

IN FOCUS



September-October 2024
Volume 98, Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Photographic Society of Rhode Island



Photo: Greg Kniseley

PSRI

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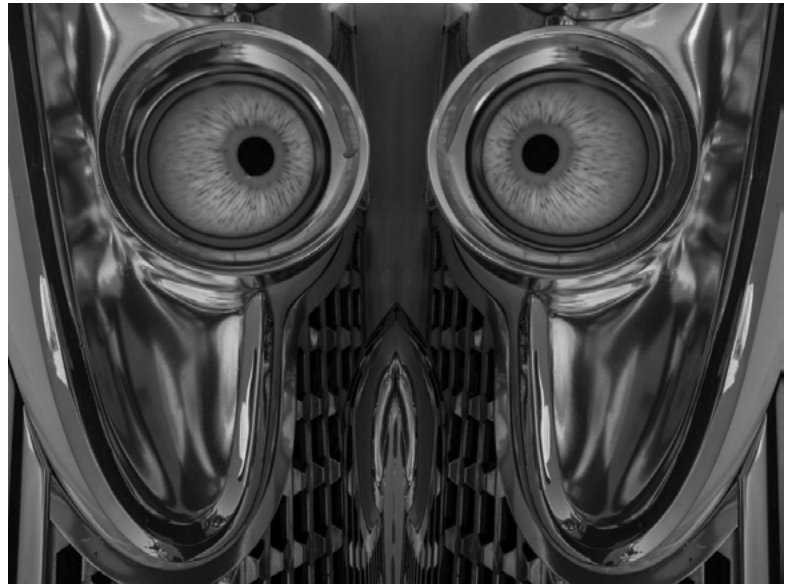


Photo: Glen Browning

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Proud member of:



President's Message



The Newsletter Committee and I are very pleased to release the first Photographic Society of Rhode Island Newsletter in many years. There is something of a long tradition of newsletters long before the Club changed its name to what it is today. And as there seems to be a number of gaps between starts and stops of newsletters over the decades, we are happy to close one gap and start another cycle of regular releases. All the issues I have seen from the past

begin with a "President's Message" and we think it is altogether appropriate that we honor this tradition.

Lincoln Smith, who has been a member for 41 years, has preserved a good many paper copies of newsletters that were released while he has been a member. We are blessed to have these as they are a terrific record of the challenges and successes the Club has seen consistently in the past, some of which we face today such as fluctuating membership counts. But most importantly they are a record of the many people, most of which have passed away from us, who have taken on the many roles it takes to keep a club like this active for so many years.

I have said a number of times that 98 years is a long time to be doing anything, especially for a group of like minded people with sometimes differing opinions coming together to keep a good thing moving forward. I hope this newest newsletter continues the tradition of spreading the good word of who we are and the good work that we do, and leaves a trail that future members and leaders can use as a guide as we move closer to our centennial celebration and beyond, with each group of members and leaders, today and in the future, working to leave the Club better than they found it.

Bob Mattera

PSRI Mission Statement

The mission of the Photographic Society of Rhode Island is to promote photography as an art form and provide a supportive community for photographers of all skill levels. We aim to inspire creativity, improve technical skills, and encourage artistic growth among our members through education, exhibits, competitions, photo outings, and networking events. By creating opportunities to share knowledge and critiques in a positive environment, we hope to advance the craft of photography in our community.

We invite you to join us at one of our meetings to experience this energy first hand. You will meet people of great photographic talent, and great people to boot.

Calendar October/November 2024

October 1 Open Competition #1

October 8 Board of Directors Meeting

October 15 *"Image Study"* by Ray Guillet

Share a few of your photos and get feedback on how to improve your skills and composition for better quality.

October 22 *"Seven Years at the Sunday Friendship Breakfast"* by Jan Armor

Jan's involvement of volunteering at Matthewson Street United Methodist Church in Providence, taking images and assisting to providing hot meals and clothing for RI's homeless population.

October 29 *"Snapseed for Post-Processing"* by Doug Ray

Understanding how to use Snapseed, a professional photo editor developed by Google.

November 19 *"Light Painting"* by Bob Mattera

Bob will share his years of passion with this art form as a demonstration of lighting and editing as he has adapted it from several masters, especially Harold Ross, John Hartman, and Dave Black.

