The Grand Canyon Photography Club

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 8~ AUGUST 2026

Black & White: Another Way of Seeing

The August 11th meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club will feature a presentation by Gary Thompson. Gary's program titled "An Introduction to Black & White Photography" will begin at 7 p.m. at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro, PA after a short business meeting.

Gary plans to discuss the following topics during his presentation:

- What makes a good black and white image?
- Contrast and textures
- How does the camera see the image?
- How do we create black and white in camera or in post processing?

Gary will have samples of his black and white work to review and discuss.

A twenty one year member of GCPC, Gary has presented to the club on several topics including architectural, concert, drone, and airshow photography as well as participating in numerous round-table presentations with other members.

Images this page©Gary Thompson

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I can't believe we're already heading into August. Summer always seems to go by much too quickly, but I hope you've had plenty of opportunities to get outside with your camera and enjoy everything this season has to offer.

I had a lot of fun presenting on macro photography at our last meeting. It's become one of my favorite ways to photograph because it reminds me to slow down and really look at the little details that are so often overlooked. I hope I was able to share a few ideas or techniques that encourage you to give it a try. If you've been out exploring, I hope you've discovered a few tiny subjects that caught your eye. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone's close-up images during our next photo critique.

Of course, macro isn't the only thing summer has to offer. This time of year brings some incredible sunsets, and those dramatic storm clouds rolling through can create amazing opportunities for photography. Whether you're chasing golden light, reflections after a summer rain, or colorful skies at the end of the day, there's always something worth capturing.

I'm also looking forward to our August meeting, when Gary Thompson will be introducing us to the art of black and white photography. It's a style that challenges us to think differently about light, contrast, texture, and composition. I know we'll all come away with fresh ideas and a new appreciation for seeing beyond color.

Before then, don't forget about a couple of upcoming opportunities to share your work. Photos for our full club display are due by July 30, and entries for the exhibit "Visions of the Landscape: From Arthur Gmeiner to the Pine Creek Rail Trail" are due by August 7. I hope many of you will submit your images. It's always exciting to see our members' work on display and to celebrate the creativity within our club.

Until then, enjoy these beautiful summer days, keep your camera close, and don't forget to stop and notice the little things. Sometimes the best photograph is hiding where we least expect it.

See you all in August!

Missy

GCPC June 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes*

The June 2026 meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club was held on Tuesday, June 9th at 7:00 PM at the Gmeiner Art and Cultural Center. The meeting was called to order by President Missy Volino, as she welcomed the membership to the meeting. The meeting was opened to "Brags and Announcements". Karen Mitcheltree is chairing the reception for the Regional Photography Show and is asking for food donations and help setting up and cleanup afterwards, which will be held Saturday June 13th. Linda Stager announced that our President, Missy Volino, just celebrated her birthday. Missy announced that she and Casey will be grandparents in January. Linda announced that she was awarded 3 state-wide awards for both her writing and photography. Linda also stated that the club is in need of a new Club Display Coordinator, as Jim Storment has resigned from this role. Bruce Dart announced that photographer Art Becker was going to be giving a presentation in Clarks Summit in September for the Northeast Professional Photographers meeting. If anyone is interested in attending, more information will follow when available.

Missy asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes (Missy handed out a typed copy of the May minutes since they were not available in the June newsletter). A motion to accept the minutes was made by Gary Thompson, seconded by Tana Carpenter, and approved by the membership in attendance. The Treasurer's Report for the month of May was given by Treasurer Gary Thompson, with a beginning balance of $3,040.66 and an ending balance of $3,037.66. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Karen Mitcheltree and seconded by Bruce Bilder. With no new business, a motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting was made by Dennis Stager, seconded by Emily Kreider, and approved by the membership in attendance.

June's presentation was "How to Plan a Photoshoot" by Brad Adams. Thank you, Brad, for an awesome presentation!

Respectfully Submitted by
Recording Secretary
Tana Carpenter

* Editor's Note: These are the minutes from June. July minutes were unavailable.

Why We Still Go

I read an article about artificial Intelligence and its effect on photography, and of course that had me thinking about the topic. So here are some of my thoughts about that whole thing. There is bad news…and there is good news.

There was a time when a photograph carried an unspoken promise. "I saw this" is what we all knew and believed. But that promise has now become a question. It's gone from "I saw this" to "Is it real?"

Artificial intelligence can create images that never existed. Entire landscapes can appear with a few keystrokes. Wildlife can be invented. Light can be manufactured. Increasingly, people look at a beautiful photograph and ask the new question on their mind, "Is it real?"

Sometimes, people seem almost disappointed when a photograph IS real!

That changes something for those of us who love photography. Our work is harder to prove. Easier to doubt. Sometimes it even feels as though fiction is more appreciated than truth.

And yet…

Tomorrow morning, I will still head out before sunrise. And I'll stand in the cold this winter.

I'll wait for the fog to lift and for that truly magical moment when the sun breaks through that fog. And ultimately, I'll come home with muddy shoes and mosquito bites.

But I'll also come home with some good old-fashioned honest photographs. Photos that may or may not sell because they aren't good enough in a picky audience's eyes. But they will also be photographs that I know have no magical fantasy keyboard work in them.

