

# Luminosity

The Doña Ana Photography Club Newsletter

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February 2019



# Doña Ana Photography Club

February 2019

Serving the Community since 1955

daphotoclub.org

## Holiday Dinner at St. Clair Winery & Bistro

The Photo Club's yearly dinner was festive, and "a good time was had by all..."

by *Bob Hamre*

On Tuesday night, December 4, the Doña Ana Photography Club held its final meeting of the year at the St. Clair Winery & Bistro in Mesilla. About thirty members and guests were treated to an excellent dinner, conversation, photo highlights and even a raffle. The dinner started at 6:00 pm, as photo club members gathered in the back room of the restaurant.

Master video and audio specialist Fred Moore had, as usual, arrived early and installed a large screen and

a video projector complete with cascading images of this year's *Photo of the Year* contest entries as well as a terrific review of the *Photo of the Year* winners dating back to 2010..

It was great to have the time to visit with fellow members outside of the usual venue we use for the monthly meetings. We truly have a diverse and interesting group, exemplified by the wide range of ages, occupations, histories and photographic experiences of our members.

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The Doña Ana Photography Club's Holiday Dinner was held at St. Clair Winery & Bistro on Tuesday December 4, 2018

## Mark Your Calendar...

**February 5, 2019 - 7:00 pm**

Regular Meeting - DAPC  
Southwest Environmental Center  
275 North Main St.; Las Cruces, NM

**February 9, 2019 - 9:00 am to 12:00 noon**

Boot Camp Class #2 (sign up by Friday Feb. 8)  
*Getting Your Camera Off Auto Mode*  
Southwest Environmental Center  
275 North Main St.; Las Cruces, NM

**February 16, 2019**

Submission Deadline for Monthly Theme  
*Black and White Landscape*  
Send to [Themes mailbox](#) to participate.

**February 19, 2019 - 7:00 pm**

Regular Meeting - DAPC  
Southwest Environmental Center  
275 North Main St.; Las Cruces, NM

It was also amazing to find out about all the geographic locales that have been explored and lived in by our members. What an untapped wealth of knowledge yet to be shared among us!

The evening drew to a close with president Dale Taylor conducting a raffle for camera memory chips, photo printing paper, and a monopod.

Most important, members whose excellence stood out from the crowd were identified. Among those members honored were Carl Meier for his Photo of the Year “Symmetry” and Gerald Guss who was named *Photographer of the Year* (see the December 2018 newsletter for details).

If you missed it this year, hopefully you can come and join us for this friendly holiday celebration when it comes up next December. See you on the 15th of January!



## Doña Ana Photography Club Schedules for 2019

### Monthly Themes

January 15, 2019 .....	Comfort	July 16, 2019 .....	Thirty Feet From Your Door
February 19, 2019 .....	Black & White Landscape	August 20, 2019 .....	Red
March 19, 2019 .....	Flora	September 17, 2019 .....	Fauna
April 16, 2019 .....	What is It?	October 15, 2019 .....	Stormy
May 21, 2019 .....	Patterns	November 19, 2019 .....	Faces: Real or Imagined
June 18, 2019 .....	Worship		

*Theme Presentations are held during the second meeting of the month, from January through November. Participation is limited to club members, who should send up to 3 JPG files to the Themes mailbox for inclusion in the monthly presentation. Photos should conform to the theme, as noted above, but creative interpretation of the theme title is encouraged. Photos should be no larger than 1920 pixels wide, and 1080 pixels tall.*

### Boot Camp Classes

January 12, 2019 .....	Learning About Your Camera	April 13, 2019 .....	Editing
February 9, 2019 .....	Getting Your Camera Off Auto	May 11, 2019 .....	Q&A and Image Critique
March 9, 2019 .....	Creating Better Photographs		

*Boot Camp Classes are held on the second Saturday of each month, starting in January. The classes are only held once each year, and will not be repeated in the Fall. Classes begin at 9:00 am, and are held in the Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main Street, Las Cruces, NM. Each class costs \$5.00, and registration is required online, no later than the day prior to the class. Club members are no longer given free access to the classes.*

# Doña Ana Photography Club Boot Camp Workshops Begin

## “Learning About Your Camera” is the First Class for this Year

by Seth Madell

The Doña Ana Photography Club kicked off the New Year with its first of five Boot Camp Workshops. The Boot Camp series is aimed at those who are new to photography and image editing, and to anyone who wants to learn and understand his or her camera, its settings, and the many ways to produce great photos.