Make sure to [check the online calendar](#) in case something changed.

In Person Meeting Place:

Lakewood Baptist Church
255 Atlantic Avenue
Warwick, RI 02888

Directions to Lakewood Baptist Church

From I-95, either north or south:

Exit 14 to RI Route 37 connector heading East, go to the very end of Route 37 connector. This will curve you around and place you on Post Road northbound. You should see Gregg's Restaurant on the left just after you go under Route 37 connector.

Continue north on Post Road, Watch for McDonald's & Walmart on the right. About $\frac{3}{4}$ mile further north is a traffic light at Atlantic Ave, turn right. Continue $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to another traffic light at Warwick Ave. Go straight across Warwick Ave. at a slight left angle. Continue on Atlantic Ave. and Church is on the left and parking lot is on the right.

Competition Dates

Open Competition #1	October 1, '24 Entry due date 09-24-2024
Open Competition #2	November 5, '24 Entry due date 10-29-2024
Nature Competition #1	December 10, '24 Entry due date 12-3-2024
Special Competition	January 14, '25 Enter due date 01-07-2025
Open Competition #3	February 11, '25 Entry due date 02-11-2025
Nature Competition #2	March 18, '25 Entry due date 03-11-2025
Open Competition #4	April 22, '25 Entry due date 04-15-2025
Open Competition #5	May 27, '25 Entry due date 05-20-2025



Photo: Tara Marshall

ASTRO *workshop*

By Karl Zuzarte

PSRI jump started the 2024-25 season with a Astro Landscape workshop. This was to take advantage of whatever Milky Way opportunities we have this year.

We had 20 paid participants which resulted in 3 field days between Beavertail Lighthouse in Jamestown, RI and the Fisherman's Memorial at Point Judith. Thank you Tara Marshall and Bob Matera for helping me put this together.

There was one hands-on processing workshop by Silvana Della Camera on September 14th at the Narragansett Public Library, primarily in PS on Sept 14.

I will be doing a post processing session in LR in the 1st week of November.

Here are some memories of our participants - even before the Post-processing workshop!



*A challenging exposure by
Tom Backman*



Photo: Kimberly Sorrell



*Starlink satellite by Mike DiStefano at the
top at the Memorial*



Photo: Dean Birch

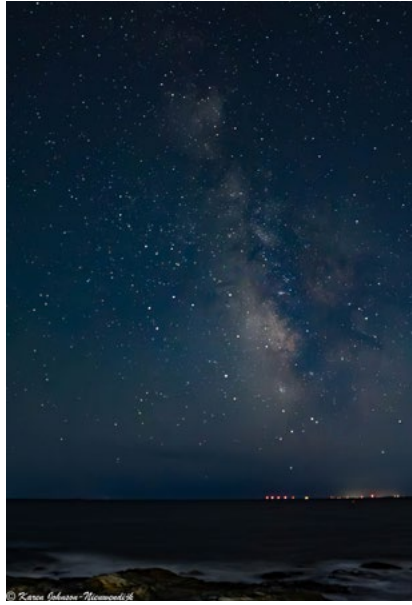


Photo: Karen Johnson-Nieuwendijk

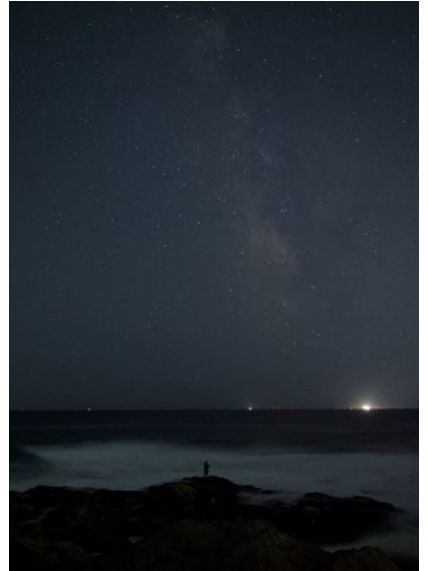


Photo: Marjorie Lamphear



An artistic rendition in Black and White by Noreen Bertheaume



And finally one of the Memorial itself



Photo: Bob Arnold



Day 3 gave us an added opportunity with a Crescent moon setting over the lighthouse .

