



August 2026



Greetings PPLAC Members!

Summer has been filled with photographic opportunities, learning experiences, and wonderful fellowship! It has been exciting to see so many members participating in our activities and sharing their passion for photography.

On July 15, eighteen members and friends enjoyed the rare privilege of visiting the **Getty Museum's Department of Photographs Study Room**, hosted by our very own **John Grusd**. We were treated to a

specially curated collection of historically significant photographs selected exclusively for our group. During this visit, we explored the history, context, and evolving direction of landscape photography while viewing some of the most important images ever created. Following our study session, we enjoyed lunch together in the Getty cafeteria before exploring the museum's painting galleries, beautiful gardens, and remarkable architecture. It was a day filled with art, inspiration, and friendship.

Our second **Workshop Wednesday** Zoom meeting was another educational success! **Tim Hintz** shared his Best of Category Portrait captured in Cuba, while **John Powers** discussed his Best of Category Landscape photographed in Iceland. As if we were watching a National Geographic documentary, both presenters took us behind the scenes, sharing the stories behind their award-winning images. They explained how they captured their photographs, their creative thought processes and technical decisions, and their post-processing techniques that transformed their vision into the final images. It was an inspiring evening of learning!

Our July General Meeting took us to the **Santa Monica Pier**, where twenty members and friends gathered for an evening of photography. We enjoyed Mexican food at Maria Sol before heading all around the pier for photographs. As sunset gave way to darkness, members experimented with long-exposures along the shoreline, and captured the bright lights and motion of the amusement rides.

We are heading to the **Wings Over Camarillo Air Show** on August 15th. Featuring a mix of historic military aircraft and civilian vintage planes, this is one of Southern California's premier aviation events. The aeronautical photographic opportunities make this outing a favorite every year. We hope you'll join us - VIP Tickets are still available!

Our next **Workshop Wednesday** is on **August 19th**. **John Grusd** will present *The Three Rules of Photography*, and **Mel Carll** will demonstrate his signature swirl post-processing technique along with his

use of Nik Filters. These talented photographers have valuable insights to share, and you're certain to come away with new ideas!

August 27th is our third **Digital Print Competition** of the year. Whether you're entering images or simply attending, you'll be inspired by the photographs created by our incredibly talented members.

Finally, I'm excited to announce the destinations for our **2027 PPLAC Adventures!** Next year we'll be photographing the stunning landscapes of **Kanab, Utah; Portland, Oregon; and Monterey, California.** Stay tuned for dates, registration information, and additional details.

Make it a great day!

Liz Chalmers, CPP
PPLAC President

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PPLAC Sponsors

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image credit: Heather Dinkins

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 [David Glazier](#)

AND JOIN US AT
OUR NEXT IN-PERSON MEETING!

SEPT 24, 2026 @ 6:30PM

See Info Below

SAVE THE DATES

Meetings and Events

FUN FACT

Come join our monthly meetings held on the
4th Thursday of Each Month
(unless it falls on a holiday)

August 1 - 16

[DPC#3 Submission Open](#)

August 5 @ 7:00pm

Image Review

Santa Monica Pier

[Zoom Link](#)

August 15

OUTING

Wings Over Camarillo

[\(RSVP Here\)](#)

August 19

Workshop Wednesday

[Zoom Link](#)

August 27 @ 6:00pm

DPC #3

[Zoom Link](#)

September 2 @ 7:00pm

Image Review

Wings Over Camarillo

[Zoom Link](#)

September 24 @ 6:30pm

Membership Monthly

Speaker: Najee Williams

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

Did You Know?

The largest camera ever built,
weighed over **1,400 pounds** and
produced negatives measuring **8 ×
4.5 feet!** Made primarily of wood with
accordion bellows, it was large
enough for a person to stand inside.

STAY CONNECTED



 Share This Email

Send Us Images for
Facebook



Community Network
with PPA

GENERAL INFORMATION

We Have a Newsletter Sign-up Form Available on the Website

<https://www.pplac.org/welcome-to-pplac>

Please share this link with anyone who may be interested in receiving our Newsletter,
attending our Meetings, joining us on Outings, Adventures, or simply want to meet new
faces!

WINGS OVER CAMARILLO

VIP TICKETS ARE ON SALE

VIP Tickets Remain Available

YOU TUBE - NEW "IMAGE REVIEW" VIDEOS

JUNE 04: [Workshop Wednesday #1](#)

As a reminder, these are "unlisted" videos.

They are only accessible by way of these Newsletters.

We respectfully request you to Bookmark them.

