



Club Notes for Oct 2025

AUTUMN IS FOR PHOTOGRAPHY!

First, a reminder that October 31st is the renewal deadline to maintain your membership—the slate is cleaned November 1st—non-renewal by then means losing access to the club member resources and competition opportunities (including club emails, club FaceBook, and this fantastic newsletter). Second, it's time for fall colors and other cool autumn shooting opportunities. The ODNR (Ohio Department of Natural Resources) provides a fall color progress map (see <https://ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/see-the-sights/fall-color>) and lists a variety of great locations to visit. Many of the local Metroparks have great opportunities for photographing the changing season. Boo At The Zoo takes place weekends from October 10-26—kids and staff in costumes and treats for kids around the park. The Lantern Festival at the zoo ends October 5th—it is much larger and more beautiful than last year. See the Columbus Zoo website for details and tickets—even if you can't come at night, the lanterns are spectacular in daylight, as well. Franklin Park Conservatory has a Harvest Blooms exhibit outdoors through November 2nd, Pumpkins Aglow evenings October 15th -November 2nd, October Chihuly Night on October 4th, and admission is free with Franklin County id on October 5th. Dawes Arboretum in Newark has almost 2,000 acres of plant collections, gardens, and natural areas perfect for autumn photography. Or check out some of the area pumpkin patches and apple orchards (Lynd Fruit Farm has a lot of family-oriented fun and games including a corn maze and apple canons). Fall sports are abundant opportunities for photojournalism fans—this includes the All American Quarter Horse Congress September 27-October 26th at the Ohio State Fairgrounds. Italian Festival is October 10-12 (St. John The Baptist Church) and Highball Halloween in the Short North (October 25) is free to attend. Looking forward to seeing what inspires our members this fall.

Photographers Paying Attention

This story by Audrey & Frank Begun is all about situational awareness. In a nutshell, situational awareness is about being alert to and understanding what is going on around you at any point in time. It is critical to making informed choices and reactions, as well as to anticipating near-future events. This analysis for photographers has two main threads: (1) personal and equipment safety, and (2) capturing unique photo ops.

The first part of our story addresses the need for perceiving, anticipating, comprehending, and decision-making related to potential problems or risks. Experience working in criminal justice facilities and medical care environments has helped prepare us with some degree of situational awareness for our own personal safety and safety

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(Paying Attention continued)

of others within our environments. In setting out for a photographic adventure we typically anticipate our equipment needs—lenses, lighting, and other “stuff,” planning for weather or other physical hazards and dressing/equipping for them. Situational awareness also involves knowing the area and paying attention to potential risks. For example, Audrey recalls leaving an open cliffside in Yosemite as dark clouds rolled in. Minutes later, two people came down the path with their hair frizzed out and fearful faces after lightning struck the metal railing nearby. As visitors, we can consult locals or hire guides familiar with the local environments. For example, in

