

South Shore Camera Club of NY

June 2025: Vol. 01 No.08



We focus on the fine points of photography

The Shutterbug Monthly

From the President...Gary Meyer



It is unfortunate that I feel compelled to open with troubling news about Domenick, our esteemed vice president, competition chairman and one of the driving forces behind the SSCC. As you all know, he is suffering from several ailments and is currently in rehab fighting to recover. He is in all our hearts and prayers for a speedy return to the Domenick we all know and love.

Last month the featured photographer was Carole Meyers, who is truly a gifted artist. There are a few samples of her work in the May issue, but they are a mere fraction of the extraordinary photographs Carole produces. Her images have everything you would want in a photograph. The composition, the color, the clarity are all among the best.

Andrea Baum treated us to the story of her dog Bopka. It is told with such love, and the emotion projects through her photos. The shots are so perfect, it's hard to believe that Andrea had to chase after her to capture them.

Steve's "How I Did That" column showed how an image that would ordinarily be ignored or trashed can be transformed into a fine photograph.

Paul jazzed up his cell phone column with some apropos poetry and a little help from his wife Jocelyn and Arlene. Our club has no end to its creativity. His column continued to provide valid arguments concerning the pros and cons of cell phones versus cameras, with several images to support his contentions. I admit that I've faced similar situations and must agree with him on all counts. I always have my cell phone with me, and it comes in handy quite often in the proper circumstance. However, if I'm going out with the sole purpose of shooting photographs, I bring my camera.

Stu's illustrated article about his stay in Vermont could be a brochure for the Rockwell Retreat.

Due to the absence of a May competition there is no Niner page this month, but our editor and publisher have included an excellent alternative.

Every month the newsletter continues to impress with top notch images and insightful commentary. Our editor and publisher consistently emphasize that this is only possible with your contributions. I'm sure we all have images worthy of publication, so show off a little and submit some.

Finally, this is the last issue before our summer break. May everyone have a pleasant and productive summer and happy shooting.

Featured Photographer: Paul Oresky

Interview by Stuart Konecky

1. What sparked your passion for photography?

My interest in photography began in a dark basement room one fine Spring Day, after being interrupted from working on a college research paper. My brother's friend cajoled me into visiting a red-light atmosphere confronted by what I later learned was an enlarger. He turned off the light and the enlarger lit up for a few seconds, followed by the resurgence of the red light. A sheet of paper was moved through a series of trays containing liquids and then hung up to dry. An image had appeared 'magically' on the sheet of paper. I had him repeat the process a couple of times before returning to complete my research paper relieved that our friendship had not gone to another level on his part. In two weeks, I was setting up my own dark room. I couldn't afford a camera, so I printed other people's images for over a year.

2. How and when did you join the SSCC?

My membership in our South Shore Camera Club was the result of my winning a photo contest hosted by the club to attract new members several years ago. My entry of the face of a Great Horned Owl in whose eyes the viewer could see me taking the bird's picture was enough to gain me first place and a free one-year membership in the SSCC. I still use that photograph in shows from time to time and I expect it will have a place in my upcoming 'Variation' show this year.



3. Do you have a favorite type of photography or a signature style?

Capturing images while traveling is my favorite type of photography. Recently, I have ventured into cell phone camera photography and am enjoying the light weight of the instrument and many of the images it has allowed me to capture. It does not replace my DSLRs and lenses, however. As to subjects of my photography, I prefer nature and wildlife. (Some of my images have been published.) However, architectural shapes, lines, lighting as well as cityscapes do interest me. 'People' photography is hard to ignore, but I am not a portrait taker; I prefer capturing people doing something, unaware that their image is being captured.

