



FOCAL POINT

[Assabet Valley Camera Club](#) - The club meets on the first and third 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. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM with a 15 minute social time and at 7:15 a brief business meeting. Programs start at 7:30 PM. Email us at avcc.digital@hotmail.com for more information or if you wish to attend as a guest.



Capturing Autumn's Splendor - Doris Monteiro

"As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colours enough to paint the beautiful things I see." – Vincent Van Gogh

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Note from Our President

Hello All,

First let me welcome Dave Liu back to AVCC. Dave was a member a few years back and is rejoining. Dave, I hope you have a positive experience both learning from club members and programs and sharing your images and knowledge with the group!

I'm looking forward to Robyn Saur's program "Spain & Portugal." If you follow Robyn on Facebook, you have seen some of the great images that she has posted.

Our first Holiday Banquet since the onset of Covid will be December 4th, prior to the program meeting. I would like to thank Linda Gilberti and Linda Shelales for offering to organize the event. More information to follow.

The By-Law Committee has been working for over a year to review the existing by-laws of the club (which was formed nearly 40 years ago) and propose clarifications to conflicting language and align them with the club operations to assure efficiency. By-laws from other camera clubs were referenced. All amendments to the existing by-laws shall be by a majority vote with a **quorum of at least 3/4 of the members in good standing and present at the meeting when the vote is held.** We attempted to conduct a vote at the annual meeting this past June, however, we were not able to reach a quorum of 3/4 of ALL of the club's members. Tony Monteiro sent out the proposed revised by-laws in an email to members on October 30, 2024. I ask you to please consider joining the December 4th meeting, either in person or via Zoom, in order for us to vote on the proposed by-laws. I realize it is a busy time of year, however, if you have a few moments to spare for the discussion and vote on the by-laws, it would be greatly appreciated by all of those who dedicate a tremendous amount of time and talent to help the club moving forward.

See you November 6th!

Pudge

"Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons." – Jim Bishop

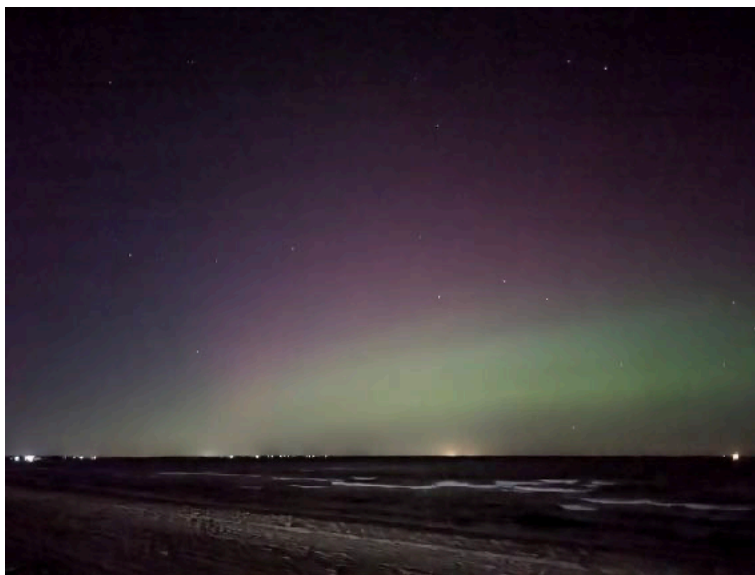
Note from the Editors

Come November, and the turning back of the clocks, we are mostly struck by the power of the darkness. But F. Scott Fitzgerald reminds us that there are some positive aspects to the darkening days – “Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.” (*The Great Gatsby*). While some of the most brilliant colors may be gone, some things that “start all over again” include the freshness of the air, the swishing and crunching of leaves underfoot, and the blackness of the sky, the better to see the constellations in.

The coming months of darkness are punctuated by celebrations of light as well as the seasonal brilliance of sun on ice and snow. With that in mind, your Newsletter Team has planned Light/Dark/Shadow as our themes for the next few months. This month, Cathy’s Tips section is on Shadow Photography, where “the absence of light [is an] integral component of photography.”

Interesting events continue in the night skies, and our Night Hawks group has submitted images of the ATLAS comet, the Milky Way, and the October Aurora. There are also many beautiful images submitted for our quotation challenge, “October is the month of painted leaves.” (*Henry David Thoreau*). Make sure to catch the responses to the Question of the Month, *How are you planning to get through the cold, dark winter months?* and see Pam’s dive into things to do and courses to take. Pam is excited to share a great deal she worked out with Essdras Suarez - make sure to check it out on page 27 in the “Bigger Picture” section. Natalie Schiavone sheds a little light on her life and photography in our Member Snapshot.

Seeing as how November is the formal time for giving thanks, we offer appreciation to all of you who participate in the newsletter, who help out with the club in big ways and small, and who inspire fellow club members, whether you know it or not. May the coming dark be lit with gratitude and grace.



Aurora from Lewes, Delaware - Lynn Kerner

November 2024 Program

AVCC is pleased to present “Spain and Portugal” by Robyn Saur on Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 7:30 PM.

