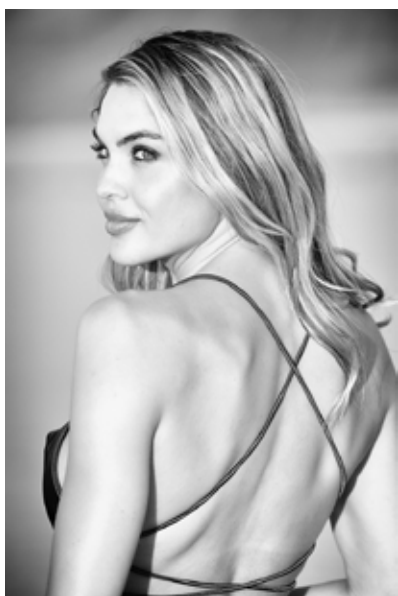


# Focal EXPRESSIONS



Newsletter of the Nevada Camera Club • A Member Club of the Photographic Society of America • July 2025  
 See the Nevada Camera Club Web Site at <http://nevadacc.org/>

*Olivia* by Stephen Cupp. Blue Ribbon in Master Portraiture with 26 points



This portrait of Olivia was shot at f/4 for two reasons. The first is to throw the background out of focus and the second is to keep the shutter speed higher. This was shot at the dry lake about 10 minutes before the sun went behind the mountain. During post processing I made small adjustments to the exposure and a slight vignette in Lightroom and then in Photoshop I softened her skin a bit and converted it to monochrome using Nik Silver Effects Pro. I like to use the presets that make the models skin more on the light side instead of dark. ●

## JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## NCC Calendar

Events listed in **BOLD FACE SMALL CAPS** are open to the public. Events listed in plain face are open only to NCC members. Unless noted, all General Meetings begin at 7:00 PM in the St. Andrew Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 8901 Del Webb Blvd., Las Vegas. All Executive Board Meetings begin at 7:00 PM by Zoom.

### JULY

- 1 Executive Board Meeting on Zoom, 7 PM  
**ENTRY INTERFACE FOR 2025 ANNUAL OPEN ELECTRONIC IMAGE COMPETITION OPENS.**
- 11 **PROGRAM MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OF ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, FEATURING J.P. HAMILTON, 7 PM.**
- 15 Judges Corner on Zoom, 7 PM.
- 21 Deadline to enter Monthly Electronic Image Competition, 11:59 PM.
- 25 **MONTHLY ELECTRONIC IMAGE COMPETITION MEETING ON ZOOM, 7 PM.** Club Challenge: *Motion.*
- 29 Deadline for the August issue of *Focal Expressions.*

### AUGUST

- 1 **ENTRY INTERFACE FOR THE 2025 ANNUAL OPEN ELECTRONIC IMAGE COMPETITION CLOSES AT 11:59 PM.**
- 5 Executive Board Meeting on Zoom, 7 PM
- 8 **PROGRAM MEETING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OF AT. ANDREWS LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7 PM.**
- 18 Deadline to enter the Monthly Print Competition, 11:59 PM.
- 22 **THE MONTHLY PRINT COMPETITION IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OF AT. ANDREWS LUTHERAN CHURCH, 7 PM.** Club Challenge: *Baby or Babies*
- 26 Deadline for the September issue of *Focal Expressions.*

## President's Message

by Clayton Fox, ANCC



Independence Day is here! Let's celebrate the ratification of the Declaration of Independence! There should be lots of opportunities for Firework photos also! Let's hone our skills and see what we can get. It's still hot out so make sure to hydrate if you're out shooting during the day. There are two Moon events this month: The Full Buck Moon on July 10<sup>th</sup> and the New Moon on the 24<sup>th</sup>. We have our Electronic Competition on Zoom

on the 25<sup>th</sup>. I'm looking forward to great Motion photos!

We still are in dire need of volunteers for some of our open positions within the Club. We can't survive without member support, so get involved and support your Club!

Other notable holidays this month:

July 5th-6th: Ashura (Islamic holiday).

July 10th: Guru Purnima (Hindu festival).

July 17th: World Emoji Day.

