

# IN FOCUS



## SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



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[www.sandhillspcclub.org](http://www.sandhillspcclub.org)

December 2024

### **PRESIDENT – CAL RICE**

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A year ago, we elected Bonny Henderson as our president for 2024. She was immediately diagnosed with a severe health condition and we lost her a few months later. Susan Bailey took on responsibilities that no one expects when they accept becoming vice president of an organization. Through these challenges, and several others, SPC has had a good year.



*Cal Rice*

Some highlights are: membership grew by 25%, the Brunch Bunch continues to attract people twice a month to socialize, the competitions are amazing and a few really dedicated members keep the technology infrastructure operating.

What is your SPC New Year's resolution? Will you: lead one outing; volunteer to help on a committee; bring "goodies" for one meeting; be an active competition participant; or, attend a Brunch Bunch to become better acquainted?

I wish each of you a wonderful Holliday Season and a very special New Year.

*Cal Rice*



**Holiday Dinner: December 9<sup>th</sup>**



**Next Meeting: January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

## PROGRAMS – SUSAN BAILEY

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*Susan Bailey*

January 13, 2025 – Mark Buckler: [www.bucklerphoto.com](http://www.bucklerphoto.com)

### Amazing Photo Destinations Series: The Outer Banks of NC *By Mark Buckler*

I decided to base my photography career on the Outer Banks because of the amazing diversity of photography subjects...from



magnificent landscapes to plentiful wildlife. The wildlife photographer can focus on plentiful birds all year (including massive flocks of wintering ducks, geese and swans), wild horses and the highest concentration of black bears in the world. In addition to providing you with 2 decades worth of experience living in this area, I will share some helpful tips for creating more compelling images.



**Brunch Bunch - December 5 & 19**



Mike Sassano

## 2025 Topics Dates/Definitions

**(FEB) Reflections** – Reflection photography is a creative technique that captures the reflected images on a reflective surface. The reflective surface echoes the surrounding scenery. It can be a large setting (such as the ocean) or a small one (such as a raindrop). (3-year limit)

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
1/11/2025	1/18/2025	2/10/2025

**(APRIL) Old Barns/Buildings** - Photograph an old livestock structure or an old home or store. The structure may be dilapidated or just aged. (3-year limit)

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
3/08/2025	3/15/2025	4/14/2025

**(JUNE) M is for....** – The subject of the image should begin with the letter “M.” The title of the image must reflect the “M” name of the subject. (3-year limit)

Entries Open Entries Close Results Event

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
5/10/2025	5/17/2025	6/09/2025

**(AUG) Churches/Graveyards** – Photograph a church, old or new, OR photograph a cemetery. (3-year limit).  
Judge: Debbie Brooks (PPG) Charlotte, NC email: @dbrooks839 (Instagram)

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
7/12/2025	7/19/2025	8/11/2025

**(OCT) The Color Red** – The image must contain a dominant overall color of red or the subject of the image must be red. (3-year limit) Judge: Mary Presson Roberts (Fort Mill, SC)

website: <https://www.themaryphotographer.com>

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
9/13/2025	9/20/2025	10/13/2025

**(DEC) Open** – any subject is acceptable. Color or black & white may be submitted. (3-year limit). Member judged.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
11/08/2025	11/15/2025	12/08/2025

**NOTE:** Mark your calendars with the dates above. Look for email reminders the week before the competition. The link for each competition will be sent to you just before the competition begins.

When you receive the email, please be sure to proceed as follows:

1. **Click on the link**
2. **Complete the form and upload your image**
3. **You must hit the SUBMIT button in order to receive a confirmation that the photo was sent to us.**

Finally, you will receive an acceptance email from us within 24-48 hours after submitting your image. If you don't receive an acceptance email within 48 hours please check your SPAM folder or contact the committee

## 2026 Topics / Dates / Definitions

**(FEB) Doorknobs** – Explore the unique and often overlooked details of doorknobs, revealing their historical and cultural significance. Consider photographing doorknobs in different styles, materials, or locations. Experiment with different angles and perspectives to capture the unique features of doorknobs. Try using a macro lens to get close-ups of intricate details.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
1/10/2026	1/17/2026	2/09/2026

**(APRIL) Color, Color Everywhere** - Celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of color in the world around us. Look for colorful flowers, buildings, or people. Consider photographing colorful markets, festivals, or street performers. Experiment with different white balance settings to capture the true colors of the scene.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
3/07/2026	3/14/2026	4/13/2026

