

Photos in this issue are from last month's 'Hasselblad (Square Crop)' competition.

Happy Holidays one and all

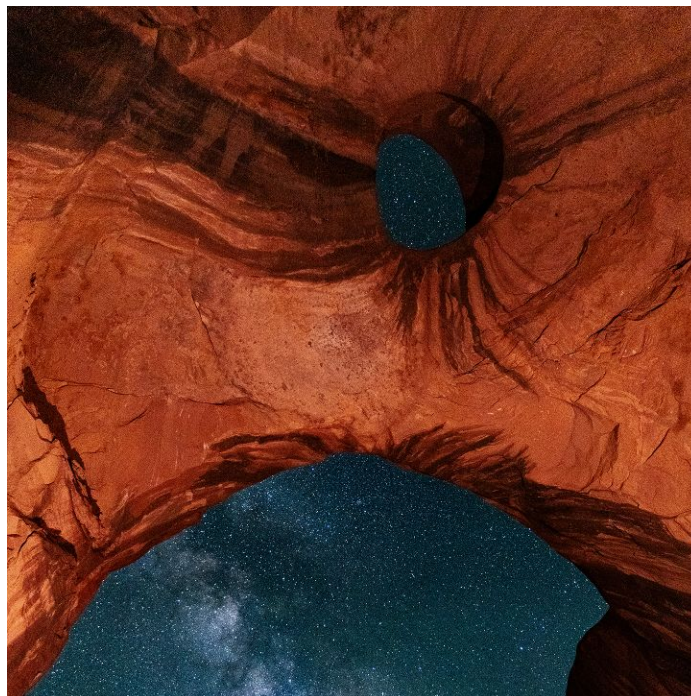
Our final get-together of 2023 is on December 13th – our Annual awards Dinner. We hope everyone who attends has a great time socializing and connecting with other club members.

Congrats to those of you getting awards or a promotion to the next competition level this year. They are all well deserved. (the list will be in the January newsletter; can't spoil the surprise just yet!)

As we head into 2024

A few bits of club news for everyone as we close out 2023 and set our sights for 2024.

[Read more here...](#)



The Hogan Under The Stars by John Mumford

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Focus Camera Club Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

President: Karl Peschel
 Vice President: David Bessen
 Treasurer: Ron Schaller
 Secretary: Bill Williams

Committee Chairs

Executive Board: Karl Peschel, David Bessen, Ron Schaller, Bill Williams, Victoria Ashby, and the Committee chairs listed below
 Competitions: (open)
 Programs: Co-Chairs Terry Hanford and David Bessen
 Membership: Todd Lytle
 Mentoring: Gwen Paton
 Newsletter/Website: Karl Peschel

Our Mission

The purpose of the Focus Camera Club is to further its members' enjoyment, knowledge and mastery of photographic skills through cooperative efforts and fellowship.

Focus Camera Club Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held the Second & Fourth Wednesday of each month. Hybrid meetings – locally at Lone Tree Civic Center and via Zoom. Meetings start promptly at 6:30 PM and normally end before 9:00 PM.

Club News

By Karl Peschel

2024 Competition Subjects

The list of monthly competition subjects is posted on the website. As in years past, there is also a one page PDF with the entire year listed on it. I encourage everyone to download that list, print it out, even save it on your phone so it's always handy, and plan for upcoming monthly topics.

There is a good mix of topics, and similar to our 2023 competitions, a number of them are "Open with one qualifier" type of topics. We're challenging you with composition, certain camera techniques, and time of day. And for the first time we have an "only use your phone" competition. (the April 2023 program recording can help you with this one)

The hope is these topics will challenge you to learn and try new things, and end 2024 as a better photographer. We seem to have the same 15-20 people in monthly competitions. Let's change that in 2024.

Who's Doing What in 2024

President – Karl Peschel

Vice President - David Bessen

Treasurer - Cecilia Zapata

Secretary - Bill Williams

Programs - David Bessen and Kyle Durlam

Competitions - Karl Peschel, and a team of 5 club members to help with new member placement. Bill Williams will continue to tabulate monthly and quarterly scores.

