

# Durango Photography Club Newsletter

October, 2017

## September Town Hall: Bringing More Community, Learning, and Fun to DPC

More support for exchanging know-how, more interaction and critique during meetings, and more outings were high on the wish lists of members who took part in last month's general meeting about direction for the Durango Photography Club.

While attendance was light, those present made it clear they see personal connections and shared activities as central to learning new skills and techniques and becoming better photographers.

Also essential: fun. Like salt in cooking, fun was what everyone saw as the indispensable ingredient in anything the club might offer.

These ideas will set the course for revitalizing the club over the next several months.

### Now What?

It will take some extra leadership work in the short term to shape all of the good suggestions of recent weeks into a strategy. If you'd like to see a more vigorous club, you can take part in this planning even if you don't intend to join the DPC board.

That said, to move forward we also do need to refresh the board, possibly by updating some of the job descriptions and certainly by bringing in new energy to fill open spots.

To get involved in setting the course for the club, or to talk about a possible board position, please get in touch with any of the current board members. (For contact information, see the last page of this newsletter.)

### Seeking Critique, Mixing Up the Meeting

In the September conversation, several members said they're looking for the club to provide learning opportunities through more rigorous image critique. Such critique may involve bringing in outside evaluators, or an option for more structured commentary during image share, or both.

Several also said they would like regular assignments as a framework for learning from one another.

Members were eager to enliven the third-Thursday meetings by changing up the speaker/classroom format. A few among many suggestions: breakout sessions to bring focus to special interests, hands-on shoots and tech demonstrations, and discussions about the work of inspiring photographers.

Dynamic monthly meetings will depend on more members taking turns in active roles from time to time. For example, a future Thursday may include short segments on specific techniques, with several members each demonstrating a strength.

### Give and Take

Many members want more shoots and outings, more exchange of our collective knowledge about places to go and field technique. This of course means we need more members to share locations and initiate activities. (Read *The Power of Numbers*, Page 2.)

It's clear that DPC photographers are looking to the club to help them do more together and learn more from one another. A handful of board members can't meet those expectations without an active membership.

So when you think about what you want from DPC, ask yourself if it's important enough to you to put some of your own time into making it happen.

Our give and take is the only way we're going to get the club that we all say we want.

### Keep the Ideas Coming

The suggestion box is never closed.  
Send your wishes or ideas to any board member.  
Contact information is on the last page of every newsletter.

# The Power of Numbers

Finding out where to take photographs was a main reason for joining DPC, several members said at the September meeting. And they had ideas about using the strength in our numbers to help one another find new places.

We all have locations and subjects we know well. Many of us also have ties to organizations and people who may be able to give a group of photographers access that otherwise might not be possible.

If we all make it a point to exchange our collective knowledge and connections, the club will fulfill one of its main purposes for everyone.

## Keep It in Mind

As we go about our individual business in the next month or two, and as we start looking back over our past year's photos, why not keep an eye out for locations that may make good outings and places to tell the club about.

Think churches and historic buildings, neighborhoods and gardens. Streets and roads and trails.

Viewpoints that have worked for you. Spots along the rail line. That place you've been curious about but weren't comfortable visiting alone.

Think about groups you belong to that go to interesting locations, like archaeological sites. Friends who work at public lands or historic landmarks. Ranchers and farmers you've met.

*If each of us picked up the challenge of choosing just one place to share, think how many new creative opportunities we'd all have.*

## 1 Times 70

We have more than 70 members in our club. If each of us picked up the challenge of choosing just one place to share, think how many new creative opportunities we'd all have.

Along similar lines: Sometime during the next year when you're planning to go out and photograph, see if just once you can put out an invitation to club members.

No need to overthink it. Even if you suppose everyone already knows about the place you're going, that's probably not the case.

Schedules and weather being what they are, spontaneity is as good as advance planning. Either way, you aren't likely to have an unwieldy group, and no one will expect you to be an expert.

## Getting the Word Out

Right now some DPC members are looking into efficient ways for us to share location information and field trip announcements online. And you can always send an email to [dgophotonews@gmail.com](mailto:dgophotonews@gmail.com) for relay to the rest of the members.

Monthly club meetings and image share are also good times to bring up your location suggestions or a proposal for a group shoot.

Or send a photo to [dgophotonews@gmail.com](mailto:dgophotonews@gmail.com) for the newsletter, and include a location tip for the caption.

Other options are our Facebook page and our forum on Yahoo. To learn how to join either, see Page 5.

**Two DPC field trips are on the calendar for October. See Page 4.**

# October DPC Meeting: Teachable Moments from the County Fair

## October Meeting Details

October 19, 2017

7-8:30 p.m.

(Open at 6:40 for socializing)

Pine Room, Extension Building

La Plata County Fairgrounds

2500 Main Avenue

Durango

*Announcement from Howard Rachlin*

Our presenter on October 19 will be Larry Carver, who judged the photographs in the La Plata County Fair photography exhibition in August.

At the meeting we will look at the top photographs from the fair. Larry will review the winning photos in each of the 15 classes and discuss what, in particular, made him choose them.