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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Paying Attention continued)</i></p> <p>unfamiliar locations, we always SCUBA dive with a local dive master—someone familiar with local terrain, tidal/current, watercraft, and creature risks.</p> <p>Additionally, situational awareness means being alert and attentive to potential risks to yourself and your equipment—avoiding danger and preventing theft. Thieves in Rome (and many other places) are known to work crowded tourist sites where visitors with their eye to the camera viewfinder are distracted by their photography. Being alone at certain times or in certain areas may present potentially risky situations. This is where the “buddy system” might be especially important. In Alaska, where one of us was photographing a grizzly mother with cubs on a river, the other was scanning the area (where we spotted 11 other bears to the left, right, and behind us). In wildlife photography, situational awareness is an ethical responsibility—making sure that your presence and actions are not impinging on a subject’s behavior as they go about their business of daily living. This also helps ensure your own safety. Additionally, situational awareness helps keep you from being “that photographer” who irritates other photographers by being in their way, being too physically obvious, or otherwise ruining their enjoyment of the moment.</p> <p>The reasons a person’s safety-related situational awareness might be compromised are distraction (which our cameras and photographic subjects certainly are), fatigue/monotony, excitement, and not trusting your “Scooby senses”—those creepy feelings you might get in a potentially risky situation. In these situations, you should trust your instincts and you should NOT try to talk yourself out of the sensations. You should assess WHY you are having those creepy feelings and make an informed decision about how to handle it.</p> <p>The second and more fun side of situational awareness has to do with capturing unique, in-the-moment, unplanned-for images. These are the moments when you capture a person’s “just right” facial expression, an intimate interaction, an unusual behavior, a unique scenic element, or other compelling image. Situational awareness is a</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(continued in next column)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Paying Attention continued)</i></p> <p>“fieldcraft” skill that helps wildlife and other photographers capture “WOW” images. While the chance moment might be unplanned-for, situational awareness helps anticipate that it could be coming. This is where spending time in observation of a situation pays off—observation time that might not even involve time behind the lens. It involves coming to understand a situation so that you can anticipate what might happen next, adapt to a dynamic situation, and be ready to capture the unique moment in camera.</p> <p>Membership Renewal Reminder We have until October 31st to renew membership—the slate is wiped clean on November 1st. That means you will no longer have access to the member-only features (emails, FaceBook, newsletters), meetings, or Midwest Photo discounts. Membership remains \$40/year for “local” individuals and \$25 for individuals living 50+ miles away who wish a “digital” membership. To renew, use your personal login id and password on the club website and look under the Members drop down menu (not under Membership; https://westbridgecc.com/aws/WBCC/pt/sp/home_page). Dues can be paid online by PayPal or credit card; alternatively, a check written to Westbridge Camera Club can be brought to Rick Bartelt at a club meeting or mailed to him at 2005 Palouse Dr, London, OH 43140. Membership dues must be paid before club competition eligibility is conferred and only one “guest” meeting visit is offered before dues are paid.</p> <p>Club Competition News In our September “open theme” competition, judged by Christopher Yates, 28 different photographers received recognition for their</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(continued on next page)</i></p>
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submissions! It was our pilot test of the two-category judging for prints (Prints and Advanced Prints, aka “regular” and advanced). Remember, the category to which you submit is your category for the season. If you have not yet submitted prints and choose to do so in a future competition, the category descriptions are as follows:

“Prints” level is intended for newer and/or less experienced members building their skills in print presentation. “Advanced Prints” level is for members who have demonstrated a high level of craftsmanship in printing and often utilize specialty papers or advanced printing techniques.

October’s competition theme is “Power” with digital submissions due before 10pm on Monday October 13th for the October 20th competition (bring prints that night). The club competition committee has arranged with Cara Jonas Cr. Photog (Cara Jonas Photography, or CJP) to judge this month’s competition. Cara is an award-winning portrait photographer from the Cincinnati area. She received her Photographic Craftsman degree from Professional Photographers of America (PPA) in 2025. This degree recognizes photographers who demonstrate advanced skills in photographic education, instruction, and presentation. Several of her images placed high in the International Photographic Competition Grand Imaging Awards sponsored by PPA. Cara has served as a speaker at Shutterfest during the past two years and received 1st place at Shutterfest 2024 for one of her images. Her website describes her many creative approaches to capturing storied senior photos, corporate/commercial photography, and “boudoir” beauty photography <https://carajonasphotography.com/>.

Looking ahead, the Competition Committee has arranged for Gary Gardiner to judge November’s open theme competition (<https://garygardiner.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/garygardiner/>). Gary is a former Associated Press (AP) photographer, as well as former photographer at both the Ft. Lauderdale News and Orlando Sentinel. He lists himself as a photojournalist and cinematographer at The Westerville News and at EyePush News. His website and Instagram pages

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present his mammoth undertaking of “A Photo a Day” since 11/15/04. The images cover a broad range of themes, topics, and styles.

