



NVPS NEWSLETER

GREAT PEOPLE and GREAT IMAGES SINCE 1998



November 2023 Issue

This month's meeting

November 27: Minute • to • Spin • It

Theme: Members' Photos Carefully Curated

The November meeting will feature the recent work of NVPS members: as many as five images per photographer. These can be unrelated or connected to a theme, but each photographer should be prepared to discuss their genesis.



The only criteria is the photos must have been taken in 2023, and each photographer will be given a *minute* to talk about their inspiration for the photos, where they were taken, and any technical info they wish to share. *One minute.*

The photographs should be submitted according to the guidelines at the end of the newsletter. But, please, no baby shots.

A word from the president

Happy Holidays! As this year draws to a close, we should take assessment of what we have accomplished and what we still need to accomplish.

Our membership is increasing each meeting. We are now up to 40 members! This is an amazing rebound from the covid days when our membership dropped significantly. Our Board has done a lot of work to get our name out, advertise our presence, and put out fresh information for people to see and read.

We have some fresh ideas on the table which we hope will be of benefit to the members. These ideas include workshops, meetups, and photo assignments for the monthly member photos. These will be rolled out over the next few months, so be on the lookout for them.

We still have a need for volunteers. We have Board vacancies that need to be filled, specifically Hospitality, Exhibits, and Master Communicator. We always enjoy showing our work to the community. However, finding places is a challenge and requires someone who is not performing other Board functions to handle.

One of my personal challenges is to find a way to bring our meetings into the homes of members who cannot come to our meetings. Members have asked

me if it is possible. This will require the Senior Center to increase their wifi bandwidth, as it's not sufficient to Zoom meetings from the Oak Room. I will be speaking to the Senior Center staff about that.

In closing I want to thank the membership for your support and enthusiasm. May you all have a safe and joyous holiday season.

Philip Venable, President

Email: philven@pacbell.net

Phone: 707-689-3092

Field trips and workshops

Kuehne

Lance Kuehne's workshops for the winter are now available @ <https://www.lancekuehne.com>.



Lance is an outstanding photographer and instructor from Petaluma who offers reasonably-priced workshops, many locally.

The Image Flow Photography Center

In San Anselmo is a wonderful resource for photographers offering everything from printing and scanning services to classes and workshops.

<https://theimageflow.com>

Check it out.

Events

Photo Finale Napa Valley Mustard Celebration



1. Event location: Jessup Cellars Gallery – Yountville, CA
2. Event date: Friday, March 1, 2024 to Sunday, March 31, 2024
3. Opening event reception: Saturday, March 2, 2024 - 5:30pm to 7:00pm
4. Three photographic categories: Landscape - Pets / Animals - Innovative

5. Category ribbon award winners announced at opening reception, March 2, 2024

6. Closing event reception: Saturday, March 30, 2024. - 5:30pm to 7:00pm

7. Peoples Choice award announced at closing event, March 30, 2024

8. Photography applications accepted: November 1, 2023 to February 3, 2024

9. Delivery date: Thursday, February 22, 2024 – 11am to 4pm

10. Entry submission: <http://www.photo-finale2024-napavalleymustardcelebration.artcall.org>

Questions - email: photofinale.nvmc@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.photo-finale.com>

Phone/Text: (707) 225-1565

MJ Schaer Founder/Director



NVPS Christmas party

Our annual X-mas party is Saturday, December 16 @ 5:00-9:00pm @ the Napa Senior Center, 1500 Jefferson St. in Napa.

Contact Phil Venable (or Nancy Hernandez), if you plan to attend, and specify the number of people in your party and what dish(es) you will bring.

philven@pacbell.net

The club will provide the meat; and we ask that all attendees bring a side dish, dessert, or salad plus a bottle of wine to the party. Additionally, we will have our annual raffle. So, for those of you who wish to contribute a raffle item, it would be much appreciated. And bring money to purchase raffle tickets!



Betty Malmgren photo

Last year's X-mas party was a fine success. It's a great chance to meet new members and get to know

existing members in a cheery gluten-free holiday setting. See you on the 16th.

