

Photo by George Siple

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President's Comments—June 2025

By Keith O'Leary

Greetings. Thanks to Dick Schenck who shared many interesting photos last month from the time he served as a Foreign Service Officer in Afghanistan in the early 1970's. We also tested the logistics of adding Zoom to our monthly meetings in May and feel it was a success. We thus will be reactivating our account before our June meeting so participants will stay connected for the entire meeting. 😊

FYI: June 15th is Nature Photography Day so get out there and take some new nature photos!

This month's PhotoShow theme is "Member's Choice" so everyone should have something they can share. Remember, we encourage all to participate regardless of your level of experience. We are here to have fun and learn from each other.

Stay well and happy shooting!

Best regards,
Keith O'Leary

**** ZOOM in June ****

In June we will be starting Zoom meetings for those who are unable to join us in person. Links to Zoom meetings will be emailed to members only and should not be shared with others.

APC ACTIVITIES - June 2025

- **Club Meeting** **June 16, 2025**
 Any photograph of the member's choice
 Melissa Southern will be our judge

APC Board with Contact Info



President

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alamancephoto@gmail.com

VP/Programs

John Reich

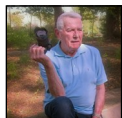
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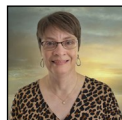
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Newsletter

Ray Munns

raymunns@bellsouth.net

Here is a preview of the 2025 Alamance Photography Club PhotoShows – David Hall

The five PhotoShows we have planned for this year started in April and will be followed by shows in June, August, October, and November. You may recall that in the December Newsletter I wrote that the overall concept for 2025 will be more creativity in our photography or getting out of our comfort zone(s). That creativity could either be behind the lens, in the editing/post processing --- OR both. If you prefer, neither --- it is all up to you.

The subject or theme for each PhotoShow month is:

- June – ***Any*** photograph ***of the member's choice***
 - Melissa Southern will be our judge
- August – ***The Same Subject***
 - Any subject, but all submissions must be of that same subject
 - Photos will be judged by the club members
- October – One ***Season***
 - Photographs representative all of one season
 - Dean White will be our judge
- November – ***Color***
 - Pick a single color and shoot anything of that color and/or photos of a subject framed by a solid block of that color

The subjects for this year are ones that may present opportunities throughout the year, not necessarily during any set time period. Of course, deciding on a season to photograph would be the obvious exception. The timing of the shows should maximize those opportunities.

Here is a preview of the 2025 Alamance Photography Club Programs—John Reich

- July
 - Mio Winkle: "Birding in Costa Rica through my lens"
- September
 - Dan Walker: "Trip down Route 66"

June 16th PhotoShow

"Any Photograph - Members' Choice"

David Hall, PhotoShow Chair

Members' Choice is the theme of our June PhotoShow. Everyone can submit 2 or 3 photos.

The photos can be of any subject, taken at any time, it is up to you. Truly, your choice.

Submission Guidelines:

Number of Entries: Up to Three (3) entries per member.

Format: .jpg

File Naming: Please name your photos using the following format:

Firstname.lastname_01, _02,

Examples: john.doe_01.jpg john.doe_02.jpg

Size: Between 1 and 25 MB

Email: Send all images to apcphotoshow@gmail.com
Email Subject Line: include the month of the PhotoShow and your name
Example: Photos for June PhotoShow – John Doe

Submission Deadline: June 6, 2025

Please Note:

Submissions that do not adhere to the guidelines above may be returned.

*If you have any issues with formatting or submitting, please let us know at apcphotoshow@gmail.com and we will be happy to assist. Also **let me know if your submitted photos are not acknowledged within a few days and/or by the deadline.***



WEBMASTER NOTES

Our website: <https://www.alamancephoto.com/> is a great way:

- To introduce potential members to the club.
- To stay up to date on the club events.

