



October 2025



“A good photograph is one that communicates a fact, touches the heart and leaves the viewer a changed person for having seen it.”

Irving Penn

Greetings, PPLAC Members:

Great quote. Want it in one word? Impact. Have you noticed how that one word comes up time and time again when talking about great photographs? Develop your technical skills, master your camera gear, but in back of everything you create, how does it touch the soul, how does it stir the heart? Granted, not every photograph is going to be a masterpiece but when you consistently strive to incorporate the disciplines laid out here, it is amazing how it will elevate your work.

For our PPLAC Photo Review in September, we went over the photos collected from our annual PPLAC Outing to the *Wings Over Camarillo* air show in August. After pouring through 41 photos it was determined that first prize went to **Heather Dinkins** for her artistic creation of a ... truck! Yep, a truck photo from the air show won! How did that happen? Well, first of all, it was a great photo. But there was a catch: There was also a static display of vintage cars and trucks as part of the air show, all beautifully aligned on a portion of the airfield. So those images captured there qualified to be part of the overall photo review. Heather took advantage of that and won. Again, congratulations, Heather!

Speaking of PPLAC Outings, our September outing took us to Valencia for a put-what-you-learned-into-practice venture into *Youth Sports Photography*. Our own **Kevin Karzin**, with over forty years of professional photography experience under his belt in sports photography, shared tips, techniques, and insights into sports photography at our monthly in-person meeting in Playa Vista. Then, that Saturday six of us met at the William S. Hart Sports Complex in Valencia to photograph the opening day of fall baseball for hundreds of kids, ages five through high school. It was

a great time for one and all. The PPLAC Photo Review for that will take place Wednesday evening, October 15th, at 7 PM. The link for the Zoom will come out a couple of days ahead of the event.

And speaking of our PPLAC in-person meetings, for the month of October, we will finally see the culmination of the “30 Days of Photography” program that we set into motion months ago. Remember what **Frank Damon** challenged us do in this unique venture? Photograph something every day for 30 days straight. It can be a sun set one day and a trash can the next day. It’s up to you! Well, now we will be sharing everyone’s results. Join us October 23rd at 6:30 PM at the Clubhouse in Playa Vista and find out!

“Keep on clickin’!”

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

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message
Become A Member
Save The Dates
Fun Fact
Sponsor of The Month
September Highlights
September Outings
September Image Review
September Image of the
Month
Oct Event Flyers
Members EXTRA
Adventures Info 2025
Adventures Info 2026
PPLAC Sponsors
PPLAC Board Members

PPC Events
[West Coast School](#)



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!

**OCTOBER 23, 2025 @
6:30PM**

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

(free parking)

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).

October 6-9
Eastern Sierra Adventure

October 12
Mathias Botanical Garden Outing

October 15
Youth Sports
Photo Review

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

October 29
Eastern Sierra
Photo Review

November 1
Dia de Los Muertos Outing

November 5
Mathias Botanical Garden Photo
Review

November 19
Day of the Dead Photo Review

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?

*The human eye equivalent
of f-stop is f/8.3 in bright
conditions and f/2 in dark
conditions.*

STAY CONNECTED



meetup



Community Network
with PPA

PPLAC is pleased to announce
our

**OCTOBER
SPONSOR:**

Anthropics Collection

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

PPLAC Outing
"Youth Sports Photography!"

Valencia, California
September 27th, 2025



Pictured: Liz Chalmers, Heather Dinkins, Nikki Washburn, Mel Carll, John Powers, and Kevin Karzin

After a splendid presentation by Kevin Karzin on how to photograph youth sporting activities at our in-person PPLAC meeting in Playa Vista on Thursday evening, September 25th, six of our members gathered that Saturday morning, September 27th at the William S. Hart Sports Complex to photograph the Opening Day for fall baseball. Hundreds of kids (plus their parents and coaches) took part in games, ages 5 through high school. It was an amazing experience for us to put into practice the various techniques and recommendations Kevin taught us with him providing additional insights on game day itself. Afterwards we gathered at a local BBQ restaurant to cap off the event with a tasty lunch together.

We are scheduled to have our PPLAC Youth Sports Outing Photo Review on Wednesday evening, October 15th at 7 PM. Everyone is invited to view the amazing photos captured. The link will be posted shortly before the event. Please join us and support those that ventured out on that great day.

John Powers
President, PPLAC

SEPTEMBER IMAGE REVIEWS

PPLAC Outing: "Wings Over Camarillo"
The Winning Photographs!

On Saturday, August 16 & 17, 2025, over a dozen PPLAC members and friends went to the "Wings Over Camarillo" air show. The weather was a bit overcast at first and then sunshine throughout the rest of the day. Most took advantage of the VIP tent and everyone had a grand time. Then on September 3rd we had 41 photos to review, comment on, and vote for. Our first place winner was Heather Dinkins, receiving a \$25 Amazon gift card. Our second place winner was John Powers who received a \$15 Amazon gift card. And finally, Tom Spanos won third place, receiving a \$10 Amazon gift card. Hard to believe, but a truck wins the air show award! You got to love it! For those that weren't there, that's because they had a static car & truck show display going on also. Congratulations to our winners! And also big thanks to all who participated with a special thanks to Roy Patience for running the Photo Review.