July 20th: Moon Landing Anniversary and National Moon Day.

July 27th: Parents Day.

July 29th: International Tiger Day.

July 30th: International Friendship Day. ●

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## Community E-Notice

Subscribe to Community E-Notice to receive announcements regarding the Las Vegas photographic community via E-mail. To start your subscription, modify your newsletter subscriptions in your member account on the Nevada Camera Club web site.

<http://nevadacc.org/>

## New Members

by Steve O'Melia, MNCC

Nevada Camera Club please welcome these new and returning members to the club.

We have returning member **Ken Nelson**, #1947, returning after a little while away. Ken is an intermediate photographer who enjoys architecture and landscape photography. Welcome back Ken!



**Chasity Hutton**, #2391, is a local professional photographer who covers the gamut of photographic pursuits. You can see her work at <https://www.chasityhutton.com/>. Earlier this month she was kind enough to give a very informative talk about her work and what it's like to be in the photography business.

**Julia Mejorada**, #2392, is a beginning photographer interested in various styles of photography. She first heard about NCC last month when she attended a citizenship ceremony. Please help her advance her knowledge by passing on some of yours. She would specifically like to learn more about portraits.

Welcome all of you to the club. ●

## Nevada Camera Club E-Notice

Subscribe to NCC E-Notice to receive timely and important announcements from NCC officers and chairpersons via E-mail. To start your subscription, update your newsletter preferences in your account on the Nevada Camera Club web site.

<http://nevadacc.org>



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Saturday, July 12th  
Sunday, July 13th

## Programs

by Jerome Hamilton, DNCC



Last month in June NCC welcomed **Chasity Hutton** teaching us to “Up our Game” in our self-promotions...website, social media, personal reflection. Great program!! Coming up for the July Program we will have an out-of-town guest, **JP Hamilton**, with a presentation entitled “The Creator’s Playbook”. Mr. Hamilton is a Digital Media teacher passionately guiding students

through the ever-evolving world of digital content creation. JP’s philosophy centers on hands-on learning, equipping students with a robust skillset that truly prepares them for the future. In his Level 1 courses, students dive deep into the fundamentals of editing, photography, videography, drone fundamentals and professional interviewing, learning not just the technical skills but also the art of visual storytelling. Building on that foundation, JP Hamilton has a level 2 course specifically designed to cultivate the next generation of social media managers, teaching them strategy, analytics, and responsible online presence. JP tells us, “Beyond the classroom walls, I bring my expertise to life by developing compelling digital content for a diverse range of clients, including realtors, local businesses, and models. This real-world application directly enriches my teaching, ensuring my students learn current industry practices and develop portfolios that truly stand out. It’s incredibly rewarding to see my students transform their creativity into tangible skills that open doors to exciting careers.”

Be sure to come and meet JP Hamilton and spend some time viewing his photography standards and some great drone imagery during our July 11<sup>th</sup> program meeting, starting at 7PM.☉

## Monthly Competition

by Paul Bessette, HNCC

The June print competition attracted 70 entries submitted by 27 members 33 unique categories. The judges awarded five perfect scores of 27 and 25 first place ribbons.



Those receiving perfect scores were:

- Steve O’Melia - *Dominance*
- Jerome Hamilton – *The Squirrel Has Changed*
- Doreen Lawrence – *Crowned Traditions*
- Juliana Stratton – *Flowers for You*
- Ken Lawrence – *Cactus Sunset*

The Club Challenge was Sunrise or Sunset and had 19 entries. Thank you to the following volunteers that made the competition possible.

- Set-up assistance: **Paul Bessette, Craig Hicks**
- Take in Assistance: **Sandy Cornwell**
- Entry Fees: **Linda Hicks, Mary Sheets**
- Announcer: **Linda Hicks**
- Print Handlers: **Craig Hicks, Ken Lawrence**
- Scorekeeper: **Mary Sheets**
- Merit Recorder: **Serena Scalzi**
- Ribbon Writer: **Sandy Cornwell**

Next month is an electronic image competition. Make sure you have your entries uploaded and paid for by 11:59 PM on Monday, July 21st. The Club Challenge is *Motion*.☉



## Merits

by Linda Hicks, DNCC

Congratulations to the Nevada Camera Club members who earned merit distinctions this month.

