



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.



Torch Ginger - Paul Loiselle

*"I heard a bird sing in the dark of December. A magical thing. And sweet to remember. We are nearer to spring than we were in September. I heard a bird sing in the dark of December."
- Oliver Herford*

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Note from Our President

Hello All,

During this Thanksgiving season, and all throughout the year, I am extremely thankful and grateful for everything that everyone does for the Club! Members volunteer countless hours so that we all can enjoy, learn, and share the results of our passion! Thank you so very much!

Reminder of the Holiday banquet on December 4th starting at 6:00 PM at the Senior Center. Please let Linda Shelales know if you are attending and what you will be bringing.

We would like to be able to vote on the proposed by-law changes at the December 4th meeting, and need 75% of the entire club membership (total membership is 51) to be present via person or via ZOOM in order to take a vote. If you cannot attend the meeting, but can join via Zoom for the business meeting for about 15 minutes around 7:15, that would be greatly appreciated! Tony Monteiro sent out a copy of the proposed bylaws at least 30 days in advance of the possible vote as required by the current bylaws. Unfortunately, the current bylaws do not have provisions for proxy or absentee ballots.

And thank you to the members of the Newsletter Committee for the tremendous amount of work that you put into producing an amazing newsletter! The team rocks!!

Best wishes to you and your family for a Joyous, Safe, and Happy Thanksgiving!

Pudge

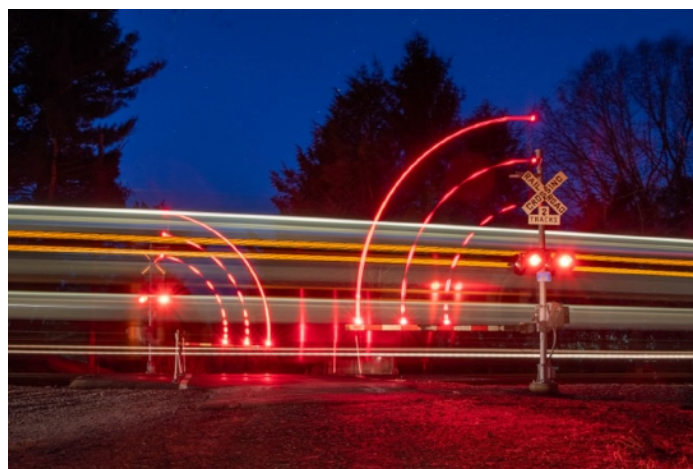


Image Courtesy of John Mauro

Note from the Editors

December leans into darkness. Three weeks of the shortest days of the year. And one week when - ever so slightly - the light begins its return. It is no accident that cultures and religions celebrate light with feasts and gatherings at this time of year. In Hannukah, Christmas, and the Indian feast of Diwali among others, the lighting of candles is a central element. Candles pierce the darkness and we remind ourselves and each other that light will indeed return.

The subject of our Member Snapshot this month is Terry Vachowski. Her artistic talent not only shows up in her photography, but in her other major hobby, scrapbooking. Along with Terry's images, you'll see one or two of her scrapbook pages.

See Cathy's Tips and Tricks for a deep dive into the importance of light, its temperature, and how the amount and the quality of light affects the mood of an image. Photography may inspire reflection and can create mood by how we use and balance light and dark in our images.

Pam's Happenings section includes Audubon owl walks, seasonal festivals, opportunities for city photography and upcoming courses. The Night Lights photography workshop at New England Botanical Garden at Tower Hill is on Dec 3rd, so don't miss that page.

"Zooming In" includes the Question of the Month, "How do you handle competition time?" You will find some interesting and humorous responses. You will also find contributions of images related to shadows, dark and light.



During this season of holiday hubbub, your editors wish you a moment of quiet, and the peace of a candle's soft glow.



December 2024 Program

AVCC is pleased to present “From Map to Masterpiece: Digital Scouting Tools for Landscape Photographers” by Meredith Fontana on Wednesday, December 4, 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.

