



# Saskatoon Photography Club

Capturing Moments, Creating Memories

February 2026

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## President's Message

February might be short, but it's a great month to keep our photography momentum going. Winter light, snowy textures, and indoor creativity all give us plenty to work with, and it's exciting to see how members continue to find inspiration this time of year.

This month we'll be connecting through our February program, image sharing, and critique opportunities, along with our monthly challenge theme of headshots and our Metal Competition. These are great chances to learn from one another, try something new, and see familiar subjects in a different way. Whether you're shooting outdoors in the cold or experimenting inside, every image is part of the journey.

Thank you to everyone who participates, volunteers, and helps make the Saskatoon Photography Club such a welcoming and supportive community. I'm looking forward to another great month of learning, creativity, and conversation.

Stay warm and keep shooting!

Cheers,  
Maurice Vold  
President, Saskatoon Photography Club  
[president@saskatoonphotographyclub.com](mailto:president@saskatoonphotographyclub.com)

<https://www.saskatoonphotographyclub.com/>

## Upcoming Events

January 27



JANUARY 27

Guest Speaker



# MYRNA PEARMAN

■ "Nature & Wildlife Photography"

■ [www.saskatoonphotographyclub.com](http://www.saskatoonphotographyclub.com) >>>

February 3



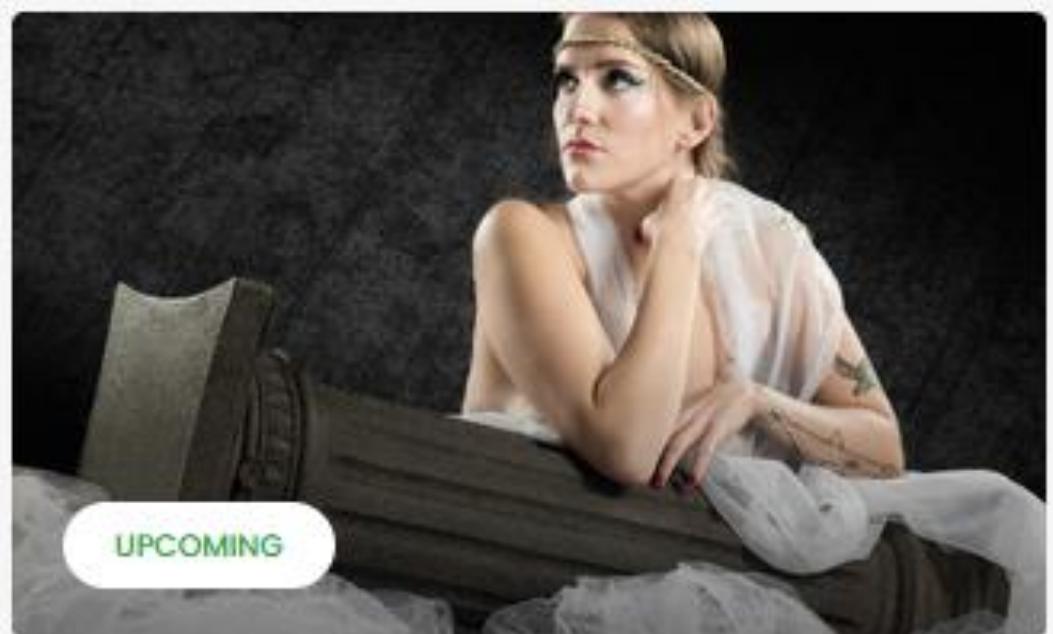
FEBRUARY 3

Guest Speaker

# NICOLE ROMANOFF

■ "Headshots"  
[www.saskatoonphotographyclub.com](http://www.saskatoonphotographyclub.com) >>>

**February 10**



## Live Shoot: Headshots

EDUCATION

February 10, 2026

7:00 pm

**February 24**



FEBRUARY 24

Guest Speaker

# JANNIK PLAETNER

“From Tuk to Torres del Paine -  
and Everything in Between”

[www.saskatoonphotographyclub.com](http://www.saskatoonphotographyclub.com)



>>>



**March 3**



MARCH 3

## Guest Speaker

# DUSTIN MAIN

“This Myanmar Life - Stories and Lessons  
from 10 Years of Documentary Photography in  
Myanmar”

[www.saskatoonphotographyclub.com](http://www.saskatoonphotographyclub.com) >>>

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## March 10



### Live Shoot at the Ukrainian Museum

OUTING

March 10, 2026

Meet at Ukrainian Museum [910 Spadina Cres E] for an  
evening of photographing history.

 Upcoming

## SUBMISSION DEADLINES

All entry submissions have a 1 digital image limit, unless noted below.

