



# EXPOSURE

Wasatch Camera Club Newsletter



*Safe at Second by Dave Argyle*

## Highlights In This Issue...

- \* About the Cover Image
- \* Member Profile
- \* Competition Results
- \* Creative Corner
- \* Field Trips/Overnight Trips
- \* & Much More...

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## Current/Upcoming Events

- ♦ June 29 / 8:00am - 10:30am  
[Saving Gracie Equine Healing Foundation Photo Shoot](#)
- ♦ July 10 / 6:30pm - 8:00pm  
[Shutter Up Social: Shooting Down, Shooting Up, Finding the Captivating Middle Spot](#)
- ♦ July 21 / 6:30pm - 10:00pm  
[Golden Hour, Blue Hour, Sunset, Full Moon Shoot at the Great SaltAir](#)
- ♦ July 26 / End of Day  
[JCC Exhibit - Call for Submissions CLOSING](#)
- ♦ August 30 / 9:00am - 4:00pm  
[JCC Exhibit - Accepted Images Drop Off](#)
- ♦ September 1 - September 30  
[Jewish Community Center Exhibit](#)
- ♦ September 5 / 5:00pm - 7:00pm  
Jewish Community Center Exhibit Reception
- ♦ September 6 / 5:00pm - September 8 / 10:00am  
[Camping in the West Desert – Wild Horses and Night Skies](#)

## WHAT'S NEW



### Member Photos Facebook Group

We are pleased to announce a new Facebook page for club members that allows you to post your photos directly, discuss technique and workflow, and – if you wish – receive comments and suggestions.

To solicit critiques of your photos, state that you are open to helpful comments or suggestions.

You may post photos that are watermarked or not, but don't include phone numbers or links to commercial web pages. Commercial promotion and marketing efforts belong elsewhere, such as your personal page or your website. [CLICK HERE](#) for additional rules.

We are excited to offer this new feature so you can post your work, receive feedback and suggestions, and ask questions of fellow members. We encourage you to leave comments so those sharing their work are enthused to continue.

The page title is **Wasatch Camera Club Member Photos**, and can be found [HERE](#).



# About the Cover Image

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## ***Safe at Second* by Dave Argyle**

My father was an avid photographer, and he taught me to use his Pentax Spotmatic camera when I was a young teenager. I have always owned at least one camera ever since. For many years I mostly took pictures to put in the family photo albums. But when my daughter joined the local high school's track team, I discovered sports photography and fell in love.

I spent my career as an engineer, and I've never considered myself much of an artist. I often look at the beautiful photos produced by others with a sense of awe. I feel like I can recognize art and beauty, but I have a very hard time creating any myself. But sports photography offered me an outlet that wasn't primarily about creating art or beauty, but instead focused on capturing interesting and compelling moments in time. It was more technical in nature. A great deal of my enjoyment came from figuring out how to capture such images, sometimes in very challenging situations, and especially given the limitations of early digital cameras.

A sporting event always provides certain easy shots, like a tackle at a football game or a long jump at a track meet. But the fun really happens when you can see and capture something unexpected. To get those shots you must pay attention and react quickly. You must know your equipment, and have it prepared for instant use.

I got the *Safe at Second* shot last year at the state high school baseball tournament held at BYU. I was kneeling in the designated media area just inside the fence near first base. A runner at first attempted to steal second. I locked my focus on the second baseman hoping to get a shot of a tag. But the throw from the catcher was late and off-target, so instead of a tag I caught the second baseman hurtling the runner to catch the ball and prevent an error. Totally unexpected, and lots of fun.

Nikon Z9, 100-400mm lens @ 290mm, 1/1600 sec, f/5.3, ISO 220, cropped to remove first base coach on the left and center fielder on the right.



## Member Profile – James Pierce

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*James is an accomplished astrophotographer, and many of these images may be viewed on his Facebook page and [Flickr](#). NASA selected his image of comet Pons-Brooks for their March 26, 2024 [APOD](#) (Astronomy Picture of the Day.) Those of you at the last competition meeting might recall his unusual perspective on pelican imagery. The text has been edited for length and clarity.*

I was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, but a tornado destroyed my parents' home shortly after my birth. Consequently, I grew up with my parents and grandparents in Provo, Utah, and later moved to Taylorsville. Between 2000 and 2009, I lived in Walnut Creek, California, before returning to Utah.

I have a background in graphic arts and programming/web design. For over a decade, I have worked for a small, veteran-owned company in California, where I maintain their website and infrastructure with a colleague based in Washington. This job has provided me the freedom to travel and indulge in hobbies like photography. Although I considered turning my hobbies into a career, I've learned that trying to monetize a passion often sacrifices some of its joy.

My interests include photography, beekeeping, woodworking, stargazing, and nature. I keep a couple of beehives in my backyard and once raised honey bee queens for local beekeepers.

Photography has fascinated me since childhood. I still own and occasionally use a Polaroid SX-70. As digital technology advanced, I got an Olympus D-510 Zoom which, combined with my love for technology and computers, sparked more photographic experimentation. Over time, I also became increasingly interested in capturing nature and its creatures.

Space has always intrigued me, naturally extending into my photographic interests through Milky Way landscape images. The pandemic and Comet NEOWISE motivated me to try out star trackers. One night, I set up at Antelope Island and futzed around in the dark for a couple of hours capturing comet photos. Later, I photographed the Andromeda galaxy from Salt Lake City. Seeing the completed images, I was hooked: I could not believe it was possible to photograph such objects from the city. My peaceful places during the pandemic were nights spent at Antelope Island and day trips to Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

What I love most about photography is its companionship during travels, nature outings, nights under the stars, or time with friends. It motivates me to get outside or join social activities like club outings. Although I have a habit of not editing and sharing many photos, I enjoy hearing others' perspectives when I do. Another favorite aspect of photography is its ability to serve as a memory. Whether displayed on a wall or a digital photo frame, each photograph can transport me back to a moment of time in my life, keeping me connected to those experiences.

– Greg Smith, Board Director & PSA Chair



# New Move for WCC Website

By Jeff Clay, Board Chair



Cha-cha-cha changes...A wag once quipped that the only thing that remains constant is change. How true and that applies to our website as well. What!? Changes to our award-winning website (PSA 2022 Honorable mention & 2023 PSA 1st Place)...why? Well, the short answer is that we must. But that explains nothing so let me go back in time a bit. Prior to the website we have now we had a website that we rolled out in 2009. That site was built on a content management system (CMS) call

Drupal. I won't go into the details of [what is a CMS](#), but suffice it to say that it allows for the relatively easy and non-technical management and content updating of one's website. At the time Drupal was the most powerful and the most deployed of CMS websites. That website did us fine for the 10 years we had it, but it did not have an integrated membership database with email capability. It also had not been updated in years and needed a visual makeover as well. Hence, we launched a project in late 2018 to find a new software solution. After a year-plus long process we eventually deployed our new website (in early 2020) on a CMS called Joomla. Primarily, we decided on that because a local development firm specialized in implementing Joomla systems along with the integrated industry standard open-source customer relationship management (CRM) software called CiviCRM. This chunk of software allows us to set up registration for member-only events, draft and send emails, create membership directories, analyze membership data, and very importantly, interfaces with our payment portal.

