



Greater New Braunfels Photography Club

Newsletter Volume 14, July 2025

A note from the Editor - by Christiane Menelas

Hello my friends,

I was recently made aware of a beautiful article about street photography and it touched me deeply when reading it, so I wanted to share it with all of you! I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Street photography does not come easy to me, so I always appreciate when an artist shares his personal experiences with others.

Happy clicking

Christiane



The Quiet Grace of a Candid Moment: A Street Photographer's Encounter at Père Lachaise
by Steve Simon June 12, 2025



Last month, I made a photograph at Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. A candid image. Unposed, unplanned, and deeply human.

As street photographers, we often work in the space between moments. We don't ask, we react. That's the job. But street photography is controversial. Some say it's invasive, unethical—especially when photographing people during private or emotional moments in public places. I understand that discomfort. But I also believe, strongly, that street photography is a noble pursuit. At its best, it's about bearing witness. It's about storytelling without words. It preserves what might otherwise vanish. While the world scrolls past, we stop time—if only for a fraction of a second. And when we do it right, our work adds something meaningful to the record of who we are.

As I walked through Père Lachaise—the final resting place of Oscar Wilde, Jim Morrison, Frédéric Chopin, Édith Piaf, Gertrude Stein, and many others—I saw her. She was resting her head on a gravestone. A quiet, intimate moment. Grief in stillness. I didn't know who she was—only that the moment was powerful. I knew that if I stopped to ask permission, I'd lose it. So I made the photograph.

Then I introduced myself.

Her name was Manuela. She was kind and open. I told her what I had done. I offered to send her the image, and she gave me her email.

She replied with grace—and something more.

"Thank you for your offer; I gladly accept it. I am grateful because you captured a moment filled with emotion. Actually, Suzon was the daughter of my best friend.

She used to call me "Mom" and I would be very happy to receive this photo. Thank you. Her father, whom I have informed, is also eagerly waiting.

Thank you very much.

Goodbye. Manuela"

Later, on the plane home, I wrote to her again—this time with the photo attached. I explained that I'm a street photographer and educator, that I try to work with respect, and that I teach others to do the same. I told her that if she preferred, the image would never be shown.

Then, in a second message, came this:

Suzon wanted us to meet —and somewhere, she's laughing still.

Not in the skies, but in the hush between heartbeats, right here in my chest.

Thank you —

for being here, for the beauty of your gift, for the quiet grace of your presence.

Since the day she left, Suzon has never stopped speaking to me.

In whispers.

In wind.

In wonders.

She speaks through impossible moments that only love could summon.

One winter evening, her father, hollowed out by grief, asked me to bring her flowers.

I wandered through Père-Lachaise, lost among the names and stones, hugging mimosa like it could warm my hands.

Jim had sent his desperado.
Suzon had found a way to answer.
Another time, I collapsed again — and from the silence came a man in black, singing Piaf:
Non, rien de rien...
I asked him, "Who are you, Monsieur Farfadet?"
He smiled: "I've haunted this place for years...and today, I felt this is what you needed to hear."
He led me to Piaf's resting place, then faded into air.
I never saw him again.
But her message — clear as music.
Suzon sends me signs.
Always.
Little miracles tucked in grief.
A laugh. A stranger.
A song in the right key.
And yesterday, it was you.
Your presence,
your photograph,
your kindness — they were her way of saying:
"You see? I'm still here."
Her father once feared she'd be forgotten.
But how could we forget Suzon?
That visit wasn't even planned. We were headed to a show, when a voice inside me said: "Go to Père-
Lachaise."
So here we are.
And now, with Jean-Michel's blessing and mine,
I ask:
Let your art become a thread in her story.
Let it echo where we can't reach.
Let it carry her light into forever.

We will not forget Suzon.
We will not.

Street photography matters because it captures life as it unfolds—unscripted and unfiltered. It's one of the few photographic genres rooted entirely in reality. No staging. No retakes. Just the world, as it is. At its best, it connects us to one another. It honors the human experience. It allows strangers to meet, unexpectedly, across time and space, in moments we don't plan but are privileged to witness.

That's what happened at Père Lachaise.

