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*Featured Cover by Kelly Zhang  
(see makers description on page 4)*

# Notices and Coming Events

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

**Photo Editing Session** - drop-in assistance Wednesday, October 25th from 10am-12pm at the Saratoga Library.

## Next Competition - Oct. 2nd - In-person and Zoom

**Submission Rules** – Members may enter a total of three images into a monthly competition with a maximum of two images in any one category and a maximum of three printed images and a maximum of two projected images. Check our website with updated definitions for all categories. See more on prints at right.

Our meeting judge for October will be Len Cook. Len has been a long-time photojournalist, chief photographer, and director of photography as well as a commercial studio owner. His work - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lencook/>

**Categories for October**- Besides the monthly categories of monochrome and color pictorial for projected and prints — the two challenge categories will be Creative and Nature projected and Creative and PJ prints - see details below.

**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". . . [MORE](#)

**PhotoJournalism**- Photojournalism entries are images with informative content and emotional impact, reflecting the human presence in our world. The journalistic (story-telling) value of the image should receive priority over pictorial quality. Images that misrepresent the truth, such as those from events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible . . . [MORE](#)

**Nature** - There is one hard and fast rule, whose spirit must be observed at all times: The welfare of the subject is more important than the photograph. This means that practices such as baiting of subjects with a living creature and removal of birds from nests, for the purpose of obtaining a photograph, are highly unethical, and such photographs are not allowed in Nature competitions. Judges are . . . [MORE](#)

## Print Competitions Schedule

Prints will be judged every other month along with projected. For 2023 prints will be judged in:

October - PJ, Creative, Mono, Color

December - Nature, Travel, Mono, Color

February - 2024 TBD

## 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 with Rotating Assignments](#)

[Special Interest Group in Photoshop](#)

[Special Interest Group - Novice Only](#)

[Special Interest Group - Bird Photography](#)



Past Winning Monochrome Image by Sue Anawalt



© Anar Daswani

Past Winning Pictorial Image by Anar Daswani



## September Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It

### **Grinding Away in the Metal Repair Shop - Tim Meadows, Monochrome Projected ►**

I made this image on a trip to Morocco in April 2022. We had a free morning in Marrakesh and decided to venture deep into the old Medina which is filled with craft workshops from leather sandal making to copper pot burnishing. This particular stall was filled with tools and metal odds and ends.

The craftsman was grinding on a piece of metal presumably to use it to repair something. I loved the light, the sparks, and his intense focus. While the sparks were a bright gold and quite captivating in the color version, I preferred the overall feel of a monochrome treatment.

Technical: Nikon Z7, 24-200mm lens at 74mm, ISO 6400, f8, 1/25 sec. Selective adjustments to reduce noise, bring up shadows, and enhance colors before converting to monochrome in SilverEfex Pro 3.



### **During a frenetic Voodoo ceremony, a participant collapses after being possessed by Voodoo spirits. He is given comfort by an elder, Pam Perkins, PJ projected ►**

While traveling in Benin, West Africa in February, I was immersed in Voodoo, a legitimate religion that was born in that country and involves ancestral spirits. This photograph was taken while attending a Voodoo ceremony and watching participants frenetically dance to the rapid beat of drums. At some point during their dancing, people would fall under the spell of Voodoo and collapse as their bodies were possessed by the powerful spirits. In all cases villagers rush to the fallen dancers to guide them through a process of recovery as is indicated in this photograph. I was very close to this powerful scene so took the photograph using my Sony A7r3 with a focal length of 30 mm. Shutter speed 1/320, f4.0, ISO 400.



## September Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It (continued)



◀ **The Good Fortune God Parade at Fu-De Temple in Taipei, where people wear the gods' costumes while praying for luck to celebrate Chinese New Year, Ling-Kuo Lee, Travel Projected**

Every year, on the evening of the Lantern Festival, the Fu-De Temple in the Nei-Hu District of Taipei, Taiwan holds the Good Fortune God parade. To celebrate, people wear the gods' costumes while praying for luck on Chinese New Year.