Meredith Fontana

Meredith Fontana is a Denver based landscape photographer, educator, and naturalist guide whose journey from paleontology to photography reflects a lifelong passion for the outdoors. Drawing on her experiences from a career in natural science and outdoor adventure, Meredith brings a unique perspective to the art of landscape photography. Her focus for the past 4 years has been on capturing the beauty of Colorado's diverse, hard-to-reach wilderness areas and promoting their protection. Her passion for teaching landscape photography stems from a desire to inspire others to explore their creativity and deepen their connection with nature. Through engaging workshops and educational content, she encourages photographers to harness their unique perspectives while cultivating a greater appreciation for the environment. You can learn more about Meredith and her work at her [website](#).



Image Courtesy of Meredith Fontana

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From Map to Masterpiece: Digital Scouting Tools for Landscape Photographers

Join pro landscape photographer Meredith Fontana for an in-depth look at essential digital scouting tools and techniques that will help you find unique photo locations and create images that stand out from the crowd. In this presentation, Meredith will introduce you to her favorite software, apps, and websites that she uses to find hidden compositions, anticipate perfect lighting, and predict ideal weather conditions. You'll see a live demonstration of these tools in action, where you will learn how to scout a new location step-by-step. We'll walk through a real-world scouting scenario that integrates these digital tools, from terrain research and lighting analysis to weather tracking and field preparation. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced amateur photographer, this presentation will provide actionable insights to help you scout like a pro and create images that are truly unique.



Rawah Sunrise - Meredith Fontana



Working on the Railroad - Liz Krouse

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 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	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...Theresa Vachowski

- 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 Templeton Mass, and my husband Greg was from Gardner, 5 miles away. We didn't meet until we both went home to work in the hospital one summer. When we married, Greg was working in Hudson as a teacher, and we've lived here ever since, over 55 years. We have four grown children, one now deceased.

When our kids were all in school, I went back to school myself to become a registered dietitian. I ended up commuting to Templeton to work with developmentally disabled adults for over 25 years after that, near where I grew up. I loved taking photos of the beautiful farmlands there with my pocket camera on walks during lunch breaks.

- Tell us about when you got started doing photography?

My brother claims my photography interest started with a television show called "Man with a Camera", starring Charles Bronson. I recently got to watch an old episode and it made me laugh because TV filming was so primitive then compared to today. My mother had a Kodak Brownie to record our activities when we were young. I eventually was given an Instamatic with photo cubes for when a flash was needed,

I didn't really start to become interested in taking better photographs until I started scrapbooking. Three of the women in a scrapbooking group I belonged to, took classes and became professional photographers. We all moved into digital scrapbooking when the Creative Memories Company (a scrapbooking supply and software company, now named Forever) did. Greg bought me an Olympus Digital Camera because I was printing so many photos before a "crop meet," something like a "quilting bee" for scrapbookers. The Olympus only has 5 megapixels but I recently submitted a competition photo that was taken with it.



*Taken with an Olympus 5mp camera -
Image Courtesy of Theresa Vachowski*

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Member Snapshot - Theresa Vachowski - continued from page 8

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

Greg got me my "Big Girl Camera" in 2014 or so- a Sony NEX 3. I took a night class at Assabet to learn the basics. My only camera since then is a Sony RX10 I got before we went on vacation two years ago. Oh, and I traded in my phone for an iPhone for a 15 Pro Max before another trip.

For several years I took part in a Day2Day project, a challenge put out by a training group within Forever. We would take a photo a day, and then make a page at the end of the week. I sometimes followed a suggested theme, but usually preferred just recording everyday life. As a result, most of my favorite photos tend to be snapshots of flowers and vegetables and rabbits in our backyard, as well as spur-of-the-moment captures. For me the story comes first, so I love the journaling part of scrapbooking. We enjoy looking back at our memories this way. My granddaughter in Oregon sends me photos of her life there. She said her friends gauge how exciting their adventures are by whether or not they get end up on one of my pages.

I joined AVCC in 2013. The Scavenger hunt used to inspire me so much, and I would keep my eyes open all summer for opportunities to use for that. I spent more dedicated time and effort to work on some of these. Working with a tripod or playing with lighting is something I don't otherwise do.



