

FOCAL POINT

[Assabet Valley Camera Club](#) - The club meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month except July and August. Meetings are hybrid - in person at the Hudson Senior Center, 29 Church St., Hudson and on Zoom. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with a 45 minute social time and at 7:15 a brief business meeting. Programs start at 7:30 p.m. Are you interested in attending a meeting and/or seeing what the Assabet Valley Camera Club is all about? You are welcome to join as a guest member for 30 days. Just send us an [Email](#) with your name and preferred e-mail address and you will be added to the attendee list for the next 30 days.



Singing Meadowlark - Robyn Saur

"Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!"

- Sitting Bull

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Note from Our President

Hello All,

It seems like only a few weeks ago that the club season started, however we have only two more programs and competitions left!

Hazel Meredith will present her program “Refresh Your Basic Editing Skills” on April 1st. On May 6th, Frank Jansen will present the program “Infrared Photography. Competition subjects for April are Nature and Open, and May are Portraits and Open. As a reminder, portrait(s) does not have to be human - they can be portrait(s) of birds, wildlife, etc. Jim DeLuco gave a great presentation on portraits in October. In case you missed or want to review the program, you can watch it here: [Portrait Photography - Jim DeLuco](#)

In June, will have our annual banquet and Image of the Year awards.

Hopefully the weather is finally turning around and things will start to warm up and improve!

Pudge



Submitted for “Lines” - John Mauro

Note from the Editors

Note from the Editors

March, 2026

“I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn’t say any other way – things I had no words for.” – Georgia O’Keeffe

So, we appear to be in good shape to welcome April. The snow is gone, and we have days of 60- and 70-degree temps to round out the month of March. The early forecast also includes four days of rain to encourage the flowers, and we hope the weather doesn’t include icy rain or wet snow, or we will simply go ‘round the bend.

Thank you to those who submitted images for this edition, whether related to the quote we sent out, or images where “lines” and shapes are prominent. Some of us circled back to old photos for images that included obvious lines and curves. But in this month’s Tips, Cathy steers us into the finer points of including curves, triangles and other geometrical shapes within our compositions. Pablo Picasso observed, “Art is chaos taking shape.” And so, Cathy encourages us to notice and “study shapes in your environment,” then review some of your own images to identify shapes you have captured, paying attention to images that have scored higher in competition. See if those photos were outside the box for you, and whether they were more impactful than others.

Pam gives us her angle on exhibit and educational opportunities as well as noting a special “Wander Through the Garden” expressly for photographers on two Saturdays in April at NEBG Tower Hill. Additionally, there is a larger-than-life stained glass and steel sculptures exhibit expertly crafted by artist Alex Heveri.

See the Night Hawks notes on field adventures for the lunar eclipse and the rising Milky Way, as well as photos of the Meet ‘n’ Greet for Ronnie Silver’s Café 641 exhibit.

The Nominating Committee (Todd, John Gill (Spike), and Lynn Kerner) is rounding up volunteers to join the team that keeps the club squarely on the path of positivity and success. We pay time-and-a-half for... well, for really ANY... help at all. Email us or grab one of us at the meeting or a Meet ‘n’ Greet to chat and/or get more information.

We threw you a curveball and used as many phrases as we could that have to do with “shapes.” Apologies if that pitch did not get over home plate. Also, apologies for not finding a way to use something genuinely outside the box, like “quadrilateral.” Go forth and shape up.

Lynn Kerner

April Program

AVCC is pleased to present “Refresh Your Basic Editing Skills” by Hazel Meredith on Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting is a hybrid format; in person at the Hudson Senior Center, 29 Church St., Hudson, or remote on Zoom (please arrive no later than 7:15).

The Senior Center will open at 6:30 PM for social time. The Zoom meeting room opens at 7:00 p.m. and the AVCC business meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Nonmembers interested in attending as guests should email avcc.digital@hotmail.com.



Hazel Meredith, APSA, HonNEC Meredith Images

Hazel Meredith is an award-winning photographer and a sought-after teacher, speaker, and competition judge. She began teaching in 2007, and now does seminars at camera clubs and conferences across the U.S. – both in-person and virtual. She offers her own workshops and webinars, and has done webinars for several software companies.

She has written two eBooks on working with textures, and released two creative courses. She and her husband, Dave, produce the “Virtual Creative Photography Conference” with attendees from around the world. Hazel loves the creative aspect of photography and post-processing, especially the use of textures and software to create unique images.

She is actively involved with the photographic community, and has held leadership roles and received honorary distinctions from several organizations. In the Fall of 2020 she was the recipient of the Ashbrook Award for Digital Imaging Instruction from the Photographic Society of America.



