



## New Year's Resolutions for Photographers

*By Val Sleger*

Many folks make New Year's Resolutions. What better time to vow to lose weight, organize the garage, or be more intentional about activities? It didn't take too much web browsing to round up some photography-based resolutions.

1. Master a new technique. There are thousands of online articles and YouTube videos to help you get started.
2. Take a self-portrait. Go beyond a selfie with your phone; set up a tripod and create a more quality photo of yourself.
3. Network and collaborate. Hopefully, your time in our camera club will help you with this one!
4. Photograph with a purpose. Whether it's trying to capture some of our challenge words or volunteering to do some photography for a cause you believe in, having a purpose can focus your photography.
5. Never leave the house without your camera or smartphone.
6. Pick up the manual to your camera. Commit to learning one new setting or feature each week for one month.
7. Spend an hour taking photos using different White Balance settings to really understand the effect each has on your images.
8. Go through your Photo files and delete images that are poorly composed, blurry, or duplicated (choose the best one to keep).
9. If you don't already have one, commit to a plan to get your photos backed up.
10. Sell your unused gear.

Could some of these work for you in 2024? Most of the articles I researched suggested you will have more success in accomplishing these goals if you write them down. Best of luck!

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## Weekly Challenge

We're changing up the challenge words this year. At each meeting of the Club, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, four challenge prompts will be presented for the following month. Focus on one word or phrase each week to complete all four to share at the following month's meeting. Folks who can't attend the meetings will get the list in the newsletter. January challenge photos will be shown at the January meeting and included in the February newsletter.

### January

Circles

Technology

Homemade

Song: Sound of Music

### Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Sierra Vista Police Station Training Room, 911 Coronado, Sierra Vista. Meetings begin at 4 PM. The meeting topic for January is the use of off-camera flashes and speedlights, presented by Sheila Foraker. Mark Hanna will present on Sunny 16 and other exposure rules.

### Share Your Knowledge

We all know something about photography, right? Why not volunteer to give a presentation at one of the monthly meetings? You could teach a new skill, lead a discussion about a YouTube video you found interesting or challenging, or share photos from your latest photo adventure. Talk to one of the officers if you are interested. We'd all love to see what you come up with!

### Officers

**President:** Mark Hanna

**Vice-President & Program**

**Coordinator:** Bob Luce

**Secretary:** Joyce Genske

**Treasurer:** Madeleine Charron



### Are You Backing Up Your Photos?

How disappointed would you be if all of your photos were lost in a fire, or a hard drive crash? Putting a backup plan in place and then following it can save those precious memories.

There are many ways to back up. If you aren't shooting a lot, you can simply copy your files from one drive to another after each shoot, leaving images in both places. Photos taken on your phone are likely already stored or backed up to a cloud service – iCloud for iPhones, and Google Photos for Android. If you have a subscription to Microsoft Office, you can back your photos up to OneDrive – using the 1 TB of storage that comes with your subscription. There are automatic online backup services, such as [BackBlaze](#) and [CrashPlan](#) that can run in the background and automatically back up photos on your computer. However you decide to back up, back up! Here's a quick video explaining how one pro manages his backups.

<https://www.outdoorphotographyguide.com/video/backing-up-image-files-015796/> (3:00)



## Member Photos

We love to see your photos – even if you aren't looking for challenge words.  
We showcase them in the newsletter, and you are encouraged to bring  
them to the meeting on a flash drive!