Image Courtesy of Terry Vachowski



Image Courtesy of Terry Vachowski



*Image Courtesy of
Terry Vachowski*

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Member Snapshot - Theresa Vachowski - continued from page 9

- 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.

Editing is still a big struggle for me, especially using the raw files on my phone, and trying to get them to my computer. For camera files, I use an ancient Lightroom, version 5, which doesn't require a monthly fee. I also use Photoshop Elements 2022 minimally. For my scrapbook pages I use Forever Artisan (software and support) and Historian (file management) which have somewhat decent editing, and import the few photos that were done in Lightroom as needed.

I follow Digital Photography School and How to Photograph Your Life for inspiration, and the Forever software supports have a lot of help too. The members of their training group I belong to are so supportive. I find so much inspiration there and from AVCC members who are also super supportive.

Most of my challenges right now are physical. I lost my hearing to a double ear infection when I had just started back to school. I had surgery for a cochlear implant on one side two years ago; though I've done hearing exercises extensively to teach my brain to take over for my ear, I still have a lot of challenges in this area. That's why I usually prefer to attend meetings through Zoom with closed captions running. I also have mobility issues since destruction of a posterior tibial tendon several years ago. Life is always throwing curve balls.

My biggest photography goal right now is to have one of my photos framed. It's always good to have a goal. I just need some courage for this one.



Image Courtesy of Terry Vachowski



Image Courtesy of Terry Vachowski

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Image Courtesy of Terry Vachowski



Image Courtesy of Terry Vachowski



Image Courtesy of Terry Vachowski

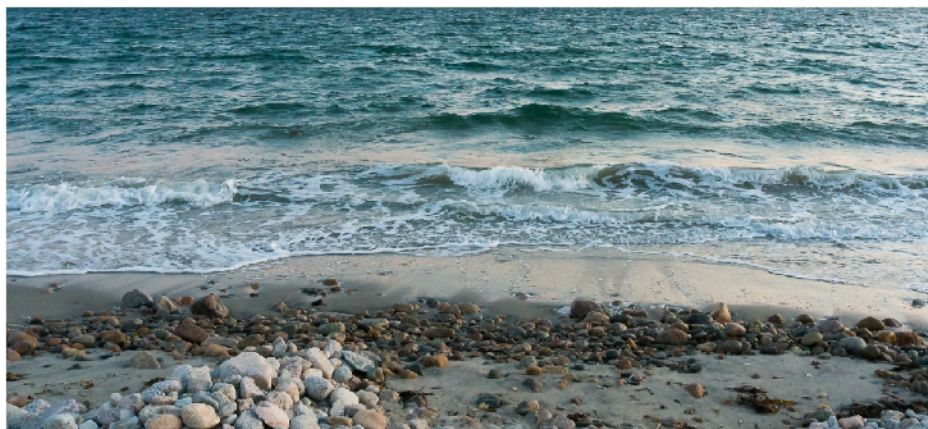


Image Courtesy of Terry Vachowski

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, Pam Meoli, Jim Williams, John Mauro, Linda Shelales, Robyn Saur, Glenn Fund, Doris Monteiro, Tony Monteiro, Bob Cooke, Darlene Holman, and Terry Vachowski.

Zooming Out

On the Wall at Cafe 641

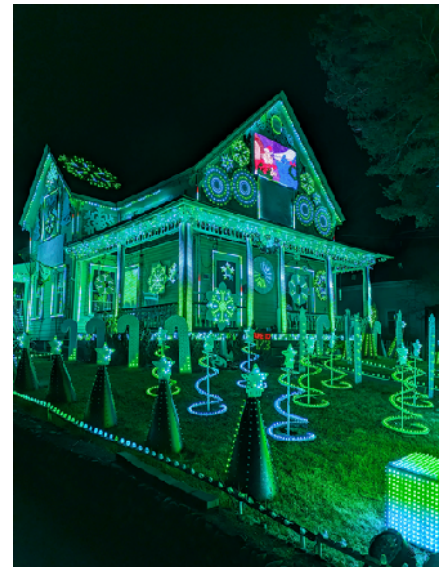
This month Cafe 641 will feature the AVCC Members' Winter Images Exhibit. A Meet and Greet will be held on Saturday, December 14 from 12:00 - 1:30.