Being a street photographer means stepping out of your comfort zone. That looks different for everyone. For me, it often means pushing through the moment of hesitation. It's easy to talk myself out of taking a picture—out of fear, doubt, or politeness. But I've learned to summon the bravado to shoot anyway. I can always decide later what to do—or not do—with the image. That courage doesn't come easily, even after all these years. And not everyone is happy when I get caught stealing a candid moment. But I'll say this: 97 percent of those encounters have been either positive or without incident.

Most people respond with curiosity, not anger. Sometimes, they respond with something deeper. I also remind myself: in most of the world, this isn't a legal issue. In public spaces, you can photograph people without permission—and even exhibit, publish, or sell those images. What we're dealing with isn't law. It's ethics. And that's where intention matters. It's different for everyone. It's about how we work, why we shoot, and how we treat the people in our frames.

Still, I understand why some people are uncomfortable being photographed without permission. It can feel like a personal boundary has been crossed. Even in public, many feel a sense of ownership over how they appear and who sees them. Being photographed in a raw, emotional moment can be unsettling. There's also the fear of being misrepresented or shared out of context. In a world where images can go viral in seconds, that fear is real—even if rare in my experience.

Some see the camera as a threat, not a tool for connection. That's why how we approach street photography matters so much. We can't control how people feel, but we can control how we work: with sensitivity, awareness, and the belief that every person we photograph deserves our respect.

Street photography becomes visual history. It records not just people, but the culture, energy, and spirit of a time. The way we look, the way we move, what we carry, what we wear—these are details future generations will study to understand us. That's the responsibility we carry as street photographers—not just to observe, but to preserve. When we trust the moment and work with care, our photographs become more than images. They become memory. They honor life.

That day in Paris, I didn't know who Manuela was. I didn't know who Suzon was. I only knew the moment was real and full of feeling. I made the photograph, and afterward, I offered it back. What I received in return was something unexpected—grace, trust, and the chance to help keep a young woman's memory alive.

Suzon's story became part of mine. And now, through this image, it becomes part of yours too.'

Suzon Garrigues was 21 years old. She loved rock music and the socially conscious novels of Émile Zola.

She was studying literature at Paris-Sorbonne University. On November 13, 2015, she was one of 90 people killed in the terrorist attack at the Bataclan theater in Paris. She had gone to the concert with her brother, who survived.

I haven't gotten any submissions for our travel section of the newsletter, so don't mind if I share the do's and don'ts of my most recent Alaska trip.

Look at it as a suggested itinerary should you want to visit, and could use a few pointers.

Day 1 and 2 – getting to Anchorage:

We met up with friends of ours, and they stayed at the Clarion Suites for the first two nights, then on the way back rented a VRBO for the last few nights of the stay. Both accommodations worked well. Restaurants I highly recommend in Anchorage are

- 1: Ginger - with a fantastic menu for dinner, or just drinks and appetizers

- 2: Whiskey & Ramen - top notch food and drinks. You need reservations, the wait times for walk-ins are very long. It's a popular place for a reason!

- 3: Crow's Nest inside the Captain Cook Hotel - even if you don't want to pay for AAA four-diamond fine dining, go up to the bar and have a drink just for the spectacular views across all of Anchorage, the Chugach Mountains, and the Cook inlet!

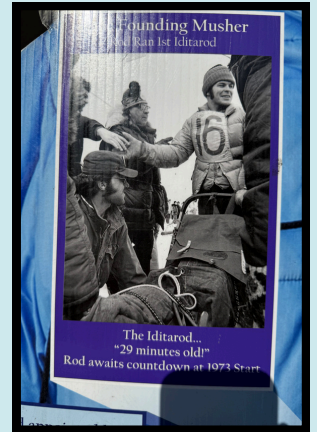
For a more affordable fare, there is a pub on the main floor called "Fletcher's" that offers seafood, pizzas, and pasta. The Captain Cook is iconic and has been in Anchorage since 1965.

Day 3 – heading out to Talkeetna:

We headed out early, so we could make several stops on our way to Talkeetna which is about 115 miles, or a 2 hour drive by car.

We wanted to visit the Eagle River Nature Center, and enjoy some nature hikes, but unfortunately it was closed that day.

Our first stop was "Thunderbird Falls" which was a short 1.8 mile hike to a beautiful waterfall. There is an option to only see the upper falls, or hike down and see the lower falls as well. We did both and it was totally worth it!