**Wed. Oct 1 - *Nature/Wildlife*** [CAPA]

**Thurs. Oct 9 - *Song Title*** [Fall Competition]

**Thurs. Oct 16 - *Cityscape*** [Club Photo Review]

Submit up to 2 digital images

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**Sat. Nov 1 - *Monochrome*** [CAPA]

**Thurs. Nov 6 - *Transportation*** [Fall Competition]

**Thurs. Nov 27 - [SPC Competitions]**

***Treasure Hunt*** [5 Topics]

*The Letter G, Green, Gallop, Goat, Guitar*  
[Minimal post-processing & manipulation]

Must submit one complete set of 5 digitals

***Summer Fun***

***Fall Field Trip***

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**Thurs. Jan 8 - *Time*** [Winter Competition]

**Thurs. Feb 5 - *Metal*** [Winter Competition]

**Sun. Feb 15 - *Inspiration Colour*** [CAPA]

**Thurs. Feb 17 - *Headshots*** [Club Photo Review]

Submit up to 2 digital images

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**Sun. Mar 15 - *Prairie Zone*** [CAPA]

**Tues. Mar 17 - *Photo Presentation***

[this is the deadline to register a title]  
Formats: Video [preferred], PowerPoint, etc.

**Thurs. Mar 26 - *Year End***

Topics: Photographer's choice from 2024-2026  
[photos must be taken after Jan 1, 2024]

5 Categories:

Altered Reality, Portrait, B&W [Monochrome],  
Traditional [Colour], Triptych

Submit one digital and/or 1 print into each of the  
5 categories

# Snapshot Insights

Digital Photography

## Quote

**“Dodging and burning are steps to take care of mistakes God made in establishing tonal relationships.”** - Ansel Adams

## POST-PROCESSING

### Luminosity Masks in Photoshop

*Quick lesson for photographers*

Precision control of exposure, color, and tone — using selections based on brightness values (light itself).

**Why this matters:** Luminosity masks let you target highlights, midtones, or shadows with smooth falloff—so edits stay natural, realistic, and free of halos.

#### In this issue

- What a luminosity mask is (and why it looks invisible when done right)
- When to use luminosity masks
- Creating masks manually (Lights, Darks, Midtones)
- Applying masks to exposure and tone
- Color control in highlights vs shadows
- Tone shaping (dodging and burning) the clean way
- Refinement checklist + practice assignment

# What a Luminosity Mask Really Is

A luminosity mask is a selection based on brightness values — not edges, not colors, but light itself.

In plain terms, you're telling Photoshop: apply this adjustment only where the image is already bright, midtone, or dark, and let it fade smoothly across tones.

- Looks invisible when done right
- Preserves realism
- Avoids halos and crunchiness
- A go-to technique for high-end landscape work

## When You Should Use Luminosity Masks

Use luminosity masks when you want an adjustment to affect only a specific tonal range — not the entire frame.

- Brighten highlights without blowing them
- Open shadows without flattening contrast
- Add color only where light exists

**Rule of thumb:** If an adjustment affects everything, it's probably wrong.

## Part 1 — Creating Luminosity Masks (Manual Method)

### Step 1: Open the Channels Panel

- Open your image in Photoshop
- Go to Window → Channels
- You'll see RGB, Red, Green, Blue

### Step 2: Create a Basic Highlights Mask (Lights 1)

- Ctrl/Cmd + click the RGB channel to load a selection based on brightness
- Bright areas = strong selection; dark areas = weak or no selection
- This is your Lights 1 mask

### Step 3: Refine the Highlights (Lights 2, Lights 3...)

To target brighter and brighter values, save and reload the selection repeatedly:

- With the selection active: Select → Save Selection → name it "Lights 1"
- Ctrl/Cmd + click "Lights 1" → Save as "Lights 2"
- Repeat for "Lights 3" to isolate only the brightest highlights

### Step 4: Create Darks Masks

- Load "Lights 1"
- Select → Inverse
- Save as "Darks 1"
- Repeat the same narrowing process to create "Darks 2" and "Darks 3"

## Step 5: Create Midtones Masks

Midtones are neither bright nor dark — subtle, but extremely powerful.

- Load “Lights 1”
- Load “Darks 1” while holding Alt/Option (to subtract)
- Save as “Midtones”

This helps you avoid gray shadows, muddy blacks, and that HDR “lifted floor” look.

## Part 2 — Applying Luminosity Masks to Adjustments

**The Golden Rule:** Luminosity masks belong on adjustment layers, not pixel layers.

### Exposure Control (The Core Skill)

#### Example: Brightening a Landscape Sky

Problem: the sky looks dull or gray — common with flat light.

- Load “Lights 2”
- Add a Curves adjustment layer
- Gently lift the curve just a little

Why it works: only bright clouds and sky tones lift, without halos at the horizon or washed-out blues.

