

November PhotoShow Winners "One Season"



1st Place – Tom Carroll

**More Top
Pics
Page 4**

Contents

President's Comments – page 2

APC Board Contact Info – page 3

PhotoShow Top Photos – page 4

Christmas Party PhotoShow – page 5

Christmas Swap & Shop – page 5

Webmaster Notes – page 6

Christmas Party – page 6

Membership Corner – page 7

Fall Photos – page 8

Trading Post – page 8

Tutorials begin on – page 9

President's Comments—December 2025

By Keith O'Leary

Hi. As 2025 comes to a close, I'd like to thank each of you for another great year of learning and sharing our common interest in photography. I trust everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving and are looking forward to spending more time with loved ones this holiday season.

Thanks to all who submitted photos for last month's PhotoShow and to Dean White who presented and offered his comments on so many good photos. I'm looking forward to our Christmas party on 12/15 where we will enjoy our last meeting of the year with food, fellowship and a slideshow of some of your best photos. Also don't

forget the “Swap & Shop” opportunity to bring photography related items to sell, give away or just put on display for the night.

I hope you and your family have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Stay well and happy shooting!

Your President,

Keith O'Leary

APC ACTIVITIES - December 2025

- **Club Meeting** **December 15, 2025**
Member Slideshow
Fellowship/Snacks

APC Board with Contact Info



President

Keith O'Leary

alamancephoto@gmail.com

VP/Programs

John Reich

johnreich017@gmail.com

Secretary

Steve Kiefer

stephankiefer@mac.com

Treasurer

George Siple

georgesiple4775@gmail.com

PhotoShows

David Hall

apcphotoshow@gmail.com

Exhibits

Sean Leahy

photoexhibitapc@gmail.com

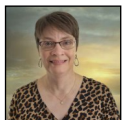
Field Trips

Hugh Comfort

apcfieldtrips@gmail.com

Membership

Resi Forrest

apcmembers2@gmail.com

Web Master

Christie O'Leary

alamancephoto@gmail.com

Socials

Mio Winkle

apctabletalkers@gmail.com

Newsletter

Ray Munns

raymunns@bellsouth.net

November PhotoShow "One Season"



2nd Place – Hugh Comfort



3rd Place – George Siple



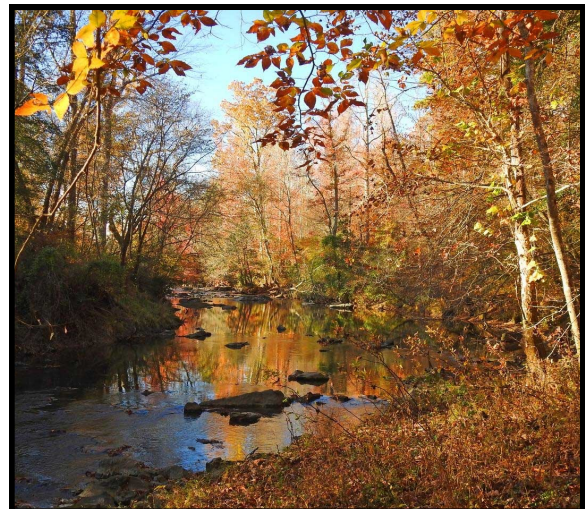
HM 1 - Ray Munns



HM 2 – Randy Grosch

Thank you Dean White for your time and effort in judging our PhotoShow! We appreciate your informative comments.

Great job!!



HM 3 - Hugh Comfort

Annual December Christmas Party PhotoShow

The Deadline is Fast Approaching

I am working on putting together the Christmas Party Slideshow now.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **no later than Saturday, December 6th, 2025**

Each member can select up to 15 of your best pictures of any subject taken at any time. There is no theme or any other guidelines --- just some of the photographs that you like most. All the photos will be presented in a slideshow.

1. email them to: apcphotoshow@gmail.com. In the Subject line --- Christmas Show
2. Photos 1MB to 25MB will display better.
3. Photos must be named as follows: FirstName.LastName_nn.