- 200 points – **Serena Scalzi**
- 1000 points (Master) – **Steve O’Melia** ☉

## Club Challenge Themes

<u>July - Electronic</u> Motion	<u>October - Print</u> Leading Lines
<u>August - Print</u> Baby or Babies	<u>November - Electronic</u> Triptych
<u>September - Electronic</u> Includes a “sunstar”	

Focal Expressions is published monthly by the Nevada Camera Club for its members. Focal Expressions uses a two-column format. Cost of advertising is \$10 per column inch per issue. Minimum ad size is one-half column inch (\$5). Standard business card size (2”x 3.5”) is \$20; a quarter page is \$50; a half page is \$100; and a full page is \$200. Semi-annual and annual rates receive a discount.

Submit ad copy with payment to:

Nevada Camera Club  
P.O. Box 19451  
Las Vegas, NV 89132.

For further information contact Mary V. Sheets by phone at 702-521-9569 or by e-mail at: [sheetsmva@gmail.com](mailto:sheetsmva@gmail.com). Submission deadline for the August issue is July 29, 2025.

Linda Hicks, editor: [publisher@nevadacc.org](mailto:publisher@nevadacc.org)

## Managing iPhone Photos on PC

by Harry Ghuman, HNCC

iPhones (or Android phones) have become widely available, and their camera quality has improved significantly. Many of us have started using them as a secondary camera for high-quality photos. Often, we use it as the primary camera for travel and places that prohibit cameras.



As photographers, we want to edit the high-resolution and RAW photos. We can edit them on mobile apps or download them to a computer for editing.

### Moving images to PC

The primary ways to get images to the computer are

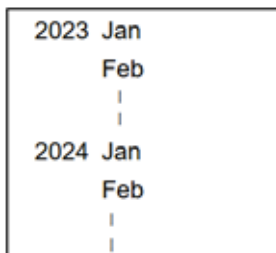
Use the USB cable and import them into the Photo App, Adobe Lightroom, or a similar program.

Download all the photos to a folder on the computer. Many people also back up their photos to a PC to avoid a high-cost cloud storage plan. There are issues in this use case, and a solution is available.

### Photo Organization

iPhone has a non-intuitive way of organizing photos. If you look at the directory, you will see something like the figure on the left. This example features pictures from April and May 2024. The May folder is divided into several subfolders, numbered 202405\_a to 202405\_e. It is not clear where your desired photo might be. We find a chronological method to be more orderly with Year/Month/Date as the organization method. This is shown in the image on the right.

202404_c	6/28/2025 6:46 PM
202405_	6/28/2025 6:50 PM
202405_a	6/28/2025 6:47 PM
202405_b	6/28/2025 6:47 PM
202405_c	6/28/2025 6:47 PM
202405_d	6/28/2025 6:48 PM
202405_e	6/28/2025 6:48 PM



### A Solution

After struggling with this topic for some time, I wrote a small program to organize the photos on my PC by year and month. We have discussed using AI in photography in the club. I wrote a small program and used ChatGPT to troubleshoot it.

I successfully organized 13,000 images from my iPhone into a chronological order by year and Month. I had the imported images in one folder, and ran my program to copy them to new folders with a Year/Month framework. It is nearly perfect.

### Benefits

I have the folders organized in a logical framework that allows me to work efficiently. I can add these images into Lightroom and further organize them by culling duplicates and removing poor-quality photos.