Ran into one of the Iditarod OG's in Anchorage and he took a selfie with us, next to his cardboard cut-out



Upper and lower falls

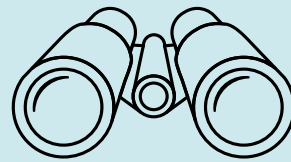
Our next stop was the Eklutna Cemetery, famous for it's Spirit houses. The Dena'ina Athabascan people place spirit boxes over the gravesites and leave parting gifts. The spirit box symbolizes shelter for the departed soul in the afterlife. The spirit houses are then left to weather and decay, embodying the belief in reciprocity with nature. It was a very peaceful place to visit.

From here we drove to the Denali Brewing Co. which is on the way, and a great place to stop for good pizza and a cold beer!

After lunch we went on to Talkeetna where we checked into our VRBO, and still had plenty of time to explore the town. Or should I say village? Because in truth it's just a small unincorporated, quirky little village. One of the more famous stores is "Nagley's Store" which is a convenient store, liquor store, pub and deli all in one. But there is no shortage of stores to explore. Lot's of unique art, furs, handcrafted jewelry, fun food and drink, and the list goes on. One very famous stop is a little airstream food truck that sells Spinach Bread, and boy is it good!!! How did we know about this? Because our friends two teenaged daughters learned about it on Tik Tok, and I'm so glad we got to try it! It's really worth the hype!

But the best thing about Talkeetna is the view when you walk all the way down to the Susitna River. On a clear day you can see Denali from here in all it's glory!!

VRBO is the way to go in Talkeetna - it was a 5 or 6 minute drive for us into town, but we loved being completely out in nature. We had an adorable little A-frame cabin in the woods, and looking out the window you really felt like a bear or moose could walk up at any moment. Well that's exactly what



happened to our friends, who rented a separate cabin. A mama moose gave birth to twins in their backyard - it was definitely a highlight in their trip! Also the fact that it stays light outside till 1 or 2 in the morning gives you the chance to see so much.

Day 4 - Denali:

From Talkeetna it's another 154 miles to Denali National Park (or 2.5 hours). There are pull outs along the way where you can see Denali from a distance, on a clear day. Well we did not get that lucky and it was overcast and rainy for us. We got to the park early and hopped on one of the shuttles that takes you into the park. No private vehicles are allowed. Here is where I want to tell you - don't do the shuttle! What a waste of time. If I were to do it over again, I would chose to take a plane or helicopter ride. The shuttle ride took forever, speed limit in the park is 25mph, so you're driving 4 hours in, and 4 hours back, to get close to the mountain, but on a rainy day you'll still never see it! Any wildlife you see is faaaaarrrrr away. So take it from me, it's not worth it just sitting on a slow bus all day - to see "not much"! Maybe on a sunny day you would at least see Denali, but again - we didn't. On the way back we got off the bus about 4 miles before the drop off point, just because we couldn't sit any longer. On our walk we actually saw a Moose up close, a Porcupine, some Caribou, and some Ptarmigan. That made it somewhat worth it. We had a nice dinner at "Karstens Public House" which is in a near village owned by the Holland America Cruiseline. Then we headed back to Talkeetna for a good nights sleep.

Day 5 - Seward:

From Talkeetna we drove about 4.5 hours (or 238 miles) to Seward. Even though we planned this trip well in advance, we could not find accommodations in Seward for the one night we were going to spend here. Cruise ships use Seward for embarkation and disembarkation for many Alaska cruise vacations, and the hotels book up quickly for the season.



The size of the wildlife, in this case a mountain goat, as viewed from the shuttle.



Denali National Park is beautiful, don't get me wrong - you just don't want to experience it from a bus! Also know that if your goal is to see Denali, you have to be very lucky with the weather!



We ended up staying at Millers Landing in a little cabin without plumbing or electricity. It was one step above tent camping, but we ended up loving it the most, because instead of sleeping we ended up spending most of the night on the beach, around an amazing campfire, among friends with good stories and a few drinks.



Day 6 - Kenai Fjords National Park

Out of Seward we boarded our boat to take us on a Kenai Fjords tour. I had done this tour before, and there are many options to choose from. You can do 1/2 day tour, full day, dinner cruise etc.