*Image Courtesy of
Hazel Meredith*

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Hazel Meredith - continued from page 4

Refresh Your Basic Editing Skills
By Hazel Meredith, APSA, HonNEC

Whether you are new to Photoshop and editing, or a seasoned pro, I'll show you some simple adjustments that will make your images "sing"! Easy adjustments for contrast, shadows, highlights, clarity, cropping and more, will improve your images. As an active camera club judge, I often comment on simple fixes that will improve an image's score. I will demonstrate in Photoshop, but the same techniques apply in almost any editing program.



Pink Beauty - Hazel Meredith



Truck & Barn - Hazel Meredith

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Hazel Meredith- continued from page 5



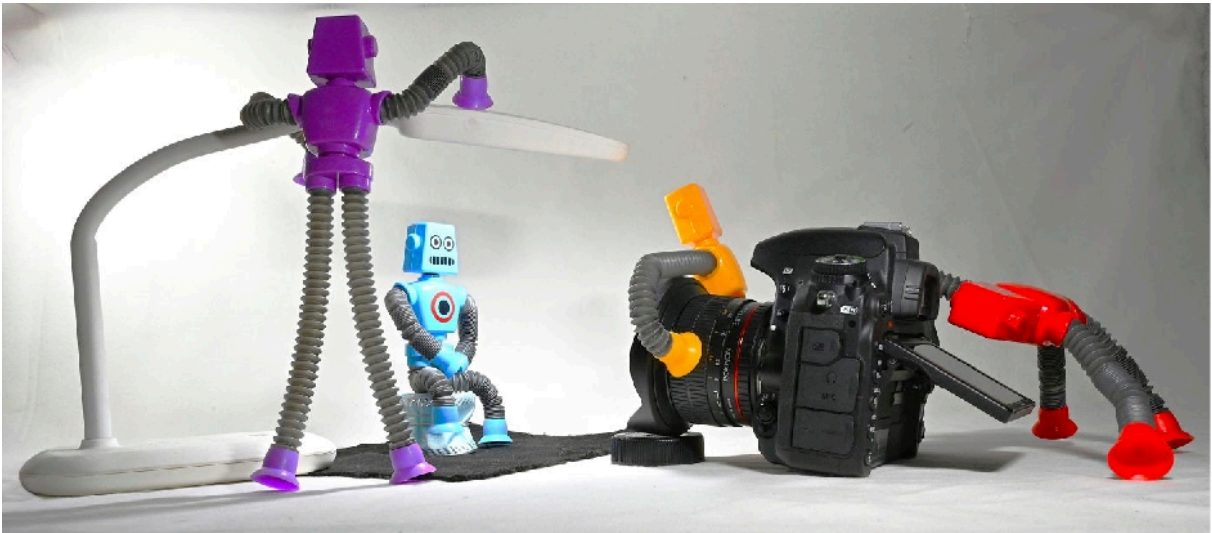
Steam Train - Hazel Meredith

For more information regarding Hazel Meredith's work see the following:

www.MeredithImages.com

www.MeredithImages.wordpress.com

www.Facebook.com/MeredithImages



Artificial Intelligence Portrait Studio - Lee Arnold

| Date | Program | Presentor |
|-------------|--|------------------|
| 9/3/25 | “What I did this Summer” Member Slideshows | AVCC Members |
| 10/1/25 | Portraits with Simple Lighting Techniques | Jim DeLuco |
| 11/5/25 | Process of Focus Stacking | George Fellner |
| 12/3/25 | Creative expression through Coastal Imagery | Steve Koppel |
| 1/7/26 | Lost in a Fog | Ed McGuirck |
| 2/4/26 | Penguin Adventure - Falkland Islands | Shawn Carey |
| 3/4/26 | Intro to Basic Astrophotography | Temu Nana |
| 4/1/26 | Refresh your Basic Editing Skills in Photoshop | Hazel Meredith |
| 5/6/26 | Infrared Photography | Frank Jansen |
| 6/3/26 | Image of the Year Awards | TBD |

Link to the club website calendar for all deadline, program, and competition dates: [AVCC Calendar](#)

Or find it on the AVCC website by clicking on “Organization” at the top of the page, then “Club Calendar” in the dropdown list.

Competitions 2025-2026

Monthly Competitions:

The club holds monthly image competitions including two categories: digital theme and open. AVCC Print competitions have been suspended. The digital images are judged by a panel of three judges using a scale of 3.0-10. The final score for an image is the total of the three scores. See the [AVCC webpage](#) for more information about the rules and procedures for monthly competitions as well as the PSA and NECCC competitions. Pay particular attention to the PSA definitions for [“Nature”](#), [Monochrome](#), and [Travel](#) submissions.

