



JULY 2025



*"When people look at my pictures,
I want them to feel the way they do when they want
to read a line of a poem twice."*
Robert Frank

Greetings, PPLAC Members:

The above quote eloquently captures the essence of profound soul-driven discoveries. If you've ever read a passage of poetry that suddenly, unexpectedly moved you to the point where you stopped and you had to go back and re-read it again, and this time slowly, savoring every word, you then know what Robert Frank is referring to here. That is what I aspire to in my photographic work as well. My desire, my hope, my goal is that I can create an image where someone will look at it and then suddenly stop and want to look at it again, this time studying it, letting their eye rest at various points, and allowing the entire image to soak into the soul of the viewer. May you seek that very essence in your work also.

June was quite an eventful month! We kicked it off with our PPLAC Photo Review of Huntington Library and Gardens. As you may know, we review the images and then vote for our three top favorites. For the first time since I created this event five years ago, someone actually took first, second, AND third place. Whom may that be?! None other than our own **Mel Carll**! Way to go, Mel!

And speaking of Mel, who is also the Executive Director of West Coast School, the second week of June was this epic event. It was a great experience and for all those that attended, including yours truly, it was well worth it! Please, please, please plan on attending next June ... you will not regret it!

In the third week of June we held our second PPLAC Photo Review, this time

covering the **John Grusd**-led PPLA Adventure, “*Waterfalls and Mount Shasta*.” First place went to **Larry White**, second place to **Roy Patience**, and third place to **Ken Alexander**. Congratulations, gentlemen!

And in the fourth week of June we held our monthly in-person meeting in Playa Vista with **Dan Holmes** sharing his insightful work on surreal landscape (*Surrealscape*) and **Frank Damon** taking us through the first steps in our upcoming “*30 Days of Photography*.” Dan’s creative insights were both inspiring and thought-provoking. Be sure to try it out yourself! And as for Frank’s challenge, look for a more in-depth guidance in the days ahead.

Finally, we welcome two more members to the fold: **Rich Rameriz** and **Annie Slagboom**. So delighted to have you both join us for the exciting times ahead!

“Keep on clickin’!”

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

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BECOME A MEMBER!

We are always looking for new members to join PPLAC. Whether you are a working professional or someone who wants to actively grow their skillsets to just take better photographs, we welcome all engaged & enthusiastic Image Makers!

TO FIND OUT MORE

contact [Roy Patience](#)

AND JOIN US AT OUR NEXT IN-PERSON MEETING!

JULY 24, 2025 @ 6:30PM

CenterPointe Clubhouse
[6200 Playa Vista Drive](#)
Playa Vista, 90094

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).

July 21-22nd
Joshua Tree Overnight
(NEW!)

July 24th
General Membership
Meeting
Guest Speaker
John Powers
"Travel Photography"

August 16th
Wings Over Camarillo

August 1st
DPC Entries Open

August 17th
DPC Entries Close

August 28th
DPC #3

September 25
General Membership
Meeting
Guest Speaker
Kevin Karzin
"Youth Sports"

September 27
Workshop-Kevin Karzin
"Youth Sports"

October 23
General Membership
Meeting
Guest Speaker
Frank Damon
"Project 365"

November 1
Dia de Los Muertos

November 20
DPC #4

**Please note our speakers/schedule
may
change at any time. Please check our
[website](#) for more details*

FUN FACT

Did You Know?

Leland Stanford (yes, that
Stanford) hired
photographer Eadweard
Muybridge to settle a debate:

Is there ever a point in a horse's
full gallop when all four hooves
leave the ground?

Muybridge used 12 cameras and
a tripwire shutter rig to prove
that all four hooves are indeed
off the ground at the same time.
(Some say that the debate,
besides being a matter of
scholarly interest, also involved a
\$25,000 bet.)

June Image of the Month by Mel Carll



STAY CONNECTED



meetup



PPLAC is pleased to announce our

JULY SPONSOR:

Luminar Neo: Seamless Editing | Get Creative with Luminar Neo

Luminar Neo is photo editing software application which is available for both Windows and Macs. It empowers photographers of all skill levels to unleash their creativity and bring their vision to life with advanced AI-driven technologies, while still providing complete artistic control over the final result.