Ex. John.Doe_01, John.Doe_02, etc.

Naming the photographs is important

4. Each photographer will be highlighted with their submissions in the slideshow.

David Hall – PhotoShow Chair



Christmas Swap & Shop

You are invited to bring any of the following items to the December Christmas Party on 12/15:

- Any photography related items you would like to sell
- Any photography items you want to give away (free)
- Any special items you would like to just display (not for sale)



WEBMASTER NOTES

Webmaster announcement

Visit www.alamancephoto.com to:

- Renew your membership for 2026.
- Introduce potential members to the club.
- Stay up to date on the club events.

Christie O'Leary—Webmaster

Editor's Note:

I want to thank Christie for serving as secretary for the last couple of years. She has done a great job and continues to volunteer in other capacities.

Thank you, Christie!!



Christmas Party
December 15th
7 pm
@ First Baptist Church
in the Community Room

This year:

- **We will only have a Dessert/Snack Bar.**
- **A dessert/snack sign-up sheet link will be emailed in early December**, so watch your inbox so you can indicate what dessert/snack item you would like to bring. This sign-up sheet will update automatically; hence, let us bring a variety of treats.
- **Paper products will be provided.**
- **Your spouse or significant other is welcome to accompany you!** On the sign-up sheet you will be asked to list the number attending.
- **A slideshow of submitted photos will be shown.**

We are excited to see you and your spouse (*significant other*) at our annual Christmas Party!

Merry Christmas,

Christie O'Leary

Christmas Party Coordinator

APC Membership Corner

December, 2025



MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!



The holidays are upon us, what a wonderful & magical time of the year!!!

Whether you are an experienced photographer or a novice, Alamance Photo Club (APC) welcomes all in a supportive and judgement free space.

During this past year we have had thirteen visitors, six who have become members and an additional two who learned about APC online making a total of **eight** new members for the year. As we move into the new year, let's keep up the momentum by continuing to invite family members, friends, and community members to join us at our monthly meetings. If a potential member joins during the months of November and December, they will get the remainder of the year free with their payment for 2026 membership.

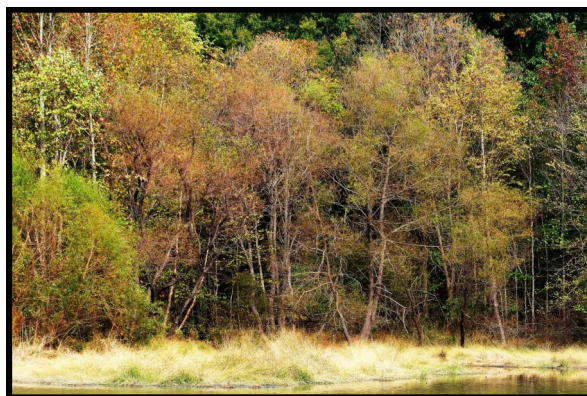
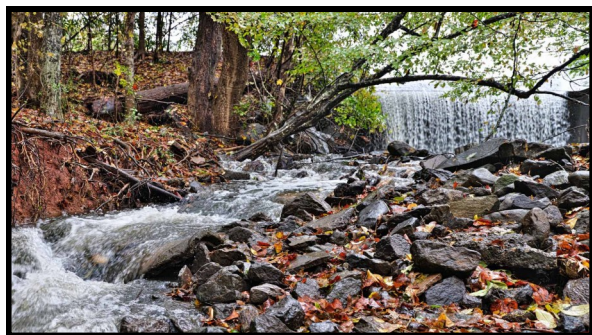
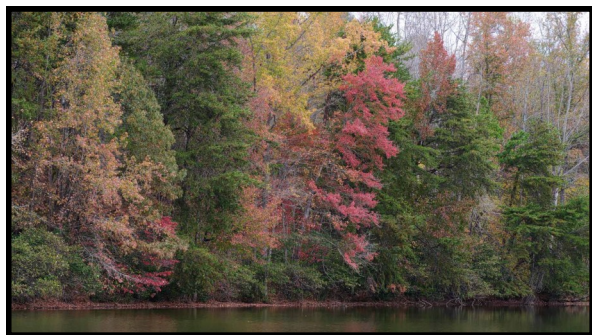
Also, as a friendly reminder, it's time to renew memberships. Our annual membership drive begins in January through February. Dues are \$42 individual, \$62 family & \$15 for students.