**(JUNE) Trains, Planes & Automobiles** – Photograph the speed and movement of transportation, highlighting their impact on the environment and society. Consider trains speeding through the countryside, planes taking off from airports, or cars driving through city streets. Experiment with different shutter speeds and apertures to capture the movement and energy of transportation. Try using a telephoto lens to get close-ups of vehicles or a wide-angle lens to capture the overall scene.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
5/09/2026	5/16/2026	6/08/2026

**(AUG) Long Exposure** – Create ethereal and dreamlike images by capturing motion over time. Consider photographing waterfalls, city lights, or star trails. Experiment with different shutter speeds and apertures to create different effects. Try using a neutral density filter to reduce the amount of light entering the camera and allow for longer exposures.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
7/11/2026	7/18/2026	8/10/2026

**(OCT) Architecture** – Explore the beauty and history of buildings, from ancient structures to modern skyscrapers. Look for interesting details, such as architectural styles, materials, or historical significance. Consider photographing buildings in different lighting conditions, such as sunrise or sunset, to create dramatic shadows and highlights. Try using a wide-angle lens to capture the overall scene or a telephoto lens to focus on specific details.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
9/12/2026	9/19/2025	10/12/2026

**(DEC) Bugs** – Showcase the beauty and diversity of the insect world. Look for colorful butterflies, buzzing bees, or intricate spider webs. Consider photographing insects in their natural habitats, interacting with flowers or other insects. Try to capture their unique features and behaviors.

Entries Open	Entries Close	Results Event
11/07/2026	11/16/2026	12/07/2026

**NOTE:** Mark your calendars with the dates above. Look for email reminders the week before the competition. The link for each competition will be sent to you just before the competition begins.

When you receive the email, please be sure to proceed as follows:

4. **Click on the link**
  5. **Complete the form and upload your image**
  6. **You must hit the SUBMIT button in order to receive a confirmation that the photo was sent to us.**
- Finally, you will receive an acceptance email from us within 24-48 hours after submitting your image. If you don't receive an acceptance email within 48 hours please check your SPAM folder or contact the committee.

## Competitions, continued:



<https://www.sandhillsphtoclub.org/competitions>

If you are a **new member** and you need help with entering a competition, there are two resources: the Competition Manual is on our website and offers many tips for sizing and other technical specifics; and you are welcome to email us with any questions at [competitions@sandhillsphtoclub.org](mailto:competitions@sandhillsphtoclub.org). We are happy to help!

### **NOTE from Alison:**

**Many of our Committee Chairs could use an extra hand, along with their committees. Think about stepping up and see what you can do to help out, even if it's not every month. It's fun to see what goes on behind the scenes and the help is ALWAYS appreciated.**



## OUTINGS – CINDY MURPHY

We went to Morrow Mountain State Park to photograph fall color, and to the Warhorse Championships in Raeford, and some awesome pictures follow.

In January, we will be making another attempt to photograph "Hounds on the Grounds", as we got rained out last year.

Also, I am hoping to get a group together to go the **Chinese Lantern Festival in Cary**. It will be an evening event and requires purchasing tickets. More details to follow.



### Warhorse Championships in Raeford





Morrow Mountain State Park





Paul Rice

Diane S McCall

Dee Williams

Diane McKay Photography

John Rivers

Paul Rice

Candy Veece

©2024 Susan Bradley

Diane McKay Photography

©2024 Susan Bradley





*Deb Castle*

**SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB  
SPRING FIELD TRIP  
NEW BERN, NC  
APRIL, 2025**

Exact Days and  
Lodging Information  
will be provided in January.



Activities include:

Tryon Palace

Downtown New Bern  
Historical Tour

Garden Tours



# Another SPC Member WINS!!!!

## KGALAGADI SUNRISE JACKALBERRY TREE ON NOSOB RIVERBED TALENT IN FOCUS AWARD

Darryll Benecke



Oct, 2024



SONY ILCA-99M2



Aperture 28/10 ISO 100

Shutter 1/2500 Focal Length 750/10



Congratulations, Darryll

## Membership – Mei Kei McDowell

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Mei Kei McDowell

Hello Friends! As I write this, I get to make a note of how dazzling and magical it was to wake up to a scene of soft, white, glittery crystals of SNOW among our pine needles this morning. What a fun memory to usher in the last month of our eventful 2024 year. Looking into my phone on the way to an appointment just as we passed the Pinehurst No. 2 course showing off its light wintery blanket, I saw images a few of our fellow club members posted of this rare addition to our evergreen landscape and it just made me smile. There are special moments like this that beckon you not to take for granted the changes of seasons and that quite literally bring a little sparkle into our lives.