The meeting is a hybrid format; in person at the the Hudson Senior Center, 29 Church St., Hudson, or remote on Zoom (please arrive no later than 7:15).

The Zoom meeting room opens at 7:00 with a 15 minute social time followed by AVCC business at 7:15. The program begins at 7:30 PM. Nonmembers interested in attending as guests should email avcc.digital@hotmail.com.

Robyn Saur

Robyn has two main passions that she heartily pursues and contributes to: photography and biking. Robyn has been involved in numerous camera clubs over the years, including AVCC since 1991. She has taken on many roles in those clubs. Robyn’s major contributions to AVCC include being president for several years in the 90’s, and planning and leading all of the following AVCC tours: the Grand Circle Tour of national parks in AZ and UT; the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque; the North and South Rims of the Grand Canyon; Amish Country; Washington State; Florida; Longwood Gardens, PA; New Hampshire in Winter; San Francisco; and Yosemite. She is currently AVCC’s representative for NECCC. (Excerpt from Kerner, Member Snapshot, AVCC Focal Point, 2023-2024 Issue 4; December 2023, page 9)



Spain and Portugal

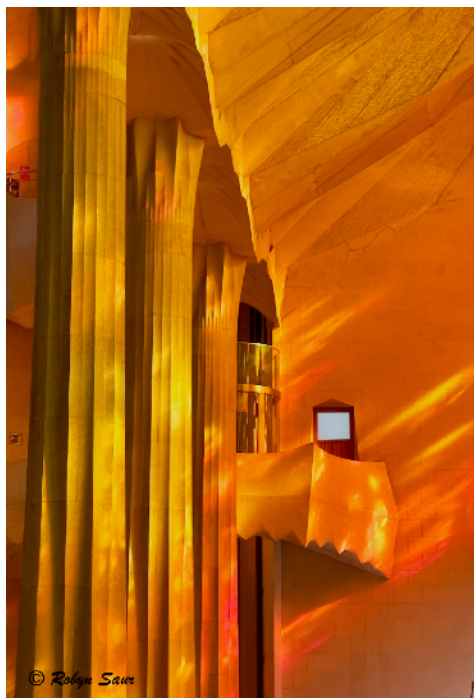
In this presentation I’m going to cover how I use a cell phone and a Sony camera on my trips. My focus is on how to capture the story of the trip. The adventure is first about my visit to Spain. I visited the beautiful city of Barcelona, then headed north to Girona where my biking journey began, first to the shore, then to the northern hills near the Pyrenees. After that we went to Lisbon, Portugal and began a 14 day bike tour which turned into a driving tour along the coast of Portugal, discovering beautiful hidden beaches along the way.

Note: All images on pages 4 - 6 property and courtesy of Robyn Saur.

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Robyn Saur - Spain and Portugal - continued from page 4

Robyn provided the following stunning images as a preview to her program.



Continued on next page



"My life is shaped by the urgent need to wander and observe, and my camera is my passport."
– Steve McCurry



Little Venice of Greece - Lynn Kerner

Looking Ahead - AVCC 2024-2025 Program Schedule

Date	Program	Presenter
9/4/24	“What I did this Summer” Member Slideshows	AVCC Members
10/2/24	Composition	Mike Roman
11/6/24	Spain and Portugal	Robyn Saur
12/4/24	Landscape Photography	Meredith Fontana
1/8/25	Bird Migration	Shawn Carey
2/5/25	Masks and Layers	Hazel Meredith
3/5/24	Colors of Spring	Ed McGuirk
4/2/24	Creative Photography	Joe Pellicone
5/7/24	B&W Photography	Nancy Ori
6/4/24	Image of the Year Awards	Charlie Burke

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.

Monthly Competitions:

The club holds monthly image competitions including two categories: digital theme and open. AVCC Print competitions have been suspended. The 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	Balloons	Open	9/11/2024
October	Nature	Open	10/9/2024
November	Action	Open	11/13/2024
December	Nature	Open	12/11/2024
January	The Color Red	Open	1/15/2025
February	Nature	Open	2/12/2025
March	Abstract	Open	3/12/2025
April	Nature	Open	4/19/2025
May	By or On the water	Open	5/14/2025

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 PJ 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.

2024-2025 NECCC Individual Print Competition

The NECCC Individual Print Competition will be held twice a year hosted at the Greater Lynn Photographic Association (GLPA). This year's competition dates will be Saturday, October 19, 2024 and Saturday, March 29, 2025. For more information go to: [NECCC Print Competition](#)

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: a conversation with...Natalie Schiavone

- Tell us a little about your roots and how they influence you. How does creativity come out in you/ your family?

I grew up in New York state in a small, rural town called LaGrangeville. After attending college in upstate NY, I ended up in Medford to attend graduate school for my degree in occupational therapy. My then boyfriend/now husband moved to Cambridge at the same time to start a job after finishing his MBA. We kept moving west once we got married until we settled in Hudson. We raised our three children (23, 21 and 17) here and have become quite rooted. Our little Havanese dog, Smokey, is the baby of the family at 11 years old.

