Los Gatos/Saratoga Camera Club
www.losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org

Newsletter

Vol 33 Issue 7 July 2011

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Reminders

The July challenge competition is Nature. Be sure to check the Competition Types page on the web site for the definitions of each category. Here are the bullet points about Nature.

- Nature images are restricted to the use of the photographic process to depict observations from all branches of natural history except anthropology and archeology in such a fashion that a well-informed person will be able to identify the subject matter and certify as to its honest presentation.
- The story-telling value of a photograph must be weighed more than the pictorial quality.
- Human elements shall not be present, except on the rare occasion where those human elements enhance the nature story.
- The presence of scientific bands on wild animals is acceptable.
- Photographs of artificially produced hybrid plants or animals, mounted specimens, or obviously set arrangements, are ineligible, as is any form of manipulation, manual or digital, that alters the truth of the photographic statement.
- No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged, or combined.
- No manipulation or modification is permitted except resizing, cropping, selective lightening or darkening, and restoration of original color of the scene.
- No special effect filters can be applied. Any sharpening must appear natural.
- Borders are not permitted.

Coming Club Events

See the Event Calendar page on our web site for updates or further details.

Friday, July 8, 2011
Remove Images
LGSCC Exhibit - Los Gatos "Art in the Council Chamber" Program

Saturday, July 9, 2011
Deadline for entering digital images for July club competition

Monday, July 11, 2011
Vote on adding Travel Prints
Competition Judge Brad Hinckley
Digital - Nature, Color, Monochrome;
Prints - Nature, Color, Monochrome
Refreshments - Mary Ellen Kaschub, Jeff Katz, Jim Katzman

Wednesday, July 13, 2011
Deadline for emailing digital walk-ins for the July 6C competition (Creative, Nature, Monochrome, and Color)

Saturday, July 16, 2011
6C's Competition
Bi-monthly competition between member clubs. Walk-Ins and winners from June & July Competitions.

Monday, July 18, 2011
Program - Dick Stuart
Refreshments - Airdrie Kincaid, JoAn Lambert, Bob Leipsic

Saturday, July 30, 2011
Deadline for entering digital images for August club competition

All About Membership and Mentoring

The membership committee is one of the club's best kept secrets. We operate primarily behind the scenes to make members' Club experience meaningful and enjoyable. We are responsible for encouraging guests to become members and make their entry into the club a simple process and help them integrate into the club in many ways.

The main task of the Membership committee this year was the creation and distribution of the Welcome Letter, as well as the Volunteer Guide, given to each current and new member. These documents really set forth the goals of the Club; namely how we want the club to operate and who we want to do it.

Areas including joining a committee, mentoring other members, teaching a class and leading a field trip were covered, and the results so far this year are great! We have had more field trips, informative classes, and club participation in exhibitions than previous years, and that has helped our now-large club to maintain a small-club feel. The number of volunteers has increased greatly and has allowed for the smooth operation of each Club meeting.

An ongoing project of the membership committee is to promote the mentoring program of the Club. Many members of the Club have specialized knowledge and strength in certain areas of photography, whether it be with a specific manufacturer, camera, process, or Club procedures. Most new members are interested in increasing their skills in photography and would benefit from the knowledge and direction of members with knowledge in those areas. In addition, the Club structure and procedures can be confusing and a mentor can be of great assistance in helping a new member feel welcome and comfortable in the club.

The membership committee consists of myself, Peggy Patterson, and Mark Emanuel.

Mark is the "face" of the committee who sets out the name badges each meeting, greets members and introduces guests, encouraging them to say a few words about themselves and their interests in photography. Not only that, but Mark is the first person prospective members meet, and it's Mark who initially gets them to indicate their interest in joining the club by signing our guest register. He also gives new members the Club's Welcome Letter and the Volunteer Guide to let them know what to expect as a member.

As a longtime member of the Club, Peggy brings lots of energy and experience to the committee. Her input in the creation of the Welcome Letter and Volunteer guide has been of the no-nonsense, pull-no-punches variety and contributed greatly to the effectiveness of those documents.

If you want to help out on the Membership Committee, or just have a great idea for us, please contact:

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Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

We asked the makers of the June first place winning images to send a story about what their image was and when, where, how, and why they created it.

June 2011 First Place Monochrome Print

Moving The Herd
John Perry

This photograph taken at the Erickson Ranch in Coulterville, CA. This particular photo shoot was to document the daily work routine of the Erickson Ranch cowboys, Dan Erickson, Garret Keiman and Tim Hansen. It was taken at sunrise in the middle of August (7am).

As you can imagine being in position at Boulder Meadow on the Erickson Ranch at 7am meant that the day started very, very early. This particular photo was taken as the cowboys were herding the cows out of an old dusty corral with the sunrise at their backs. So the haze you see is dust not fog. In order to get this close up shot I used a 70-200mm lens.

