

Volume 2 February 2025



February 2025

<https://www.pplac.org/>



2025 President John Powers

“With creating, we are literally bringing something into existence that didn’t exist before.”

Montana Dennis

Greetings, PPLAC Members:

What an exciting way to describe your photography! Think of this marvelous quote the next time you are out with your camera! May it inspire you always! Every time you take a picture: You are bringing into existence a new creation! Wow!

Last month PPC held its annual Installation and Awards event. It was wonderful to see so many PPLAC members recognized for their photographic achievements, to include our own Gary Parsons who walked away with several prestigious awards, including Best in Show. The highlight for PPLAC was our stunning accomplishment in capturing the Affiliate Cup for the second year in a row! This trophy is for the PPC affiliate that has the highest accumulative score amongst all the affiliates within PCC. Let's keep the streak going in 2025!

On January 23rd, we held our Annual Open House, installing the new PPLAC board for 2025 and recognizing the achievements of our outstanding members through various awards and decorations. In particular, hats off to our 2024 Photographer of the Year: Angela Chen! Well done, Angela; congratulations! We had a grand time with the theme centering around the Chinese New Year which so happened to be that same week. Special thanks to all who made this event happen, especially Rebecca Li, Angela Chen, and Ira Mintz. And behind the scenes we had Liz Chalmers, Heather Dinkins, and Gary Parsons ensuring our success. Thank you! With 37 in attendance, a good time was had by all!

For our first PPLAC Outing of the year, it was off to Manhattan Beach Pier for some sunset photographs. Nine of us came together for a fun evening on the beach and then to a nearby fish restaurant for food and fellowship. Again, a grand time was had by all thanks to Liz who put together a wonderful experience.

Finally, get your images in for our first Digital Photographic Competition (DPC) of the year. You can submit your images through printcompetition.com NOW through February 16th. Be sure to review the DPC Rules first (<https://www.pplac.org/competition-rules>); some changes have been made. And be on the lookout for an upcoming flyer about our PPLAC Outing for February: Dickensfest on February 22nd.

"Keep on clickin'!"

John Powers
M.Photog.Cr., M-PPC, CPP
PPLAC President

SAVE THE DATE

Meetings and Events

Come join our monthly meetings held on the **4th Thursday of each month** (unless it falls on a holiday).

February 1st
Entries Open - Digital Image Competition

February 16th
Entries Close - Digital Image

Stay Connected

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/PPLAC/>

Meet Up

<https://www.meetup.com/Culver-City-Photography-Meetup/>

PPC

Competition

February 27th
1st Digital Image Competition

March 27th
Royce Bair, Astrophotography

April 24th
Mel Carll, Infrared Photography

May 1st
Entries Open-Digital Image
Competition

May 11th
Entries Close - Digital Image
Competition

May 22nd
2nd Digital Image Competition

**Please note that speakers/schedule may
change at any time. Please check our
website for more details*

****<https://www.pplac.org/calendar>**

2025 Board of Directors

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(Membership)
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StudioMagic

[https://www.layercakeelements.
com](https://www.layercakeelements.com)

Think Tank

[https://www.thinktankphoto.co
m/](https://www.thinktankphoto.com/)

Topaz Labs

[https://www.topazlabs.com/topa
z-photo-ai](https://www.topazlabs.com/topaz-photo-ai)

**Digital Photographic
Competition Director**
Kevin Karzin

Fundraiser Director
Ira Mintz

Sponsor Management Chair
Mel Carll

Hospitality
Leslie Geffen

Co-Chairs

**Digital Photographic
Competition Co-Chair**
Tim Hintz

**Digital Photographic
Competition Moderators**
Mel Carll
Bob Young

Event Photographer
Angela Chen

*Two photographers are walking down
the street, one of them trips and falls
onto the ground.*

*The second one immediately falls down
next to him and says "Excellent angle!
What are we shooting?"*

**The 12 Elements
of a Merit Image**

[https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/
articles/12-elements-of-a-
merit-image](https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/12-elements-of-a-merit-image)

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

**PPLAC 1st Digital Image
Competition is coming!**

Get your images ready!