4. Which cameras and lens do you like?

With the advent of digital cameras, I switched to from Canon cameras to Sony, beginning with an a7r, then a99s, an a9, and now I really enjoy my a1 coupled with a Sony 200-600 mm lens, or a Sony 70-300 mm, or a Sony 28-75 mm. (In the film days I used several different cameras. The Mamiya Sekor SLR was my first, followed by a Pentax, Canon Powershots, Canon F1s, and a Mamiya 645. I utilized a variety of lenses ranging from wide angle to a Canon 200mm and a Nikon 500mm mirror lens adapted for my F1s; a 2x extender, extension tubes, and a bellows accompanied me on my photo outings as well.)

5. How do you approach post-processing your images?

I am not a skilled post processor. I utilize the Google program that came with my computer and the basic and intermediate tools in Adobe Elements 15. I haven't seriously attempted the advanced offerings in Elements yet. I review the images I capture on my computer individually and decide the type

of post processing to pursue – enhancing it as it is or attempting to get ‘creative’ with it.

6. What advice would you give to new photographers?

My advice to beginners is to take many pictures and critique each image themselves. They need to determine what they like about their images and what they believe needs improvement. They must become familiar with the workings of their camera, the function of f stops, various shutter speeds, and ISOs. As they acquire a basic understanding of how their equipment works and what they like/dislike about their work, a beginning photographer should begin to pursue the knowledge which will assist them in improving what they dislike in the images they are capturing. Reading books, taking classes, utilizing YouTube, comparing their work to the work of other photographers, improving their post processing skills are all helpful.

How I Did That: THE HORN

- 1- The original
- 2- Used NIK Silver Efex Pro Cyanotype
- 3- Silhouetted the horn and sharpened it
- 4- Used Topaz Adjust preset color sketch
- 5- The final photo

NOTE: You can create the same effect as the NIK cyanotype by making a new layer and filling it with the color desired and then setting the opacity to about 20 or 30%



UNDERSTANDING BASIC CAMERA SHOOTING MODES AND CAMERAS SENSORS

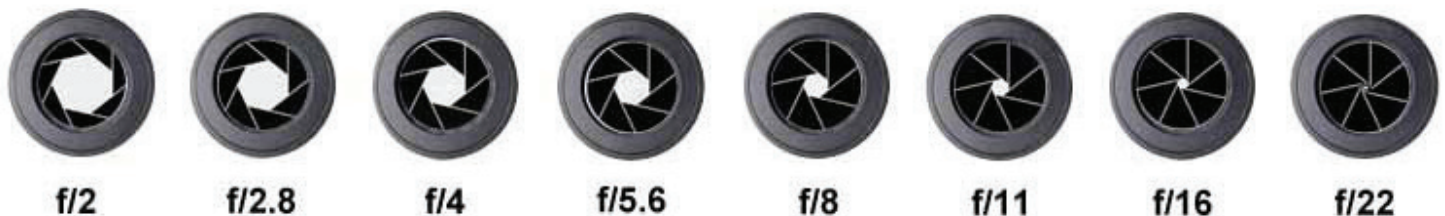
There are 5 basic shoot modes in today's digital cameras; Automatic (AUTO), Program (P) Shutter Priority (S), Aperture Priority (A) and Manual. (M). Automatic and program are the most popular used modes. But are they the best?

When you set your camera to AUTO the camera does everything for you... Selects the ISO (the sensitivity to light), the aperture, shutter speed, uses the flash if required and sets the white balance. The only thing you have to do is aim the camera, set the zoom and press the button.

Using Program (P) mode (or as some photographers call it " the Professional mode") will give you a lot more control... you can select the ISO if you are shooting in low light or want to freeze the shot. You can also lower the ISO to create a blur effect and lower the noise level. If you are photographing a person with back-lighting you can use the plus setting to compensate for this. (generally 1 to 2 stops). You also have the option of having the flash fire or not fire as opposed to the AUTO mode where you don't have any choice. This comes in very handy when photographing in places like museums which don't permit flash. Another benefit is the ability to select an aperture setting for either less or more depth of field - the camera will select the shutter speed. You can also just let the camera do all of the work the same as in AUTO mode. I have heard that shooting in this mode yields better photos than AUTO, even if you don't do anything.

