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*Featured Cover by
Uwe Schmalenbach*

Notices and Coming Events

See the [Calendar](#) on our web site for latest updates or details.

Next Competition - August 4, 7:30 In-person and Zoom

Submission Rules – Members may enter a maximum of two projected images. On months with prints, a maximum of three images may be submitted as three prints or a combination of prints and (up to two) projected images.

Our meeting judge for August 4 will be Becky Jaffe. She says, “I know I will see gorgeous and moving photography when I attend a camera club meeting. I am less interested in ranking and sorting this beauty than I am in leveraging the competition as a platform for learning from each other’s gifts and talents, so that we each might come away from the evening with additional tools in our artistic toolbox, a dose of collective inspiration.” <https://www.beckyjaffephotography.com/>

Categories for August- Besides print and projected of Mono and Color – the challenge categories will be Creative projected and prints, Travel projected and Nature prints.

Creative

Creative photography is producing an image through the use of imaginative skill or originality of thought including the altering of reality. No image should be eliminated from competition simply because it looks realistic, provided it shows originality of concept. Creative images may include modifications in the darkroom, on the computer, or in the camera, as well as unusual points of view, imaginative use of subject matter or lighting, or any other presentation that begins with the maker’s photograph or a collection of photographs. HDR w/o further changes are not considered “Altered Reality”.

Images are judged both for their technical and pictorial merit. The image should have strong . . . [MORE](#)

Nature

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans.

- Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the subject of the image and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life or welfare of a living organism are not allowed.
- The most important part of Nature images is the . . . [MORE](#)

Print Competitions Schedule

Prints will be judged every other month along with projected. For the rest of 2025, prints will be judged in:

August - Nature, Creative, Color, Monochrome

October - Travel, Creative, Color, Monochrome

December - Journalism, Nature, Color, Monochrome

Special Interest Group Links below

(Click on any SIG title for detailed information)

[Special Interest Group - Seeing in Sixes](#)

[Special Interest Group in Monochrome Photography](#)

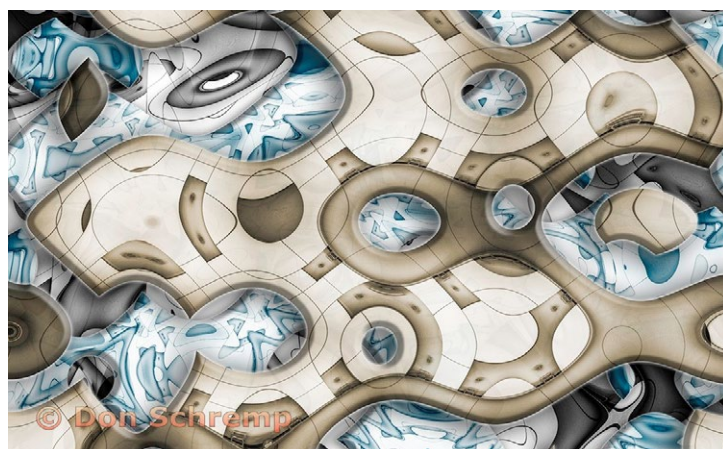
[Special Interest Group in Photoshop](#)

[Special Interest Group - Novice Only](#)

[Special Interest Group - Bird Photography](#)

[Special Interest Group - Astrophotography](#)

[Special Interest Group - Eastern Sierra](#)



2020 Creative Print by Don Schremp



2021 Travel Projected by Charles Rath

Next Photo Editing SIG - Wednesday, July 30th

The Oak Room in the Saratoga Library is reserved for Wednesday, July 30, from 3:45-5:45. Topic - Lightroom tips and focus stacking. You must register ahead - go to calendar on the club website.

July Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It

Osprey nest at Harkins Slough, Watsonville CA. Female is in nest with chicks. Male brings fish for the family after taking (the head) for himself, Jim Lamb, Nature Projected ►

This is the fourth time I have visited the Osprey nest in the last 2 years. This photo was taken on June 26, 2025, the location is Harkins Slough in Watsonville CA. This is one of the few images I have that shows the whole Osprey family at the nest at the same time. The male Osprey is usually off by himself or on a post in the water near the nest looking for fish or eating fish. The camera used is a Canon R5. The lens was a Canon 200 - 800 mm telephoto lens set to 707mm. Exposure was 1/3200 sec., f16, ISO 2500. The crop is about 50% of the image. Only minor adjustments were made to the image.



◄ **Antarctic iceberg with visitors, Uwe Schmalembach, Color Projected**

No description was available.



July Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It



◀ Timelessness, Irina Nekrasova, Monochrome Projected

One of our 2023 Field Trips was a photo shoot of a dancer with fire torches! I enjoyed working with Brook so much that I decided to venture on my own and photograph her on the beach again. This type of photography is not my forte. I overcame my fears and inexperience by just showing up! Brook did her posing on her own and naturally. She is a real winner!

Sony ILCE-7 M3, f/5, 1/400, ISO 500

◀ No Kings Day”: Thousands Unite in Peaceful Protest Against President Trump, St. James Park and Superior Court, San Jose, June, 14, 2025, Susan Lane, Journalism Projected

I arrived about 45 minutes early and could already see the crowd spilling into the streets of downtown San Jose. I rushed toward Saint James Park, worried I'd miss the chance to find a good vantage point. I wanted to capture the energy—faces, signs, movement, and emotion.

The signs people carried ranged from funny to heartbreakingly sincere, clearly made with care and conviction. The crowd was massive but peaceful, and despite my worries, I was able to move freely through the crowd. Everyone was welcoming, and I managed to get close to the stage and around the park.

As the protest grew, people also gathered outside the Superior Court building nearby, waving flags and chanting. I followed the march through the park and downtown, shooting from the front to capture the rhythm and motion of the crowd. I traveled light—just my Nikon Z8, a lens, and spare batteries. I shot handheld to stay mobile, using:

Manual mode, Shutter: 1/350–1/500, Aperture: f/4–f/10, ISO: 200–600, AF: Continuous with subject tracking.

It was a powerful experience—visually and emotionally moving. I'm grateful I was there to witness and document it.



July Second Place Competition Winners



[All results and all images from a competition can be seen by clicking here.](#)

LGSCC Member Led Flash Session

By Debbie Sy, Education V.P.

Following a June zoom presentation covering flash photography, Debbie Sy hosted an in-person workshop at Lone Hill Park. The park was chosen because it had dappled light, full sun, and shade. Flash placement, power, and modifiers as well as using an off camera trigger were covered at the workshop. Participants played with colored gels and used high speed sync to darken the background during daytime. Photographers were successful in using their flashes to fill in dark areas of their subjects, getting a more intuitive feel for using their flashes, and overcoming lighting that is usually considered not ideal.



Image at left Steve Green experimenting and left below Debbie Sy and Susan Lane try lighting in shade.



Lighting Setup example--



by Ed Hunter - non member



by Marsha Thomas

AI - What is it all Meaning for Photography

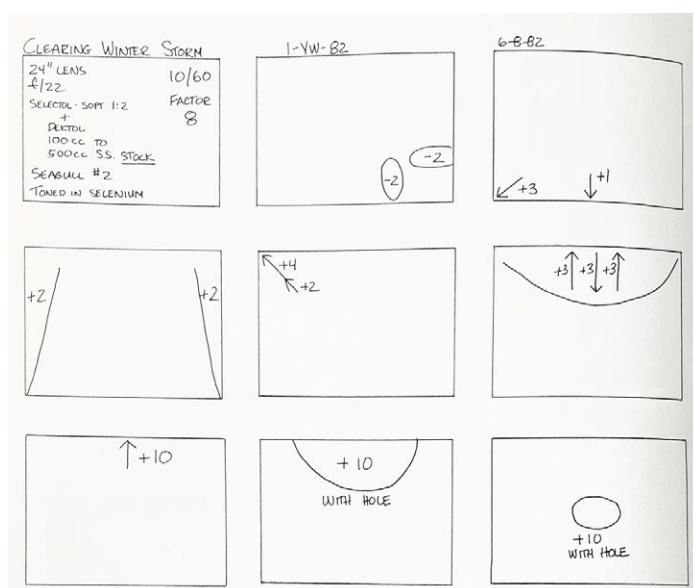
by Eric Gray

Over the next few issues of this publication I will endeavor to discuss some of the impacts of AI on photography. It is best to buckle-up because it will be a bumpy ride.

To begin I will refer you to page eight in this magazine where President Lincoln's head was placed on what was thought to be a more suitable pose of Southern Politician John Calhoun in 1860. On that page you will see additional historical images where people were airbrushed out in the 1940's and discussion of Queen Victoria where her double chin was scratched out of a negative in the late 1800's. The point being, no photographer or their subjects seem 100% satisfied with the final image.

Even Ansel Adams?

The images below show just some of the post processing edits to his print of *Clearing Winter Storm*. These images are from his book *The Print* from 1983. In this case Ansel was using AI (Ansel Intelligence), as well as dodge and burn experience and cutting edge advances in technology that other photographers were still trying to understand. He used the latest developing chemicals, the most advanced papers and enlargers, and any other advantage he could acquire. This not only made him revered but wealthy later in his life. Today he is thought of as one of the best photographers of the 20th Century.



