

# NVPS NEWSLETTER

*GREAT PEOPLE and GREAT IMAGES SINCE 1998*



**May 2025 Issue**

***This month's meeting***

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**Theme: Annual Picnic**

**Saturday, May 31, 11:00am to 5:00pm**

**Fuller Park, Napa**

This year's spring picnic will be in Napa's Fuller Park, Sequoia picnic area, a pleasant green enclave at Jefferson and Oak. NVPS will supply the meat. Each person attending is asked to bring a salad, dessert, or side dish to compliment the entrée. And bring your own drink; beer and wine permitted.

Photo from the lively 2024 NVPS picnic:



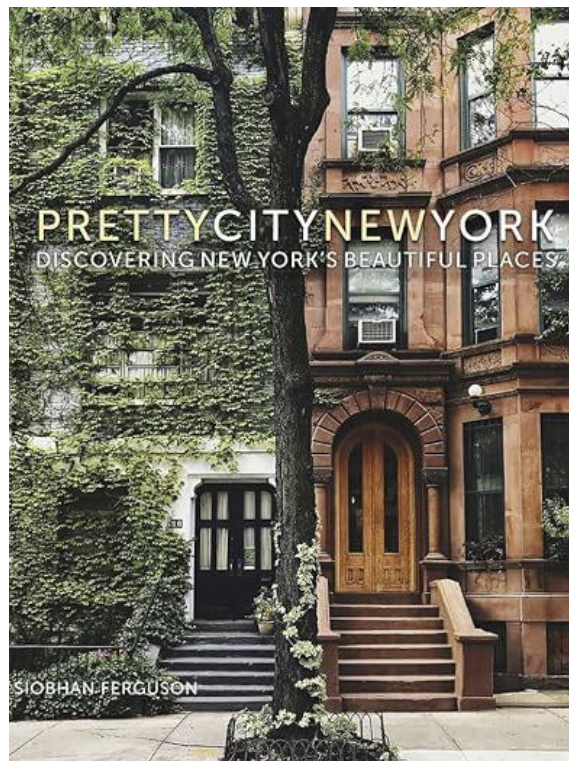
There is no meeting this month other than the picnic.

## *Field trips, workshops, and books*

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### **prettycitynewyork: Discovering New York's Beautiful Places**

You can buy this book by Siobhan Ferguson used on Amazon from a private bookseller for as little as \$12. Unlike similar books about San Francisco that will direct you to specific places to photograph, this book's many photographs will give you ideas about how to photograph the urban landscapes and terrains of any city. It even includes photography tips.



## *Events*

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### **Mare Island Spring Art Show**

May 25, 12pm to 4 pm @ 110 Pintado St., Mare Island, Vallejo.

<https://artvallejo.org/#/details/spring-art-show/15711588/2025-05-04T12>

### **First Thursdays**

A new event in Napa includes live music, food trucks, farmers, specialty food vendors, non-profits and kid's activities plus lawn games for the whole family to enjoy. This is a family-friendly locals-focused community event! This event will take place once a month from 5:00pm – 9:0pm on the First Thursday in May through October 2025 and will be held in the Oxbow Commons. This is a photo op as well as the opportunity to be a vendor.

## *Member news*

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### *Lanny Johnson*



Lanny Johnson, 83, passed away in April. Lanny was a longtime member of NVPS, served as a Board Member, participated in various photographic events, field trips, photo outings, and exhibitions (winning Best of Show Ribbons/Awards). He will be remembered as a good friend to many NVPS members. NVPS mourns the passing of a beloved stalwart colleague.

## ***Library in 2026***

NVPS was selected to show our photography at *Art in the Library* in 2026 at the Napa County Library. We are slated to show July 1-Aug 31, 2026. The reception will be July 10, 6:15-7:30 pm. Hanging the show will occur on July 1, with take down and pickup on Aug 31. *In 2026, not 2025.*

## ***New openings***

There are now openings for NVPS Master Communicator and Christmas party organizer. Talk to a Board member about such positions, and step up.

