

Volume 4 April 2025



APRIL 2025

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



2025 President John Powers

“You can look at a picture for a week and never think of it again. You can also look at a picture for a second and think of it all your life.”

Joan Miro

Greetings, PPLAC Members:

After reading the quote above, one word comes to mind for me: Impact! I’ve brought that concept up before and here it is again. I guess that underscores the value of impact when it comes to photography. Composition is important, technical skills are imperative, but if there isn’t impact, sometimes it feels as if

it is all for naught. Hone your skills, develop your style, but keep an eye out for impact in your photography. It will make a world of difference in the long run. It's what connects the viewer with the image!

A hearty welcome to our two newest members to PPLAC: Larry White and Hank Wright! Great to have you two gentlemen join us on our journey to better photography, and if you're not careful, more fun! Be sure to take advantage of the myriad of photographic opportunities we will provide over the rest of the year, to include outings, competitions, and social interactions.

March is behind us and it was quite an eventful month: First, we had our Dickensfest Photo Review. **Heather Dinkins'** poignant photograph of a chimney sweeper was voted the best. And what a grand time we had at the Descanso Gardens for our monthly PPLAC Outing, photographing tulips, tulips, tulips, oh, and some outlying subjects as well. Hats off to **Liz Chalmers** for putting this together and a big thanks to **Ron Kaplan** for inviting members of the Ventura Photography Club to join us. What a lot of fun with so many in our midst! And we capped the month with an informative and an entertaining evening with **Royce Bair** who opened the world of astrophotography for us. Royce's presentation was chock-full of incredible insights, images, and imagination. Thank you, Royce, for your time and talents!

As we enter April, we have our annual trek to the Renaissance Faire in Irwindale followed by our Photo Review ten days later. And don't forget our monthly meeting, where we will be coming together in person in Playa Vista for the first time since our Open House in January. We will have the opportunity to hear our own **Mel Carll** share about getting out of a photography rut, something I think we have all experienced at one time or another. Join us for what definitely will be a most profitable evening, April 24th, in Playa Vista (see the flyer below).

Okay, that's enough for now. Until next month ...

"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).

April 5th
Renaissance Faire

April 10th

PPLAC is pleased to announce **DXO** as our **APRIL** **SPONSOR**

We will have a silent auction during our April in-person meeting.

Sharon Lobel
Presentation at the Adventurers Club
of Los Angeles

April 24th
Mel Carll, Getting Out of A
Photography Rut

May 1st
Entries Open-Digital Image
Competition

May 10th
Santa Anita
Los Angeles Arboretum

May 11th
Entries Close-Digital Image
Competition

May 13-16
Waterfalls and Mt Shasta

May 18th
Huntington Library

May 22nd
2nd Digital Image Competition

June 17
The Getty

June 26th
Dan Holmes
Lightroom

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

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

Stay Connected

Facebook

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

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/pplac2024>

Meet Up

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

PPC

<https://ppconline.com/>

PPA

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

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world to us!**

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[StudioMagic](#)

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[Topaz Labs-PhotoAI](#)

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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)

Did you know?....

Early flash powder ingredients included Potassium chloride and aluminium which were mixed to create the flash for images. It was not uncommon for these to be mixed incorrectly and explode more violently than intended.



John Grusd

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

Event Photographer
Angela Chen

Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



DR. BILL HOPPOCK

August 8, 1949 - March 15, 2025

April 5, 2025

11:00am

St. Martin's Catholic Church
11967 W Sunset Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90049

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

PPLAC Outing: Descanso Gardens



Pictured above: Angela Chen, Rob White, Roy Patience, Natalie Kahn, Bertha and Rich Ramirez, Heather Dinkins, Ken Hammer, Albert Huen, Susannah Sofaer, John Powers, John Grusd, Tim Hintz, Gayle Corwin, Ron Kaplan, Ira Mintz, Dave Paumier, Dennis Goldstein & Liz Chalmers. Not pictured: Hutch Huchison

On Saturday, March 22nd, members of PPLAC, the Ventura Camera Club and friends gathered at Descanso Gardens to capture the 30,000+ tulips and other colorful native flowers.

Afterwards, we gathered for lunch at the Garden's Courtyard, enjoying each others company and the opportunity to put our gear down!

Liz Chalmers
PPLAC, 1st VP

April 24

General Membership Meeting



PPLAC General Meeting!

Presentation

Thursday, April 24th

6:30pm

"Getting Out Of A Photography Rut"

MEL CARLL

What is a photography rut and what are the many ways it can appear? We will explore the What, the Why and the How we can escape it. Most importantly, we must ask ourselves, "Am I in a rut?" Join us to explore this topic that many of us may be avoiding!



Mel Carll is a Valencia, CA based photographer who enjoys every aspect of photography. His photography adventure started in 2005 and has only picked up steam since.

Mel is currently the Executive Director of the Professional Photographers of CA, and American Society of Photographers. He is also the current Director of West Coast School of Photography. He has earned his Master Photographer degree, Craftsman Degree and CPP with PPA, and his PPC Masters Degree and the Harris Giachetto Service Award with PPC.

Mel has received image awards with PPA, PPC and the PPLAC. In 2010 Mel had images entered into the permanent collection of the California African American Museum as part of the Allensworth, A Place, A People, A Story exhibit.

†

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

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

Coming Events!

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS



PPLAC Outing
Saturday
April 5th , 2025

Renfaire!

**15501 Arrow Highway,
Baldwin Park, California 91706**

Join us as we venture to Irwindale for one of the largest Renaissance Faires in the entire United States! Gates open at 10:00 AM but I would strongly advise everyone to be there by 9:30 AM because traffic backs up quickly. We will meet in line at the entrance at 9:45 AM.



