

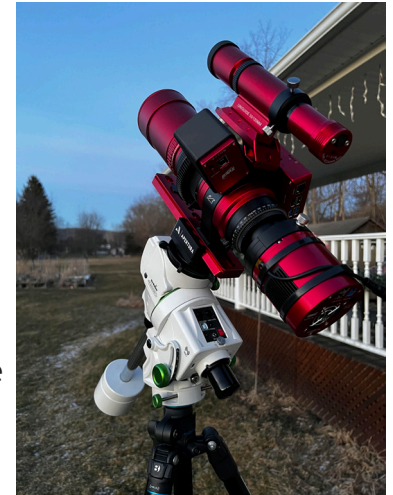
Look to the Stars

The March 11th meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography Club will feature a presentation by club member Casey Volino titled: *An Introduction to Photographing the Cosmos*. The program will be held at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center in Wellsboro, PA and begin at 7 p.m. after a short business meeting.

Casey says, "This talk will focus on getting started in various types of astrophotography, beginning with gear that you may already own." He will address how-tos of landscape, lunar, solar, and deep sky astrophotography.

Casey plans to discuss various levels of equipment needed to overcome some of the challenges that arise when photographing the night sky, concluding with considerations for imaging deep sky objects.

Casey Volino has been into astronomy for over 15 years, but has only delved into astrophotography for the last couple of years. While he doesn't claim to be an expert in all things astrophotography, his intent is to share some of his key learnings to make the process easier for others to start enjoying.



*All Images this page
©Casey Volino*

In This Issue			
President's Message	page 2	Treasurer's Report, Club Reminders	page 5
Meeting Minutes	page 3	Composition Corner	page 6
One Minute Musings	page 4	Programs, Themes	page 7
		Critique Images	pages 7-8



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank everyone who came out for my February program on phone photography. I hope you found it helpful. If you learned one thing you didn't know before, I consider it a success.

Someone asked if I could put a list of the apps I talked about in the newsletter so I thought I'd do that here.

3rd Party Apps for Processing

Snapseed is free and works on both IOS and Android systems. Opening the app you first have to bring a photo in from your device or take a new one with the camera. Then you'll see Looks, Tools, and Export. Looks are like Presets-a starting place. Tools give you an assortment of adjustments. Sliding up and down shows you the list of adjustments you can make. Choose one then swipe right or left to increase or decrease the effect. Choosing the little tent icon gives you another set of presets.

Lightroom Mobile. If you have a Creative Cloud subscription, this is included. There is a free version of this but if you want to access all the features you would need to subscribe for \$10/month. Lightroom Mobile works on both IOS and Android. I love this app for its masking capabilities. You can make selective edits to specific parts of the photo. If you want to start over, you can reset the mask. Click x to delete it or checkmark to keep it. You can of course make global adjustments as well as crop and remove an object.

Lightroom also has a camera which has a lot of settings you can adjust manually including exposure, shutter speed, ISO and white balance. You can choose to shoot in jpg or RAW (DNG).

Long Exposure Apps

Slow Shutter is good if your phone is on a tripod. The gear icon lets you choose the aspect ratio, file format, timer, etc. I believe the cost for the app is \$2.99.

Reeheld lets you get long exposures of up to 30 seconds without a tripod. This app lets you take 10 photos using it for free then there is an annual fee of \$7.99.

Even Longer gives options for FA-frame averaging, LT-light trails, or ST-star trails which is what I've used it for. Even Longer costs \$7.99/yr or one-time life membership of \$34.99.

Creative Apps

Oilbrush turns your photo into an oil painting. There are almost 30 looks to choose from. The free version has limited adjustment options.. The paid version is \$2.49/mo. Or \$18.99/yr.

Alien Sky lets you add moons, stars, alien worlds, nebulas, galaxies, and lens flares. Once an effect is added and placed where you want it, you can edit it. Change the scale, brightness, color, and opacity. You can save to your camera roll as a jpg or png or send it to others. Cost: \$4.99

PhotoPills lets you plan where and when to photograph objects in the night sky like moon, meteor showers, the Milky Way, etc. Cost: \$10.99 one time.

Have fun and keep creating.

Mia



GCPC February 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes

The February meeting of the Grand Canyon Photography club took place at the Gmeiner Art & Cultural Center, and was called to order by President Mia Lisa Anderson. We had a new member in attendance... welcome Michelle! A reminder that club dues are now due and must be paid by the March meeting in order to be able to participate in the club show in June. A motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting was made by Jesse Kendall, seconded by Dennis Stager, and approved by the majority of the membership in attendance. The Treasurer's report was given by Mia in Treasurer Gary's absence. The club has a beginning balance of \$2,880.31 and an ending balance of \$2,952.31. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report by Jesse Kendall, seconded by Paul Bozzo, and approved by the membership in attendance.