Christie O'Leary—Webmaster

APC Membership Corner

June, 2025

Our membership is growing, growing, growing! At last month's meeting we had two people join the Photo Club, husband & wife Lyle and Julie Johnson. Please join me in welcoming them. Continue to invite family members, friends, and community members to join us at our monthly meetings.

Remember to complete your member bio questionnaire to be featured in one of our Newsletters. This month our member bio will feature Deborah Lew.

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

Resi Forrest – Membership Chair

apcmembers2@gmail.com



Table Talkers



**We will not have a Table Talkers
Get-together for June**

Mio Winkle

Member Bio

Deborah Lew



Interest in photography: I picked up a DSLR during Covid and went outside for space and air as often as I could. At a concert I met a woman who looked just like Annie Liebowitz, taking pics. We became great friends and since she shot circus, I towed along with her, and shot circus. I had to know the exposure triangle to shoot fast, in low light. I learned to love the faces of the performers, and am pretty much in love with faces

Member of Alamance Photography Club: 1 year

Favorite things to photograph: Portraiture and street photography and my family always!

Camera Equipment: Nikon D850

Favorite post-processing software: Camera raw, Printshop, and am anxious to really get going with evoto

Personal Interest: Learning things

Family: Married 32 years stronger than ever. 4 girls, 5 grands

City where I live: Mebane 30 years - not long enough though, we are transplants from upstate NY (myself) and CA (my husband)

Current/Previous occupation: Retail Merchandising/Candor Market in Mebane

"Fun fact" about self: We are an Irish/Chinese/German blended family—wouldn't have it any other way

Spring 2025 Field Trip to Greensboro Science Center (GSC)

This is now a personal field trip. You may visit, photo and submit photos until June 30. Please refer to the email on May 2 for instructions on submitting photos.

The Greensboro Science Center (GSC) is a science museum and zoological park established in 1957 and located at 4301 Lawndale Dr., Greensboro, NC 27455. Its mission is to inspire curiosity and connect communities through science and conservation by providing ever-evolving experiences where exploration and imagination intersect, igniting a lifelong passion for science and the natural world. It has been accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums since 2008 and is a member of the American Alliance of Museums.

As this general description suggests, GSC has a small, but interesting and accessible zoo and a similar aquarium. It has a little bit of a lot of things and they can all be sampled in a day's outing. Hours are 9 AM to 5 PM. The Photo Policy is you are welcome to take photos and/or videos for personal use only. Entry cost is \$21 for adults (\$20 if 65 or older).

Hugh Comfort – Outings/Field Trips

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.



DJI Mavic Air 2 Drone

Includes drone, controller, 3 batteries, ND filters and charging cables. Price \$550.

Contact Sam Lynch 336-263-9134.

The Rule of Space in Photography

By Megan Kennedy



In this article, I'm going to answer all your questions about the rule of space in photography:

What it is. How it works. And how you can use it for amazing results.

Specifically, by applying the rule of space to photography, you can embrace the quieter moments in visual imagery – and you can amplify the impact of your subject by balancing positive and negative compositional elements.

Let's dive right in.

What is the rule of space in photography?

The rule of space in photography is a method of incorporating visual absence to give a subject room to breathe.

Although the rule of space is more like a guide than a rigid rule, it is a handy compositional device. It's a great way to add a sense of vastness, depth, and/or motion to a photograph.

The Rule of Space in Photography . . . Continued

Why is the rule of space important?

To understand the rule of space, we first need to take a brief look at positive and negative space.

Photographers use the terms positive space and negative space to contrast impactful and more subtle areas in a photograph.

Generally, positive space refers to specific subjects that command a viewer's attention. Negative space, on the other hand, is less visually demanding and provides a frame for the main event in an image.

For example, in the image below, the clouds represent positive space, whereas the sky and dark shadows create the negative space that frames the main subject.



*Canon 5D Mark IV | Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS
USM | f/10 | 1/500s | ISO 100*

So where does the rule of space in photography fit in?