PSRI MEETUP AT ENDERS ISLAND

Five members of PSRI enjoyed a meetup, organized by Kathy French, at Enders Island in Connecticut on August 21.

The setting at Enders Island was stunning, with the beautiful grounds and the ocean backdrop adding to the experience. It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon. Unfortunately it was pretty windy, which added some challenges capturing shots of the many flowers there.



Photo: Kathy French



Photo: Helen Lambiase



Photo: Lauren Lambert



Photo: Karen Johnson-Nieuwendijk



Photo: Bernadette van der Vliet



Photo: Joan Teno

Looking for answers?

Experienced photographers of PSRI offer their technical advice as Mentors. If there is a feature of your equipment that you can't figure out, or a technique you want to try and need some guidance, or you want to know more about a specific software program? Then check out the [Mentor list](#), available on our website.

Call for Submissions

Share Your Stories, Photos, and Expertise!

We would like to invite all PSRI members to contribute to our upcoming newsletters! Whether you have captured an extraordinary shot, have a photography adventure to share, or want to share your expertise, we'd love to feature your work.

We're looking for:

- Photography Stories: Share your memorable experiences from shoots, trips, or meetups.
- Photographs: Submit your favorite shots for a chance to be highlighted in our newspaper.
- Know-How Articles: Have tips or techniques that could help fellow photographers? Write a short article to share your knowledge.
- Did You Know?: Fun facts, gear insights, or quirky photography trivia—let's learn something new together!



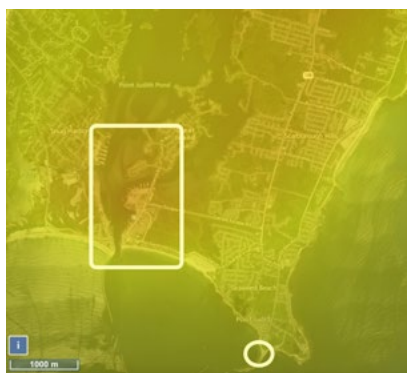
[Email](#) your content by November 30 2024 and be part of the creativity and learning that makes PSRI great!

On a Night of Astrophotography

This is the first of what I hope to be a regular column of our newsletter; something of deep and informative look at some aspect of photography relevant to what at least some members are working on. And while I am taking on the first assignment, I hope this becomes something of a team effort going forward. With that, here is my take on a night of Astrophotography.

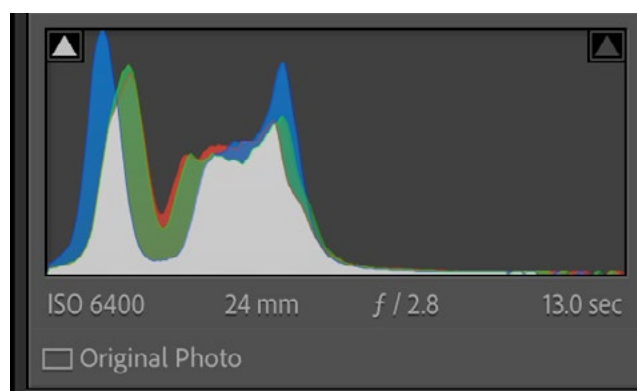
This particular night was part of Karl Zuzarte and Tara Marshall's wonderful work on the Club's behalf on Astrophotography. I was on hand that night filling in for Tara, as the two locations being used and were far enough away that one person could not be in both places. And while Astrophotography is not necessarily my favorite genre I am something of a junkie for panoramic photography and couldn't help but try my hand at mixing the two this particular night. Here is what I have to show for it, including the steps I used in Lightroom to edit and stitch these images together. There are also some details in the final image that are particularly curious to me and which I will point out at the end.

First, the shooting location was the beach area of Camp Cronin in Narragansett. Looking at the map image on the right, that location is approximately within the circle. Galilee, to the left looking at the image, was actually to the right of the direction we were facing and is the nearest considerable light source that night, nearly 2 miles away.