## ***Articles***

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### **Expand your photosphere** ©2025 Joseph T. Sinclair

One of the best ways to expand your photography experience is to view the photos and art of both good photographers and artists. That means visiting shows, exhibits, galleries, and museums whenever possible.



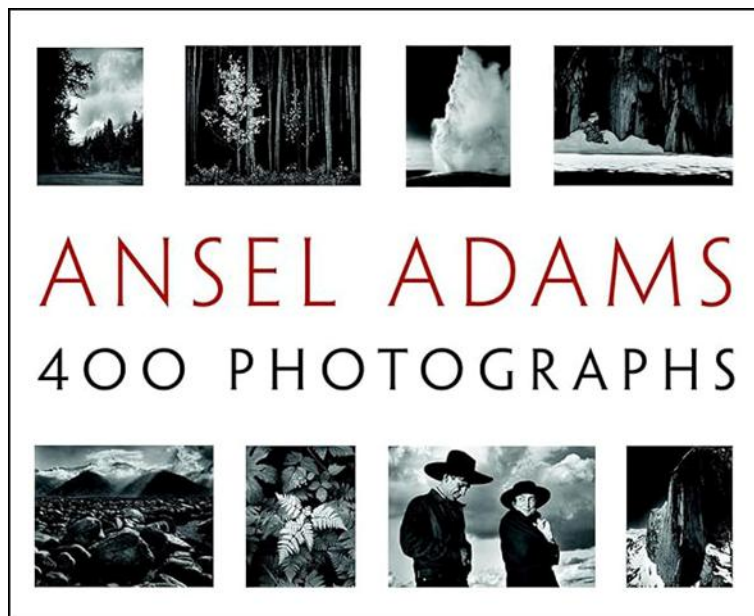
But perhaps a means overlooked by many of us are coffee-table books that contain photos and art. These are readily available in all bookstores. But they're expensive. Very expensive. An inexpensive way to acquire them is to buy them used.

One source is bookstores with used books. You can often buy such photo-rich books (in very good condition) at 1/6 the publication price. Some used bookstores have a wide selection of used coffee-table photo books.

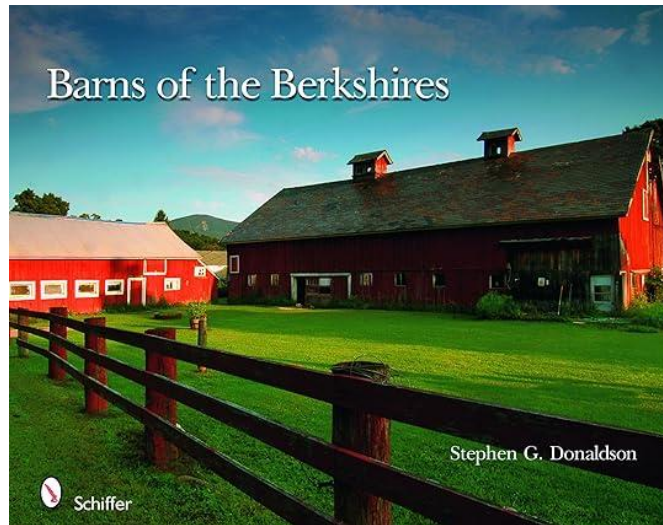
Another source is Amazon. Amazon offers the books of hundreds of independent booksellers selling used books at prices set by such booksellers, not Amazon. There is a standard shipping cost of \$4. So, the base price to you is \$4. But many of the used books (some are even new books) sell for extremely cheap prices. If you can't find a price you like today, wait a month and try again.

A good example is *Ancel Adams 400 Photographs* (paperback). It has a publisher's list price of \$50 for the hard cover and \$35 for the paperback.

Amazon sells it for \$22 (new paperback). I got it used in very good condition for \$6 + \$4 shipping. What is a set of 400 Ansel Adams photos for casual viewing worth every time you want to drum up a little enthusiasm for outdoor photography?



