Welcome to "Beyond the Frame," our monthly newsletter celebrating the art, craft, and community of photography. Each edition brings you club updates, creative insights, member highlights, and inspiration to keep exploring — both within and beyond the viewfinder.

💬 From the President

July was an incredible month of shooting, from catching up at our sunset field trip to tracking the unique full moon. We are now in the peak of nature photography season, which brings endless opportunities to explore macro and flower photography in our own backyards. As we head into August, I am thrilled to welcome Reed Hoffmann to our next meeting to share his insights on shooting the FIFA tournament. We also have an exciting lineup of local field trips and dark-sky astro photography opportunities this month, so keep your gear ready and your creative eyes open.

🗓️ August Meeting Reminder

Date: August 20
Social Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting: 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Reed Hoffmann will present his FIFA shooting experience.

🗓️ August Event Reminder

- Event: **Thomas Hart Benton Home & Studio State Historic Site**
  Date: August 22
  Time: 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.
  Location: Thomas Hart Benton Home and Studio State Historic Site
- Event: **El Dorado Lake Vertical Descent Milky Way** (No Hosting Event Activity)
  Date: August 12-14
  Time: 7:30 p.m.
  Location: El Dorado Lake, Kansas
- Event: **Teter Rock Vertical Descent Milky Way** (No Hosting Event Activity)
  Date: August 13-14
  Time: 11:30 p.m.
  Location: Teter Rock, Kansas

📝 What We Learned Last Month

- **Mary Schulte's Club Presentation** available on YouTube at this link showed the importance of cropping to tell the story. This is worth the watch.
- **Low-Level Lighting (LLL)** offers night photographers landscaping lighting features normally only available through light painting.
- **Bright Monitoring, Starlight View, or Night Display** are names used by camera manufacturers that when activated allows low-light autofocus sensitivity down to an incredible -8.5 EV, which is 8.5 lower stops.
- **Adobe Camera Raw** masking tool offers feathering and edging adjustments.

News & Updates (Past 30 Days Only)

- **Tamron 12-20 f/2.8 (Model A084)**is a newly released weather-seal lens for Nikon Z and Sony E mounts.
- **Adobe Camera Raw Update** added a **Presentation Mode**.
- **Tamron Close-Focus Firmware:** Released a unique update that pushes close-focusing capabilities on select zooms to half-macro levels.
- **Nikon Z50II Firmware:** Added enhanced shutter-priority creative tools aimed at hybrid shooters and filmmakers.
- **Canon's latest cameras are getting their first big feature updates.** New firmware is coming out for EOS R6 V and R6 III.

Member Showcase

July's club meeting offered 32 images from 7 different club members. Here are three of the images from our July 2026 gallery.

Robert Craig

George Jerkovich

Mark Asbury

Learning Corner

[9 Lightroom Editing Tips & Tricks for Amazing Flowers Photos!] Just in time for peak flower season, this YouTube video

offers editing tips to make flower photos amazing!

- **Macro Photography Backgrounds: One Small Shift, Completely Different Photo** a worthwhile video for macro photography club members.
- **How to get the NEW gradient in Lightroom Classic, 2 min TIP** How to get the same effect as what was added to Camera Raw as the new bidirectional gradient tool.

🏛️ Community & Exhibits

Here are a few local events and exhibits to check out before our September Club Meeting:

- **Event: ISO: Crossroads Camera Club** is hosting a photography challenge as you mingle with other local creatives with Frank Monk of Coffee and Cameras as the guide. Date: August 11 Time: 6:30-8:00 PM Crossroad Hotel, 2101 Central St, Kansas City, MO 64108.
- **Event: Sony Creator Experience with Niah Aldrich** at Firestone Event Space, 2001 Grand Blvd, Kansas City, MO, August 15, 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Only 150 stops available.
- **Event: Second Nature: Photography in the Age of the Anthropocene**
  Details: A striking photography exhibition focusing on human impact on the environment, landscape manipulation, and our evolving relationship with the natural world. Perfect for club members interested in fine-art conservation photography and documentary styles.
  When: On view through September 13, 2026.
  Where: Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, 4420 Warwick Blvd, Kansas City, MO.
  Cost: Free admission
- **Event: Jazz KC Portraits by Dan White**
  Details: A solo exhibition by Pulitzer Prize–winning photographer Dan White featuring 50 stunning black-and-white portraits and dynamic color images documenting the legends and newer faces of Kansas City's rich jazz legacy. Excellent inspiration for portraiture and ambient lighting techniques.
  When: On view through August 28, 2026.
  Where: The Box Gallery, 1000 Walnut Street, Kansas City, MO.
  Cost: Free admission
- **Event: Lie. Sit. Stand. Be Still**
  Details: A brand new exhibition pulling deeply from the museum's permanent photography collection, showcasing canonical and contemporary works focusing on stillness, figure composition, and the human frame—including works by legendary photographer Harry Callahan.
  When: Opens August 28
  Where: Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, 4420 Warwick Blvd, Kansas City, MO.
  Cost: Free admission

🏆 Photography Contests Open Now

Looking to challenge yourself and get your work in front of fresh eyes? Here are a few upcoming submission deadlines to keep on your radar this month:

- **KCSCP "Current Works 2026" Submission Window** – *Deadline: August 31*. Taking photographic art produced between 2024 and 2026.
- **Kansas Department of Agriculture Photo Contest** – *Deadline: August 16 NLT 11:59 pm.* Categories: Spring into the Fields, Life in the Summer, Fall on the Farm, Winter at Work, a Youth Division, and film.
- **Missouri Department of Natural Resources Photo Contest** – *Deadline: September 1* **Local Focus:** Ideal for capturing state parks, cultural resources, and landscapes on the Missouri side of

Kansas City. Submissions are hosted on the Missouri DNR Website.

- **Missouri Farm Bureau Photo Contest** – *Deadline: September 30*
  Local Focus: Celebrates Missouri agriculture, rural communities, and daily life. There is no submission limit, and photos must be taken within the state.
- **Rural Kansas Photography Contest** – *Deadline: October 25.*
  Local Focus: Sponsored by the University of Kansas Medical Center. Categories include "Sky's the Limit," "Seasons of Kansas," and "Hidden Gems of Kansas".

Check the respective contest websites for more details and submission requirements!

🔧 Tools & Resources

- **Johnson County Genealogical Society and Library, Inc's Memory Lab** offers scanning appointments to convert slides, film, negatives, and photos to digital media. Besides converting movie film, they also have the ability to scan up to 36" long prints.
- Kansas Milky Way Shooting Guide.

🔭 Astro Opportunities Ahead

🌌 **August – Milky Way Core** raches its high southern position making around midnight making it perfect for panoramas.

🌌 **August 12 – Perseid Meteor Shower Peal**

🌌 **August 12 – Total Solar Eclipse** will sweep across Greenland, Iceland, and Spain.

🌑 **August 12 — New Moon** Take advantage to capture the Galactic Center of the Milky Way. It's the last month of optimal visibility!

🌕 **August 28 — Full Moon** Look for an opportunity to capture the moon as it rises behind the Kansas City skyline.

🌒 **August 27-28 – Partial Lunar Eclipse** A deep partial eclipse featuring roughly 96.2% obscuration.

📣 Want to Contribute Next Month?

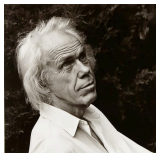
Have a photo story, gear review, field-trip recap, or gallery announcement? Send it to 📩 mark.asbury@ddandb.org and we'll try and feature it in next month's newsletter.

🖼️ Submitting Photos for August

Paid members can share up to five photos. Click to learn how to submit.

❤️ Closing Thought

With peak macro season here and massive celestial events like the Perseid meteor shower on the horizon, August is the perfect time to experiment with new techniques. Don't forget to submit your favorite summer frames by the upcoming deadlines, and we will see you all at our next gathering on August 20!



"To see what others have not seen, you have to look where others have not looked."
— Minor White

Club Social Media Sites

- Public Facebook Page
- Members-Only Facebook Page
- Flickr Group (Digital Dimensions)
- Instagram
- Pinterest Board
- YouTube Channel