*****See the monthly Newsletter calendar for meetings and upcoming events.*****

Resi Forrest – Membership Chair

apcmembers2@gmail.com

Fall 2025 Photos by Randy Grosch



APC Trading Post

Submit brief descriptions of photography items you would like to sell, swap or purchase to Ray Munns (raymunns@bellsouth.net) no later than the 20th of each month. Please include your name, contact info (phone and/or email) and if each item is for sale or something you are looking to purchase. Also notify Ray when items should be removed from the newsletter.

For sale: a Canon EOS R8 camera (bought in 2024) that comes with a 24 - 50 mm lens, a 128 GB card from SanDisk, Canon battery and charger. Also, a non-Canon carrying case. It is in good shape.

Asking \$1,000 --- B&H photo sells this model for \$1300 and up. eBay's prices start at \$1,000 for body only and go up from there.

Contact Stephan Kiefer at: stephankiefer@mac.com

Picture-Perfect Festivities

Expert Tips for Capturing Holiday Parades and Festivals

By Hannah

Tips for Shooting Holiday Parades and Festivals

Capture the Magic and Energy of Festive Celebrations

Holiday parades and festivals are visual feasts, perfect for photography enthusiasts and professionals alike. From vibrant costumes and floats to joyful spectators, there are countless moments to immortalize. Here's a detailed guide filled with tips, tricks, and creative ideas to help you capture the heart of these festive events in your photographs.

1. Prepare Like a Pro

The key to great photos often lies in preparation. Before heading out:

Research the Event

- Study the parade or festival route, schedule, and highlights.
- Identify prime spots for photography—like near the starting line, dramatic turns, or grandstands.

Check the Weather

- Knowing the weather forecast helps you dress appropriately and pack any needed gear, like lens hoods or rain covers.

Scout the Location

- Visit the location a day or two beforehand if possible. Look for angles, lighting conditions, and interesting backdrops.

Pack Smart

- Bring a variety of lenses: a wide-angle lens for crowd shots and floats, a zoom lens for close-ups, and a fast prime lens for low-light conditions.
- Don't forget spare batteries, memory cards, a tripod or monopod, and a microfiber cloth for cleaning your lens.

Picture-Perfect Festivities: Capturing Holiday Parades and Festivals . . . Continued

2. Timing Is Everything

Arrive early to stake out the best location. Position yourself where the action is dynamic, but consider the lighting. For parades, look for areas where the floats might pause or performers interact with the crowd.

Golden Hour Advantage

If the event is in the morning or evening, use the golden hour to add warm, dramatic tones to your images.

Know the Schedule

Understanding when key acts, performers, or floats will pass helps you be ready to capture the most exciting moments.



3. Nail the Composition

Good composition makes the difference between a snapshot and a captivating photo.

Look for Leading Lines

Use elements like parade banners, streets, or the arrangement of floats to guide the viewer's eyes through your photo.

Frame Your Shots

Utilize natural frames, such as archways, flags, or hands forming shapes, to draw attention to your subject.

Play With Perspectives

- Experiment with low-angle shots to make floats or performers seem larger than life.
- Use high vantage points, like balconies or stairs, for dramatic overhead views.

Focus on Faces

Expressions bring your photos to life. Zoom in on the laughter of children, the concentration of performers, or the excitement of the crowd.



Picture-Perfect Festivities: Capturing Holiday Parades and Festivals . . . Continued

4. Capture the Details

While grand floats and massive crowds are impressive, don't overlook the smaller details that tell the story of the event.