We hope to see you there!

In January we will see the work of Darlene Holman.



*Image Courtesy of
Terry Wachowski*



*Cherry Street Light Display
- Lynn Kerner*

*"December has the clarity, the simplicity, and the silence
you need for the best fresh start of your life."
- Vivian Swift*

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Zooming Out - continued from page 12

Several members and friends attended the meet and greet for Jim's exhibit at Cafe 641 on November 9 to enjoy the images, the company, and the food!



The Crowd at Jim's Meet and Greet - Mary Coombs



Jim at Work - Pam Meoli



*Jordan (Jim and Gail's dog)
- Pam Meoli*

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Congratulations to Glenn Fund, Darlene Holman, and Sheri Craig!

From Glenn:

Darlene, Sheri and I all recently went on the field trip to Andres Institute of Art (AIA) in Brookline, New Hampshire. There was a 2025 calendar contest going on and we all entered photos. Guess what ? We all won a month.

From Darlene:

The calendar is now available to purchase from their on-line store. A link is provided below.

Our winning photos may also be used in social media posts, newsletters, etc and our names will be associated with them to give us credit.

<https://andresinstitute.org/store-2/2025-aia-calendar/>

Happy Thanksgiving!

Darlene

Reminder from Bob Cooke:

I've 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 March1, 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.



Shaking the Pollen Off - Darlene Holman

Zooming In

We asked members to share photos reflecting the topic of light. The topic is broad and member submissions include shadows, lighting of a subject or scene, black and white, silhouettes, reflections...

Midnight

By Sharon G. Flake, from The Skin I'm In

At midnight, if you have the eyes to see,
There's beauty and there's majesty.

Sweet brown babies tucked in tight,
Shooting stars bursting through the night.

Strong sturdy trees reaching for the sky,
Dancing and swaying to the moon's lullaby.

Silent waters. Silent nights.
Angels soaring toward the light.

At midnight, if you have the eyes to see,
There's beauty and there's majesty.

(Contributed by Lynn Kerner)



The moon was incredible! - Pam Meoli



Mystery Stairway - Lynn Kerner

"I was intrigued by the shadows, the lines, and the black door opening to the light. Together, they created a sense of tension and mystery to me."
- Lynn Kerner

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Zooming In - Light Photos - continued from page 15

From Linda Shelales:



We Follow in Color
- Linda Shelales

I included a B&W to show that, in my opinion, without color, the shadows seem to dominate the image. WITH color it seems like the man is more the story & the shadows lead us to him. Both are worthy 'stories'.



We Follow BW
- Linda Shelales



Shadow and Light Play
Holding a Light Being
- Mary Coombs



Chased by the light - Cathy Robotis

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Zooming In - Light Photos - continued from page 16

From John Mauro:

I generally shoot in aperture priority, and when shooting in bright light I always stop down so as to not blow out the highlights. It is easier to remove shadows and tone down highlights in post processing than to lose an image due to blown-out highlights. Another option I use is to take several images at different f stops and merge the images in Lightroom.



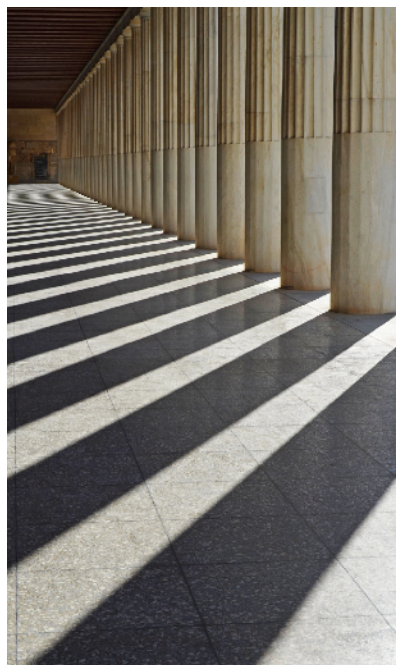
Image Courtesy of John Mauro



Image Courtesy of John Mauro



Image Courtesy of Pam Meoli



Shadows - Cathy Robotis

Zooming In

Field Trips

Glenn Fund arranged a field trip to the YV Art Museum in Acton, MA on Saturday, November 2. The museum is situated on an old granite quarry site affording lots of material for sculptors from around the globe to do on site stone carving. Also featured are metal sculptures and experimental music/sound art installations. Here are some photos from the day courtesy of Glenn Fund and Jim Williams.