MEMBERS ONLY

Sponsorship News!

We have received a ONGOING discount with DXO complete with its own code. A separate mail was sent out earlier this year to Active & Lifetime Members with the information on how to claim your savings.

Please contact [David Glazier](#) if you need the code

IMAGES OF THE MONTH



Concours D'Elegance: John Grusd



Getty: Albert Huen

LAST MONTH

PPLAC Special Event
"Getty Center Department of Photographs Study Room"
July 15, 2026



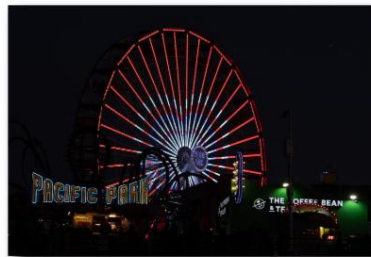
In Attendance: Roy Patience, Natalie Kahn, Greg Trainor, Janice Trainor, Dave Glazier, Tim Hintz, Gayle Corwin, Saul Miller, John Grusd, John Powers, Chris Martens, Sharon Martens, Liz Chalmers, Boris Smorodinsky, Ira Mintz, Mel Carll, Nikki Washburn, Leslie Geffen. Photos, thanks to Nikki Washburn.

Not only is the Getty Center a great place to visit and to photograph, they also have the Department of Photographs Study Room where we are able to view a curated collection of historically significant images that are selected just for us! On this visit, we concentrated on the history, context and future currents in Landscape Photography. This is always a rare and privileged opportunity to view and study, up close, some of the most significant images ever created!

After our viewing, we enjoyed lunch in the cafeteria, visited some of the the painting galleries and photographed the ever-interesting architecture, gardens and views that Getty Center has to offer! It was a great, art-filled day!

John Grusd
PPLAC Know-it-all

PPLAC General Meeting and Fun Photo Shoot Santa Monica Pier!



Mel Carll, Nikki Washburn, Roy Patience, Natalie Kahn, John Powers,
Liz Chalmers, Larry White, Andrew Lewis, Saul Miller, Wendy Miller,
Rich Ramirez, John Grusd, Frank Damon, Todd Diamond, Dave Glazier,
Ira Mintz, Mike Reyburn, Leslie Geffen, Hutch Hutchison, Tim Hintz,
Ron Kaplan

Twenty-one PPLAC members and friends gathered at the Santa Monica Pier for an enjoyable evening of food, fun and photography. The outing began with dinner at Maria Sol, where we enjoyed Mexican cuisine and camaraderie.

As twilight settled in, we moved from underneath the pier and countless pylons onto the beach to photograph the waves breaking against the pier, many of us experimenting with ND filters and long exposures.

Once darkness arrived, the Santa Monica Pier came alive with vibrant color and the energy of a summer evening at one of Southern California's most recognizable landmarks

PPLAC IMAGE REVIEW
Getty Center's Study Room

On July 15, eighteen PPLAC members enjoyed the rare privilege of visiting the Getty Center's Department of Photographs Study Room, hosted by John Grusd. We enjoyed the opportunity to view a specially curated collection of some of the most historically significant photographs ever created. These rare photographs gave us a deeper appreciation for the history, context, and evolving direction of landscape photography.

The Image Review featured 50 images. Members provided their insights and voted for the top three photographs. First Place was awarded to **Albert Huen**, who received a \$25 Amazon gift card. Second place went to **Ira Mintz**, earning a \$15 gift card. Third Place was awarded to **John Grusd** who received a \$10 gift card. Congratulations to our winners!

Albert Huen
First Place



Ira Mintz
Second Place

Liz Chalmers
PPLAC President



John Grusd
Third Place

UPCOMING EVENTS



PPLAC Outing!
Saturday
August 15th, 2026
9:00am

Wings Over Camarillo Air Show!

555 Airport Way, Camarillo, CA

PPLAC is heading off into the wild blue yonder for the fantastic "Wings Over Camarillo Air Show"! Don't miss this exciting opportunity to capture breathtaking images of vintage and modern aircraft in aerial action! There are also static aircraft displays and an extensive car show! It's a great way to spend a day with your fellow photographers!



For more information about the Air Show and to purchase tickets, visit the website: **<https://wingsovercamarillo.com/>**

We recommend buying the "VIP Chalet Tickets" which include parking, food and shade! These tickets are limited and sell out quickly, so act now if you are interested. Otherwise, the General Admission tickets are much less expensive and offer a similar access to photography but without the perks.