Next let's talk about Shutter Priority (S): In this mode you select the shutter speed you want and the camera will select the aperture. This is useful when shooting fast moving objects you wish to freeze - set a fast shutter speed. If you want to create a blur effect you can use a slower shutter speed. You also have the ability to increase the ISO. The higher the ISO setting the faster the shutter speed can be set to. Just keep in mind that the higher the ISO the more noise the photo may have.

Aperture Priority (A) mode is very similar to Shutter priority only you are now selecting the aperture and the camera will set the shutter speed. This is my preferred method to shoot in. Setting the proper aperture helps you to create the depth of field you desire. A larger aperture will create a shallow depth of field... you see this very often with portraits where the background is blurred. This is something that many photographers don't know: No matter what aperture you set your camera to - the camera keeps the setting at the largest aperture until you press the shutter release. Those funny numbers you are given as aperture setting F1.0, F1.4, F2.0, F2.8, etc. are really mathematical representation of the amount of light the lens is letting in. Each setting lets half the amount of light as the one prior to it. For general shooting apertures of F5.6 to F11 are the best to use. A little known fact is that using apertures of F22 and higher don't always result in sharper photos, you may actually get a slightly soft photo due to lens aberration.



Aperture settings create different depth of field on different cameras, depending on the sensor size. A simple example of this is compare the full frame sensor (which is what everything is based on) and a 4/3s sensor which is half the size of a full frame sensor. The 4/3s sensor will actually lose a full stop in depth of field. When shooting at F2.8 the 4/3s will have the same light transmission as the full frame but the depth of field will be at F4.0., on an APC-S the F-stop will be a half stop less, at F3.5.

Another important element to understand about the difference between full frame cameras and others is

the cropping factor. Many of you shoot with an APC-S sensor and buy a zoom lens that is 18 to 300mm and think it is shooting at 25 - 450mm. This is not so! The focal length is the focal length! The area of the photo is being cropped as if it were a 25 - 450mm lens, see the chart for sensor size comparisons. The 1" through the 1/3.2 sensors are used on point and shoot cameras. A 2/3" sensor is approximately one quarter the size of a full frame and a 2.8 F-stop would act like a 5.6 F-stop losing 2 stops. When you buy a point and shoot with this size sensor and it lists the ranges as 24 to 400 (35mm equivalent) it is actually a 6 -100mm lens. Due to the small sensor most point and shoot camera are shooting at an aperture of F8 to F11 and that is why their photos appear very sharp.

Manual (M) mode is exactly as it sounds. You set the aperture, shutter speed, and the ISO along with the white balance. You may ask; Why would I want to shoot in manual mode? This gives you the ability to select



Full Frame 2- APS-C 3- MTF (4/3s) 4- 1" 5- 2/3" 6- 1/2.3 7- 1/3.2

a more suitable combination of aperture and shutter speed for a given situation – such as using a high ISO to enable the use of both a small aperture and fast shutter speed when shooting landscapes in low light. Manual mode is often the ideal choice for photographing moving subjects in constant light. The important element is that the light stay constant! This mode is not designed for “grab” shots.

Lastly; many of today’s cameras have additional modes like scene and other special effects. If you shoot in RAW and use these special effects, they will record as a JPG and the RAW file will remain in full color.

One parting thought to better photography - take a step to your left and a then a step or two to your right before clicking - you will be amazed how different the same shot may look. Always buy the best equipment you can afford.

My Winter in Israel

by Ellery Samuels

As some of you know I have made Aliyah and I hold dual citizenship, Israel and the United States. It has been my tradition to 'snowbird' to Israel every winter. These last two winters have been very difficult because of the ongoing wars with Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas in Gaza and the Houthis in Yemen.

Here is what my experience was like. Can you imagine being woken up at 3am by the sounds of sirens going off? I don't have to imagine as I have experienced it at different times of the day.