It enhances photos of any genre, including landscapes, portraits, street photos, etc.

JUNE FEATURED ARTICLE

THE TREACHERY of IMAGES **by John Grusd**

Photography is unique among the arts because there is an implied, "truth" about photographic images. We always start with a real-life subject from the real-life world. But from that moment on, everything we as photographers do becomes interpretive. The "treachery" is that the image is often confused with the real thing. **THE REAL THING AND AN INTERPRETATION ARE NOT THE SAME!**

In the real world there is no cropping, no black and white, no dodging or burning, no blurring, no freezing action and no other photographic technique that we use in-camera or in processing. Everything we do is artificial. The real "truth", is that the image with regards to the subject, is not the thing itself. It is always, and forever, a representation of the thing itself.

The old example is true. If you put a hundred photographers in front of the same subject, the results will be a hundred different versions of that subject. Each of us brings our own mix of biases, our own histories, our experiences and our own notions of aesthetics to our images. Which one is the "correct" representation of those hundred images? None of them! ... and all of them!

Images are artistic representations, interpolations, approximations, distillations, summations, interpretations and abstractions of the

subject. Always! They are always some “other” versions of the subject. Not the subject itself.

This discussion is really all about you! (the photographers!)

Without you, there is no photography! Each of us is a unique filter through which images are realized. When we view the works of famous photographers, know that they experienced exactly the same filtering mechanism that influences your work. If you learn anything valuable from this essay, I hope it's the realization that it is the photographer (you!) that is the most important part of your photography! Certainly, you need to master your tools as any artist must do but the thing that distinguishes your work from everyone else's is YOU!

Art as “Representation”. This is not a new notion:

Galen Rowell (Photographer) – “You don't need more equipment – You need to be more in touch with what you are seeing.”

Edgar Degas (Artist) - “It's not WHAT you see but HOW you see it.”

Elliott Erwitt (Photographer) - “To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place... I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.”

Henry David Thoreau (Writer) - “It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.”

George Nelson (Designer) - “Seeing is not a unique, God-given talent, but a discipline. It is (can be) learned.”

This is something you have to work at!

About photographic truth: There is an unfortunate opinion that in-camera techniques and processing in photography are somehow forms of cheating. Nothing is farther from the truth. All of those processes have been a part of photography since its inception. Manipulation of the subject/image IS photography! Certainly, photography can be used for documentary purposes, but at its core and for its entire history, photography is and has always been an expressive art form. To repeat: The subject in an image is not the thing itself. It's an interpretation!

It's YOUR interpretation! You bring your unique perspective to photography, something all of your very own. That is completely normal, acceptable and in fact, desirable. Go out and develop your sense of “seeing” as well as the rest of your photography skills. And remember that being an artist is an evolutionary state. You will constantly learn and reevaluate your sense of aesthetics along your artistic journey. Don't rely on image competition as your only source of knowledge. Visit galleries and museums to learn what else is possible. Be open to what you see and know that we are just scratching the surface of photography's potential. We hope you will

take some inspiration from these thoughts and that they may help you to move toward your own pathway in photography!

And finally...

Don't forget the treachery of images!

Photographs are Representation!

Photography is Interpretation!

Photographers (that means you!) are Interpreters!

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

**JUNE 26TH GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
GUEST SPEAKER DAN HOLMES
"Experimental Art, The Dawn of the Surrealscape"**