During the fair judging, we identified photos that didn't achieve

*Continues on Page 3*

# October 19 Program: Learning from County Fair Photos

Continued from Page 2

champion status but that Larry wanted to discuss as “teachable moments.” At the October meeting, he’ll offer some tips on shooting those subjects and environments.

Larry is a freelance photographer specializing in wilderness landscapes and mountain adventure. An avid climber, backpacker, and skier, he has traveled throughout the world with his camera in search of visual magic, from the mountains of Canada, Patagonia, and New Zealand to the glaciers of Alaska and the red rock canyons of the American Southwest.

His photographs appear regularly in magazines, scenic calendars, coffee table books, and posters of the national parks, and have been displayed in museums, galleries, and exhibitions internationally. [Visit Larry’s website.](#)

## October Image Share: Beyond the Rule of Thirds (Finally!)

In a special segment of image share this month, we’ll pick up the deferred challenge to bring pictures that explore the use of advanced composition principles such as the golden spiral, the golden triangle, and the emotional impact of shapes.

To recap, the idea came from a worthwhile article shared by John Leonard: [Beyond Basic Composition: Line, Shape and Form in Photography.](#)

If you’re game, try some shots in the field using these ideas, or go through your past work and select some photographs you’d like to discuss in these terms. (This is optional; there will be image share time for anything you want to show.)

### Learning to See the Spiral

Lightroom includes crop guide overlays that can help you see how your images fit the golden spiral, golden triangle, and golden ratio. (The golden ratio is Photo 5 in the article cited above.) When you haven’t nailed a composition in camera, the overlays can help you decide where to crop.

To use the overlays while in Lightroom’s **Develop** module, activate the crop tool. In the **Tools** menu, select **Crop Guide Overlay**, then select the overlay you want. Notice that you can change the orientation of the overlay to suit your photograph.

Alternatively, bypass the Tools menu and, with the crop tool active, use keyboard shortcuts: To cycle through the overlays, type the letter **o**. To cycle through overlay orientations, type **shift + o**.

Photoshop users can download overlays from the web. The [Golden Ratio Overlays](#) download library from Parks Photos is worth a look if only to see the numerous ways that the concept can apply to composition. A YouTube link at the library shows how to use the downloads in cropping.

If you can, bring a version of each of your images with a visible overlay to show which golden principle you’ve applied. With or without that, we’ll learn from each other’s efforts.



*Lake Powell Morning, by Jerry Baumann*

## Contests Made for Color Country

Its title practically begs for images from the Southwest: The 9th annual **Nature’s Colors** Photo Contest from *Outdoor Photographer* magazine is about nothing more or less than celebrating the hues of the natural world.

You can enter as many images as your budget allows, and prizes are lavish. Open for submissions now until December 1. [Enticements, FAQs, and rules.](#)

We ran a heads-up recently about **Share the View**, an international competition run by the Audubon Society of Greater Denver. Starting October 15, you can submit your images of landscapes, wildlife, and nature. [Last year’s winners](#) were selected for “catching a special instant, utilizing magic light, or displaying an advanced technical skill.”

Deadline is December 5. [Start here.](#) Note that you can enter an email address to receive direct notification in future years when this annual contest opens for submissions.

*Saturday Evening, October 7*

## Downtown Durango Exploration Photo Walk

*Announcement from Waldemar Winkler*

John Leonard and I are looking forward to hosting an exploration Photo Walk/Flash Mob event to occur on Saturday, October 7.

“Exploration” because we want to get to know our club members better, get to know other photographers who are not club members, engage in making photos, share our ideas, learn, and—most importantly—have fun.

We like the idea of downtown Durango because it offers a variety of subjects: people, architecture, activities, details, abstracts, locations, and a contrast to the huge abundance of natural vistas surrounding us.

*Editor’s note: The annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering will be in full swing on the evening of the walk.*

### The Particulars

Our plan is to meet at Buckley Park at 6 p.m. (east side of Main Avenue between East 12th Street and 13th Street). This should be about 45 minutes before sunset.

*October 20–22*

## Animas Valley Balloon Rally Photographer Call and Flash Mob

*Announcement from Yvonne Lashmett*

The second annual Animas Valley Balloon Rally will be going on October 20–22, and I will be on the committee as their photographer.

I’m sure I could use some help! If I am flying in a balloon getting aerial shots, it will be great to have someone on the ground getting ground shots too. We may also need a ground crew/chase team, and that may earn a free flight!

LOTS of photo ops! The organizers don’t pay for images, but if we get good shots maybe someone will.

If you’re interested in these opportunities, please watch the [DPC Facebook Page](#) for more information. If you don’t use Facebook, please [email Yvonne](#).

### Balloon Rally Schedule

#### Friday, October 20

8:15 a.m.: Media flight (just a few balloons) from Hermosa Meadows.

7 p.m.: Downtown balloon glow near train station.

#### Saturday, October 21

8:15 a.m.: Mass ascension from Hermosa Meadows.

7:30 p.m.: Balloon glow at Hermosa Meadows.

The idea is to take advantage of late afternoon shadows, the sunset, and the blue hour of early evening street scenes and lights.

