The Grand Canyon Photography Club

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 9~ SEPTEMBER 2026

It's Picnic Time

The annual club picnic will be held this year at the home of Brad Adams. The festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8th.

Brad will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, buns, fixings, water, soda, plates, and utensils. Members are invited to bring sides or desserts to share. Brad also suggests bringing your own seating.

Brad's address is 64 Turkey Spur Lane, Troy, PA, and he says "Google Maps will take you right to it."

He is planning on having a scavenger hunt in the woods so please bring your camera and wear appropriate clothing.

If time permits there can be a bonfire or a game of corn hole.

In case of rain, the event will take place on Wednesday, September 9th.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that summer is already beginning to wind down and fall is just around the corner. As photographers, though, we have a lot to look forward to as the seasons begin to change.

I really enjoyed Gary's presentation on black and white photography at our last meeting. His presentation was a great reminder of just how much impact removing color can have on an image. Without color competing for our attention, we notice things differently. Light, shadow, texture, shape, contrast, and composition suddenly become the stars of the photograph. A subject that might seem ordinary in color can become dramatic, emotional, or even mysterious when presented in black and white.

Gary's presentation also had me thinking more about how we approach black and white photography. Rather than simply converting a color image after the fact, it can be helpful to start looking at a scene with black and white in mind. Look for strong contrasts between light and dark, interesting textures, repeating patterns, leading lines, and dramatic shadows. Side lighting can be especially effective for bringing out texture, while overcast days can provide wonderful subtle tones and details. And don't forget that some of the best black and white photographs are often the simplest ones.

I hope Gary's presentation inspired everyone to experiment a little and perhaps look at familiar subjects in a new way. Be sure to submit your black and white photographs for our October critique. I'm really looking forward to seeing how everyone interprets this theme and what you have been working on.

Before then, we have our upcoming picnic and scavenger hunt at Brad's to look forward to. This is always a great opportunity to relax, enjoy each other's company, and, of course, have some fun with our cameras. A scavenger hunt is also a great way to challenge ourselves creatively. When several photographers are given the same subject or idea, it's always interesting to see just how differently each person interprets it.

And then comes one of my favorite times of year for photography in the Northeast: fall. The brilliant reds, oranges, and yellows are obvious attractions, but there is so much more to photograph. Early morning fog over lakes and valleys, reflections of colorful trees in the water, backlit leaves, waterfalls surrounded by fall foliage, migrating birds, pumpkins and harvest scenes, and even those first frosty mornings all offer wonderful possibilities. Try getting out during the golden hours shortly after sunrise or before sunset, when the warmer light can make autumn colors seem even richer.

Fall is also a great time to remember to look beyond the big landscape. Get close to individual leaves, mushrooms, seeds, grasses, water droplets, and all of those little details that tell the story of the changing season. Fall scenery offers great opportunities for macrophotography as well. Sometimes the photograph that catches our eye isn't the sweeping hillside of color, but one curled leaf caught in beautiful light.

So, charge those batteries, clear some space on your memory cards, and keep your camera close. Between our picnic and scavenger hunt, the black and white challenge, and the arrival of fall, there should be plenty of reasons to get out and photograph.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Brad's and, as always, seeing the world through your photographs.

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 Dean 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

©Missy Volino

Our Own Way of Seeing

I was thinking about this the other morning while hiking in the woods…so here is my one-minute musing for this month's newsletter.

Does your social media feed look like mine?

Mine seems to be full of ads telling me how to become a better photographer. Buy this preset. Take this course. Learn these ten secrets. Download this editing package. Apparently, somewhere out there is the magic formula that will finally make our photographs good.

Except…I don't think that formula exists, other than to make the people selling those things profitable.

©Linda Stager

This photo is a good example of someone else's "look". I can do it, but I don't. The process is detailed in a lesson by one of the photographers who populate my social media feed. He sells "elements" to add to your photos.

Presets can be fun. Tutorials can teach us things. I've certainly learned from other photographers over the years.

But none of those things will give us the one thing that matters most: our own way of seeing.

And we already have that.

The best way I know to become a better photographer is much less exciting than anything being advertised to us.

Take your camera and go outside. Pay attention. Try something. Get it wrong. Try it again. Look at your pictures and figure out why one made you pause, and another didn't.

Learn your camera. Learn about light. Learn what YOU like.

Because if we all buy the same presets, follow the same formulas, and edit our photographs to look like everyone else's, we indeed look like someone else, and not ourselves

Maybe becoming a better photographer isn't about buying something new.

Maybe it's about learning to trust the photographer you already are.

Just a thought….
~Linda

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	$2,956.68
Cash IN	
Dues	$0.00
Cash OUT	
Bank Fee	$3.00
Ending Balance	$2,953.68
	Respectfully Submitted
	Gary Thompson, Treasurer

©Missy Volino

COMPOSITION
CORNER
by Linda Stager

One Scene: Five Different Compositions

You have found the scene. The light is good. You raise your camera, compose the picture, press the shutter, and move on.

But what if the best photograph was still there?

Here's a simple exercise you can try the next time something catches your eye. Don't take one picture. Take five. And make every one different.

Take the obvious photograph first. The one that made you stop. This is a popular scene recently, just outside Wellsboro. This scene, this composition. This is a widescreen crop; most are 4:3 or 3:2, but it's the same scene. It's a fine documentary photo. Photo #1. But then….. move.

Step to the left. Now to the right. Get closer. Back up. Get down low. Look for something you can use in the foreground. Turn the camera vertically. Leave more room around your subject. Fill the frame with it.

You don't have to do all of those things. The point is simply to make yourself look again.

I find that the first photograph is often the record shot. Here is what I saw.

The next few are where the photography begins.

Changing your position by only a few feet can change the relationship between objects in the scene. A distracting branch disappears. A road becomes a leading line. Two objects that overlapped suddenly separate. A patch of light moves behind your subject instead of beside it.

And getting closer can change the photograph completely. Instead of photographing the whole barn, maybe the photograph is really the weathered door and the light falling across it.

There's another benefit to this exercise. It slows you down.

Instead of arriving, clicking, and leaving, you spend a few minutes actually looking at the place in front of you.

So here's your Composition Corner challenge this month:

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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:

September: Club Display

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

September: Shannon Davis

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

The position of exhibit coordinator has been filled by Greg Calkins

Programs and Themes:

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*

September Refreshments:

Everyone

continued from page 6

One scene. Five photographs. Five different compositions.

When you get home, put them side by side.

Which one did you take first?

And which one do you like best?

They may not be the same photograph.
~Linda

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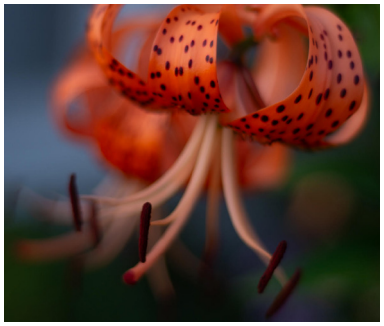

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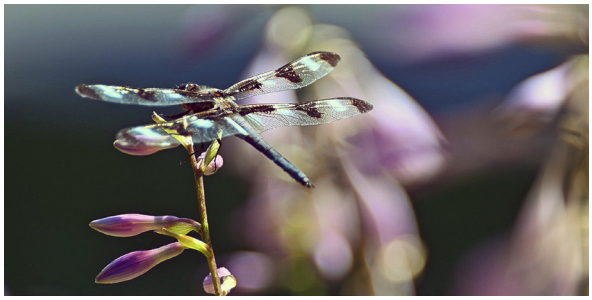

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