Schedule of Monthly Competition Category Topics & Submission Dates

| Month | Digital Theme | Open | Digital Theme and Open Submission Date |
|-----------|---------------|------|--|
| September | Monochrome | Open | 9/10/2025 |
| October | Nature | Open | 10/8/2025 |
| November | Mailbox(es) | Open | 11/12/2025 |
| December | Nature | Open | 12/10/2025 |
| January | Leaf/Leaves | Open | 1/14/2026 |
| February | Nature | Open | 2/11/2026 |
| March | Landscapes | Open | 3/11/2026 |
| April | Nature | Open | 4/8/2026 |
| May | Portrait(s) | Open | 5/13/2026 |

PSA and NECCC Digital Interclub Competitions

Image selections to the PSA & NECCC Interclub Competitions are made by the representatives to each organization. Individual entries can also be made to PSA competitions if you are a member. Our PSA representative is Todd Mathieson; our NECCC representative is Robyn Saur.

FYI: PSA Guidelines for Borders: Not recommended for Nature but if any border is added to a Nature, Travel or Photo Journalism image it must be a small border of a neutral color (gray tones). There are no border restrictions in the PID Color or Monochrome Division.

2025-2026 NECCC Individual Print Competition

The NECCC Individual Print Competition will be held on October 18, 2025 and March 28, 2026 hosted at the Greater Lynn Photographic Association (GLPA). For information about the print competitions go to the NECCC website and go to competitions in the pull down menu. [NECCC](#)

Members' Lens



Zooming Out - Members and AVCC in the greater photographic community - member exhibits, competitions, meetups, field trip opportunities, workshops, etc.

Zooming In - Reflections, Musings, or Experiences (travel, how I got that great shot, my favorite photo or place to shoot for example) shared by members.

Tips and Tricks - Curated Suggestions for the Monthly Theme.

The Bigger Picture - Happenings in the World of Photography

Zooming Out

On the Wall at Cafe 641

The April exhibit at Cafe 641 features the work of Peter Stultz.

Be sure to check it out!

Join Peter and friends for a Meet and Greet on April 11 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The exhibit in May will feature the work of Dave Morin.



Yosemite Valley Sunrise - Peter Stultz

Interested in displaying your work at Cafe 641? Contact Jim Williams through the AVCC website.

"A good photograph is knowing where to stand." Ansel Adams

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Zooming Out - continued from page 9

On the Wall at Main Street Cafe in Marlborough

Ronni Silver's March exhibit at Cafe 641 is making the move to Main Street Cafe in Marlborough for the month of April. If you missed her work in Hudson here's your opportunity to see it!

Members Enjoying Ronni's Meet and Greet at Cafe 641 on March 21



Ronni and Peter - Blair Boudreau



Ronni and Lynn - Blair Boudreau



Neil and Sue - Blair Boudreau



The Meet-Up Group! - Jim Williams

"Taking pictures is savoring life intensely every hundredth of a second." Marc Riboud

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Zooming Out - continued from page 10

Congratulations!

Paul Loiselle received a Group C Merit Award for his image “Float On” in the Monochrome Division of the 2025-2026 PSA Interclub Round 2 Competition.

Mary Coombs received a Group B Honorable Mention for her image “Oak Leaf After the Rain” in the PID Color Division of the 2025-2026 PSA Interclub Round 2 Competition.

Darlene Holman received a Group A Nature Honor Award for her image “Young Grizzly Feasting on Salmon” in the NECCC 2025-2026 Winter Interclub Competition.



float on - Paul Loiselle



*Oak Leaf After the Rain
- Mary Coombs*



*Young Grizzly Feasting on Salmon
- Darlene Holman*

Hudson Public Library Exhibit

Several club members have 2 or more images each currently on display at the Hudson Public Library. Here are photos of Rick, Jim, Blair, Linda S, and Sue at the installation on March 17. - Mary Coombs



From Mary Coombs

I have an entry in the 6 Bridges Spring Exhibit - a non-juried show of art work and images reflecting the spirit of spring. 6 Bridges is located at 77 Main St, Maynard. The exhibit is on display from April 1 - May 9. Hours are Wednesday - Saturday 11a.m. - 5 p.m. For more information check here: [6 Bridges](#)

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Zooming Out - continued from page 11

Night Hawks News:

From Lynn Kerner:

On March 3, at about 5 a.m., Jim Williams and Lynn Kerner ventured out to Sawyer Hill Rd. to try and capture the lunar eclipse. Getting anything good was a challenge, because the eclipse wasn't beginning until the moon was low on the horizon, which then presents clarity issues due to haze and distortion. Here are images of two stages. The quarter-moon was taken at about 5:45 a.m.; the sliver of a moon about 6:02 a.m.

The moon was setting as the full eclipse was approaching, and the "blood" color was barely visible. In fact, the color in the image is slightly saturated so that the moon can be seen. It was almost impossible to see with the naked eye and people who showed up at sunrise at 6:15 a.m. were disappointed. While the eclipse wasn't dramatic like in 2025, to the Night Hawks, it's always worth the try.