Depending upon the number of participants, we may break up into smaller groups before making photos.

Sometime later, around 8-ish, we’ll all meet (at someplace amenable to everyone), enjoy a snack and/or beverage and share our images and experiences.

The only requirements are to photograph that which interests you and have fun. We also hope this will generate more ideas for field photo activities. One that occurred to us was Halloween.

I plan to post an announcement at [meetup.com](#) to invite anyone to join the walk.

If you have suggestions, ideas, whatever, please contact me at [twofish@mac.com](#).

#### Sunday, October 22

8:15 a.m. Mass ascension from Hermosa Meadows.

All times are approximate. Balloon activity is of course dependent on weather conditions.

Hermosa Meadows is at the intersection of U.S. 550 and Hermosa Meadows Road. ([Map](#)). Parking there will be along the roadway and hopefully in a field.

### Flash Mob Two-fer

*(Announcement from Mary Brisson)*

In case you don’t plan to volunteer, we’ll have two DPC flash mobs to shoot the rally: one for the Saturday evening glow, and one for the Sunday morning ascension. Both are at Hermosa Meadows.

To form carpools, let’s meet outside PJ’s Gourmet Market (off Trimble Lane at U.S. 550) at 6:30 p.m. on October 21 and 7:15 a.m. on October 22. (I may run late on Saturday; if so, proceed without me. If you can co-anchor either day, please [email Mary](#).)

We’ll keep an eye on conditions and reserve the option to switch to different rally events if the weather looks better at other times. Watch your inbox for updates!

# Durango Photography Club Who's Who and How-to

## Durango Photography Club Officers

### President

Open

### VP & Program Director

Open

### Secretary

Mary Brisson

[dgophotonews@gmail.com](mailto:dgophotonews@gmail.com)

### Treasurer & Membership Co-Chair

Gordon Greve

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### Membership Co-Chair

Eric Pahlke

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### Webmaster

Tim Hamza

[webmaster@durangophotographyclub.org](mailto:webmaster@durangophotographyclub.org)

### Officer at Large

Howard Rachlin

[rachnews@mydurango.net](mailto:rachnews@mydurango.net)

### Officer at Large

Marc Saphir

[saphirm@hdcco.com](mailto:saphirm@hdcco.com)

All of us on the board appreciate hearing from you with your suggestions, program ideas, occasional attaboys/attagirls, and offers of help to keep our club moving forward.

## Send Your News, Tips, and Photos

Info and images for the newsletter are due the first of the month. We want to hear about your shows and awards, suggestions and discoveries. Photos should be 300 ppi and at least 4 inches on the horizontal edge.

If you have an idea for an article, kindly get in touch before writing it. Inclusion is at the discretion of the editor and board, and content is subject to editing. Please send suggestions and queries to:

[dgophotonews@gmail.com](mailto:dgophotonews@gmail.com).

## Images Online from DPC Members

Enjoy these websites showing work by club photographers.

Barbara Lawson	<a href="http://sanjuanimages.com">sanjuanimages.com</a>
Carol Lewin	<a href="http://carollewin.zenfolio.com">carollewin.zenfolio.com</a>
Howard Rachlin	<a href="http://HowardRachlin.com">HowardRachlin.com</a>
Jerry Baumann	<a href="http://flickr.com/photos/95667459@N05">flickr.com/photos/95667459@N05</a>
Linda Pampinella	<a href="http://lindapampinella.com">lindapampinella.com</a>
MaryAnne Nelson	<a href="http://flickr.com/photos/maryannenelson">flickr.com/photos/maryannenelson</a>
Mary Brisson	<a href="http://flickr.com/photos/marybrisson">flickr.com/photos/marybrisson</a>
Matt Hoaglin	<a href="http://allisonragsdalephotography.com">allisonragsdalephotography.com</a>
Nancy Young	<a href="http://nancysyoung.com">nancysyoung.com</a>
Ron Martin	<a href="http://ronmartinphotography.com">ronmartinphotography.com</a>
Tim Hamza	<a href="http://fourtheye.aminus3.com">fourtheye.aminus3.com</a>
Walter Pfau	<a href="http://walterpfauptography.com">walterpfauptography.com</a>
Yvonne Lashmett	<a href="http://DurangoExposures.com">DurangoExposures.com</a>

To list your own site for the benefit of other members and interested visitors, please send the link to [dgophotonews@gmail.com](mailto:dgophotonews@gmail.com).

## Our Forum in Yahoo Groups

Connect with other members to plan outings and to trade information. You can send and receive forum messages in your regular email program. To join, send a blank email to: [durangophotographyclub-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:durangophotographyclub-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

To post, email:

[durangophotographyclub@yahoogroups.com](mailto:durangophotographyclub@yahoogroups.com)

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## Rathr Flickr?

See work by other members and share your own at [flickr.com/groups/durangophotographyclub](http://flickr.com/groups/durangophotographyclub). Visit the page, then click the **+Join** button.

## Changed Your Email Address?

Please let us know your new contact info so we can keep sending you the newsletter and announcements. Write to us at [dgophotonews@gmail.com](mailto:dgophotonews@gmail.com). Thanks!