### Next Steps

This may be a problem you haven't even considered. However, I have a solution. If you've struggled with this issue or wish to free up space on your iPhone, I can help. I keep referring to the iPhone, as that is what I have. We can resolve this issue for other platforms as well.©

## Results from the June 2025 Monthly Print Competition

### Abstract

#### Intermediate – Color

Blue 24 Serena Scalzi Olvera Street

### Animals/Pets

#### Beginner – Color

Blue 24 Calvin Moore Bear Dippin'

#### Advanced – Color

Red 23 Sandy Cornwell Fill-er-up

### Documentary

#### Advanced – Color

Blue 24 Nancy Alprecht Red Bull Parachuting

#### Advanced – Monochrome

Blue 24 Chip Chisena Bank of Elevators, World Market Center

Red 25 Doreen Lawrence Safe

#### Master – Color

Blue 24 Harry Ghuman Dance of the Flyers

Red 23 Craig Hicks Biplane Steep Dive

### Nature/Wildlife

#### Beginner – Color

Blue 24 Calvin Moore Waterfall

#### Advanced – Color

Purple 27 Steve O'Melia Dominance!

Red 26 Ken Lawrence Roseate Spoonbill

White 26 Nancy Alprecht Red Fox

---- 24 Jerome Hamilton Red Rock River Rocks

---- 24 Michael Stratton Baby Jacana

---- 23 Michael Chapman Red-footed Booby - Galapagos

#### Master – Color

Red 23 Clayton Fox Skyward Bound

### People

#### Intermediate – Color

Blue 25 John Johnson Dead Men Tell No Tales

Red 23 Pam Sale Paradise Found

#### Advanced – Color

Purple 27 Jerome Hamilton The Squirrel Has Changed

Red 24 Anita Rama Prayer

#### Master – Color

Purple 27 Doreen Lawrence Crowned Traditions

### Photojournalism

#### Advanced – Color

Blue 24 Steve O'Melia NO KINGS!!

Red 25 Jim Ludwick Paris Bookstore

White 24 Dale Kavula Honoring Our Fallen on Memorial Day at Veterans Cemetery

#### Advanced – Monochrome

Blue 24 Chip Chisena Ordering Dim Sum,Tai O Village

#### Master – Color

Red 23 Craig Hicks Thunderbird Air Show

Continued on page 5

# Results from the June 2025 Monthly Print Competition

Continued from page 5

## Pictorial

### Advanced – Color

Blue	25	Janice Phillips	Soothing Seasonal Palette
Red	24	Michael Stratton	Palouse Farm
White	22	Jim Ludwick	Light on the Pilgrim Trail
----	21	Anita Rama	Secret Passage

### Master – Color

Blue	24	Linda Hicks	Morning Mirror
------	----	-------------	----------------

### Master – Monochrome

Blue	25	Clayton Fox	End of the Road
------	----	-------------	-----------------

## Portraiture

### Advanced – Color

Red	23	Dale Kavula	In the Woods
Red	21	Stan Kaules	Foday

### Master – Color

Blue	24	Stephen Cupp	Lauren
------	----	--------------	--------

### Master – Monochrome

Blue	26	Stephen Cupp	Olivia
------	----	--------------	--------

## Still Life

### Intermediate – Color

Red	23	Philip Cenicola	Bark, Lichen, and Leaves
White	23	Serena Scalzi	Ventura Harbor Village

### Advanced – Color

Purple	27	Juliana Stratton	Flowers for You
Red	23	Paul Bessette	Bottle of Red, Bottle of White

### Advanced – Monochrome

White	20	Paul Bessette	Bottoms Up
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### Master – Monochrome

Blue	25	Linda Hicks	Antique Piano Pedals
------	----	-------------	----------------------

## Unclassified

### Intermediate – Color

Blue	24	Philip Cenicola	When Things Were Simple
Red	25	John Johnson	Not a Good Place

### Advanced – Color

Blue	25	Ken Lawrence	Moonscape Overlook
Red	25	Juliana Stratton	Rhinos
White	25	Michael Chapman	Tracks - Puerto Gato, Baja
----	24	Janice Phillips	Colorful Row
----	23	Stan Kaules	World Market Center

### Advanced – Monochrome

Red	22	Sandy Cornwell	Seen Better Days
-----	----	----------------	------------------

### Master – Color

Blue	25	Harry Ghuman	California's Golden Bridge
------	----	--------------	----------------------------

## Club Challenge

### Intermediate

Blue	25	Serena Scalzi	Silver Strand Beach
Red	22	Philip Cenicola	Angry Sky Over Black Canyon