Image Courtesy of Glenn Fund



Image Courtesy of Jim Williams



Image Courtesy of Glenn Fund



Image Courtesy of Glenn Fund

Night Hawks

Quiet skies this issue but look for astronomical events mid-month including the Geminid Meteor Shower on the 13th and the full moon on the 15th. Jupiter will be shining bright!

More Zooming In

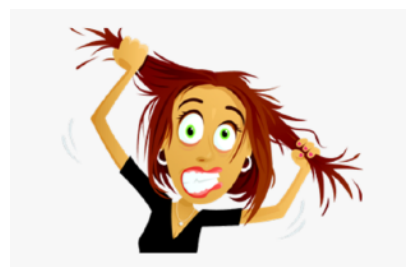
Question of the Month

"Never underestimate the power of competition to drive success." - Suzy Kassem, Rise Up and Salute the Sun

Our question of the month is: **How do you handle competition time?** Do you submit early? Do you submit at 11:50 pm on the due date while chewing off your fingernails? Do you change images at the last minute? What goes into your decision-making? Do you ask friends for a critical look before submitting?

Pam Meoli:

- I try to put myself in the judges shoes - I used to submit what I like but I like to win!
- I take a million looks
- I know critiques are good but they scare me
- I want to pull my hair out



Linda Shelales:

The email deadline reminder is my cue to create a folder & focus on collecting potential competition entries from this year's pics. From those I decide which I like best & then put them thru PS or Elements, depending. I usually submit the day before. - If I did it earlier I might change my mind!

Robyn Saur:

I have a folder of choices for competition that month. About a week to a few days before I review them. I pick my favorite and touch up the photo, resize it, and rename it. When I went away, I had to enter my images two months ahead of time which felt very awkward. It's nice to have the images in ahead of time, but I usually am on the late side and do it a couple days before or that day. Sometimes I ask friends what they think but what judges think and my friends think are two different opinions.

I've really enjoyed seeing the images that other club members have entered. They are so creative and have a great impact. It's always always a pleasure.

John Mauro:

For me is it a 50/50 proposition...sometimes I submit ahead of time, especially if I have what I feel are good images to submit for that month's theme, other times, it is down to the Tuesday evening before they are due (I don't like to wait until the very last minute in case VP goes down as it has before). I ask Ellen her opinion on images, then I look to see what I think the judges will add or deduct points on. I also ask the opinion of a few club members on occasion.

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Cathy Robotis:

As the competition deadline approaches, I usually find myself scrolling through thousands of photos, hoping to find two that feel right for competition. Sometimes, I will have planned ahead (for assigned topics); other times, I am looking for inspiration at the last minute. I engage in presubmission critiques with my fellow newsletter friends, and their input helps me narrow down my submission choices and make changes when needed. Up here in Maine, internet service is never a given from one minute to the next, so I try to submit my photos a day in advance. However, that doesn't mean that I won't look back at my submissions just before the deadline and see something I missed. A couple of months ago, I had to substitute an image at 11:55 pm because I noticed a slight imperfection. I was shaking as I was making the change because I was afraid I would remove the one and lose the internet before uploading the other. I breathed a sigh of relief when I managed to pull it off with a minute to spare. If there is a nature shot involved, I take extra care to make sure there is no dreaded 'hand of man' that I might have overlooked. Once bitten, twice shy, as they say.

Mary Coombs:

Deciding one, if I have something that fits the theme, and two, if an image is good enough, are definitely stressors at competition time! I try to plan ahead to shoot for a theme but sometimes the image just isn't there - so sometimes I feel my choices are not the most suitable for competition. My newsletter friends have become my vetting crew along with Paul - I'm thankful for them! Their suggestions have really helped me improve images before submitting. For me there is much gnashing of teeth and last minute editing! And I'm afraid, despite good intention, I am one of those 11:55 people (eye roll). It's always a relief to hit submit!



