

NVPS NEWSLETER

GREAT PEOPLE and GREAT IMAGES SINCE 1998



March 2025 Issue

This month's meeting

Theme: iPhone Photos

Presenter: Video

How to improve your iPhone photography. The focus is on iPhones, but many techniques apply to other mobile phone cameras. Learn:

- Which tools to use to make pro-quality portraits in any lighting situation.
- How to create stunning landscape shots that people will swear you took with an expensive DSLR or mirrorless camera.
- To use proven posing techniques that flatter your subject and make anyone you photograph look their very best in every shot.
- How to organize and edit your photos like a pro.
- The pros' top tips for making amazing shots of everything from flowers to product shots, from food photography to travel shots, and everything in between.

The theme for image submission for this month's critique will be photos taken by a mobile phone.



NVPS meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month starting at 7:00 pm in the Oak Room at the Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson, Napa.

For this meeting, members may submit two smart phone photos according to the guidelines at the end of the newsletter.

Field trips, workshops, and books

In Berkeley

LOOKING GLASS  PHOTO & CAMERA

Looking Glass offers a variety of photo classes that aren't too outrageously expensive. Check it out:

<https://www.lookingglassphoto.com/>

Santa Rosa Junior College



This two-year college offers classes in professional photography, reasonably priced. A good place to pick up some additional photo skills.

<https://www.santarosa.edu/>

Events

Napa Valley Marathon



On March 2 the Napa Valley Marathon will take place. The marathons sponsored by Kaiser Permanente will feature a marathon, a half-marathon, and a 5K run.

<https://napavalleymarathon.org/>

Some NVPS members will want to photograph the running from the sidelines. But most NVPS members will want to photograph with their GoPro cams while running in the marathon. Either way, this is a great photo op assuming a pleasant day with the mustard in bloom.

Member news

Eye show

The NVPS show at the Eye Specialists office had been extended to the end of March. Participating photographers can pick up their photos from 3:30-5 p.m. Friday, March 28.



If that time is not convenient, please let Betty know at 707-363-4154 for special arrangements to be made.

Participants: George Bartolome, Zach Berkowitz, Elizabeth Bush, Dean Busquaert, Marissa Carlisle, Thomas Edwards, J. Fellers, Mitchell Glotzer, Fred Goldman, Judd Howell, Carol Howell, Nancy Hernandez, Lindy Johnson, Betty Malmgren, Irena Miles, Kevin Murphy, Karen Noyes, Jeffrey Rawlinson, Gary Sampson, Chris Sauer, Ann Seronello, Sally Seymour, MJ Schaer, Joseph T. Sinclair, Richard Stoeltzing, Phil Venable and Carolyn Younger.

The show was very successful in terms of sales and exposure for the club. Thanks to staff person Laura Sheil for coordination and arranging for a reception October 18.

The office is located at 800 Trancas St. (at corner of Trancas and Valle Verde). Thanks to Dr. Jameson and Dr. Bosetti and the other

doctors for supporting art and photography in Napa.

Write from the Heart

On exhibit at the Yountville Community Center are the works of NVPS members MJ Schaer, Sally Seymour, Elixabeth Bush, Marissa Carlisle, and Dean Busquaert.

The exhibition *Wright from the Heart* is on display at the Steve Rogers Gallery in the Center, 6516 Washington St. The exhibit will be on view until March 28th. Hours are 9-5 weekdays, and by appointment on weekends.



Elizabeth Bush

Elizabeth has also been juried into an exhibit titled *Let the Fur and Feathers Fly* at Epperson Gallery in Crockett, 1400 Pomona St. The reception is March 22 from 4-6, and the exhibit will be on view until April 20. Regular gallery hours are 11-5, Friday-Sunday.



Marissa Carlisle

Marissa's exhibit is a sculpture together with a poem based on the Greek word *Ekphrases*.

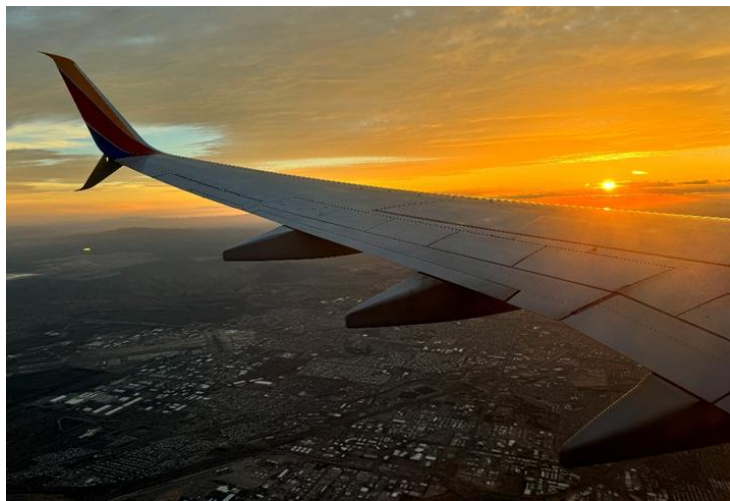
No newsletter in April

The newsletter editor will be traveling out of the country for the month of April.

Articles

Traveling with a camera ©2025 Joseph T. Sinclair

If you travel to a certain locale and dedicate yourself to taking specific photographs of a place, that's not travel photography. That's simply a photography project that takes place in a location away from home.