Photos by John Powers

You can purchase your tickets at the box office (\$44 for adults/\$39 for seniors, 62+) or on-line at <https://renfair.com/socal/tickets/>

If you're interested in attending, contact John Powers at:

johnpowers@hotmail.com



April 10, 2025 - As one of the first women adventurers to be inducted into the famous Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles in 100 years, mark your calendar and join Sharon Lobel as she speaks about her 2024 adventures through Australia, East Timor, Bali, Raja Ampat, Papua and Papua New Guinea. Sharon is also the first woman of ACLA to carry the expedition flag on her off the beaten path journey.

If you would like to join us for dinner, reservations are required to purchase tickets in advance by April 9th at www.adventurersclub.org.

The meeting schedule is:

- 6:00pm – Club Opens, Social Hour
- 6:30pm – Dinner Is Served
- 7:30pm – Club Meeting Commences
- 8:00pm – Program Begins
- 9:30pm – Program Concludes

The Club is located at 2433 N. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA. 90031 on the second floor of the corner building. The entrance on Broadway is unmarked so when you arrive, come in through the double iron- glass doors. A member will be at the top of the stairs to greet you upon arrival and welcome you.

There is metered parking in front of and across the street from the Club. You may also park in the bank parking lot.

The Adventurers' Club is a traditional social club, therefore we request "business casual" attire for everyone attending a program.

We look forward to seeing you there!



The Adventurers' Club of Los Angeles

It's time to start preparing your images for DPC #2 on May 22, 2025

Entries open May 1st
Entries close May 11th

We are pleased to announce our Judges

[Tim Meyer](#)
[Dwight Okumoto](#)
[Caroline Flugstad](#)

2025 ADVENTURES



**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!**



**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!



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 BEING CONSIDERED FOR 2026!

We're thrilled to announce we're currently exploring a variety of exciting adventure opportunities for 2026! Stay tuned!

- Sedona & Grand Canyon

- Death Valley
- Yosemite
- Albuquerque



PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

NEWS

Carlsbad Flower Fields Excursion

with Marcy Dugan & Robin Swanson

April 18, 2025
Friday 9am-2pm

Marcy and Robin are hosting a fun day of photography at the world-famous flower gardens in Carlsbad, California. With 50 acres of ranunculus, there's lots of opportunities to capture amazing images, enjoy delicious food, learn about the gardens, relax, and have a blast. The gardens welcome tri-

and have a blast. The gardens welcome tri-pods too!

Grab your **\$22 entrance ticket*** in advance at www.theflowerfields.com.

More information and excursion sign-up at www.ppconline.com

\$ 25 PPC Members

\$ 30 Non PPC

(*plus your entrance ticket)



PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

INFORMATION & SIGN UP: www.ppconline.com

Spring Wildflower Excursion!

with Dan Holmes

May 3, 2025

Hungry Valley State

Vehicular Recreation Area

Saturday 10am-3pm

Join **Dan Holmes** as he hosts a wonderful photo excursion in one of California's hidden gem locations - Tejon Pass area of the Tehachapi Mountains. Images of wildflowers, wildlife and even off road motor sports are all to be had at this ideal location. Directions and equipment recommendations are available on the PPC website sign-up page.

\$ 20 PPC Members
\$ 30 Non PPC
plus
\$5.50 vehicle fee



INFORMATION & SIGN UP: www.ppconline.com

**Santa Anita
Race Track**

**Los Angeles
Arboretum**

&

with Liz Chalmers,
Dan Holmes

May 10, 2025



Join us at 6:30am for the most unique way to catch the morning sunrise at Santa Anita Park, as we photograph the race horses' morning exercises!

We'll be at the top of the stretch, in prime position, as horses race right in front of us. **Free entry & free parking, hot coffee, beautiful thoroughbreds!**

We will enjoy breakfast at the track at Clocker's Corner, a time-honored destination for fans and horsemen alike and then proceed to the Arboretum.

Arboretum entry tickets are \$15 Adults, \$11 Seniors (62+) www.arboretum.org

**\$10 PPC Premium
\$20 PPC Members
\$30 Non PPC**



INFORMATION & SIGN UP: www.ppconline.com



WEST COAST SCHOOL
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

WCS News

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



WEST COAST SCHOOL OF PHOTOGRAPHY

June 8-13, 2025

Hyatt Regency | Valencia, CA

Our 2025 Instructors



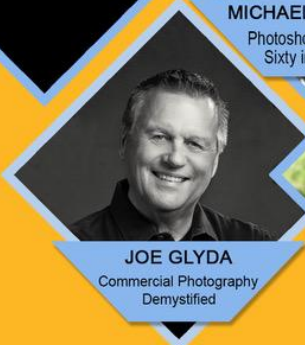
MICHAEL COLLINS
Photoshop - Zero to
Sixty in a Week



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



westcoastschool.com

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with PPA

West Coast School Raffle Donations





West Coast School is fast approaching, be sure to enroll, as classes are filling quickly!

To help fund WCS, we have daily raffle drawings during each school session with amazing prizes for our students to win.

If you would like to contribute or know of a business that might be interested in the extra publicity, please reach out to:

Robin Swanson at
Treasurer@ppconline.com



PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

TO CONTRIBUTE: treasurer@ppconline.com



2024



WEST COAST SCHOOL
PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA





PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS OF CALIFORNIA

SUPPORT OUR

VENDOR PARTNERS



PAUL'S PHOTO



if you shoot it, edit it, or print it, you need to talk to us!



aftershoot



PPA News

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

Community Network
with PPA

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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