



September 2023

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

September 2023 President's Letter

I have the honor of sitting in for our president this month as she is away. Nikki Washburn is in the heart of Africa, photographing the big game and soaking in the atmosphere of Kenya's allure and intrigue. Actually, we have five of our PPLAC members in Africa at the moment. Along with Nikki is Mel Carll, our treasurer, Gary Parsons, our DPC director, Sharon Lobel, our 2021 PPLAC Photographer of the Year, and David LaNeve. Together, David and Sharon have formed the amazing photography-based tour company called *Photography Adventure Tours* (you can follow them on Instagram [@photoadventuretours](https://www.instagram.com/photoadventuretours)). If you're interested in traveling overseas to take some incredible photographs, contact David and/or Sharon when they get back!

We just wrapped up our third of four Digital Photography Competitions (DPC). With Kevin Karzin running things behind the scene and our colorful moderator, Bob Young, out front. We certainly had an exceptional evening! Our outstanding judges consisting of Rebecca Li, Elizabeth Toller, and Dwight Okumoto, provided wonderful insights and comments for all those that participated in the event. Forty-five images were reviewed, discussed, and scored. Out of it, we recognized seven photographers who captured the best in selected categories. They were as follows:

- Best in Architecture: *"The Waffle Building"* by Roy Patience
- Best in Landscape: *"Up Hill Both Ways"* by Mel Carll
- Best in Nature: *"Come On In, The Water's Fine"* by John Powers
- Best in Open: *"Abandoned At The End Of The Galaxy"* by John Grusd
- Best in Photojournalism: *"Loop de Loop"* by Gary Parsons
- Best in Portrait: *"Elegant Encounter"* by John Powers
- Best in Wedding: *"Forever Begins Tonight"* by Eleanor Gray



Also, this past month we had our annual trek to the "Wings Over Camarillo" air show. Half a dozen people from our organization made their way there and captured some incredible images. The monthly PPLAC Photo Review showcased those amazing photographs. I hope you were able to see them!

Now that we are in the month of September, we have some exciting events lined up for everyone. Right up front, on Saturday, the 2nd we are off to Huntington Beach for our PPLAC Outing of the month: the annual *Civil War Reenactment Celebration*. Photo ops abound as we wander through the camps, capturing images of reenactors that give the distinct feeling of being transported directly from the battlefields of 1863!

And then, on Thursday, September 28th, we will once again meet in person at the Vet Center in Culver City at 7 PM as the well-known photographer, George DeLoache, will share professional insights into his work and business. You won't want to miss this!

Our intrepid president, Nikki, will be back next month to share her exploits and let us know what is going on within PPLAC. Stay tuned and we will see you at our upcoming events in September!

1st VP John Powers

Coming Events & General Meetings

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

Save The Date

Meetings and
Events

Visit our Meetup Calendar
or website for more details**

September 2, 2023
Outing
Civil War Days - Huntington Beach

September 28, 2023
General Meeting
George DeLoache
"The Secrets of Creating Award
Winning Portraits"

October 3 - 5, 2023
Three Day Outing to the Eastern
Sierras

October 26, 2023

Stay Connected

Facebook

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

Meet Up

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

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Imagenomic

General Meeting
Gary Parsons
"Topaz Photograph Plugins for Light
Room and Photoshop"

October 28, 2023
Outing
"Day of the Dead"
Hollywood Forever Cemetery

November 7 - 9, 2023
Three Day Outing to Death Valley

November 16, 2023
DPC #4

December
No General Meeting

January 2024
Open House and Awards Ceremony
January 18, 2024
(**Third** Thursday of the month)

**Please note that speakers/schedule may
change at any time.*

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

September Sponsor of the Month

Jixipix Software
<https://jixipix.com/>



**PPLAC
Needs You!**

This great organization is great
because of its great volunteers!

**Be a part of PPLAC
and make a difference!**

You'll be joining a wonderful group of
like-minded people who share the
love of photography!

Contact any officer in the organization
and we will happily welcome you!

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

Jixipix Software

<https://jixipix.com/>

Luminar Neo from Skylum

<https://skylum.com/luminar>

ProLab Digital

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

StudioMagic

<https://www.layercakeelements.com>

Think Tank

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

Topaz Labs

<https://www.topazlabs.com/denoise-ai>

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(Programs, Speakers, Workshops)
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Mel Carll

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Ira Mintz

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Mel Carll

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John Grud

Parliamentarian
Eleanor Gray

Event Photographer
Angela Chen

August DPC



Best of Show

"Elegant Encounter"

John Powers



Best in Class - Landscape

"Up Hill Both Ways"

