

# Pocono Photo Club



Photo by Ann LeFevre

January 2021

## 2021 Executive Committee Members Announced:

Ann LeFevre– Pres.  
Carrie Strohl– 1st VP  
Sam Prynda– 2nd VP  
Bill Keenan– Sec.  
Dick Ludwig– Treas.  
Bob Hare– Web Mstr.

## PPC Reaches for the Stars in January 2021!



Photo by Kevin Furst

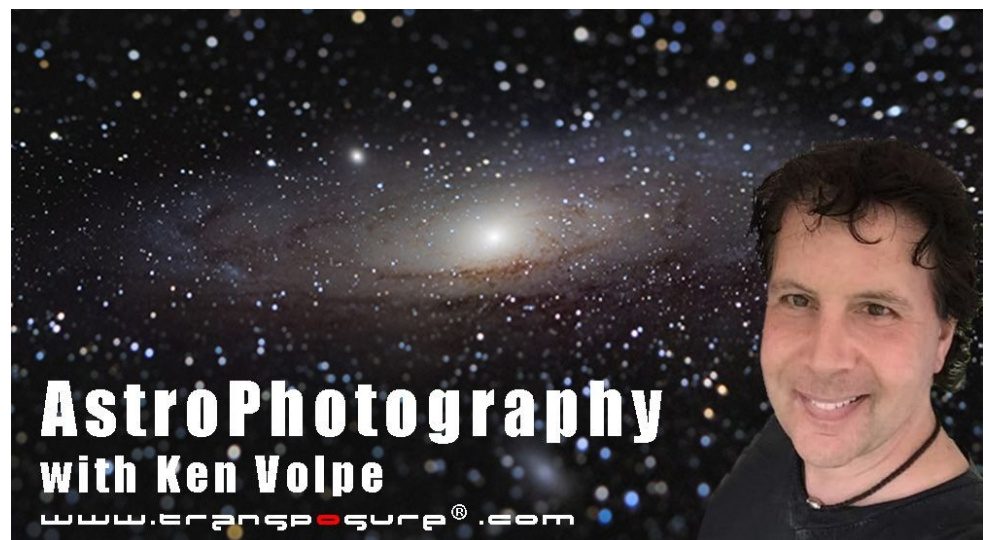
Our January meeting will start the year off in the night sky with one of our favorite speakers, Ken Volpe. Ken's presentation will feature a beginner's guide to astrophotography using a DSLR or Mirrorless camera and standard camera lenses. Astrophotography includes both near and far extra-terrestrial objects with the respective shooting tools and techniques varying widely.

We will break down the differences and discuss these tools and techniques to achieve great captures of the night sky and all of its dramatic beauty. We will also discuss best practices, locations and circumstance to start collecting images of the heavens!

Please note: We will not be covering the specific use of telescopes.

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## Virtual Shoot Out ~ Holiday Lights



*Gear is good.*

*Vision is better.*

*David DuChemin*



*Our Virtual Shoot Out featured holidays lights this month. Why not? They were all over the place! Photos contributed by our members included all kinds of holiday cheer. Photos on page 2 (clockwise L to R): Connie Reinhart, Eric Goins, John Anzivino, Lorraine Perez, Ray Roper, Kathie Baker, and Ann LeFevre*

## New Feature: The Shooting “Star”



*Photo by Kathie Baker*

The Pocono Photo Club hosts various Shoot Outs and Workshops to get members out of their comfort zones, learn or improve upon particular skills and interact with fellow club members. Shoot Outs are informal “meet-ups” and usually are of no cost or very low cost to our members. They are also a great place to socialize! We’ve adapted our Shoot Outs to the current need for space to comfortably meet with one another and so far all our meet ups have been quite successful. Our Virtual

Shoot Outs are popular too and although we don’t get to meet and converse when we participate in them, we still can see all the creative approaches to our monthly theme when we review those shots at our monthly meeting.

This year we’re introducing a way to highlight a single photo from one of our monthly shoot outs that stands out from the rest (well, at least in Ann’s opinion it does!). This month our Shooting “Star” was taken by Kathie Baker at Skytop Lodge. Her pic-

ture of the Santa sleigh displayed on the historic hotel’s front lawn captures both the youthful holiday spirit and nostalgic atmosphere of Christmas which was brought out by the magical decorations featured around the hotel grounds.