I'm in the process of throwing out most of my paper books. (I've bought all of my books in the Kindle ebook format since 2007.) Most of the paper books I'm retaining are used coffee-table photo books, which I bought cheap and which I can browse through when I need a little inspiration.



The web is another source of photos to browse. Make a list of talented photographers and visit their website galleries.



Or, plug into Google search “the best horse photos of 2023” to find horse photos. You will

get photos, sources of photos, and commercial photography services (with photos), etc: all about horses and with abundant photos of horses.



As an example, what about a search for “medieval churches”? Plenty of photos to browse.



Stock photo services are also a copious source of photos to browse, typically of commercial or fine-art quality.



Indeed, the web is a rich resource for photos to browse, and my suggestions are just the tip of the iceberg.

And finally, you can find coffee-table photo books in the library. You don't necessarily need to check them out. Go to the library and spend some casual time leafing through such books to enrich your creativity.



Whatever your source, you will want to be sure that any collection of photos or art you browse is commercial quality, fine-art quality, or otherwise high quality. You will want to build your mental resources to endow your sense of photographic understanding and evaluation. Every photo you view will count for something, however much or little, whether consciously or

unconsciously, whether for good or bad, and whether you want it to or not. So, go for the quality, and take the time to browse every so often.

## **Still-Life**

I've always wanted to do a still-life photograph but have never gotten around to it. One of these days I'm going to make a specific effort to do a still-life. Here's what my approach is going to be. I'm going to review as many works of art (and photos), which are still-lives, that I can find. I visit art museums several times a year and photograph art; in the future, I will make sure that I photograph still-lives for my digital collection. And I will go back to my prior digital collections of museum art and look for still-lives.



In addition, I have coffee table books to browse, as well as the internet to browse.



From my research, I will develop an idea of what I want to photograph and then develop a strategy for taking such photos. There are opportunities in my house, other people's houses, restaurants, hotels, etc. But perhaps the best opportunity is to stage a still-life.

By staging a still-life, I will have complete control over the photo. I can include a variety of interesting objects such as pitchers from my grandmother's collection, cooking utensils from my grandfather's collection, plates from my mother's collection, table clothes from my spouse's collection, fruit, vegetables, legs of

lamb, flowers, musical instruments, lamps, knives, etc. There is no limit on creativity.

Once staged, I will experiment with lighting. Natural light? Electric light? Flash? Low light? Candle light?

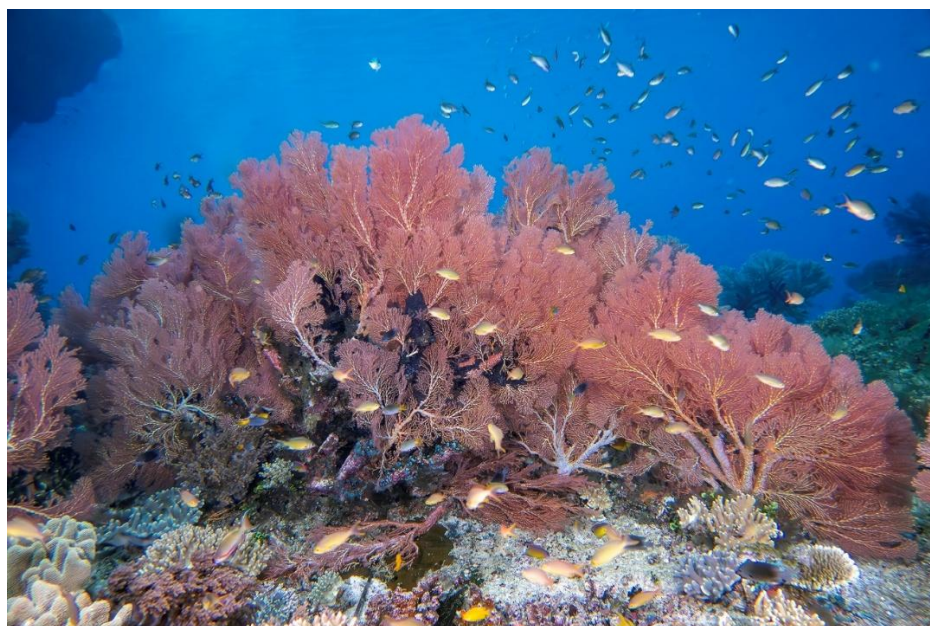
Post processing is important too. The most obvious is to make the still life look old (like a museum painting). The least obvious is to make the still life look Avant-Garde. Somewhere in between is a look that may be pleasing or even beautiful. Thus, the postprocessing is a key part of the project.