Guest Speaker: Dan Holmes



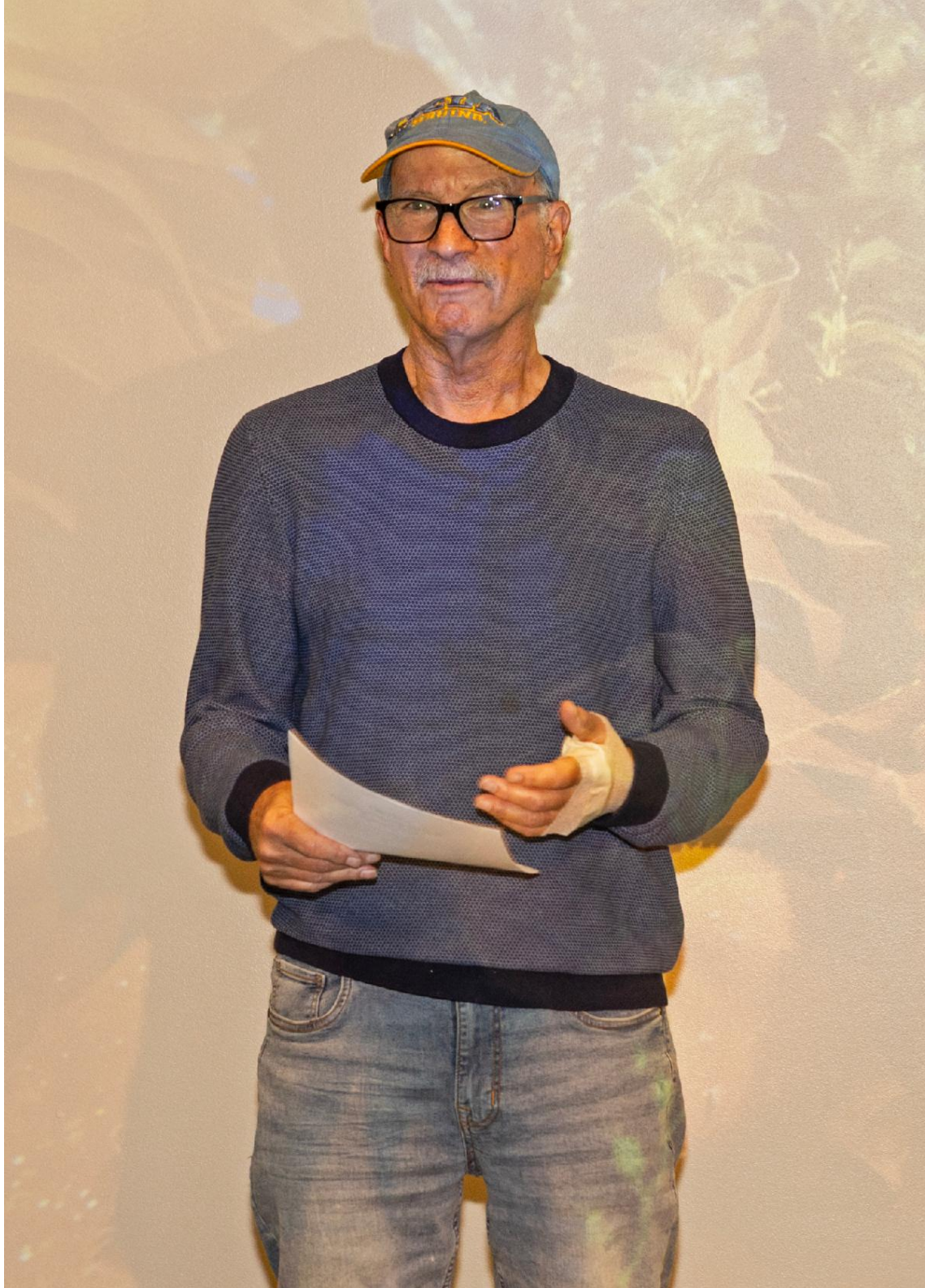
(Left to Right) Kevin Karzin, Andrew Lewis, Ira Mintz and Teresa Pepe



**(Left to Right) Rear: John Grusd, Ron Kaplan, Nikki Washburn, and Mel Carll
Front: Rob White, Daniel Legouest**



Heather Dinkins and Dan Holmes



Frank Damon

JUNE OUTINGS

PPLAC Outing: The Getty Museum and Study Room



Pictured Above: (Front) Gary Coyne, Liz Chalmers, John Grusd, Ana Maria Reyes, Annie Slagboom, (Back) Ron Kaplan, Cynthia Daniels, Ira Mintz, Heather Dinkins, Jaye Pruet, Carrie Elsworth, Roy Patience, Gary Parsons. Not pictured: Ken Alexander

On June 17th, PPLAC members & friends gathered at the Getty Museum for a private photography showing designed by John Grusd. He titled the collection "The Treachery of Images", reminding us that an image of something is not the thing itself but rather an interpretation. Photographs were by Alfred Stieglitz, Dorothea Lange, Ansel Adams, Paul Nadar, Diane Arbus, Brett Weston and Eliot Porter - all iconic masters and visionaries who expanded the boundaries of the medium, both technically and artistically.