Membership - Todd Lytle (unless someone else wants to take the job)

Mentoring - Gwen Paton, with the same mentors continuing in 2024

Communications (Newsletter, Website, Social Media) - Karl Peschel

Bob Bartlett and Fred Stearns will continue doing digital projections and Bill Williams and David Bessen will handle running the LTCC part of meetings.

A Big Thank You

To all the members who volunteered their time and effort to running the club in 2023, and to those who stepped up for the coming year also, we are sending out a **huge Thank You**. Without volunteers, the club will fall apart and cease to exist. With nearly 60 members it's surprising how difficult it is each year to find people willing to spend a few hours a month (sometimes a bit more) to "keep this ship afloat."

*Here's hoping everyone in the club has a wonderful Holiday Season!
Enjoy your time with family and friends, take some photos to
remember the occasions, and celebrate with joyous abandon!*

Program & Competition Meetings

Program Schedule

- 12/13/23 Annual Awards Dinner
- 01/10/24 **Program** – Preparing Your Images for Print by Nic Stover
- 01/31/24 **Mentor Session** – Topic / Location TBA
- 02/14/24 **Program** – In Depth on Depth, Creating Dimension in Landscape Photography by Colleen Miniuk
- 03/13/24 **Program** – The Lure of Luminance; the Power of B&W Photography by Rick Hulbert

Competition Schedule

- 01/24/24 **Subject** – Open
- 02/28/24 **Subject** – Negative Space
- 03/27/24 **Subject** – Shot with a Phone

No Program or Competition meeting this month

As we've done for many years now, we don't have Program or Competition meetings in December. We want all club members to have time during the holidays to focus on family and friends, decorate your house, plan and recover from big meals, and generally enjoy life.

We'll pick back up January 10 with a '*Preparing Your Images for Print*' program from Nic Stover.

Annual Awards Dinner

What: Focus Annual Holiday Party and awards dinner

When: Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, 6:30 to 9:00 pm

Where: Rice Bistro Restaurant, 7301 S. Santa Fe Drive, Unit #410, Littleton (In Aspen Grove Shopping Center at NW corner of Mineral and S. Santa Fe)

We will be announcing the winners for Photographer of the Year and other awards. Plus, there are some members who will be "graduating" to the next competition level.

Here's hoping everyone will have a wonderful time and a big Congrats goes to all those folks who will be receiving awards or promotions to the next competition level. There were some fantastic images (at all levels) in the competitions this year, so everyone deserves a pat on the back.

And please take the time to thank any of the Executives or Committee chairs who helped run the club this year. We could not have done it without them. (page 1 of the newsletter lists them)



Light at the End of the Tunnel by Terry Hanford

November 'Hasselblad (Square Crop)' Competition Results

	Media	Artist	Image Title	Score
F5.6	B&W Digital	Kyle Durlam	The Look and the Lean	9
		Kyle Durlam	Holy Matrimony, Batman	10
F8	Color Digital	John Mumford	Looking At You	9
		Laura Blake	Pink Goggles	10
		John Mumford	The Hogan Under The Stars	10
		Nancy Sheppard	Quiet Venetian Sunset	10
F11	B&W Digital	David Bessen	Fountain Lunch	9
	Color Digital	Terry Hanford	Light at the End of the Tunnel	10
F16	B&W Digital	Dan Greenberg	Three Old Boats	10
		Gwen Paton	Handle Carefully	9
		Gwen Paton	Very Secure	9
		Oz Pfenninger	Art in Wood	9
		Dan Greenberg	These Look Yummy	10
		Todd Lytle	Boys in Blue + One Girl Too!	10
Oz Pfenninger	Attractive in Death	10		

Judge for this competition was Jeff Johnson. See all the winning images in [the Online Gallery](#).



Holy Matrimony, Batman
by Kyle Durlam



Three Old Boats by Dan Greenberg



Fountain Lunch by David Bessen

Keep Your Packages Safe

This month, many of us will buy gear for ourselves, Christmas presents for others, or household staples...and all of them get shipped to our homes. “Porch Pirates” are very busy this time of year, much more than years past.

Take precautions to ensure your packages from Amazon and elsewhere don’t disappear off your porch.