The first class met on Saturday January 12 at the Southwest Environmental Center. There were about 35 students in attendance.

The class was led by club member, and former Vice President, Rob Peinert.

Numerous other club members were in attendance and helped with individualized instruction; these included Seth Madell, Dave Brown, Erik Winter, Kristi Dixon, Debbie Hands and others.

The first part of the Boot Camp course is titled “Learning About Your Camera.” The class introduces the basics of the camera – how best to hold it, focus it, and care for it.

The basics of using a camera were taught, including battery placement, identifying various dials and buttons, and the mechanics of taking that first photo.

Class members spent the first hour or so in a classroom setting, and then broke up into smaller groups to work with the various DAPC club members who were present, asking more specific and individualized questions.

Following the small group sessions, students also had a



Photo shoot at the Farmers Market

broke up into smaller groups to work with the various DAPC club members. Participants had a chance to review and discuss their photos, as well as to ask any questions about the process.

Hopefully, students whet their appetites for photography, and can start down the road to easier and better images.

The second Boot Camp workshop is scheduled for Saturday, February 9. That class, titled “Getting Your Camera Off Auto Mode,” will introduce students to aperture, shutter speed, and ISO. The goal is to allow students to become more creative, and also to increase their understanding of how this miraculous little black box actually works!



Students Check Out their Cameras

chance to practice what they had learned by taking photos at the Las Cruces Farmers Market.

Following their practical photo session, students returned to the classroom where they once again



Rob Peinert teaches the First Boot Camp Workshop



It was a Full House at the first Boot Camp Class

# 'Tis the Season to be Jolly

Photo Club Member Marcia Corl shares her Christmas Images



All photos by Marcia Corl



## Excursions New Mexico Photo Opportunities

### Shoot the Three Rivers Petroglyphs Site

by Anne Chase

The Three Rivers Petroglyphs site dates to 900–1400 AD and was created by the Jornada Mogollon people, who used stone tools to create the markings. A small pueblo ruin is nearby and the Sierra Blanca mountains tower



above to the east. The number and concentration of petroglyphs at this site make it one of the largest and most interesting petroglyph sites in the Southwest. There are more than 21,000 glyphs of birds,

humans, animals, fish, insects, and plants. There are also geometric and abstract designs.

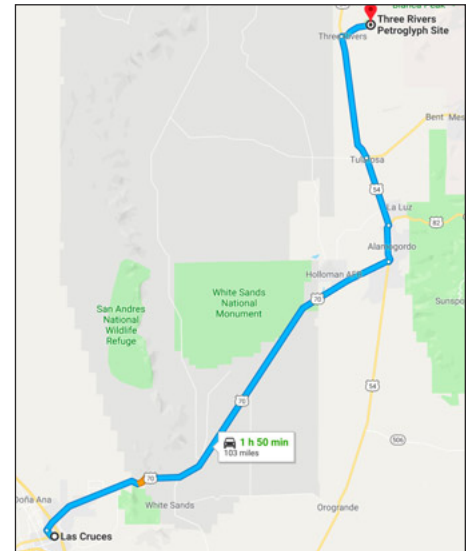
From the visitor's shelter, there is a ½ mile trail (unpaved and uneven) to many of the petroglyphs. Another short trail begins on the east side of the picnic area, leading to a ruined Mogollon village.

I would suggest a wide angle to normal lens and a tripod. If you have a flash, it will help even out the lighting on the petroglyphs, which can be darker than the surrounding landscape.

