



FEBRUARY 2023

Three opportunities to meet every month: in-person and/or on Zoom!

1st Monday of the month is Special Interest Group meetings.

2nd Monday of the month is In-Person meetings.

4th Monday of the month is Zoom meetings.

Program Calendar 2022-2023

- Feb 6 SIG Meeting - Zoom
- Feb 13 Competition – Open.
- Feb 27 Zoom Presentation. John Slonina "Unleashing Your Wildlife Photography"
- Mar 6 SIG Meeting - Zoom
- Mar 13 Interactive meeting: Macro Shoot Out
- Mar 27 Zoom Presentation. Ursula Abresch "Abstract Art Photography"
- Apr 3 SIG Meeting - Zoom
- Apr 10 Competition – Macro
- Apr 24 Interactive meeting: Lightroom workshop with Ansa DuToit

ZOOM Meeting: MONDAY, February 27, 6:30pm by John Slonina

Unleash your Wildlife Photography

This program will provide several techniques on how to take your Wildlife Photography to the next Level. Some examples are demonstrated with before and after photos and video making the viewer feel like there are right there onsite. We will also discuss how to get great DOF, Shutter Speed and compositions to make your photos stand out. This program will help you understand the light and use it to your advantage. What equipment to buy and how to use it this includes tripods, ballheads, gimbal heads, and long lenses. We also discuss blinds and window mounts. Planning is critical in wildlife photography. We discuss how to find the best places at the right time of year. We give techniques on how to get closer, how to photograph birds in flight and common mistakes. It is important to understand animal behavior, biology, and ethics.



You are invited to a Zoom meeting. When: Feb 27, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvc-6grDsiH9SVajEDX9tFeZkmDpEXQ9vj>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

About John Slonina:

John Slonina is an award winning professional nature photographer, tour leader and writer devoted to the conservation of wild places and wild things. My goal is to portray natural events



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SIG Meeting - February 2023

February 6 – SIG Meeting

Please join us here at 6:30PM for our monthly meeting of our Special Interest Groups on Zoom. We will break up into groups to discuss special areas of interest. Special Interest Groups include such photographic topics as: Landscape, People, Abstract and Nature.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
When: Feb 6, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/91512900603>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

OCC February Competition - OPEN In Person and Zoom Feb. 13 - 6:30

Submissions for the February competition are open from 1/10/2023 until Friday 2/3/2023 at 8 pm.



You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
When: Feb 13, 2023 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/91512900603>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

John Slonina continued



through elegant nature photographs and writings. My work has been published in multiple books, calendars, post cards etc. My photographs are in private collections and galleries throughout the world.

My photographs are designed to show the phenomenal beauty of nature in a dramatic artistic way. Incredible things happen every second, but are often unnoticed. I like to document natural events such as behaviors, life cycles, and the habitats needed for survival.

My understanding of the natural world stems from a childhood rich in outdoor adventures. I grew up exploring the New England landscape seeking out wild places, wildlife and adventures. I have been photographing nature, birding, kayaking, hiking, and observing wildlife for over 30 years.

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





COMPETITION THEMES 2022 - 2023

BI-MONTHLY COMPETITIONS

Dec 2022	Night Photography
Feb 2023	Open
Apr 2023	Macro
June 2023	Long Exposure
Aug 2023	Open

INFORMAL CHALLENGES

Jan 2022	Circles
Mar 2023	Emotion
May 2023	Butterflies
July 2023	Rust & Cars/Trucks



We're Back and We're Live!



Member Social Media

Reminder: We have two places online for members to post their photos, comments, sell their gear, buy new gear and stay in touch with the Club. These are in addition to our website www.orlandocameraclub.com.

Facebook – our Group page is Orlando Camera Club, open for members only to post photos, sell/ buy gear and see what other members are doing. We also post club events on this Facebook Page.



Flickr – our Group is Orlando Camera Club, open for members only to post photos, blog discussions and show your work to the 110+ million Flickr members. If you are an Orlando Camera Club member, you can join both of these sites by simply asking. We invite you to join us on the web and show your work to the world

We Are Introducing a New Experience!