Close-Up Magic

Photograph intricate costumes, holiday decorations, or performers' instruments. These detail shots add texture and depth to your event coverage.

Look for Contrasts

Juxtapose elements like traditional holiday outfits against modern cityscapes for a fresh take.

Spot the Unexpected

Keep an eye out for candid moments: a child's wide-eyed wonder, a performer adjusting their costume, or a pet in festive attire.

5. Master Lighting Challenges

Holiday parades and festivals often feature challenging lighting conditions, especially at night.

Bright Daylight

- Use a polarizing filter to reduce glare and enhance colors.
- Position yourself to make the most of shadows and light play.

Evening and Night Photography

- Use a tripod to stabilize long-exposure shots of lit floats or fireworks.
- Increase your ISO but balance it to avoid excessive noise.
- Opt for fast lenses (f/2.8 or wider) to capture sharp images in low light.

Handle Mixed Lighting

Festive lights can create unique color casts. Manually adjust your white balance for natural skin tones and true-to-life colors.



Picture-Perfect Festivities: Capturing Holiday Parades and Festivals . . . Continued

6. Engage With the Crowd

The energy of the crowd is a huge part of holiday events.

Photograph Reactions

- Capture the clapping, cheering, and waving of spectators.
- Look for diversity: families, elderly participants, and children add relatable elements to your photos.

Get Close (Respectfully)

Blend into the crowd to take intimate shots. Always ask permission before photographing individuals up close, especially kids.

Wide Crowd Shots

Capture the scale of the event with wide shots showing the sea of people, colorful flags, and bustling activity.

7. Make Use of Motion

Holiday parades are alive with motion—dancers twirling, floats moving, and confetti flying.

- Freeze the Action

Use a fast shutter speed (1/500 or faster) to capture sharp images of performers or moving floats.

Add Motion Blur

- Experiment with slower shutter speeds to create artistic blur in spinning wheels or flying flags.
- Pan your camera with moving subjects to keep them sharp while blurring the background.

Burst Mode

Use burst or continuous shooting mode to capture sequences of fast-moving action. This is especially useful for performances.



Picture-Perfect Festivities: Capturing Holiday Parades and Festivals . . . Continued

8. Highlight the Story

Think beyond single shots—tell a story with your photos.

Begin, Middle, End

Capture the setup, main event, and the closing moments. Photograph the empty streets before the parade, then the bustling action, and finally the cleanup or sunset-lit remnants.

Feature Key Characters

Identify the parade's stars: grand marshals, leading floats, or standout performers.

Cultural Element

Emphasize unique aspects of the event, like local traditions, music, or cuisine.

9. Post-Processing for Impact

Editing can elevate your holiday parade photos from good to stunning.

Enhance Colors

Boost the vibrancy of reds, greens, and golds to emphasize the festive theme.

Adjust Exposure

Balance highlights and shadows, especially in high-contrast situations.

Crop for Composition

Fine-tune your framing in post-production to remove distractions and focus on the subject.

Use Presets or Filters

Consider holiday-themed Lightroom presets or Photoshop filters to add a cohesive look.

10. Tips for Smartphone Photography

Not everyone has a DSLR or mirrorless camera. With today's advanced smartphones, you can still capture stunning parade photos.

Use Portrait Mode

Blur the background to focus on your subject, like performers or decorations.

Stabilize Your Phone

Use a small tripod or brace your phone against a solid surface for sharper images.



Picture-Perfect Festivities: Capturing Holiday Parades and Festivals . . . Continued

Take Advantage of Apps

Use photography apps for manual control over settings like shutter speed and ISO.

Edit on the Go

Apps like Snapseed or Lightroom Mobile let you enhance your photos immediately.

11. Stay Safe and Enjoy the Moment

Photography is exciting, but don't forget to soak in the festive spirit.

Be Mindful of Others

Avoid blocking the view for spectators, and always respect personal space.