Travel photography assumes that you travel for other purposes than photography. It also assumes that you travel with a traveling companion(s). That typically means that your traveling is not a photographic project. Photography is something you do as a sort of sideline whenever you get the chance during your travel activities.

Travel activities themselves take time and energy. In other words, your travel requires planning, executing, and attention as well as the demands of companionship, all of which doesn't leave enough time left for doing much precise photography. In addition, you are constrained by the activities of your traveling companion(s), who presumably have little interest in accommodating your serious photography. And don't forget yourself. Presumably, you want to enjoy the pleasures of travel too or you would have stayed home, pleasures that require your attention even if someone else handles all the travel details and tasks.



That brings up the question, what are exactly the conditions of travel that dictate the sort of cameras that are ideal for travel photography?

The first condition of travel is time. If you're traveling normally with another person or other people (non-photographers), you will not have adequate time to do your most careful photography; you will typically be in a hurry to get good shots; and you will always be playing catch-up with the travel activities of your companion(s).

This means that simple equipment is better. No time to set up equipment and accessories. You need one small camera with a zoom lens. No multiple lenses and no tripod. A smartphone camera fits this requirement well.

The second condition of travel is baggage. How will you carry your camera? Typically, during a travel day visiting the sights, you might carry a daypack with a raincoat, lunch (or snacks), and something to drink. If you carry your camera in the daypack, getting it in and out will be a considerable inconvenience. Consequently, you need to carry your camera separately; that is, carry the camera probably by hanging it around your neck. Thus, the smallest, lightest camera in a small case is the most comfortable. Forget about carrying a photographer's daypack with several lenses and other equipment. You won't have time to comfortably use anything but your camera.

Again, a smartphone camera fits this requirement well. A lanyard around your neck for your phone makes it easy to carry your phone in a shirt pocket, keeps it from dropping, and provides quick access.

The third condition is proximity. You can't always take the time while traveling to adjust the distance from your camera to the subject of

your photo. Hence, a zoom lens is very handy for travel.



Sony 24-240 zoom (travel) lens

Nikon and Canon offer comparable zoom lenses

Question: Is this lens a 24-50 wide angle + a 5x telephoto, or is it a 10x telephoto?

A smartphone camera with an *optical* zoom capability fits this requirement.

A substitute for zoom capability is a camera with a prime lens and plenty of MPs. High-MP cameras enable you to crop generously but still retain a high-quality high-resolution image. This provides an effect comparable to a telescopic lens with no loss of image quality (except perhaps for very large prints if you crop too much). For instance, you can carve (crop)

five 12MP photos out of a 60MP image giving you the capability to take 5x photos in effect.

Then too, panorama shooting capability is integral to modern cameras giving you the capability to take wide-angle shots without a wide-angle lens. A panorama doesn't have to be seven or eight shots stitched together; it can be just two shots.

The fourth condition of travel is rain. Your equipment needs to be water-resistant, and your case or daypack needs to be waterproof. If you carry your camera on a strap or mount that leaves it hanging on your body unprotected, it's at risk when you're out all day seeing the sights. In many places, the weather can change quickly, and you may not be able to keep your equipment dry without a waterproof case or waterproof daypack.

Many if not most up-to-date cameras and lenses have weather sealing today. But you still need something waterproof to keep your camera safely dry. A \$2 shower cap makes a

good waterproof cover for a small camera case or a camera.



Always refer to your shower cap as an *MPD* (moisture protection device) so as not to seem unprofessional, and men should not use one that's pink

There are other considerations too. Tripods don't work well for travel. They are banned from many public places (e.g., museums). They're also inconvenient.



This Manfrotto MP3-BK might work OK for travel

Fortunately, image stabilization (IS) makes tripods unnecessary. IS is incorporated into almost all up-to-date cameras. It gives you a 3-7 stop advantage. Make sure you keep it turned on.

Many accessories don't work well for travel. They can make taking photos more time-consuming and may require inconvenient baggage.



What cameras are good for traveling? Some examples are: (1) top-end phone cameras with *optical* zoom capability; (2) top-end point & shoot cameras with a good zoom lens; (3) small mirrorless cameras with small interchangeable lenses and plenty of MPs (e.g., Sony a7CR); or (4) small high-quality fixed-lens cameras with lots of MPs (e.g., Fuji X-100VI).

The name of the game in travel photography is to travel light. That doesn't mean you need to compromise on quality regarding equipment. Rather, it means you need to compromise on flexibility. You need to become a minimalist. You can't use a full range of photographic equipment that provides you with the flexibility to handle every photo op with maximum photographic agility. Yet, you can still take high quality photos and enjoy your travel.

An old favorite travel camera (film):



A comparable up-to-date camera that you can use for travel (Sony a7CR with small 50mm interchangeable lens):



This is smaller than a typical full-frame mirrorless camera
A small high-quality fixed-lens camera (Fiji X-100VI):



There are many digital cameras today that are small, light-weight, professional-quality, and especially suitable for travel.

Flying

For air travel it is useful to understand airline baggage requirements, particularly because certain bags may increase your airfare considerably.