Meanwhile, beginning sometime around 2010 a platform called WordPress – which was originally all about blogging – began being developed to be an even simpler, highly functional, easily implemented CMS. Fast-forward to today, and WordPress is the number one by far [CMS deployed](#)



[around the world](#). Both Joomla and Drupal are now in the single digits. Within the narrower world of CMS-CiviCRM integration Joomla has lost a lot of market share and sits at about 3% compared to WordPress's much

larger 28%. What this means is that security patches and updates for our Joomla/CiviCRM environment come slowly, if at all. (In fact, we have had to contract separately with a developer to provide updates for our financial interface.)

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## New Move for WCC Website (cont.)

Late last year our version of Joomla reached “end of life” meaning that there will be no more updates for it, so it has become a security as well as a functionality liability. The choice presented to us at the beginning of this year was to pay money to upgrade Joomla or to look at a migration to either Drupal or WordPress. One would think it would be a no-brainer to pay the money to upgrade our instance of Joomla. However, because of the lack of Joomla/CiviCRM development and falling market share, we chose the second path of finding another developer to help implement either WordPress or Drupal. After a several month-long process, we have elected to go



with a long established, New York-based firm called ADG Creative. They will migrate us to a WordPress/CiviCRM system hopefully by the beginning of July. Part of the criteria for moving to a new developer and website platform was the ability to essentially move

over everything that we have now. That means we are not going through a redesign process and all the content, design, site navigation, etc., should remain essentially the same. There will be a few unavoidable changes especially from the standpoint of managing the site. But, for you the members, the website experience should be essentially the same. More details will be forthcoming, but we do expect a seamless transition.

The website team of Claudia O’Grady, Cindy Costa, John Nellist, and I have been working on this since January, in concert with the Board. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email us either individually or at the group address of [website-team@wasatchclub.com](mailto:website-team@wasatchclub.com). Additionally, one of the exciting things about moving to WordPress is that now the possibility of implementing new functionality – such as forums and internal galleries – becomes much easier. So, if you have any suggestions for the future, send them our way.

And here’s looking forward to another PSA award soon!



# Competition Recap

## May Results – Glass in Any Form

### Intermediate – First Place



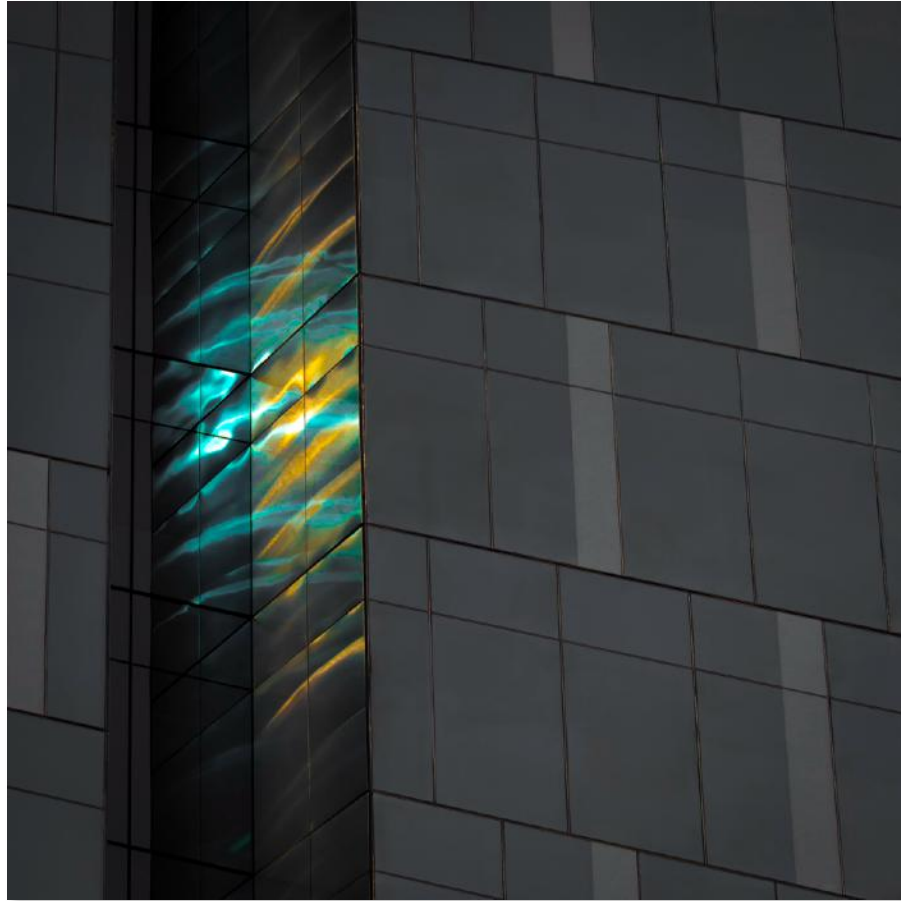
*Tri-Coke* by Andrea Dahl

Award	Title	Member
1	<a href="#">Tri-Coke</a>	Andrea Dahl
2*	<a href="#">Cola</a>	Andrea Dahl
2*	<a href="#">Painting With Light</a>	Jennifer House
HM	<a href="#">Broken State of Mind</a>	Dawn Griffith

\* Two-way tie

## May Results – Glass in Any Form (cont.)

### Advanced – First Place



*Apparition* by Randy Gerdes

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Award	Title	Member
1	<a href="#">Apparition</a>	Randy Gerdes
2	<a href="#">Ascencion</a>	Randy Gerdes
3	<a href="#">Refraction of Wisconsin State Capitol</a>	Rick Langer
HM	<a href="#">Empire</a>	Randy Gerdes

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view all Competition Submissions



