

COASTAL PHOTO CLUB



February 2024 Newsletter



Orange Julius
by Alan Welch



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Robbin Haigler, President - Coastal Photo Club



Get Ready for Our Spring Print Competition

Our Spring Print Competition will be here before we know it. It is always scheduled for April as our monthly meeting; the Fall Print Competition is always scheduled for November. All information can be found online in the Members Only webpage under the 'Competitions' tab.

I encourage everyone to go through your images and pick one that you believe worthy of sharing in this manner. And before you say, "I don't have any," may I suggest you read the competition guidelines and force yourself to find one?

The handout with the 12 elements that answers "What Makes a Good Photo" can be found under the 'Resources' tab on the Members Only webpage. I believe you will find it to be handy in helping you find your submission.

Make this a competition with yourself by removing your emotions from the image and look at it like a judge. Remember, it's all subjective - and there is not one photo anywhere that everyone will agree as the winner.

Be brave enough to give it a shot with just one photo. Rules state that you can submit up to two images per category for a total of four. You know what? I'm going to go out on a limb here and say, "I, personally, would rather see one image from 40 members than four images from 10 members."

I'm also going to reference an article by John Steady, club member and guru of many things, found in the [June 2023 Club Newsletter](#). He was writing about the monthly mini-comps, but I find the information fitting for the print competitions as well.

Take a few minutes for it all to digest, take a deep breath, step out of your comfort zone and dive into finding one image for the April Competition. If you do it now, there's time to select, print, and prepare before the April Monthly Meeting.

Remember, we now ask the judges to judge on merit, sight unseen, until it passes through the lightbox. They will also critique the images (when time allows) providing information to help you improve.

So here's the challenge - how many first-time competitors will there be in this competition? Can you compete against yourself and score higher the next time? There's only one way to find out - you have to participate, and I'll be right there with you!

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January Mini-Comp Winners

• Pets



Our judges scored 28 images: 17 [color](#) and 11 [monochrome](#). For a look at all the submitted images with judges' comments from past mini-comps, visit the [CPC website](#). Even if you did not enter the competition, you might learn something from your fellow members' comments.



Color - 1st Place

Orange Julius
by Alan Welch

January Mini-Comp Winners

• Pets



Our judges scored 28 images: 17 [color](#) and 11 [monochrome](#). For a look at all the submitted images with judges' comments from past mini-comps, visit the [CPC website](#). Even if you did not enter the competition, you might learn something from your fellow members' comments.



Color - 2nd Place

Twins

by Donna Hodgins

January Mini-Comp Winners

• Pets



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Color - 3rd Place

Dog Tired

by Donna Hodgins

January Mini-Comp Winners

• Pets



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Color - Honorable Mention, tie

At The Watering Hole
by Marty Pitcairn

January Mini-Comp Winners

• Pets



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Color - Honorable Mention, tie

Here They Come

by Richard Macquade

January Mini-Comp Winners

• Pets



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Monochrome - 1st Place

Where's The Coffee
by Richard Macquade

January Mini-Comp Winners

• Pets



Our judges scored 28 images: 17 [color](#) and 11 [monochrome](#). For a look at all the submitted images with judges' comments from past mini-comps, visit the [CPC website](#). Even if you did not enter the competition, you might learn something from your fellow members' comments.



Monochrome - 2nd Place

Cosmopolitan Glamor Shot
by Alan Welch

January Mini-Comp Winners

• Pets



Our judges scored 28 images: 17 [color](#) and 11 [monochrome](#). For a look at all the submitted images with judges' comments from past mini-comps, visit the [CPC website](#). Even if you did not enter the competition, you might learn something from your fellow members' comments.



Monochrome - 3rd Place

Two Dogs With Mustard and Ketchup, Please
by Alan Yoder

January Mini-Comp Winners

• Pets



Our judges scored 28 images: 17 [color](#) and 11 [monochrome](#). For a look at all the submitted images with judges' comments from past mini-comps, visit the [CPC website](#). Even if you did not enter the competition, you might learn something from your fellow members' comments.



