

Photography Club of Sun City - October Newsletter

October 1, 2026



A letter from
Julia
Parrish
Sun City Photography
Club President

Welcome to October. We've survived the heat and the storms, and hopefully some cooler weather is finally here to enjoy. We have a club trip to the Smoky Mountains at the end of the month, so it's a great opportunity to get away with your fellow members, enjoy the fall colors and cooler weather, and photograph waterfalls, old barns, mountains, elk and maybe even a few bears.

Our next meeting is October 13th, and we are fortunate to have Melanie Dunea back as our speaker. It will be a Zoom meeting, with the slideshow of competition entries beginning at 6:30 pm and the meeting at 7:00 pm. The Zoom link will be sent via the Listserv closer to the meeting. Melanie captivated us last year with her knowledge and experience as a renowned photographer, so I'm sure this meeting will be just as interesting. Check out her website (www.melaniedunea.com) beforehand and plan to join us.

Congratulations to everyone who entered last month's competition. The winning photos are on the website if you'd like to view them again. The theme for October is Portrait of a Person, and digital entries are due Friday, October 9th. Melanie is well known for her portrait photography, so she will be a wonderful judge for this month's competition.

October will be a busy month for the club.

Sun City will hold its annual Club Fair on October 3rd from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This is a perfect time to stop by, support your club, and renew your membership. We'll have a few giveaways when you renew, so make sure to visit us. The studio will also be open with Saturday Sales, and Sun City plans to have food trucks, so it should be an exciting time around Pinckney and Town Center.

On October 20th, we'll have a new event, Photographic Journeys at Hidden Cypress Ballroom from 6:30 – 8:15. There was an informative write-up about this event in our

September newsletter, so if you missed it, you can find our newsletters on the website. Plan to attend and enjoy a fun and informative evening with your fellow members as they share what inspires them as photographers.

Creative Vision 2027 is underway. The pairings have been announced, and now it's time to get together, collaborate, and create something exciting. We have 61 pairs of artists, and creativity is just beginning. Mark your calendars for January 28–31, 2027. Plan to volunteer, get involved, and help us make Creative Vision 2027 our best show ever.

Looking ahead, our November meeting will be held a week earlier than usual, on November 3rd, in person at Hidden Cypress Ballroom. We will be welcoming Randall Patrick who will present “Getting Closer - Confronting the Fear”. The competition theme is Street Photography, and it is a print competition.

Enjoy the cooler weather, get out and take some photos, and Happy Shooting.

Julia Parrish



Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 7 pm

Meeting Type: Zoom

An email with meeting information and Zoom link will be sent out via listserv. The slideshow will begin at 6:30 PM

Competition Theme: Portrait of a Person

Contest Entry Format: Digital

Deadline for Contest Submission: by midnight Friday, October 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

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

Speaker and Competition Judge: Melanie Dunea @melaniedunea



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

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

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

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

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

Competitions

Have you ever felt that your competition photo entry should have received a ribbon. . . but it didn't?

If so, here's your opportunity to try again.

It's called "Second Look" and is part of a double header,

The Second Look competition will follow the People's Choice awards.

How Second Look Works

- Open to all who entered a monthly competition (January through November 2026) and did not win an award in that month.
- ***Entry Deadline is Friday, November 13th.***
- Only one entry per member is allowed.
- This is a digital competition.
- The Second Look theme is “Open” regardless of the entry’s original theme.
- Time Limit: Only those images submitted for January 2026 through and including November 2026 competitions are eligible for this event.
- Competition points and ribbons will be awarded and will count toward level advancement.

No need to submit your image again. We already have it.

Just send an e-mail to PCSCHH1@Gmail.com and include the following information:

The subject line of your email should read: Second Look

Your name

Original Title of your photo

The month you originally entered it

Your competition level at the time

Your current competition level

This should be a lot of fun, and we’re hoping for an enthusiastic response.

John Hock

Competition Committee Chair

Look Ahead - Meetings and Competition Themes

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

Bringing Our Photos into Wider Exposure

by Joe Turino

Our photographs have stories to tell, and the club's revived External Exhibits Program is giving them a wider audience. From the Sun City Bird Club's website to the walls of Palmetto Commons, members' images are reaching people beyond our photo studio, with another exhibit planned for early next year.

External Exhibits Chair Bruce Marshall took on the effort in January at the request of President Julia Parrish. Originally from Montreal, Bruce lived in Paris in the mid-1990s and moved to Sun City from New Jersey in 2008. He joined our club in April 2024 and uses Canon R10 and R8 cameras.

Before COVID interrupted the program, the club displayed photographs temporarily at local hospitals and museums. Bruce has been working to revive those opportunities, contacting hospitals, assisted living facilities, libraries, and museums. Some no longer accept outside exhibits, and staff turnover has made communications difficult.