Before capturing our own photographs, we visited the impressionist paintings and the photography exhibit.

Finally, John assigned homework for the group: photograph the expansive stairs that lead to the museum entrance. Reminding us that photographs are representations and interpretations, shaped by the photographer's choices, John expects to see our unique expression of the same object. The PPLAC Outing to the Getty was quite interesting & enjoyable for all!

Liz Chalmers
PPLAC, 1st VP

JUNE IMAGE REVIEWS

**PPLAC Adventure: "Mount Shasta!"
The Winning Photographs!**

During the second week of May, 2025, fifteen PPLAC members and friends travelled to Mount Shasta and the surrounding area for four wonderful days. The weather was great with clouds and then clear skies and then clouds again; you couldn't ask for anything more. Big thanks to John Grusd for leading this outstanding adventure and coordinated by Liz Chalmers!

Then, on Wednesday evening, June 18th, 2025 we held a PPLAC Photo Review to look at the 35 images we wanted to share. We discussed each image and then everyone voted for their favorites. The first place winner was Larry White. Roy Patience earned second place. And third place went to Ken Alexander. Larry received a \$25 Amazon gift card and Roy received a \$15 gift card from Amazon for second place. And Ken received the \$10 Amazon gift card for third place. Congratulations to to all three. And also big thanks to all who participated with a special thanks to Roy Patience for running the Photo Review.



Second Place: Roy Patience

First Place: Larry White



Third Place: Ken Alexander

John Powers
President

**PPLAC Outing: "Huntington Library & Gardens"
The Winning Photographs!**

On Sunday, May 18th, 2025, five PPLAC members went to the Huntington Library and Gardens to photograph their lovely flora and flowers. Then on June 4th we had 13 photos to review, comment on, and vote for. For the first time since I created this venue five years ago, we had a clean sweep by one of our photographers: Mel Carll! Mel took first, second, AND third place with all the votes counted. He will receive the cumulated winnings from Amazon: a \$50 gift card. Well done, Mel. Congratulations! And also big thanks to all who participated with a special thanks to Roy Patience for running the Photo Review.