The site has five shelters, rustic restrooms, and drinking water. Pets are not permitted. I strongly suggest you bring food and water, hiking boots, and toilet paper.

From Las Cruces, the site is located 17 miles north of Tularosa. From Las Cruces, travel East on I-70 toward Alamogordo. Take US 54/US 70 Relief Route toward Tularosa. Travel roughly 30 miles to a Right onto Three Rivers Road.

It is about 3.5 miles to the site. Travel time is 1 hour 45 minutes.



This is a BLM site and there is a \$5.00 per vehicle charge for day use. This site is open year round. From October to March, the gate is open from 8 am to 5 pm. From April to September, hours are 8 am to 7 pm. There are picnic tables and cooking grills. There are 2 RV sites that have water and electric hookups for additional fees.



Three Rivers Petroglyphs Site - photos by Anne Chase

# Shooting Portraits with a Minimum of Gear

## A simple portraiture setup and method for Hollywood glamour-type shots

by Dale Taylor

Many of us want to shoot portraits of friends and family, but don't know where to begin. If we look at the literature, there are just too many options; it is all too confusing. It seems that professional portrait studios have a whole lot of gear, including umbrellas, stands, lights, softboxes, octaboxes, "beauty dishes," reflectors and backgrounds. But that doesn't mean you can't produce great results with a very minimum of tools.

The golden age of Hollywood glamour photographers ran from about the 1930's to the 1950's. Dozens of studio and private photographers produced the iconic images we know from that era, but the one name which stands out is George Hurrell (Google him for examples). He developed a style



Jessica - Portrait by Dale Taylor

based on small, hard, hot lights which has stood the test of time, and in which most of his contemporaries worked, too.

The photo of Jessica which accompanies this article was done in this style with a strobe in a regular reflector. You can also use a regular speedlight, Or, use a desk lamp.

Hurrell rarely worked with any light larger than a pan about 12-18 inches across, and, although he sometimes used several lights, he sometimes used only one. Most of his lights were in standard reflectors, so they are what we call "hard" lights. Today the fashion is for large, diffused, "soft" lights, but you don't have to use them. If you can get good results in the Hurrell style, you have learned to light well. Then, soft light is easy to use when you get to it.

In Jessica's photo, the main (or "key") light is positioned about 45° to the right of the camera, and higher than her head, but not so high that you cannot see its reflection in her eyes. You can get a good idea where this light is by looking at the "catchlight" in her eyes. This light was allowed to spill over onto the background, which is a sheet of black material with a drape of white across it. It rakes across the model and the background, so that the area of Jessica which is furthest from the light is against the white part of the background, and that closest to the light is against the black part.

A second hard light, small like a speedlight, is set behind Jessica and to the left of the image, somewhat high. This is aimed



Portraits by George Hurrell  
Joan Crawford (top)  
Katherine Hepburn (bottom)

down and restricted (you can make a "snoot" out of paper, or move the zoom head on your speedlight to its longest focal length) so that it lights the back of her shoulders and her hair, to give them a three-dimensional quality. Restricting it also keeps it out of the camera lens,

[continued on page 8](#)

Portraiture: [continued from page 7](#)

where it would create flare. This light, called a “hair” or “kicker,” is set to a lower power than the main light. You have to experiment a bit to get the levels adjusted properly. Notice how it doesn’t blow out the key light where they overlap on her shoulder. This second light is often the only other light you need for classic Hollywood glamour work, although the “classic” three-light set-up usually includes a separate light for the background which I avoided by making the key light do double duty.

Hurrell’s retouchers spent 8 to 16 hours smoothing the skin for a star’s portrait into the porcelain finish popular in the period. I did not do this, allowing the slight texture the diagonal key light produces to reassure us that Jessica is a real, breathing person. This is more the expectation today. If I wanted to clear her complexion more, I could use [frequency separation](#) retouching or a number of other techniques to do so. It is important that, while we may work in a pre-existing style, we do not slavishly copy it but make it our own, and respond to our own times. Also, the Rembrandt lighting I used here is frequently considered a masculine lighting, but it worked perfectly to give Jessica some drama. That may not be in the thirties mind-set, but we’re fine with it today.