I never really considered myself all that creative, but I guess my creative outlets were always in the form of music. I played piano and violin for many years growing up. More recently I got back into violin and played with Symphony Pro Musica, a local orchestra, for about 5 years. My entire extended family loves musical theater as well. My three children all participated in musicals with the Rivers Edge Arts Alliance and their schools, and my sister still performs with local theater groups in Seattle. We absolutely love going to Broadway to see shows.

- Tell us about when you got started doing photography?

In college I studied abroad in Florence. It was a dream to be there living with an Italian graduate student who only spoke Italian, and walking past the Uffizi and over the Ponte Vecchio every day to get to my classes. I was a science major, but my entire semester abroad was a break from the sciences. I took all electives, including Italian language and art history. I really wanted to take photography, but at the time I couldn't afford a good camera. Instead I took drawing, thinking that I would be sketching the gorgeous landscapes of Tuscany. Little did I know we would be drawing nude models. Not exactly the photography class I was dreaming of. I remember purposely positioning the model on my canvas to be conveniently off the page to avoid drawing certain parts. Of course I was asked to start over. So anyway many, many years later in 2015 I finally took my first photography class at Assabet After Dark. I fell in love with it, and that class is where I first heard about AVCC.



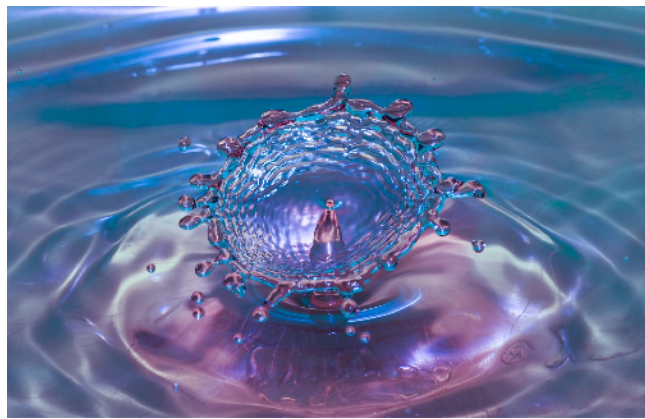
Fall reflections - Natalie Schiavone

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Member Snapshot - Natalie Schiavone - continued from page 9

- Tell us about what subjects you like to shoot, or the type of photography you're drawn to.

My favorite things to photograph are landscapes. I love traveling to new places and trying to capture what I see. I really love reflections too. I also like experimenting with macro. For a while I was obsessed with snowflakes and water drops. I also enjoy trying to capture flowers and bugs. Astrophotography is another area I have recently discovered and want to learn more about. My biggest challenge right now is trying to get better organized. I am not very good about deleting my not so great shots. I think it would take me years at this point to delete those images.



Splash of pink - Natalie Schiavone



Icelandic sights - Natalie Schiavone

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Member Snapshot - Natalie Schiavone - continued from page 10

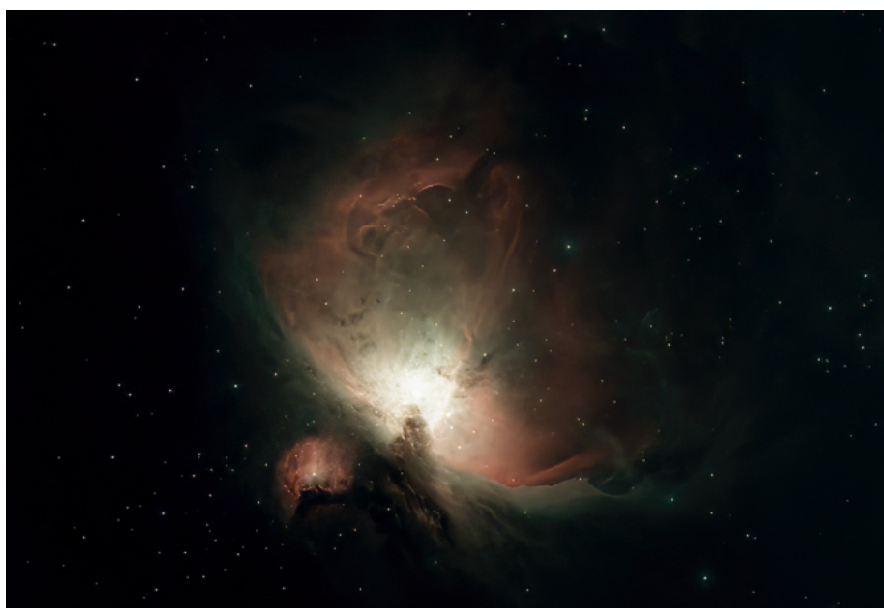
- Tell us about a funny or interesting mistake you've made, a challenge you've overcome, or experience you've had - photography-related or not.