### **\*MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON POSITION \***

We warmly welcome our fellow member **Mary Bonsall**, who has graciously stepped up to assist our Sandhills Photography Club as the Membership Committee Chairperson position beginning January 1st, 2025. We are grateful for her engagement and already note that she will do a beautiful job next year due to her diligence in carefully considering the tasks and preparing for the role. With the assistance of fellow committee members, the board, and of course our club as a whole, we move forward without a hitch and with happy tidings!

### **\*HOLIDAY PARTY\***

At the time of this article's writing, we have a count of 58 members signed up to attend our annual holiday party. We are looking forward to getting together for a festive outing and celebrating a year full of picture-taking! We know many of our members have traveled near and far this year to amazing and interesting places and we know many have created images by putting together unique photography setups right in their own homes and local landscapes! It will be a fun opportunity to learn more about each other's experiences and, of course, enjoy a meal and drink together before year's end.

### **\*Membership\***

Our Sandhills Photography Club has grown this year to a total of 126 members so far, consisting of 94 individuals, 30 family members, and 2 honorary members!

We are collecting dues for the upcoming 2025 year with the help of **Jack Mathews** as a point of contact. You will receive a membership renewal reminder by the month's end and we look forward to having you rejoin us for another eventful year full of photography workshops, presentations, outings, brunches, competitions, socials, and more!

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## **Membership, continued:**

### **\*Welcome New Members\***

We have had community members reach out to our club via online applications and meeting attendance these last few months, having heard about us for the first time in publications of Pine Straw magazine and the Pilot Newspaper articles and calendar, in social media, and in chats with our own club members. Others in our community seem to find us by searching our club's website at [www.sandhillsphtoclub.org](http://www.sandhillsphtoclub.org) or by finding our club's brochure in local coffee shops and small businesses.

We appreciate each and every one of you who take the time to share the word about our local photography club and look forward to engaging more of our community in our passion for photography!

In the upcoming year, as always, we will continue warmly welcoming our members and guests at the Ball Center of the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens for our general meetings, competitions, and presentations. Continuing our traditions of nurturing "camera-derie" in our Sandhills Photo Club, do not hesitate to reach out to each other and create those connections as we share our love for photography!

### **\*Last Meeting's Attendance\***

At our November meeting, we had 41 members in attendance as well as 2 guests! While about 15 members joined us via Zoom, 26 members joined us in-person at the Sandhills Horticultural Gardens Center, and 2 guests checked in in-person as well.

Offering insight in macro photography, our guest professional photographer Mike Moats was in attendance to share his working experience and thorough knowledge in a presentation titled, "Macro Mentoring & Flower Photography." With Josh Simpson taking on the reins... er, cables... we humbly thank both he and Dennis Snipes for ensuring the ability of our club to create access to such focused information with our Zoom technology and projections. Yet again, we got to participate together in an educational, interactive meeting experience!

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## Membership, continued:

### **\*Membership Directory\***

As we head into the new year, our Membership committee is working together to update our directory to reflect our club's current contacts and engagement. As you renew your memberships, we request contact information and a photograph from each member to update our password-protected Membership Directory. Please look out for reminders from Membership Committee member **Patti Cifelli** toward updating your profile with us. If you have not yet provided your photograph, please forward your selected one to **John German** at [website@sandhillsphtoclub.org](mailto:website@sandhillsphtoclub.org) and he will gladly integrate your chosen photo in your profile on our Membership Directory page.

### **A Message from Mei Kei**

I had joined our club in 2023 barely knowing a thing about creating a decent image with a “real” camera and learned quickly that there is much overlap between my profession as an artist — working with paints, brushes, pencils, metal, and clay — to working with a camera! Capturing and creating an image on canvas or screen or photography print involves lots of experience and helpful guidance on technical tasks but it involves too the practice of “seeing” a subject or scene and proceeding to capture that subject or scene in a way that communicates your unique experience of that subject or scene. I have been to outings where fellow photography club members are standing right next to me with our cameras pointed at the same subject and we each capture the same subject in wholly different ways! I could go on. I have enjoyed working with our club so much in the Membership Chairperson position and as a fellow photographer. And while I will be away part-way through this next year, I will still be part of the club and I will continue to enjoy sharing in our love of photography. In the meantime... Happy Holidays and a very Happy New Year to all!

