

User Groups

NEW! Announcing our new **Lightroom User Group**

All currently active, experienced, users of Lightroom Classic and Lightroom (aka Lightroom CC) are invited to join. This group is for sharing experiences and learning from each other via structured conversations led by various group members. Members will not only improve their Lightroom skills but also learn new ways to approach photography. Please note... While this group is intended for experienced Lightroom users and does not cover Lightroom mobile users, we don't want to exclude anyone. Please check club's upcoming class catalog for opportunities to get acquainted with Lightroom and grow your mobile editing skills.

Our first meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 17, from 1:00-3:00pm** in the River Oaks room of Spanish Moss Hall (Sun City West Amenities Center). Subsequent monthly meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month, 1:00-3:00pm (locations TBD, so check the club calendar).

If you haven't already joined, or have questions about the User Group, please email Marshall Ponzi at marshall.ponzi@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 for information.

Canon R-Users Group: We meet monthly on the 3rd Monday at 1pm in the Studio. This Group is primarily for members with Canon “R-series” Mirrorless Cameras and any others wanting to know more about these systems. We are looking to schedule some photo opportunities for the remainder of the year. If you want to be included for the User Group’s mailings sign up here: [PCSC Canon R-Usergroup Contact List](#)

Phone Photography: The Phone Photography User Group will not be meeting in September. Starting in November, we will meet 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



Please join us in welcoming the Sun City Photography Club's newest members, bringing our membership count to 476 current members:

Michael O'Donnell
David Cerqua

Lauren O'Donnell

Alyssa Robertson

Camille Titone

New member badges will be available for pick-up at our monthly membership meetings. We will start the yearly renewal process next month on October 1 so renew early to avoid the reminders.



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.

Click the links below to visit these exciting features

Photographer of the Month Our September Photographer of the Month is **John Burrack**. Meet John 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 Bruce Marshall at bgmarshall@earthlink.net

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

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