Largest: checked bag – review various airline dimension requirements and get the smallest so as to qualify on all airlines – you may have to pay a fee. (Typically 62 linear feet = three dimensions added) Not safe for cameras.

Next largest: carry-on bag (cabin bag) – review various airline dimension requirements and get the smallest so as to qualify on all airlines – you may have to pay a fee. These bags have a surprising amount of space. They go in the overhead bin. (Typically 22 x 14 x 9) Reasonably safe for cameras.

Smallest: under-seat (personal) bag – review various airline dimension requirements and get the smallest so as to qualify on all airlines – always free, no fee. (Typically 17 x 13 x 6) Very safe for cameras.

The smallest bag is meant to be something like a purse or small briefcase. But it turns out that you can buy an under-seat bag that is quite large but still qualifies as an under-seat bag. If you use such a bag, you can place your small camera + a small camera case inside the bag and

still have room left over for other things including a laptop computer.

You will be required to put this bag under your seat while flying. I don't like putting things on the floor and then handling them. So, I put my under-seat bag inside a small disposal plastic trash bag when on the floor.

Camera security

An under-seat bag is the most secure means of transporting your expensive travel camera. That is, it's never out of your sight. It has a band across the back for slipping over the handle on your carry-on or checked roller bag.



**A bag designed specifically for fitting
under an airplane seat**

Note, some medium-size daypacks may qualify as under-seat bags.

Medical: an extra bag for medical equipment (e.g., CPAP) is allowed, in addition to a personal (under-seat) bag; there is no fee for it.

Knowing the baggage requirements enables some flexibility in how to take your expensive camera traveling by air.

Featured photographer

Philip Venable

I have been shooting photos since I was a kid, when my dad gave me a Kodak Brownie. I studied black and white photography in college and had plans to be a photojournalist until life intervened. After spending an adulthood in law enforcement, I picked up my camera again and began making art.

My preference is nature/landscape, but I am drawn to shapes, lines, and shadows found in the urban landscapes. My favorite subjects are old rusted cars, trains, abandoned buildings, and brightly colored doors. I use several plugins to Photoshop to create surreal images

from otherwise ordinary photos. I create photos in both color and black and white, depending on subject matter and mood.

In addition to being President of the Napa Valley Photographic Society, I am a member of the Fairfield Suisun Valley Art Association, the Vacaville Art League, the Lightwriters Photography Club, and the Professional Photographers of America.

My work has been shown at Viewpoint Gallery Sacramento, Yountville Community Center, The Old Sugar Mill, Arata Fine Arts Gallery, Roseville Brewing Company, Vacaville Art Gallery, Napa Public Library, Solano Town Center Gallery, and the Gallery at Village 360. I am a resident artist at The Little Shop in Benicia. I have won several awards at local shows and contests, including a Jurors' Choice Award at the 2013 Vacaville Art Gallery Art Show.

For more information about the photos shown here, or to see more, go to my website at:

<http://www.philipvenablephotography.com>

I am also on Facebook as Philip Venable Photography. Contact me at:

philven@comcast.net

Dreamscape

Back around 2008 I wrote a very short story titled *Reunited*. To illustrate the story, I created a composite image of my son and his girlfriend, walking away from me in a tunnel at the Marin Headlands and placing them in a cemetery. Through the use of Photoshop, I made them appear as ghosts. I combined the photo and the story in a single frame, and considered it a one off piece.

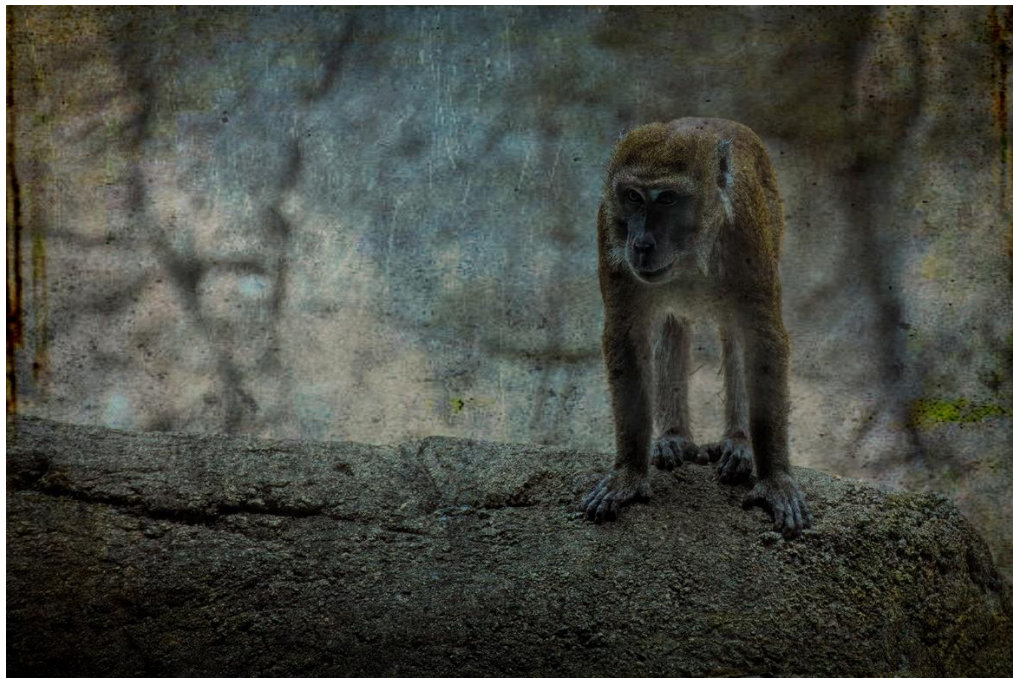
A couple years later I took a photo in Muir Woods I really liked, added a glow filter to the photo, and considered that piece another one off, not having a particular theme in mind.