The finger waves in Jessica’s hair made me want to do her portrait in this style, but this portrait gives you some idea what you can accomplish with a bare minimum of equipment and technique. There is only one thing wanting before you are shooting like this. You have to get up and go do it.

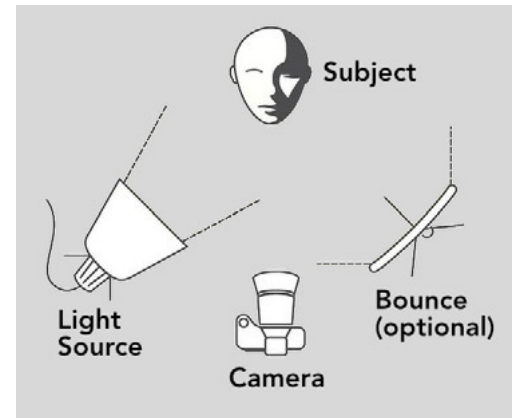


## The Shooting Menu

A discussion of camera functions & shooting techniques

**Rembrandt Lighting** is a fairly common technique used in portraiture. It gives portraits a professional quality and moody ambiance, and requires a bare minimum of equipment. In its simplest form, Rembrandt Lighting can be accomplished with a single off-camera light source and a simple background.

The goal of this technique is to light one side of the face, leaving the other side largely in shadow. However, true Rembrandt lighting places the light source in such a way that the shadowed side of the face still has a triangle of illumination on the cheek. That area is about as wide as the eye, and about as long as the nose.



Rembrandt Lighting Setup

This look is accomplished by placing the light about 45 degrees above and to the side of the model. If the model’s head is turned in one direction, the light is typically placed so as to illuminate the far side of the portrait. In other words, if the model has turned her head

toward her left side, the light is placed on the left to illuminate the side of her face that is partially obscured. Also, as an option, a bounce reflector can be placed on the opposite side to soften the shadow.

This technique was quite commonly used in the portraits painted by Rembrandt (and, hence, the name). It is a typical demonstration of *chiaroscuro* - an Italian word which, when translated literally, means “light-dark.”



A Portrait by Rembrandt





# January Theme Presentation Comfort

by Seth Madell

Are you stuck in a rut? Or, are you living on the edge? Do you embrace life's serenity, or revel in its turbulence? Are you satisfied, or are you yearning?

If you are like most, you spend much of your life seeking comfort—the absence of physical and emotional stress, the pleasure of the known. Comfort is its own reward, we believe, and is the gift of having lived through life's tedium.

On the other hand, discomfort is something we believe we should avoid. It is stress, pain, grief, and suffering. Discomfort is the result of some miscarriage of life's justice; it is an unfortunate state of affairs that we must prevent or, at worst, remedy.

But, can discomfort be a positive thing? Psychologists confirm that stress and emotional discomfort are necessary for growth. Those of us who exercise repeat the mantra: No pain, no gain. Anyone who has started a new business (or simply a new job) knows that fear is often a motivator.

In short, discomfort is a necessary ingredient.

C.S. Lewis wrote in *The Problem of Pain*, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains." Fyodor

Dostoevsky wrote in 1864, "Suffering is the sole origin of consciousness." It is a theme at least as old as Shakespeare, and as recent as Westworld. It is through our discomfort that the world's beauty becomes clear and evident.

My favorite expression of this dichotomy comes from *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran, in which he writes, "When you are Joyous, look deep into your heart and you shall find it is only that which has given

you sorrow that is giving you joy.

When you are sorrowful, look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight."

The theme presentation for January was "Comfort." A total of 13 members contributed 36 images. Those photos primarily portrayed (i) people, or animals, being comfortable; or (ii) comforting situations. Only a few photos strayed from these ideas, displaying locations or evoking discomfort.