And before we look closer at the images I shot, I will say that this night was somewhat hectic for me as I shot a wedding earlier that afternoon with only about an hour to spare between getting home from that event, grabbing a bite to eat and my astro gear, and running off to Camp Cronin which is about 15 minutes from my home. I used the same setup to do my astrophotography (Nikon D750 with the Nikon 24-70 f2.8 lens) as that wedding, though I needed to change some camera settings and didn't stop to do this before I left the house. There in the dark at Camp Cronin, when we sometimes take being able to see for granted, I mistakingly changed camera settings to shoot in jpeg and not RAW, which is particularly bad for this type of photography. I did not realize my mistake this night until I was home during the editing process.

First, here are the exposure settings I used on all four images:



And here are the images. Notice I left quite a bit of overlap between them to give myself a better chance of having them stitched correctly in post:



Image 1



Image 3



Image 2

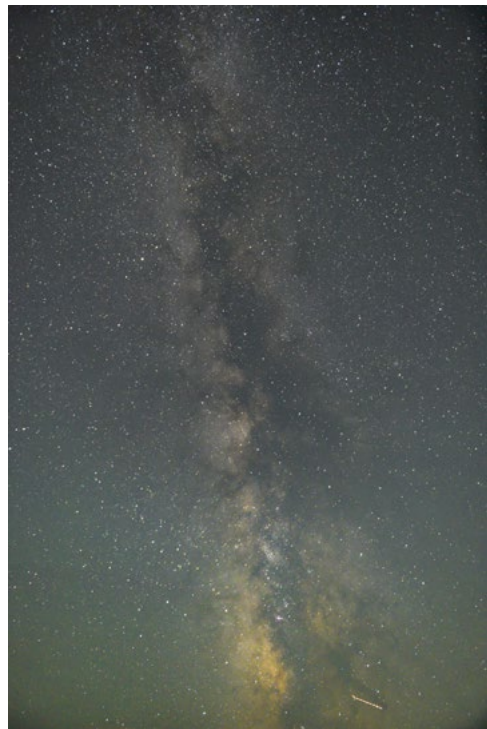
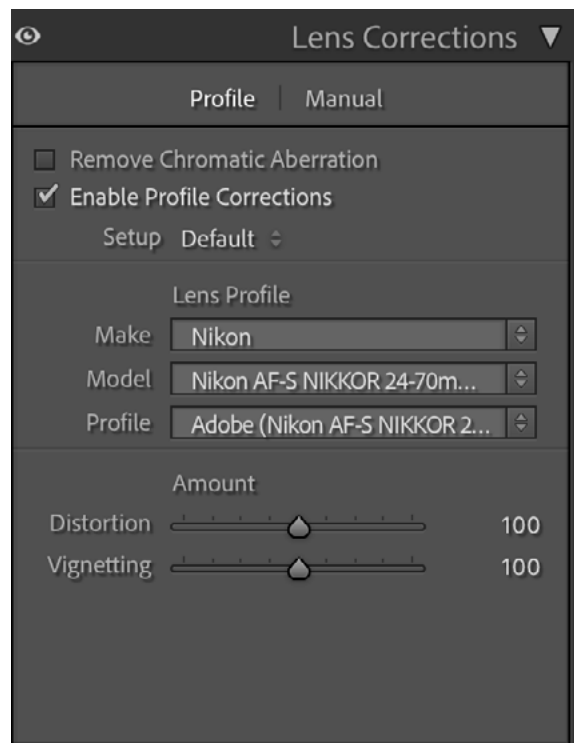
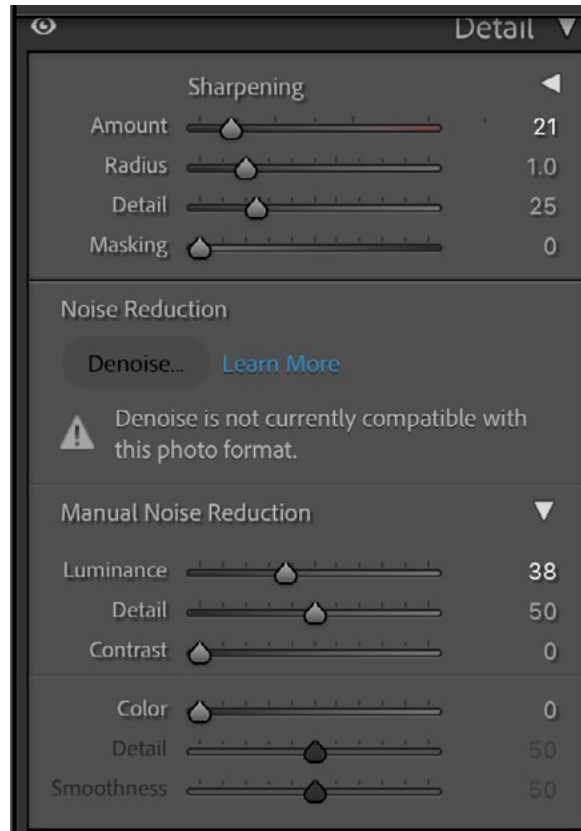