This image was taken in 2020. I used a Nikon AF-S 24-70 mm, f/2.8 lens in Aperture Priority mode with the aperture set to f/2.8. I set the camera to auto ISO. The camera set the ISO to 640 and the shutter speed to 1/125 second. I used Lightroom for post-processing and then exported to Photoshop to burn down the environment and let the subjects stand out.



**I Have a Dream. An Arctic Polar Bear (Ursus Maritimus) in Svalbard, sleeps in morning sunlight not aware it would be hard to find a piece of ice like this in the near future.**

◀ **Kelly Zhang, Pictorial Projected**

It was an Arctic morning in Svalbard. The captain spotted this polar bear far away and asked everybody on the ship to get ready and be very quiet: polar bears are easily disturbed by the clinking sound of metal equipment. Everybody seemed to have held their breath as the ship sailed closer quietly. And this shot was taken before he woke up. The "Arctic King" was sleeping peacefully as if he was having a dream. In his dream, there's no disputing the fact that in 5 years, the temperature of Svalbard will be the same as Denmark and that scientists predict his kind will go extinct by the year 2050.



## September Second Place Competition Winners



*Government Lock-down at St Teresa Park  
Jeffrey Balfus, Monochrome Projected*



*Bay area stadium announcer for the San Jose Sharks, San Francisco 49ers and San Jose Earthquakes, Danny Miller, in Bay Country (94.5) studio. Paul Streit, PhotoJournalism Projected*



*Beach Graffiti. Don Schremp, Pictorial Projected*



*Samburu Warrior Kenya  
Ron Rossen, Travel Projected*

*[If you didn't already know - All results and images that won first, second, third or honorable mention can be seen by clicking here.](#)*



## Special Interest Group Feature

*By Eric Gray*

This month's program was all about SIGs (Special Interest Groups). 25 members joined an on line zoom meeting to learn about the seven SIG groups led by members of the club. Each SIG leader gave a 10 minute presentation about their group. See Page 2 of this magazine to link to more information about each SIG. This month features the Photoshop SIG.

### Photoshop SIG

Each month a new technique or process is covered in a session where attendees ask questions and make suggestions. All sessions are recorded so members of the SIG can watch again and follow along at their own pace.

Sessions have been presented monthly since May of 2021. Early sessions explained the tools, options, and panels that are key to editing images for photographers. Other sessions covered the many drop-down tabs on the top bar in Photoshop. A few basic examples are below. Link for all sessions - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/>