Man in the Moon - Lynn Kerner



*Toward the last stage
- Lynn Kerner*

From Jim Williams - A night in the life of a Night Hawk:

I went on a Meetup with the Greater Boston Night Photographers Sunday morning the 29th to the Plymouth shore to shoot the MW. You can see the MW now in the early morning, the meetup was from 3 to 5 AM. There was an F1 race in Japan that started at 1 so I stayed up to watch the preview, the start and the first 15 laps or so before I had to leave.

At the shore there were no clouds and it was warmer than had been predicted several days earlier, 30° F a nice change from the 21° prediction. The winds were light. The Milky way at this time is seen as an arc with the bright center close to the horizon. The stars were very nice overhead but as your gaze drifted down to the horizon the haze thickened and prevented seeing the stars. The MW could not be seen with my old eyes, the camera saw it though. I took images to stack but haven't processed them yet, I am not encouraged about the output though given what the seeing was like. There was a comet out and Jurgen, the host, had it in his 600mm lens on a tracker. It was very faint and it could only be seen by zooming way in. I decided that it was not worth the effort for the potential output. I left the shore at 5. no sleep. I was tired when I got back at 6:45.

Zooming In

This month we asked our members to submit images inspired by the quote “*Again the blackbirds sing; the streams wake, laughing, from their winter dreams.*” — John Greenleaf Whittier

Enjoy this nod to the arrival of spring!



Image Courtesy of Tony Monteiro



Blackbird Singing - Blair Boudreau



Heron in Laughing Water - Blair Boudreau

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*Goldfinches Returning
- Alan Mertz*



Spring Color - Alan Mertz

"The return of the Goldfinches is a mark of Spring." - Alan Mertz



Baby Bird - Pam Meoli

"Again the blackbirds sing, the streams wake..."
nothing says spring awakening more than a
newborn baby bird. Singing and chirping for the
first time.
"...streams wake, laughing, from their winter
dreams." - Pam



Winter dreams - Pam Meoli

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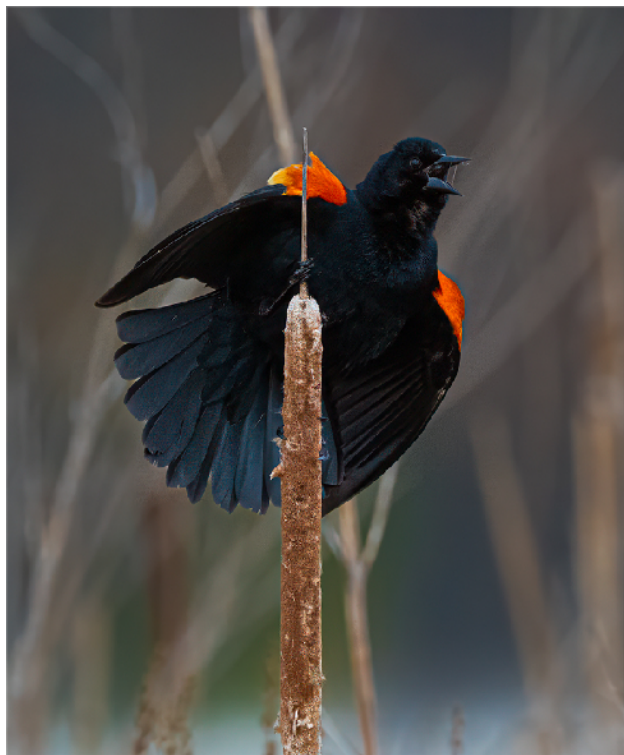
Zooming In - Spring - continued from page 14

Once upon a time, Princeton Brook was one of the first places we visited to appreciate the beginning of Spring. The SOUNDS of the water was like a chorus celebrating the season. There was even a patch of lady slippers nearby that sometimes emerged in the woods! This brook continued under the road & flowed over a very small dam, created long ago by an old mill, I believe. Anyway, somehow someone purchased land upstream, built a home & the brook dried up. Thus, I especially treasure this photo. - Linda



*Princeton Brook 2006 GONE 2020
- Linda Shelales*

Ironically, I do have some blackbirds singing. - John Gill



Male Blackbird Calling - John Gill



Female Blackbird Responding - John Gill

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More Zooming In - continued from page 15

We also asked our members to share images that use the compositional element of lines. We have an impressive number of images to share!