Through those challenges, Bruce has kept his enthusiasm and sense of purpose. "Although there have been times in this first year of resurrecting External Exhibits that have been frustrating, I am reminded of a quote from Winston Churchill - 'Success is maintaining your enthusiasm between failures'."

He has also found the effort rewarding and fun, crediting help from Julia, Gracene Peluso, Kathy Leonard, and Mike Davis. Their work is to give members new opportunities to share their photographs.

As of September, the Sun City Bird Club's homepage, <https://suncitybirdclub.org/>, was in its eighth month of featuring our members' images. A different photographer is showcased each month, with volunteers lined up through May 2027.

At Palmetto Commons, 20 member photographs were hung in August, drawing an overwhelmingly positive response from staff. Bruce noted that the Community Association's general manager was particularly pleased. A new selection of photographs and photographers is planned for December.

The club also has been invited to exhibit approximately 20 Lowcountry photographs at the Port Royal Sound Foundation museum in February 2027. Bruce hopes to add other locations, including the Pinckney Hall lobby, Savannah Wildlife Refuge and Lowcountry Birding Center.

Interested in sharing your work? You do not have to be an expert or a competition winner. Julia explains that all members receive an email announcing each opportunity, with submission instructions and framing and hanging requirements. Participation is determined on a first-come, first-served basis.

Physical exhibits normally require 16-by-20-inch framed photographs with wire hangers. Check each announcement for the requirements of that particular display.

Bruce explains photographs are displayed without prices, although sales are possible. A tag usually accompanies each image with its title and the photographer's name, email address, and phone number. If a photograph sells, another replaces it for the remainder of the exhibit.

He sees these displays as a way to share members' work and introduce others to our club. "Displaying our photos in locations outside of the photo studio raises the profile of the club and hopefully brings in new members."

Watch your club emails for the next opportunity. Your photograph could be among those bringing our members' creativity to a new audience.



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

Open Studio - 2026 Print Reservations: Photo printing, mounting and matting have become a big service for our members during the weekly Open Studio sessions on Tuesday afternoons. Printing for members ranges from 10 to 20 photographs in number as members prepare for Print Competitions, Studio and Community Gallery Exhibits and other events, such as Creative Vision.

Starting in October and into the future, we are asking all members wanting **print services** including **photos prints, dry mounting and matting** during Open Studio sessions to **register ahead of time** for a print time. This system has worked well in the past as all pre-registered members get priority over any walk-in print requests. Members who pre-register also help limit traffic inside the Studio. Here's how it works:

1. You sign up online for a time to start your project giving us some information up front: Helpful information would include -- number of photos, print size category (less than 13x19 inches or larger than that), the need for mounting/matting and any special request for printing on special paper or canvas.
2. On the date you request, we will remind you of your time and that you need to bring a print-ready, edited image(s), preferably on a thumb drive.
3. You then enter the Studio at your print time, check-in with the Monitor and one of us will complete your project. Last of all, you will check out with the Monitor and in most cases be on your way in less than an hour.

[Click Here](#) to access the sign-up sheet. We plan to maintain visibility and access to the list for the current week PLUS the following 4 weeks for those planning ahead. If you would rather *take a chance*, you can also walk-in during Open Help Sessions and ask the Monitor if there are unassigned slots or if the print volunteers are ahead of schedule. Open Studio is officially scheduled from 1:30-4:00 pm on Tuesdays, and we have limited the last reservation slots to 3 pm so all our volunteers can close-up by 4:00.

NOTE: Open Studio is available to all members as a walk-in resource **EVERY TUESDAY 1:30-4PM** and it's not only for Print Services! You can find help with your Photography, Camera and anything about the Photography Club of Sun City.

Photographic Journeys – Member Photo Showcase: Our club will debut Photographic Journeys on Tuesday, October 20, from 6:30 to 8:15 pm at Hidden Cypress. The evening begins with a Member Photo Showcase, featuring 20 registered participants, each displaying one printed photograph and sharing the story behind their work. From 7:15 to 8:15 pm, featured presenters Barbara Reeves, Tom Mills and Gerry Fagan will each share “My Photographic Journey Told Through My Photographs”, using five images to highlight milestones in their creative development. All members are warmly invited to attend and enjoy an evening of shared inspiration and photographic exploration.

Orientation: Orientation sessions are scheduled from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on 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](#)

Education

Welcome to the Fall Semester which runs through November 20th. You should have already received the Fall Semester catalog and registration link by email. This information is also available on the Education page of club’s website <https://pcschh.org/education/> where you will find all the details you need to register for an upcoming class along with an updated listing of classes with vacancies.