## May Results – Glass in Any Form (cont.)

### Masters – First Place



*Cabernet* by Greg Smith – **Best in Show\***

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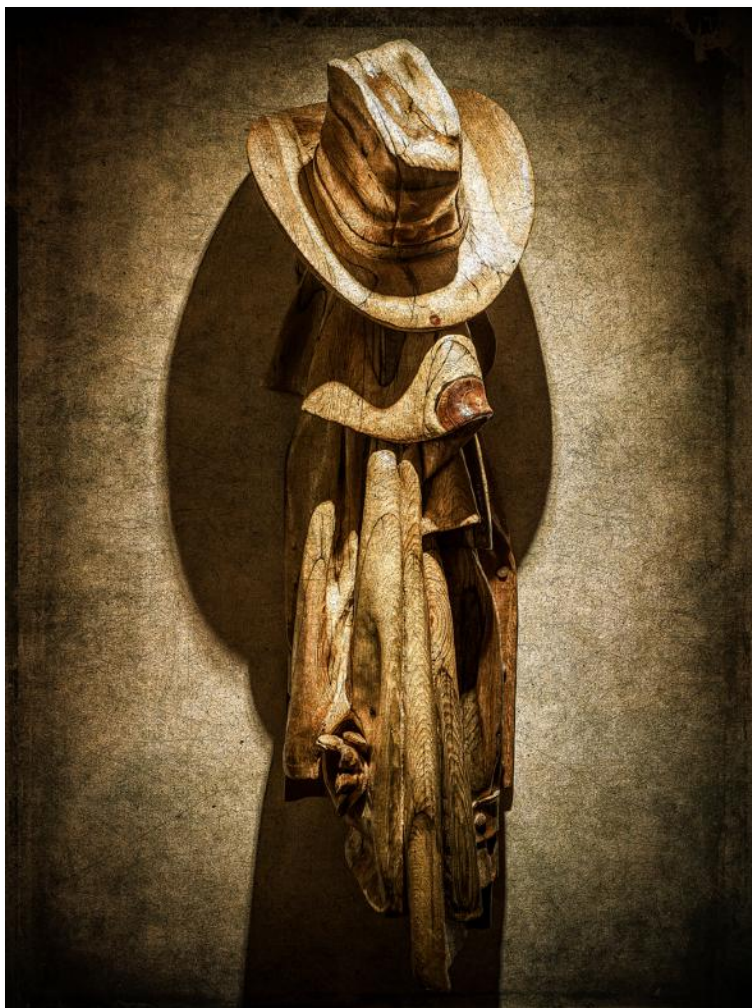
Award	Title	Member
1	<a href="#">Cabernet – Best in Show*</a>	Greg Smith
2	<a href="#">Glass on Lakeshore</a>	Keith Hill
3	<a href="#">Looking Up In Downtown</a>	Veloy Cook
HM	<a href="#">Shattered Sunroof</a>	Greg Smith

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\* Two-way tie for Best in Show

## May Results – Open

### Intermediate – First Place



*A Sculpture* by Hiroshi Kamala

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Award	Title	Member
1	<a href="#">A Sculpture</a>	Hiroshi Kamaya
2	<a href="#">Guardian Owl</a>	Dawn Griffith
3	<a href="#">Pink Light</a>	Jennifer House
HM	<a href="#">A World of Stars</a>	Jennifer House

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view all Competition Submissions

## May Results – Open (cont.)

### Advanced – First Place



*The Street Sweeper*  
by Paul Baird

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Award	Title	Member
1	<a href="#">The Street Sweeper</a>	Paul Baird
2	<a href="#">Lemon Splash</a>	Paul Bradley
3	<a href="#">Roseate Spoonbill #2</a>	Brent Ovard
HM	<a href="#">Broad-billed Hummingbird</a>	Cindy Costa

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view all Competition Submissions

## May Results – Open (cont.)

### Masters – First Place



*Safe at Second* by Dave Argyle – **Best in Show\***

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Award	Title	Member
1	<a href="#"><u>Safe at Second – Best in Show*</u></a>	Dave Argyle
2	<a href="#"><u>Northern Lights, Western Wyoming</u></a>	Stephen Clayson
3	<a href="#"><u>Canyonlands Passing Storm</u></a>	Greg Smith
HM	<a href="#"><u>Pars Pellicani</u></a>	James Peirce

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\* Two-way tie for Best in Show

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view all Competition Submissions



# Artificial Intelligence in Photography

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*By Claudia O'Grady, Secretary & Overnight Field Trips Chair*

It's everywhere you look these days. AI can write your business proposal. AI can build a website for you. It can generate an avatar and add a soundtrack if you'd like. And yes, it can make the digital output of your image something other than a mere photograph.

One of the most significant ways that AI is being used in photography is by automating image processing. While AI can improve your workflow, adjusting contrast, creating sharpness, balancing colors, it can be used in far more creative ways, employing highly complex algorithms and massive amounts of data to differentiate objects and subjects, and blend them seamlessly into an image. With just a few clicks, you can generate new backgrounds, make your sky full of clouds, smooth the skin on your subject's face, or add a unicorn into a herd of wild horses.

One argument against AI-assisted imagery is that it gives a false depiction of reality. Of course, this is an argument that has raged since the dawn of Photoshop. I almost always use content-aware fill to remove distracting sticks and twigs, or maybe even a person who wandered through the frame and ruined the feeling and the scene I was trying to convey. If I prefer the color of the leaves to be yellow, not green, I can make them so, and that's entirely my choice. I don't view this level of editing as portraying something not real.

The AI conversation has become much more complicated over the last year or so, with the introduction of several AI image creation software platforms which use machine learning algorithms to generate realistic images of people, landscapes, and objects. Skylum Luminar and Topaz Labs each offer AI-powered plug-ins that can swap out a sky or enlarge an image without loss of quality. DxO PhotoLab has an AI feature to automatically adjust the contrast and exposure in an image based on your previous editing preferences. Adobe offers its own powerful AI tools, such as Sensei and Firefly, with Sensei being used for task automation and Firefly for asset creation.

The question is, where do you draw the line? Recently I posted an image (next page) to Instagram and just beneath my name appeared a note: *Made with AI*. I was confused, and a bit angry. I immediately added a comment that I had no idea what that meant, and in fact, I made that image all by myself. And then I remembered that I did use generative fill to remove some distracting rocks. After much research I concluded that was the cause. Photoshop added the use of generative fill – an AI powered tool – to the metadata of my image and Instagram made the disclaimer.

I realize this is all a strange new world, but we need to do better. Certainly, it is important for photo competitions to establish clear rules and guidelines, and for photographers to abide by those rules. As viewers and consumers, we should all educate ourselves on how to spot the difference between an AI image and a human made image. AI is not going away. To the contrary, it is only going to get more complicated.

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## Artificial Intelligence in Photography (cont.)

There is no right answer. For me, AI is not a godsend nor is it evil. It is a tool. I enjoy photography for the creative vision it stirs within, and I don't think that will ever change. As HAL said to Dave in 2001 – *A Space Odyssey*, “I am putting myself to the fullest possible use, which is all I think that any conscious entity can do.”



Instagram Image by Claudia O'Grady

# The Quest for a Sharper Image

## Part Three of a Three Part Series

*By Lisa Thompson, Board Director & Workshops/Presentations Chair*

Have you taken a photo that was a little soft or distressingly blurry? Having your subject in focus is important to define your subject. The first part of this series (December 2023 issue) covered lens and in camera image stabilization. The second in the series (March 2024 issue) covered the use of tripods and good handholding techniques to create a stable platform.



Creative photography draws the eye with sharpness and blur. Shallow depth of field can highlight subjects in a dramatic way; shallow depth of field in the wrong place can ruin an image. A too slow shutter speed can cause unwanted blur. Camera settings play a critical role in sharpness. The settings for aperture, shutter speed and focus point can make or break a photo. Space constraints in this article limit what I can cover; for an explanation of the relationship between aperture, shutter speed and ISO, [try this link](#).

Most cameras have multiple focusing drive modes, including single and continuous auto focus. Static subjects lend themselves to single focus, while continuous auto focus is for anything that moves. Choose a focus point setting that allows you to move your point around in your view, so you choose what is in focus. Stay away from the default setting of multi focus points. The camera cannot tell what is important and will pick based on algorithms.