The modern Acropolis Museum in Athens opened in 2009 and is considered an architectural masterpiece. Leading lines, shapes, and textures abound as you enter the building to explore the history of the Acropolis and the treasures of the ancient world.
- Cathy

Acropolis Museum, Athens - Cathy Robotis

"I don't think that architecture is only about shelter, is only about a very simple enclosure. It should be able to excite you, to calm you, to make you think." Zaha Hadid



Burano - Natalie Schiavone

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Zooming In - Lines - continued from page 16



"There are 360 degrees, so why stick to one?" — Zaha Hadid

*Cathedral_Jerez de la Frontera, Spain
- Lynn Kerner*



May 20, 2024 - Rick Beauchamp

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This was taken in Mackerel Cove on Bailey Island, as the fog was lifting on a rainy day.
- Cathy

Two Worlds Collide - Cathy Robotis

*"The action most worth watching is not at the center of things, but where edges meet."
Anne Fadiman*



Image Courtesy of Lou Snitkoff



Image Courtesy of John Mauro

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Zooming In - Lines - continued from page 18



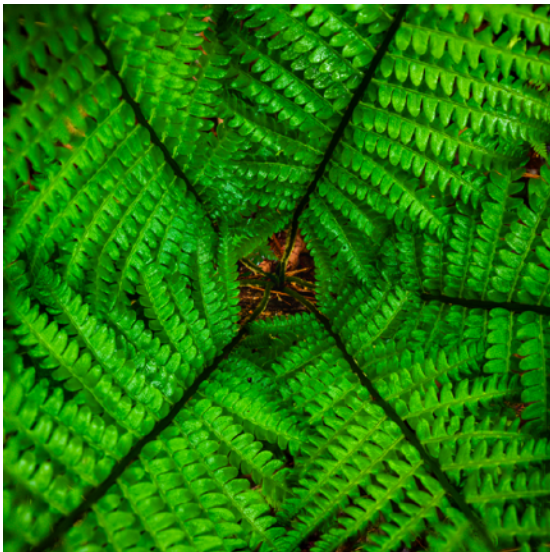
Nauset Surfer - Mary Coombs



Image Courtesy of John Mauro



Image Courtesy of John Mauro



May19, 2024 - Rick Beauchamp



Image Courtesy of John Mauro

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Zooming in - Lines - continued from page 19

I use converged lines quite a bit to emphasize perspective, sometimes with the vanishing point along the center vertical for symmetry and sometimes in a corner to lead the eye further away. - Peter Stultz



*Copenhagen Median
- Peter Stultz*



*Denmark Rosenberg
-Peter Stultz*



Brygen alley - Peter Stultz



Snow Swirls - Peter Stultz

I like to create photo essays for own benefit on specific topics. The current one is on Flow. It includes several photos of beautiful curves created by wind blown snow. - Peter

Tips for Composition: Shapes in Photography

Shapes in photography are two-dimensional core compositional elements. They are powerful tools that provide structure and may evoke emotion in an image. When one or more lines close or connect, a shape is formed. Shapes may also be implied by arranging elements in such a way that the viewer can connect the imaginary dots. While basic shapes may help us interpret our surroundings, more complex shapes may lead to even deeper insights. Many artists and photographers have harnessed the energy of shapes in their work. Artists such as Piet Mondrian, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, and Wassily Kandinsky were famous for their focus on shapes. In terms of photographers, Henri Cartier-Bresson was known for his captivating use of geometry in street photography. Irving Penn's portraiture work often used geometric shapes and captured subjects in a minimalist, high contrast scene, positioned in a V-shaped corner. Ansel Adams utilized shapes in his mesmerizing landscape photography. Last month, we opened our eyes to the lines that move in all directions around us. This month, our quest takes us to the geometric and organic shapes that make up our world and inhabit the scenes we capture through our camera lenses. By recognizing shapes in photography and what they represent, we can learn to incorporate them to create more interesting, meaningful, and impactful images.

Geometric versus Organic Shapes

Geometric shapes are those shapes we typically envision when we think of *shapes*: Squares, rectangles, triangles, circles, etc... They may have straight defined edges and rigid angles, or they may be circular or curved. Geometric shapes are often associated with stability and strength. **Organic shapes** are natural, irregular forms. They may be fluid or abstract, such as puddles or cloud formations. They may be rounded or curved and geometrically imperfect, as seen in the curves of flower petals. They may convey a sense of movement, or they may evoke a sense of calmness.

Positive versus Negative Shapes

Positive shapes are shapes made by an object.

Negative shapes are formed by the leftover space where there are no objects. For example, the shape formed by a crack in a canyon wall would be a negative shape. Interestingly, the lines formed by a shadow can also form a shape.



Three Leaves (and a Bud)
- Lee Arnold

"To photograph: it is to put on the same line of sight the head, the eye and the heart." - Henri Cartier-Bresson

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Shape versus Form

Essentially, **Shape** is two-dimensional, while **Form** is three-dimensional. The use of light and shadow in an image will turn a two-dimensional *shape* into a three-dimensional *form* by enhancing the contours and adding a sense of depth. For example, a building may have a rectangular shape, but with the use of light and shadows, depth is added to convey a 3-dimensional form. A **silhouette** is the purest *shape*, without form, texture, or color.