Being a Purist

Post processing can take a so-so image and make it remarkable. Perhaps an hour sooner or later may have made that image a winner without post processing but does that mean the photographer was not in the right place at the right time? We often think of pure photography as being just that - Being there at just the right golden hour minute after camping out for several days to get that "perfect" landscape shot with one pure click of the shutter.

Ten years ago we could whip out Photoshop and spend a dozen hours in the post processing digital darkroom to create a master piece that took Ansel two or three days or more of darkroom experimentation and multiple disappointments. Today we can create outstanding images in our advanced cameras with in-camera auto focus, auto light metering, eye tracking, auto focus stacking, auto bracketing and soon to be auto everything or take a few hours or seconds in post.

The Line in the Sand

Someone will have to tell me the origin of that phrase but to me it is too soon to create a line where on one side it's an outstanding photograph by the vision and sweat of an outstanding photographer and on the other side it is an undeserving image created too easily by AI hardware and software technologies.

Let me know your thoughts and I will try to incorporate those sparks of brilliance in my upcoming AI articles.

Post Processing of Photography Goes Way Back



Abraham Lincoln's head on John Calhoun's body

Summarized from link below — Take this 150-year-old portrait of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, in which he looks every bit the all-American hero. All is not as it appears - although it is undoubtedly the 16th Commander in Chief's face staring at the camera, the body in fact belongs to a prominent southern politician. The book - *Queen Victoria, First Media Monarch*, by John Plunkett reveals much about the Queen. Negatives of pictures taken by the society photographer Alexander Bassano in 1882 are revealed in the book to show the marks of retouching, slimming down the ample waistline, removing wrinkles, adding hair and drawing in the regal profile to produce a statuesque but trimmer figure. In Mr Plunkett's words: "Curves have been created where none previously existed ... a moderate proportion of Victoria's face has disappeared under the gentle touch of the retoucher's pencil... the final picture shows a queen who looks more youthful than her 62 years." Finally - Image at bottom is one where Stalin insisted that enemies and others were airbrushed out of images with him.

Link - <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2107109/Iconic-Abraham-Lincoln-portrait-revealed-TWO-pictures-stitched-together.html>