Image 4

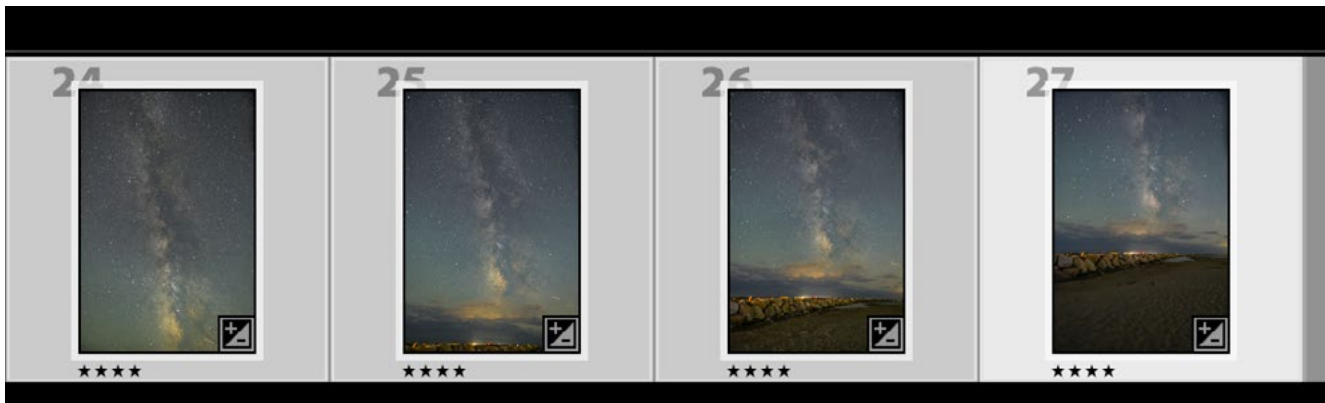
Above are the post-processed images in Lightroom with these settings. I am most surprised that I did not need much for straightening as I used the worst kind of tripod that night - a ball head mount - to rotate the camera in between shots. A pan head tripod

works much better but the moral here is you can still do this without the most ideal of gear. The edits were pretty basic and straightforward:

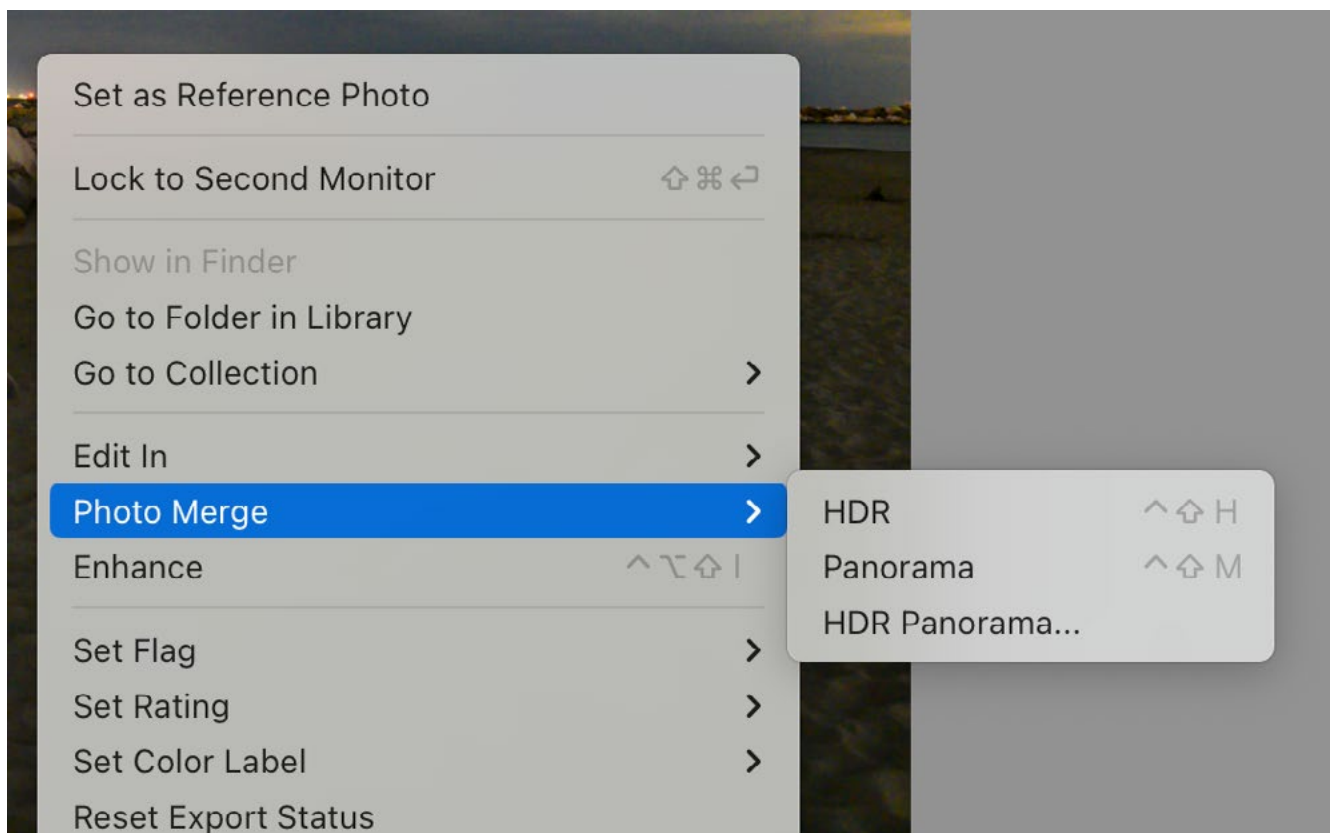


And here is the process to stitch them in Lightroom.

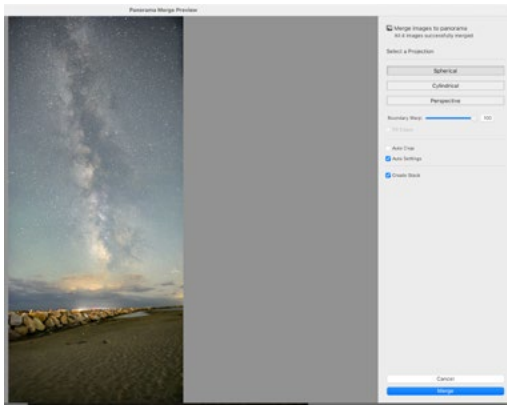
First step is select your images, leaving the first image in the set, number 27 in this case, highlighted:



Then right click on the highlighted image and choose Photo Merge > Panorama:



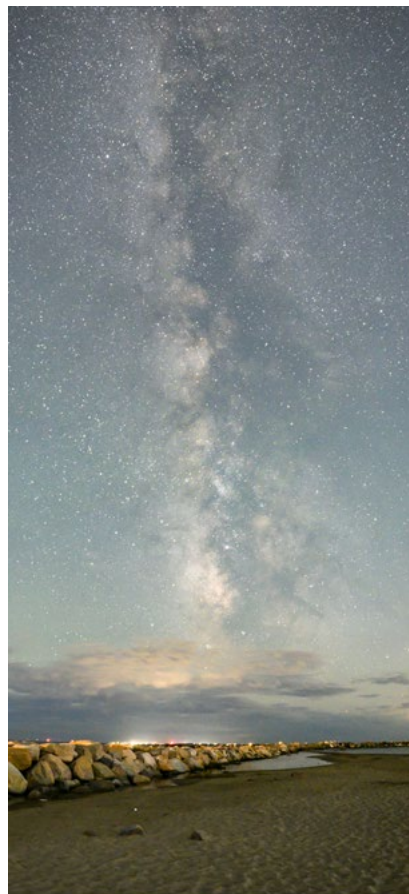
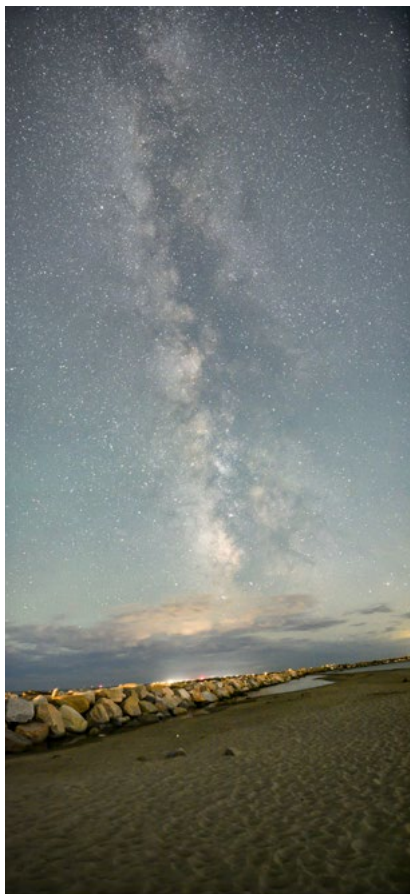
Next is something of a cat and mouse game with Lightroom. Depending on the panoramic I am using I sometimes have to try a range of different options between Spherical, Cylindrical, and Perspective, and then sometimes Boundary Wrap. There is at least one high powered standalone option for panos called PTGui, which I have, but I find LR does the trick of what I am looking for the vast majority of time.



Then click Merge and wait for your final image to show in your filmstrip of images.

The image on the left below is what was created, a little too crooked for me. In the end I gave up some detail with a crop and straighten, which was acceptable to me as I cannot bear to look at a crooked horizon.

And that was it! All in all I was rather happy. There is some noticeable noise in these images which is to be expected with a lower end full frame camera that is



at least 10 years old and a relatively high ISO of 6400 and having only the jpegs to work with.

I did not use any other software to edit these images, of which there are a lot, and which I think shows you can get good results without knowing much more than the basic sliders in Lightroom.

My big takeaway from this final image, besides being mindful of camera settings, is just how much more visible the stars are at the top of this image than the bottom, which is to say much higher up in the sky than the horizon. I have never tried this outside of Rhode Island and can imagine how much better this would be if it were shot in a much darker area. And I am really impressed with how much light is hitting the beach and sea wall. It is obvious from the shadows in the sand that the light is coming from the right of the frame, most likely Galilee nearly two miles away. There

was no visible light to my eyes in this area when we were shooting there, but obviously at such high settings a camera can gather in even the dimmest of light.

I hope you find this helpful and especially if you are new to this I hope it is encouraging at least from the standpoint of how basic the editing process can be and for how relatively easy it can be to make a panoramic Milky Way image.

I especially hope you have something personal and maybe information to share in a future edition of our Newsletter.

Bob Mattera September, 2024

Giving Back Through Photography

HOUSE OF HOPE



Photos: Bernadette van der Vliet

By Marjorie Lamphear

[House of Hope](#) (HOH), a Community Development Corporation/non profit organization, has been working to end homelessness in Rhode Island since 1989. They strive to address the needs of people who are experiencing homelessness through a number of endeavors including: Street Outreach, with HOH staff reaching out to those on the streets to begin to build trust and relationships, provide them with resources, and connect them to various support services;

Shower to Empower, which provides showers, haircuts and medical assistance Monday through Friday in Rhode Island; and Housing, both permanent and transitional.

A major project currently underway, [ECHO \(Emergency COVID Housing Opportunity\) Village](#), will provide transitional shelter to chronically homeless people. The demand for emergency shelter has quadrupled since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and traditional shelters face challenges

in meeting this increased need. ECHO Village is an innovative response, filling gaps within the existing homeless shelter system, adding 45 beds using rapidly deployable units manufactured by Pallet.