In general terms, the rule of space governs the use of negative space within an image. By understanding the nature of the rule of space, a photographer can harness the intent of a subject, as well as add depth and perspective to the image.

The rule of space is important because it aids a photographer in articulating the energy of a photograph – and it guides the viewer's eye by sculpting key visual events and affording the subject more room to move.

Working with the rule of space: the basics

To work with the rule of space in photography, first consider the behavior of your subject.

Ask yourself: What is the subject doing? Is it moving or stationary? How does it occupy space?

At the same time, visualize what you want to convey in the photograph. Is it movement? Perspective? Depth? Narrative?

The nature and behavior of your subject plus your intent should together determine how you apply the rule of space.

The Rule of Space in Photography . . . Continued

Perspective

One of the main ways the rule of space can impact a photograph is through perspective. Abundant space around a subject can make the subject appear smaller or larger depending on the camera angle.

For example, a subject photographed from a high angle, surrounded with minimal detail, can seem smaller and more immersed in negative space.

*Canon 5D Mark IV | Canon EF 24-105mm
f/4L IS USM | f/5.6 | 1/200s | ISO 100*



Conveying momentum

The rule of space in photography can help you create the impression of movement.

To convey action, the rule suggests that space should be left either in front of or behind the subject (or both).

For example, if a subject is moving across a scene, you can aim to capture both the subject and the negative space surrounding the subject. The extra space conveys the subject's movement, adding the momentum a tight crop may lack.

Allowing a subject room to move adds momentum.



*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS
USM | f/10 | 1/640s | ISO 250*

The Rule of Space in Photography . . . Continued

Adding depth

The rule of space in photography is not limited to highly active subjects; it works for stationary subject matter, too!

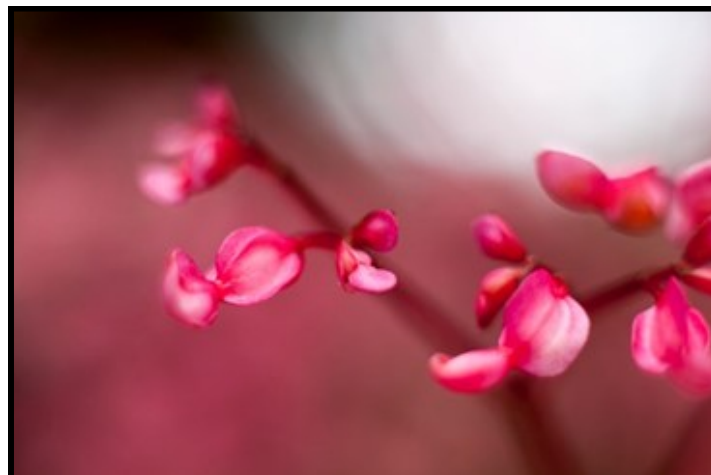
For example, in portraiture, your composition can be governed by pairing the gaze or gesticulations of the subject with negative space. A subject's gaze naturally directs our attention – we want to see what the subject sees.

But when a gaze is met by negative space, the viewer's eye will often naturally return to the original source of the gaze. The rule of space provides an organic way of adding depth and directing viewer attention.

You can also use the rule of space with non-human/animal subject matter – based on their movement, perceived gesticulations, and extensions. By following the momentum, composition, or behavior of a non-human subject, you'll find ideal placements for negative space.

In the example below, I surrounded several blossoms with negative space; this additional room suggests growth and depth. It also highlights the detail in the individual florets.

Leaving extra room around specific flower heads to articulate their elemental composition is one way to emphasize non-human subjects through the rule of space.



*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II with extension tubes
f/2.5 | 1/1250s | ISO 200*

The Rule of Space in Photography . . . Continued

Rule of space challenges

The process of applying the rule of space to photographs is not that difficult in itself. However, a tendency to cram each image with as much visual information as possible can get in the way of exploring negative space.

Instead, deliberately and mindfully take a minimalist approach. You can also zoom out or physically take a few steps back from a subject to refocus on the rule of space.