There are still some openings to provide refreshments for the monthly meetings. If anyone is interested, please sign-up or contact Mia Lisa.

Our biennial show will be in June, with the opening reception being on June 14, 2025, which we are responsible for. The exhibit will close on July 6, 2025. The Gmeiner is now taking a 25% commission of photo sales. Images must have been taken within the last 5 years and must not have previously been on display in the Gmeiner. Our board will meet and establish guidelines for the show and that information, in addition to the Gmeiner's requirements, will be announced at a later date.

We have only a couple of spots remaining for our venues (Arise Cafe, Deane Center, and Warehouse Theater). John Newell has retired as our coordinator, so if anyone is interested in this position, please contact Mia Lisa. If anyone is interested in the openings, also contact Mia Lisa.

Carrie, the Director of the Gmeiner, has asked for photo donations, which will be sold online in the Art's Friends Auction, with monies going to make improvements in the Gmeiner. More information will follow.

With no other new business, a motion to adjourn the business portion of the meeting was made by Jesse Kendall, seconded by Casey Volino, and approved by the membership in attendance.

*Respectfully submitted,
Tana Carpenter
Recording Secretary*



Taking a Break From Your Camera

I'm known for having my camera with me at all times...how do you get THE photo if you aren't ready for it? Yet, there have been times when I have put the camera on the shelf and ignored it for months. Those times usually resulted from some deep hurt where I didn't have the energy to "create." In those cases, I took the time to heal emotionally first. Those were tough times, and I wouldn't wish them on any of my friends, but I felt that certain things had to come first, and my healing was my priority.

Putting the camera on the shelf at other times is tempting, too. When I'm super busy, it's hard to "see" creatively...and take the time to photograph things. When the weather is miserably cold...or icy...or the light is dull grey for days and weeks at a time, it's also easy to leave the camera tucked away. When your favorite things to photograph are in short supply, it's hard to look for other subjects.

But...as I think about it, I think all of that is okay.

It's easy for photographers to feel pressure to capture every moment. We are storytellers, and it feels like we should capture every moment we can to tell the story of the day.

But creativity flourishes when you give yourself time to rest, observe, and be present. Stepping away allows us to recharge, reflect on our work, and return with fresh inspiration.

Sometimes, the best stories come from simply experiencing life without the lens for a while. Prioritizing our well-being ensures that we stay passionate and avoid burnout for the long term.

Here is a thought to leave you with: Winter is a good time for things to hibernate. Sometimes, we need to do that, too, even if it's without the camera.

Your camera will always be there when you are ready to pick it up again. I hope that's soon....



©Mia Lisa Anderson



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.

The Grand Canyon Photography Club

2025 Officers:

President: Mia Lisa Anderson
Vice President: Missy Volino
Treasurer: Gary Thompson
Recording Secretary:
Tana Carpenter
Corresponding Secretary:
Linda Stager

Directors:

2024-2025:
Brad Adams, John Newell

2025-2026:
Greg Caulkins, Will Slotter

Committee Chairpersons:

Newsletter: Mia Lisa Anderson
Membership: Gary Thompson
Exhibits: Open
Website: Mia Lisa Anderson
Publicity: Linda Stager
For more information, please
contact:
president@gcphotoclub.org

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	\$2,952.31
Cash IN	
2025 Dues	\$0.00
Cash OUT	
Bank Fee	\$3.00
Ending Balance	\$2,949.31
<i>Respectfully Submitted</i>	
<i>Gary Thompson, Treasurer</i>	



©Casey Volino



Grand Canyon
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



The Art of Cropping

Cropping is an essential skill in composing our photos. A well-done crop can enhance the impact of your photo, guiding the viewer's eyes to the most critical elements while eliminating unnecessary space and clutter.

Most of the time, we compose our photos right when we look through the viewfinder and push the shutter button. We are automatically "cropping" our photo right from the beginning.

But it's also essential to be able to crop our photos in post-production.

One primary reason for cropping is to improve composition. If a shot isn't perfectly framed in camera, cropping can help apply "the rule of thirds" or balance the subject more effectively. It's also useful for straightening a horizon or adjusting the aspect ratio to fit specific formats, such as social media or print.

We talked about printing dimensions a little in the January critique. Most traditional cameras take photos in a 2:3 dimension ratio. That ratio translates to print sizes of 4 by 6 inches, 8 by 12 inches, 12 by 18 inches, 16 by 24 inches, etc.