ECHO Village is currently in the construction phase and HOH is optimistic that they will be able to welcome the first guests before the end of 2024.

House of Hope has asked PSRI to help their organization tell the story of ECHO

Village from the construction phase all the way to the time that the units safely, and with dignity, provide shelter to 45 Rhode Islanders experiencing homelessness.

Using photography, we have been asked to tell the story of how ECHO Village will be addressing some of the existing barriers to housing (for example: allowing people to have their dogs with them in the units, or allowing couples to stay together). They also have asked us to tell the stories of willing individuals who will benefit from shelter in the Village, to deepen our understanding of who these people are, dispelling old myths.

Because we received grant money from RI State Council on the Arts that includes our work with House of Hope, we expect to have a number of photos printed to be available in a traveling display that makes it's way around RI, raising public awareness and support for HOH and the human beings they serve.

PSRI's generous and talented House of Hope team consists of Noreen Berthiaume, Dave DeMarco, Janet Lawn, Karen Johnson-Nieuwendijk, Bob Mattera, Kathy French, Bernadette van der Vliet, Mike Di Stefano and Marjorie Lamphear. Participating PSRI

members choose which phases of ECHO Village development that they participate in. The phases include Under construction, Construction completed, Community engagement (such as the ribbon cutting ceremony involving the public). Telling the stories of daily life within the Village; the stories of willing individuals living there; and the stories of how ECHO Village is working to eliminate some of the common barriers to housing for people in need.

So . . . a huge thank you to each PSRI member participating in ECHO Village for your commitment to this project and the difference you make in people's lives!!





One of our longtime members, Lincoln Smith Jr., appeared on NBC 10!
From left to right: Mark Searles, Lincoln and Dan Jaehnig

Mark Your Calendar
HOLIDAY PARTY
December 17

PHOTO & VIDEO
Hunt's

Hunt's Photo & Video,
located at 66 Branch Ave
in Providence, offers PSRI
members a 10% discount
on accessories.

DAHLIA PATCH

Meetup

On September 7 PSRI gathered for a Meetup at the Dahlia Patch in West Greenwich, organized by Lauren Lambert. The Dahlias were in full bloom, providing endless creative opportunities for our members. Though we had hoped to spot some hummingbirds among the flowers, they didn't make an appearance this year. Hopefully they will be back next year. Afterwards our members went next door to the Leyden Winery and sampled some of their products and had snacks. We are hoping to make this an annual occurrence.

Continued on page 18



Photo: Lauren Lambert

Dahlia Patch Meetup continued



Photo: Karen Johnson-Nieuwendijk



Photo: Lauren Lambert



Photo: Lauren Lambert



Photo: Karen Johnson-Nieuwendijk

A few of PSRI's photographers at the Dahlia Patch Meetup. From left to right: Ted Lawson, Doris Lawson, Deb Page, Lauren Lambert, Kathy French, Rick Boucher.

Photo: Karen Johnson-Nieuwendijk





Bob Mattera welcoming our members and guests at our first meeting of the year. 43 People attended in person, including several new members.



Tara Marshall and Karl Zuzarte giving a presentation on matting



Mike Di Stefano operating the projector.



FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR
SEPTEMBER 3

*Current and past PSRI presidents.
L-R: Lincoln Smith, Bob Mattera, Mike Di Stefano,
Karen Johnson-Nieuwendijk, Deb Page, Mike
Dooley, Mary Doo, Karl Zuzarte and Dennis
Goulet.*

Photos: Bernadette van der Vliet

Acknowledgements

This Club is supported by a number of volunteers either as Officers, Board of Directors, presenters and more, with many of those members working in more than one capacity. And so it is true with reintroducing our Newsletter, which could not have happened as it has without the work of past-president Mary Doo, the foresight of archivist Lincoln Smith, and the tremendous graphics work of Bernadette van der Vliet.

Bob Mattera



Photo: Owen Ehrlich

Interested in seeing what the Photographic Society of Rhode Island is all about? Join as a Guest Member for 30 days. Just fill out the [registration form](#) and select the 30 day guest option and you will be added to the attendee list for the next 30 days.

PSRI PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY of
RHODE ISLAND

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