### **Freezing Motion/Tracking**

A general rule of thumb for freezing motion is 1/1500 to 1/2000 of a second for subjects that are moving quickly, including birds, motorcycles, sports and kids. The longer the lens, the faster the shutter speed needed to overcome blur-causing movement of camera and lens. In general, the rule of thumb for minimum shutter speed is 1/over the length of the lens. For example, if you are shooting a 500 mm lens, you would need 1/500 of a second as a shutter speed to stop blur of a static subject. For most moving subjects, place your focus point in the middle and plan to artistically crop when editing. Good stabilizing techniques will help; experiment to find your sweet spot.

Many cameras have tracking modes and can follow subjects. It is a skill to follow and keep the focus box on the subject. Cameras are quick to correct and the focus can land on something other than the subject. Practice smooth controlled panning of subjects. Start with slower subjects and work your way up to faster subjects. Taking a burst of shots will allow more chances at the one sharp shot. Recognize that the faster and smaller the subject, the lower your number of keeper shots. With practice, that number will go up.

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## Quest for a Sharper Image – Part Three of a Three Part Series (cont.)

There are many modes for tracking on different camera brands. I recommend doing an Internet search using terms like *brand X settings for birds in flight/action/motorcycle racing*. There are a lot of opinions out there but this can give you a place to start.

Some cameras, when set to manual focus, allow you to zoom in on your focus point and fine tune. This can be very helpful with a busy background (think bird in a bunch of branches). Some cameras have focus peaking, which will indicate what is in focus.

### Post-editing for Noise and Focus

One of the greater gifts of modern digital photography is less noisy images at a higher ISO. In the early days of digital photography, ISO's over about 500 were frequently unusable, especially printed. Now, with a combination of editing software and in camera software, ISO's that would have been too noisy are acceptable now. I frequently use auto ISO for action photography, which allows me to set aperture or shutter speed and the camera does the rest. I am a firm believer in capturing a sharp slightly noisy image over a blurry image that isn't noisy.

There are software programs that sharpen images that are slightly out of focus. I hear mixed reports on the effectiveness or how realistic looking the final result will be. Many of those programs offer free trial periods. Lightroom has a robust noise reducing feature. Experiment and let me know what you think!

### Heat Shimmer

I occasionally struggle to get sharp images of birds that are at a considerable distance. The entire image is a muddy mess, even though I had done everything the "right" way. I know that the lens was sharp enough to see individual feathers when I got it right. Over time, I realized that the cause of the blur is heat shimmer. You know that mirage you see over pavement on hot days? Your camera can see it too. There is no shutter speed fast enough to overcome it. There are a few ways to reduce heat shimmer:

- ✦ Don't shoot from inside a car, especially if the car has been running for awhile. Heat shimmer is caused by rising heat from the underside of your car.
- ✦ Accept that images shot over distances when the sun is out will likely be affected by heat shimmer. I have quit taking long shot photos because they are blurry almost every single time. Heat shimmer will be present even if the air temp is not hot. If you can feel warmth of the sun, things are heating up. You may have better luck shooting in the early morning.
- ✦ Buy a camera with a global shutter (just kidding sorta.) Sony has a new, expensive shutter design called a global shutter, which allows the entire sensor to be exposed all at once, as opposed to a rolling shutter. This technology will probably be available to all for less money some day.
- ✦ I have experienced heat shimmer on a cold day when using a room temperature lens with the lens hood attached. In some instances, you may get better results by removing the hood. The temperature difference between the air inside the hood and outside the lens can cause blurry images.

## Quest for a Sharper Image – Part Three of a Three Part Series (cont.)

### Diffraction

Images of long distance subjects (think landscapes) with smaller aperture settings (f/22, for example) will have smudgy backgrounds. This is caused by a basic physics principle called diffraction. It is important to understand how to compensate for diffraction. When shooting at f/8 or f/11, you may not get the depth of field that you want. To overcome this, consider focus stacking. Using a tripod, take a shot on a close part of the image and refocus mid range and then at the back without changing any settings. Lightroom and Photoshop offers focus stacking ("stacking" the three images and having the software process for the sharpness parts of the image). Helicon Focus and Zerene Stacker will also stack images. Take advantage of the free trials and find the one you like! [For an explanation of diffraction, start here.](#)

### Understanding Your Camera

Cameras are sophisticated and have built in tools that might make you a better photographer. There is no time like the present to get the manual out and learn setting options. Don't wait to experiment with settings while you are on photo workshop or taking pictures that are important to you. Practice panning on slow things first. See which shutter speed on what lens is the lowest you can hand hold before you start to see blur.

And lastly, delete from your library all out of focus images (unless you get a shot of Sasquatch.) They are not worth the physical and emotional space they take up.

Sharp focus in an image isn't necessarily noticed if done well, but missed focus is disappointing and distracting. Take time to practice until the settings and techniques come easily and you are capturing sharp photographs reliably, and this will be another step toward expressive photography.

Happy shooting!





## By Greg Smith, Board Director & PSA Chair

With Board of Directors approval the club's PSA membership was renewed for another year in May.

### Interclub Competition

Our third and final round of competition was completed in April. The club made significant improvements in all three categories this season, largely due to the participation of more and more highly skilled members. Here is the comparison of this season to last years' results:

Category	2022-23 Season	2023-24 Season
Nature Place Standing	13th	5th
PID-Color Place Standing	16th	10th
PID-Mono Place Standing	8th	6th
Merit Awards	3	7
Honorable Mentions	4	9

Individual competition scores, standings, and complete club group standing scores can be found on the [WCC Interclub Competition webpage](#). There you will also find links to the PSA gallery of competition winners, which I encourage you to peruse for inspiration.

#### Nature:

Entering the third round in Second Place in Group C, we were unable to finish in the top 3 clubs required to advance to the next group, dropping to 5<sup>th</sup> Place for the season. Ten photos from 8 makers were submitted. Scores ranged from 6 to 11 (out of 15 possible), with **Cindy Costa winning a Merit Award for *The Big One***. More landscape images were submitted than usual this round. While acceptable for the Nature Division, landscapes do relatively poorly because it is difficult for the judges to derive a nature story from them, which is a major part of the scoring.



*The Big One* by Cindy Costa – Merit Award

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## PSA News – Interclub Competition (cont.)

### PID-Color:

Our six entries were selected from 13 images by 11 makers. Scores ranged from 8 to 11. **Honorable Mentions** were awarded to **Dave Argyle** for *Dueling Stallions* and to **Jennifer House** for *Winter Lights*.



*Winter Lights* by Jennifer House – **Honorable Mention**



*Dueling Stallions* by Dave Argyle  
**Honorable Mention**

### PID-Monochrome:

Ten pictures were submitted by 9 club members. We had a strong showing this round, with scores ranging from 9 to 12, and half of our entries winning an award. **Merit Awards** were earned by **Claudia O'Grady** for *Lines* and **Cindy Costa** for *Wildie*. **Greg Smith** received an **Honorable Mention** for his *Green River Passing Storm*.