**Master tip:** If you can clearly see the adjustment, it’s too strong.

#### Example: Opening Foreground Shadows

- Load “Darks 2”
- Add Curves and lift the shadow point subtly
- Add a slight S-curve to keep contrast

## Part 3 — Color Control Using Luminosity Masks

Color behaves differently in light than in shadow. Targeting tones first is the fastest way to make color feel clean and intentional.

#### Example: Enhancing Warm Sunset Color

Common mistake: saturating the whole image. Better approach:

- Load “Lights 1”
- Add Selective Color or Hue/Saturation
- Increase saturation slightly and nudge warmth toward yellow/orange

Result: color shows up where light hits, while shadows stay neutral and clean.

#### Example: Cooling Shadows Without Killing Contrast

- Load “Darks 1”
- Add Color Balance
- Push shadows a touch toward blue/cyan

This creates depth, color separation, and a cinematic-but-natural feel.

## Part 4 — Tone Shaping (The Signature Look)

### Sculpting Light (Dodging & Burning with Masks)

Instead of painting white and black, use tonal selections for a cleaner, more controllable result:

- Load “Lights 2” → Curves → gently brighten
- Load “Darks 2” → Curves → slightly deepen shadows

This builds dimensional contrast rather than global contrast.

## Part 5 — Mask Refinement Checklist

Preview your mask (Alt/Option + click the mask thumbnail) and look for:

- Smooth gradients (no banding)
- No hard edges
- No speckling

If needed:

- Apply a small Gaussian Blur (about 1–2 px) to soften transitions
- Use Levels on the mask to tighten or soften the selection
- Click the mask, then press Ctrl/Cmd + L to adjust Levels until the mask fits your target tones

## Final Master Principles

**Memorize these:** Subtlety beats strength

- Light controls color
- Highlights can take saturation; shadows need restraint
- If you need opacity below 20%, you’re probably doing it right
- Luminosity masks should disappear — not announce themselves

## Practice Assignment

Take one image and build the following masks:

- Lights 1–3
- Darks 1–3
- Midtones

Make only Curves adjustments (no global sliders), and stop before it looks “edited”.

**If you try this practice assignment, I would love to put some before and after images in the next newsletter. Be sure to send them attention Newsletter Editor at [president@saskatoonphotographyclub.com](mailto:president@saskatoonphotographyclub.com)**

Until next time—mask gently, watch for halos, and let the light do the talking.

**Cheryl Lalonde**  
PSA Representative  
Saskatoon Photography Club



## Canadian Association For Photographic Art

# Canadian Association for Photographic Art (“CAPA”)

### Consider a CAPA Membership

The mission of CAPA is to foster a vibrant and inclusive community that promotes ethical practices and advances the art of photography for all skill levels. We inspire and empower photographers to tell meaningful visual stories through creativity, education and community.

By joining CAPA, you'll gain access to a vibrant community and a wide range of member benefits:

- **Expert-led education:** Participate in workshops, lectures, and series like our CAPA Speaker Series, Image Critique Nights, Image Editing Demos and other Presentations.
- **Quarterly magazine:** Receive the full-colour, high-quality Canadian Photography Magazine delivered to your door, along with online access to current and past issues
- **Exclusive competitions:** Submit your work to eight CAPA-only photography competitions. You can also explore recent winning entries on our website.

These are just a few of the many benefits you receive when you join CAPA. Joining CAPA is the best investment in your photography you can make.

Become a member now. <https://capacanada.ca/product-category/individuals/> for a full year filled with learning, competitions, fellowship, new friends and inspiration - that's what we are all about.

### Read the latest CAPA members newsletter here:

<https://mailchi.mp/capacanada.ca/monthly-news-jan-2026-english?e=ce7e4a08b1>

**Note: One of our own members “Cathleen Mewis” has an image featured in the newsletter!**



## Unleash your Passion for Photography with the Photographic Society of America Worldwide

Become a member of our global photography organization and gain access to exclusive content, enjoy discounts on photography gear, participate in educational workshops, and receive personalized feedback on your work.



### Who We Are

A global community of passionate photographers with thousands of members in over 80 countries, inspiring and supporting each other since 1934.



### What We Do

We unite photographers worldwide, fostering a vibrant community where the power of photography brings people together.



### Why Join Us?

From exclusive resources and expert guidance to networking with like-minded photographers, we're here to help you grow, inspire, and achieve your artistic vision. [See Benefits](#)



### Join Now

Ready to take your photography to the next level? Join us and connect with a vibrant network, access exclusive perks, and grow alongside fellow creatives.

### New & Exciting! PSA is launching a new social media photo contest.

- **Fresh Themes:** Subject matter changes every month to spark your creativity.
- **Win Prizes:** Winners announced on Facebook and Instagram.
- **How to Enter:** Email your photo entry and be sure to include:
  - Photo title
  - Your name
- **Stay Connected:** Follow our new [Facebook page](#) to keep up with contest updates.
- **See More:** View the advertisement below for full details.