Fotoclave 2024

A three-day photography show at the Walnut Creek Marriott with a variety of national photographers presenting keynote talks and workshops.

February 17-19

<https://fotoclave.slickpic.com>

Member news

The crane bags a second place

NVPS member Dean Busquaert won second place at the Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival. See his award-winning photo in the *Featured photographer* section below.

Dean:

I was very fortunate to receive a 2nd place award in the photography category of the Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival. *The Hunter* shows the Sandhill Crane hunting for a meal during the day. The ankle-deep water shows a reflection of the lower very long leg.

At night hundreds of cranes retreat to their roosting shallow water of the delta near Lodi, California. The water acts as protection against predators, as the water alerts the cranes to hear them coming.

The Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival Organization promotes the awareness and understanding of the magnificent Sandhill Cranes that have been wintering in the California Delta for thousands of years. Those who have never attended, do so. You'll be amazed by these fascinating birds and to see the art, events, educational speakers, wildlife organizations of the festival.

Birding photo ops

If you're interested in birding, send Gary Sampson your favorite places to go nearby. He is compiling a list to be send out to those interested.

napsongary@att.net

Schaer exhibit

The Eye Specialists of Napa Valley hosted a reception Nov. 17 for NVPS member MJ Schaer's new exhibit there. NVPS members and others attended. *Insightful* is the theme of the exhibit which features a wide variety of his work. A focus is on nature shots. The office is located at 800 Trancas St., Napa. The exhibit ends January 5.

Birthday

To the NVPS:

Happy Birthday 2023

A quarter century of fine photography!

Articles

Flowers ©2023 Joseph T. Sinclair

Flowers are easy to shoot and look delightful. Flower photos can spice up a slide show or refreshingly punctuate an exhibit. They're delicious as standalone works of art too.



Rule 1

The first rule of photographing flowers is: use a tripod. Unfortunately, most of us don't want to carry a tripod. We find flower photo-ops while engaged in activities other than specifically photographing flowers. Thus, you can scratch the first rule.

Rule 2

The second rule is: use a macro lens. Since most of us don't have a macro lens, you can scratch the second rule too.

Rule 3

The third rule is to use a high f-stop (e.g., f 22) to get a good depth of field. To fill your frame with a flower, you have to get close up. You're a macro photographer. Without paying attention to depth of field, you might take a photo with parts of the flower in focus and the remainder out of focus.



The third rule raises a problem, of course, in that with a high f-stop, you may need to use a low shutter speed if the light is not strong. A low shutter speed raises its own problems. First, you are hand-holding the camera making it susceptible to your natural shakiness. Second, if there is any wind at all, the

flower may sway in the breeze. Also, it's not unusual to see bugs (e.g., bees) on flowers. Bugs move. You will need a reasonably high shutter speed to stop the action. These factors may affect the sharpness of your photo.

Using a high ISO shot may not be a viable solution. Flowers look their best when sharp and not grainy. A high ISO may give you a grainy shot or one with undesired noise.

Another problem is that flowers may look their best on a lightly overcast day that provides the diffused light necessary to bring out the greatest color saturation. Such days, however, do not provide the strongest light. Sunny days provide the strongest light to accommodate high f-stop settings, but such light may washout the color in a part of the flower. Where inadequate lighting is a problem, you might want to try a fill-in flash.

Accordingly, the third rule becomes: Pay attention to your settings. Using your camera on auto may not work well.

If you *focus stack* (beyond the scope of this article) to get the greatest depth of field, your f-stop should be at the optimum for your lens (typically f8).

Rule 4

When taking a shot of a field or clump of flowers, particularly small flowers, be conscious that the result

may be a colorful blob in your photograph. A better practice is to show as much individuality as possible to each flower. It's often difficult to do, but it's usually worth the effort.