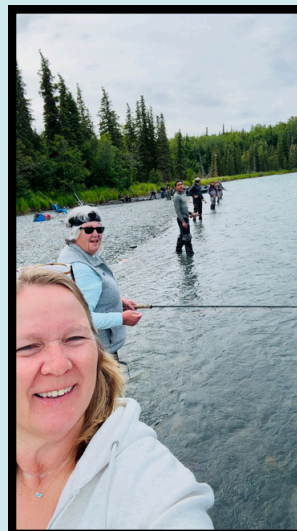
Well this time we had chosen to do the captains choice tour on a recommendation from a friend. This turned out to be The Best tour any of us had ever been on. From the minute we left the harbor, we saw wildlife after wildlife. Being on the captains choice tour meant that the captain could spend as little or as much time in different locations, based on the wildlife that was crossing our paths. To name a few, we saw: eagles, otters, fin whales, orcas, humpback whales (mom and baby), puffins, and sea lions. It was an absolutely amazing experience. Of course we also went out to a glacier, and lunch was included.

After the Kenai Fjords tour we headed to Soldotna, (which is about 94 miles away, or roughly 2 hours) and checked into our VRBO.



Day 7 - Fishing on the Kaslof River

Super early day for salmon fishing on the Kaslof River. We had chartered a fishing trip with "Chasing Tales". Two boats took us up river to a great spot. Each member of our group (7 total) was allowed to catch 6 sockeye salmon. We got a quick lesson in how to cast, and we were off to the races. In total we ended up with 70+ pounds of fish, which our guides fillet for us. We also ended up with a bunch of caviar, because after all, these salmon are spawning... Needless to say we had an amazing dinner that night!



I was unsure of what to expect from the boat ride that morning, as they were talking about hitting possible rapids, so I didn't want to chance bringing my good camera and getting it wet. The river banks were lined with eagles, and the water was calm enough for me to have brought it. But alas - I know better for next time.

From the riverbanks we headed straight to the "Tanners" fish processing facility where they deepfreeze and package the fish for you to take back home. We dropped off that afternoon, and picked up the next morning.



Day 8 - back to Seward

Instead of heading straight back to Anchorage, we decided we needed to spend a little more time in Seward. The guys wanted to conquer Mt. Marathon.

Every year on the 4th of July, Seward holds a marathon. This race is considered the toughest 5K on the planet, and it's been going on since 1915. Well since we were early, and wouldn't be there for the 4th of July, our guys were just going to race up that mountain for fun! The grueling course climbs 3,022 feet above sea level, followed by a fast and dangerous descent. The average slope is 34 degrees and is 60 degrees at its steepest. They both completed it in about 2 hours.

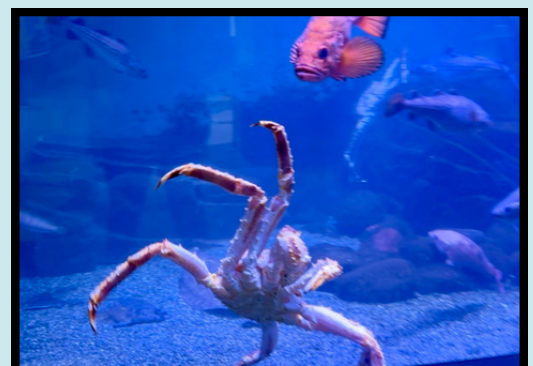
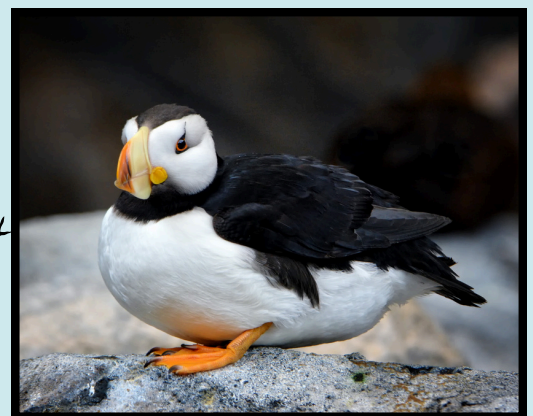
Meanwhile the girls decided to check out the highly acclaimed Seward Marine Life Center. This place is wonderful and I highly recommend it. You get to see all your favorite sea animals up close and personal.