Monochrome - Honorable Mention, tie

Cat Eyes

by Wayne Lytton

January Mini-Comp Winners

• Pets



Our judges scored 28 images: 17 [color](#) and 11 [monochrome](#). For a look at all the submitted images with judges' comments from past mini-comps, visit the [CPC website](#). Even if you did not enter the competition, you might learn something from your fellow members' comments.



Monochrome - Honorable Mention, tie

You Should See The Other Guy

by Rebecca Adcock



Back Button Focus: What is It & Why do I Care?

• *by Karl Mielenhausen*

Simply put, **back button focus** is a technique that takes the autofocus function away from the shutter release button, and reassigns it to another button on the back of the camera. Although the name only suggests a specific button on the back of the camera, it may be a different button (provided it can be set up for engaging autofocus).

Most advanced digital cameras on the market today have a dedicated "AF-ON" button that is specifically designed for back button focusing, as shown in the illustration on the next page:

Normally, by default, when you pick up a camera and half-depress the shutter release button, the focus system engages and tries to attain focus on your subject. With a bit more pressure applied to the shutter release button, the shutter trips and an image is captured. This process occurs regardless of the autofocus mode set up on the camera.

This essentially means that the single shutter release button is used for two different purposes - one to focus and one to take a picture. However, in certain situations, a photographer might want to focus and shoot at different moments. That's where back button focus comes in handy.

Actually, the shutter button has yet a third purpose: establishing and locking in the exposure, according to the metering mode selected.

Back button focus is incredibly useful if you do a lot of framing and recomposing. Once you move the focus function to a back button, here is how to use it:

1. Use the focus point selector and place the desired focus point on your subject
2. Press the AF-ON / Back button with your thumb to acquire focus
3. Release the AF-ON / Back button to keep and lock focus where it is
4. Recompose your shot as desired and make your exposure(s).

This is particularly good for landscapes as the camera will continue to focus on that "plane" until you press the AF-ON again, regardless of what you do with the shutter button.

Another benefit of back button focus is that you can leave your focus mode in continuous (AF-Servo or AF-C) and not worry about having to switch rapidly out of One Shot-AF (AF-S for Nikon) as your subject starts moving. You can also "pause" it momentarily should distracting elements (like a tree branch) appear near your focus point.

Back button focus is also useful if you find it difficult to "half-press" the shutter and find yourself taking the exposure before you intended. Additionally, some of us find it cumbersome to move the focus point around with the joystick or multi selector.

Of course, all this becomes less important with the advent of modern autofocus systems with their face and/or eye-tracking capabilities and ability to utilize focus points right out to the edge of the sensor.

One of the main drawbacks of back button focus is that it requires some coordination to operate fluidly. Initially, it might take some time and practice to fully master having to press two buttons to do the job that you had previously done with one.

When you use it under challenging shooting conditions where it can become difficult to maintain the high coordination needed for it (such as when shooting with a heavy lens or when you are tired). This is especially true when you use it during very cold weather conditions.

Another downside is that if your subject is always on the move and very erratic (such as a bird in flight), it simply tires your thumb to the point that it might be worth switching back to a single button. If you always shoot such fast action and you always default to the center focus point, you might want to evaluate if it is worth using back button focus.

How to set it up? I'm not going to go into detail here, as we have a variety of cameras used by club members. A simple internet search for your model will give you detailed instructions.



Steve Perry has an excellent video if you want additional information on the topic of back button focus: Steve Perry How to use AF-On. [Here is a link to a video](#) exploring the relevance of Back Button Focus in the mirrorless world.

So, depending on your hardware and shooting style, you might want to give back button focus a try, however, it may not be as relevant or helpful as it was in the past.

