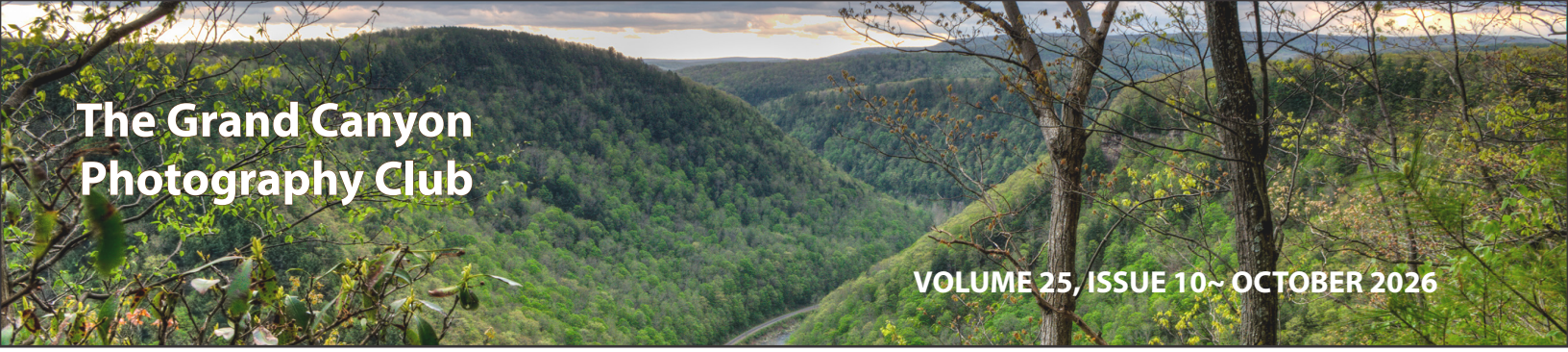

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 10~ OCTOBER 2026

Bring Your Gear; Let's Chat

The October 13th meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club will feature a discussion on gear. All members are invited to participate by bringing a piece of photographic equipment they use. The program will begin at 7 p.m. at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro, PA after a short business meeting.

A similar discussion and sharing of photography gear was held successfully in January of 2025. "Gear" can include any type of camera: dslr, mirrorless, or phone; accessories such as tripods, camera bags, or filters, photographic software, or even articles of clothing like gloves or spikes for those tricky winter photographic adventures.

©Mia Lisa Anderson

Members are asked to come prepared to discuss their favorite "gear." Why is it your favorite? How does it work? Where can it be purchased? etc.

The Grand Canyon Photography Club was established in 2001 by Art & Christine Heiny. The first meeting was held in January of that year and meetings are still held the second Tuesday of every month at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro, PA. Meetings typically run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Annual dues are $20/year. Individuals may attend two meetings before they are asked to join.

Each month a program is given on some aspect of photography. Some past programs have been on Smart Phone Photography, Architechtural Photography, Composition, Lighting, Post Processing and more. Programs are often presented by knowledgeable club members. Special presenters have included Ed Heaton, Tony Sweet, Art Becker, John Levandoski, and Curt Weinhold to name a few. After a refreshment break, member images on a predetermined topic are critiqued.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is finally here, and for photographers, it is hard to beat this time of year. The changing leaves give us so many opportunities to get outside with our cameras. I love the mix of reds, oranges, yellows, and greens, but sometimes it is the little things, like a single colorful leaf, reflections in the water, or leaves scattered along a trail that create a wonderful image to photograph.

Images this page©Missy Volino

I also love those cool, foggy mornings. Fog can even make a familiar place look completely different, adding softness and a little mystery to a photograph. If you catch the sun starting to break through, it can be spectacular. The hardest part is getting out of bed early enough to catch it!

I was disappointed to miss our annual picnic and scavenger hunt at Brad's this year. I hope everyone had a wonderful time completing the scavenger hunt, enjoying some good food, and spending time together. I'm looking forward to hearing the stories and seeing the photos.