You’ll be able to see all the Shoot Out images, both virtual and physical during our monthly meeting on January 18th and on our website after that. Thanks Kathie for sharing your beautiful photo with us!

## Shoot Out ~ Main Street, Stroudsburg

January 2021



Thanks to a tip from our good friend Dave Butler of Stroud Foto, members of the club met up in Stroudsburg on December 12th to photograph the light display designed by Netflix and other holiday sights decorating the town. Here are some of the scenes we captured.



Top four photos by (clockwise L to R): June Pepe, Lois Zini, Susan Field and Jim Rowcliffe



*Vision is the  
unique way you  
see the world.  
Your vision is a  
collection of  
your life  
experiences.*  
**John Barclay**



Photos in middle row by (L to R): Ann LeFevre, Sam Prynda, and Dave Trainer.



Candace Roper

Photos in bottom row by (L to R): Ray Roper, John Anzivino, and Candace Roper.

## Photographer of the Month ~ Kevin Furst

Kevin Furst kicks off 2021 as our first Photographer of the Month. Kevin is a landscape and nature photographer who has a passion for exploring the outdoors. On any given day, you can find him knee deep in a cool mountain stream capturing waterfalls, kayaking along the banks of a lake looking for wildlife, or camping under the stars. Kevin is most at home when he is completely immersed in nature with his camera at the ready. He has had an interest in photography since he was in middle school when his grandparents got him a 10 year subscription for National Geographic Magazine. He picked up his first film camera shortly after, joined the high school photo club, and began developing his images in the darkroom. It was not until college that he made the transition from film to digital and combined his love for the outdoors with his love for photography. Throughout college, he explored various camera systems when he became the campus photography studio and darkroom technician. Sony quickly became his system of choice because the lenses from his Minolta film camera fit the Sony Alpha bodies. Today he shoots with the Sony A7r III and Sigma Arts lenses. Kevin's photography bucket list includes exploring more of our National Parks (Yosemite, Acadia, Smoky Mountains, Yellowstone, and Arches), the Palouse, Pacific Northwest, and the Adirondacks. We asked Kevin to share his responses to some of our most commonly asked questions and here's what he had to say:

### What is your favorite genre and subject matter?

My two favorite genres are landscape and nature photography.

### What do you enjoy most about photography?

I love the ability to share my love for nature and the outdoors with others. Photography is also a great way to relax and have some "me" time.

### Do you have a favorite picture? If so why?

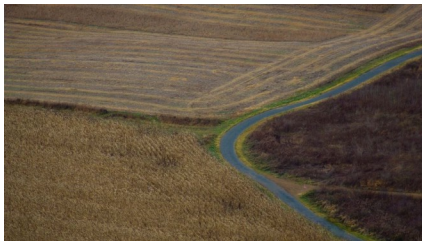
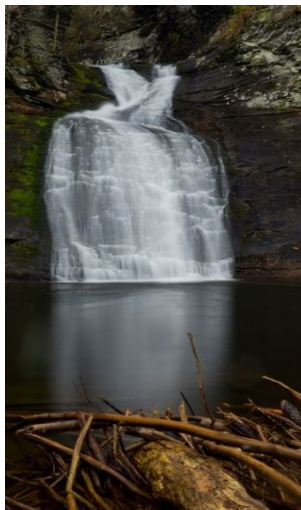
My favorite photos are a series of waterfall pictures that I took in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (Toms Creek, Hornbecks Creek, Adams Creek) because they were taken over the course of several awesome days which I spent with a good friend who is also a photographer. We were out before sunrise, stopped for coffee and breakfast, packed a lunch, and stayed out until sunset. They may not be the best photos I've ever taken but the experience of sharing that time with a good friend and fellow photographer is what makes them my favorite photos.

### Do you have a favorite spot you like to photograph?

My favorite local spots to photograph are in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bear Creek Preserve, and the Pinchot State Forest - I love being able to see and explore the woods, streams, fields and mountains all in one trip.

### Photographic Goals:

I'm always looking for ways to improve my photography through workshops and shadowing other photographers. I want to explore macro photography and black and white photography more.



To see more of Kevin's amazing nature photography visit his POTM album on our website.