### Advanced

Purple	27	Ken Lawrence	Cactus Sunset
Red	25	Anita Rama	Sunrise in Kochin, India
White	25	Chip Chisena	Sky on Fire

----	24	Paul Bessette	Angry Sky
----	24	Jerome Hamilton	Natural Beauty
----	24	Stan Kaules	Tuweep Sunset
----	24	Steve O'Melia	Tiki Sunset
----	24	Janice Phillips	Desert Sunset
----	24	Juliana Stratton	Sunset Colors Reflected in Waterfalls
----	24	Michael Stratton	Cancun Sunset
----	23	Michael Chapman	Bar Harbor Sunset
----	21	Sandy Cornwell	Vegas Sunrise
<u>Master</u>			
Blue	26	Doreen Lawrence	Sunset Dreams
Red	24	Linda Hicks	Watching the Sun Set
White	24	Craig Hicks	Mesa Arch Sunrise
----	23	Harry Ghuman	Once Upon a Sunrise
----	21	Clayton Fox	North Las Vegas Sunrise ☉

## Judges Corner

by Jerome Hamilton, DNCC

Judges Corner, in June, was a strong discussion on entries, judging, and a few specific categories. We had a pretty good-sized group but not a lot of input from the viewers, but I received six emails of thanks and praise for a great program, so I know people were really happy with the presentation itself.

I just attended a "Portraiture Group" event. The event had some live discussions on lighting and lighting patterns and also some hands-on live shooting with a model to practice what was learned. It was a great presentation by **Gary Galvin** and **Frank Zak**. The reason I'm bringing this up in this article is that I have asked the group attendees to send in some of their portraiture work for discussion at the next Judges Corner. This is open to anyone that wants to send in portraiture or people subjects for the discussion. Please send images in JPG form to [jerome@studiotime.us](mailto:jerome@studiotime.us) and write *Judges Corner* in the subject line. You may also write some notes in the main email body about the image, the process, or the lighting. Our next Judges Corner will be Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM. This is a Zoom online meeting and the link will be emailed out for attendance via the NCC E-Notice. ☉

**2025 Annual Open Electronic Image Competition Entries are now being accepted!**

<https://nevadacc.org/node/add/annual-electronic-competition-en>

## NEVADA CAMERA CLUB MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Nevada Camera Club shall be to promote the art and science of photography by sharing what is known and continuing to learn with support and respect for one another.

# June 2025 Monthly Print Competition Perfect Score Images

All photos © 2025 by named artists. All rights reserved.

27s



Ken Lawrence  
Cactus Sunset



Doreen Lawrence  
Crowned Traditions



Jerome Hamilton  
The Squirrel Has Changed



Steve O'Melia  
Dominance!



Juliana Stratton  
Flowers for You

# June 2025 Monthly Print Competition First Place Images

All photos © 2025 by named artists. All rights reserved.

## Blue ribbons



Harry Ghuman  
California's Golden Bridge



Stephen Cupp  
Lauren



Chip Chisena  
Bank of Elevators, World Market



Linda Hicks  
Morning Mirror



Janice Phillips  
Soothing Seasonal Palette



Ken Lawrence  
Moonscape Overlook



Serena Scalzi  
Olvera Street



John Johnson  
Dead Men Tell No Tales



Doreen Lawrence  
Sunset Dreams

# June 2025 Monthly Print Competition First Place Winners

All photos © 2025 by named artists. All rights reserved.



Clayton Fox  
End of the Road

*Blue ribbons*



Chip Chisena  
Ordering Dim Sum, Tai O Village



Philip Cenicola  
When Things Were Simple



Linda Hicks  
Antique Piano Pedals



Harry Ghuman  
Dance of the Flyers



Steve O'Melia  
NO KINGS!



Serena Scalzi  
Silver Strand Beach



Narcy Alprecht  
Red Bull Parachuting

# Mastering Perspective: Fixing Distortion in Your Photos

by Harry Ghuman, HNCC

Perspective distortion is a common issue in photography, particularly when using wide-angle lenses or shooting from extreme angles. It alters the apparent shape and alignment of your subject, often making buildings appear as if they're falling over or faces seem stretched.