The next theme presentation is "Black and White Landscape" and will take place at the meeting on February 19. Members are

encouraged to submit up to three pictures to Kristi Dixon at the [themes mailbox](#). Keep images to 1920 pixels horizontal, and 1080 pixels vertical. The deadline for submission of photos is February 16.



*Self Portrait with Fuzzy Socks*  
by Debbie Hands



*Wee Doggies* by Mitch Carleton



*Her Comfort Zone* by E J Choi

# Fragile Beauty - Engaging stills in the Chihuahuan Desert

A slide presentation by Lisa Mandelkern

by Lisa Mandelkern

At the February 5 meeting, Lisa Mandelkern will present a slide show and talk about her interest in desert plant and insect photography. Lisa is a past Doña Ana Photography Club Program Chair,

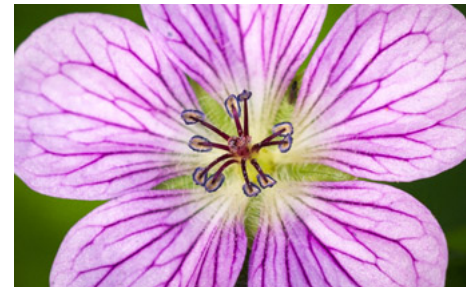


and helped to shape the club's yearly programs for 5 years. She loves to photograph in the



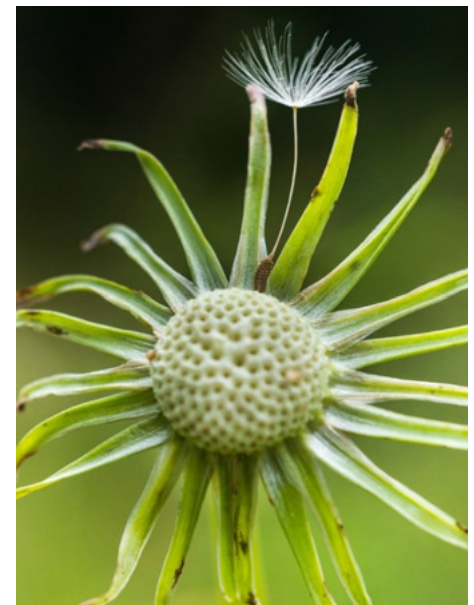
Chihuahuan desert, and also has interests in portrait and night photography. Lisa was named DAPC's *Photographer of the Year* three times.

Lisa's presentation, called *Fragile Beauty*, concentrates on desert plant and insect photography. It explores concerns beyond depth of field, rule of thirds, symmetry, texture, pattern



and lines. We will look at numerous tactics that expand the tool kit of nature photographers.

Photographing in the desert has its challenges. The light can be harsh, temperatures soar, and wildflowers and insects are often tiny. However, these challenges are interesting to tackle! Armed with information, skill and planning, it is possible to create attention-grabbing wildflower photos that convey a sense of wonder for the natural world.



## Image Icons

Historic and Inspiring Photos  
that Evoke an Event or an Era

### *The Falling Man* by Richard Drew

*The Falling Man* is a photo taken by Associated Press photographer Richard Drew on the morning of September 11, 2001. The photo was taken at 9:41 am in New York City, and depicts a man who either fell or jumped from one of the upper floors of the World Trade Center during the 9/11 attacks on the New York City skyscrapers. The identity of the falling man has never been ascertained. The photo has attracted a great deal of attention, since it seems to depict the man falling straight down, in an almost serene posture. It is clear, however, from inspecting a burst of photos taken at that time, that the man is tumbling as he fell.

The photo first appeared on page 7 of *The New York Times* the next morning, September 12, 2001.



## DAPC Boot Camp Class #2

The second Boot Camp class is scheduled for Saturday February 9, from 9:00 am until Noon. Sign-up can be done [online](#), and costs \$5.00 for each of the classes. [Note: as of 2018, classes are no longer free for club members.]