Squares and Rectangles

- Squares and rectangles convey stability, solidity, power, structure, and strength. They are also associated with masculinity.
- Squares are associated with conformity, uniformity, rigidity, containment, and balance.
- Repetition of squares in abstract images conveys a sense of precision.
- Squares in Street Photography can be used to create a sense of order in a chaotic scene.
- Because squares convey a sense of rigidity, their presence may prevent viewers from connecting with an image. If you have a lot of squares in your frame, you may want to disrupt the pattern with a different shape.
- Horizontal rectangular shapes convey a sense of dependability and stability; vertical rectangular shapes are associated with solidity, mass, and also stability.
- Rectangles and/or squares can be used to frame an image, especially if you want to give it an orderly or industrial appearance.

Circles

- Circles convey a sense of continuity, timelessness, completeness, wholeness, unity, harmony, tranquility, serenity, and balance.
- Circles (and curved lines) are associated with femininity. Circles (and curves) are pleasing to the eye. They also elicit a sense of leisure and relaxation.
- Circles are often linked with higher powers, such as divinity. Think of the sun, the moon, and the planets and the other-worldly feelings they evoke.
- Because they are never-ending, circles may add energy and movement to an image. The eye is constantly directed around the scene. There is a sense of calm, rhythmic energy.

*Blue Hour at Sterling Fair
- Mimi Boudreau*



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Tips for Composition - Shapes - continued from page 22

- Images containing circles feel whole and well composed. Think of the soothing balance you might perceive in an image with a reflection where the subject and its reflection form a circular, symmetrical shape.
- Circles can be used to frame an image in a more organic way than a square.
- In architecture photos, the addition of circle formations may soften the lines of the building and add a sense of elegance.

Triangles

- Triangles in an image may be represented by literal triangular shapes, or they may be implied, formed by 3 visual points that exist in triangular formation, allowing the viewer's imagination to connect the dots. Imagined triangles may even extend beyond the borders of the image.
- Triangles are dynamic and add a sense of grounding energy and stability. Because of their diagonal shape, they add a sense of direction and action.
- Triangles add structure to an image and help keep it visually organized. They may add layers to make an image seem more 3D and less flat.
- Upward pointing (especially large) triangles convey stability due to their solid base. They are also associated with goodness, wellbeing, and higher powers.
- Downward pointing triangles may convey a sense of danger, dynamic tension, or instability. Because the eye is directed downward, there is a sense of a downward journey or possibly a feeling of disrupted energy.
- Triangles may be used in an image to convey a sense of perseverance and achievement. Imagine a scene with elements related to a struggle or journey placed along the wide base of the imagined triangle, with elements representing accomplishment of the goal at the peak.
- For further information on Triangles in Photography, here is a link you might find interesting: [The Power of Triangles](#).



Dolomite Sunset, Italy - Robyn Saur

"Observe the wonders as they occur around you. Don't claim them. Feel the artistry moving through and be silent." - Kahlil Gibran

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Pyramid Composition

- Triangles are associated with strength. In a pyramid composition, the elements form an upward pointing triangle, with a wide base representing security and grounding, and diagonal lines leading to the peak, conveying a sense of strength at the top.
- In portraits, you can make a person look powerful by having them fold their arms with their elbows pointed out, forming a pyramid composition.
- In a group shot, you can position your subjects so that their bodies and heads are layered to form a pyramid. If you look at old Victorian family photographs, you will see that they were often placed in this arrangement, with the mother sitting in the center, flanked by children sitting in front and standing around her, with the father standing behind, forming the strong top of the triangle and conveying the sense of a powerful family bond.

Golden Triangles

- The golden triangles composition divides the frame into a series of triangles with diagonal lines, forming a dynamic, tense scene that is also harmonious and symmetrical.
- To achieve this composition, divide the frame with an imaginary diagonal line (from the left top corner to the right bottom corner). Then, add two more imaginary lines - one from the upper right corner to the center diagonal line and the other from the lower left corner to the center diagonal line. This will create four imaginary triangles of different sizes. Place important elements along those lines and intersecting points. This compositional style is often used with food photography arrangements.
- Here is an interesting video on Golden Triangles: [Golden Triangles](#)



North Coyote Buttes - Neil Swinton

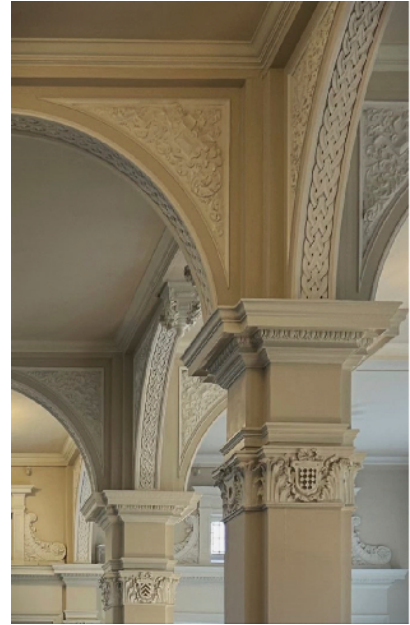
Curves

- Straight lines are rigid and immobile, while curved lines are smooth and flowy.
- Humans respond more positively to curves and curved shapes.
- Curves are associated with femininity.
- Curves convey a sense of calmness, and they lead the eye through the image.
- If your scene seems too boxy, consider incorporating some curves.