**Entries open 2/1
Entries close 2/16
Competition 2/22**

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

**PPLAC Open House and Awards Dinner
was a grand success!**

Here are our incredible winners:

**2024 PPLAC Photographer of the Year
Angela Chen**



**2024 PPLAC Photographer of the Year
Architecture Category
John Powers**



**2024 PPLAC Photographer of the Year
Landscape Category**

John Grusd



2024 PPLAC Photographer of the Year Nature Category Nikki Washburn



**2024 PPLAC Photographer of the Year
Open Category
Mel Carll**



**2024 PPLAC Photographer of the Year
Photojournalism Category
Angela Chen**



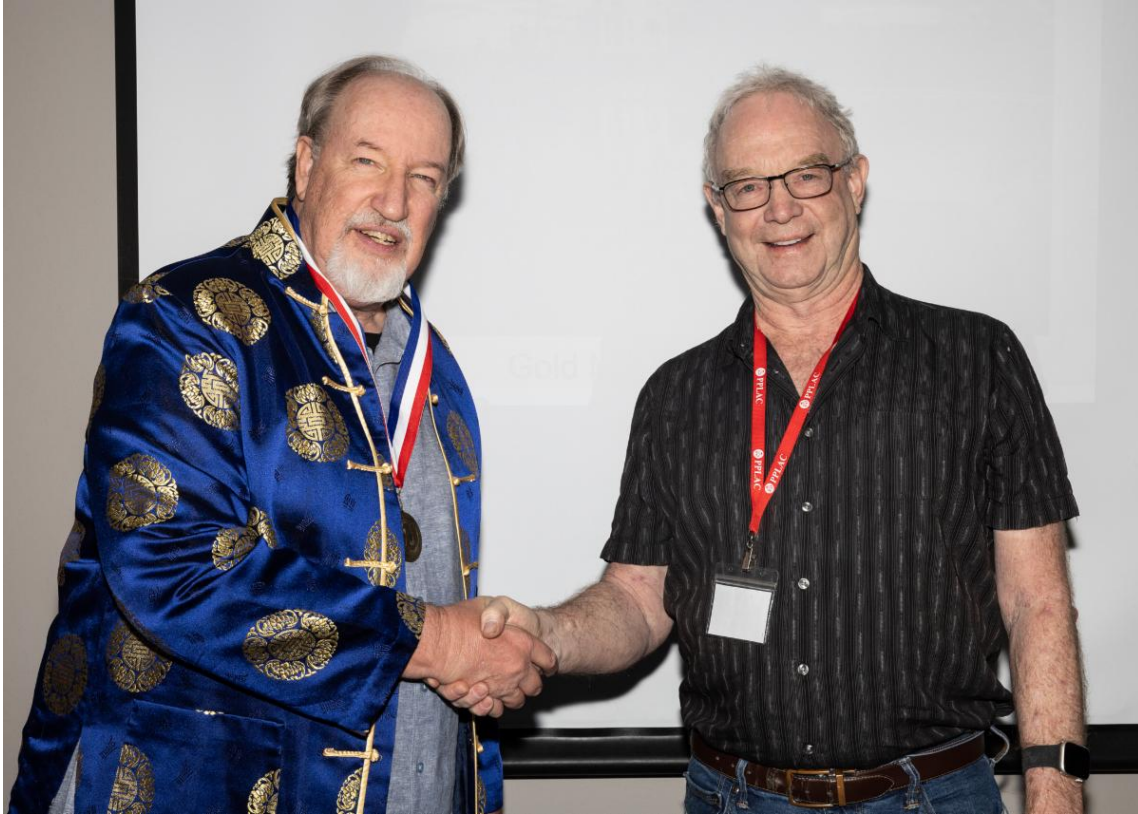
**2024 PPLAC Photographer of the Year
Portrait Category
John Powers**