Mel Carll



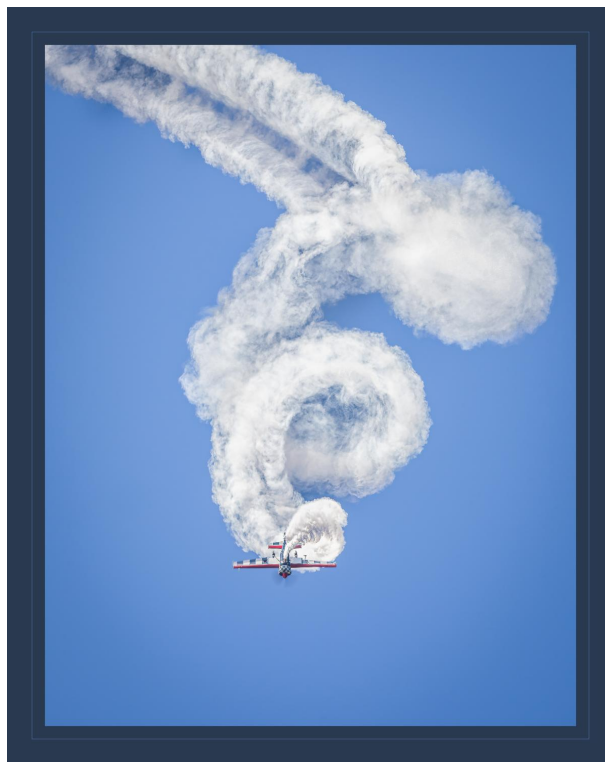
Best in Class - Nature

"Come on in, the Water's Fine"

John Powers



Best in Class - Open
"Abandoned at the End of the Galaxy"
John Grusd



Best in Class - Photojournalism
"Loop de Loop"
Gary Parsons



Best in Class - Portrait
"Elegant Encounter"
John Powers



Best in Class - Wedding/Event
"Forever Begins Tonight"
Eleanor Gray

August Outings & Photo Reviews

PPLAC/CIPPA Safari: “Central California!” The Winning Photographs!

From May 22nd through the 24th PPLAC and CIPPA came together for a joint three-day Safari to Central California. Eleven people in all attended. A great time was had and a lot of wonderful photographs were taken.

So, on Thursday evening, July 6th we came together with other members of PPLAC and CIPPA via Zoom to look at the 19 images we wanted to share. We discussed each image and then everyone voted for their favorites. The first-place winner was Mike Mercadante. Second place went to John Powers while third place was Hutch Hutchison. Mike received a \$25 Amazon gift card and John got a \$15 Amazon gift card and the \$10 Amazon gift card went to Hutch. Congratulations to Mike, John, and Hutch and also big thanks to all who participated.



First Place: Mike Mercadante



Second Place: John Powers



Third Place: Hutch Hutchison

John Powers
1st Vice President

“Over the Wild Blue Yonder!”



On Saturday morning, August 19th , PPLAC ventured out to the annual Wings Over Camarillo Air Show! The weather was suppose to be overcast and possible rain but it turned out to be a lovely day with nice cloud coverage to bring some nice definition to our aerial shots. I am not sure who exactly made it to the event but I was able to track down some of our participants, photographed above: Gary Parsons, Roy Patience, John Grusd, Angela Chen, Ira Mintz, and John Powers.

There will be a PPLAC Photo Review on this event on Tuesday evening, August 29th , at 7 PM. Details and Zoom link to follow as we get closer to the date.

All the best,

John Powers
1st VP

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

On Saturday, August 19th, 2023, six members from PPLAC (John Powers, Angela Chen, Roy Patience, Ira Mintz, John Grusd, and Gary Parsons) traveled to Ventura County for the annual *Wings Over Camarillo* air show. Most were part of the VIP tent so we shared a nice lunch at our reserved table with a number of distinguished members of CIPPA. We all had a wonderful time and were able to get some amazing photographs!

So, on Tuesday evening, August 29th we came together with other members of PPLAC via Zoom to look at the 38 images we wanted to share. We discussed each image and then everyone voted for their favorites. The first place winner was John Grusd. Second place went to Ira Mintz, while third place went to Roy Patience. John received a \$25 Amazon gift card from PPLAC and Ira got a \$15 Starbucks gift card and the \$10 Amazon gift card went to Roy. Congratulations to John Grusd, Ira Mintz, and Roy Patience! And also big thanks to all who participated.