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Arches

- Natural and architectural arches may be used to frame images or even as the focal point(s) of images.
- They may add a sense of depth and elegance to a scene.
- You may find beautiful architectural arches in Gothic churches, Islamic architecture, Roman aqueducts, bridges, and ancient and modern structures. You may find natural arches in rock formations. Trees or flowering shrubs meeting over a lane can form a stunning natural arch.
- If you are photographing natural geological arches, the golden hours of morning and evening are the best times to photograph them, particularly with the sun setting or rising. Here are some tips specific to Arches National Park: <https://www.outdooreyes.com/photographarches.php>. This setting is also known for capturing stunning night images of the Milky Way.



*Mt Washington Hotel
- Pam Meoli*



*Churchly Double Helix
- Tony Monteiro*

Spirals

- Spirals convey a sense of transformation, movement, and discovery.
- They represent a journey and can be seen as a metaphor for Life.
- They draw the eye deeper into the the composition.

Golden Spirals

The Golden Ratio (Fibonacci Ratio) was discovered more than 2400 years ago in Ancient Greece, and artists have been using it since the Renaissance to create mathematically perfect compositions. Essentially, the frame is divided into a series of squares (“Phi Grid”). The squares are then used as a guide to add an imaginary spiral that looks like a snail shell. Placing your elements along the imaginary spiral will help create an impactful image that is pleasing to the eye. This tutorial will provide further information on golden spirals: [Golden Spirals](#)

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Tips for Composition - Shapes - continued from page 25

Abstract and Complex Shapes

- Complex shapes such as stars, crosses, diamonds, hexagons, and pentagons may convey different meanings in different religions or cultures.
- Polygons convey a sense of strength and structure. Think of the beautiful structure of a honeycomb.
- Pentagons represent a strong dynamic and can be seen in certain flowers, fruits, and architectural structures.
- Abstract shapes such as hearts may conjure an emotional response to an image.

Incorporating Shapes into your Photography

- The first thing you should do is study your environment to look for the shapes that are all around you. What do you notice? What shapes are pleasing to you? What shapes convey stability? What shapes appear more chaotic?
- Study some of your own images and try to identify shapes you have captured. Pay close attention to images that have scored higher in competition. Can you spot any triangles or other interesting shapes that may have contributed to your higher score?
- When you are setting your scene for an image, try to incorporate shapes that add to your story or the feeling you are trying to convey. You can channel the energy created by shapes to add structure, strength, and meaning to your images.
- Ensure that the shapes in your image make the image stronger and do not detract from the message.
- When framing a composition, try to assemble 3 key elements that may form a triangle (people, objects, or something in the environment). Position those 3 key elements at varying distances in the foreground, mid ground, and background to form a triangle.
- Consider using shapes to create a frame within a frame. For example, a window or door may be used to frame an outdoor scene.



*Window to the World
- Liz Krouse*

For further information, here is an interesting video on Shapes in Photography: [Shapes in Photography](#)

Sources

Shutterstock.com; kevinpepperphotography.com; medium.com; thelenslounge.com; nfi.edu; goodhartphotographyva.com; fstoppers.com; leisurevans.com; bhphotovideo.com; wavelength.focuscamera.com; digital-photography-school.com; intricateexplorer.com; canvas.com; joeredski.com; theschoolofphotography.com; outdooreyes.com.

The Bigger Picture

Happenings:

MA Audubon Society

All around us, nature is turning green again as the first signs of spring begin to appear. From tiny buds to mossy trails, green is popping up everywhere— go find it, at MA Audubon.....

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

NEBG Tower Hill

“Hello, Spring! Early-Blooms Photography”

Capture the magic of early spring in this exclusive, early-hour photography session.

Wander the Garden at your own pace as daffodils and spring ephemerals take center stage.

This is a self-guided opportunity. Please bring your own tripod and camera equipment. No formal photography instructions are provided.

Saturday, 4/11/2026, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM, 2 hours

Saturday, 4/18/2026, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM, 2 hours

Ticket Price - \$5 Member Adult - \$35 Non Member

<https://nebg.org/> (go to Calendar section and find the above dates)



*From Glass in Flight
- Alex Heveri*

Also at NEBG

“Glass in Flight”

Step into a world of color and wonder. This unforgettable exhibition features 30 larger than life stained glass and steel sculptures expertly crafted by artist Alex Heveri. Encounter giant hummingbirds, butterflies, dragonflies, beetles and more as they shimmer in the sunlight, soar overhead, pose in midair or hide among the blooms. Blending brilliant color, light and scale, *Glass in Flight* celebrates these charismatic creatures and their environmental significance.