Don't forget to submit your black and white photo for our upcoming critique. After Gary's presentation on black and white photography, I'm looking forward to seeing how everyone puts some of those ideas and techniques into practice. Without color to draw the eye, black and white photography gives us a chance to really focus on light, shadows, contrast, texture, and composition. I'm excited to see what everyone comes up with!

This month, we'll be sharing our favorite photography gear. Bring along something you enjoy using and tell us why. It might be a favorite camera or lens, or something as simple as a tripod, filter, camera bag, or little gadget you never leave home without. I think it will be fun to see what everyone considers an essential part of their photography kit, and we might even discover a few new things to add to our wish lists!

Until then, enjoy the fall colors, keep an eye out for those foggy mornings, and get outside with your camera. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in October and seeing what you've been photographing.

Happy shooting!

Missy

GCPC August 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM and was called to order by President Missy Volino. There is a collective display from various members, which is currently hung at the Deane Center, so if you haven't seen it, please go for a visit. Reminders from Melina (Director of Gmeiner): The Plein Air Festival is from September 10th-13th and the Mountain Laurel Quilt Guild Show is from September 14th - October 12th.

The September club meeting is being held at Brad Adams' home and will start at 5:30 PM, and is the annual club picnic. Directions will follow. There will be a walk through the forest, so wear older shoes. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side-dish to pass, and don't forget your camera! More information will follow.

We've been invited as a group to participate in the Trail of the Year Celebration, September 25th-26th, where there will be various activities both days. They are looking to our club to provide information on photography on the trail, which would highlight our club and possibly garner more members. The club is still in talks as to whether or not we will participate. More information to follow.

The July meeting minutes are incomplete and will follow, so Missy asked for a motion to accept the June minutes, which was made by Bruce Dart, seconded by Casey Volino, and approved by the membership in attendance. The Treasurer's Report for July was provided by Treasurer Gary Thompson, with the starting balance of $2,959.68 and an ending balance of $2,956.68. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Dennis Stager, seconded by Tana Carpenter, and approved by the membership in attendance.

Greg Caulkins, our Display Coordinator, announced that a recent opening is available at Arise Cafe for the month of November. Gary had volunteered to take the spot, if there was no other interest in the opening.

We had two guests in attendance, Bernadette Chiaramonte, who was a former member, and John (from Gaines). We look forward to seeing you at future meetings. Welcome to both of you!

With no new business, a motion was made by Mia Lisa Anderson to adjourn the business portion of the meeting, seconded by Karen Mitcheltree, and approved by the membership in attendance.

The program for the evening was presented by Gary Thompson on Black and White Photography. Thank you Gary for the informative presentation!

Respectfully Submitted by
Recording Secretary
Tana Carpenter

*Editor's Note: There were no minutes from September since it was the annual picnic.

Doing You

We'll be showing our photos at critique this month as our own black-and-white masterpieces. Most of us don't do black-and-white photography, but now that Gary has taught us the basics, we'll try our hand at it. It will be fun to see what folks turn in for us to look at.

That topic had me thinking on my morning walk the other morning about "Doing You."

In fact, if you follow me on Facebook, you've already seen this one. I shared it to some degree with my friends there.

Here are my thoughts…. In a one-minute version.

Here are two photos for you to look at. It's the same exact file, but one is a zinnia from my garden in all its colorful glory. And the other is the black-and-white version of the same file.

2 Images©Linda Stager

I asked my social media friends which photo they preferred. And of course, as usual, the opinions were varied.

So here is what I said…It doesn't matter which one is your favorite. Either is perfectly okay with me because we all have our own "look". The important thing is that you do you—and not someone else.

So often, we try to fit in. Whatever someone is successful with may feel like what you need to be photographing. But here is what I believe these days.

Photograph your favorite subjects, not someone else's. Photograph in black and white if you prefer. Buck the trend—whatever it might be. Use your cell phone. Or not. Use what you have—a new lens or camera will not automatically make you a better photographer.

Save yourself some angst…..The important thing is simple: "Just Do You."

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	$2,953.68
Cash IN	
Dues	$0.00
Cash OUT	
Bank Fee	$3.00
Ending Balance	$2,950.68
	Respectfully Submitted
	Gary Thompson, Treasurer

©Missy Volino

COMPOSITION
CORNER
by Linda Stager

What Should You Be Leaving Out?