Those intending to go (no matter which tickets you purchase) will receive an informational sheet that discusses gear, settings and the logistics for us all to meet. And as always, we will follow this PPLAC Outing with a fun and casual Image Review!



If you're interested in attending, please contact Roy Patience at:
roypatience@gmail.com



**7:00PM
Wednesday
August 19, 2026**

WORKSHOP WEDNESDAYS!

featuring
John Grusd and Mel Carll



John will present the 3 Rules of Photography! Stop whatever you are working on until you hear these 3 important rules!

Mel will be presenting his images using a swirl technique in Photoshop. This creative post-processing effect transforms the image into an abstract work of art!

Mel will also discuss his use of Nik Filters. The Nik Collection is a set of creative plug-ins for Photoshop, Lightroom Classic, and DxO.

Workshop Wednesdays are designed to provide members with an informal, comfortable, interactive environment where questions are encouraged!

"Workshop Wednesdays!" is an online Zoom meeting:

You can find links to this Zoom on the PPLAC Website, on the Website Calendar and in our Newsletter, Blasts and Social Media.

Please contact **Liz@LizChalmers.com** for more information!

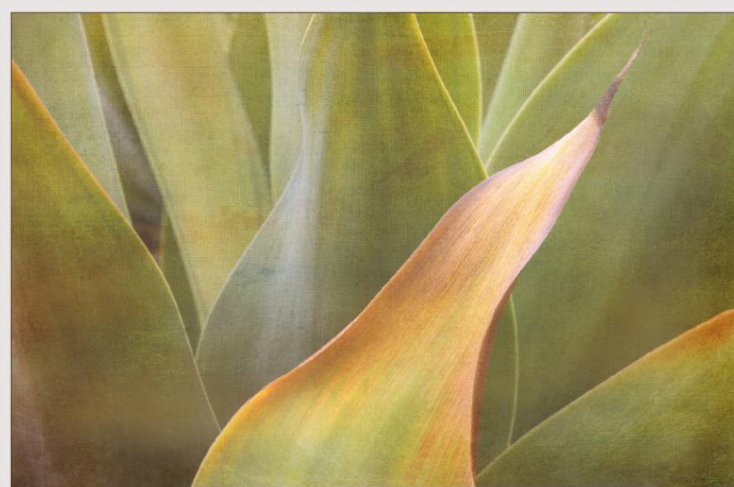


PPLAC DPC
August 27, 2026
6:00pm

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION!

Join us for our 3rd Digital Photographic Competition of 2026 ! 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 experienced and knowledgeable photographers. A panel of 3 judges evaluates each image submitted into the competition and they do it live!

Judges: TBA



"Agave" by Hutch Hutchison
May 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 August 1 - 16.

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



PPLAC General Meeting!

Presentation

Thursday, September 24th, 2026
6:30pm

"Dynamic Sports Portraits!"

Najee Williams

Discover how individually photographed athletes are transformed into dramatic team composites and dynamic individual products. Photographer, Najee Williams will share his complete volume-photography workflow, from planning and lighting to green-screen capture, compositing, product design, and profitability. Najee will demonstrate how creativity and efficient production combine to create a successful volume-photography business.



Najee Williams is a Los Angeles-based professional photographer, educator, and owner of Hocus Pocus Focus, Inc. and Jock Shotz Photography. After studying lighting with legendary photographer Dean Collins, he went on to teach photography at the Tri-Community Photography Center.

From 2005 to 2015, Najee's company was the Official Photographic Service of Hollywood's world-famous Magic Castle. Today, he specializes in high-volume sports photography, using dramatic lighting, green-screen technology, digital compositing, and custom graphic design to create dynamic team and individual portraits.



This is an in-person meeting! We hope to see you there!

Center Point Clubhouse - 6200 Playa Vista Dr, Playa Vista, CA 90094

LAST ADVENTURE FOR 2026

please contact: [Roy Patience](#)

PRICING

\$70 for PPLAC Members

\$100 for Non-Member Photographers

\$50 for Non-Shooting Attendees

****members receive priority reservation****



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!



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 Roy Patience and he will add you to the list.

**PPLAC 1st VP,
Roy Patience - roypatience@gmail.com**

We hope to see you on our next PPLAC Adventure!

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your support means the world to us!

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News

WEST COAST SCHOOL 2027
SEPTEMBER 12 - 16

PPA

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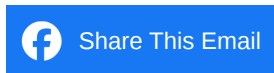
If you are curious or interested in becoming a **Certified Professional Photographer**, learn more [here](#).



Did You Know? PPA has a page dedicated to [copyright protection](#)? AND 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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