*Lines* by Claudia O'Grady – **Merit Award**

## PSA News – Interclub Competition (cont.)



*Wildie* by Cindy Costa – **Merit Award**

Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to all the members that participated. Merit Award winners will automatically compete against each other for the PSA End of Year “Best of the Best” medal awards. Best of luck to this season’s Merit Award winners: **Cindy Costa, Claudia O’Grady, Jacob Stockman, Paul Harrison, and Stephen Clayson!**

The Wasatch Camera Club judged Group C (we are in Group D) in the third round of the PID-Monochrome competition. Three judges (John Nellist, Randy Gerdes, and Dan Hendriksen) evaluated and scored 147 black-and-white images. Later, under the moderation of Greg Smith who also tabulated the scores, they discussed and chose the top 10% of them for Merit Awards and the second decile for

Honorable Mentions. Weak images, given a score of 1 by any judge, were discussed for consensus purposes and required a written comment. I extend my gratitude to the judges for their devotion; I believe it was an enjoyable learning experience for us all.



*Green River Passing Storm* by Greg Smith  
**Honorable Mention**

## Other PSA News

Registration for the [2024 PSA Photo Festival](#) in Tucson, Arizona September 18-21, 2024, is open until August 30, 2024.



Scores, club standings, and links to our entries and all PSA winners may be found on our website’s [PSA Interclub Competition page](#). Other PSA news can be found on the WCC website [here](#).

Email [psa@wasatchcameraclub.com](mailto:psa@wasatchcameraclub.com) with questions.



## Exhibits – Recaps

### Red Butte Garden – April 26 - May 20



The Wasatch Camera Club had a very special exhibit at Red Butte Garden called: *Things With Wings*. Birds, butterflies, dragon flies, bumble bees and more were so creatively photographed and hung at this venue and the attendance was clearly overwhelming. Vigorous sales marked the exhibit a great succession in the eyes of Red Butte Garden and participating photographers. Thank you to Linda Dalton-Walker for capturing a few of the photographers with their works of art. We look forward to more successful exhibits at Red Butte Garden. [CLICK HERE](#) to view images that were on display.



Daniel Barnett



Linda Dalton-Walker



Nancy Kirkpatrick



Gaylan Nelson



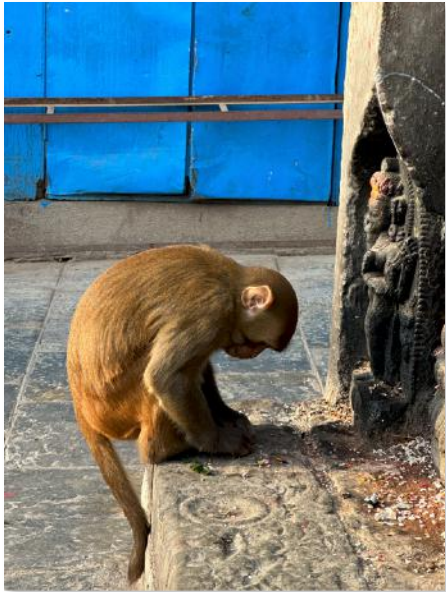
## Exhibits – Recaps (cont.)

### Utah Cultural Celebration Center – April 25 - June 26



WCC has curated a *Utah Travels* exhibit through [WVA](#) for many years. This year's exhibit included 74 images from members. UCCC estimates 1,200 visitors toured the exhibit – double the attendance from a few years ago. The Exhibit Committee would like to thank Greg Smith, Board Director and PSA Chair, for spending 2 days driving 155 miles around the valley to distribute promotional fliers for the UCCC and RBG exhibits. Clearly his efforts paid off! [CLICK HERE](#) to view all the images that were on display.

Thank you to UCCC for sponsoring People's Choice Awards. Attendees to the exhibit were asked to vote for their favorite images – below are the winners.



#### First Place

*Prayer Time at the Temple*  
by Geoff Hardies



#### Second Place

*Tiger's Nest* by Paul Bradley



#### Third Place

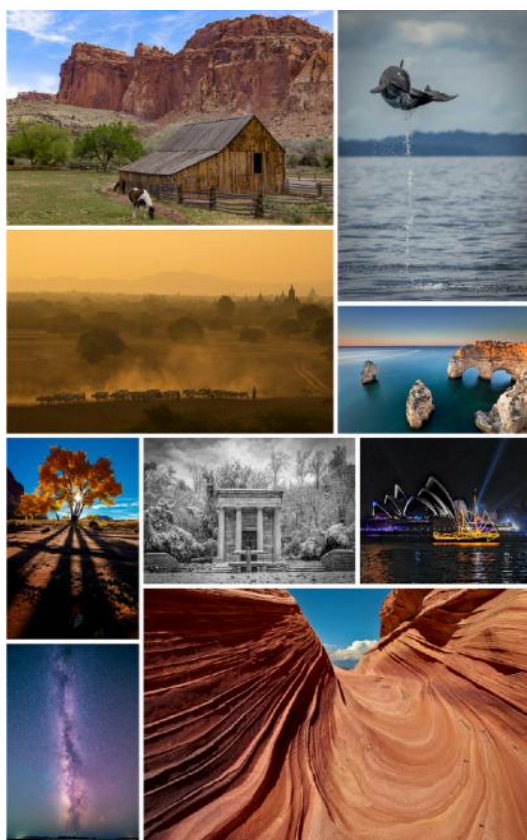
*Promises* by Anna Day



# Exhibits – Upcoming

## Jewish Community Center – September 1- 30

Reception – September 5 / 5:00pm - 7:00pm



The [JCC](#) has been another successful venue for WCC photography exhibits in the past. This year's theme is *A Symphony of Images* – an open entry exhibit, meaning that there is no set theme, but your own imagination.

The call for submissions opened June 18th and will close end of day on July 26. The show will run from September 1 - September 30 with a reception on September 5 from 5:00pm - 7:00pm.

Members will be notified by August 4 if their image(s) have been accepted for the exhibit. Accepted images will need to be dropped off at the JCC between 9am - 4pm on August 30.

Similar to Red Butte Garden and Cultural Center exhibits, the sale of framed images included in the exhibit are permitted by the venue. You will be asked for pricing prior to delivery of the accepted images. If you make your framed images available for sale, the JCC will take a 30% commission and will require a W-9 to be completed.

### Exhibit Location:

Jewish Community Center  
2 North Medical Drive, Salt Lake City

[CLICK HERE](#) for important guidelines on submitting your images for the exhibit.

Questions can be directed to the Exhibit Committee [HERE](#).

**The Exhibit Committee is looking for volunteers to help with the exhibit setup on August 31. Email [John Ballard](#) if you are available to help.**

[CLICK HERE](#) to view images from past exhibits.





# Creative Corner

## One Picture Story

[CLICK HERE](#) for more One Picture Story submissions.



Photo by: John Nellist

Education is one's best friend.  
An educated person is respected everywhere.