What Causes Perspective Distortion?

There are two common types of distortion:

- **Converging Verticals:** This phenomenon is visible in architecture, where tall buildings appear to lean inward when viewed from below.
- **Extension Distortion:** This occurs when objects close to the lens appear overly large (e.g., large noses in wide-angle portraits). I will use the latest field trip to the World Market Center to illustrate the concept of perspective distortion, as we were photographing tall buildings from the ground (an extreme viewpoint). These are two scenes that we photographed. Allan Duff captured the outdoor image with a 14 mm lens; I captured the indoor image with a 16mm lens. You will notice that vertical lines are falling in.



## How to Avoid or Fix It

In-camera Tips: Keep your camera level and parallel to your subject. Often, the ideal location is to reach a higher elevation so that a level camera can capture the complete scene. The more you have to point the camera at an angle, the more distortion is introduced.

Consider using a tilt-shift lens if you frequently photograph buildings or other architectural structures. The image below was captured with a Canon 24 mm tilt-shift lens. Note that the vertical lines are vertical. The lens is an essential tool for architectural photographers. Please note that this is a manual focus lens. Watch a YouTube video to learn more about it. Another choice is to get a 'rectilinear lens'. I have had good experience with the Canon 14mm f/2.8 L II USM AF EF lens. It is a rectilinear lens. It's an expensive lens, so it's beneficial to have a friend who owns one and is willing to share.



## In post-processing:

Use Lightroom's Transform panel or Photoshop's Perspective Warp to straighten lines.

Apply auto-corrections from lens profiles for subtle adjustments.

The images below have been edited with Lightroom's Transform panel. This is an easy fix.

As you straighten the image, part of it becomes unavailable, and you need to crop the image. You can see it in the indoor image (original, transformed, cropped). Since you will lose part of the image during perspective correction, it is advisable to plan to photograph a wider scene. You can use other techniques available to you, such as a wider lens or shooting a panorama.



## When Distortion Works in Your Favor

Not all distortion is bad! Street photographers and portrait artists often use it to dramatic or humorous effect. Knowing *when* to correct and *when* to use distortion creatively is part of becoming a thoughtful photographer. ©

# Basic Milky Way Set-ups and Settings

by Ken Lawrence, MNCC

It's that time of year when the Milky Way's Galactic Core is become visible. Milky Way images can be difficult to shoot keeping everything sharp. Processing is time consuming and is learned through trial and error even after watching videos on "how to". Most of the best Milky Way images are focus stacked, blended, composites and/or panoramas.

Location is important. You need dark skies, the darker the better. Dark Sky maps and apps are available that show the darker locations in your area or the areas you are planning on visiting. Milky Way calendars are available online for when and where to find them. There are also apps to help you find the Milky Way at any given time and date. Some are free while others you pay for. You can effectively shoot the Milky Way through most of the moon's cycle, shooting before the moon rises or after it sets. However, there are times that lights from a distance city or the moon can enhance a Milky Way photo. You need to practice to see what you like.



When the Galactic Core and the Milky Way arch is visible it travels from the East to the West. The Core first shows up in mid-March early in the morning to the East. By mid-May, the Core and arch comes up in the Southeast heading West and is up for most of the night. By mid-October it is in the Southwest and by mid to late November it goes over the West horizon, not to be seen again until mid-March. Time of night is also important when shooting the Core and arch as they travel towards the West as night progresses.

Most people only shoot the Galactic Core with a foreground element or by itself. It can be shot in one frame/image and does not require shooting a panorama. Shooting the entire Milky Way arch requires blending multiple photos for the foreground and a different set for the arch. Also keep in mind that Astrophotography almost always requires some type of post processing, often extensive.

## Basic Milky Way photography setup and settings

Use a full frame camera body, capable of shooting higher ISO's. A cropped sensor camera body (APS-C) is not recommended; however, if it's all you have, remember to add the additional crop factor to your focal length formula in #4 to keep from trailing stars.