This is obviously a strategy that one can use for any photography project. In this case, it's a strategy I can use for something I've never done before.

*Featured photographer*

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**Karen Noyes (underwater)**

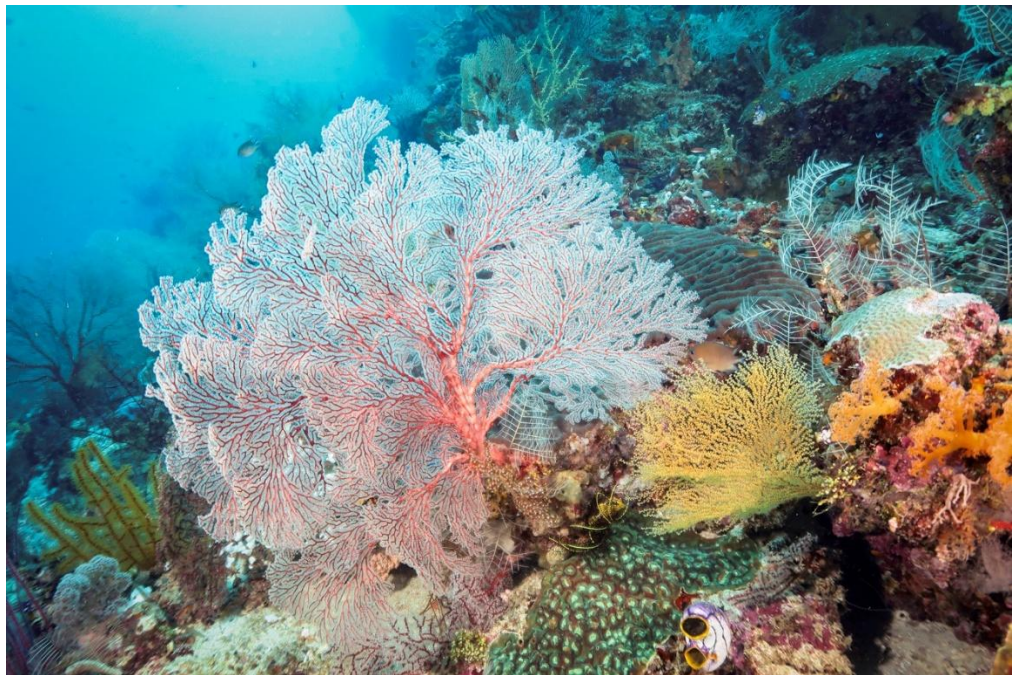














## *Equipment*

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### ***Oscar's Photo Lab***

May 29-31, 10am – 5pm @ 790 Brannan St., San Francisco.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sell-your-camera-gear-at-oscars-photo-lab-tickets-1328135582279?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Sell your used photo equipment. Stop in for an instant quote and get paid on the spot for your

clean, working, used photography equipment.  
Buyer will be paying top dollar.

## ***Officers & staff***

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### ***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 - open

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

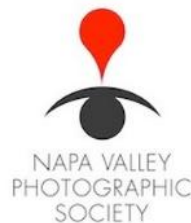
Publicity - Zach Berkowitz

Zoom coordinators - Phil Venable

Digital projectionist - Peter Guenther, Phil Venable

Facebook posting - Karen Noyes

Fundraiser chair – open



Head photo: Spring Bloom ©2025 Joseph T. Sinclair. All rights reserved.

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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.