2 DAY CONFERENCE TICKET

The 2 Day Conference Ticket includes daily Keynote Sessions, Photo Ops, Morning and Afternoon Photo Walks, Exhibitors and Demos, On Campus Continental Breakfast, and On Campus Boxed Lunch

IN FIELD WORKSHOP ADVENTURES

Embark on an adventure with one of our In Field Workshops! Experiences include local destinations and fabulous speakers! [Click Here to Learn More About these Add-On Experiences!](#)

HANDS ON CLASSROOM WORKSHOPS

This year's in class workshops are all about getting hands on! With a variety of topics to choose from, there is something for every photographer! [Click Here to Learn More About These Add-On Experiences!](#)





We're Back and We're Live!

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

MAXIS GAMEZ

National Geographic published photographer Maxis Gamez will take you on a Keynote-like no other. Mr. Gamez will take us on a learning journey opening the opportunity to not only learn award-winning techniques but to also learn from others.



Got questions?? Microphones will be given to those interested in asking Pro Bird Photographer and teacher Maxis Gamez. Mr. Gamez wants your participation!

Keynote discussion topics include:

- Finding Inspiration.
 - Avoiding some of the biggest issues bird photographers face today
 - Why you should try to crop less
 - And much more.
- We hope you'll attend this one-of-a-kind keynote and learn from the very best in the industry.

Website: <https://www.gvisions.org/>

LARRY RICHARDSON

As photographers, our pictures are the means by which we tell our stories- to ourselves, each other, and the world. Good stories stick with you, become memories not easily forgotten. Stories go far beyond facts and explanations; they trigger emotions, empathy, and truth. More than anything else, they connect us to each other. Let Larry Richardson bring stories to you through his images. His experiences will speak to your heart and soul.



Our coastal environments are made up of thousands of acres of mangroves, estuaries, beaches, and alluring surf; a collection of the "Inanimate" and the "Breathing." If you live in Florida, there is a coastline near you. They are an international playground for anyone who enjoys the great outdoors. For photographers and scientists, they offer a wonderland of exploration, a place where you can find both beauty and purpose in every shot. Our coastlines are everyone's canvas on which we realize incredible landscapes and intimate life. Where we can testify to the interplay of fish and wildlife, and dynamic sunrises and sunsets- often from the same vantage point. Where we can find art inseparable from Nature. Larry W. Richardson has photographed this paradise for over 30 years,

[Click Here to Access the FCCC YouTube Channel!](#)

Larry W. Richardson has been a professional nature photographer for over 40 years; as long as he has been a wildlife biologist. He has endeavored in both careers throughout his life. Having retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2015, working on the Florida Panther and Ten Thousand Islands Refuges, he now devotes much of his time to photography, speaking engagements and consulting. He worked as the Naples Zoo staff photographer for almost 20 years. He also was appointed as the President of the North American Nature Photography Association.



THROUGH MY LENS

Renewing Creativity

By Deborah Seaman, OCC President

The beginning of the year is a time of reflection and renewal. We make resolutions and break them; we question our work and our passions. If you are a member of the Orlando Camera Club, then I'm sure one of your passions is photography. For me, it's my happy place. And if you are like me, you probably have questioned your creativity. We all go through highs and lows when it comes to being inspired, but how can we jump start ourselves into becoming more innovative?

"An essential aspect of creativity is not being afraid to fail."
Edwin Land

In other words, don't wait for perfection to hit you. Don't wait for the perfect moment to start. Start now and have fun. Creativity begins with imperfection. And a lot of humor.

Here are some simple suggestions to try:

1. Start an idea journal
2. Try looking at your subject from a different point of view.
3. Experiment with different shutter speeds and apertures.
4. Learn something new about your camera or gear.
5. Try a different area or type of post processing.
6. Share what you know and learn from others.
7. Seek out and accept criticism with an open mind.
8. Shoot something every day if possible.
9. Publish every day.
10. Remember photography is your happy place, relax.

Happy shooting.

SHOULD YOU TRAVEL IN THE WINTER?



View from our lodge in Tetons NP



Goblin Valley SP

When you start to plan a photo tour or workshop, do you usually think of spring or fall? But, what about a trip in January when the crowds are small, the hotel prices are a bargain and for me, I get to experience a season like no other.

A past January I went on a photo trip to The Grand Tetons. This past January, I did a trip to Utah to visit Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. The temperatures were between 30 and 50 degrees. It was comfortable as long as you dressed in layers. The base location for this trip was Moab, Utah. Many of the National Parks now have a reservation system between April and October due to the crowds.