– Buddha

## One Picture Story (cont.)

[CLICK HERE](#) for more One Picture Story submissions.



Outside, the world sighs  
Grumbles, laments and cries.  
Inside quiet he lies:  
The Watcher of the Skies.

The night is our eyes,  
Sleep not through its dark guise.  
Awaiting starry rise:  
The Watcher of the Skies.

Cool breeze, water dries  
Whose drama never dies?  
Silently he replies:  
The Watcher of the Skies.

Blue heaven soon flies  
Stars give way, night's demise.  
Time to rest, then reprise:  
The Watcher of the Skies

**– Words and Image by Jeff Clay**

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### ***About One Picture Story***

Combine short text with a single image that, together, convey a story greater than the sum of its parts. The text should not be about the image (as it is for In Focus articles), nor should the image directly illustrate the text. Instead, the image should amplify the thought or feeling the text describes. [CLICK HERE](#) to submit a JPEG image and text. Please use our standard image file naming format (lastname\_firstname\_image-title.jpg.)

## Creative Corner (cont.)

### In Focus

#### ***From the Sand to the Stars: Anatomy of a Desert Night Shot*** **by Jeff Clay, Board Chair**

Recently I came back from my first astrophotography-centric tour. It was a 10-day trip to the Middle Eastern country of Jordan with renowned landscape astrophotographer [Benjamin Barakat](#). We spent 3 nights in the justifiably famous ancient city of Petra before moving to the far south for 7 nights of photography in the austere beautiful Wadi Rum desert.

Benjamin specializes in creating striking wide-field compositions with the Milky Way rising over



**Figure 1 - *Camels by Night* by Jeff Clay**

surreal landscapes. I too shoot wide-field Milky Way images with landscapes. However, in the past my modus operandi has been to go to a given location – usually Utah’s West Desert or somewhere in the Southwest – campout and set up cameras at that location to shoot all night. What we did in the Wadi Rum was a bit different. We would typically head out to a location for sunset shots then maybe move to another location that had strong foreground interest like a mushroom rock, narrow canyon, or arch, shoot that at blue hour/twilight and then (maybe) move again to shoot the Milky Way as it rose during the night. We would often be back at our desert tent camp/hotel somewhere around midnight or 1am and would set up to shoot more Milky Way images or perhaps star trails. Long nights they were!

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Continued on next page...

## ***From the Sand to the Stars: Anatomy of a Desert Night Shot (cont.)***

The blue hour shots were our foreground images and as such were usually single images up to 30 seconds in duration and at low ISO. For the Milky Way images the camera was mounted on a star tracker that moves with the rotation of the earth and if properly setup will result in pinpoint star images. The goal is to reduce the signal-to-noise ratio by stacking as many images as feasible. Some of us were also using nebula boosting filters and/or astro-modified cameras (that boost the light from nebulae), which meant that our Milky Way shooting time was multiplied by the number of different filters we were using. As well, in the first half of the evening – say 9pm to 1am – the Milky Way was at a left-leaning angle as it slowly rose and moved from east to south. By about 3am the Milky Way was finally fully straight-up. That meant that if you wanted a so-called Milky Way arch you shot it early in the evening. If you also wanted the straight-up Milky Way, you needed to stay up until 3am! Of necessity that meant that you shot your foreground often miles from where you did your Milky Way work. In the end, the goal was to blend a foreground image with a stacked Milky Way image, though they were rarely shot in the same location. Though the locations may have been miles apart the composition has to ring true for me. This means that the focal length for both the Milky Way and the foreground images must be the same. As well, I paid strict attention to shooting the foreground in the same direction as the Milky Way would be shot. With that as background, let's move to my Camels by Night image. [figure 1]

The Wadi Rum is not known for its sand dunes, but there is one long, relatively low-lying one and we arranged for a camel herder with two of his camels for a series of sunset shots. These were a success and the camels' work finished, they just hung-out near where our dinner was being prepared. I took the opportunity to photograph the camels as a foreground shot more on a whim and wasn't sure if I would use it. Because of awkward positioning I would often forego using a tripod for the blue hour shots and I did that with a series of around 50 images shot low to the ground at around 8:10pm. The one I ended up using had the prone camel with his head up and looking at me (curious animals they are!)

and the standing camel in profile but with its mouth open. The camera I used is an unmodified Sony A7IV with a Rokinon SP 14mm f/2.4 Lens, one of the better lens for wide-field astrophotography. The settings were f/2.4, 3200 ISO, and 1/13 second. During dinner the wind came up, so we returned to our tent camp to shoot Milky Way images, which worked out well as the wind died down by the time we arrived there.



**Figure 2** - *Camels at Blue Hour* by Jeff Clay

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## From the Sand to the Stars: Anatomy of a Desert Night Shot (cont.)

The Milky Way images were captured with the same camera and lens and are comprised of 2 sets of 6 images each. First, between around 1:40am and 1:55am I captured six 2-minute exposures with no filter (RGB). The settings were 800 ISO and f/2.4. Then, using an IDAS NB12 filter (a dual band filter with one 12 nm narrowband centered on the hydrogen-alpha emission line which creates the bright red glow from various galactic nebulae) and starting around 2am I began capturing the next set of six exposures but at four minutes each. Settings were f/2.4 and ISO 3200. That was it for my fieldwork.

At the computer I selected which camel/landscape shot I wanted to use. Since it was shot at 3200 ISO I ran Lightroom's A.I. Denoise, straightened the horizon a bit, adjusted various levels and exported to Photoshop where I cleaned up some camel dung and footprints with the Generative Fill tool. I also applied Topaz Sharpen AI. I then extended the sky again with Generative Fill to accommodate the full Milky Way image. [figure 2]



**Figure 3 - Milky Way** by Jeff Clay

The Milky Way shots were “a bit” more work. First, in Lightroom I ran the A.I. Denoise tool on all 12 images. I then exported them as TIFF files. These I then imported into an astrophotography package called AstroPixelProcessor. This is wonderful software to stack images. I use it for my telescope images as it is very good also for running calibration files which remove noise from those deep-sky objects images. APP outputs a FITS file which is the standard astronomical data format endorsed

and used by NASA. In this case, since I had both RGB and Hydrogen-alpha data, two FITS files were created and then brought into PixInsight, the heavy-weight slugger of astrophotography applications. I won't go into the details about what I did in that application (though you can message me if you want those details!), but you can see the result of that work here [figure 3]. Once I had one finished Milky Way image, back in Photoshop I simply selected the Sky Replacement tool and substituted my Milky Way image for the twilight sky in the blue hour shot. A few more final Lightroom adjustments ... et voila: *Camels by Night!*

More Wadi Rum images can be seen [here](#).

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### About In Focus

Created for you, the members, to share one image and tell a story about it. What does the image mean to you – why did you take the image – was it the location, the person or people in the image, or did something else attract you to the composition? It's up to you! Submit your own story to [info@wasatchcameraclub.com](mailto:info@wasatchcameraclub.com).