Links to Important Documents and Tutorials



Visit our website at coastalphotoclub.com. Sign in to the Members Only page (password in CPC weekly emails) for links to club information, structure, officers, bylaws, standing committees and their functions (within the bylaws), and wide variety of other member resources including these important documents:

Self Report Participation Points

Consolidated Graphic Standards (image sizes, renaming, etc. for submission)

Competition Rules and Guidelines (General, Mini, and Major Competitions)

How to Resize Photos

***What Makes a Good Photo
(12 elements to consider when evaluating / judging)***



From the Members

The Latest Image Format Wrinkle

by Judy Hills

For years now, we amateur photographers have been comfortable with the usual image file forms including JPEG, PNG, GIF, TIFF, and a handful of others. JPEG has been around for more than 30 years.

Guess what? Now we may be forced to use AVIF and WebP—newer image formats that offer better compression than JPEG and PNG. This means those newer formats can store images with a smaller file size while still maintaining good quality. This is especially beneficial for mobile devices, where storage space is limited, although I have seen posts that argue this point. Some say that AVIF is the future of photos on websites.

The following are some of the major points about AVIF image format made by Rob Harris in his August 31, 2023 “What is AVIF Image Format?” article. Click [here](#) to read it in its entirety.

Disclaimer: I am not a technical expert on these matters so this is just my own attempt to better understand this file format and I hope it will help you as well.

- An AVIF image offers significant file size reduction compared with JPEG, PNG, and WebP, and is currently supported on Google Chrome, Firefox, and Android.
- This new technology is getting a lot of praise with Netflix already claiming the AVIF image format to be far superior to the JPEG, PNG and even the newer WebP image formats for its image quality to compressed file size ratio.
- Reducing file sizes can speed up your website load time, improve your SEO rankings, and reduce your bounce rate. On average there is a 50% saving by using an AVIF image compared to a JPEG and 20% savings compared to WebP images.

50% smaller than .jpeg

.avif

30% smaller than .jpeg

.webp

.jpeg

- As of October 2021, the AVIF image file format support was introduced in Google Chrome 85 and Firefox 93 versions. If your browser is currently on a newer version than one of these, it also will be supported. At the time of writing, Microsoft Edge isn't currently supported, but since the new Microsoft Edge uses the same Chromium Engine it won't be long until support is rolled out. However, if you are a Microsoft user there is an AV1 Extension add-on available to download on the Microsoft Store. This provides support on Windows 10 devices and Edge if installed.
- The Google Chrome Labs team has created a compression Web app called Squoosh which converts existing images to AVIF format images. At the time of the writing of this article, Photoshop did not yet support this file format.
- The author states that while AVIF is lossless (which means that file size is compressed, but picture quality remains the same), some test comparisons show that the AVIF lossless mode isn't very good. WebP and even PNG outperformed lossless AVIF image in byte sizes.
- The AVIF image format is open source and has a royalty-free licensing model.

The author predicts that the future is bright for AVIF. Click [here](#) to view a YouTube video on converting files from JPEG to AVIF.



New Member Corner



Lynn Stateham is a new member of Coastal Photo Club, having recently joined with her husband, George. Together they have a Canon EOS Rebel T2i, but Lynn takes almost all of her photos with the camera on her Samsung Galaxy S-9 cell phone.

While she takes quite a few photos of things she loves and enjoys (family, plants and animals, cooking projects), many also reflect her love of the water and 30 years of boating.

Lynn uses Photoshop CS5 for processing her photos, and although she enjoys that, she feels that she is still a novice. She has taken online photography courses in Education to Go through Craven Community College that she found to be enjoyable and informative.

Lynn (and George) are longtime members of Fairfield Harbour Yacht Club, where she serves on the Board of Directors and is currently involved in producing a cookbook. She has also recently won the Fitbit "India" award for walking her dog the equivalent of India's length, just under 3k miles.

Lynn looks forward to meeting new people with like interests, attending informative programs, and taking better photos, some with an actual camera instead of her phone. Welcome, Lynn.



George Stateham recently joined CPC along with his spouse, Lynn. George shares that cameras have always been around in the family, but he became more interested in the mid 70s when Lynn's Uncle Joe, a very experienced and expert photographer, got him started learning about film speed, shutter speed, aperture, etc.