Stay Alert

Watch for sudden movements in crowds or floats to keep yourself and your gear safe.

Balance Shooting and Experiencing

Put down the camera occasionally to appreciate the parade or festival firsthand.

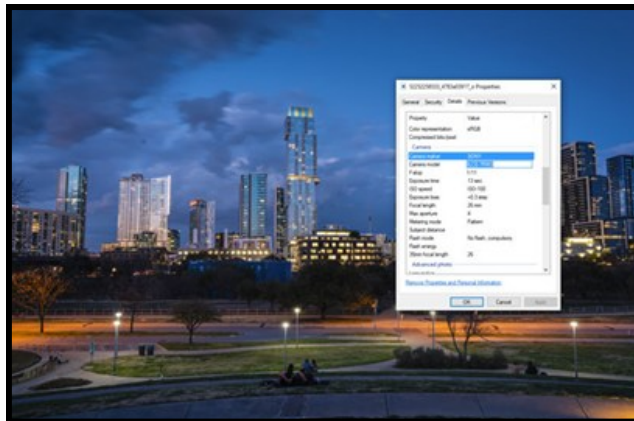
Conclusion

Photographing holiday parades and festivals is a rewarding experience that blends technical skill with artistic expression. By planning ahead, staying flexible, and focusing on the vibrant energy around you, you can create a stunning visual record of the celebration. Most importantly, let the joy and magic of the season shine through your images. Happy shooting!



Understanding Metadata for Photographers

In the digital age of photography, understanding metadata is crucial for photographers who want to manage, organize, and utilize their photos effectively. Metadata is the hidden data embedded within your digital images, providing essential information about the photo. Let's delve into what metadata is, why it's important, and how you can leverage it to enhance your photography workflow.



What is Metadata?

Metadata is essentially data about data. In the context of photography, it refers to the information embedded within your digital images that describe various aspects of the photo. This data includes details about the camera settings, the date and time the photo was taken, and even the GPS coordinates of the location where the photo was shot. Metadata is automatically generated by your camera when you take a photo and can be further edited and extended using various software tools.

Types of Metadata

EXIF (Exchangeable Image File Format):

- **Camera Settings:** Includes details such as shutter speed, aperture, ISO, focal length, and white balance.
- **Date and Time:** Records when the photo was taken.
- **Camera and Lens Information:** Brand and model of the camera and lens used.

Understanding Metadata for Photographers . . . Continued

IPTC (International Press Telecommunications Council):

- **Descriptive Information:** Captions, keywords, and titles that describe the content of the photo.
- **Author Information:** Photographer's name and contact details.
- **Copyright Information:** Usage rights and licensing details.

XMP (Extensible Metadata Platform):

- **Custom Data:** Allows for the creation of custom metadata fields to suit specific needs.
- **Compatibility:** Ensures metadata compatibility across different software applications.

Why is Metadata Important?

Organization and Searchability: Metadata helps you organize your photos systematically, making it easier to search and retrieve specific images. By adding keywords, captions, and ratings, you can quickly find photos based on various criteria.

Workflow Efficiency: Effective use of metadata can streamline your workflow. Software like Adobe Lightroom and Capture One allows you to sort, filter, and edit images based on their metadata, saving you time and effort.

Copyright and Ownership: Embedding your copyright information within the metadata ensures that your ownership is recognized and helps protect your intellectual property rights.

Geotagging: For travel and landscape photographers, GPS metadata is invaluable. It allows you to map out your photo locations and revisit them in the future or share them with others.

Client Communication: For professional photographers, metadata can include client details, project information, and specific requirements, making it easier to manage client shoots and deliverables.

Understanding Metadata for Photographers . . . Continued

How to View and Edit Metadata

In-Camera:

Some cameras allow you to view basic metadata information on the camera's LCD screen. However, for detailed metadata editing, you will need to use software tools.