**Mei Kei (“May Kay”) McDowell**

Artist based in North Carolina

Paintings | Drawings | Jewelry | Photography

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### SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025!

- Family Membership- \$75
- Individual Membership - \$55
- Student Membership - \$20

Don't  
FORGET!



There are 2 basic ways to pay your renewal dues:

- Mail a check to:

Sandhills Photo Club  
P O Box 763  
Southern Pines, NC 28388

**Or**

- Pay by Paypal which is a convenience– go to our website [www.SandhillsPhotoClub.org](http://www.SandhillsPhotoClub.org) and (on the homepage) click **MEMBERSHIP**, and then the link **PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES**. The website pages will instruct you.

Any questions, please contact: [membership@sandhillsphotoclub.org](mailto:membership@sandhillsphotoclub.org)



John German

## SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB'S WEBSITE

WWW.SANDHILLSPHOTOCLUB.ORG

### Website Notes for December 2024:

*This month's featured member's website on the club website is **Pam Jensen**. Click her name to view her website or the link to her website on our website homepage.*

### Club Directory

*You may view the club directory at: **Club Directory**. You will need the password from Alison's Upcoming Page sent in conjunction with this newsletter. If you would like to have your photo added to the directory, or change the one in the gallery, just send a favorite to me at **John German**. I will add it to the gallery.*

### Member Galleries

*Members who would like a personal gallery should let me know at **website@sandhillsphotoclub.org**, and I will send an upload link for their use. See the website "Member Galleries" page for instructions on sizing, etc. **This link will continue to work but if you wish to change images, I must delete the old ones. You can upload at will. If you have lost your link, just let me know and I will resend it to you.***

### Member Websites

*If you have a personal website, please let me know and I can provide a link on the "Member's Galleries" page for you. Please view the member's websites & galleries on this tab on the club website.*

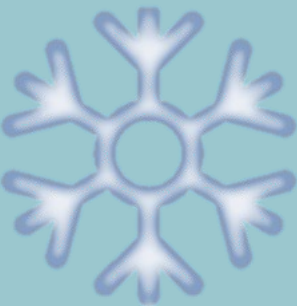
*Thank you,*

*John German*

*PS: Please email any errors that you may notice on the website. I will correct them as soon as possible. **website@sandhillsphotoclub.org***

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER**

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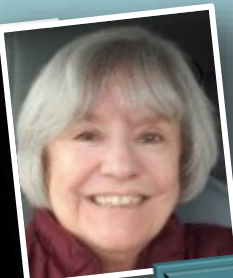


## 2024 SANDHILLS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB BOARD AND CHAIRS

TITLE	NAME	EMAILS
President	Cal Rice	<a href="mailto:president@sandhillsphotoclub.org">president@sandhillsphotoclub.org</a>
Vice President	Susan Bailey	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@sandhillsphotoclub.org">vicepresident@sandhillsphotoclub.org</a>
Secretary	Susan Batts	<a href="mailto:secretary@sandhillsphotoclub.org">secretary@sandhillsphotoclub.org</a>
Treasurer	Frank Lipski	<a href="mailto:treasurer@sandhillsphotoclub.org">treasurer@sandhillsphotoclub.org</a>
Communications	Alison Earl	<a href="mailto:communications@sandhillsphotoclub.org">communications@sandhillsphotoclub.org</a>
Competitions	Mike Sassano	<a href="mailto:competitions@sandhillsphotoclub.org">competitions@sandhillsphotoclub.org</a>
Exhibitions	Vacant	<a href="mailto:exhibitions@sandhillsphotoclub.org">exhibitions@sandhillsphotoclub.org</a>
Field Trips	Deb Castle	<a href="mailto:fieldtrips@sandhillsphotoclub.org">fieldtrips@sandhillsphotoclub.org</a>
Hospitality	Sally Mason	<a href="mailto:hospitality@sandhillsphotoclub.org">hospitality@sandhillsphotoclub.org</a>
Membership	Mei Kei McDowell	<a href="mailto:membership@sandhillsphotoclub.org">membership@sandhillsphotoclub.org</a>
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Ombudsperson	Neva Scheve	<a href="mailto:ombudsperson@sandhillsphotoclub.org">ombudsperson@sandhillsphotoclub.org</a>
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 ideas, submissions  
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*Alison  
Earl*



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