*Before*



*After - using the spot healing tool*

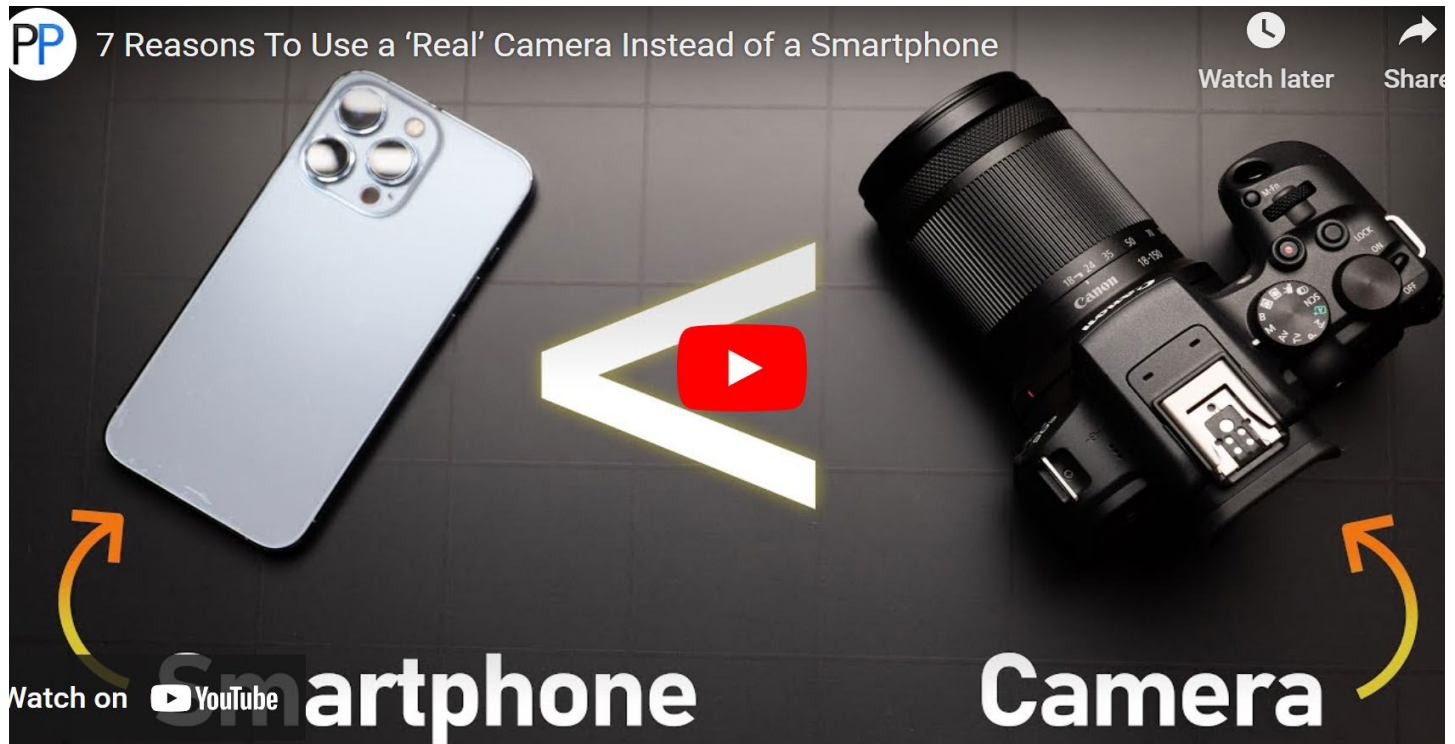


*Using Neural Filter Tools before and after*

## Smartphones vs Digital Cameras

by Chris Niccolls- PetaPixel

It's no surprise that smartphones have become the new everyday camera that we all use and love and they absolutely are legitimate creative picture-taking tools. So why even consider getting a more traditional camera with its bulkier size and expensive lenses? You should click on the video below to get the full story about all the benefits of upgrading to a more serious camera. However, below are the seven abbreviated reasons that a beginner should look at moving up.



### Smartphones Have Poor Handling: It's Like Taking Pictures With a Waffle

Smartphone handling is a chore when taking pictures. Holding a slim phone at arm's length is hardly a stable platform. Although you can usually take pictures with a button on the side of the phone, any controls that need to be changed generally require dropping the phone from your current composition. Moving to a traditional camera will drastically improve the ergonomic situation in any picture-taking scenario.

### Smartphone Displays Aren't Ideal for Photography

Phone screens are literally brilliant in comparison to a traditional camera's back screen. Maybe too brilliant. Smartphones have amazingly vivid screens which look great when watching the PetaPixel YouTube channel but are not very accurate to the final result of the image. They also don't rotate without rotating the entire phone, which can make extreme-angle shots difficult to shoot. Cameras also usually have an EVF or electronic viewfinder, which is shielded from the sun on bright days and gives a gloriously accurate preview of your final shot.

### Using a Flash with a Smartphone Isn't a Good Experience

Phones have a built-in flash, but in reality, it's just a flashlight. It pulses at the moment of taking the picture, but the quality and quantity of light are lacking. On a "real" camera you can utilize modern flashes that can provide way more power, or be used off-camera at interesting angles to create dramatic lighting. Now it is possible to take some nice shots with continuous LED lights and a smartphone, but you'll never get the raw power that an electronic flash can provide.