Using Software:

- **Adobe Lightroom:** Provides extensive metadata editing capabilities, allowing you to add, edit, and search metadata fields.
- **Adobe Photoshop:** Offers metadata viewing and basic editing options.
- **Capture One:** Another powerful tool for managing metadata.
- **Free Tools:** Software like XnView and PhotoME provide free options for viewing and editing metadata.

Batch Editing:

Most professional software tools offer batch editing features, enabling you to apply metadata changes to multiple photos simultaneously. This is particularly useful for large photo shoots or when organizing your photo library.

Best Practices for Using Metadata

- **Be Consistent:** Develop a consistent method for adding and editing metadata. Use a standard set of keywords, captions, and ratings to ensure uniformity across photos.
- **Automate When Possible:** Use metadata presets and templates to automate the process of adding common metadata fields. This can save you a significant amount of time.
- **Backup Metadata:** Always ensure that your metadata is backed up along with your photos. Some software allows you to export metadata separately, providing an additional layer of protection.
- **Update Regularly:** As your photo library grows, periodically update your metadata to ensure it remains relevant and accurate.

Summary:

Understanding and utilizing metadata is a powerful way to enhance your photography workflow. By effectively managing your metadata, you can organize your photos better, protect your work, and streamline your editing process. Whether you're a hobbyist or a professional, mastering metadata is an essential skill that will serve you well throughout your photography journey.

The Photographer's Journey

Enhancing Skills through Routine Practice

Photography, like any art or skill, thrives on consistency. The journey to becoming an adept photographer is paved with continual learning, experimentation, and regular practice. Understanding why consistent practice is pivotal can be the difference between stagnation and growth in your photographic journey.



Photo captured by Aziz Acharki

Consistent practice in photography helps develop muscle memory and intuitive responses. Over time, adjusting your camera settings or framing a shot becomes second nature. This muscle memory allows you to focus more on creativity and less on the technicalities, enabling you to capture moments more fluidly and expressively.

Understanding Your Equipment

Frequent use of your camera and accessories familiarizes you with their quirks and features. The more you use your equipment, the better you understand its limitations and strengths, which can significantly influence your photographic outcome. This deep understanding can be the key to exploiting your gear to its fullest potential.

The Photographer's Journey: Enhancing Skills through Routine Practice. . . Continued

Cultivating a Unique Style

Regular practice provides you with the canvas to experiment and find your unique voice in photography. As you explore different styles, subjects, and techniques, you start to discern what resonates with you. This journey of discovery is essential in developing a distinctive style that sets your work apart.

Learning from Failure

Not every photo you take will be a masterpiece, and that's part of the learning curve. Regular practice involves making mistakes, analyzing them, and learning from them. This process is invaluable in improving your skills and avoiding similar errors in the future.

Adapting to Different Situations

Photography is often about adapting to changing conditions—lighting, weather, subjects, and environments. Consistent practice equips you with the experience to swiftly adjust to these variables, enhancing your ability to capture compelling images regardless of circumstances.



Photo captured by Kipras Streimikis

The Photographer's Journey: Enhancing Skills through Routine Practice. . . Continued

Keeping Up with Technological Advances

The field of photography is ever-evolving, with new techniques, software, and equipment continually emerging. By practicing consistently, you stay engaged with these advancements and learn how to integrate new tools and methods into your workflow.

The Role of Practice in Photo Editing

Consistent practice is crucial not only for capturing images but also in photo editing and post-processing. Regular engagement with editing tools enhances your ability to fine-tune images, helping you to express your artistic vision with greater precision. Through continuous practice, you gain a nuanced understanding of how to balance colors, adjust contrasts, and apply effects, thereby elevating your photographs from good to great.

"It takes ten thousand hours to truly master anything. Time spent leads to experience; experience leads to proficiency; and the more proficient you are the more valuable you'll be." – Malcolm Gladwell

Maintaining Passion and Inspiration

Lastly, consistent practice keeps your passion for photography alive and kicking. It encourages you to seek new sources of inspiration, keep your creative juices flowing, and maintain a deep connection with your art.

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