## Presentations & Workshops – Recaps

### April 10 – *Planning Your Digital Afterlife* with Randy Gerdes



Photo Credit: Randy Gerdes

During this presentation, Randy provided attendees with the steps for planning their digital afterlife. He covered common roadblocks to planning, how to incorporate your wishes into a Digital Will, links to helpful resources, and much more!

[CLICK HERE](#) to download a PDF of the presentation (links to resources start on page 42.)

### April 30 – *Costa Rica Experience*

**Presented by Club Members: John Nellist, Jim & Liz Roach, Brent & Wendy Ovard, & Cindy Costa**



*King Vultures* by Jim Roach

This well attended Zoom presentation was presented by six club members: Jim and Liz Roach, Brent and Wendy Ovard, Cindy Costa and John Nellist. All had recently travelled to Costa Rica visiting different regions of the country during different seasons. These members shared a few of their favorite images, explained the techniques used to capture their images, and their experiences traveling in the country.

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view all upcoming Presentations

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view all upcoming Workshops

## Presentations & Workshops – Recaps (cont.)

### May 7 – *Elevate Your Capture of Birds In Flight* with Isaac Grant

Over two dozen members joined us at the Salt Lake County Library for the *Elevate Your Capture of Birds In Flight* presentation with [Isaac Grant](#). Isaac joined us all the way from New York to share his incredible wisdom around taking outstanding photos of birds in flight. He covered such items as bird behavior, natural habitats, migration patterns, and the homework required to take amazing photographs of birds. Isaac answered members' questions about cameras, lenses, and filters. In addition, a few members asked about nature blinds, and clothing needs as well. It was a very well rounded discussion/presentation and we were lucky to have Isaac present to our club.



– Dawn Griffith, Board Director & Day Field Trips Chair (on behalf of Lisa Thompson)

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view all upcoming Presentations

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view all upcoming Workshops



# Field Trips – Recaps

## March 30 – PULL-N-SAVE Auto & Truck Parts



Easter weekend might have proven to be a challenge for an event but our crew didn't seem to mind the date or the weather. The weather apps all called for rain and clouds and we had 26 people attend the junkyard shoot anyway. We were prepared to enter at 8:00am but the staff wasn't quite ready so we had some extra time to mingle with each other and get to know some new people that attended this field trip.

We had 5 people from the board attend as well which proved to be very helpful to new folks who had never attended an event before.

There were rows and rows of car bodies lined up and a variety of angles to capture. There was broken glass, mirrors, and a variety of miscellaneous items just waiting for our camera



club to capture. We are only limited by our creativity and ideas so it seemed like a perfect venue to open things up and go for it. Members were in high spirits and interactions with others were happening all around the junkyard. We may do this one again on a better weather day so keep your eyes on the calendar for upcoming events.

– Dawn Griffith, Board Director & Day Field Trips Chair

[CLICK HERE](#) to view all upcoming and past Field Trips

Questions: [fieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com](mailto:fieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com)



## Field Trips – Recaps (cont.)

### April 13 – Before the Bugs at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge



Two meet-up times were arranged for this field trip. Members could sign up to start at 6:00am or 3:00pm. Some adventurous souls even stayed the entire day!

The morning group set off from the visitor center and met at the duck post building at the turn off for the auto loop. We stayed there for about an hour to catch the sunrise with some overly patient pelicans. Members captured the sunrise coming up over the mountains and shining down on the Bear River. It was breathtaking! Many birds were out that morning – Curlews, Cormorants, Pheasants, Avocets, Yellow Headed Blackbirds and so much more. The group slowly caravanned through the auto loop, stopping at various areas to capture the bird activity.

The afternoon group had the same itinerary but with a stop to capture the sun setting. The afternoon group also had the pleasure of seeing an Ermine with a vole in its mouth running around the fishing pad by the river. None of us were quick enough to catch it sadly, but it was so much fun to see.



– Dawn Griffith, Board Director & Day Field Trips Chair

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view all upcoming and past Field Trips

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Questions: [fieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com](mailto:fieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com)



## Field Trips – Recaps (cont.)

### June 1 – Macro Photography Day at Conservation Garden Park



June 1st marked our first summer time event with a focus on Macro Photography. Our group of approximately 15 people met at 8:00am at the Conservation Garden in West Jordan. Four new members attended this event. We introduced ourselves and those in the crowd that are knowledgeable around Macro Photography took time to answer questions presented by those not versed in this type of photography.

The group split up and roamed the garden for a few hours and then reconvened to share our favorite captures. The group not only shared captures but also information on the equipment, lenses and techniques used. It was an exciting event for both old and new members!



– Dawn Griffith, Board Director & Day Field Trips Chair

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view all upcoming and past Field Trips

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Questions: [fieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com](mailto:fieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com)



# Field Trips – Upcoming

**July 21 / 6:30pm - 10:00pm**

**Golden Hour, Blue Hour, Sunset, Full Moon Shoot – Great SaltAir**



This was a successful field trip last year – at least until a storm moved in and the group missed capturing the full moon. In spite of Mother Nature, the group captured incredible photos of the storm clouds moving in and the sunset. Let's hope this year Mother Nature will cooperate and provide us with perfect conditions for capturing the golden hour, blue hour, sunset and the full moon.

In addition to camera equipment, attendees should plan to bring the following equipment and supplies:

- ✦ Camping Chair
- ✦ Tripod
- ✦ Bug Spray (e.g., TerraShield – it reflects EPA guidelines and regulations as a registered repellent in the US and has tested at greater than 90% efficacy for more than four hours)
- ✦ Netting hood to keep bugs off your face/head in case the bugs are out.
- ✦ Water and snacks

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for this field trip.

– Dawn Griffith, Board Director & Day Field Trips Chair

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view all upcoming and past Field Trips

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Questions: [fieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com](mailto:fieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com)



## Field Trips – Overnight – Upcoming

**September 6 / 5:00pm - September 8 / 10:00am**

### **Camping in the West Desert – Wild Horses, Night Skies**



Photo Credit: Jason Hutchison

If camping is your thing, then please join us on a short camping trip to the West Desert, where we'll photograph the wild horses at sunrise and sunset. If you're a night owl, this will be a great weekend for star and Milky Way photography.

The club has reserved a few camp sites at the Simpson Springs campground, which can be shared for tent campers. The campground has pit toilets and potable water. All you'll need is your tent and your camera gear.

Questions can be directed to [overnightfieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com](mailto:overnightfieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com).

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for this overnight field trip. Location and meeting information will be provided in the confirmation email.

– Claudia O'Grady, Secretary & Overnight Field Trips Chair

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view images from Shutter Up Socials

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Questions: [socialevents@wasatchcameraclub.com](mailto:socialevents@wasatchcameraclub.com)





# Shutter Up Socials – Recap

## April 17 / 6:30pm - 8:30pm – Boats, Bridges, and Tunnels



Photo Credit: Mary Whitesides

We were joined at the April Shutter Up Social by 9 participants with a subject particular to transportation. While it may seem like a mundane topic it was anything but that. The architectural wonders of bridges, the historical nature of boats and the mystery of tunnels were subjects all represented in a most creative way. It is subjects like these that give us a sense of wonder of man's achievements. It is subjects like these that give us leading lines and a sense of history. All of these were well represented in a most creative way in our social for April.

