

## Dog Photographs a Howling Success

# Photographer Christopher Becker Confirms That Every Dog Should Have His Day

by Valerie Marier

The walls of photographer Chris Becker's sleek gallery on Ocean Avenue in Kennebunkport feature limited editions of long-exposure night landscapes, including the haunting "Moon Over Atlantic."

He won first prize in the 2015 International Color Awards for "Hay Bales #13" which he photographed an hour after sunset in Dayton, Maine.

His photos appear in

the *New York Times*, *Yankee*, *Down East* and *World Geographic*, among others. So it's probably not accurate to say this 45-year-old photographer is going to the dogs. But then again...

"One morning I was sitting in an Adirondack chair outside the gallery, sipping my coffee and watching the cars go by," Becker says. "Then I noticed a car with two dogs that had their heads out the back window and it made me smile."

Subsequent – and frequent – "doggy-in-the-window" sightings spawned an idea. Says Becker, "I started watching regularly and kept seeing all these wonderful dogs hanging out car windows looking so happy. I loved it

and decided to find more."

The result is a hot-off-the-press 2016 calendar entitled "DOG Is My CoPilot" which is being sold locally at H.B. Provisions, the Colony Hotel gift shop and Scalawags Pet Boutique.

This fall the calendar will be featured on shelves at Barnes & Noble, Target and Walmart. How much is that doggy calendar in the window? It retails for \$14.99.

Dangling out a car window with his Canon EOS Mark III to photograph a golden lab as the wind flaps his ears (the dog's) and ruffles his fur (also the dog's) is no easy task.

"I used to sit in the front passenger seat and then lean out the window to capture the sheer joy on

their faces," Becker says.

Today he uses a "professional selfie stick," a long pole with a camera and remote trigger on the end that he maneuvers everywhere in the car, including from a sunroof.

Becker's enthusiasm for photography began in a Minnesota high school when he took a senior year class in black and white photography using a Nikon F3.

He says, "I was so hooked, I wrote to the editor of *National Geographic* to ask his recommendation for colleges where I could pursue professional photography."

One of those schools

**Becker**

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Using a "professional selfie stick," a long pole with a camera and remote trigger on the end, photographer Chris Becker captures his own image along with this "doggy in the window."

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John Gable, *Harbor at Sunrise*  
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Sea

Show



## Becker

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was Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, from which Becker graduated with a bachelors degree in fine arts and a self-created major of visual communications and environmental geography.

After graduation Becker lived and worked in New York City, Minneapolis and Taiwan. His fine art and documentary photography appeared in nearly 30 selected exhibitions, from Santa Fe to Portland, Maine.

But city life was "getting old" and Becker decided he wanted a different environment — a small city or town but not the boon-

docks, a place with great scenery and a good quality of life.

"In 2007 I happened to be traveling through New England and discovered Cape Porpoise," he says. "I was standing at the end of Pier Road near the harbor, looking out at that incredible vista, and called my fiancée Richelle and said, I think we are going to like it here!" And indeed they do.

Last year several of Becker's photographs appeared in the background on the television show *Trophy Wife* and also on Steven Spielberg's series, *Extant*. This fall his images entitled *Trees in Marsh* and *Queen Anne's Lace* will be seen in the background

of the new CBS television series *Supergirl*.

And there's the "DOG is my CoPilot" calendar. There will be a "calendar release" party at his gallery on Saturday, August 8, from 5 to 8 PM. Dogs are welcome, of course. Fresh water and treats will be served, along with wine and nibbles for their owners.

Becker says, "I'm pretty

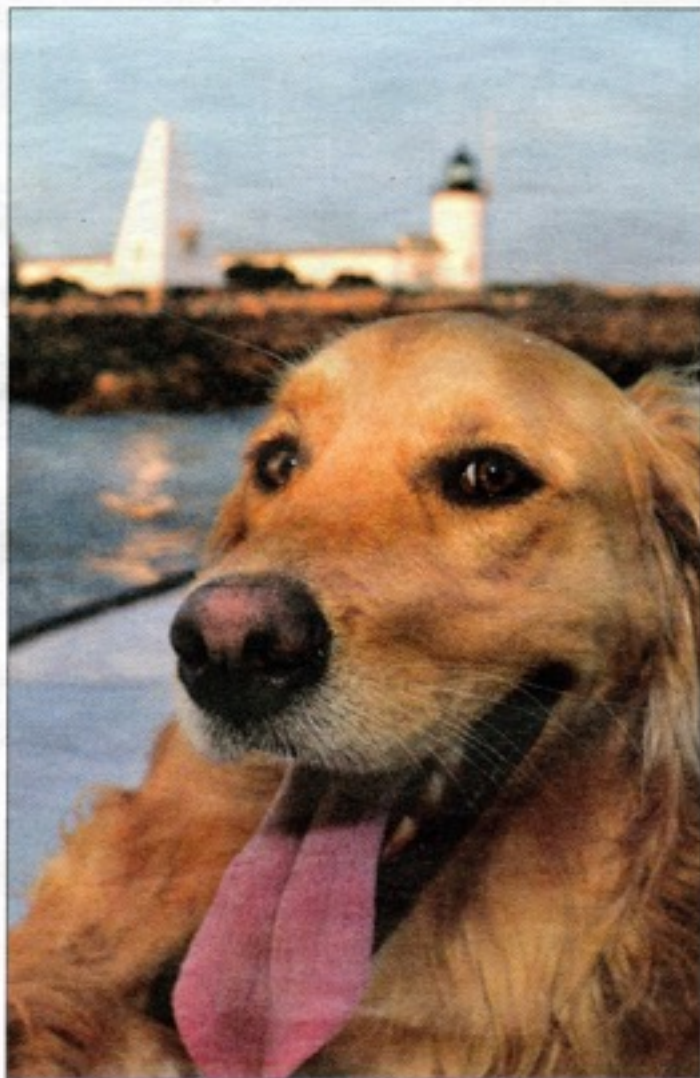
lucky. I love what I do and I'm making a living doing what I love."

Chris Becker Studio/Gallery is located at 127 Ocean Avenue, Kennebunkport. Gallery hours are 10 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Saturday, and 11 AM to 5 PM, on Sunday.

For more information visit [www.chrisbecker-photo.com](http://www.chrisbecker-photo.com) or call the gallery at 207-967-0069.



Playdo the bulldog shows his best side as he enjoys his ride down Ocean Avenue in Kennebunkport. Becker was inspired to create his photography series after watching numerous dogs ride past his gallery with a look of "sheer joy" on their faces as they rode by, hanging out of car windows.



This golden retriever laps up a golden moment during a roadside pause with Goat Island Lighthouse in the background.



# Mast

Maine's largest g