So, what do you do when the sirens go off? If you are at home, you go into your bomb shelter. If you are driving, you pull your car over to the side and look for a nearby shelter. If there is none you move a distance from the car and lay down on the ground. Thankfully, this has never happened to me because if I had to lie prone on the ground I would probably still be there. LOL!

Most every home/building has a bomb shelter. Most of the newly built apartments have a shelter built right in the apartment. Our building, with 6 apartments, has a shared shelter on the ground floor. When the sirens go off, everyone rushes down to the shelter. There could be as many as 20 people in our shelter along with their dogs and cats. Fun, fun, fun! The basic rule is that after 10 minutes and nothing has happened, you return to your apartments.

Below are 2 images of what our shelter looks like. Solidly built to withstand a bomb, missile, or any other kind of exploding device. It is built with no access from the outside to the shelter. It's a good thing it has never been tested. Below are two images of our shelter.

In December 2023, my wife Eileen was in the shelter, and when they came out they saw this piece of shrapnel just outside the house. It is from a Hamas missile that was shot down by the Iron Dome. Just a look at what could have fallen on a person outside or on the roof of a house/building. Scary, right!

When I usually return to Israel, my first place to visit is The Western Wall in Jerusalem. This year I once again decided that it's more important to visit Hostages Square in Tel Aviv. The Square is an homage to the hostages still being held in captivity by Hamas and for those who have been released. These posted images will give you a look at Hostages Square today.

BRING THE HOSTAGES HOME!



Karla's Tale

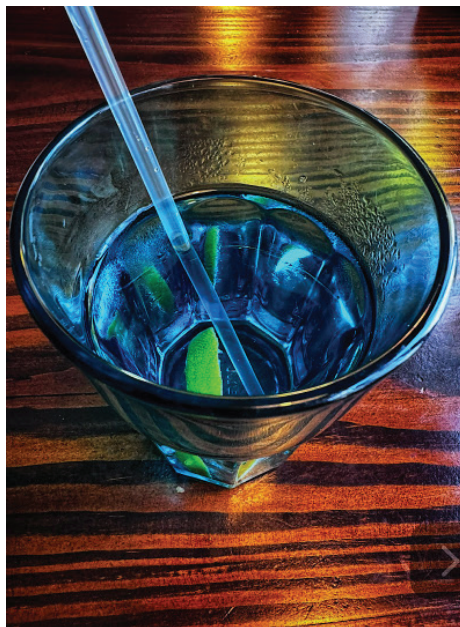
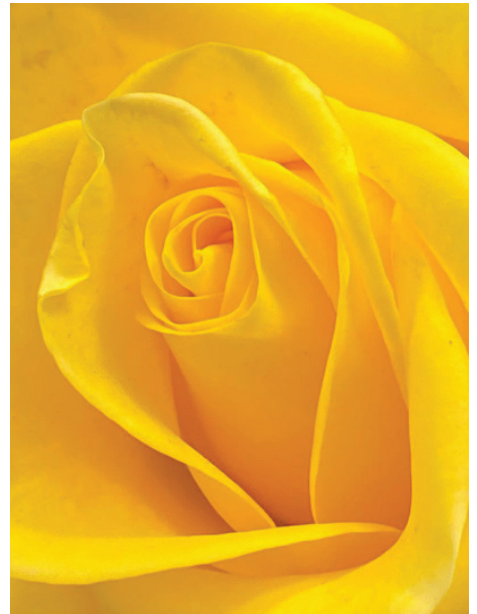
By Stuart Konecky

After reading Andrea Baum's article about her dog, I would like to share some information about my dog, Karla. We adopted Karla, a 13-week-old mixed breed, from the North Shore Animal League in December 2023. She was rescued from a "kill shelter" in South Carolina and initially displayed timidity but showed significant improvement with training and care. Our wonderful veterinarians at Crawford Animal Hospital have provided excellent medical care for Karla since her initial visit. Now weighing 75 pounds, she has developed a strong bond with our family and adapted well to our home environment. Her progress is a testament to the benefits of dedicated care and love. Here are photographs documenting her journey from adoption day to the present.