George bought a Canon FTb in 1975 and loved the built-in light meter. Just match the needle to the ball and to go up or down a stop or two easily. In some ways it was his favorite of all the cameras he has owned.

George began doing underwater photography in 1999 and has dived many of the world's best spots. In addition to other specialties in diving (such as being an instructor), he became certified in underwater photography and has thousands of slides to prove it.

George and Lynn retired in 2001, and bought a 38' catamaran. Beginning 2004, they started cruising to the Bahamas, making a total of seven trips over subsequent winters. He earned a Coast Guard 100-ton masters (captains) license and has helped many other boaters prepare for, and enjoy, the Bahamas.

In the last decade or so, George says that he has become lazy and used mostly his cell phone to take photos and then use Photoshop to improve sloppy composition. Making new friends, regaining unused skills, and learning more about photography in general is why he's here. Please welcome George to the club.

Member Gallery – Doug Carawan



New Bern Shriner Parade Photo Meetup



Member Gallery – Doug Carawan



Wilmar Junk Field Trip



Member Gallery – Doug Carawan



Creek Side Park Brices Creek Photo Meetup



Member Gallery – Robbin Haigler



New Bern Shriner Parade Photo Meetup



Member Gallery – Dave Hilbert



House Finches on Valentine's Day



Member Gallery – Dave Hilbert

College Basketball at North Carolina Wesleyan University



Member Gallery – Dave Hilbert



Junior Volleyball Tournament / Rocky Mount Event Center





Did You Know?

- We have a **members only web page** accessible on coastalphotoclub.com?
- Details for CPC Club Members can be found in our **Weekly Email Updates**?
- **Coastal Photo Club meets** on the second Saturday of every month (except October when it is changed to the third Saturday)?
- Club **members gather monthly** for informal sessions on topics of their choice?
 - Coffee & Cameras on the FIRST Wednesday of every month
 - Camera Cafe on the LAST Wednesday of every month
- **Mini Comp submissions** are now due on the 15th of each month?
- Club members are invited to attend the newly formed **Photo Op Meetups**? These are local and informal gatherings to practice your photography skills or perhaps learn new photography techniques. All skill levels are welcome and details are in our weekly Tuesday email updates.
- You are responsible for recording your own **Participation Points**? The top three participants will be recognized at our August 2024 monthly meeting.
- You can earn Participation Points when you submit content for the **CPC Newsletter**? Email your content to Dave Hilbert by the Monday after the monthly meeting? For example, if a club meeting occurs on Saturday, April 10, the deadline for the April newsletter would be Monday, April 12.
- Members are welcome to **submit up to three photo galleries** for each newsletter issue. Please limit each gallery to a maximum of five images.
- Our **members only Facebook Page** allows you to post photos that you would like to have others comment on, critique, or make other suggestions for improvements?



About the Coastal Photo Club

Aspire • Learn • Develop

We provide a variety of opportunities for our members with the hope that each member will find something of interest. The best way to improve your photography is to get out and shoot. All of our activities and community service projects are designed to help our members learn. There are a lot of experiences for you to get involved in. We hope to see you at some of them.

Coastal Photo Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 585
New Bern, NC 28563-0585
cpcnewbern@gmail.com

2023-24 Club Officers & Board Members

President

Robbin Haigler

Secretary/Treasurer

Carol Krom

Competition

Marty Pitcairn

Special Events & Community Service

Rick Meyer

Past President

Bob Dumon

Vice President

Doug Carawan

Membership

Alan Yoder

Field Trips & Outings

Cathleen McAnneny

Marketing & Public Relations

Alan Welch

Members-at-Large

John Steady,
Karl Mielenhausen

Coastal Photo Club News is the monthly newsletter emailed free to members and friends of the CPC. Items highlighting the activities of the club, news, opportunities, and awards, as well as items related to the photography field submitted by members are encouraged and welcomed. The experience and accomplishments of our members are diverse, but we encourage learning and sharing. Members' photos for our Club Gallery are especially encouraged. All image rights reserved by the photographers.