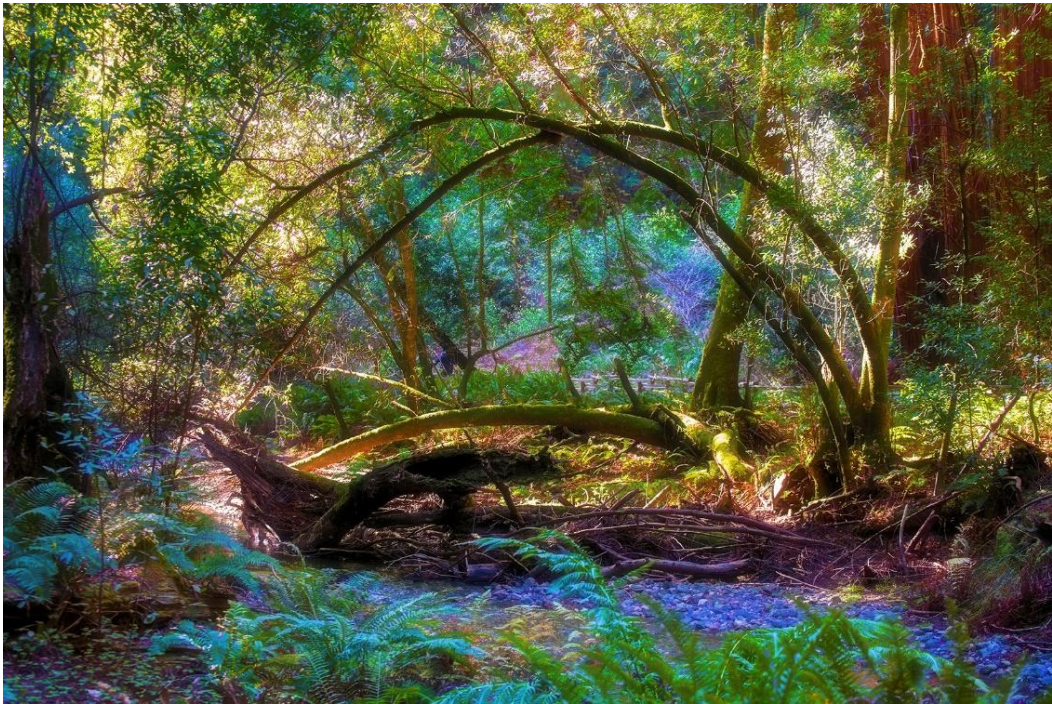
In 2019 my wife passed away from cancer. Through my grief, I began creating the series now known as Dreamscapes. Dreamscapes represent alternate realities, places that have meaning to me, but placed in a space and time

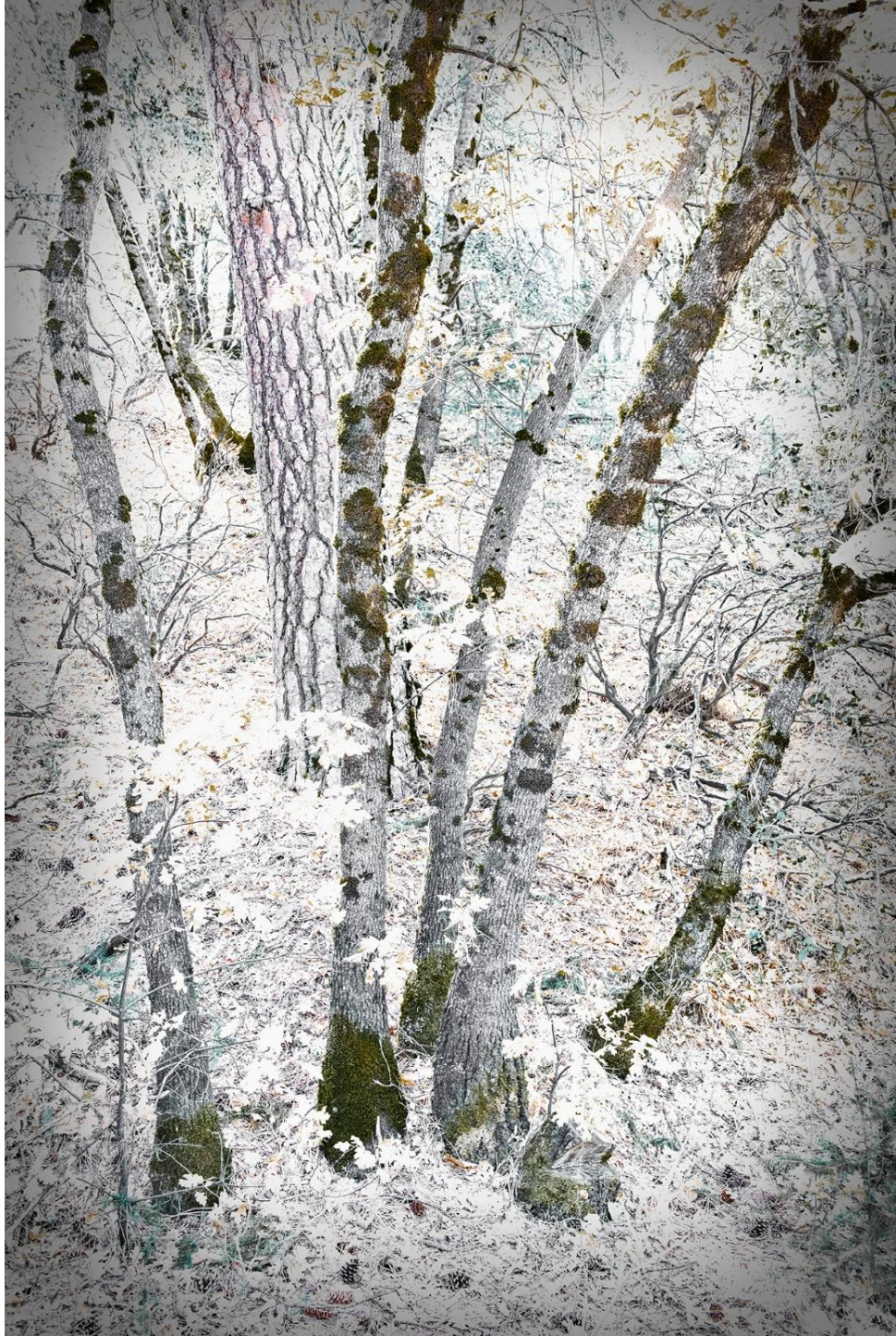
different from the *now*. In looking back, I discovered that old short story and photo, along with the Muir Woods photo, and they seemed right at home in the Dreamscape series.