I am so happy to have discovered photography as a hobby. I have had people tell me to stop taking so many pictures and just be in the moment. I find that the act of taking the pictures and not only the final product is so much fun to me, and some people just don't understand that. I feel like a little kid and get giddy when I see things I really want to photograph. The other night when I saw the northern lights I couldn't even get to sleep because I was so happy. When I saw them in May I even fell and rolled down a hill trying to get a good shot! When I am in the photography zone I completely lose track of time. I often have dreams about missing a great shot (is that weird?) Most recently I had a dream we were driving somewhere and I kept begging my husband to pull over so I could get the northern lights with a barn and farm animals silhouetted. I am thrilled to have found AVCC and great people who have taught me so much and share my love of photography.



Flower power - Natalie Schiavone

Natalie Schiavone and Lynn Kerner



Orion Nebula - Natalie Schiavone

Members' Lens



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

Zooming In - A Reflection, Musing, or Experience (travel, how I got that great shot, my favorite photo or place to shoot for example) shared by a member

Tips and Tricks - Members' shared suggestions for the Monthly Theme

The Bigger Picture - Happenings in the World of Photography

Many thanks to the following members for their contributions to this month's Newsletter: Cathy Robotis, Lynn Kerner, Mary Coombs, Jim Williams, Pam Meoli, John Mauro, Robyn Saur, Natalie Shiavone, Jane Parker, Glenn Fund, Bob Cooke, Nick Andruzzi, John Gill, Tony Monteiro, Doris Monteiro, Rick Beauchamp, Darlene Holman, Terry Vachowski, and Neil Swinton.

Zooming Out

On the Wall at Cafe 641

This month Cafe 641 will feature the work of Jim Williams. A Meet and Greet will be held on Saturday, November 9 from 12:00 - 1:30 pm.

We hope to see you there!

In December we are holding an AVCC Members' Winter Images Exhibit. Please consider submitting your favorite winter image for the exhibit - there is room for 8 pieces. Please let Jim Williams know if you would like to participate.



Gray's Beach - Jim Williams

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Zooming Out - continued from page 12

Several members and friends attended the meet and greet for Pam's exhibit at Cafe 641 on October 13. Here are some images of folks enjoying the images, the company, and the food!



Pam, Jim, and Maureen - Mary Coombs



*Pam's friend, Kent, in front of his feet!
(This image for "A Bug's Eye View"
was Kent's idea and his feet served as
the model!)*
- Marv Coombs



A little blurry but you get the picture! - Pam Meoli

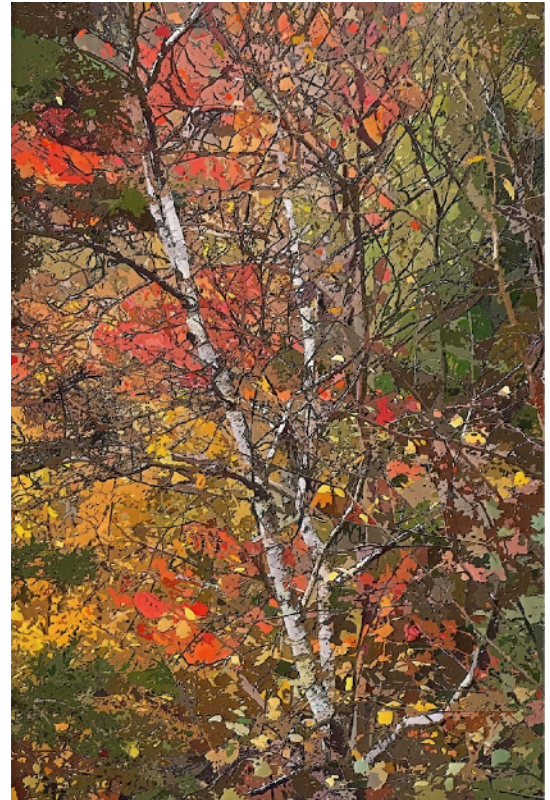
"In November, the smell of food is different. It is an orange smell. A squash and pumpkin smell. It tastes like cinnamon and can fill up a house in the morning, can pull everyone from bed in a fog. Food is better in November than any other time of the year." — Cynthia Rylant

Zooming In

We asked members to share images that reflect their interpretation of the quote, "October is the month of painted leaves." by Henry David Thoreau. The response was great! Here is the colorful compilation of member submissions. Enjoy!