Separately, a cell phone usually takes a photo in a 3:4 dimension ratio. That translates to no print size perfectly...but it's close to 11 by 14 inches.

As an example of this dilemma, if you are printing a photo, your cell phone photo won't perfectly print in 4 by 6-inch size. (Have you ever done that at Walmart? Doesn't work!)

Another thing to think about is that print frames come in standard sizes, so you'll want to print your photo in a size that fits a standard frame. An 8-by-10-inch frame won't hold a photo taken in a 2:3 dimension ratio without cutting off some of the photo to make it fit. To be exact, you'll cut an inch off each end of your photo to make it fit. (By the way, a 4:5 crop dimension fits that size frame perfectly.)

So...cropping is important.

One of my editors just sent me the specs for a new project she wants me to take on for her magazine. Every photo she wanted had to be cropped vertically! Well...I don't usually take photos in a vertical format, so gathering photos for her meant that I was either looking for photos I had originally taken in a vertical format, to begin with, or I was going to have to crop some photos to make them fit her format. Of course, the trick was to find pictures that would crop well and still look good. (By the way, most vertical format photos are cropped in a 3:4 dimension ratio, though we have seen Mia's skillful vertical crops at 2:3 and even 9:16 ratio

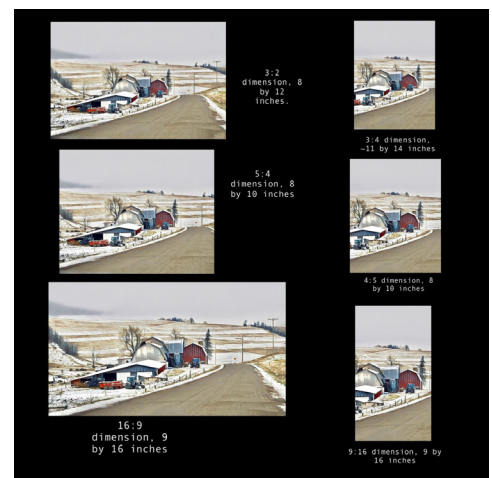
dimensions.)

I know this sounds too mathematical... but let's just say that learning to visualize your original photos in other ways can ultimately lead to a better photo. Consider a vertical crop, cropping out distractions or space that doesn't mean anything to the viewer, and consider frame sizes if you intend to print your photo.

It is important to get comfortable with cropping. It will improve the composition of your photos and make life easier when it comes to framing that print for our upcoming Gmeiner display.

So try it!

(Several members in the club can help you with specific photos you might want to print for our display. Just ask.)





GCPC 2025 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:

March: Linda Stager

April: Brad Adams

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

February: Brad Adams

March: Brad Adams

April: Gary Thompson

The Warehouse Theater: Various Members

The position of exhibit coordinator is currently open. If you are interested in taking it on, please contact Mia.

Programs and Themes:

March 11, 2025: *Night Sky Photography for Beginners* presented by Casey Volino. Critique: Phone Photo.

February Refreshments:

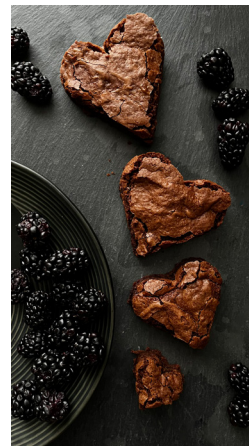
Snack: Tana

Beverage: Brad

Critique Images Using Your Favorite Gear



©Brad Adams



©Mia Lisa Anderson



Grand Canyon
PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The Grand Canyon Photography Club
www.gcphotoclub.org

Critique Images Using Your Favorite Gear



©Paul Bozzo



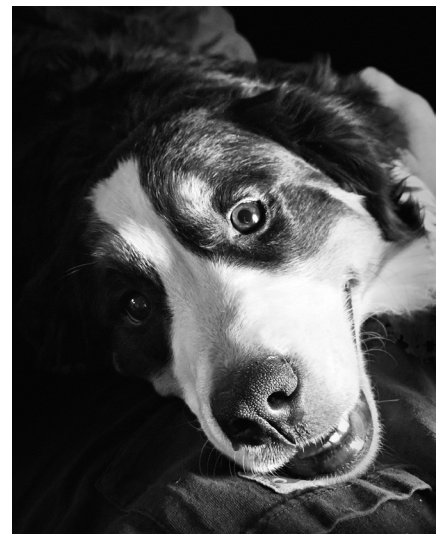
©Bruce Dart



©Jeremiah Lawrence



©Bob Bair



©Michelle Lawrence