Why?

Because photography has never really been about making pictures for me; it's about experiencing the world.

And I would guess that's why you take photos, too.

The photograph is our invitation for someone else to stand where we stood, if only for a moment.

AI can create an image. Only a photographer can create a memory.

This is a cell phone image from Row a, Seat 1.

A baseball game with our granddaughter makes for a fun afternoon. And these photos from behind home plate make for great forever memories.

(Along with great ballpark food, and my new hat!)

2 Images©Linda Stager

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

2026 Officers:

President: Missy Volino

Vice President: Brad Adams

Treasurer: Gary Thompson

Recording Secretary: Tana Carpenter

Corresponding Secretary: Linda Stager

Directors:

2025-2026:
Greg Calkins, Will Slotter

2026-2027

Karen Mitcheltree, Casey Volino

Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Mia Lisa Anderson

Membership: Gary Thompson

Exhibits: Greg Calkins

Website: Mia Lisa Anderson

Publicity: Linda Stager

For more information, please contact:
president@gcphotoclub.org

Club Reminders
Critique Submissions

Please send critique submissions (or other images you'd like to submit for the newsletter) to Mia at:

mialisa1957@gmail.com. Follow the guidelines we have always used, i.e. 1024 or 2048 pixels on the long side and one submission per critique. Remember to put your name in the file name, e.g. anderson_tulips.

Treasurer's Report	
Beginning Balance	$2,959.68
Cash IN	
Dues	$0.00
Cash OUT	
Bank Fee	$3.00
Ending Balance	$2,956.68
	Respectfully Submitted
	Gary Thompson, Treasurer

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The Picture Behind the Picture

Every photograph has two pictures.

There's the one everyone sees. A waterfall. A deer. A child on a swing. A sunset.

Then there's the picture behind the picture. The reason you pressed the shutter in the first place.

Perhaps the waterfall wasn't really about the water at all. It was about the lone hiker standing at its base, reminding us how small we are. Maybe the deer wasn't the subject. It was the morning fog wrapping around it. That child's smile wasn't what caught your eye. It was the way a grandfather was watching from the park bench.

When we recognize the picture behind the picture, our compositions become stronger because we begin to photograph the story instead of simply the subject.

The next time you're about to make an image, pause for a moment and ask yourself, "What am I really photographing?"

Is it the meadowlark singing in the field? Or is it the feeling of a summer morning and the nostalgia the bird evokes?

Is it the hummingbird? Or the beebalm? Or the multiple stories that sit layered just below the photo?

Relationship: the partnership between a tiny bird and the flower that feeds it.

Conservation: why planting native species matters.

Hope: the viewer easily sees the beauty of the photo. But as photographers, we all know the work that goes into it- waiting for the flowers to bloom, watching for the hummingbirds to be in the flower patch, being ready with the camera, shutter speed, and other settings….

Images this pg©Linda Stager

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Grand Canyon
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

GCPC 2026 Calendar of Events

Meetings are at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center unless otherwise noted.

Mini-Solo Shows at the Deane Center, Main Street, Wellsboro:

August: Club Display

Mini-Solo Shows at Arise Cafe, Central Ave., Wellsboro:

August: Crystal Crowl

The Warehouse Theater: Bruce Dart, Greg Calkins & Linda Stager

The position of exhibit coordinator has been filled by Greg Calkins

Programs and Themes:

August 11, 2026: Introduction to Black & White Photography presented by Gary Thompson. Critique: Macro

September 8, 2026: Picnic and Scavenger Hunt at Brad's. No Critique

October 13, 2026: TBD. Critique: Black and White

November 10, 2026: TBD. Critique: TBD

December 8, 2026: Annual holiday party. No critique. Member slideshow

August Refreshments:

Missy

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The image then becomes a gentle reminder that wonderful things happen when we create the right conditions and then patiently wait.

When we ask ourselves, "What am I really photographing?", the answer changes everything.

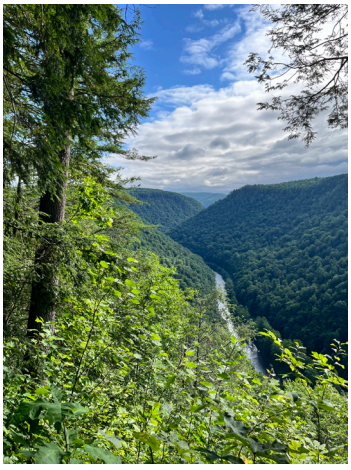
You move a little closer. You wait a little longer. You choose a different lens. You leave more room in the frame or crop more tightly. Suddenly, the photograph says exactly what you wanted it to say.

Anyone can photograph what is obvious.

A thoughtful photographer discovers what lies just beneath the surface.

That's the picture behind the picture. And that photo will have a stronger composition.

And more often than not, THAT's also the photo people will remember.



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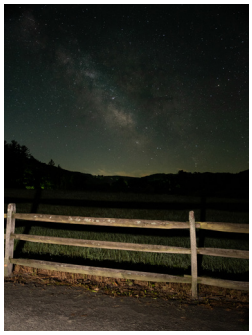
Planned Photo Images



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