Mesa Arch - Canyonlands NP

We had a small group of 8 photographers. Staying in one location for the whole time made it easy to go out each day and be flexible depending on the light. Our shooting locations included; Arches National Park, Canyonlands NP, Goblin Valley SP, Dead Horse Point SP, Fisher Towers, Wilson Arch and finally a touristy spot called Hole 'N the Rock with a bizarre collection of objects including a house carved out of the sandstone rock. it's worth a quick stop.

Not everything is open in the winter but there were plenty of open restaurants and coffee shops. Although many of the souvenir shops were closed, the visitor centers in the parks were open. Personally, I like to support the parks by purchasing a few mementoes there. So try a winter photo trip, you won't regret it.

Kathy Bargar



FIELD TRIP
Friday, February 17th, 10:30 am:
Southern Hill Farms, Clermont



GREETINGS OCCers!!

For our February Pop-Up Field Trip, we are heading to SOUTHERN HILL FARMS a little south of Clermont in Lake County. We will be able to not only pick strawberries but shoot them, too....and the same with the sunflowers. There is a myriad of other things to shoot at the farm, I don't think you'll be disappointed.

After our shoot, we'll meet at the Cafe on the property and share a treat and a chat!

- WHERE:** SOUTHERN HILL FARMS
16651 Schofield Road, Clermont, FL 34714
- WHEN:** Friday, February 17, 2023
- TIME:** 10:30...they open at 11:00 (it is best to get there early) Part of the road is a dirt road, so don't plan to come in your sports car. :o)
- WHAT:** They are a CASHLESS VENUE, debit and credit cards only.
- COST:** Parking and entry are FREE....however, there is a small fee for picking strawberries and sunflowers. The "Flower Field Pass" is \$6.00 & includes one complimentary sunflower. It is \$2.00 for each additional stem. You pay by weight for strawberries.
- WEATHER:** APPROX. 60/79 degrees...sounds good to me!

Please RSVP to: fieldtrips@orlandocameraclub.com

**Central Florida Dragon Parade
(February 5, 2023)**

The largest Lunar New Year celebration in Orlando occurs during Central Florida Dragon Parade. The event offers a traditional take on the Chinese New Year celebration. It features lion dances, Chinese food, live music, firecrackers, and family-friendly crafts. The parade starts at the corner of Lake Highland Dr and N. Mills Ave, then it turns at N. Thornton Ave, heads south, and ends at N. Thornton Ave and Colonial Drive.

The Multicultural Festival, which follows the parade, is held in Orlando's Mills 50 district. One of Central Florida's signature events brings together a few cultures of East Asia. The festivities include martial arts, taiko drummers, dragon and lion dances as well as authentic food vendors.



February 3 - 4, 2023

Once again, we will bring the annual balloon festival to the The Villages® Polo Club for our area residents and the surrounding community. We are currently working to arrange musicians, food vendors, arts & crafts, and plenty of FREE activities for everyone to enjoy while attending. Don't miss this exciting event coming in February 2023!



Dear Community Partner,

Since 2001, the Orlando Wetlands Festival has promoted community awareness of the Orlando Wetlands Park and the importance of Florida's ecological and water resources. Would you please help us get the word out about this free event for all ages that's full of outdoor fun and learning?

The **Orlando Wetlands Festival** will be on **Saturday, February 18th, 2023 from 9 am - 3 pm** at the Orlando Wetlands Park **25155 Wheeler Road, Christmas, FL 32709.**

The Festival will include:

- Environmental themed, non-profit exhibitors
- Demonstration trucks and equipment
- Air-conditioned guided bus tours of the Orlando Wetlands Park
- Guided birding hikes led by Orange Audubon Society
- Guided photography, Native Plant ID, and Aquatic Critter Crawl hikes
- Live animals and presentations
- Native plant give-away
- Bird-banding and mist-netting demonstrations
- Kids' games and activities
- "Hay" rides
- Live music by Homer Stiles
- Food available for purchase
- Free door prizes!

Admission is free and all ages are welcome, but please leave your pets at home - there are wild animals at the Park. For more information, registration and event reminders visit:

Webpage: Orlando.gov/WetlandsFestival
Eventbrite: Orlando-Wetlands-Festival.eventbrite.com

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Wharton-Smith, Inc. Construction Group, City of Orlando, Ardaman and Associates, Inc. Geotechnical Engineering, CPH Architecture and Engineering, Kiewit Corporation, Orange Audubon Society, Tetra-Tech Consulting and Engineering





FLORIDA'S BIRDING & PHOTO FEST

The 2023 Florida's Birding and Photo Fest dates are April 19-23, 2023!
Registration will open February 1, 2023.