Tips and techniques for working with the rule of space

Here are a few tips for working with the rule of space:

Tip 1: Use other compositional rules, too

Applying the rule of space to your photography doesn't have to come at the cost of other compositional rules.

In fact, combining compositional tenets with the rule of space in photography can increase the chances of creating a successful photograph.

Compositional rules such as the rule of thirds, leading lines, depth of field, and repetition can all be used in conjunction with the rule of space to create engaging imagery.

*Canon 5D Mark IV | Canon EF 24-105mm
f/4L IS USM | f/5 | 30s | ISO 100*



Tip 2: Let it breathe

The rule of space is all about giving a subject or a scene room to breathe.

So step back, zoom out, or even try a wider lens; that way, you can add a sense of spaciousness to your photos.

The Rule of Space in Photography . . . Continued

Tip 3: Experiment with different camera settings

Your choice of camera settings can help follow the rule of space more effectively.

For instance, you might use a shallow depth of field to surround a subject with negative space. You could also try using a slow shutter speed and panning your camera while leaving space before or after a subject to amplify movement.

You can amplify perspective with the rule of space in photography.

*Canon 5D Mark II | Canon EF 100-400mm
f/4.5-5.6L IS II USM | f/5.6 | 1/125s | ISO 200*



The rule of space in photography: conclusion

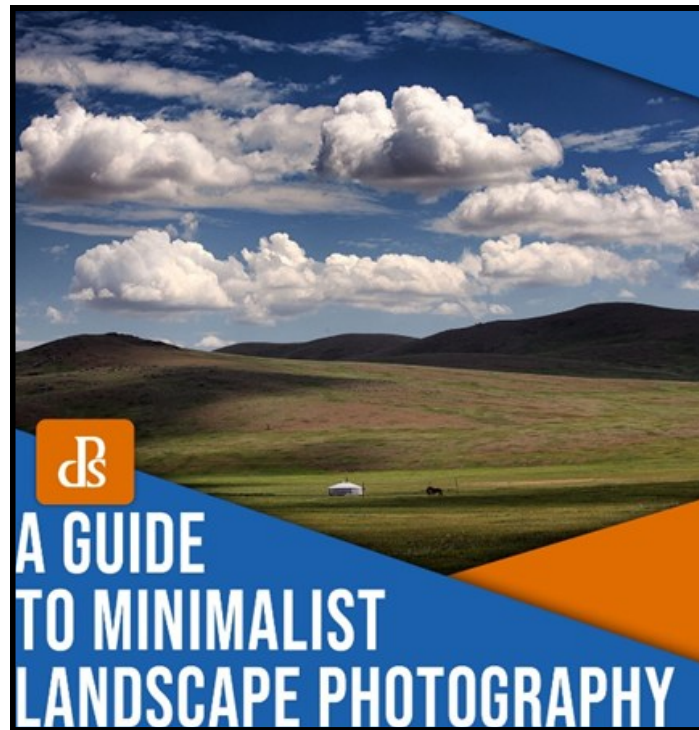
The rule of space aims to create a mindful harmony of positive and negative space.

And by applying this rule, you can emphasize and frame positive subject matter while generating an evocative balance of weight and weightlessness within an image.

So the next time you're out with your camera, remember the rule of space – and do what you can to apply it in your images!

A Simple Guide to Minimalist Landscape Photography

By Simon Bond



Do you ever wish that your landscape photos were more striking – the kind of images that cause people to stop and stare? You might think the answer is to travel to breathtaking locations, but I have another, much simpler suggestion: Try going minimalist.

You see, in landscape photography (and any type of photography, really!), the simplest images are often the most striking. And minimalism is all about keeping it simple.

With minimalism, the basic goal is to pare down your landscape images until they're reduced to a few simple elements. It's not difficult to do, though creating this type of image does require thoughtful use of your lens, careful composition, and consideration of your location. In this article, I explain how you can capture amazing minimalist landscape photos of your own!