Autumn color at WPI - Cathy Robotis

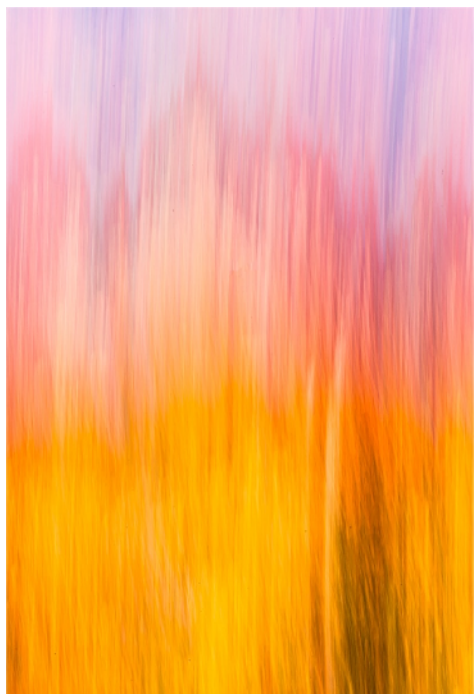


North Pack Tree - Glenn Fund



Ice House Pond Pano - Glenn Fund

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Stow - John Gill



Southboro - John Gill



The unusual way these leaves were changing caught my eye. - Nick Andruzzi



Fall Palette - Lynn Kerner

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Image Courtesy of Pam Meoli



Image Courtesy of Pam Meoli



Image courtesy of Pam Meoli

"The wind that makes music in November corn is in a hurry. The stalks hum, the loose husks whisk skyward in half-playing swirls, and the wind hurries on... A tree tries to argue, bare limbs waving, but there is no detaining the wind." — Aldo Leopold

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Zooming In - Painted Leaves - continued from page 16



February 4, 2024 - Rick Beauchamp



Autumn Leaf II - Rick Beauchamp



Autumn Color on Painted Turtle - Tony Monteiro



Fall Virginia Creeper - Mary Coombs

"November teaches us that even the darkest times can be beautiful." - Unknown

More Zooming In

Question of the Month

We asked our members *how they were planning to get through the cold, dark winter months*. Here are their inspiring responses:

Jane Parker: You probably know I'll be outdoors over the winter!! Whatever the weather, I have the coat and the right footwear for it :) It's the best time of year to have a campfire, because the mosquitos are gone. We aim for sunny days, and bring soup and hot chocolate, sit around, and enjoy the warmth. I appreciate the early sunsets, too, because they make me slow down, and settle in, and get projects done around the house. Winter is a good time of year, for me. (I think a camera club campfire would be fun.)

Terry Vachowski: I'll be working on my digital vacation scrapbooks and weeding out ten years of photos this winter. Also tagging my digital art content.

Cathy Robotis: I basically spend my winters trying to stay warm while counting the days till Spring. My goal is always to find the beauty in Winter, but when November arrives, I find myself grieving for the past seasons of warmth. However, the winter months are always a great time to catch up on intellectually stimulating pursuits such as reading and watching thought-provoking movies and starting new challenges.

Mary Coombs: October is my busiest month as a gardener and a garden steward at the Stow Community Garden. November brings a sense of relief and the dark months ahead offer the opportunity to reflect, go to concerts at Groton Hill, and yes, sort and organize those thousands of photos and try new post processing techniques, plan next year's garden (already ordering seeds and tubers...), sow my lisianthus seeds, and read a book or two. I also want to create a designated studio space for indoor photography and of course take more pictures!

Announcement from Bob Cooke:

"Looking (far) ahead, I've already arranged for a month-long exhibition of club members' printed photos, to be hung in the large bottom floor room of the Maynard Public Library, beginning next Feb. 1 and ending on March 1, of next year. The idea is for club members to bring whatever they're especially proud of, with (so far) no theme. Hang what you like most, and if you can sell anything, good for you. If we can't entice our members to participate, worry not -- I've got dozens of large prints, many of them already framed, to fill in any spare space. So, no need to hurry yet, but I will keep communicating as D-Day approaches."

Zooming In

Night Hawks

The skies have been busy and so have the AVCC members who spend time chasing the astronomical phenomena the night skies offer. Here are stories and images from members seeking to find that elusive image of the Milky Way, the Aurora, the comet, a meteor shower (no successes here), or the super moon.

A small group met at the Hudson Senior Center on October 18 hoping to catch a good image of the super moon rising behind the church.



Natalie, Lynn, Jane, and Jim - Mary Coombs



Image Courtesy of Jane Parker



Image courtesy of Jane Parker



Image Courtesy of Jim Williams

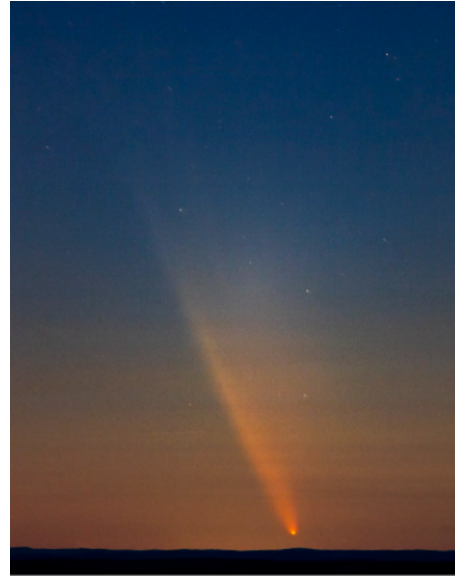
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Zooming In - Night Hawks - continued from page 19

Images of Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS)



I was at Prospect Hill (Harvard) last night (10/12) and took a shot while the comet was high in the sky around 7 PM. Canon 70D with a Tamron 18-400mm lens at 60mm in Aperture priority set at f/5.6 at ISO 1600
- Nick Andruzzi