First Place: Mel Carll



Second Place: Mel Carll

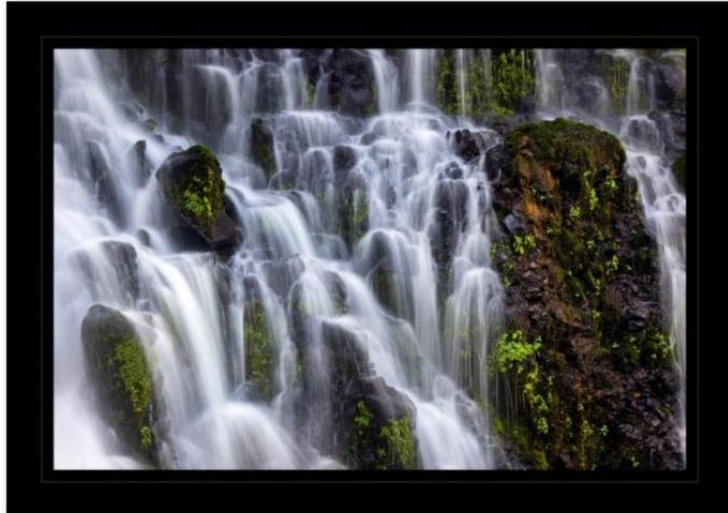


Third Place: Mel Carll

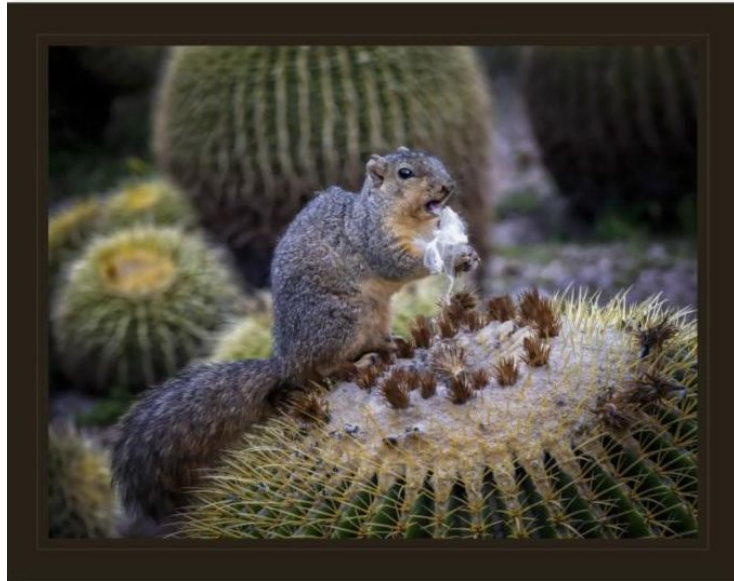
John Powers
President

IMAGES OF THE MONTH

**Mount Shasta
Photo Review
1st Place
Winner
Larry White**



**Huntington
Library &
Gardens -
Photo Review
1st Place
Winner
Mel Carll**



JULY HIGHLIGHTS

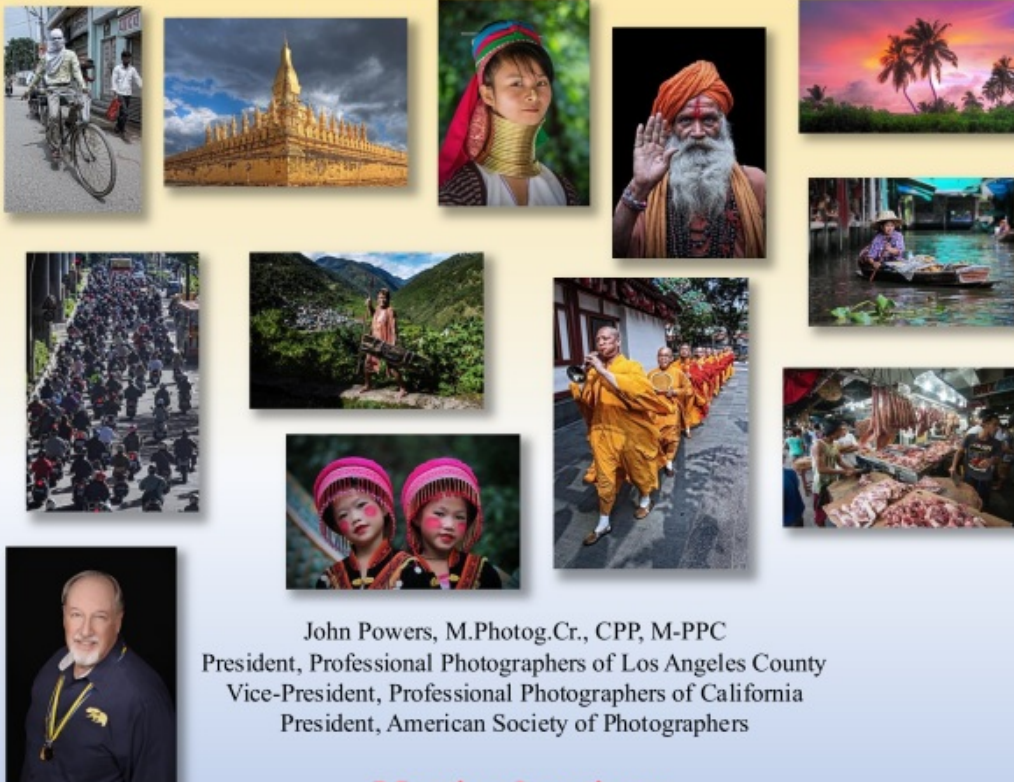
JULY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



**PPLAC General Meeting
Presentation
Thursday, July 24th, 6:30 PM**

"Insights & Applications of Travel Photography"

Join us for an evening of unique insights taken from the travels of our current PPLAC president, John Powers. He will share from his forty-plus years of travels around the world, with particular focus on Asia. He will be sharing tips, tricks, and a myriad of photos. The hope and desire is that you will come away with some new or at least different ways of thinking through your travel plans in the world of photography.