## May 22 / 6:30pm - 8:30pm – Patterns



Photo Credit: Mary Whitesides

This subject provided an artistic challenge to our photographers and 10 photographers took the challenge. Patterns were found everywhere in nature, in architecture, gates, and windows shadows. After a most inspiring evening, the creative nature of this subject brought out the best in our imaginations and presented a challenge to look everywhere to find the art of patterns. Photography at its finest artistic challenge.

– Mary Whitesides, Board Director & Social Events Chair





# Shutter Up Socials – Upcoming

*Shutter Up Socials* are held as Zoom meetings and have provided an opportunity for Wasatch Camera Club members to share up to 6 photos with other members without leaving their homes. Each Social has an assigned theme and each participant shares how and why they took the photo. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information on upcoming Socials.

## July 10 / 6:30pm - 8:00pm – Shooting Down, Shooting Up, Finding the Captivating Middle Spot



Photo Credit: Mary Whitesides

Our next Shutter Up Social is sure to challenge our perspective on direction. Shooting down to find colors, patterns, natural flora and fauna. Or shooting up to capture the stars, the clouds, architecture stretching skyward to birds in flight. Find the middle ground and frame it just so for sunsets, sunrise, landscapes, horizons or wherever your imagination takes you. We look forward to viewing your creative interpretations on our theme for July.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for this Shutter Up Social.

[CLICK HERE](#) for tips on using Zoom to share your images during Shutter Up Socials. This information is also available on the [next page](#) as a *Did You Know?* subject.

– Mary Whitesides, Board Director & Social Events Chair

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[CLICK HERE](#) to view images from past Shutter Up Socials

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Questions: [socialevents@wasatchcameraclub.com](mailto:socialevents@wasatchcameraclub.com)



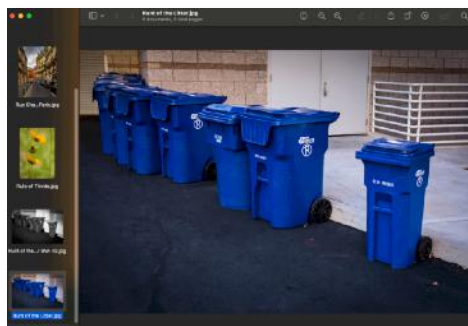
# Did You Know?

## Wasatch Camera Club – Zoom Tips for Sharing Images

by Randy Gerdes, Club Social Media Coordinator & Greg Smith, Board Director & PSA Chair

Shutter Up and some other on-line club activities over Zoom may require you to share what's on your screen with the rest of the attendees. If you have not done this before, or feel you could use a refresher before participating, you will find a brief [instructional pdf file](#) on Zoom tips which you are encouraged to review. It is located under Resources on the club website.

When you click on the Share Screen icon, you will see a screen of window options. Choose "Desktop" or a window containing your images (e.g., Lightroom) to share your prepared. images.



[CLICK HERE](#) to view a brief video on how to share your screen.

Most computers will allow you to select the photos on your desktop, double-click, and see them cycle through a single window that's easy to share. If, for some reason, you find yourself "stuck" sharing a one-image window and can't move to the other photos, clicking on the green "New Share" icon in the top row of icons should take you back to the window selection screen. From there, choose "Desktop" or the window with your next image.

Another way is to create a "Collection" in Lightroom, and when your first photo is viewed, hit the "L" key twice to show each of your photos on a black background or the "F" key to show your photo in full screen.



If there is meta data about your photo on the Lightroom screen, press "I" to hide it, or hit the "L" key twice to hide the meta data when the image is displayed on a black background. Hit the "esc" key to return to the Lightroom window.



# Resources

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## Board Blogs

Have you checked out the various Board Blog posts on the WCC website?

[Celebrating Earth Day, Today and Everyday](#)

[Approaches to Infrared Travel Photography](#)

[Shadow-light](#)

[First, Do No Harm](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) for the complete list.



## Education

There are numerous archived resources and presentations available to view on the WCC website. [CLICK HERE for resources](#), [HERE](#) for presentations and [HERE](#) for workshops.



## Mentoring

Under Director John Ballard, the Mentoring Program continues to offer aid and instruction for new and intermediate photographers, provided by club member volunteers. If you are interested in finding a mentor, or want to volunteer your time helping someone improve their image-making and photo-editing skills, send your name and questions to [John](#).



# About WCC

## Club Information

The Wasatch Camera Club is an all-volunteer organization, governed and run by a Board of Directors. Founded in 1994, the Club operates today as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Club provides a rich and enjoyable environment in which to improve your photography skills with activities that support our educational goal. These include workshops, field trips, lectures, exhibits, competitions and one-on-one mentoring. Annual membership fee is \$50. For additional information, go to the [Wasatch Camera Club](https://www.wasatchcameraclub.com) website or email [info@wasatchcameraclub.com](mailto:info@wasatchcameraclub.com).

### Executive Committee

Jeff Clay	Board Chair & Exhibits Chair	<a href="mailto:exhibits@wasatchcameraclub.com">exhibits@wasatchcameraclub.com</a>
John Nellist	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@wasatchcameraclub.com">treasurer@wasatchcameraclub.com</a>
Claudia O'Grady	Secretary & Overnight Field Trips Chair	<a href="mailto:overnightfieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com">overnightfieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com</a>

### Directors & Committee Members

Jason Hutchison	Board Director, Competitions Chair & Galleries Manager	<a href="mailto:competitions@wasatchcameraclub.com">competitions@wasatchcameraclub.com</a>
Dawn Griffith	Board Director & Day Field Trips Chair	<a href="mailto:fieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com">fieldtrips@wasatchcameraclub.com</a>
Lisa Thompson	Board Director & Workshops/ Presentation Chair	<a href="mailto:workshops@wasatchcameraclub.com">workshops@wasatchcameraclub.com</a>
Mary Whitesides	Board Director & Social Events Chair	<a href="mailto:socialevents@wasatchcameraclub.com">socialevents@wasatchcameraclub.com</a>
John Ballard	Board Director & Membership/ Mentoring Chair	<a href="mailto:mentoring@wasatchcameraclub.com">mentoring@wasatchcameraclub.com</a>
Greg Smith	Board Director & PSA Chair	<a href="mailto:psa@wasatchcameraclub.com">psa@wasatchcameraclub.com</a>
Cindy Costa	Board Director & Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:newsletters@wasatchcameraclub.com">newsletters@wasatchcameraclub.com</a>
Randy Gerdes	Social Media Coordinator	<a href="mailto:socialmedia@wasatchcameraclub.com">socialmedia@wasatchcameraclub.com</a>
Linda Dalton	Social Media Coordinator	<a href="mailto:socialmedia@wasatchcameraclub.com">socialmedia@wasatchcameraclub.com</a>



Wasatch Camera Club is a proud member of the Photographic Society of America. For more information on individual memberships to PSA, visit their website at [psa-photo.org](https://psa-photo.org).



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