When we lift the camera to our eye, we usually think about what we want to put into the picture.

But maybe we should spend a little more time thinking about what we can leave out.

I know I've done it. I come upon a beautiful scene and want to capture it all. The mountains. The trees. The stream. The sky. That old barn over there. Before long, I've included so much that the person looking at my photograph doesn't know where to look.

Sometimes the best thing you can do instead is to simplify.

Take a step closer. Move a few feet to one side. Zoom in a little. Watch the edges of your frame.

Is there a bright spot pulling your eye away from your subject?

A branch sneaking in from the corner? (One year, I made a large canvas and never noticed the big dead branch at the top of the frame—my canvas would have been so much cleaner without that branch.)

You don't have to photograph everything that was there.

And you don't always have to show the whole subject, either. Part of an old barn can sometimes be more interesting than the whole barn. A few brilliant autumn leaves can say "fall" just as well as an entire hillside.

Take a look at this big print I made of a barn outside Wellsboro. I entered it into our photo club show one year, and it didn't catch the judge's eye.

In fact, I was told afterward that it wasn't the technique I used (closure), or the different amazing textures I highlighted in the photo, or that magnificent old windmill with the dying ivy, the owners' names on that old vane, and the crow (which I thought was so brilliant). I thought I had caught lightning in a bottle with all that in that print to see.

What the judge didn't like was that the old (and beautiful) lightning rod was crooked. The judge reportedly said that I should have either cloned the lightning rod out…or straightened it. (At the time, I didn't have the skills to do either, and it had never occurred to me to do it. To me, that lightning rod's imperfection and frailty matched the mood of my photo.

At the time, I thought his observation was absolutely absurd! And yet, there IS a lot to look at in this print.(And people DID look at it—a lot—at the

Images this article
©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:

October: Shannon Davis

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

October: Karen Mitcheltree

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

The position of exhibit coordinator has been filled by Greg Calkins

Programs and Themes:

October 13, 2026: *Gear Panel. Critique: Black and White*
November 10, 2026: *TBD. Critique: TBD*
December 8, 2026: *Annual holiday party. No critique. Member slideshow*

October Refreshments:

?

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show).

But to the judge (who, by the way, is indeed the judge and jury on a particular show day), it was too much.

These days, judges don't bother me. And I don't often enter shows anymore, because a judge's opinion doesn't matter to me. What matters is that I provide my customer with something special to look at. Something that I like and, as importantly, something they can love and relate to!

But…in this composition corner article, I will at least raise the question. Is there still too much going on in my photo? Or in your photo?

With that in mind, I'll say this:

Before you press the shutter, take one more look around the frame and ask yourself a simple question.

Is there something I should leave out?

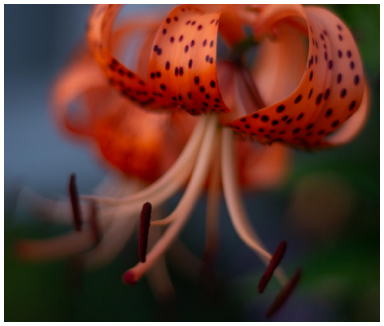
Sometimes making a photograph stronger isn't about adding something. It's knowing what you don't need.

Macro Images

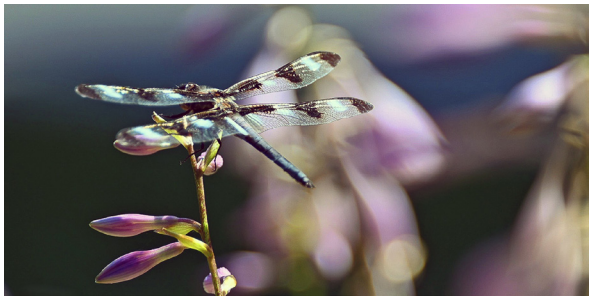
©Paul Bozzo

©Bob Bair

©Tana Carpenter



©Bruce Dart



©Karen Mitcheltree

©Jeanette Jones