### Your Lens Options are Better with a Dedicated Camera

Smartphone lenses tend to be from an ultra-wide to fairly mild telephoto range and do not provide consistent image quality between the multiple lenses. One of the main benefits of an interchangeable lens camera is just that; interchangeable lenses. You can pick the ones that suit your work best, and reach out to extremes that a smartphone can't touch. Whether it's getting even wider, even closer, or even farther away, a camera can always outcompete a phone. View the article here <https://petapixel.com/2023/08/15/7-reasons-to-use-a-real-camera-instead-of-a-smartphone/>

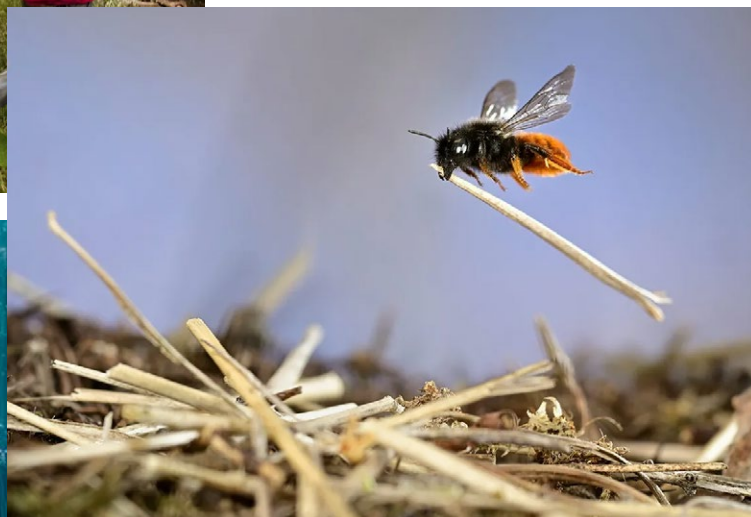


## Natural History Museum - Photos of the Year Sneak Peak

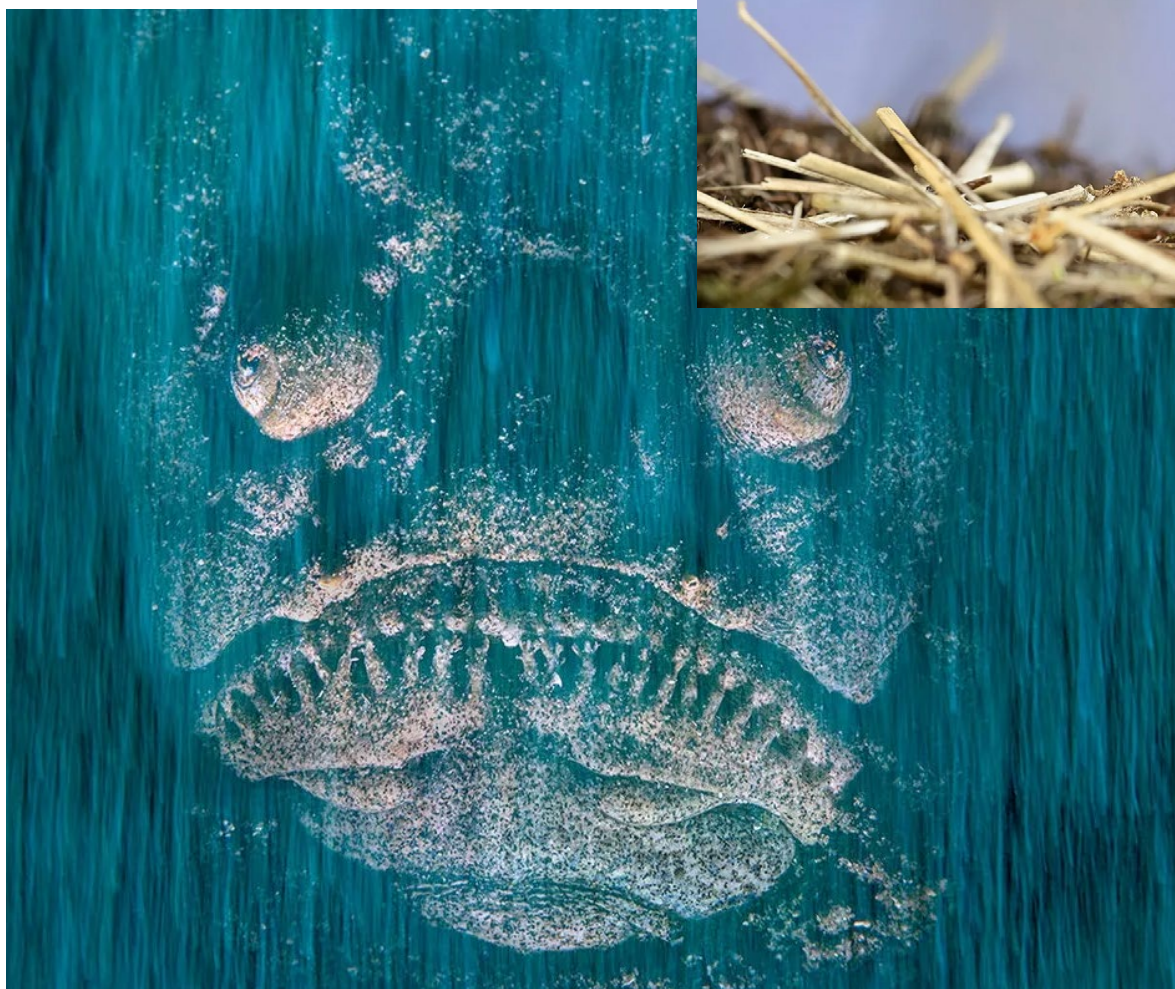
by Tom Hale - IFLSCIENCE.com



The Natural History Museum (NHM) in London has provided a sneak peek of their Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition, including a ghoulish sea creature and a macaque hitching a ride on a deer's back. See entire article here -<https://www.iflscience.com/> "Fight to the Death" by Jasper Doest, the Netherlands. Highly commended in the Photojournalism category. ©Jasper Doest/Wildlife Photographer of the Year



Above - Solvin Zankl carefully watches a two-coloured mason bee build the roof of its nest. Image credit: ©Solvin Zankl/Wildlife Photographer of the Year



Pietro Formis discovers a Mediterranean stargazer peering through the sandy floor in coastal waters. Image credit: ©Pietro Formis/Wildlife Photographer of the Year