John Powers, M.Photos.Cr., CPP, M-PPC
President, Professional Photographers of Los Angeles County
Vice-President, Professional Photographers of California
President, American Society of Photographers

**Meeting location:
6200 S Playa Vista Drive, Playa Vista, California**

JULY OUTINGS

for additional information contact: [Liz Chalmers](#)



PPLAC Outing!

Wednesday

July 9, 2025

7:00PM

UCLA Night Architecture Outing!

Westwood, CA

Join us for an evening of architectural photography at UCLA as we explore the campus by night! We'll walk through campus, capturing images of the inverted fountain and the gothic-style Kerchoff Hall. Widely recognized as the symbol of the university, we'll also photograph Royce Hall. Finally, we'll visit UCLA's Sculpture Garden, stopping along the way to capture landscaped courtyards, reflections and more! Our last stop will be grabbing a burger or pizza, & cookies from Diddy Riese!



For more information, please contact Liz Chalmers at:
liz@lizchalmers.com

Join us for the 30 Day Photography Challenge

PPLAC is excited to introduce a new photography challenge to our members: 30 Day Photographic Journey. This challenge can begin *anytime*, starting today - but cannot start later than September 1st. The only requirement we ask is quite simple - take one photograph every day for 30 days, using a camera or phone.

We hope you will find this challenge rewarding in many ways - boosting your creativity, looking and seeing new things every day, improving your skills and project planning, encouraging experimentation, and expanding your artistic

toolkit!

At our October General Meeting, we'll invite all participants to stand and briefly share four favorite images, along with insights gained, lessons learned, or anything meaningful they experienced."

2025 ADVENTURES

please contact: [Liz Chalmers](#)

PLEASE NOTE:

NEW PPLAC Adventure fee structure for non-members and non-shooting guests.

\$70 for PPLAC Members (no change)

\$100 for Non-Member Photographers

\$50 for Non-Shooting Attendees

****Even with the slight increase in fees, this is still, far and away, the best value ever in the history of photographic adventures!****



**Overnight
Adventure
and Workshop!
July 21-22, 2025**

Joshua Tree NightScape Adventure!

**Join us on this overnight photo shoot in
one of the darkest and most photogenic
locations in Southern California!**



On this PPLAC Adventure, John Grusd will lead us as we hone our night photography skills on the Milky Way! We will also have the opportunity to learn blue hour blends and to create star trails!

Included will be a PPA approved hands-on instructional workshop, "NightScape Photography!" which will provide you with the basic skills and knowledge to

basic skills and knowledge to plan your own night sky adventures!

This PPLAC Adventure/Workshop has SOLD OUT but we will add a second night, July 22-23, if there is enough interest!
We will need at least 4 participants registered by 7/7 for the 2nd night.

The PPLAC Adventure fee of \$70 (PPLAC members), \$100 (non-members) \$50 (non-shooter) includes:

1. Informational hand-outs!
2. A pre-trip instructional and comprehensive Zoom meeting!
3. Workshop - An afternoon and full evening of guidance!
4. A fun, casual post-trip review of our favorite images!

Lodging, meals and transportation are not included. Overnight lodging is not required but we recommend it. Our lodging is in 29 Palms, CA at the Holiday Inn Express.

For questions, more details or to register, please contact:
PPLAC 1st VP, Liz Chalmers - liz@lizchalmers.com



Join us on this unique overnight 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!**



**Thank you for your interest in this PPLAC
Adventure! The response has been overwhelming!**

**If you are still interested in attending this event,
we have started a **Wait List** in case there is a
cancellation. Just contact Liz Chalmers and she will
add you to the list.**

PPLAC 1st VP, Liz Chalmers - liz@lizchalmers.com

We hope to see you on our next PPLAC Adventure!

**EXCITING ADVENTURES FOR
2026!**

**We're Thrilled to Announce our
Adventure Opportunities for Next Year!!**

Stay Tuned for Details!



Four-Day Adventure!

March 9-12, 2026

Winter in Yosemite!

**Join us on an exploration to one of
the most extraordinary and certainly
most photogenic places in the world!**



In this PPLAC Adventure, John Grusd will lead us on a spectacular winter photographic exploration of Yosemite Valley! This time of year, the crowds have melted away and the weather can range from early spring-like to dead of winter. It's a truly magical place!