# Caught In The Act

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS OF PEOPLE  
TAKING PHOTOS TO BE ENTERED  
INTO A CONTEST  
WINNER PRIZE: \$50 VISA GIFT CARD



Handsome Photographer  
Submitted By: Kimber Hughes

ENTER NOW-DEC 31. The winner will be announced on Facebook &  
Email Entries to: [hah@psaphotoworldwide.org](mailto:hah@psaphotoworldwide.org)

Follow us on all our platforms



# SASKATOON NIGHT SKY



A photographer-friendly calendar of the best things to shoot from the Saskatoon area—with special attention to moonlight, foreground-friendly timing, and quick-drive locations.

## Nightscape recipe (meteors + Milky Way)

- Shoot long blocks (2–4 hours) for meteor stacks; keep composition simple and strong.
- For meteors, frame 40–60° away from the radiant for longer streaks.
- Bring a red light + spare batteries (cold kills them) + a lens cloth/hand warmers for dew.

## Don't-miss nights in 2026

- **Tue, Mar 3 (pre-dawn):** Total lunar eclipse — totality 5:04–6:02 am (CST).
- **Tue–Wed, Apr 21–22:** Lyrids peak — moon ~27%.
- **Wed–Thu, Aug 12–13:** Perseids peak — moon ~0% (new moon).
- **Thu night, Aug 27 → Fri, Aug 28:** Partial lunar eclipse — 7:55 pm to 1:01 am; max 10:12 pm.
- **Wed–Thu, Nov 4–5:** Southern Taurids — fireballs; moon ~18%.
- **Wed–Thu, Nov 11–12:** Northern Taurids — fireballs; moon ~7%.
- **Sun–Mon, Dec 13–14:** Geminids peak — moon ~21%.

## One-hour drive shortlist

### Rule of thumb:

- Milky Way + meteors: go south/southeast so the city glow is behind you.
- Aurora: go north/northwest so your northern horizon is dark.
- **Pike Lake Provincial Park:** ~20 minutes south. Trees + water.
- **Blackstrap Provincial Park:** ~35 minutes south/southeast. Big sky + reservoir.
- **Beaver Creek Conservation Area (Meewasin):** ~13 km south on Hwy 219.
- **Cranberry Flats (Meewasin):** day-use area; best for blue hour.

### Field safety & etiquette

- Respect posted hours and private land; park fully off the road.
- Bring extra layers + a headlamp; tell someone your plan.

## 2026 month-by-month (Saskatoon area)

### January

- Quadrantids peak (Jan 3–4): Moon is full at peak (poor).
- Snow foregrounds + crisp transparency can be amazing.

### February

- Quiet month—use it for scouting and practice runs.
- Short nights + cold: test batteries, dew control, workflow.

### March

- Total lunar eclipse (Mar 3): penumbral 2:44 am; totality 5:04–6:02 am (CST).
- Aurora odds often improve toward the March equinox (≈Mar 20).

### April

- Lyrids peak (Apr 21–22): Moon ~27% (good).
- Milky Way core starts showing pre-dawn late month.

### May

- Milky Way season: pre-dawn core; aim south/southeast from dark sites.
- Noctilucent clouds may begin late month—watch N/NW in twilight.

### June

- Noctilucent clouds: prime season (June–July). Look low to the north in twilight.
- Milky Way core is strong, but nights are short near the solstice.

### July

- Milky Way core: prime month; nights lengthen after mid-July.
- Delta Aquariids/Alpha Capricornids (Jul 30–31): Moon ~98% (poor).

### August

- Perseids peak (Aug 12–13): Moon ~0% (best meteor shoot of the year).
- Partial solar eclipse (Aug 12): visible as a small partial (daytime).
- Partial lunar eclipse (Aug 27–28): 7:55 pm to 1:01 am; max 10:12 pm.

### September

- Aurora season improves again around the September equinox (Sep 22–23).
- Milky Way evenings: the core is moving earlier—great for earlier-night shoots.

### October

- Long, dark nights return: excellent for aurora + fall foregrounds.
- Orionids peak (Oct 21–22): Moon ~80% (lower priority).

### November

- Southern Taurids peak (Nov 4–5): Moon ~18% (good).
- Northern Taurids peak (Nov 11–12): Moon ~7% (excellent).

### December

- Geminids peak (Dec 13–14): Moon ~21% (excellent).
- Ursids peak (Dec 21–22): Moon ~94% (poor).

# **SHUTTER SHOP**

**Welcome to the shutter shop. This section is reserved for buying and selling your gear/camera equipment. It is not meant to be for selling services or advertising businesses. ISO (in search of) is the equipment wanted section and Flash Sale Finds is the for-sale section. If you have something to list, please email a description, 1 picture and your contact details to:**

**info@saskatoonphotographyclub.com**

**ISO**

**Flash Sale Finds**