## Iconic Photo Back Story



### Backstory - from Wikipedia

In November 1922 Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen, its contents largely intact. Carter realised that “the first and pressing need was for photography, for nothing could be touched until a complete photographic record had been made, a task involving technical skill of the highest order.” The Metropolitan Museum’s excavation team, working nearby, readily agreed to Carter’s request for the loan of Burton to formally photograph the findings of the British excavation at Tutankhamen’s tomb.

Taking his first pictures on 27 December 1922,[9] Burton was to spend nearly ten years photographing Tutankhamen’s tomb and its artifacts, with over 3,400 photographs preserved. Burton used gelatin silver glass plates that recorded a high quality detailed image. For lighting he preferred sunlight reflected into the tomb by mirrors, sometimes over a distance of 100 feet, the light caught by reflectors that were kept constantly in motion to disperse the light evenly on the subject. ...[MORE](#)

Image and caption from <https://allthatsinteresting.com/>

*In 1922 Harry Burton captured the famed pharaoh Tutankhamen’s intact seal on his funeral chamber door. Burton, whom many regarded as the best archaeological photographer of his time, spent the next eight years carefully cataloging the historical find in photographs. He was the only photographer authorized to enter the Tutankhamen burial site.*



*Howard Carter in Tutankhamen’s tomb, photographed by Harry Burton  
Image from Wikipedia*

## Vocabulary

### B

**Burst Mode.** Also known as continuous shooting mode, this is a camera feature that allows multiple photos to be captured in rapid succession, generally by holding down the shutter button. Cameras advertise a maximum frames-per-second (FPS) rate a camera can achieve in burst mode, and the burst rate is the number of frames that can be initially captured at the maximum FPS before the internal buffer fills up and the rate slows down.