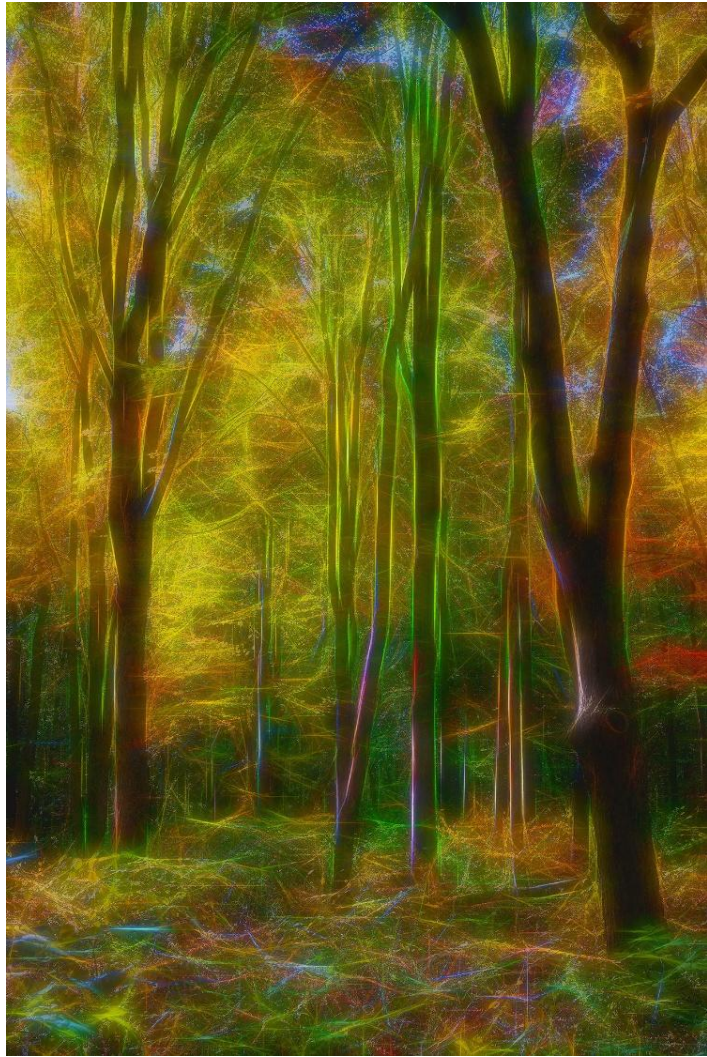
Entry into the realm of the Dreamscape starts with the portal, located in the ruin of the current place and time. Each realm has a portal to transport you to a different time and space, though in most photos the portal is not seen. Adventure has its price, as you may end up in a land of beautiful forests, a devastating apocalypse, or a computer simulation where life is scripted in code.

Welcome to the Dreamscape.











Travelogue

Gary Sampson

My appreciation for the Southwest started when I was drafted into the Army and was stationed in the early 1970s at Ft Huachuca, AZ. Going from the base and the little town of Sierra Vista to Tombstone, AZ was like going from Napa to Yountville. Later we would take our travel trailer to Sedona, AZ and stay there and take a side trip to the Grand Canyon. We would also fly to Albuquerque, NM with side trips to Santa Fe and Taos, NM. Growing up both Vicki and I

watched westerns in movies and on TV. Being a horticulturist, I've always had an appreciation for Native Americans and their beliefs about being one with nature and their surroundings.