John will also assist you in learning Basic Winter Landscape Camera Handling Techniques to help both you and your photo gear to weather cold temperatures!





The PPLAC Adventure fee includes four days of guidance, plenty of handouts, a pre-trip informational Zoom meeting and a fun, casual post-trip Zoom image review!
\$70 (PPLAC Member)
\$100 (non-member)
\$50 (non-shooter)

Lodging, meals and transportation are not included. We will be based at the Yosemite Valley Lodge, deep in the heart of Yosemite Valley!

For questions, more details or to register for this PPLAC Adventure, please contact:

Liz Chalmers - liz@lizchalmers.com



Join us on this inspiring 4-Day PPLAC Adventure!



**Five-Day
Adventure!**

May 11-15, 2026

Grand Canyon & Sedona!

**Join us as we photograph one of the
most striking geographic features
on the surface of our planet!**





On this 5-Day, 5-Night PPLAC Adventure, John Grusd will begin our explorations in fabulous Sedona, AZ where we will photograph some of the iconic landscapes and soak up the desert southwest vibe! Then we transit to the South Rim of the spectacular Grand Canyon for breathtaking sites and more incredible photography!



The PPLAC Adventure fee includes four days of guidance, plenty of handouts, a pre-trip informational Zoom meeting and a fun, casual post-trip Zoom image review!

\$70 (PPLAC Member)

\$100 (non-member)

\$50 (non-shooter)

Lodging, meals and transportation are not included. We will be based at the Bell Rock Inn and the Holiday Inn Express near Sedona for 2 nights. Then for the following 3 nights, we will be at the Maswik Lodge in Grand Canyon Village near the South Rim.



For questions, more details or to register for this PPLAC Adventure, please contact:

Liz Chalmers - liz@lizchalmers.com



Join us on this "Grand" 5-Day PPLAC Adventure!



Four-Day Adventure!

November 2-5, 2026

Death Valley Adventure!

Join us on this epic exploration
to one of the most iconic and
storied places in America!

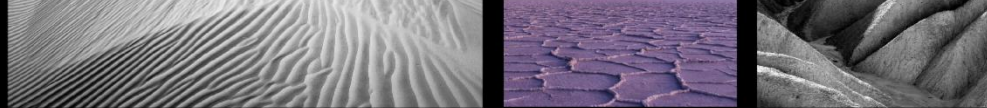


On this PPLAC Adventure, John Grusd will lead us on a photographic extravaganza through Death Valley's most spectacular landscapes! We will visit the magnificent dunes, salt playas, and tortured geography that made it infamous!



John will also present techniques to encourage your creativity, reveal the photographer's role in interpreting subject matter and help you find the path to developing your own personal style!





The PPLAC Adventure fee includes four days of guidance, plenty of handouts, a pre-trip informational Zoom meeting and a fun, casual post-trip Zoom image review!
\$70 (PPLAC Member)
\$100 (non-member)
\$50 (non-shooter)

Lodging, meals and transportation are not included. We will be based at the Stovepipe Wells Village Hotel located at sea level in the middle of Death Valley!

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



Come explore with us on this 4-Day PPLAC Adventure!

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Photo Opportunity for Inspiration, Education, and Edification

One of the many things we like to do for our members is to share with them photography-oriented activities that may be of some interest to them. Here is one such possibility:



Forest Lawn Museum
1712 S. Glendale Avenue
Glendale, CA. 91205

<https://forestlawn.com/exhibits/persona-exploring-self-portraiture-2/>

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News

**FOR ONE
WEEK**

**JUNE 7-12,
2026**

**LEARN
FROM
THE
BEST**





WEST COAST SCHOOL OF PHOTOGRAPHY

June 7 -12, 2026
Hyatt Regency - Valencia, CA



Photoshop In A Week:
From "Help!" To
"Heck Yeah!"

MICHAEL COLLINS



Architecture & Interiors
Photography

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Portraits:
The Essentials &
Beyond

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High School Seniors
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Basic Photography:
For Beginners &
Students (reduced
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KEVIN KARZIN

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 2026 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.

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Tuition starts at \$950 Easy prepayment plans available!

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Community Network
with PPA

Did You Know? 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](tel:18007866277)



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