First Place: John Grusd



Second Place: Ira Mintz



Third Place: Roy Patience

John Powers
1st Vice President

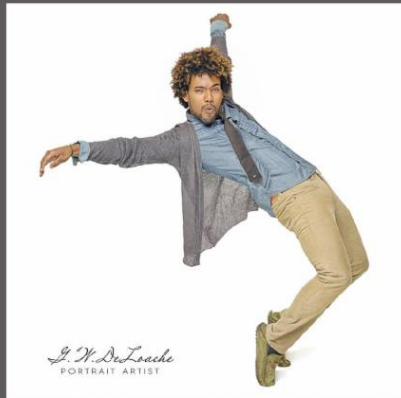
**Coming Events!
Meetings/Outings
Safaris/Workshops**

**September 28, 2023 Meeting
George DeLoache**



**PPLAC
General Meeting
Presentation
Sep 28th, 2023
6:30pm**

**"The Secrets of Creating Award-Winning Portraits!"
George DeLoache, M.Photog., CPP.**



George is the renowned Narrative Portrait Artist, Master Photographer and Educator who enjoys sharing his knowledge, insights and experiences with audiences around the world. Join us for an exciting evening - and it will be our first in-person meeting in over a year and a half!

George DeLoache will share his secrets of creating award winning portraiture and the creative process. George specializes in expressing the unique personalities of the subjects he photographs. His clients run the gamut from business and corporate executives, entertainers, musicians to private individuals. In a world where a photographic portrait might very well convey the first impression of the individual, George combines the uniqueness of personality with artful style. That is what George does best.



The link to join this Zoom meeting will be found in September on the PPLAC website (PPLAC.org under the Calendar) and the September Newsletter and Blasts.



We hope you'll join us on Sep 28th at 6:30pm!

Sponsor of the Month September Silent Auction

Jixipix Software

<https://jixipix.com/>

The software is Jixipix for Windows and MAC. This software is used as Photoshop Plug in and Lightroom.

The product is 3 Pro Products, including Watercolor Studio, Chromatic Edges, and Impresso.

Chromatic Edges: Multiple edges and image post processing changes such as, Cyanotype, Daguerreotype, Gelatin, Silver, etc.

Impresso Pro transforms photos into paintings and then combines paint effects with layers and brushes.

Watercolor Studio: Changes image into a watercolor image with adjustable sliders.

November 16, 2023 DPC #4

The fourth DPC of the year will be held via Zoom.
Time to start thinking about your submissions while out and about this summer!

PPLAC Members! Do you want advice about your images?

We can help you!

We can all use an second pair of eyes when evaluating our images. At PPLAC, we have PPC Certified judges who can give you one-on-one informal critiques of your potential DPC submissions so your images are the best they can be for competition. We can also meet with you after a competition to discuss in more detail the scores you received or to evaluate your images in general.

Contact any of the board members or through the PPLAC website (pplac.org) under the "Contact Us" tab and we will set up a meeting (Zoom, phone, email) or whatever works best for you. We are happy to review as many as 6 images per member.



Image by John Powers

September Outing



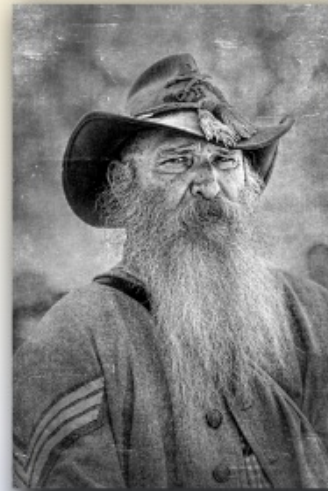
PPLAC Outing!
Saturday, Sep 2nd,
2023

The Civil War Days – Living History!

Huntington Beach Central Park

Southern California's Largest Living History Event!

The Huntington Beach Historical Society is proud to host the 30th annual Civil War Days Living History Event in Huntington Beach Central Park during the 162nd anniversary of America's Civil War. This event is facilitated by hundreds of dedicated volunteers portraying people from all walks of life. This event is free to the public.



Photos by John Powers

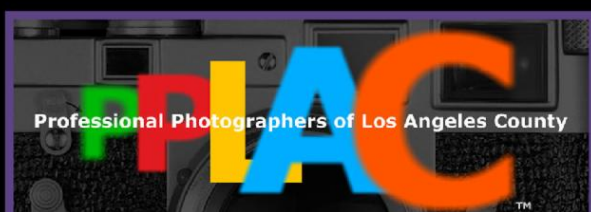
We will meet at **10 AM** in front of the **Huntington Beach Public Library (7111 Talbert Avenue)**. We will then walk over to the Civil War encampment area where we will be free to take all the photos we want.

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

Future Outings/Safaris/Workshops

October 3 - 5, 2023 Eastern Sierra

November 7- 9, 2023 Death Valley



Three-Day
Outing!!

October 3-5, 2023

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 Multi-Day Outing fee which includes three days of guidance and a pre-trip informational Zoom meeting is \$70 per person.

Lodging and transportation are not included. We will be based in Mammoth Lakes for 2 nights at the Quality Inn.

For questions or to register for this event, please contact [John Powers - johnpowers@hotmail.com](mailto:johnpowers@hotmail.com)



Join us on this inspiring 3-Day PPLAC Outing!



**Three-Day
Outing!!**

November 7-9, 2023

Death Valley Adventure!