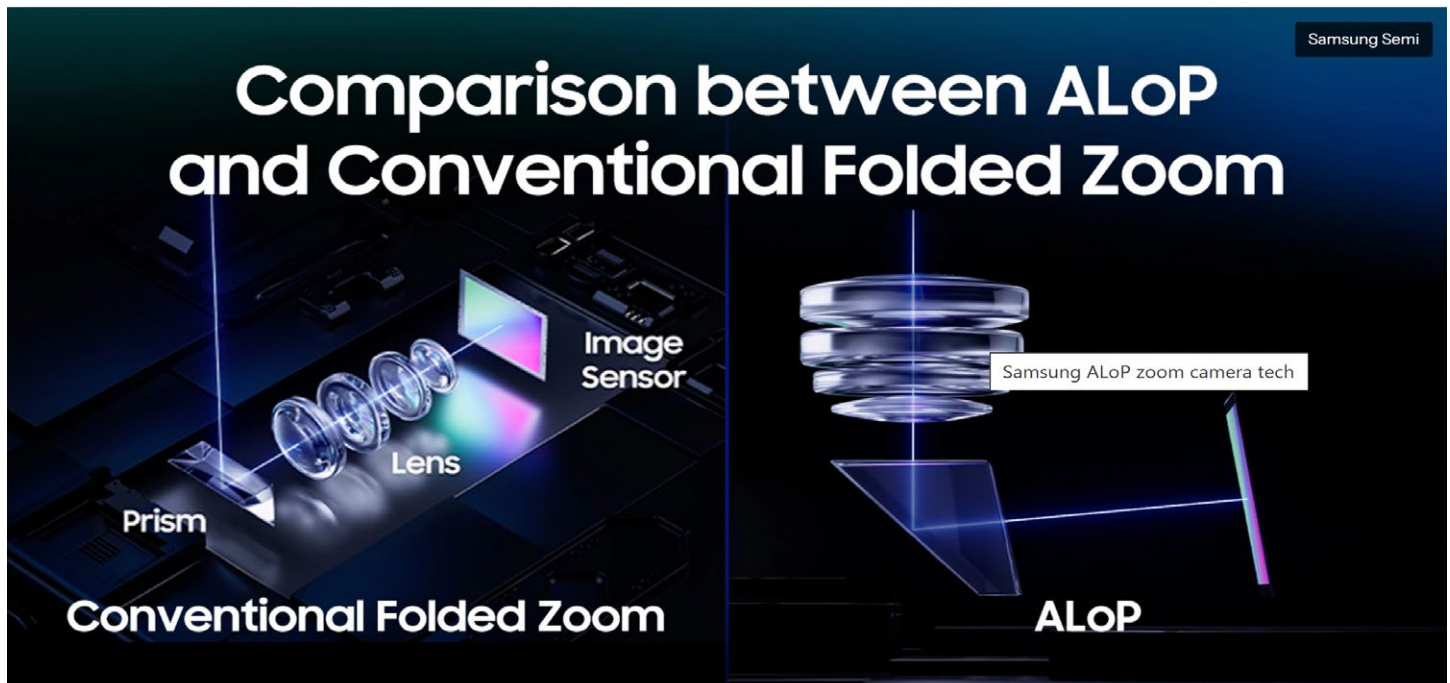
Android Phone Cameras Gone Crazy

Look for major advances in mobile phone cameras coming soon. More AI, 14 bit RAW images, computational photography, better HDR than mirrorless cameras, lossless zoom capability up to 4x and beyond as well as large sensors beyond 1". Check out Robert Triggs' thoughts.

By Robert Triggs, Head of Testing and Data Science at Android Authority July 20, 2025

AI photography is already a core part of the smartphone camera experience—and it's only going to become more central. From subtle exposure tweaks to full-scene reconstruction, AI is now doing a lot of the heavy lifting behind the scenes, and the latest chipsets from MediaTek and Qualcomm are helping features quickly descend the price tiers. While AI implementations can be seamless or horrendously heavy-handed, some brands are already showing just how powerful it can be when used well.

Take the OnePlus 13, for example. Its impressive zoom capabilities from a modest 3x telephoto lens are a showcase of what smart AI-driven processing can do. And of course, Google's Pixel series continues to set the standard for computational photography — handling everything from HDR fusion to skin tone accuracy with remarkable finesse. The upcoming Google Pixel 10 will likely push even further, introducing next-gen features like advanced semantic segmentation and AI-enhanced zoom that delivers sharp results at higher magnifications without relying on heavy optics. Likewise, Apple's Photonic Engine will undoubtedly see upgrades with the upcoming launch of the iPhone 17 series.



ALoP places the lens elements atop the prism in periscope cameras, trimming module thickness while allowing a larger effective aperture—essentially tackling the two big problems of phone zoom cameras in one swoop. Narrow apertures are the bane of low-light capture at a distance.

AI, AI, AI.

Looking ahead, expect AI to play an even bigger role in low-light photography. Rather than stacking multiple frames and hoping for the best, phones will increasingly use learned noise models to clean up shadows while preserving texture and avoiding ghosting. This should result in cleaner, more natural night shots, especially for moving subjects like people or pets.

In short, AI is no longer just a buzzword — it's becoming the backbone of smartphone photography. From better zoom and cleaner low-light shots to smarter video and creative post-processing tools, AI is reshaping how cameras see and understand the world. The best part? Much of this innovation will run natively on the device, giving users faster performance and more control without relying on the cloud.

Read more - <https://www.androidauthority.com/smartphone-camera-tech-2026-3578479/>

Iconic Photo Back Story



from BoredPanda.com by Kornelija Viečaitė and Jonas Zvilius - <https://www.boredpanda.com/antique-historical-pics/>

About a century ago, snow rollers were a common sight across snowy regions of the United States, particularly in rural areas. These large, cylindrical devices, often drawn by teams of horses, served an essential purpose during the harsh winter months: packing down fresh snow on roads. This practice created a smooth, compact surface that allowed sleighs to glide more easily, ensuring winter travel remained possible even during heavy snowfalls.

image from

<https://www.smokstak.com/forum/threads/horse-drawn-snow-roller.88552/>

I feel sorry for those horses



LGSCC Annual Picnic

By Mercury Freedom, Hospitality V.P. and the editor

The picnic was held July 12th at McClellan Park/Blackberry Farm, aka., Blackberry Farm Recreation and Pool. 20+ members gathered to swap mostly true stories and share camera and post processing tips. Timing was generally from 9ish to 12ish with a meet up at the Group Picnic Tables near Blackberry Farm parking. We walked up the trail about 10:00 to the 4H Club tour of pigs, alpacas, goats and an array of chickens. Also farther up the trail was a series of bird feeders offering image captures of local birds.

After the events above, BYO food— including something to share, was the theme for lunch and the club provided water, plates, paper towels and plastic ware. *Group image below by Jim Lamb*



Image by Rick Varley



Image by Eric Gray

Great Photography Articles

Is Post processing Cheating? - Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmYrMqX2Ea4>

Wildlife Photography Tips Video - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYGPv_vWnlc&t=311s

Master Outdoor Photos Video - <https://www.averyjournal.com/news/national/nasa-reveals-winners-of-photography>

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