Vishnu and I went to Mt. Wachusett last night (10/12) for the comet and had a great time. There were 2 other shooters with 35mm's and quite a few phones. We were having trouble finding it. A boy 10-11-12 found it, we couldn't see it so he took a picture of it with his new phone. The phone did an amazing job. I finally found it with the binoculars, stuck the camera on the tripod and started firing. Vishnu also found it about the same time, I'm certain he got some nice shots. - Jim Williams



"I will love the light for it shows me the way, yet I will endure the darkness because it shows me the stars."
- Og Mandino

Milky Way over Sebago Lake with Comet - Lynn Kerner

Continued on next page

Zooming In - Night Hawks - continued from page 20



Aurora - Darlene Holman

I couldn't believe my eyes when the show began, such a joy! This photo was taken at 7:28P. I shot quite a few more in different directions before the clouds on the horizon moved in. Later in the evening, the skies resembled mint ice cream with a little smidge of purple. - Darlene Holman

"The camera sees the world differently than the human eye and that sometimes those differences can make a photograph more powerful than what you actually observed."

- Unknown



Aurora - Neil Swinton

There wasn't a lot of planning ahead on this one. After the last two misfires my wife and I decided we'd just drive around a little in the evening in case the aurora showed up. About 7:30 my wife, Anne, texted "Look outside!" and the sky was red - even in downtown Worcester where Anne was. By the time she got home the aurora was gone but we took the truck up to Barnes Hill Road in Berlin and waited. Around 9:30 we noticed that the sky had turned green. I set up my camera and got a couple dozen good aurora shots. The camera definitely sees the colors better than the naked eye. We could see some reds and greens but the camera did so much better. This shot was taken at 10:03 PM: 1.6s, f/1.8, ISO 1600, with a 20mm lens. BTW, I also was using a NiSi Natural Night filter for light pollution. - Neil Swinton

Tips and Tricks - November's Theme: Photographing Shadows

Tips for Shadow Photography

The word *photography*, translated from Greek, means *drawing with light*. It stands to reason that in order to draw with light, there has to be a degree of darkness, making the absence of light another integral component of photography. Shadow photography is a form of photography that focuses on shadows, making them an important element or even the focal point of an image. While light may be the key ingredient in photography, shadows provide the flavor (adorama.com). Shadows are dark areas which form when the light source is blocked by an object. They are different from silhouettes, which form when you photograph a dark object against a bright background. Shadows can add contrast, dimensionality, and a sense of balance to an image, and when used creatively, they can help create an eye-catching work of art. In fact, shadows have been used by artists for 2000 years, going back to shadow puppetry in the ancient times. Shadows in photography tend to add a sense of moodiness to an image. As we descend into the darker months of winter, it's a great time to take advantage of the dwindling light and the shadows cast around us. Here are some tips and tricks to help you experiment with Shadow Photography.

How can shadows be used in photography?

- You can use shadows to create unique and abstract shapes or to add texture, contrast, patterns, and interesting visual elements to an image.
- You can use shadows to draw the attention of the viewer and guide the viewer's eye.
- Shadows can be used as leading lines or to convey a sense of depth within an image. Our brains tell us that darker areas are farther away, even though they may not be. Shadows can also add a sense of space.
- A shadow can be the main focus in an image or used to enhance the subject.
- Shadows themselves tell a great visual story. They may accentuate the subject-background interaction. They may add mystery and drama to an image or give the image a cinematic quality. They may be part of the story, or even the story itself.
- You can use shadows for *sub-framing*. This is where a photographer uses shadow(s) to mark out a smaller frame within the photo, to emphasize the subject and separate it from the other elements.
- Shadows can be effective in helping achieve a balanced composition.

"The beginnings and ends of shadow lie between the light and darkness and may be infinitely diminished and infinitely increased. Shadow is the means by which bodies display their form. The forms of bodies could not be understood in detail but for shadow." - Leonardo da Vinci

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Tips for Photographing Shadows - continued from page 22

Making the most of your shadows:

- Pay attention to the direction of the light, and look for interesting shadows that may be cast. Look for repetitive patterns and shapes. You will find the most defined shadows on a sunny day.
- If you are indoors, a single, artificial light source can be used to shape shadows.
- Consider working with *GOBOS* (Go between objects, such as blinds, lace curtains, grids). There are even professionally designed gobos that can attach to flash units.
- Consider whether you want your shadows to be soft and dim or harsh and strong. For nice, deep shadows, expose for the highlights. For harsh shadows, take photos in direct sunlight, use a flashlight with a narrow beam of light in a dark environment, or use a speed light or flashgun. Side lighting often works best.
- The early morning and evening (golden hour) are perfect for long shadows because of the angle of the sun. The harsh, hard light of the midday sun will yield crisp shadows. A full moon on a clear night can also produce very interesting shadows.
- You can adjust your shadows by changing the distance of your light source. A closer light source will create harder, more defined shadows. To soften your shadows, move the light source farther away. The surface where the shadow lands needs to be light so the shadow is well defined.
- You can also shape your shadows by tweaking the angle of your light source. If your light source is intense and low, the shadow will become more elongated and may have minimal contact with the object. You may even isolate the shadow alone, making it a focal point.
- Recommendations for camera settings include shooting in manual mode with a low ISO. This will allow you to keep the darker areas dark. Remember that noise will be more evident in those darker areas, so the lower ISO will help reduce noise. A moderate aperture will help keep your shadows in focus. Use a tripod when possible, particularly if you want to create sharp shadows in low light.
- You can enhance your shadows by photographing in B&W. Shadows in B&W images may be very striking, since they naturally have more contrast and dynamic range.