# Start the New Year with a Healthy Dose of Inspiration

## SWITCH UP THE RULES ~ JOHN BARCLAY

Look, I get it. There are compositional choices that seem to work better than others and thus I suppose this is why they have become rules. It's just that I'm not a fan of rules. Instead, I prefer to compose with what feels right. Ultimately, the only thing that really matters is, do I like it? Does it work for me with what I'm trying to say? I know, I know, I can hear you now, "but you need to learn the rules to know how to break them!" Huh? Why? Once again, compose your images in a way that feels right to you. It may just turn out that your image fits into the "rule of thirds" but let that happen naturally. Don't start by saying, I must compose this image with the rule of thirds. Or it must have a foreground, middle ground and background to be successful. Or don't cut the frame in half! Or don't put the subject in the middle! Good grief, NOT IN THE MIDDLE!!! According to whom? Consider this quote from Edward Weston. "Consulting the rules of composition before taking a photograph is like consulting the laws of gravity before going for a walk."



*Photo on left*

*by Ken Winham*

*Photo on right*

*by Terry Flatt*



## USE THE TOOLS TO TELL A STORY ~ DAVID DUCHEMIN

What we do with our understanding of composition (and compositional devices like scale, contrast, balance, tension, depth, color, repeated elements) gives us a greater possibility to make photographs that elevate the human experience of the photograph. Photographs with mood and mystery, photographs with rhythm and symbolism. It is how we use these devices (like a slow shutter to depict motion, among others) that makes us feel. It is in these, and the dance of putting them together in new ways, that the photograph becomes a visual poem and judged by very different (and much more human) criteria than what the camera club so often asks of us: images made by photographers, as van Gogh might have said, that have "good taste" and enormous "knowledge of composition" but "hardly any imagination or fantasy." The former can be learned quickly; the latter can take a lifetime. ..It's not about knowing composition, but it is about using it. ..Never stop learning what makes the photograph work. Never stop studying the masters in search of what worked for them. Find photographs that make you feel something and figure out why you feel that way. It's all there in the image to be learned. Never stop exploring new ways to use scale, tension, juxtaposition, or negative space, and all the other tools there to be played with. Add all the new vocabulary you can add to your language skills. But don't get discouraged if these alone do not make you a better poet. For that, you need to think more about the experience of these things and ask yourself what they conjure in the human heart and mind. You need imagination. You need creativity. This is the dance of craft and vision.

## USE THE INTERNET TO LEARN NEW THINGS

The NJFCC has just announced three on-line presentations for February. Creating Better Action/Sports Photography with Jeff Swinger on Feb. 11th, Creative Landscape Photography with Joe Rossbach on Feb. 13th and Introduction to Bird Photography with Cameron Darnell on Feb. 27th. For more information on these educational opportunities and sign-up instructions go to [www.njfcc.org](http://www.njfcc.org) and click on the meet-up tab under Social Media.

## Shoot Out at Skytop Lodge ~ December 13, 2020

*Our thanks to Sam Prynda for setting up our Shoot Out at Skytop Lodge. From the beautiful holiday decorations and life-size gingerbread house to the view from the observation deck there was a wonderful range of photo opportunities. And it was great to see each other too!*



*Photos on top row (L to R):  
Ray Roper, Dave Trainer,  
Bob Baker (top), Sam  
Prynda (bottom).*

*Second row: Lois Zini, Ann  
LeFevre*

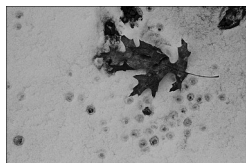
*Bottom row: John Anzivino,  
Eric Goins, Kathie Baker*



## Shoot Outs and More

PPC will be returning to one of our favorite Shoot Out locations this month on **January 23, 2021** at 3 pm. If you took part in last year's trip to Bill's Old Bike Barn and Museum you need no introduction to Bill Morris' amazing collection of vintage motorcycles, antique cars, and wooden carousel or his extensive collection of anything and everything Americana! If you haven't been there before you're in for a photographic treat! A small village, "Billville", is housed inside the main building (yes, it's that BIG!), complete with a mock mansion, camera shop, music store and firehouse. From military displays, a vintage soda shop and a Rolls Royce truck, to thousands upon thousands of posters and pieces of memorabilia from John Wayne to John Deere and everything in between, there is something for everyone to photograph at Bill's Old Bike Barn. The museum will be open exclusively for PPC members to photograph at our leisure. Tripods are allowed. Bob Hare also recommends additional lighting such as a flashlight if you have one as the museum lighting is not bright. **The cost of this session is \$10 per person.**

Bill's Old Bike Barn is located at 7145 Rt. 11 (Columbia Blvd.), Bloomsburg Pa. 17815. The directions are quite simple: Take Rt. 80 West to exit 241. Entrance to the museum is next to Bill's Cycle Shop on Rt. 11, just minutes off the highway. The museum is behind the Bike Shop. According to Google it takes 1 hour and 17 minutes to get there. With so much to see and photograph in Bill's spacious museum you won't want to miss out on this Shoot Out opportunity!