The Committee has also arranged with Laura Dark M. Photog, CPP to judge the December “Profound Isolation” themed competition (see her website at <https://lauradark.net/>). More details to come in the November newsletter about her and other future judges.

Photo Feedback Interest Group

John Butterfield has announced an upcoming photo feedback interest group session. The second of the season is scheduled for Monday November 10th at 7:00 pm at the Old Worthington Library, 820 High Street, Worthington 43085. Interested members should register with John at jbutter47@gmail.com before noon on Friday November 7th. As a reminder, Photo Feedback sessions provide members with a relaxed, fun, peer-group atmosphere for receiving and delivering constructive feedback on one another’s print or digital images. We tap into the expertise and experiences of fellow club members in these sessions, as well as getting to know each other a little better.

The group is open to all skill levels, with each session limited to 15 participants. Each participant may present up to 2 images, digital and/or print, and share the stories behind their images along with details of creating the images; the group provides feedback. Many of the shared images have subsequently received recognition in our club competitions. For example, 14 participants of past meetups were recognized in the September competition! To join the next session, register by email message to John Butterfield (jbutter47@gmail.com).

October Education Program

The education (and entertainment) committee has arranged with Bobbi Atlas and Ray Clark to present at our October 6th meeting. Together they aim to help our members prepare for the April season-ending competition themed "Portraits in the Style Of..." Bobbi has been an active supporter of our club's education and competition endeavors; she is a photography instructor at Columbus State Community College who has helped many of our club members develop their skills. Ray Clark is the owner of Second Street Photography and has earned a Certified Professional Photographer designation from the Professional Photographers of America (see <https://www.secondstreetphotography.com/about>).

Exhibition Opportunities

Our club Exhibition Committee (John Butterfield, Joyce Fasone, and Steve Organ) has been busy scouting out and researching galleries and other locations for member exhibits this year and in the future. Their initial results have been encouraging! The committee booked an exhibit at the Upper Arlington Library (Tremont Branch) November 10-December 20, and at the Bexley Library from January 10-February 28. A third exhibit hosted in June or July at the Westerville Community Center is in the works, to be finalized soon. More information about participating in the Upper Arlington Library exhibit will be distributed by the end of September.

To launch our 2026-27 season, a club exhibit has been scheduled at the Riffe Center during November- December 2026. In addition, the Columbus Audubon Grange Center has been booked for an August-September 2028 club exhibit. Our committee identified 17 potential locations and made requests to 15. They did not contact the two locations where exhibits were held last year. Locations still considering the club's requests include: Columbus Main Library, Columbus Cultural Arts Center, Dublin Arts Council, Grandview Library, High Road Gallery, Java Central/Boston Stoker, and Upper Arlington Concourse Gallery. The committee is also compiling a list of smaller exhibit spaces for individuals or small groups to schedule their own

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exhibitions. Twelve such locations have been identified; the committee seeks assistance from members experienced in solo exhibits to identify sites. Club members who know of other exhibit opportunities with space for 25-30 art pieces should contact John Butterfield (jbutter47@gmail.com) to follow up.

The committee's goal is to hold three or four exhibits yearly and to encourage more members to participate. During the past two years, 39 members participated in at least one of four club-hosted exhibit opportunities. Exhibits were held at the Riffe Center and Westerville Community Center in 2024, as well as at Innis House and the Worthington Griswold Center in 2025. "Providing exhibition opportunities for members is a valuable benefit of being a member of Westbridge," Butterfield said. "It allows members to share their work with a wider audience, receive feedback, and connect with potential buyers. The experience also fosters artistic growth and closer relationships with other club members." Additionally, said Audrey Begun, "These exhibits let wider audiences know about the Westbridge Camera Club and can serve as member recruitment opportunities."