Starts May 16

<https://nebg.org/exhibitions/>

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The Bigger Picture - continued from page 27

FREE Webinar:

PSA Worldwide

Mastering Motion: The Art and Science of Time-Lapse Photography

Thursday, April 2 - 6 p.m. Eastern daylight Time

Silvana Della Camera is offering an upcoming free Photographic Society of America (PSA) webinar on April 2nd: Mastering Motion: The Art and Science of Time-Lapse Photography.

Registration Required - For more information, and a link to the registration page, please click on the link: [Mastering Motion](#)

Cranberry Digital Camera Club - <https://cranburydigitalcameraclub.org/>

Color, Contrast, Lighting and Composition - Silvana Della Camera presenter

April 8

8:00– 10:00 p.m. (presentation starts at 8:20)

Photography is much more than pointing your camera at a scene and tripping the shutter. Weighing the assorted components within the frame of the viewfinder is important as it impacts the resulting image, and subsequently the viewer.

More information on the club link above or join ZOOM with the link below.

Join Instructions:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84649051961?pwd=5cLh0gq4ZISEiPHCZLwB9ash2jkfcS.1#success>

Meeting ID: 846 4905 1961

Passcode: 556353

“Virtual Creative Photography Conference”

Presented by Hazel Meredith

A weekend of inspiration and learning – 13 hours of seminars with 7 professional presenters.

June 27-28

Register at <https://meredithimages.com/> for the Extra Early Bird price - \$39

Museum of Fine Arts –

has some interesting shows coming up the pipeline.

Check it out: <https://www.mfa.org/exhibitions>

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The Bigger Picture - continued from page 28

Mark your calendars: great photo ops no doubt – plus a nice walk in the woods!

Arts on the Trails

“Time in the Landscape”

June 13 - Sep 13

The Southborough Open Land Foundation, in collaboration with Southborough Artist Catherine Weber, is pleased to present the 10th Annual Art on the Trails, juried by [Artist Lisa Barthelson](#). This year’s theme considers the land as an active witness to change and memory. Artists are encouraged to respond to questions such as:

- How does the land remember?
- What histories are embedded in soil, stone, trees, and water?
- How do seasons, climate, and natural cycles shape place over time?
- What traces do people leave behind as they move through the landscape?

Art on the Trails is a juried outdoor exhibition featuring temporary, site-responsive artworks installed along wooded trails and natural spaces. Artworks are encountered by visitors as they move through the landscape, creating a layered experience of art, place, and time.

Photo Contests:

NEBG Tower Hill

Member’s Only photography contest. This year’s theme is Wildlife in the Garden with two displays featuring 12 total photographs taken at the Garden by you, (members only). Submissions should capture moments of wildlife, showcasing animals, birds, insects and other creatures as they move through, rest among, and connect with Garden’s plants and natural spaces.

Deadline is April 15 - Members should have received an email with a link to the submission page.



Seasoned Surfer - Doris Monteiro

Cape Cod Arts Center –

“Summer National 2026”

Thoughts of Summer days, that time of year for family, friends, fun and food. The time for vacations, the beach and the mountains. Share your best images that celebrate summer.

Deadline is April 15 - <https://www.sec4p.com/thoughts-of-summer-prospectus>



AVCC is a member of the following organizations:

NECCC



PSA



AVCC website:

<https://www.assabetvalleycameraclub.com>

2025-2026 Executive Board Members:

- President: John Mauro
- Vice President: Mary Coombs
- Secretary: Neil Swinton
- Treasurer: Jim Williams



Lady-Slipper Duo
- Linda Shelales

Editors' Note:

Many(!) club members work behind the scenes in various capacities to make the club run smoothly, to engage with the greater community, to reach out to prospective members, to communicate about our organization through the Facebook page, the AVCC website, the Focal Point Newsletter, the Action Unlimited, and provide opportunities for competition, exhibitions, fun, learning, and camaraderie. To see (most) of the volunteer positions and members please refer to your Member Packet.

Many thanks to the following members for their contributions to this month's Newsletter: Cathy Robotis, Lynn Kerner, Mary Coombs, Pam Meoli, Jim Williams, John Mauro, Alan Mertz, Lou Snitkoff, Peter Stultz, Doris Monteiro, Tony Monteiro, Robyn Saur, Linda Shelales, John Gill, Blair Boudreau, Rick Beauchamp, Natalie Schiavone, Neil Swinton, Ronni Silver, Mimi Boudreau, Lee Arnold, Liz Krouse.