New PPLAC Award Category

Photograph of the Year

**1st Place Winner (Gold medal)
John Powers**



**2nd Place Winner (Silver medal)
Kevin Karzin**



**3rd Place Winner (Bronze medal)
John Grusd**



January Outing

PPLAC Outing
“Manhattan Beach Pier”
Manhattan Beach, California
January 25th, 2025



Pictured above: Back Row: Ira Mintz, John Powers, Victoria Bolotina, John Grusd, Heather Dinkins, Roy Patience, Liz Chalmers, Cyrus Davis
Front Row: Gary Parsons

On Saturday evening, January 25th, nine members from PPLAC gathered in Manhattan Beach to photograph the pier at sunset. Despite the sun hiding behind the clouds, we were able to photograph a moody sky hovering over the horizon.

We took photographs of the pier, the pylons, the waves, seagulls, and even a sand castle. No matter where our cameras were pointed, it's always more fun when we take photos TOGETHER. Afterwards, we had a great time over dinner at Rock N Fish, just steps off the beach.

We will meet via Zoom within the next few weeks for the Photo Review. Be on the lookout for the exact date. All our members are invited to watch, choose their favorites, and have a grand evening!

Liz Chalmers
1st Vice President, PPLAC

Coming Events!
MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

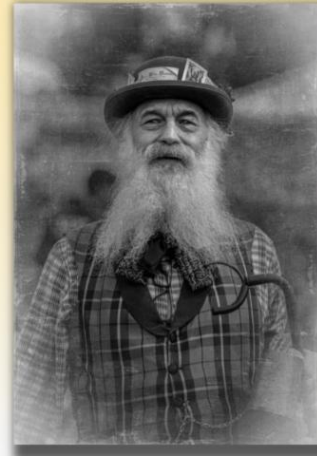


PPLAC Outing
Saturday
February 22nd, 2025

Riverside Dickens Festival!

3936 Chestnut Street
Riverside, California 92501

Join us as we venture to the Riverside area to photograph one of the more unique reenactments: mid-nineteenth century Victorian characters!



Photos by John Powers

The venue location has changed again this year.
Tickets are \$20 for General Admission / Couples (2 ppl) \$35

For tickets, go to the following link:
<https://events.humanitix.com/2025-rdfwhitepark/tickets/>

If you're interested in attending, contact John Powers at:
johnpowers@hotmail.com



PPLAC DPC
February 27, 2025
6:00pm

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION!

Join us for our 1st Digital Photographic Competition of 2025 ! Yes, we compete, but it is really a learning exercise. There is no better way to improve your work than to receive constructive comments from knowledgeable photographers. A panel of 3 judges evaluates each image submitted into the competition and they do it live!



"America Takes Flight" by Angela Chen
November 2024 Best of Show

Our DPC is conducted via Zoom meeting. For all of the details about how to enter as well as how to watch the competition, go to pplac.org and click on the "Photo Competition" tab.

The dates to submit images are February 1-16.

Join us on February 27th at 6:00pm!

Unleash Your Inner Grillmaster

with Kevin Karzin & Mel Carll

\$159 PPC Premium

\$169 PPC Members

\$189 Non PPC

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Limited to 10 grillers

Sign Up NOW!



PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

PPLAC is excited to present TWO great Adventures for 2025... With MORE to come!

- Be sure to sign-up ASAP as limited spots are available.
- You will want to secure your lodging as soon as possible.
- Consider sharing a room with another photographer to split costs!
- Contact Liz Chalmers, liz@lizchalmers.com, to sign-up or ask any questions!



Four-Day Adventure!

May 13-16, 2025

Waterfalls and Mt Shasta!

Join us on this fun exploration to the northern, wetter part of our state where waterfalls abound!



In this PPLAC Adventure, John Grusd will lead us on a photographic excursion to these hidden natural gems of the northern part of our state! And we'll throw in a visit to the not so hidden, Mt Shasta!



John will also assist you in learning Basic Photographic Techniques for Photographing Water to help you gain professional level skills in the field!