Member News

Back to the Photo Feedback group, John identified past participants whose work was recognized in our September club competition. These include: Joyce Fasone (1st Novice digital), David Troyer (2nd Novice digital; 1st Color Prints), John Essig (4th Novice digital), Martha Morss (HM Novice digital), Charles Bowdle (5th Intermediate/Advanced digital), Audrey Begun (HM Intermediate/Advance digital; 4th Mono Prints; 5th Color Prints), Linda Ulasiewicz (HM Intermediate/Advanced

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digital; 2nd Mono Prints; 3rd Color Prints), Sharon Andrews (HM Master digital), Cherry Williams (1st & 5th Mono Prints; HM Color Prints), Mark Collins (HM Mono Prints; 4th Color Prints), Stephen Organ (1st Advance Mono Prints), John Butterfield (4th Advanced Mono Prints; 1st & 2nd Advanced Color Prints), Lee Flasche (HM Advanced Mono Prints), and Sharon Telatnik (HM Advanced Mono Prints). The titles of these images are posted on the club website under the results of our September competition.

Member Suggested Resources

Joyce Fasone and several other club members attended a July event at Soft Lite Studios—a group of professional photographers dedicated to teaching other photographers skills they “utilize in the daily pursuit of compelling photographic images.” They sponsor a series of Meetup Groups (<https://www.meetup.com/soft-lite-studios/>) throughout the year. For example, Saturday October 4th they are hosting the first of 2 “Photoshop Bootcamp” sessions, the 2nd being Sunday October 5th. Joyce has described the space as large, with several rooms of differing size, very professionally set up for presentations. The studio Owner/President is Timothy Neumann and is located at 4393 Tuller Ridge Dr., Suite F, in Dublin, 43017 zipcode (phone 614.943.1280).

Todd Elzey circulated an email to club members about Studio 8 Photography run by Hans Kruse. He describes the space as “a great setup” on the south side of Columbus. Hans has a series of “shoots” set up for the fall, mostly art nude shoots of the boudoir style. He indicated that Hans “does a super job of teaching studio lighting techniques during the shoots” which are small (4-5 photographers). If interested in either \$95 October 4th or November 8th shoot, see the registration site <https://www.ggreyphoto.info/event-registration>.

Kathryn Cubert shared an announcement concerning a photo contest and exhibition called “Our Nature in Focus” hosted by Midwest Photo and Grange Insurance Audubon Center (GIAC). The concept of this competition and exhibition is a

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celebration of the beauty that resides in our Columbus Metro Parks. The entry period is November 1-December 15, 2025 with the exhibition dates being February 5-March 29, 2025. There will be an award reception on February 5th (6-7”30pm) at the center where winners will be announced.

There are two entry categories to consider for up to 3 entries per photographer: Adult Professional (\$15) and Adult Amateur (\$10). **Note that all submissions must be taken at any of the Columbus Metro Parks.** 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes in each category include up to \$800, Canon Pro 200S, membership to the GIAC, swag bags from Columbus Metro Parks, or a Midwest Photo gift card. In addition to Midwest Photo and the GIAC, sponsors include Canon, Fotospeed, and the Columbus Metro Parks.

Club Newsletters

Our club newsletters are developed by the Communications team based on information shared by club members. Please send information to Audrey Begun (audrey.begun@gmail.com) and John Butterfield (jbutter47@gmail.com). Information in its raw form—Audrey and John will write it up. An information or news piece you wish to draft, Audrey and John will include (perhaps with some edits and formatting) and be thankful for you writing it up.

We are always on the hunt for news that will interest club members. For example:

- news about members’ accomplishments
- interesting polling questions that we can ask and then produce the polling results

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• stories that help photographers improve their techniques or expand their repertoire• news about upcoming events, presentations, and exhibits• group “shoots” being arranged• other ideas, no matter how “baked” <p>Note that the November newsletter will come from John Butterfield’s email address (jbutter@gmail.com) rather than Audrey Begun’s.</p> | |
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