OOPS - Blair Boudreau

Tips and Tricks - December's Theme: Light in Photography

Tips for Light in Photography

“Light makes photography. Embrace light. Admire it. Love it. But above all, know light. Know it for all you are worth, and you will know the key to photography.” Words of wisdom from George Eastman, the founder of Kodak. Every image that we take is made up of a balance of brightness and darkness, and this balance impacts the look and feel of our photographs. Manipulating light empowers us to use our artistic vision to set the overall tone, mood, and atmosphere of an image to engage the viewer, create emotion, and (hopefully) leave a deep and meaningful impression. Last month, we learned that the literal translation of the word *photography* from Greek means *drawing with light*, as we delved into the world of shadow photography, honing in on the creative elements related to the absence of light. This month, we will focus on light itself, exploring the different types of light and their characteristics while offering tips for working with light. As we move into the holiday season, we wish everyone light, peace, happiness, and many golden photographic opportunities.

Types of Light

Natural Light versus Artificial Light

- Light broadly falls under two categories: Natural light and artificial light.
- Natural light: This form of light comes from the sun and the moon (some also include streetlights in this category). It is the most *accessible* type of light, and it is often used in landscape photography, wildlife photography, street photography, architectural photography, and other forms of photography.
- Artificial light: This form of lighting involves the use of lighting equipment and is often seen in studio photography. Artificial light is the most *controllable* form of lighting.



Bluebird Flying to into Nest Box
- Darlene Holman

Hard Light versus Soft Light

- Hard light is bold and dramatic. It creates strong shadows and high contrast. Hard light sources are small in relation to the subject (examples: light bulb, distant sun). It is ideal for dramatic stories or to show textures in product photography.
- Soft light is diffused and reduces contrast and softens shadows. It is like using a gentle brush to paint your subject. Soft light sources are large when compared to the subject (such as sunlight filtered through clouds and spread over a much larger area on cloudy days). Soft lighting is ideal for portraits.
- You will find hard natural light in the midday sun, and you will find soft natural light on overcast days and at the early and late hours of the day.

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Temperature and Light

- Light can sometimes be cold and blue, while at other times, it may be toasted and golden.
- Warm lighting is cozy and inviting. Cool light is sterile and clinical.
- Cooler tones are associated with more negative emotions, while warmer tones are soothing.
- During the golden hour, you will find warm, soft light and a warm, soft atmosphere. Candlelight also provides warm tones.
- During the blue hour (the twilight period 20 minutes before sunrise and after sunset), the sky assumes a cool blue color that pairs especially well with artificial lights from city skylines.
- On very gray days, there will be less warmth. Fog, rain, and clouds emit a darker vibe. The colors in your image will be flatter.
- If you are setting up light sources, it is important to make sure that the light complements your subject and that the light sources (if using more than one) complement each other (you want to avoid pairing cool and warm light sources in the same image).
- The Kelvin scale is a temperature measurement system used in photography to describe the color temperature of light sources. The scale ranges from 1000-10,000K, with the lower values representing warmer colors and the higher values representing cooler colors. Candlelight is about 1900K, daylight is about 5600K, and a clear blue sky is about 10,000K. Understanding the Kelvin scale allows you to set the white balance to adjust the color temperature of your image. Here is a link for a greater understanding of the Kelvin scale and its importance in photography: [Color Temperature](#).

Directions of Light in Photography

- **Front lighting:** When a subject is lit from the front, it may be soft and flattering, but the lighting generally looks flat. This type of lighting is useful when you want to show symmetry in your image.
- **Side lighting:** Side lighting emphasizes depth, texture, and patterns. It is also associated with romance and nostalgia.
- **Back lighting:** We often associate backlighting with silhouettes, high contrast, and drama, but on a foggy day with the sun breaking through, backlighting may light the scene with bright ethereal sunbeams.
- **Overhead lighting:** This form of lighting is used to light an object from an uncommon angle, creating a dramatic effect, like a spotlight.
- **Under lighting:** When a subject is lit from below, it may convey a sense of fear or a sinister vibe.



