

Monochrome Digital HM, by Nicholas Gibson, See more HMs starting on p.11

In Focus

November Program–Creative Crud

Submitted by—Chris Baker

November 9, 2026 GigaParts Classroom, 6:30 p.m.

Our Program meeting on November 9 will feature the results of our Creative Crud exercise. We'll view a slideshow of the fun and creative ways that our HPS members used their random Dollar Store item in their photography. A reminder for the members who are participating:

- Each participant will submit (1) one regular/straight photo to show and define the object.
- Each participant will also submit (3) three additional photos that show your creativity with the object. These photo must include the object but you may use the whole object or a part of the object. It does not even have to be recognizable nor does it have to be the main subject of the photo. The photo does not have to show the object's intended use.
- Your creativity must take place in the camera, not in Photoshop or any other such program. You may use these programs for basic corrections such as cropping, levels, etc. but you may not use digital filters, cloning, major color alternations, AI,

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

November Program–Creative Crud 1
Upcoming Photo Contest Deadlines 2
End of Year Celebration 3
End of Year Print Competition 3
Upcoming Photography Workshops – 2027 3
Looking at AI from the past 4
October Competition Results . 5
2026 Competition Topics 5
November 2026 Judge—Joe Matus 5
Points for the Year to Date 6
New Members 6
October 2026 Images 7
Honorable Mention—Print ... 11
Honorable Mention—Digital 12

etc.

- Your (4) photos must be submitted via e-mail to Chris Baker at knc82099@me.com before Nov. 7 using the same submission standards as you use for the monthly competitions.

  JPEG images , maximum width 2800 pixels, maximum height 1600 pixels.

  File name must be: first and last name with no spaces, a dash and then entry number.

  Example: JohnDoe-1.jpg

We'll also conduct some year-end HPS business with a member review and approval of next year's budget, as well as an election of officers. For anyone interested in getting more involved, we have a vacancy on the board that we'd love to fill for next year. Please contact Chris Baker at knc82099@me.com for details.

Officers of HPS

President: Chris Baker

Primary Competition Officer: Julie Lumpkins

Digital Competition Officer: *OPEN*

Competition Records Officer: Eddie Sewall

Program Officer: Steven Butler

Activities & Workshops Officer: Paul Hauser

Publicity Officer: Xavier Adams

Treasurer: Bob Schmiedeskamp

Communications Officer: Jay Bain

Historian: Tom Bryant

Exhibition Officer: *OPEN*

PSA Representative: Lee Pratt

Non Board Positions

Webmaster: Tim McCorry

Assistant Webmaster: Bill Farnsworth

Upcoming Photo Contest Deadlines

- November 15 - 2026 Nature Photography Contest - https://thenaturephotocontest.com/
- December 3 - 2027 Wildlife Photographer of the Year - https://www.nhm.ac.uk/wildlife-photographer-of-the-year/competition.html
- December 13 - 2027 Bird Photographer of the Year - https://www.birdpoty.com/
- December 19 - 2026 Wildlife Photo Contest - Outdoor Photographer Magazine - https://www.outdoorphotographer.com/contest/wildlife-2026/
- January 5 - 2027 Sony World Photography Awards - https://www.worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards

HPS is meeting at GigaParts on the second Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., and on the fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m.

hpsphoto.org

https://www.facebook.com/groups/399566463394251/ (closed group)

End of Year Celebration

Submitted by Chris Baker

Planning is underway for our EOY banquet where we get together to share some food and hand out awards for best photos of the year, President's award, and Lifetime Achievement Awards. We hope you can join us for this celebration. Here are some details:

Where: Wesley Hall, Trinity United Methodist Church, 607 Airport Road, Huntsville

When: Tuesday, December 15, beginning at 6pm

Who: Club members and spouses/dates/significant others, Judges

What to Bring: Members with last names A-M will bring hor d'ourves, N-Z will bring desserts

End of Year Print Competition

Submitted by Chris Baker

We will be collecting the winning print images (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention) from any of this year's monthly competitions. Please bring them to either of the November meetings so they can be entered into the End of Year Competition. If you can't make it to a meeting, we will have a drop box set up at Trinity United Methodist Church where they can be deposited before November 30.

Upcoming Photography Workshops – 2027

Submitted by Brandon Black

I'm excited to share a few upcoming photography workshops for 2027 that may interest fellow club members! As always club members can use code HPSMEMBERS for a 10% discount on any workshop.