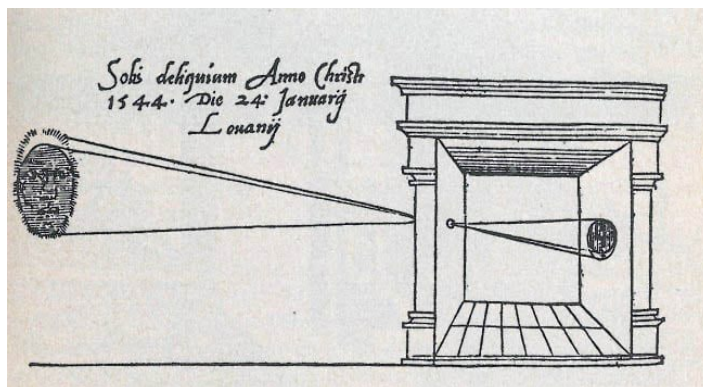
**Burst Rate.** The number of frames that a camera can capture before the buffer is filled. The number of frames captured per second will then slow down to the rate at which the camera can process each photo in the buffer and move it to the memory card, freeing up space for a newly captured photo.

### C

**Cable Release.** A cable that plugs into a camera with a shutter button on the other end. It is used to remotely trigger the shutter of the camera without the photographer having to touch the camera itself, eliminating the issue of vibrations that reduce image sharpness. Useful when shooting long exposure photos, particularly in bulb mode.

**Camera.** A device that is capable of capturing an optical image on a light-sensitive surface. A camera (from “camera obscura”, Latin for “dark chamber”) is at its core a light-sealed box that takes in light as its input and produces a photograph as its output. Light may enter the camera through anything from a pinhole, to an expensive lens made of metal, plastic, and/or glass. The light-sensitive surface may be anything from a coated metal sheet to photographic film to a digital sensor. The art of photography is the practice of using a camera to create photographs.

**Camera Body.** Refers to the main physical device that is used to capture photos. While it can have a built-in lens, it generally refers to a camera itself without an attached lens. While camera bodies were purely mechanical devices in earlier periods of photography and during the age of photographic film. Modern digital camera bodies also contain high-tech electronics, digital displays, and silicon image sensors.



*Drawing of first Camera Obscura - January 1544*

**Camera Obscura.** Latin for “dark chamber,” this was originally a dark room that had a hole or lens that allowed light from the outside world to be projected onto an inner wall or surface. While the color and perspective of the outdoor scene are the same in the projected image, the image itself is inverted upside-down and reversed left and right. The term camera obscura is also used to refer to smaller constructed spaces or boxes that operate with the same principle. By adding a light-sensitive surface to a camera obscura, a photo can be made using the projection, thereby turning the camera obscura into a camera.

### Great Photography Articles

Video - Exposure basics <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kC55FzQgtq4>

Video - Earliest Images of the Mediterranean - <https://aeon.co/videos/see-the-mediterranean-as-it-was-captured>

Video - Get Sharper Photos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDhetGhS8sU>

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### Key Contacts

#### President

Jeff Balfus

[jbalfus@gmail.com](mailto:jbalfus@gmail.com)

#### Membership

Paul Streit

[pstreit1@msn.com](mailto:pstreit1@msn.com)

#### Webmaster

Jim Katzman

[jimkoolkat@gmail.com](mailto:jimkoolkat@gmail.com)

#### Magazine Editor

Eric Gray

[eric@gdactive.com](mailto:eric@gdactive.com)

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Saratoga Camera Club, a club  
member of the Photographic  
Society of America