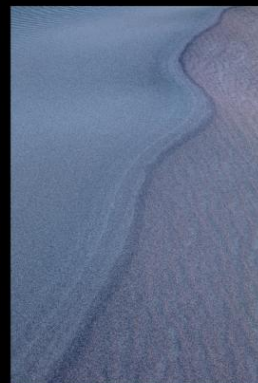
**Join us on this scenic exploration
to one of the most iconic and
storied places in America!**



During this multi-day PPLAC Outing, John Grusd will lead us on a photography adventure through Death Valley's most spectacular landscapes! We will visit the magnificent dunes, salt playas, and tortured geography that made this place famous!



John will also discuss Jump Starting Your Landscape Creativity to help you learn approaches and techniques that train your brain to be creative while adapting to the conditions at hand.



The Multi-Day Outing fee which includes three days of guidance and a pre-trip informational Zoom meeting is \$70 per person.

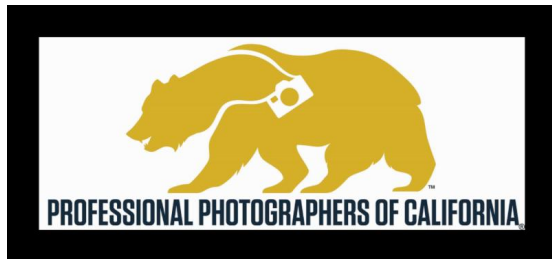
Lodging and transportation are not included. We will be based at the historic Stovepipe Wells Resort inside the National Park.

For questions or to register for this event, please contact [John Powers - johnpowers@hotmail.com](mailto:johnpowers@hotmail.com)





Join us on this inspiring 3-Day PPLAC Outing!



PPC News

<https://ppconline.com/>

Arthur Levi Rainville
Toni Marie Harryman

Epiphany

Soul of an Artist

Technique & Inspiration
for Photographic Artists

Sept 9-10 Hosted by Elizabeth Toller
and Tashia Peterman
Irvine, California

Add on Day Sept 11

Limited to 20 registrants only

Join our industry's Art/Heart legends, Arthur Levi Rainville and Toni Marie Harryman, together for the first time, offering a workshop unlike any other. One-part Creative Retreat, one-part Artistic Learning Adventure, this dynamic duo will embroil you in a whirlwind growing experience for your work, your business, your very Soul.

Participants will discover unique techniques for lighting, posing, scene design and post-production all crafted for you to make original new work. Toni Marie will offer her personal style of photo-painting Art and using "art therapy" to tell creative stories of the soul. Arthur, as always, will guide you to connect deeper with your subjects through Heart Stories. You will leave these days changed forever, as a more creative Artist, a more engaging Heartist.

More info online-

<https://www.johnsonphotostudio.com/for-photographers-epiphany-retreatsworkshops>

<https://www.johnsonphotostudio.com/proofing/epiphany-workshop-irvine-california>

For more info or to register call, email or message

Arthur @ 508-641-2608 rainfoto@aol.com or Toni @ 214-908-0322 phototmj@aol.com





Photographing KILLER BBQ

with

Mel Carll & Kevin Karzin



Learn how to photograph a work in progress using all types of meat and different types of cooking. This workshop will include all meat, plus you get to take some home.



September 30, 2023
8am - 5pm

25675 Yucca Valley Road
Valencia, CA 91355

PPC Premium Members: \$149
PPC Members: \$169
Non-Members: \$199

Register at: www.ppconline.com



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WCS News

<https://ppconline.com/wcs/2020-west-coast-school/>



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WCS is dedicated to provide the highest quality, hands on education and motivational workshops by the industry's top names and talent.

June 9-14, 2024

University of San Diego

OUR INSTRUCTORS

Michael Collins

Photoshop – Zero to Sixty in a Week



Scott Detweiler

AI & Portrait Photography
Leveraging Technology to see more portraits



Sharon Lobel & Karen Nakamura

Macro Photography and Floral Compositing



Tim Meyer

Fundamentals of Lighting and Posing



Michelle Pennings

Fine Art Masterpiece Portraits - Creation to Completion



Pete Rezac

Hard Light, Soft Light, Window Light, Strobe Light
BLACK AND WHITE DONE RIGHT



Chris Wooley

Magic Marketing: Captivate and Connect with Your Brand



About Us...

West Coast School is a week long photography school offering an outstanding lineup of instructor's and a full schedule of special events. Our commitment has been to teach attendees practical, real-world skills that can be used to build a satisfying and prosperous career in professional photography. Come experience an incredible week of networking, education & fun.

Community Network
with PPA



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PPA News

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

The 12 Elements of a Merit Image

<https://www.ppa.com/ppmag/articles/12-elements-of-a-merit-image>

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!

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>

LET'S CONNECT

PPA - Professional Photographers of America

229 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 2300

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

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