Chasing Waterfalls – Bankhead National Forest, Alabama
January 23 & February 20, 2027

Join me for a one-day, hands-on photography workshop exploring the beautiful waterfalls of Bankhead National Forest, often called the Land of a Thousand Waterfalls. We'll focus on composition, working with natural light, long exposures, and techniques for capturing stunning waterfall images. Each workshop is limited to just 4 participants to ensure plenty of individual instruction. Only 2 spots remain for January!

Capturing the Cosmos – Florida's Forgotten Coast
April 9–12, 2027

If astrophotography is more your style, join us for three nights under the stars along Florida's beautiful Forgotten Coast! We'll explore dark skies, historic lighthouses, quiet beaches, and coastal landscapes while learning techniques for capturing the Milky Way. Whether you're new to astrophotography or looking to take your night photography to the next level, this workshop promises some incredible opportunities.

I'd love to have some fellow club members join me! For more information or to register, visit: www.blacklion.photography/workshops

Instagram: @blacklion_photography_, Facebook: www.facebook.com/brandonblackphotography

Looking at AI from the past

Submitted by John Shriver

I found this recently and thought it interesting given the current discussions of AI in photography. It's written by Eduard (later Edward) Steichen and appeared in the first issue of Alfred Steiglitz's Camera Works in 1903.

YE FAKERS.

IT IS rather amusing, this tendency of the wise to regard a print which has been locally manipulated as irrational photography—this tendency which finds an esthetic tone of expression in the word faked.

A MANIPULATED print may not be a photograph. The personal intervention between the action of the light and the print itself may be a blemish on the purity of photography. But, whether this intervention consists merely of marking, shading and tinting in a direct print, or of stippling, painting and scratching on the negative, or of using glycerine, brush and mop on a print, faking has set in, and the results must always depend upon the photographer, upon his personality, his technical ability and his feeling.

BUT long before this stage of conscious manipulation has been begun, faking has already set in. In the very beginning, when the operator controls and regulates his time of exposure, when in the dark-room the developer is mixed for detail, breadth, flatness or contrast, faking has been resorted to. In fact, every photograph is a fake from start to finish, a purely impersonal, unmanipulated photograph being practically impossible. When all is said, it still remains entirely a matter of degree and ability.

SOME day there may be invented a machine that needs but to be wound up and sent roaming o'er hill and dale, through fields and meadows, by babbling brooks and shady woods—in short, a machine that will discriminatingly select its subject and by means of a skilful arrangement of springs and screws, compose its motif, expose the plate, develop, print, and even mount and frame the result of its excursion, so that there will remain nothing for us to do but to send it to the Royal Photographic Society's exhibition and gratefully to receive the "Royal Medal."

THEN, ye wise men; ye jabbering button-pushers! Then shall ye indeed make merry, offering incense and sacrifice upon the only original altar of true photography. Then shall the fakers slink off in dismay into the "inky blackness" of their prints.

EDUARD J. STEICHEN.

November 2026 Judge—Joe Matus
Subject—Action
November 23, GigaParts (Old Burlington Coat Factory Building), 6:30 p.m.



Joe Matus is retired from a 40-year career in the electronics and aerospace industry, spending the last 18 years at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in Huntsville where he contributed to numerous high-profile projects. Joe spent some of his time as a member of the Shuttle photographic analysis team, and was a member of the NASA solar eclipse team during both the 2017 and 2024 Great American Solar Eclipses, providing eclipse imagery and photography technical consulting to the NASA team.

Over the last 25 years, Joe has immersed himself in photography forums and literature, focusing on digital photography, photography as an art form, and creative self-expression. He has invested countless hours learning technical skills, collaborating with professionals and hobbyists, and trading constructive feedback with others.

Joe owned a small business for about 15 years, where he was the photographer for the Decatur Figure Skating Club. He specialized in ice skating action shots, portraiture, and other photographic services.

Joe loves sharing his knowledge and love of photography. He is always willing to provide thoughtful feedback and critique to those seeking to improve their craft.