Balloon Glow - Lynn Kerner

Emotions and Light

- **Dark light:** This is one of the most emotion-filled types of light. Dark, intense light creates moody portraits, powerful landscapes, and a somber message. Because information is concealed from the viewer, the image appears mysterious or ominous, though it may also appear refined. *Dark light emotions: Powerful, ominous, refined, intense, somber.*
- **Bright light:** This light has a softer, airier quality and conveys a sense of happiness and optimism. *Bright light emotions: Optimism, airy, light, gentle, ethereal.*
- **High contrast:** Contrast occurs when bright and dark elements are right next to each other. *High contrast emotions: Dramatic, loud, vibrant, punchy, sharp.*
- **Low contrast:** These images are muted and subdued, and the light source may be heavily diffused, quiet, and gentle. *Low contrast emotions: Subdued, gentle, soft, quiet, muted.*



Lisianthus and Goldsmith - Mary Coombs

Camera Settings and Post-Processing

- Always consider the exposure triangle when preparing to take your photos (aperture, shutter speed, ISO).
- For outdoor, well lit scenes, you can use a faster shutter speed (1/200-1/4000) and lower ISO (~100), and you may need a more narrow aperture.
- For night photography, you will need a slower shutter speed (1/100 or slower), a wider aperture, and a higher ISO (about 800). Don't forget your tripod!
- Color balance: You should adjust your white balance to match the lighting conditions. For example, your camera may allow you to set it for auto, daylight, cloudy, shade, tungsten, fluorescent, or flash.
- Remember to check your histograms to ensure that your exposure is correct.
- In post-processing, you can adjust the lighting and use techniques and masking tools (dodging and burning, etc) to help achieve the result you are after.

"If you want something to look interesting, don't light all of it." John Loengard

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Light Painting

- Light painting involves moving a light source (flashlight) to add light to a scene while taking long exposure photographs. With light painting, you can create stunning still life images or even impactful outdoor night scenes.
- You may recall some very informative presentations on Still Life Light Painting (Lisa Cuchara, October 2020; lisaandtomphotography.com) and Light Painting (Harold Ross, March 2022; (haroldrossfineart.com)). You can access the links to their pages for further information, and here is a link to an article on Light Painting to better explain it and serve as a refresher for anyone interested: <https://digital-photography-school.com/beginners-guide-to-light-painting/>



Home - Eric Frere

Sources

Simplebooth.com; adobe.com; affinityspotlight.com; jillianguoulding.com; orbitvu.com; tutti.space; photographylife.com; visualeducation.com; baph.co.uk; format.com; glidegear.net; studiobinder.com.

The Bigger Picture

Photography Workshops and Classes

Registration for Winter Sessions at Assabet After Dark are now open – they offer a number of photography classes:

<https://assabetace.asapconnected.com/?org=5674#CourseGroupID=61710>

New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill - “Night Lights Nighttime Photography” on Tuesday, Dec. 3, 3:30-6:30 pm - registration required. [Night Lights Photography](#)

New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill is offering a 3 part - “Mastering Photography: Macro/Up Close Photo Skills” starting Dec. 4 – registration required. [Macro Photography](#)



Happenings



Whooo's Ready to Look for Owls?

As winter approaches, owl season is swooping in. Look and listen for these elusive nighttime hunters with the help of Mass Audubon experts at an owl prowl near you.

Check out the opportunities in MA~ [Mass Audubon Programs](#)

Tons of photo ops in Boston during this festive season.
Starting with Snowport. (I went last year and it was so fun)
Check it out –
mlbostoncommon.com/boston-seaport-snowport-2024

Southwick's Zoo "Winter Wonderland"
<https://southwickszoo.com/winter-wonderland/>
Mendon, MA
November 21 – December 29 | Thursday – Sunday | 5 PM – Close

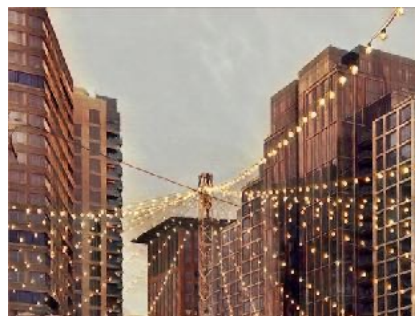


Image Courtesy of Pam Meoli

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The Bigger Picture - Happenings - continued from page 25

Some of you may know this but ...