Rule 5

The fifth rule is: put yourself on a steady footing. Standing and bending over until your elbows touch your knees to take a flower shot not only makes you shaky but limits the time you can spend adjusting for the shot, particularly if you don't do yoga every day. The best technique is to sit down while shooting. To kneel down is second best. If the flowers are at a high level, lean against something solid, such as a tree if

possible. Shooting while standing upright isn't too bad; pull in your elbows tight and hold your breath.

It is imperative that you turn on the image stabilization (IS) in your digital camera or lens. That will give you a 3-stop advantage that you may need to get sharp shots.

Rule 6

The sixth rule is: pay attention to composition. Particularly pay attention to what's in focus. What's in the background is important too. Perhaps most important are neighboring flowers. You will probably want to have all other flowers except the subject be out of focus. Neighboring flowers that are half in focus may be distracting.

The angle of a shot is also important. If your shots are taken from a 45° angle (standing up), they may look like tourist shots. Position yourself to take photos from an interesting angle. Get on your stomach and take a shot.



Rule 7

The seventh rule is: be aware of the lens. A wide-angle lens requires that you get very close to the subject, but it will give you a greater depth of field. A telephoto lens enables you to photograph from further away (and may save strain on your poor aching body) but will give you a narrow depth of field.

Rule 8

The eighth rule is: Don't despair. You can get great flower shots, but expert flower photographers can often get better flower photographs than you. They go out into the field with reflector panels, diffusion panels, color background panels, diffusion tents, tripods, macro lenses, artificial lighting, and the like. I talked with one professional flower photographer who told me that he spends as much as two-and-a-half hours photographing one flower. If you spend one sixtieth as much time (two-and-a-half minutes), you will likely do well.



Of course, if you specifically go out to shoot flowers, you will want to revisit Rules 1 and 2. In addition, you may want to use some of the equipment mentioned in Rule 8.

Featured photographer

Dean Busqarert



AI generated images of fermenting grapes



Picture Rock National Seashore – Upper Pennisula Michigan



Upper Peninsula Michigan peak color near Picture Rock National Lakeshore



Bryce Canyon National Park - Hoodoos



**Nine Cranes Talking – panorama mounted on canvas painted
using paint created from earth pigments**



The Hunter – second place at Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival



Making paint from Napa Valley soil



**Photo of abstract painting 20 x 20 inch canvas showing 25 4-inch squares
using paint created from Napa Valley soils**

Officers & staff

Elected Board members

President - Phil Venable

Vice president - Terry Smith

Secretary - George Bartolome

Membership Secretary – Nancy Hernandez

Treasurer - Gary Sampson

Appointed board members & chairs

Member-at-large - Lanny Johnson

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, Ann Seronello,
Geoff Hansen)

Workshops - Phil Venable

Publicity - Zach Berkowitz

Zoom coordinators - Roland Dumas, Phil Venable
Digital projectionist - Angie Johnson (Roland Dumas,
Peter Guenther, Phil Venable)
Facebook posting - Karen Noyes
Fundraiser chair – open



Head photo: Farmer's Sidekick ©2023 Joseph T. Sinclair.

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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 1920 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 1920 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: HEAD PHOTO (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

Announce of field trips and workshops should include all information including 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 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 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.

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 membership-written articles given preference.

Equipment

Equipment for sale or giveaway can be listed here for one newsletter issue. Provide full information.

Photos for newsletter

Photos submitted for the newsletter should be: no more than 1920 pixels on the longest side. 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 non-member photos.

Send the photo file *attached* (not *embedded*) to jt@sinclair3.com with the subject-line: PHOTO (in all caps). Due to incompatibilities between Apple and Windows, photos that don't conform to the specs in this paragraph may be unusable and thus required to be sent by ZIP file.

Photo captions

If you want captions for your photos, include them in the photo file name.

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 300 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 SUGGESTION in all caps.

Your editor

Your current newsletter editor is half-deaf with a short-term memory (25 seconds on a good day and getting shorter each month), lives in Vallejo (doesn't know Napa very well), and receives about 400 emails every day. Although the newsletter editor reserves the right to edit submissions, the newsletter editor's job is to *receive* content (information + photos) for the newsletter, not create it. So, please submit publish-ready content according to these guidelines.