## Virtual Shoot Out Two Options! Theme: Winter



For those of you who are still staying close to home we've come up with some "safe haven" shoot outs to keep you "snapping". Our virtual Shoot Outs are designed to keep you safe and healthy at a comfort level that's best for you and we hope you'll join in the fun.

The weather in winter can range from sunny almost bearable temperatures to frost and blizzards. This month our virtual Shoot Out will explore the many facets of winter. This month **you have the option to choose the day/s, the location, the subject** and whether or not you'll post-process your shot. Then... Share your photos with the club! Email 1-5 shots to Ann at Olivetreeann@mail.com for the newsletter and monthly meeting slideshow. **Need a specific date** so that you can remember to participate? **Join Ann on January 9th** as she takes her camera out to answer the question, "What does winter look like in my backyard?" and do the same in yours.

**FDWGNRA** calendars are still available to PPC members at the discounted price via our website. And we can even deliver the calendar directly to you! Check out the pull-down tab at the bottom of our home page for details on how to order.



# Executive Committee Meeting Notes ~ January 5, 2021

## PPC Executive Committee Meeting Notes – 1-5-21

*In attendance:* Ann LeFevre, Bob Hare, Sam Prynda, Carrie Stohl, Ray Roper, Dick Ludwig, Sarina Cook, Terry Flatt, John Anzivino, Bill Keenan

Ann LeFevre started the meeting by noting that last month's general meeting, which focused on favorite photos members took throughout the year, seemed to be very successful based on the feedback she has received.

Ann added that Bob Hare is working on an edited video version of the December Zoom meeting that we can post on our website, and we discussed whether we should make that video available to members only or to the general public. We also discussed whether to post the video on PPC's Facebook page. It's thought that the video might serve as a great way to reach potential new members for the club. There were some questions about getting permissions from members who submitted photos and also about the need to get permission to use some of the background music that was used for the video. In general, the executive committee decided to go ahead with posting the video on the PPC website, but not to post on the PPC Facebook page this year. Sam Prynda said he would contact members whose photos were used in this year's. In the meantime, Bob Hare will re-edit the video and send out copies for executive committee approval, and for future club videos, we will try to get members' permission to use their photos in advance.

Ann noted that Nancy Spenser is arranging for a January shoot-out at Bill's Old Bike Barn & Museum on Rt. 11 in Bloomsburg, PA. Tentative dates right now are January 23 or 30. Further details will be provided on the PPC website as soon as they are available. Bob Hare suggested that members might want to bring some supplemental lighting for this shoot-out, because it is indoors.

Bob Hare said that the Tobyhanna Ice Harvest might be cancelled again this year. Bob also announced that his request to members for banner photos for the PPC website got a good response, and that he should have enough banner photos to put up a new one every week. He also noted that the website received 32,400 visits through 2020, considerably more than in 2019.

Sarina Cook noted that we have speakers booked for our general meetings through June, with August booked also. We will be doing a session on the results of the annual Scavenger Hunt photo contest in July. The Scavenger Hunt judge and photo categories have yet to be determined. The committee also discussed a number of options for speakers through the end of the year and beyond.

It was noted that the Executive Committee assignments for 2021 were approved by members via online voting. Heading that list are: Ann LeFevre, President, Carrie Stohl, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and Sam Prynda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President with Dick Ludwig, Bill Keenan and Bob Hare remaining in their positions of treasurer, secretary and webmaster respectively.

It was noted that everyone seemed to enjoy the Skytop Lodge shoot-out in December, and it was suggested that we might try Skytop again in the spring or summer for photos of their floral displays. Another photo-shoot opportunity might be a new property acquired by the Pocono Heritage Land Trust (PHLT) along Rt. 940 near Tank Creek.

Submitted by Bill Keenan, secretary.



**We're on the Web!**

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