Membership Benefits

- Web portfolio: Display and edit your portfolio at no charge on the CPC web site.
- Competition: Challenge yourself and receive feedback on your work through monthly competitions available only to members. Two juried competitions annually.
- Instruction: In-house, hands-on workshops with experts and novices, and presentations by visiting pros make meetings interesting and useful.
- Exhibit your work: The CPC is regularly invited to mount exhibits in galleries and other public venues. Usually, you can offer your prints for sale.
- Service: Give back to the community by doing what you love. CPC members have the opportunity to volunteer as photographers for local nonprofit events and organizations.
- Free newsletter: Our monthly newsletter offers photography tips and event information. Submit your own images for publication.
- Field trips: Enhance and practice your skills in new settings. Group travel makes it fun and affordable. Past trips include Historical North Carolina towns, nature & wildlife settings and local outings in New Bern.
- Discounts: At redriverpaper.com/myclub, enter the club code "coastal" when placing your order. The club also gets a commission each time you order. Ballantyne Framing and Art in New Bern offers a 15% artist discount to active CPC members.



Treasurer's Report January 2023

BEGINNING BALANCE:	\$5,739.13
DEPOSITS:	
Two Individual Memberships	\$40.00
One Individual & One Family Membership	\$50.00
EXPENSES:	
Constant Contact	\$21.85
ENDING BALANCE:	\$5,807.28
NURSING HOME RESERVE:	\$1.00
AVAILABLE FUNDS:	\$5,806.28

Submitted by Carol Krom, 2/1/24

Stay Connected



Facebook users, join our members only group and feel free to ask questions and/or advice from your fellow photographers, as well as share your images

Look for details in the weekly club emails.



CPC Newsletter Archive

Missed a previous issue? The last 12 months of CPC Newsletters are available [online](#).



asapphoto.com

252.321.8888
3701 Charles Boulevard, Suite 100
Greenville

Hours:
Monday-Friday: 9-6
Saturday: 10-3
Closed Sunday

ASAP Photo's goal is to equip and inspire you to use photography, videography and audio to capture meaningful moments in life. To stay up-to-date with special offers and new product releases subscribe [HERE](#) for their newsletter.

Member Photo Gallery Submissions

Submitted photos should be in .jpg format. Please label your file with the title of your photo. Titles add context or meaning to your photo. (Example: Jane Doe_Fall Leaves.jpg). Please send photos at 72 ppi and 1,440 pixels on longest side to Dave Hilbert (email address available in CPC newsletter and emails)



About the Photographic Society of America (PSA)



The Photographic Society of America (PSA) founded in 1934, is a world-wide organization providing abundant resources for photographers, from the novice to the professional.

Membership is in over 80 countries, 5,000 members, 460 Camera Clubs and 11 Chapters across the United States.

Coastal Photo Club is a member of PSA. A benefit we are receiving is a professional judge evaluating/critiquing the monthly mini comps. Members are finding these comments quite helpful with their images as well as images of others in the competition. You may want to consider joining this organization as an individual as a viable option in training for you.

Annual individual digital membership is only \$45.

Benefits of membership include:

- Study Groups
- Online Photography Classes
- Webinars
- Personal Gallery Page
- Individual Competitions
- Member Discounts
- PSA-Recognized Exhibitions
- Photography Recognition
- Society Recognition
- Monthly Journal
- Mentors and Consultants

Visit PSA [Online](#) or [Facebook](#)



Ballantyne Framing & Art, now owned and operated by Rachel Burger after the retirement of Mary Kay and Marianne.

- All pieces are handled in-house and never shipped to a different location for framing. Moulding is cut and assembled on-site
- Wide variety of moulding to choose from – wood and metal available
- All work mounted and matted using acid free materials
- Standard glass used is Conservation Clear glass –99% UV protective - museum glass and acrylic options are available at additional cost.
- All artists receive a 15% discount when bringing in their own work to have framed.
- All pricing includes custom frame, mounting materials, glass, backing paper, hanging hardware and glass spacers