This workshop will focus on participants getting the photograph they want by gaining an understanding of aperture priority and shutter priority settings on their camera, plus the value of both. The instructor will break down the exposure triangle (shutter speed, aperture, ISO) so participants can understand and use their relationship. Following that there will be small group hands-on time to help participants learn how to change these settings on their own camera.

Participants will then go out into the downtown area to take photographs based on the exposure triangle presentations provided during the workshop. Members from the photo club will be available for assistance. Participants will return to the workshop environment for small group discussion and to answer questions they may have.

## Annual Dues

Annual dues for the calendar year 2019 are now payable. Membership in the Doña Ana Photography Club costs \$15.00 yearly, and entitles members to participate in monthly theme presentations, quarterly print contests, and the Photo of the Year award. Payment can be made at our semi-monthly meetings; see our treasurer Vince Gutschick, or any other club officer.

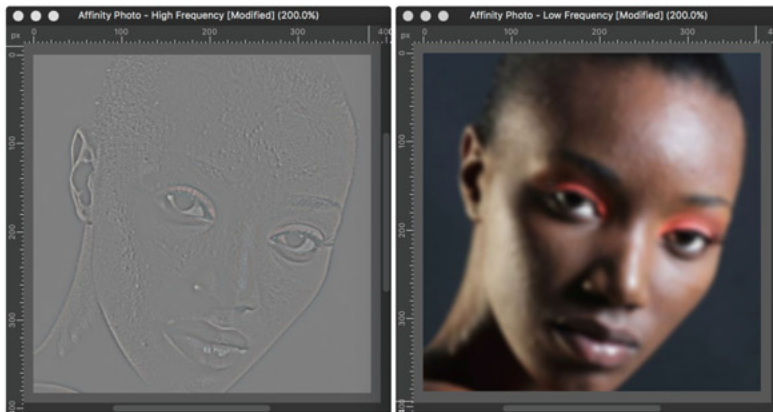
## Constructive Edits

Highlights and features of photo editing software for more interest and best results



One of the more popular (some might say “trendy”) techniques in portrait retouching is called **Frequency Separation**. This technique is used to smooth out skin coloration, and deal with wrinkles and blemishes, without losing the definition that comes from other techniques.

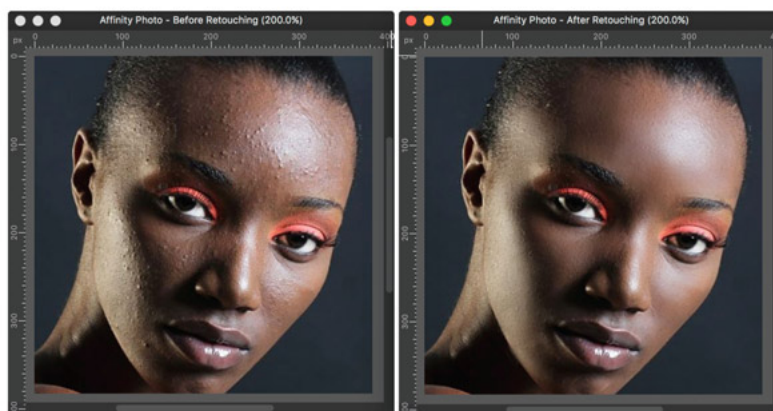
Without delving into advanced mathematics, a portrait image can be manipulated in software to separate it into two layers - a Low Frequency layer that contains color and tonality, but without detail; and a High Frequency layer that contains detail (like facial lines, wrinkles, pores, etc.) but without color information. These layers can be edited independently of each other.



High Frequency (left) and Low Frequency (right) Layers

In a simple scenario, a Gaussian Blur can be applied to the Low Frequency layer in order to smooth out blotchy skin areas. Then, the Healing Brush or the Clone tool can be used on the High Frequency layer to minimize (or get rid of) wrinkles and blemishes.