Definitely worth a stop.

After a quick bite at "The Breeze Inn" we finally headed back to Anchorage.



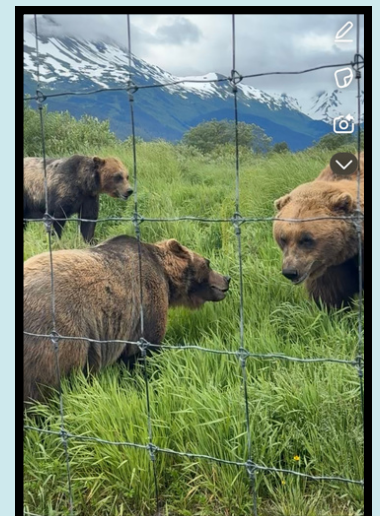
Marathon Mountain, zooming in on our two guys



New favorite bird - the King Eider

A few more recommendations in no particular order:

- traveling from Anchorage along “Turnagain Arm” is a breathtaking experience in and of itself. There are multiple pullout spots for wildlife viewing. The most famous probably being “Beluga Point”. It’s named for the white whales that are often spotted from this location.
- It’s also a popular spot to view the Turnagain Arm Bore Tide, a tidal phenomenon where the incoming tide forms a wave that travels up the narrow inlet. When it’s a good sized wave, you can see surfers and kayakers riding the wave all the way down the inlet.
- Potters Marsh is another must see destination close to Anchorage. It’s wonderful for wildlife viewing, especially bird watching and has extensive boardwalks.
- Girdwood is just 45 minutes from Anchorage and is known for the Alyeska Ski Resort. If you’re not there during ski season, enjoy a ride in the arial tram to the top of the mountain for stunning 360 panorama views, or enjoy a day at the Nordic Spa. There are lots of hiking trails with spectacular waterfalls in the surrounding Chugach Mountains. This is definitely worth a day trip. While in Girdwood check out the famous “Double Musky Inn” for lunch or dinner.
- Also in Girdwood, a little further up Seward Highway there is the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. This place is definitely worth a stop if you’d like to see wolves, coyotes, bears, elk, moose, bison, and many more wild animals up close and personal.

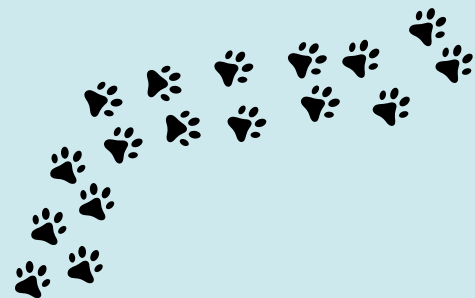


- If you enjoy hiking, I recommend going up to Flattop Mountain. It's a 3,510 feet mountain located in Chugach State Park, and it's the most climbed mountain in the state.
- Lastly I highly recommend the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. It's an 11 mile long trail along the coast of Anchorage, that follows the shore of Cook Inlet from Downtown Anchorage to Kincaid Park. It's a two-way traffic trail that's shared by pedestrians and bike riders alike. A favorite spot along the way is Point Woronzof to watch the incoming planes go directly above your head. There are multiple spots in Anchorage where you can rent a regular bike, a tandem, an e-bike, or a throttle bike. It's super fun riding the trails, and we saw several moose, as well as black bears along this trail.

I hope you found this little itinerary helpful, or at least entertaining. Let me know if you actually go to Alaska. I would love to know what you ended up seeing and doing!

And by the way, if you couldn't already tell, most of the pictures are cell phone shots, as I haven't had time to go through my thousands of pictures yet!