Here are the best places to photograph in Boston:

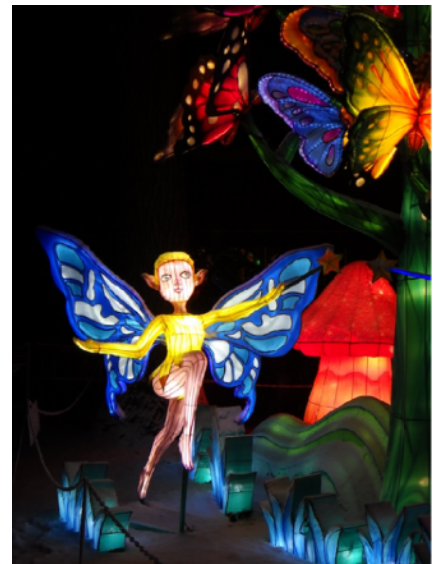
- Acorn Street
- Boston Public Library
- Beacon Hill Neighborhood
- Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum
- Boston Public Garden
- Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park
- Leonard P. Zakim Bridge
- Bunker Hill Monument
- Fan Pier Park



Fan Pier 1 - Richard Tranfaglia

Below is a list of Holiday Markets – think twinkling lights, street photography, music, food – ops everywhere you look.

- [Holiday & Christmas Market at The LOT](#)
- [Christmas Craft Fair at Old South Church](#)
- [Arts Wayland's Annual Holiday Marketplace](#)
- [Boston Women's Holiday Markets](#)
- [SoWa Winter Festival & Market](#)
- [Downtown Crossing Holiday Market](#)
- [German International School of Boston Holiday Market](#)
- [Harvard Square Holiday Craft Fair](#)
- [Holiday Stroll at Bellforge](#)
- [Holidays on the Green - Plymouth](#)
- [Pop-Up Holiday Market at Powisset Farm Store](#)
- [Holiday Marketplace at LexArt](#)
- [Sudbury Art Association Holiday Market](#)
- [Union Square Holiday Stroll](#)



Tinkerbell - Lynn Kerner

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Photography Contests

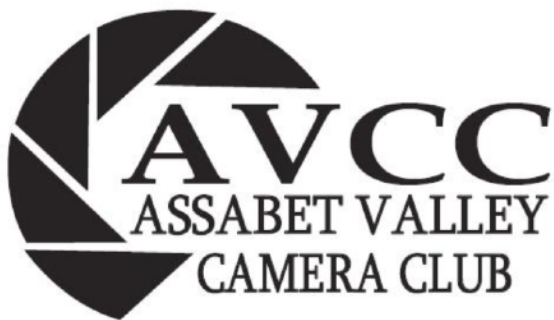
- **Sony World Photography Awards** – Rewarding the best single images. Entry is free and you could win \$5,000, top Sony digital imaging equipment, plus more. <https://www.worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards/open>
- [Photocrowd](#) - win great prizes with some very cool themes and have your work seen around the world. Get inspired and join thousands sharing their passion for photography.
- **The Nikon Small World Prize** - The Nikon Small World Prize is a unique entry in that it focuses especially on photomicrography, that is photographs taken through a microscope. <https://enter.nikonsmallworld.com/>
- **Instagram Photo Contests** – I may be a little behind but I just noticed Instagram has a ton of photo contests! Just search and you will find many.

Did you know?...

Did you know... **The Snowy 22 Rule** states that if the sun is shining over a snowy landscape, f/22 is the suggested aperture. You should also set your shutter speed to the inverse of your ISO (for example, if your ISO is 100, your shutter speed should be 1/100). What do you think? Give it a try this winter! (expertphotography.com)



Surprise - Tony Monteiro



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



Leaping Dog - Robyn Saur

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.