Once the editing is applied to both layers, the result is smooth skin without wrinkles or blemishes, but preserving the detail and structure that might be lost from editing done completely on a single layer.



Before (left) and After (right) Frequency Separation

# Announcements...

## Upcoming Club Presentations

Lisa Mandelkern will present a slide show and instructional presentation entitled *Fragile Beauty* at the February 5 club meeting. Her talk will highlight her thoughts and methods for shooting Chihuahuan desert plants and insects. For more information, see the [accompanying article and photos](#).

At the February 19 meeting, Carl Maier will speak about *Macro Photography and Focus Stacking*. Carl's recent Photo of the Year winner *Symmetry* is a good example of both.

## Monthly Theme

The theme for February will be *Black and White Landscape*. Be sure to submit up to 3 of your best JPG photos to Kristi Dixon using the [Themes mailbox](#).

## Photo Exhibitions

*Passing Through* is on exhibit at the Branigan Cultural Center (501 N. Main St., Las Cruces, NM) through February 2, 2019.

Artist Jimin Lee transforms photo-based images of industrial landscapes, miniature sets, and other locations otherwise ignored into central subjects. The artist focuses on the theme of mobility, displacement, and labor on the social level as seen in traffic, places of transport, and objects that move or are in motion.



*continued on page 11*

# About the Cover...

Photographer	Terry Gaume
Name of Photo	Cave in the Mediterranean Sea
Date Taken	April 13, 2018
Photo Location	Isle of Capri, Italy
Camera & Lens	Sony a6000 with 16-50 mm zoom @ 18 mm
Shooting Info	f6.3, 1/400 second, ISO 100
Additional Info	n/a

*All photographs remain the copywritten property of the individuals noted, and should not be used without specific permission from the photographer.*



## About the Photo Club

The Doña Ana Photography Club is a group of photographers and other people interested in photography. Our meetings offer technical presentations, friendly suggestions for improving your photos, networking, and other activities for a wide spectrum of photographers and abilities.

Visitors are always welcome to our monthly meetings and programs, which are designed to improve photographic skills at all levels. We meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month (except December). Meetings are held at the Southwest Environmental Center; 275 N. Main Street; Las Cruces, NM. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm and last about 2 hours.

Visit our website at: [www.daphotoclub.org](http://www.daphotoclub.org)



DAPC is a proud member of the Photographic Society of America. We encourage you to consider becoming an individual member of PSA. For more information, please visit their website at [psa-photo.org](http://psa-photo.org) and see what they have to offer.

President	Dale Taylor	<a href="mailto:president@daphotoclub.org">president@daphotoclub.org</a>
Vice-President	Bill Hanson	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@daphotoclub.org">vicepresident@daphotoclub.org</a>
Secretary	Terry Gaume	<a href="mailto:secretary@daphotoclub.org">secretary@daphotoclub.org</a>
Treasurer	Vince Gutschick	<a href="mailto:treasurer@daphotoclub.org">treasurer@daphotoclub.org</a>
Public Relations	Carl Maier	<a href="mailto:publicrelations@daphotoclub.org">publicrelations@daphotoclub.org</a>
Programs Chair	Anne Chase	<a href="mailto:programs@daphotoclub.org">programs@daphotoclub.org</a>
Member Service	Fred Moore	<a href="mailto:membership@daphotoclub.org">membership@daphotoclub.org</a>
Photo Theme	Kristi Dixon	<a href="mailto:themes@daphotoclub.org">themes@daphotoclub.org</a>
Newsletter	Seth Madell	<a href="mailto:newsletter@daphotoclub.org">newsletter@daphotoclub.org</a>
Exhibits	Open	<a href="mailto:exhibits@daphotoclub.org">exhibits@daphotoclub.org</a>
Website	Debbie Hands	<a href="mailto:webmaster@daphotoclub.org">webmaster@daphotoclub.org</a>
Member-at-Large	Dave Brown	<a href="mailto:memberatlarge@daphotoclub.org">memberatlarge@daphotoclub.org</a>