The PPLAC Adventure fee of \$70 (PPLAC Member) or \$90 (non-member) includes four days of guidance, plenty of handouts and a pre-trip informational Zoom meeting.

handouts and a pre-trip informational Zoom meeting.

Lodging, meals and transportation are not included. We will be based in Mt Shasta, CA for 3 nights (Shasta Inn).

For questions or to register for this event, please contact [Liz Chalmers - liz@lizchalmers.com](mailto:liz@lizchalmers.com)



Join us on this beautiful 4-Day PPLAC Adventure!



**Four-Day
Adventure!**

October 6-9, 2025

Eastern Sierra and Fall Colors!

**Join us on this exploration to some
of the most dramatic scenery in the
American West!**





In this multi-day PPLAC Outing, John Grusd will lead us on a photographic adventure through some of the most spectacular landscapes in California! We will visit magnificent mountains, beautiful lakes, deep canyons and photograph some of the best fall colors in the west!



John will also assist you in learning Basic Landscape Camera Handling Techniques to help you set up your camera properly and understand the tools that will enhance your technical ability to create pro-level photographs!



The PPLAC Adventure fee of \$70 (PPLAC Member) or \$90 (non-member) includes four days of guidance, plenty of handouts and a pre-trip informational Zoom meeting.

Lodging, meals and transportation are not included. We will be based in Lone Pine for 1 night (Dow Villa) and Mammoth Lakes for 2 nights (Quality Inn).

For questions or to register for this event, please contact [Liz Chalmers - liz@lizchalmers.com](mailto:liz@lizchalmers.com)





Join us on this inspiring 4-Day PPLAC Adventure!



PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

PPC News

<https://ppconline.com/>

1st Quarterly Photographic Image Competition



© Marcy Dugan

Thursday, February 20, 2025
6:00pm

Registration opens: Monday, February 3, 2025
Registration closes: Monday, February 17, 2025

Official rules and regulations: www.ppconline.com

(Open to all PPC members. Images previously merited at any other
PPC affiliate competitions are not eligible.)



WEST COAST SCHOOL
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

WCS News

<https://www.westcoastschool.com/>



2024



WEST COAST SCHOOL
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA





WEST COAST SCHOOL OF PHOTOGRAPHY

June 8-13, 2025 Hyatt Regency | Valencia, CA

SUZETTE ALLEN Vital Video Skills for Photographers	MICHAEL COLLINS Photoshop - Zero to Sixty in a Week	SCOTT DETWEILER AI & Portrait Photography	MICHAEL E. GORDON Nature & Landscape Photographers Masterclass
JOE GLYDA Commercial Photography Demystified	SANDRA PEARCE Photoshop Painting with a Twist - Embellishing	PETE REZAC All Light Done Right	

Join us in the sun-kissed paradise of Valencia for an unforgettable week of learning from industry leading instructors. Immerse yourself in a vibrant community of photographers and discover new techniques to elevate your photography skills. Our 2025 session promises to be even more exceptional than the last, with a lineup of renowned instructors and exciting new classes. Don't miss the opportunity to grow as a photographer and create lasting memories.

CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

Tuition starts at \$950
Easy prepayment plans are available!
1(800) 439-5839 Ext. 3

SCAN TO REGISTER



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PPA News

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Community Network
with PPA

CONNECT, LEARN. THRIVE
at the
PREMIER PHOTOGRAPHY CONFERENCE
IMAGING USA
February 2-4, 2025
Dallas, TX

visit imagingusa.com for information

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OPENING KEYNOTE
SHOLA RICHARDS

If you are curious or interested in becoming a Certified Professional Photographer check out the PPA link below:

<https://www.ppa.com/credentials-mem/cpp-mem>

Please note that PPA has a page dedicated to what is available. You DO NOT need to be a PPA member to look at their website.....and they are offering a lot of webinars this year!

LET'S CONNECT

PPA - Professional Photographers of America
229 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 2300
Atlanta, GA 30303

1-800 786-6277

<https://www.ppa.com/inittogether>

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