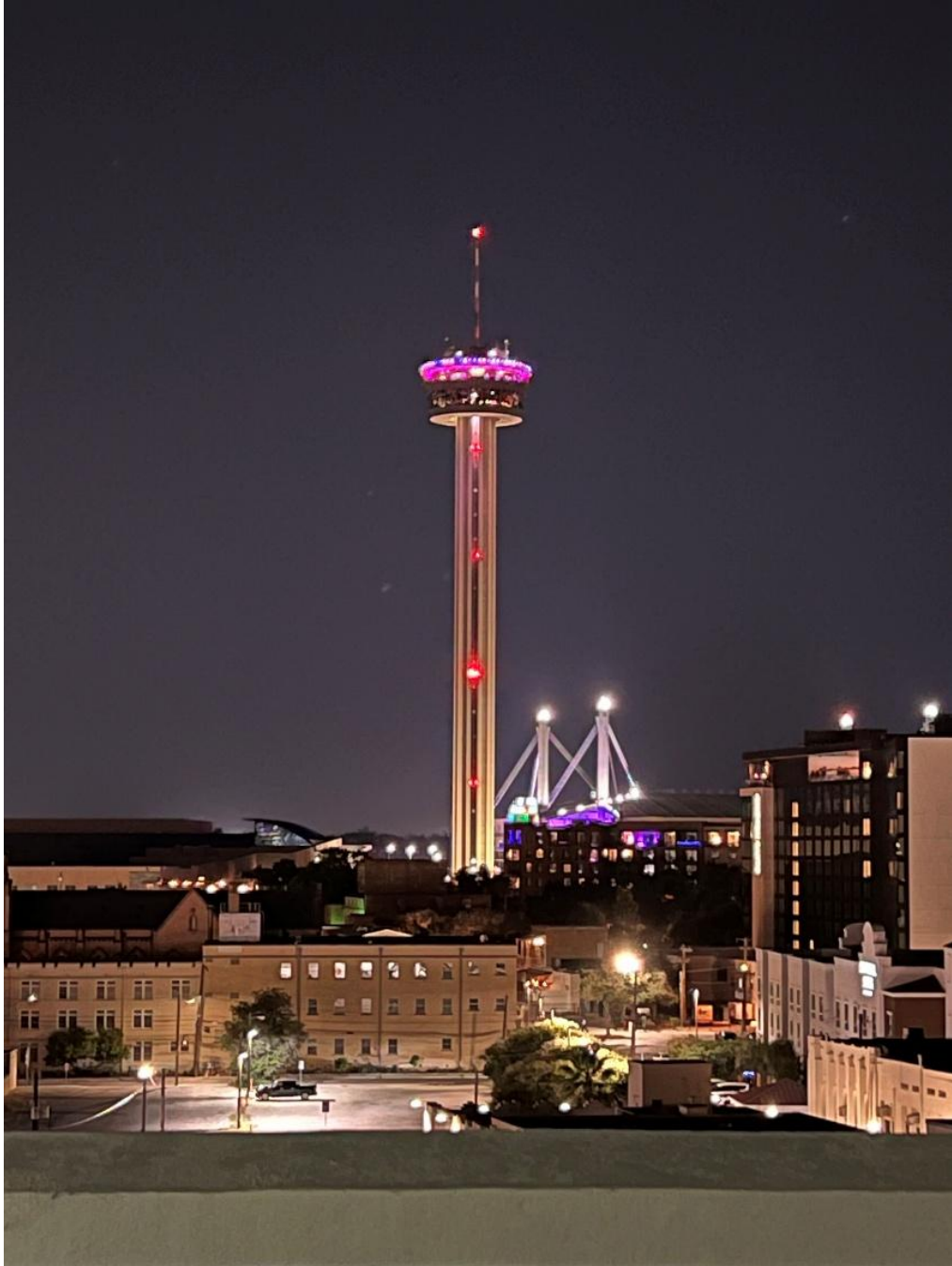
From the 1980s to early 1990s I served on the City of Napa Parks and Recreation Commission (the recreational element of the new upcoming Flood Control), was a founding member of the Friends of the Napa River, and served as a volunteer docent for the Napa Valley Museum presenting a traveling talk about the Napa River to school age children and adult groups. I am proud to say that I was a part of a group that influenced the current renaissance of the Napa River. There is a current project called Napa Riverline that will transform it further. The San Antonio River Walk was always a shining beacon for what could be done. I was thrilled that I could finally take part in it.

Thus, we were excited when our friends, who had a time share, invited us to go with them to San Antonio, Texas last October. Of course, there would be the Alamo, the River Walk, museums, shopping, downtown architecture,

Texas bar-b-que, and Tex-Mex food. San Antonio is said to be one of the fastest growing cities in the United States; we could see that with all the construction projects throughout downtown. Many of the older office buildings are being converted to housing. It was also the site of the 1968 World's Fair (Hemi'sFair'68). Based on a recommendation by our concierge, we also took a side trip to Fredericksburg, Texas.