2023 Florida's Birding & Photo Fest



127 S. BOYD STREET
WINTER GARDEN, FL 34787



Join Us April 19-23, 2023 for more than 110 exciting photography & birding events with field workshops that include photographing birds of prey, birds in flight, horses on the beach, creative processes, historic architecture, portraits, flash, macro and classic cars in-studio. We also offer classroom seminars including Photoshop & Lightroom, composition, processing, printing, composition, and flash techniques for beginning to advanced photographers.

Above Photo: Marina Scarr, Barred Owlet Antics, First Place 2022 Legacy Contest

FEBRUARY-MARCH at SOBO "Art in Motion"

2D & 3D Artwork that celebrates movement and motion. From sports and exercise to concepts like energy, fluidity and mechanics. This theme has a broad range!

Opening Reception February 2nd 5:30-8pm

APRIL-MAY at SOBO "Top Choice Annual Awards Exhibition"

SOBO's Annual Awards Exhibition. Open to all types of artistic entries. We are looking for your best 2D & 3D Works. Awards: Best of Show, People's Choice, Curator's Choice, and Multiple Medium Category Winners.

Opening Reception April 6th 5:30-8pm



Club Members: Use this link when ordering to support our club.

<https://www.thinktankphoto.com/pages/camera-club/?fsn=140504.1cb666>



OCC COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer Opportunities

The Orlando Camera Club believes in giving back to the community by donating its time and talents to non/not for profit organizations in need of photography services.

If you are interested in volunteering or have questions please email the community services chairperson at communityservice@orlandocameraclub.com

**THANK YOU
TO COMMUNITY SERVICE
VOLUNTEERS**

REQUEST FOR HELP

I have a request for photo help for the Coalition for the Homeless annual Hearts of Gold Event.

IT takes place on Saturday, February 18th. It will be held at the Orlando Major private Hanger at the Executive Airport.

They are looking for 2-3 photographers to help. The time will be from 6-10 p.m.

Flash is helpful in this venue. They expect about 500 attendees. IT will be a cocktail stye event with a 90s theme.

If anyone is interested/available please let me know and I can get you additional information.

Thanks in advance

2023 Girl Scout 5K

Thank you to **Tish Hart, Christine Otu and Majonka Herlikofer** for braving the cold weather and taking photos for the Girl Scout 5k race. Looks like it was a great time in spite of the temperature.



F3C COMPETITIONS

Florda Camera Club Council Triannual Competition Schedule



Monday, January 2nd, 2023 through Tuesday, January 31st, 2023
2023 1st Triannual - Digital: Accepting Submissions

Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 through Friday, February 10th, 2023
2023 1st Triannual - Digital: Judging

Saturday, February 11th, 2023
2023 1st Triannual - Digital: Winner Announcements



7 Tips for Shooting Silhouettes

© 2018 ~ Jeff Parker / ExploreinFocus.com

1) Find a bright background.

For silhouette shots, the background needs to be brighter than your subject. The sky & bodies of water tend to offer good ops for that. When shooting your subject against the sky you need to be lower than your subject so the horizon doesn't merge with it (see Tip #5).

2) Make it dramatic.

In post-processing, enhance saturation, heighten contrast, & fashion a fully black silhouette by deepening darks.

3) Lower that ISO.

By definition, a silhouette shot consist of many dark shadows. You don't want those shadows full of noise so keep that ISO as low as possible to keep that from happening.

4) Use a fast shutter & large aperture.

You want your subject's edges crisp so set your shutter to avoid any motion blur. A large aperture works well because depth-of-field isn't an issue since silhouettes lack detail.

5) Seek separation.

Probably the most important factor for silhouettes is separation. It may seem obvious, but I often see folks overlook this key element. Objects that "touch" your subject will merge with it. Space between body parts or background elements is essential.

6) Expose in the middle.

Generally, you'll set exposure smack dab in the middle as measured by your camera's meter. If the sun is part of the image it will be blown out & that's okay. Otherwise, don't blow out the highlights. And when it comes to those darks we WANT them underexposed.

7) Try B&W conversion.

If your background lacks interest or cool-looking color, convert the image to B&W & see what you get. You might go from "eh" to "ah!"



Award-winning naturalist photographer, Jeff Parker, leads friendly & informative photo tours & workshops focused on the flora & fauna of North, Central, & South America – & now India, too!

Call (512) 378-3355 ~ or ~
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competitions.