Rex's Box of Sunshine - Liz Krouse

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Tips for Photographing Shadows- continued from page 23

- If you want to incorporate Shadow Photography into your street scene, look for a good spot with an intriguing display of shadows. Wait for someone to enter the scene to create that decisive moment. In certain situations, you can also incorporate backlighting to form silhouettes. Outdoor, artificial lighting such as street lights can be very effective in scenes with fog and mist. Neon lights can add colorful shadows.
- For your indoor photography, photographing an item by a window can provide interesting shadows. A north-facing window will yield softer, more directional light, while windows facing east or west will offer stronger light. Light from the window on a cloudy day will bring softer, less edgy light. You can also use a flashlight or simple bare bulb to create shadows indoors. Try working with smaller objects to study the phenomenon, and you can build from there.
- For your portraits, try casting a pattern of shadows across your subject's face (such as light shining through blinds), but avoid having dark shadows under the eyes. Avoid having your subject face the sun because this can result in squinting.
- Keep it simple, and minimize distractions in your image. Embrace the negative space.
- If your shadows are easily recognizable, use them. If not, don't. You don't want an undistinguishable lump in your image. For example, shadows of bicycles, trees, or people with extended arms and/or legs are easily recognizable and interesting.

Sources

Splento.com; holladayjournal.com; adorama.com; adobe.com; brentmailphotography.com; photzy.com; shutterstock.com; shotkit.com; makeuseof.com; expertphotography.com; digital-photography-school.com; orionphotogroup.com; better-digital-photo-tips.com; silvanadellacamera.com; belindajiao.com; petapixel.com.

"The eye is always caught by light, but shadows have more to say." - Gregory McGuire

Index of Tips and Tricks

Looking for tips about a certain topic in photography?

Before heading to Google check out this Index of Tips and Tricks listed by AVCC Focal Point issue. Cathy Robotis has curated information from many websites and sources each month to help members make decisions about how to shoot for a specific theme. You may find what you are looking for in a Tips and Tricks article. To access the issue containing the desired Tips go to the AVCC website and click on the Focal Point Newsletters tab.

Index of AVCC Focal Point Tips and Tricks Theme by Issue	
Issue	Tips and Tricks Theme
Sept-Oct '22	Fall Foliage
November '22	Vintage Style Photography
December '22	Tips for Night Photography
January '23	Tips for Indoor Photography
February '23	Tips for Shooting in Fog
March '23	Tips for Music Photography
April '23	Tips for Flower Photography
May '23	Tips for Things in Motion
June '23	Tips for Summer Photography
September '23	Tips for Monochrome Photography
October '23	Tips for Travel Photography
November '23	Tips for Architecture/detail
December '23	Tips for Landscape Photography
January '24	Tips for Still Life Photography
February '24	Tips for Emotive Photography
March '24	Tips for Creative Photography
April '24	Tips for Photographing the Sky
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Did you know?...

Paul Nicklen, a National Geographic Photographer, recommends that when you go out on a photo shoot, you should employ the **20-60-20 Rule**. You should spend the first 20% of your time getting the safe shots. You should dedicate the next 60% of your time trying different angles, changing your composition, and pushing your technical limits. The final 20% of your time should be spent trying to get that “once-in-a-lifetime” shot. In other words, step out of your comfort zone! What do you think? Maybe this is something to add to your New Year’s Resolution list...?

Did you know?...(a repeat from the October issue)

There are many places in the local region to photograph wildlife. Darlene Holman suggests these favorite places:

- Assabett Valley Wildlife Refuge
- Salisbury Beach State Reservation
- Parker River Wildlife Refuge
- Great Meadows Nat’l Park
- Mount Auburn Cemetery
- Blue Hills Reservation
- Boston Public Garden
- Chain Bridge & Deer Island, Amesbury
- Mass Audubon Museum of American Bird Art Bird Blind
- Mass Audubon Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary
- Mass Audubon Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
- Jenny Grist Mill Pond, Plymouth
- Nelson Park, Plymouth
- South Beach or North Monomoy, Chatham
- Chatham Fish Pier
- Pilgrim Heights, Truro
- Beech Forest, Provincetown
- Provincetown Harbor

The Bigger Picture

Photography Workshops and Classes

**** Essdras Suarez**

Do you remember Essdras Suarez? He's done a couple of presentations for us including the special tribute evening for Elliot. Elliot was a big fan of his. Some of us follow him on Instagram. Essdras is offering a series of 10 (30 min) online workshops for \$99. All taught by Essdras. One of them includes "The Importance of Shadows". Check it out – would be a great thing to do in the winter months. <https://emsphotoadventures.com/webinar-package-of-10/> **BONUS** deal for AVCC members only – don't miss out!