A Simple Guide to Minimalist Landscape Photography . . . Continued

1. Choose the right location



In this photo, the main subject is the mountain in the distance. The remainder of the frame is kept simple.

You can do minimalist landscape photography in a lot of locations. You don't need classic landscape photography features, such as picturesque waterfalls or stunning coastal rivers, to get good minimalist shots.

But that doesn't mean that you can capture amazing minimalist shots anywhere. Yes, you have a lot more options, but you'll want to choose your location carefully. In my experience, where you take your photo will go a long way toward ensuring success.

So where can you capture the best minimalist shots?

In general, you'll have the most success in relatively remote locations. Minimalism is all about simplicity, and remote locations tend to be visually simple. Once you add in too many people and human-made structures, the world starts to get more complex, and achieving a simple shot becomes a lot harder.

When photographing in a busier environment, you'll need to use the correct lens and camera angle to maintain minimalism with your photo. More remote locations naturally have a minimalist feel, but the challenge in those locations is locating a strong main subject.

The following are locations you could use for a minimalist landscape image:

- **Coasts:** Beaches, oceans, and sand dunes are great locations for minimalist photography. The great expanse of the sea invites minimalism. You can further build on this by flattening the sea through a long exposure. Interesting rock formations or a lighthouse can make great main subjects.
- **Deserts:** Whether you're photographing on the sand or on the ice, deserts are the land equivalent of the sea when it comes to minimalism. Vast, uniform in their features, and without the clutter of human development, deserts offer plenty of minimalist possibilities!

A Simple Guide to Minimalist Landscape Photography . . . Continued

Thanks to their relative simplicity, deserts make excellent locations for minimalist landscapes.



- **Mountains:** These breathtaking formations do offer opportunities to create minimalist landscape photos. If you photograph too many mountains in one scene, the result can feel cluttered, so choose your compositions with care. For instance, a lone hut surrounded by the green foothills of a mountain range would make for a good minimalist shot!

2. Pick your lens carefully

The lens you choose is just as important as the location for a minimalist landscape. There is no absolute rule for which lens to use; it depends on the location you find yourself in.

If you have chosen a location in the wilderness, the chances are you can use either a wide-angle lens or a long telephoto lens. However, if you're photographing in an area with lots of human-made structures, your lens choice becomes even more important.

- **Wide-angle lenses:** These lenses work well for minimalism, as you can use that wide angle to create the nice negative space required for a minimalist landscape while capturing the main subject – such as a distant mountain on the horizon – small in the frame. In a more cluttered environment, you need to be careful, however. The wide field of view could easily cause unwanted elements to appear in the frame and make your composition appear far too busy. If that happens, you'll either need to adjust your perspective to exclude those elements from the frame, or you'll need to use a longer lens instead.

A Simple Guide to Minimalist Landscape Photography . . . Continued

- **Telephoto lenses:** These lenses allow you to zoom in on a particular portion of your scene. Here, the challenge is to avoid compressing too many things into the same photo. Choose an area on the horizon that's interesting but devoid of too many extra elements. This focal length can be a big advantage in a busier setting that's generally too chaotic for minimalism, yet has portions of the skyline that can be zoomed in on to create a minimal image.



I used a wide-angle lens to capture this minimalist landscape. Note how the wide field of view let me highlight the repeating patterns in the sand juxtaposed against the flat blue sky.

3. Adjust your perspective

Photos that are taken at eye level work well for many situations. However, when you're trying to capture a minimalist landscape image, changing to a new perspective can simplify the composition very effectively!

When simplifying a landscape scene, here are some perspectives and compositional approaches to keep in mind:

- **Bird's-eye view:** Things look very different when you're looking down from high above the landscape. The higher you get, the more dramatic this becomes, and the more the landscape becomes more abstract and simple. There are many amazing minimalist landscape shots taken with drones, and this is why!
- **Worm's-eye view:** At the other extreme is the worm's-eye view; that is, photos taken from low down so the camera is pointed upward. These photos can include a small amount of the horizon line and make the remainder of the photo about the sky, giving you a landscape shot with a very minimalist feel.