The GALLERY

A COLLECTION OF PHOTOS IN LAST MONTH CRITIQUE





Keep on shooting and build up a great library for next years competition.

Carole Meyers Documents the Friedberg JCC 5k Run/Walk Event

On May 18, 2025, the Friedberg JCC organized its annual 5k Run/Walk at Baldwin Park to support its Parkinson's programs. Carole Meyers, a member of the photography club, professionally documented the event, capturing its essence and dynamism through her photographs. Below are some of her images.



This is our club publication and we need your help to keep it filled. Please feel free to send us articles you think we might enjoy. We would also appreciate helpful hints on how to take better photos.

Cell Phone Photography 6

by Paul Oresky

I thought "Cell Phone Photography 5" was going to be the last in this series, but I came across an opportunity in the Oceanside Preserve that was of interest. Two over wintering Great Blue Herons were in the same pond just a day after the cold temperatures accompanied by fierce winds calmed down.

It was a cold day. Even without the wind it was cold. I had to retreat after a while. It was my intention to return, but the day got away from me and the preserve was closed by the time I worked my way back. The next two days were Sunday and Monday; the preserve is closed on those days.

The more mature bird looked to be in very good shape. The other one looked scraggly but was quite vigorous and hungry. The more mature bird spent the majority of the time I was there chasing the other bird, eating occasionally. 'Scraggles' was constantly catching small fish, eating them, and watching for 'Maturity'.

There was no doubt that 'Maturity' was dominant. 'Scraggles' never put up a fight to defend an area, flying to another section in the same pond when 'Maturity' started to close in. "Maturity" would slowly meander around to where 'Scraggles' was feeding and off 'Scraggles' flew, back to the area in which he had been fishing prior. Back and forth the chase went. It was somewhat amusing to watch. There certainly were enough fish for both birds in either section of the pond.

I, meanwhile, was attempting to photograph the two birds with my cell phone, especially 'Scraggles' in flight. And I did. It was awkward. I had previously advanced the shutter speed to 1500 of a second, keeping the ISO on automatic. It was a cloudy day; the sun was not an issue.

Zooming in to capture one bird and then zooming out to accommodate what was happening, then relocating the subject(s) and framing the image to be captured was frustrating, especially in the cold. The settings did not seem to consistently render the subjects well. The depth of field seemed fine. The primary difficulty was capturing fast movements.

Some of the images were quite good; many were disappointing. In flight images were poor. I probably should have advanced the shutter speed to 2000 of a second or faster and will do so when attempting to capture such images in the future. The images below show the scene quite well. (Most of the in-flight images were so out of focus, however, that to show them would be a waste of space.)

The three main problems I encounter using my cell phone are:

- 1) Changing settings for moving subjects;
- 2) Maintaining eye contact with moving subjects; and
- 3) Enlargement pixelation.

In the future I will be sending cell phone images taken in a variety of places to appear in our newsletter. I thank Domenick for explaining about atmospheric interference and Gary Dimenstein for showing me how to pull up some of the features within my cell phone camera.

I'm sure I'm not the only member using a cell phone to attempt some 'photography'. I hope all who use their cell phone cameras will email Stuart and Steve your comments about this series (critical, indifferent, complimentary). Additional information you may have, i.e. corrections, post processing information, etcetera would be welcome



Upcoming Photo Shows – Paul Oresky

A Cell Phone Camera Picture Show

June - Baldwin Public Library
 August - Baldwin Public Library
 October - Elmont Public Library
 December - Merrick Public Library



Variations

August 7-September 29 - Hewlett-Woodmere Public Library: Reception September 4 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
 November 14-December 16 - East Meadow Public Library
 January-February, 2026 - Rockville Center Public Library