If you purchase the webinar package you receive either :

1. One **FREE** 30 min review session with Essdras! Any photos of your choice (via zoom)

OR

2. 50% (\$75) off a full one hour review session (normally \$150)

It's not often you get your images reviewed by a two time Pulitzer prize winner!

**** Hazel Meredith**

- Hazel is offering an in-person workshop on Sunday Mar 9, 2025, at the Hudson Senior Center.
- The content will be Photoshop training. You can bring your laptop and work along as Hazel gives instructions. She will also solicit images from attendees in advance that can be worked on during the workshop.
- We also plan on holding the workshop on Zoom for those who cannot travel to the Senior Center.
- The workshop will be 3-4 hours and the cost is \$69. If interested please register on the Events page of the AVCC website. See John Gill's email to members on October 30 for more information.

**** Barbara Rozavsky, HonNEC**

Photo Course - Back to Basics. Saturday, November 16, 9am - 3:30pm. Lunch is included in the course fee of \$50 for non GLPA members. See [GLPA Basic Digital Photography](#) for information and registration.

**** Virtual Photoshop Summit 6**

5 days of practical training (40 classes) from world-class Photoshop experts, November 11-15, 2024. Free pass or VIP pass available. Go to <https://www.pssummit.com/6homepage> for more information and to register.

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The Bigger Picture - continued from page 27

Happenings

****Suzanne Revy-** who has been a presenter for us a couple of times, is having an exhibit, “A Murmur in the Trees” (which was one of the presentations she did for us), at [Danforth Museum of Art](#), 123 Union St., Framingham until Jan 26th with an artist talk on Jan 5.

****Not photography - but the Hopkinton Center for the Arts** has some very interesting classes, exhibits and workshops. A perfect place to check out as we enter the “dark ages” of winter and are looking for things to do. www.hopartscenter.org

****Do NOT forget to get your tickets for the holiday Night Lights at New England Botanical at Towerhill.** They are on sale to the public now – don’t wait! <https://nebg.org/>

****Speaking of winter months.** Here is a great article [“Photographing the Colors and Shadows of Winter Light”](#), from B&H Photo.

****Skylight Astronomical Society -** The SAS is holding a Star Watch event at Minuteman Airfield in Stow, MA on Saturday, November 9, from 6-8:30pm. Free event with many telescopes set up to view the night sky. For more information go to [Star Watch](#).

****MFA - Boston -** “The Meadow” through December 1, 2024. In 1996 artist Barbara Bosworth began photographing a meadow in Carlisle, Ma. Returning regularly over the next 15 years, she used a large-format camera to capture images of the land at different times of day and in all seasons. Through the resulting series of photos, called The Meadow, Bosworth carries on a long-standing tradition of New England artists, poets, and naturalists who have chronicled the passage of time and traces of human presence in beautiful yet quietly unspectacular landscapes. MFA- Boston - [Barbara Bosworth](#)

****Lastly – see side box.** We are including this info because there is a good handful of club members who sell at this great little shop, **Serendipity**. Small, local and the owner is a wonderful person who constantly “gives back.” This year is extra special to me (Pam) because they put up a Christmas tree with handcrafted ornaments and sell them for \$12 each. Proceeds this year will go to Hudson’s local non-profit [“Tend to You”](#) in support of the cancer community.



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Photography Contests

****One of the best ways to improve your photography** is to challenge it by entering a **photography competition**. Luckily, there are dozens out there to choose from, no matter your genre, style or level.

Wading through the sheer number of awards up for grabs can be a little daunting, so below is a link to **competitions for your consideration**. Because of the time of year many have passed or will shortly. But my suggestion would be to keep this link and check it when you feel like browsing.

<https://amateurphotographer.com/latest/articles/best-photography-competitions-to-enter/>

**** “Fodar” International Photo Festival Biennale**

Win up to \$2000 cash! www.photocontestinsider.com/phodar-biennial/

The 13th consecutive edition of the “Fodar” International Photo Festival Biennale is dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the “Fodar” Foundation. Its theme is “Photographic Reality.” It was provoked by the increasingly rapid democratization and wide distribution of the photographic image. Free to enter. Submissions are judged. Deadline for submission is December 31, 2024.

****Below is a link to 10 great nature contests** – check them out – you never know.

<https://inspire.mylio.com/wildlife-nature-photography-contests>

**** Smithsonian Magazine 22nd Annual Photo Contest**

Lots of categories. Check it out. Deadline for submission is December 2nd at 5:00pm EST. Cash prizes.

<https://photocontest.smithsonianmag.com/photocontest/rules/>

**** Sony World Photography Awards**

Many categories and free to enter. Open competition closes January 3, 2025. www.worldphoto.org



*Julia Butterfly sipping nectar
- Sue Abrahamsen*



AVCC is a member of the following organizations:

NECCC



PSA



AVCC website:

<https://avcc.visualpursuits.com>

2023-2024 Executive Board Members:

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



Hike Among the HooDoos
- Theresa Vachowski

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.