



## Ready to Photograph? Ask yourself these four questions.

- Brian Loflin

### What inspires me to take this picture?

When you pick up the camera ask what moved you to make a photo of *THAT*. You may be surprised. I could have been something you never have seen before. Or you could have been motivated by shape, or color. Or, it could have been a once in a lifetime experience.

### What lens should I use to accomplish this and where should I place the camera?

When you understand the motivation, you are now programmed to pick the lens for the image. A wide angle may be right for a wide vista or a telephoto to select only a small portion of the same scene. Or the telephoto for distant images including wildlife. You might need a macro lens to capture smaller subjects.



Backyard hibiscus. Macro lens F22 for maximum depth of field.

Once you pick the lens, decide where to place it and the camera. Nothing is as boring as the “Five-Foot-Seven Photo”- that image made at eye level. Get up high or down low. You might even lay down on the ground to capture the bug’s eye perspective.



Macro lens. F22 for maximum depth of field and 1/150 sec handheld.



200 mm telephoto lens. 1/500 sec to arrest motion.

### Is this a picture that is about motion?

If the image is of a moving subject, it requires the use of a very high shutter speed to arrest the motion of a flying bird or running animal. Alternatively, you might want a slow shutter speed to accentuate the motion for a more creative effect.



500 mm telephoto lens. 1/2000 sec to arrest motion.



## Or is this a picture about depth of field?

If, however, the image is stationary, you will want to be concerned in achieving optimum depth of field. Remember: Big F number, big depth of field; Small F number, small depth of field.

Of course, you should be aware of aperture and shutter speed with every photo. If you are not able to achieve the optimum combination for the subject at hand, incorporate a change of ISO to fix the issue.



24mm wide angle lens. F22 to maximize depth of field.

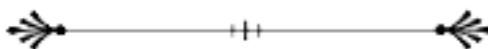
## How do I get all this done in a reasonable time in the field?

I say it all comes down to *previsualization* and *preparation*.

As soon as you get out of the vehicle and get your camera together, you may have some preconceived ideas, especially if you are thinking wildlife or thinking about landscape vistas. Use this time before you encounter the subject to set up your camera. The lighting may not change drastically from this moment until the decisive moment of pressing the shutter release. Preset your aperture, shutter speed, and ISO so you have a well-balanced exposure. Do the same for white balance. Make a series of test images. Assure the exposure, color, and depth of field are what you may expect. When you get to the proper place, most of that setup is complete. You may need just a couple of final tweaks, and you are ready.

When you understand your answers, you are ready to photograph your subject and are prepared to complete an excellent image with all the perfect attributes.

Good shooting!



## July Meeting Date Change!

Please note the following info!

Due to a schedule conflict, the July meeting scheduled for July 2nd has been changed to July 9th. The meeting time and place remain the same!!



*Photography is the story I fail to put into words.” — Destin Sparks*

# Assignment Topics for 2026

## January 2026

*An Iconic Austin Mural* – Must include the architecture that supports the painting. Color.

## March 2026

*A Shadow of Itself* – A photograph of a shadow. Must include at least a portion of the object making the shadow. Color or monochrome.

## May 2026

*Lunar Eclipse* – A total lunar eclipse of March 2-3, 2026. Color.

## July 2026

*Texas Wildflowers* – Any flower, grouping, or landscape. Must be wild. Color only.

## September 2026

*Fireworks Display* – Color.

## November 2026

*Tabletop Still Life* – Any subject. Composition and lighting are critical. Color.



Sometimes one waits too long for the perfect moment before snapping the picture. You never realize that what you needed was to change perspective.

- Miguel Syjuco -

# Austin Shutterbug Club

## Northwest Recreation Center

### *Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2026*

The meeting was called to order by Brian Loflin at 7:00 pm. There were two guests who were introduced and welcomed. Brian announced that the July meeting date has been changed from July 2 to July 9 to avoid conflict with the July 4 holiday.

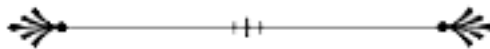
John Terwilliger announced that Art Direct, a shop in Cedar Park, has offered to host our club for demonstration of the photo printing process, to include printing some of our photos and hosting a gallery for showing photos of our members. He asked if there was interest in doing this on April 23 or April 30 at 7:00 pm. The club did express interest, preferring the April 30 date. Also, there was a request to set up a fireworks workshop during the July 4 fireworks displays.

Mike Stys gave a very informative and interesting presentation on Astro photography, comparing his new ZWO See Star S50 Smart telescope versus his "Big Rig" refractor telescope system. He showed comparison photos pointing out how images from each system represent the nebulae. He also discussed pros and cons of both systems. As an added bonus, Joan Stys brought delicious cookies for the group to enjoy.

The next meeting will be image evaluation. The assignment is "Eclipse Photos" but the general category is also available for those who do not have photos meeting the assignment.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Jill McLain  
Secretary



*Visitors welcome!*



### **NEXT MEETING DATE!**

Thursday, May 7, 2026

**7:00pm**

Northwest Recreation Center

2913 Northland Dr, Austin, TX 78757

*We are on Facebook!*