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

Wildlife Photography and 4K Video with Smartphone (8 seats) One Session: 10/2 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Railroad Photography Seminar (12 seats) One Session: 10/5 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Fundamentals of Smartphone Photography (2 seats) Three Sessions: 10/6, 10/13 and 10/20 from 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Welcome to Photography (10 seats) One Session: 10/19 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Exploring iPhone Portrait Mode (11 seats) Two Sessions: 10/21 and 10/28 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Love Your Images (1 seat) Two Sessions: 10/21 from 2:00 PM-4:00 PM and 11/4 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Embrace Simplicity (1 seat) Two Sessions: 10/23 and 11/6 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Simple Editing with LR Mobile (5 seats) Two Sessions: 10/24 and 10/31 from 9:30 - 11:30 am

The Education Committee will soon begin developing the Winter schedule of classes. If there's a class you'd like to see offered—or if you're interested in teaching—we would love to hear from you. For questions, please contact **Ward Litzenberg** at **pcschheducation@gmail.com**.

Ward

Club Trips

Our Field Trip year began on September 16th with a morning excursion to the Chapel of Ease and Fort Fremont Preserve on St Helena Island. Images from that trip can be found now on our galleries page on the club's website <https://pcschh.org/trip-galleries/>.

Coming up from October 26-30 will be our overnight trip to Maggie Valley & the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This trip registration is now open. Our next overnight trip will be to Titusville & Merritt Island, Florida from 21-25 February. Registration is not open yet for that trip.

Upcoming day trips include November 10th to the Columbia Zoo. The registration for the Zoo trip is open now.

Future day trips include a December 11th late afternoon/early evening trip to River Street in Savannah and a December 20th Solstice Sunrise to Darien, Georgia and Driftwood Beach on Jekyll Island, also in Georgia. We are planning a backroads day trip, probably in January plus an overnight trip April 20-21 to the Okefenokee Swamp and Cumberland Island in Georgia. Other day trips are in the planning stage.

Doug Scott
Club Trip Coordinator

User Groups

PFUG is back! The Photo Fundamentals Users Group (PFUG) has started up again and we welcome photographers, especially those new to photography, new to competitions or simply interested in developing their photographic eye. Join us to share your photographs, see what others see, and have fun becoming a better photographer. This is a friendly, informal group where everyone is encouraged to participate. About a week before each meeting members are invited to submit two to three digital photographs. The photos are projected at the meeting, and the group explores together what “works” and where improvements might be made. Our philosophy is that every photograph is a draft. That doesn’t mean a photo is good or bad, it simply means that there may be something more to see, discover or try. The goal of PFUG is to encourage curiosity, build confidence and help one another become better photographers in a positive, supportive and relaxed environment. Whether you shoot with a DSLR, a point-and-shoot camera or your phone, come share your pictures. Join the discussion and leave with some new ideas. **Facilitator:** Tom Mills **When:** The first Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is November 5th, 1:00 to 3:00. **Where:** Photo Club Studio

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. 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. 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 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



SEPTEMBER MEETING NEWS

September Competition Winners

Theme: “Patterns/Repetition”

Judge: Robert Rommel

NOVICE



1st Place - “Delayed Morning”, Steve Carlton

2nd Place - “D Filiformis A True Carnivore”, Bill Armon

3rd Place - “Stones by the Angle”, Pete Kellos

HM - “Final Formation”, Laurie Kellum

HM - Lake Somerset Dock, Patty Marshall

INTERMEDIATE



1st Place - “Into the Void”, Jim Faris

2nd Place - “The Apex”, Robert Browning

3rd Place - “Hard Rock”, Mike Wahl

ADVANCED



1st Place - “Switch Locks”, Doug Scott

2nd Place - “You’ve Got Mail”, Ralph Rooke

3rd Place - “Clipped Up”, Joyce Fowler

HM - “Wheel of Fortune”, Bob Seltzer

HM - “Spring Has Sprung”, Marilyn Wahl

EXPERT



1st Place - “A Quiet Rhythm”, Gerry Fagan

2nd Place - “Porch Patterns”, Theda Parks

3rd Place - “Rhythm of the Rise”, Rick VanDette

Competition Category Advancements

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



Please join us in welcoming the Sun City Photography Club's newest members, bringing our membership count to 487 current members:

Melody Baker
William Johnson
Joey Santiago

Phyllis McCormack
Gail Johnson
Linda Longberry

John McCormack
Jane Maass

Noemi Rivera
Sharon Hague

New member badges will be available for pick-up at our monthly membership meetings.

It is time to renew your membership for 2027. Go to pcschh.org and click on the Join/Renew button and renew today. We will also be at the Sun City Club Fair on Oct 3rd from 10-1 and you can renew your membership there.

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 October Photographer of the Month is **Cheryl Callaman**. Meet Cheryl 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 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/>