- Amazon packages can be delivered to a local Pickup Location or Amazon Locker. [Check their online help files](#) for info about these options and how to select and access them.
- Have your packages delivered to your work address, if they’ll allow it.
- If you’re home most of the time, require a signature for delivery. If you’re not there to sign, the package should not be left by the delivery service.
- Talk to a trusted neighbor who is likely to be home; see if they can get and hold packages for you.
- Have some sort of doorbell camera. It won’t prevent theft, but it may help police find the culprit.
- Use package tracking. Many retailers offer it and so do the USPS, UPS, FedEx, etc. Know when your package will be delivered.



Pink Goggles by Laura Blake



Quiet Venetian Sunset by Nancy Sheppard

Photo Contests

Motif Collective Minimalism Competition

Deadline: January 7, 2024

Minimalism or the absence of distractions from shadows, light and often a single subject, line or emotion is also the core of every photograph we take where instead of being subtle and undefined it becomes the dramatic force of the image.

Share with us your best frames and moments showing your Minimalism Visions!

Works will be selected based on creativity, quality of execution and uniqueness of vision. The work can be expressed from realism to abstraction.

[Visit the Motif Collective website](#) to learn more and enter your images.



Handle Carefully by Gwen Paton

The Soul of Your City

Deadline: January 15, 2024 Fabrik Projects Gallery - Show us the City only you know!

We want to see your city through your eyes – reveal its soul in a way that most people don't get to experience. Look beyond the well-known sights and go off the beaten path.

Photograph the hidden corners, local culture, the architecture and street scenes that give your city its identity. Capture the gritty alleyways, mom-and-pop shops, traces of history in aged buildings and abandoned places.

Explore and find something unexpected, something profound in the ordinary. Photograph the morning mist, dusk light, neon nightlife. Capture the bustling markets, diverse neighborhoods, lonely places and quiet moments that make your city unique.

[Visit the Fabrik Projects Gallery website](#) for all the details and to submit your images.

Local Photo Opps & Events

Around Town

There are hundreds of holiday events in and around Denver each year. If you're wanting to get that iconic photo of the Denver county building, see a parade, attend a special holiday event anywhere in the metro area, or prep for New Year's Eve fireworks you should [visit the official Denver website](#). (click the dates in the calendar to set different ranges)

Also check local city or popular attraction's websites. A wide variety of things are happening a short drive away in [Boulder](#), [Breck](#), or [Colorado Springs](#). Denver Botanic Gardens has an annual Blossoms of Light or maybe you want to mingle with wolves at the CO Wolf and Wildlife Center in the Springs.

Or at Home

We'll be spending time with family and friends during the holidays. Making memories, sharing memories of the past, and reconnecting with folks you haven't seen in a while. Make plans to shoot photos that capture those personal moments.

Do some casual family portraits with Nana and those aunts, uncles, and cousins you haven't seen in years. And make sure YOU are in some photos – don't hide behind the camera all the time!

Enjoy the Holidays! And be sure to capture those "Kodak Moments!"

Solar Eclipse and Texas Wildflowers Regional Event – NANPA

When: April 6-9, 2024

Early Bird registration discount up until February 1, 2024

A full solar eclipse will occur on April 8, 2024, and one of the best places to watch the eclipse is in the Central Texas Hill Country. In preparation for the solar eclipse, we will walk you through some basic settings on how to photograph this unique event.

The first week of April also happens to correspond to peak wildflower season in the Texas Hill Country. Colors burst from the roadside and trailside as Texas Bluebonnets, Paintbrush, Pink Ladies and scores of other species of wildflowers put on their annual Spring show each year. And with flowers, come pollinators. From butterflies to bees, there will be no shortage of macro photography opportunities as well.

[Visit the NANPA website](#) page for this event for complete details, pricing, and registration.

■ Frame #37

A collection of extra tidbits discovered during the past few weeks.

- You'll get a chuckle from [this year's Comedy Wildlife awards](#) finalists. Air Guitar Roo took the honors.
- For the landscape fans in the club, check out the [Natural Landscape Photography Awards](#) for 2023. There are some stunning images in this collection.
- And [here are some simple, yet effective, tips](#) for shooting family photos during holiday gatherings.

Skills are never taught, they are acquired. I can give you a camera, but can't feed your vision.

– Raghu Rai