Examples: Canon ASP-C is 60% larger, a 24 mm lens = 38mm lens

Nikon adds 50% and a 24 mm lens = 36mm

A low aperture wide angle lens, F2.8 or lower lens is preferred. Turn off the lens' image stabilization. However you can shoot it with a lens up to F4.0, but it does not take in as much light.

Use a shutter release, intervalometer, wireless or in camera timer/delay. Shoot in mechanical shutter and single shot. I would recommend a 2 - 10 second delay to minimize camera shake when the shutter is depressed.

Shutter speed depends on lens size in mm, typically 8-20 seconds to keep stars from trailing. Most photographers use what we call the 500 rule to calculate times which is  $500/\text{Focal length} \times 1.5$ . Example:  $500/24\text{mm} \times 1.5 = 13.9$  or 14 seconds. I recommend the following, but your mileage may vary: 14mm 15-20 seconds, 20mm 12-15 seconds, 24 mm 10-13 seconds, 35mm 8-10 seconds

ISO depends on F-stop of lens between 1600-6000. You will need to try different ISO's until you see one you like. I recommend: ISO 1600- 2400 with a F1.8 lens, ISO 2000 to 3200 with a F2.8 and ISO 3200 to 6000 for a F4.0 lens. ISO will also vary depending on the amount of available light.

Set white balance to Kelvin settings between 3200(cool/blue) and 5200(warm/yellow), I like 4200K, but shoot various white balance setting until you find what you like.

Setup your tripod. It needs to be sturdy. Any movement and your shots will be out of focus.

For beginners I recommend shooting while a partial moon is up to get a foreground and the Milky Way. Another option is the use of an external light source to light up the foreground called light painting. It takes a while to become proficient at light painting and result may vary. *Please be aware that several Western National Parks and some state parks do not allow light painting so check before you go. Light painting has so many different applications.* Only your imagination limits what can be done.

## Getting ready for your Milky Way Shots

Find a foreground that you like setup your tripod and camera and leave it there for the duration.

Know how far you need to be from your foreground, also known as hyperfocal distance\* for setup for everything to be in focus. Here are a few examples for minimum hyperfocal distances for the two most common lenses:

F 2.8 lens 14mm 9 feet, 24mm 20 feet

F 4.0 lens 14mm 5 feet, 24mm 15 feet

\*Note: hyperfocal length is in focus but not necessarily clear/sharp

Shoot at a higher ISO's 6000-8000 to allow more light to illuminate your foreground, or you can use a light source such as a flashlight, light stick, headlamps, vehicle lights, etc. which is referred to as light painting.

It is possible to use an external light source to illuminate or light paint the foreground. You will have to experiment with how much light you need and where you need or want it. Stronger lights require less time but can be harsh.

Check your images to see if they are in focus and if there is too much noise. Re-focus if necessary and if there is not much noise, drop the ISO to the next setting. Milky Way photos are inherently noisy and some noise is desired.

---

### More advanced photographer settings

Find a foreground or foregrounds that you like. Setup your tripod and camera and shoot several shots at various times (golden, blue hour or later), at various ISO and speeds. Select your favorite shot or shots for focus stack, blend, composite or panorama. You can use the hyperfocal distance recommended above or several focal points for a focus stack, which is recommended. For blended photos shoot the Milky Way at infinity for the sharpest images and focus stack your foreground elements.

Check your images to see if they are in focus or if there is too much noise. If so, re-focus and/or drop the ISO to the next setting. Milky Way photos are inherently noisy, some noise is desired. It is especially important to check focus if it is windy or the camera or tripod have been moved or run into.

NOTE: Blending and stacking images give the sharpest Astro images, and can be an extensive discussion and/or article, so let us address this in a separate article.

#### **IMPORTANT: How to manually focus to infinity in the dark**

Make sure lens is in manual focus and leave it there. Put the ISO as high as you can, and/or adjust the shutter speed of necessary, this allows enough light for you to manually focus. Examples: ISO 6000 and shutter of 30 seconds, or ISO 25,600 and 8 seconds.

If your camera is capable, use Live View and Zoom to focus.

One of the easiest ways to focus to infinity is to find a bright light source in the far distance, like the moon, building or other lights. Turn the ISO way up then manually turn the focus ring until it is clear with no halo.