Tower Life



Tower of America



Bexar County Courthouse



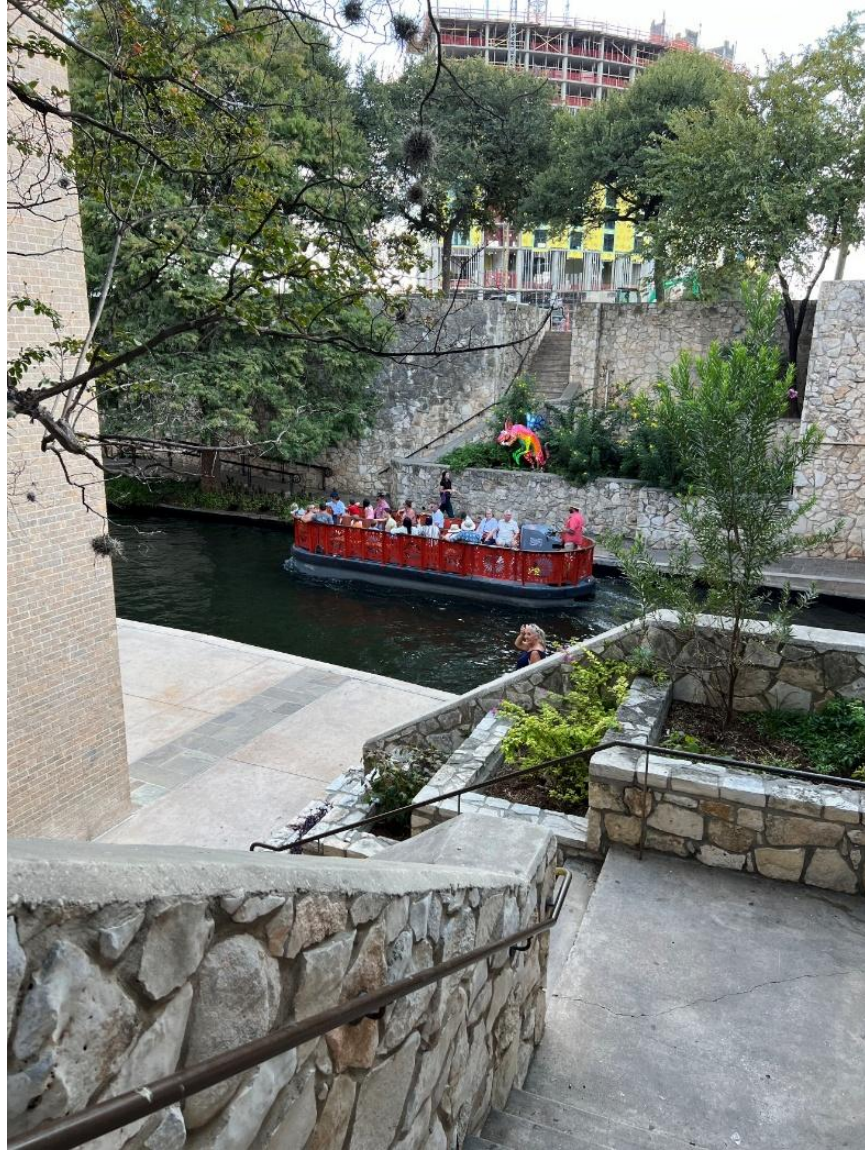
San Fernando Cathedral



New Building



River Walk



River Walk



River Walk



The MarketPlace



Alamo



Texas Barbecue Joint



Buckhorn Saloon



Briscoe Western Art Museum



Fredricksberg



Fredricksberg

Officers & staff

Elected Board members

President - Phil Venable

Vice president – Judd Howell

Secretary - George Bartolome

Membership Secretary – Nancy Hernandez

Treasurer - Gary Sampson

Appointed board members & chairs

Master Communicator - Philip Shoots

Program chair - Mitchell Glotzer

Website manager - Carolyn Younger

Newsletter - Joe Sinclair

Exhibit chair - open

Ongoing-exhibits chair - George Bartolome

Hospitality coordinator - open

Field trips - Irena Miles (Karen Noyes, Geoff Hansen)

Workshops - Phil Venable

Publicity - Zach Berkowitz

Zoom coordinators - Phil Venable

Digital projectionist - Peter Guenther, Phil
Venable

Facebook posting - Karen Noyes

Fundraiser chair – open



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Newsletter Submittal Guidelines

Submittal deadline

The submittal deadline for newsletter text + photos (content) is the third Monday of the month.

Members' photos for the meeting

Members may submit images for the meeting and should be prepared to make a brief verbal explanation. To submit your photos for a meeting, send your images to the regular critique site in the usual format (no more than 2000 pixels on the longest side) no later than the Saturday prior to the monthly meeting. The file name for an image should be:

members first&last name_title or theme_order
number

Examples: John Everest_Harvest Time_01 and
John Everest_After the Harvest_02

Send the files to:

NVPS.Photo.Critique@gmail.com. Only photos
taken by members accepted.

Newsletter head photo

If you desire to provide a head photo for one issue, submit a JPG 2000 pixels horizontal. The vertical can be between 450 and 1100 pixels. Anything outside these parameters cannot be used. The file name should be your name plus the title of your photo, the word *head*, and the date:

name_title_head_date

Send the file to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: NEWSLETTER (in all caps). Only photos taken by members accepted. And photos that have been published before on the NVPS website or in the NVPS newsletter are not eligible.