A Simple Guide to Minimalist Landscape Photography . . . Continued

- **Frames:** The use of a frame-within-a-frame technique – where you frame the landscape with some sort of human-made or natural frame, like a window or a stand of trees – can result in a wonderfully simple image. The landscape itself need not be fully minimalist, so long as the surrounding frame excludes chaotic areas of the scene and emphasizes enough negative space to tick the minimalist box.
- **The lensball:** A lensball basically frames a landscape inside a spherical object. That allows you to frame a minimalist landscape and keep the area surrounding the ball simple. It's an unconventional way to get a minimalist shot, but it works, and the result can be ultra-creative!

With a lensball, you can take a scene that is normally fairly complex and capture it in a minimalist way.



4. Find a good main subject

Almost every type of photo is strengthened by having a main subject. In some cases, the inclusion of that main subject can be more of a challenge. Portrait photos, for instance, have an obvious main subject: the person you're photographing. Landscape photos, on the other hand, may not always have an obvious main subject – in some cases, it's not needed – but for most landscape shots, having this additional focal point will boost the image.

Now, for minimalist landscape photography, the main subject won't just act as a standard focal point. Instead, thanks to the negative space everywhere else in the frame, it'll leap out of the photo.

So what type of object could you use for this main subject?

- **A lone tree:** This is a minimalist landscape classic! There's a good reason that lone trees work so great for this type of photography. It's a clear focal point, it looks beautiful, and it can be incorporated into various compositional approaches (symmetry, rule of thirds, etc.). It's also relatively easy to isolate a lone tree.

A Simple Guide to Minimalist Landscape Photography . . . Continued

- **A single person:** A lone person silhouetted against the horizon. Someone riding their bike up the ridge of a hill. A hiker standing at the base of a mountain. If you include a single person in your minimalist landscapes, the photos will have more narrative – though it's up to you whether you want to wait for a person to walk through your frame or whether you want to stage the scene.
- **A building:** Most landscape photographers like to avoid including too many buildings in the frame, but a single building surrounded by negative space can look fantastic. In rural settings, look for red-walled barns against green hills; in coastal settings, see if you can incorporate a lighthouse into your shots.

The single yurt acts as the main subject in this photo. Notice how it stands out thanks to all the negative space around it!



5. Try other techniques

Minimalist landscapes naturally dovetail with several other well-known photography techniques. You can apply one or more of these to your photo as you see fit:

- **Silhouettes:** To photograph a silhouette, you'll need to point your camera toward the light – often toward a sunset sky. This means landscape features in your photo will likely be black, while the sky will (hopefully!) be filled with color. This will give you a good chance of creating a minimalist image.
- **Long exposure:** Blurred clouds moving across the sky and flat water skimming across the ocean's surface are both the result of long-exposure photography. Use a tripod and expose for more than five seconds to flatten the sea. To see cloud movement, you'll generally need an exposure longer than 30 seconds.

A Simple Guide to Minimalist Landscape Photography . . . Continued

- **Color harmony:** This is all about maintaining a nice color palette throughout the photo. Working with cold colors or warm colors is a good starting point – but for an even more minimalistic effect, try keeping the same color but in different shades. There is a lot of potential for this in landscape photography, especially when the photo is taken from a bird's-eye point of view.
- **Black-and-white conversions:** Black-and-white landscape photography is powerful, at least in part, because it's inherently minimalistic. A B&W conversion strips away color information, simplifying the shot. And if you use a high-contrast approach when editing, you can get even more minimalistic results. If you're struggling to simplify the landscape, try a black-and-white conversion and see what you think.



This photo has a relatively complex set of elements, but my black-and-white conversion helped simplify the shot.

Don't be afraid to go minimalist!