October Competition Results
Subject—Open
Judge—José Betancourt

	Color Digital (54)	Monochrome Digital (50)	Color Print (20)	Monochrome Print (21)
1st	Ahmed Nassar	Chris Baker	Paul Hauser	John Shriver
2nd	Carol Eidson	Susan Poston	Casey Johnson	Barbara Staggs
3rd	Chris Baker	Mat Bevill	Paul Hauser	John Shriver
HM	Nicholas Gibson	Carol Eidson	Barbara Staggs	Paul Hauser
HM	Jack Eidson	Nicholas Gibson	Kate Deal	John Dillingham
HM	Ed Townsend	Wayne Cummins		
HM	Ahmed Nassar	Jack Eidson		
HM	Susan Poston	Susan Chi		

2026 Competition Topics

23 Nov—Action

Points for the Year to Date

Name	2026 Points	2026 Wins
Christopher Baker	57	19
Ahmed Nassar	49	16
Mike Cook	46	15
Casey Johnson	43	17
John Shriver	34	12
Barbara Staggs	26	9
Susan Poston	23	9
Doris Leverett	23	7
Paul Hauser	22	8
Margaret Phillips	21	8
Kate Deal	20	7
Tom Bryant	20	6
Allen Gary	18	10
Emily Saile	18	8
John Dillingham	14	8
Eric Deylius	13	7
Susan Chi	11	5
Henry Smith	11	5
Tyrell Jemison	10	5
Jane Reneau	10	5
Mat Bevill	9	7
Bill Farnsworth	9	4
Joy Henderson	8	3
Raksha Ramdas	8	2
Charles Leverett	7	5
Lara Deal	7	4
Ed Townsend	7	4
Jack Eidson	7	3
Carolyn Eidson	6	3
Bethanie Soto	6	3
Jim Spinoso	6	3
Bob Gathany	6	2
C.T. Chi	5	5
Carolyn Spinoso	5	2
Julia Gary	4	4
Karl Hagler	4	4
Matthew Crowell	4	1
Kevin Burton	3	1
Adive Onubedo	3	1
Nick Gibson	2	2
Robert Kemper	2	2
Ricky Pounders	2	2
Brandon Black	1	1
Evan Chaudhuri	1	1
Wayne Cummins	1	1
Barry Freeman	1	1
Virginia Gilbert	1	1
Tom Johnson	1	1
Lee Pratt	1	1
John Stevens	1	1