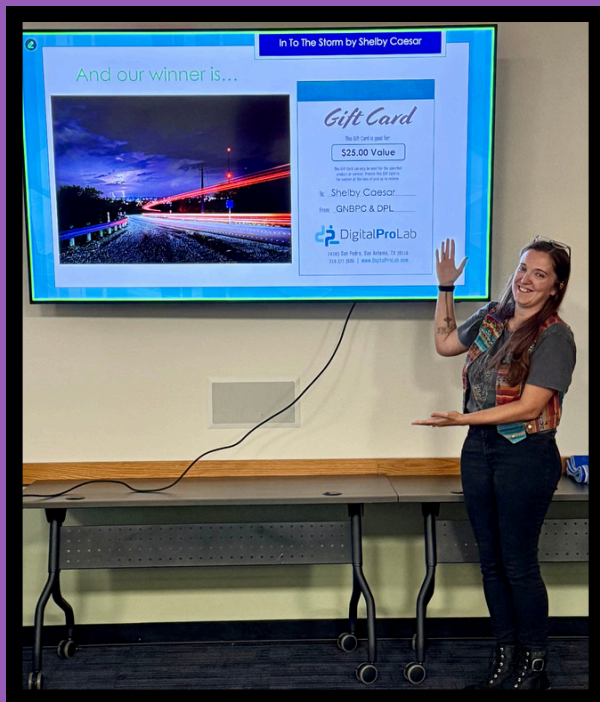
Bon Voyage!



RECOGNITIONS



*The monthly competition winner for “Long Exposure” is our newest member Shelby Caesar with her image titled: “Into the Storm”
Congratulations Shelby, and welcome to the Club!*



Congratulations

Fotoseptiembre

We have the artists for our 2025 Fotoseptiembre Fall Exhibition "Travel":

Frank Bayerque, Barbara Beversdorf, Shelby Caesar, Suzanne Daunt, Sharlana Dillard, Sue Eley, Sandra Gilbert, Patricia Jones, Becky Love, Christiane Menelas, James Moseley, Craig Pellerin, Horst Schoninger, Victor Watson, David Wilson, and Jackies Wise.

Show dates:

Sept 3: Install Photos

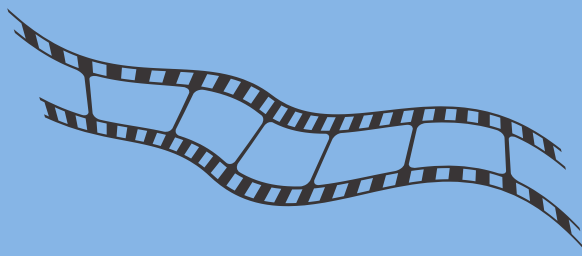
Show runs Sept 4 – Oct 5

Sept 4: Meet the Artist Reception

Oct 6: Remove Photos

Shelby's image was also selected as the cover image for the Greater New Braunfels Photography Club. Great job Shelby, and congratulations!





Hello everyone - this is just a friendly reminder about our support that is needed for the Youth Photo Tournament. I spoke with Victor Watson this morning at our Wednesday morning coffee and wanted to remind every one of the initial committee/volunteer meeting.

Meeting Place: Panera Bread, 181 Creekside Crossing, New Braunfels, TX

Date: Monday - July 28, 2025

Time: 08:00 AM

What and Who is needed: Victor needs the following help to effectively run this years Youth Photo Tournament.

Nine (9) Judges. His plans are to have three (3) judge panels to handle 2 categories each. Judging will be during February 2026. Victor is hoping to obtain the judges from our own photo club instead of asking outsiders for assistance.

Six (6) volunteers to help out at the awards ceremony in March 2026.

Donations - this year Victor has written a donation letter and needs help reaching out to business via electronic emails. All responses and questions will be directed to Victor per his letter. He just needs people to spend time on the computer sending the letter out.

We hope you will consider attending the meeting on July 28th. If you cannot make the meeting, but wish to volunteer please call, email or text Victor at the following:



Victor Watson
1 (210) 439-0570
info@schertzphoto.com

Thank you in advance

Sharlana Dillard
GNBPC Treasurer



From: Ralph Nordenhold <rmnordenhold@hotmail.com>

A friend of mine is getting out of photography and selling his goods.

Here is good deal if someone is interested. Two Pelican waterproof cases. The small one is \$50 and the big one is \$200.

Please put this out to our folks.

Ralph



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR SOCIAL AFTER THE MONTHLY CLUB MEETING.
WE MEET AT LA COSECHA MEXICAN TABLE IN NEW BRAUNFELS.
THE ADDRESS IS: 505 BUSINESS IH 35 N, NEW BRAUNFELS, TX 78130**