Landscape photography and minimalist photography are both extremely popular, especially on social-media platforms. That's why I think it's such a great idea to combine them!

So head out with your camera and see if you can take some beautiful minimalist landscape photos. Remember that minimalism doesn't require classically breathtaking scenes; instead, seek out relatively remote locations, then use various compositional approaches to simplify the shot. Pretty soon, you'll have a portfolio of breathtaking landscapes!

10 Advanced Smartphone Camera Options for Avid Photographers

By Richard Schneider

While most smartphone users are familiar with the basic features of their camera, there are lesser-known features and capabilities that can greatly enhance the photography experience. Some of these features may be device-specific or available through third-party apps, but photographers should be aware of the following:

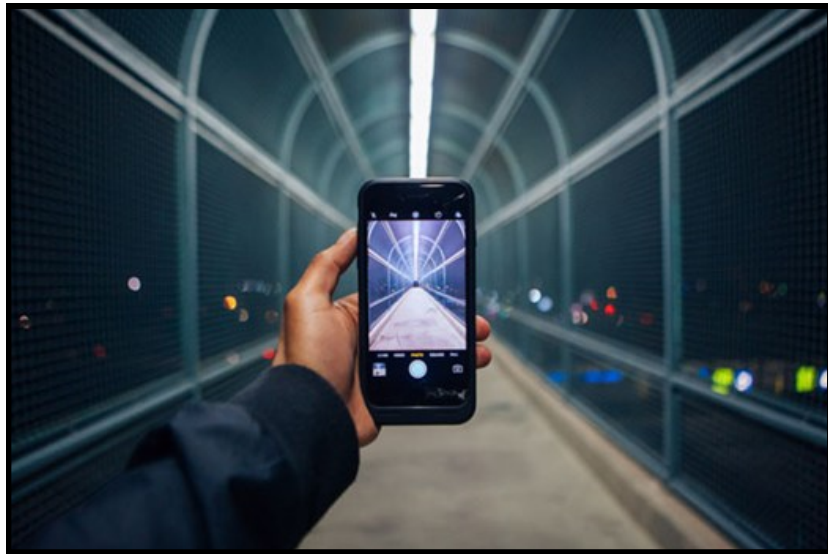


Photo captured by Omar Prestwich

1. **RAW image capture:** Many smartphones allow users to capture images in RAW format, which provides more control over post-processing.
2. **Manual mode:** Some smartphones have a manual mode that allows users to adjust settings like shutter speed, ISO, and focus, providing greater creative control.
3. **Focus peaking:** This feature highlights in-focus areas of the image, making it easier to determine the depth of field and ensure a sharp focus.
4. **Long exposure:** Some smartphones support long exposure photography, allowing users to capture light trails, star trails, or smooth water effects.
5. **Bracketing:** With bracketing, the camera takes multiple images at different exposure levels, allowing photographers to merge them for HDR photos or choose the best exposure later.

10 Advanced Smartphone Camera Options for Avid Photographers . . . Continued

6. **ProRAW:** Exclusive to some iPhone models, ProRAW combines the benefits of RAW format and computational photography for greater flexibility in post-processing.
7. **Night mode:** This feature enables better low-light photography by taking multiple images and combining them to reduce noise and enhance detail.
8. **Burst mode:** By holding down the shutter button, users can take a rapid succession of images, making it easier to capture action or fast-moving subjects.
9. **Time-lapse:** Many smartphones have a built-in time-lapse feature, allowing users to create stunning videos by capturing images at specific intervals.
10. **External lenses:** To expand their smartphone's capabilities, photographers can use external lenses, such as wide-angle, telephoto, or macro lenses, which can be attached to the phone's camera.

Remember that not all smartphones may have these features, and updates or new models may introduce even more capabilities. To get the most out of your smartphone camera, it's essential to explore and experiment with the available settings and features.

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Rm



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WHERE ART LIVES

Alamance Photography Club
is an affiliate of Alamance Arts