New Members

Mariko Darling
Edgar Finn
April Meloni
James Schoolar

October 2026 Images



Color Print 1st place
by Paul Hauser



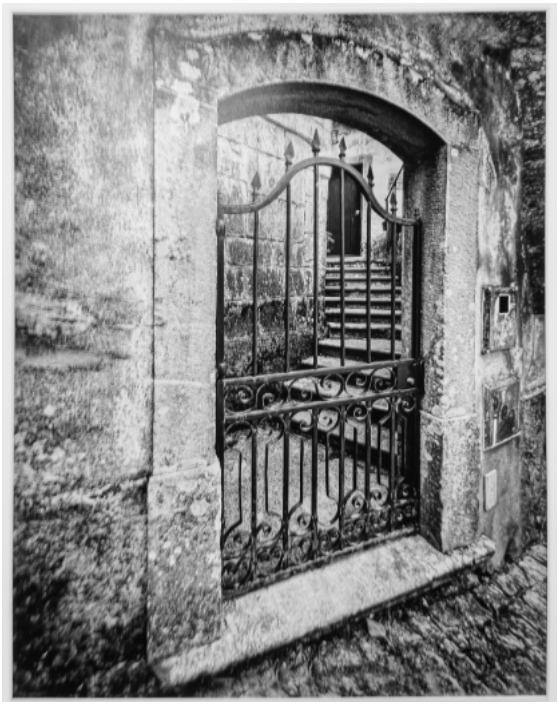
Color Print 2nd place
by Casey Johnson



Color Print 3rd place
by Paul Hauser

Monochrome Print
1st place
by John Shriver





Monochrome Print
2nd place
by Barbara Staggs

Monochrome Print
3rd place
by John Shriver





Color Digital
1st place
by Ahmed Nassar



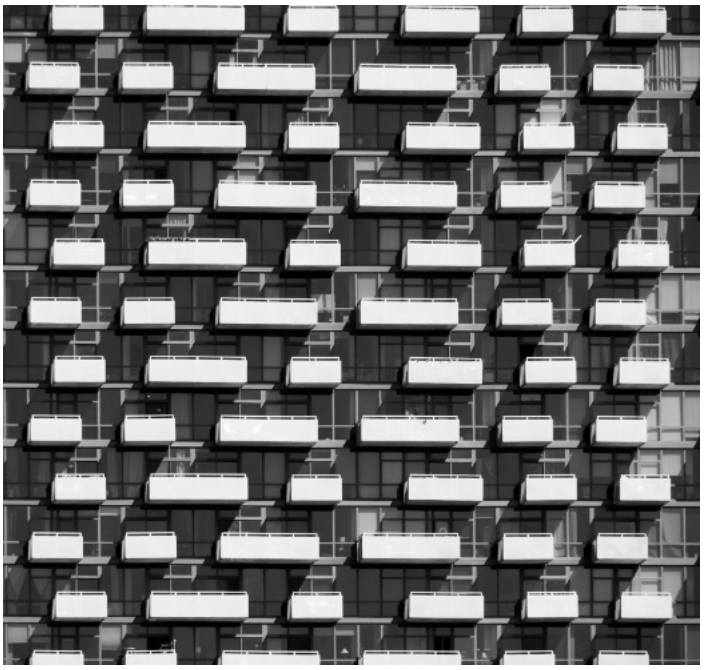
Color Digital
2nd place
by Carol Eidson



Color Digital
3rd place
by Chris Baker

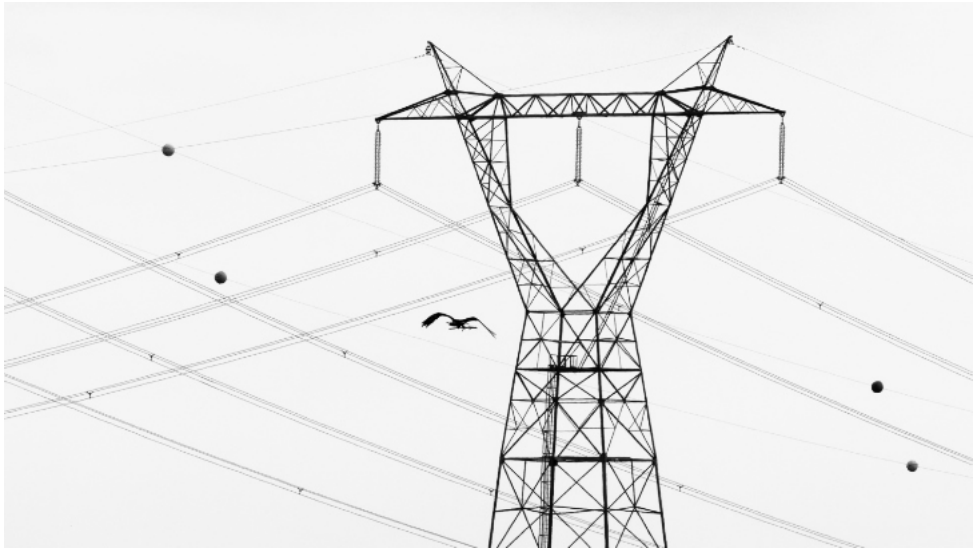
Monochrome
Digital 1st place
by Chris Baker





Monochrome Digital
2nd place
by Susan Poston

Monochrome Digital
3nd place
by Mat Bevill



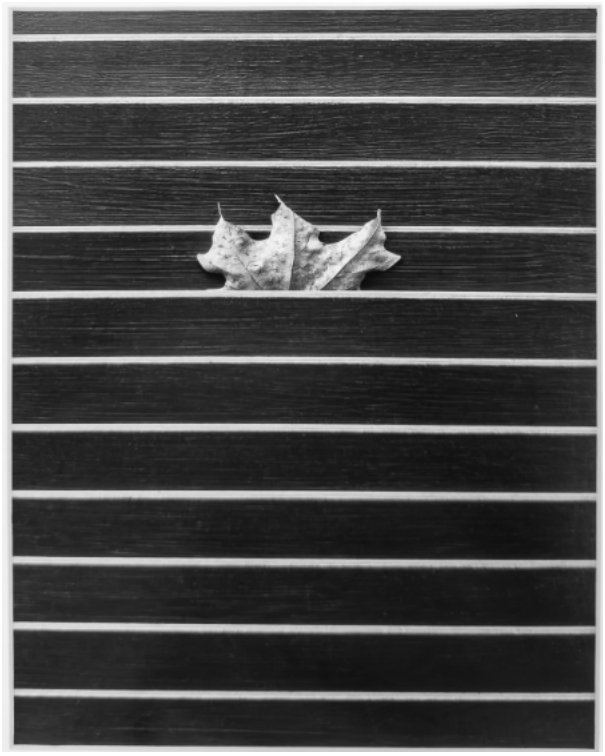
Honorable Mention—Print



Barbara Staggs



Kate Deal



Paul Hauser



John Dillingham

Honorable Mention—Digital



Nicholas Gibson



Jack Eidson

Ed Townsend



Ahmed Nassar





Susan Poston



Carol Eidson



Nicholas Gibson



Wayne Cummins



Jack Eidson



Susan Chi