First Place: Heather Dinkins



Second Place: John Powers



Third Place: Tom Spanos

John Powers
President

IMAGE OF THE MONTH

First Place Image by Heather Dinkins
Outing at "Wings Over Camarillo" air show.



OCTOBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



PPLAC General Meeting!

Thursday, October 23rd

6:30pm

"30 Day Photographic Journey"

FRANK DAMON

Join Us for a Celebration of the 30-Day Photographic Journey!

We're excited to showcase the experiences and images from participants of our 30-Day Photographic Journey, which kicked off in June. There was only ONE rule: take one photo a day for 30 days—using a camera or phone.

Come hear personal stories and reflections on how this simple commitment sparked creativity and encouraged fresh perspectives. Participants will share favorite images, creative breakthroughs, and what they learned—or discovered—along the way. Thanks, Frank, for proposing this creative project!



Frank Damon is a retired attorney who specialized in insurance regulatory law. Frank has been a docent at El Pueblo de Los Angeles. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Shelter partnership, a leader in the fight to end homelessness in LA. Frank mentored high school photography students which culminated in an exhibition entitled "Teen Perspective: Urban Landscape" in DTLA. His passion in life, in addition to his wife, Linda, is photography. He feels that the camera is a great invention that has drastically evolved over the years and has enabled people to also evolve and grow to find their true vision using this medium. And it is really fun!

Our Meeting Location! (Free parking underneath the building!)

CenterPointe Clubhouse - 6200 Playa Vista Dr, Playa Vista, CA 90094

OCTOBER OUTINGS

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



PPLAC Outing!
Sunday,
October 12th, 2025
9:00am - ?

The Mathias Botanical Garden

707 Tiverton Drive, Los Angeles, California, 90095

Join PPLAC at the Mathias Botanical Garden located on the southeastern corner of the UCLA campus. The 7.5 acre garden contains a diverse collection of plant species from around the world. Entry is free!

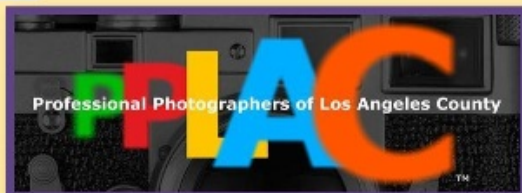


The Garden can be accessed from multiple gates. The main entrance is located at 707 Tiverton Drive, Los Angeles, California, 90095. Restrooms are available.

Visitors can park in UCLA Parking Structure 2. Rates are \$4/hour or \$16/day, and you must pay with your license plate # at a kiosk when you park. Do not wait to pay until you return or you will likely be ticketed. Do not park in spots labeled with a permit type other than green visitor parking. There are also metered parking spots in Westwood Village and on Manning Ave.

For more information contact Liz Chalmers at:

Liz@LizChalmers.com



PPLAC Outing!
Saturday, Nov 1st , 2025

Day of the Dead Celebration!

Dia de los Muertos

**Hollywood Forever Cemetery
6000 Santa Monica Boulevard**

Get your tickets for this exciting event! Hundreds will be gathering to celebrate this amazing and solemn occasion. Go to <https://www.ladayofthedeath.com> to get your tickets; they go on sale October 3rd. Parking instructions are also detailed at the same website.



Photos by John Powers



We will meet at **11 AM** at the front gate of the **Hollywood Forever Cemetery** (6000 Santa Monica Blvd).

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

MEMBERS EXTRA

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)

When traveling abroad, with or without your camera, consider enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. **STEP** Enrollment saved a PPLAC member from spending months in China when the Corona Virus outbreak occurred in 2020!

STEP is a free service offered by the U.S. Department of State that allows U.S. citizens and nationals to register their trip abroad. This helps the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate contact you quickly and accurately in case of an emergency.

Benefits of Enrolling in STEP

- **Receive real-time alerts** about health, weather, safety, and security issues in your destination country.
- **Stay informed** using resources from the local U.S. embassy.
- **Get help in emergencies** such as natural disasters, civil unrest, or family emergencies.
- **Assistance with STEP-related technical issues** is available.

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!****



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

...and begin our explorations in the beautiful 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!**

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)

\$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



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

PPLAC Sponsors

your support means the world to us!

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WEST COAST SCHOOL
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

News

NEW VENUE FOR WEST COAST SCHOOL 2026



WEST COAST SCHOOL OF PHOTOGRAPHY

June 7-11, 2026

NEW VENUE



Idyllwild, CA

NEW CLASSES

Portraiture
Landscape
Commercial
Photoshop
Beginners
High School Seniors

LOWER TUITION!

LODGING

Gorgeous
new venue
with limited
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with Karen Nakamura



Saturday
Nov. 15th

\$ 99 PPC Premium
\$129 PPC Members
\$179 Non PPC



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INFORMATION & SIGN UP: www.ppconline.com



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

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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Culver City, CA 90230 US

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