This month's meeting

Follow the guide for *Articles*.

Field trips & workshops

Announcements of field trips and workshops of interest to members should include all information such as leader + contact info, date, time, meeting place, miles to location, cost, and

nature of the photography as well as a general description. These are *participation* events. Announcements can run in two successive issues *before* the event.

Events

This is an announcement of a photo exhibit, contest, or photo op of interest to members or one that includes a member or multiple members. It can run in two successive issues *before* the exhibit.

This category also includes a call for member participants in future photo exhibits or contests with complete information on applying and participating.

If an event is a duplicate of full information elsewhere, it should be a brief announcement with a hyperlink to the information online elsewhere.

Member news

This is a one-time *brief* announcement of a member's *past* achievement, such as an exhibit, a photo experience, a travel-photo experience,

a photo learning experience, and the like. Use a hyperlink to indicate where full information is available.

If this is the sole information on a substantial achievement, it can be written like an article with full information; but it shouldn't be a duplicate of full information published elsewhere (use a hyperlink instead).

NVPS administrative news or other news is also appropriate for this category.

Articles

Articles (e.g., magazine-like articles) written by members can be posted in the newsletter for one issue. They will be assumed to be published by permission. They must be relevant to photography, of course.

Articles published by non-members are likely to be copyrighted. See *Copyrights* for the treatment of non-member articles.

Generally, only one article per issue will be published with member-written articles given preference.

For sale, give away, or wanted

Photographic equipment for sale, giveaway, or wanted can be listed here for one newsletter issue. Provide full information about item and full contact information.

Equipment

New and unique equipment of interest to members.

Travelogue

This is a collection of photos about a place that helps define the place. Consequently, the place must be small or the place/theme must be limited.

Not acceptable:

- Paris – It would take dozens and dozens of photos to define Paris.
- Colorado – It would take dozens and dozens of photos to define Colorado.
- Beaches of California – It would take dozens and dozens of photos to define even a small number of beaches in California.

- Churches of New York City – It would take dozens and dozens of photos to define even a small number of churches in New York City.

Acceptable:

- Montmartre, Paris
- The Canals of Amsterdam
- Leadville, Colorado
- The Mines of Creede, Colorado
- Indio, California
- Point Reyes National Seashore, California
- The Embarcadero, San Francisco
- Churches of Austin, Nevada
- Hilton Head, South Carolina

A haphazard collection is not appropriate. Each photo must be high-quality and work to define the subject of place or place/theme.

Check with the newsletter editor before you submit to ensure the appropriateness of place or place/theme.

What's the difference between Featured Photographer and Travelogue?

Featured Photographer is a scheduled display of your photos (no theme necessary) to acquaint NVPS members with your photographic work. Text is optional. [4-8+ photos]

A Travelogue is an unscheduled presentation (whenever you want but the newsletter has a limit of one per month) about a place, narrowly curated to help define the place or the theme about a place. Text to explain the presentation is appropriate. [10- 15 photos]

Photos for newsletter

Photos submitted for the newsletter should be: no more than 2000 pixels, and no less than 1000 pixels, on the longest side. Logos can be a smaller size. File names should be:

author_title of photo_date

Photos taken by members will be assumed to be published by permission. Photos taken by non-members are likely to be copyright protected. See *Copyrights* for the treatment of non-member photos.

Send the photo file *attached* (not *embedded*) to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: NEWSLETTER (in all caps). Photos must have an extension that indicates their protocol (e.g., *.jpg*); that is, Windows compatible. Due to incompatibilities between Apple and Windows, photos that don't conform may be unusable.

Photo captions

Captions are not required. But if you want captions for your photos, include them in the photo file name and inform the newsletter editor that you desire them.

Submissions

For all information (text) submitted, use a file name that identifies the subject matter and author. Send the file to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: NEWSLETTER (in all caps).

Subject-line email

Unless you use the subject-line words requested for text or photos, your submission might be lost in the 400 junk emails received each day.

In the email, explain your submission. Example: *This photo goes with my article on shooting wildlife.*

Copyrights

For articles and photos by non-members, NVPS must have written permission for publication. The exception is articles or photos in the public domain; for such articles or photos, the author and source of the public domain archive should be stated.

One exception to copyright protection is the use of copyrighted text or images in teaching, such as an article on photography.

One way to circumvent copyright problems is to use a hyperlink to the article or photo published elsewhere.

Typography

Use italics for emphasis. Use emphasis sparingly. Don't use bold or all-caps. Bold and all-caps are difficult to read. Nonetheless, all-caps are acceptable for acronyms and designations.

Suggestions

Suggestions for the newsletter format or otherwise should be sent to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line NEWSLETTER in all caps.

Your editor

Your current newsletter editor is heavily overworked, gratitude-starved, sinfully underpaid, half-deaf, and with a short-term memory (25 seconds on a good day and getting shorter each month). He lives in Vallejo (doesn't know Napa very well). He receives about 400 emails every day thus requiring NEWSLETTER (all caps) to be in the subject line of your emails in order to be noticed. Although the newsletter editor reserves the right to edit or reject submissions, the newsletter editor's job is to *receive* content (information + photos)

for the newsletter, not to create it. So, your *publish-ready* content according to these guidelines will be welcome.