My Trip to Viet Nam, February to March

By Edward Frankel

From late February to mid-March Sue and I travelled to Viet Nam, utilizing Road Scholars' "Walking Viet Nam Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City" for our tour. This wasn't organized to be a photo shoot, rather an educational, cross-cultural experience. A group of twenty, walking around five miles a day in urban settings with a guide. Temples, historical sites, markets, and countryside, ideal for a photo vacation. As I travelled, I looked for opportunities to photograph movement in fulfillment of March's challenge project. I wasn't disappointed! We arrived in Hanoi in the afternoon, it rained during the night, and I woke to semi darkness. I grabbed the camera and headed onto the street. What you have to know is that urban traffic in Viet Nam is a continuous flow of motor scooters carrying all manner of goods and people. It was the perfect opportunity to practice panning—I spent so much time that a ride-share scooter pulled up wanting to know if I was waiting for a lift. The next few days were damp and chilly but full of wonderful photo ops. Hanoi's old quarter provided plenty of beautiful sites and a feel for a young vibrant population.

Rural countryside presented a different opportunity with the abundance of iconic "Rice cultivation" pictures in Mai Chau. The conical hats, so familiar from war era pictures, seem to be the choice for farm workers. The ocean karst topography of Ha Long Bay was disappointingly shrouded in clouds, but the night spent on a boat afforded interesting sights of locals fishing and night scenes. A cooking class in Hoi An, followed by the ancient capital of Hue, rounded out our stay in the north. We flew to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) a vibrant modern Metropolis. Veterans traveling with us were surprised by the skyline and modern suspension bridges. As we moved through the country, we found friendly people happy to be photographed and at times even inviting me to take their pictures. All pictures were shot with my Panasonic Lumix with a 25 to 400 zoom lens. My 7-inch tripod and neutral density filters were fun to have but learning to say "Hello" in Viet Nameese, followed by a photo request was the major technique takeaway from the trip. I think you can see from the photos Viet Nameese warmth and how much fun I had.



From the Publisher...

Steven Friedman



What I have to say about an assortment of things

It is very ironic that the topic Marc Farb talked about - shooting modes and camera sensors. I have a two pages article about that in this in this months of The Shutterbug. On another note; you will notice that there are no Niner photos this moth as we did not have a competition due to Dominick being very sick. Fortunately we had a lot of contributions from our members. Lets keep up the good work and keep sending in those articles.

Pat and I did something a little different this month, we had members give us five photos and we critiqued them. It was an overwhelming success according to all of the members. Hopefully we can do on a regular basis.

Going forward I would like suggest something I did when I was in the Huntington Camera Club... It's called the Sunday Shooters. We meet for breakfast on Sunday morning, break up into small groups and go out and shoot in different venues.

We are always looking for way to improve our club, get involved and offer some suggestions...

On a final note: Wishing Domenick a fast and successful recovery.

THE STAFF

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President: Gary Meyer
Vice President: Domenick Creaco
Secretary: Stuart Konecky
Treasurer: George Cutler

Publication

Editor: Stuart Konecky
Publisher: Steven Friedman

The End...

Stuart Konecky, Editor



Celebrating Our 8TH Issue of The Shutterbug Monthly



Encouraging Contributions and Future Perspectives

We are delighted to present the June 2025 issue of The Shutterbug Monthly, marking our 8th edition and the final publication before the summer season. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all contributors whose creativity and dedication have made this issue special.

As we prepare for the months ahead, we encourage you to continue sharing your passion with us. Whether it's a photo essay, insightful articles on techniques, or even poetry, your submissions are an integral part of our community. Please send your work to stuart.konecky@gmail.com or steve@tsga.com.

For more resources, including newsletters, photo guides, galleries, and field trip updates, don't forget to visit the club's website at <https://ssccny.visualpursuits.com>.

Lastly, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful and inspiring summer. May you find joy, adventure, and endless opportunities to capture life's beauty through your lens.

Best regards,
Stuart Konecky
Editor, The Shutterbug Monthly