If your camera is capable, use Live View and Zoom to focus. Another method to focus is to focus on the brightest planet or star you can find (it doesn't have to be in your shot). Turn the speed way down and turn the ISO way up then manually turn the focus ring until it is clear with no halo.

Make sure to re-adjust your settings from # 2 and #3 to your preferred Milky Way settings after you get focused, and do not touch your focus ring.

Point your camera to the area you want to shoot and make sure it is stable on the tripod. Take a shot and review it to see if you have what you want in the frame. Shooting the arch take some practice, so be patient.

It is a good idea to check focus on occasions during the shoot, especially if it's windy or the tripod or camera have moved.

#### **Recommendations for lens settings**

Shot at the lowest aperture/F-stop possible. Shoot in Manual focus. Turn off lens stabilization. Leave it on for camera body.

#### **Required equipment**

- Tripod
- Camera
- Lens F 1.8 to 4.0 wide angle lens preferably 12-35mm
- Headlight or flashlight with a red light setting

#### **Nice to have equipment**

- Chair
- Shutter release/intervalometer
- Star-tracker for more advanced shooters
- Blanket
- Snacks/drinks☺

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## Nevada Camera Club Field Trip at the World Market Center



### Join PSA

For membership information, go to

<http://www.psa-photo.org/>

or contact PSA Liaison,

Stephen Cupp

[lvthunder@lvthunder.com](mailto:lvthunder@lvthunder.com)

## Nevada Camera Club Contact List

### NCC Officers

President	Clayton Fox	949-838-6847
Vice President	Ken Lawrence	505-250-5930
Secretary	Roger Millett	702-459-0416
Treasurer	Mary Sheets	702-521-9569

### NCC Committees and Trustees

<p><b>Advertising/Resident Agent</b> Mary Sheets 702-521-9569</p> <p><b>Beginners Group</b> Jerome Hamilton 702-682-9514</p> <p><b>Club Apparel</b> Juliana Stratton 702-860-8394</p> <p><b>Club Publications</b> Linda Hicks 219-477-0750</p> <p><b>Community Liaison</b> Darryl Ginwright 808-782-5955</p> <p><b>Competitions (Monthly Electronic)</b> Craig Hicks 702-497-5753</p> <p><b>Competitions (Monthly Print)</b> Paul Bessette 702-561-7265</p> <p><b>Education</b> Harry Ghuman 650-454-0751</p> <p><b>Exhibit Display Modules</b> Michael Stratton 702-300-5027</p> <p><b>Field Trips</b> Allan Duff 702-682-9688</p> <p><b>House</b> Jon Hayslip 702-285-8950</p>	<p><b>Internet Administrator</b> Stephen Cupp <a href="mailto:lvthunder@lvthunder.com">lvthunder@lvthunder.com</a></p> <p><b>Membership</b> Steve O'Melia 702-497-5448</p> <p><b>Merits</b> Linda Hicks 219-477-0750</p> <p><b>Programs</b> Jerome Hamilton 702-682-9514</p> <p><b>PSA Liaison</b> Stephen Cupp <a href="mailto:lvthunder@lvthunder.com">lvthunder@lvthunder.com</a></p> <p><b>Public Relations</b> Cindy Wilson 702-378-5354</p> <p><b>Treasurer Emeritus</b> Mary Sheets 702-363-2818</p> <p><b>Welcoming</b> Narcy Alprecht 702-281-2569</p> <p><b>Trustees</b> Valerie Christiansen 702-375-4492 Allan Duff 702-682-9688 Jackie Strat 732-829-8551</p>
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Contact us at [info@nevadacc.org](mailto:info@nevadacc.org)

### Membership Information

Annual dues: \$48 for adults, \$36 for juniors (under 18) and students or seniors (63 and over). Dues are prorated for persons joining after January. Members automatically receive Focal Expressions. For further membership information call Steve O'Melia, 702-497-5448.

### Meeting Location Map



Change Service Requested

First Class Mail

Nevada Camera Club  
P.O. Box 19451  
Las Vegas, NV 89132  
1-866-925-1447