June 2011 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image

Abandoned But Not Forgotten
Peggy Patterson

The image was taken at Ft. Point in the officer's quarters. I always enjoy visiting there because of the great location. Fort Point protected San Francisco harbor from Confederate & foreign attack during & after the U.S. Civil War. I titled the image "Abandoned But Not Forgotten" as it was abandoned by the military, but is still a national historical site.

When I walked into the room I loved the stream of light coming in the window and how it highlighted the fireplace and the cracking plaster. It was taken with my film camera (NikonF5) on Velvia. Even though I like it in color, I thought sepia would give more of an older picture mood so I converted it in Photoshop.

June 2011 First Place Creative Digital Projected Image

The “Lilies” image was created in Lightroom from a picture taken along the coast near Davenport. It is a single exposure with a small rotation and crop adjustment. The effects were done in Lightroom using just about all the different adjustments. The basic changes started with curves, and further refinements made with the hue, saturation, vibrancy, blacks, exposure, contrast, vignette, dodging and burning adjustments.

The story of this image is in its capture. I had gone over to Davenport to take pictures of a windsurfing competition. As can happen, even with the best planning things don’t work out. When I got there, the competition was done and everyone was gone (These competitions don’t have a real schedule so it is hard to tell when to be there). Since I was there anyway, I decided to take the long way home via Swanton Road. I had never taken this road and found several fun things to photograph. I ended up taking pictures until after sunset. It was getting dark and I was heading home, tired and hungry.

Just before getting to the main highway I saw a bank of Calla Lilies against an old building. I really did not want to turn around and go back to explore the possibilities, but decided to do so anyway. I had only about ten minutes to work before it got too dark to focus. It was dark enough that my exposures were between 15 and 30 seconds. I was able to get several good images.

A few weeks later, I was back in the same area and the lily patch had been completely destroyed. I have learned over time, that if at all possible, taking the opportunities when presented is very important. The lighting is never the same, the circumstances change, or I just never get back to the same spot.

Lilies
Don Schremp

June 2011 First Place Creative Print

Pastel Peaks
Sherry Grivett

My image was taken on a bright sunny day at the Air Force Academy Chapel. The stained glass windows were casting the beautiful colors down from the ceiling. I took many images of the light and this one was one of my favorites. This image was creative seeing not Photoshop.

En route to Calgary at the end of May 2008, we stayed awhile in the Denver area where the weather was fine while storms were forecast in Canada. In the 60s, I lived for a while in Colorado Springs & was eager to photograph this architectural icon. Having just converted from film to digital, this was part of my first all digital photo trip. Aside from a few obligatory/documentary travel photos, I mostly was absorbed in abstracting details. A portion of the relatively uninteresting side of the original image is cropped away to improve impact/composition.

Shot: June 10, 2008, 3:50:44 PM (PST); Canon 40D, EF-S17-85/4-5.6 IS, handheld at 1/40 sec, ƒ5.6, 85 mm (135 mm equivalent), ISO equivalent 800.

June 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Advanced

Steamer Lane May 2011
Bernard Weinzimmer

My parents are in an "Assisted Living Residence" nearby and I decided they needed an outing to pick up their spirits. We'd been having a lot of rain last month and that morning the weather was pretty good here with the temperature around 70+degrees. I decided I'd take them over to Santa Cruz for a picnic. I had their facility prepare a couple of "box lunches" for them and we headed out around 11:00 am on Thursday, May 19th. Thought I'd drop over to Steamer Lane and see if anything was happening.

I'd grabbed my Nikon D300 and had the 80-400VR 4.5/5.6 lens on it. This is a lens I normally reserve for still objects as it can be a little slower focusing than my 70-200 or 200-400 but with my parents along I knew I'd have to travel lighter than usual.

We arrived at Steamer Lane around 11:45 and I couldn't believe my eyes. The tide was in and the waves were running between 6-12 feet with quite a few surfers in the water. I set my parents up on a bench with their lunches. Both had brought jackets but my mother was feeling a little cold, so I gave her my jacket as the temperatures were in the low 60's. I was so excited by the waves that I just started shooting like crazy.

Suddenly over to my right I spotted Dick Stuart and Nirmal Chand and they came over and started shooting next to me. It's a good thing I didn't bring any other memory cards because after about 20 minutes I'd shot a full 8GB card with about 350+ images. My parents by this time were getting pretty cold so we decided to head back home to warmer temps.

I was amazed by the quality of the shots the 80-400 delivered. It locked focus quickly and with the good light I was shooting at high shutter speeds. This shot was fired at 1/1600th of a second at f:5.6. From the 350+ images I've got at least 50 high quality shots so you'll see more in the near future.

June 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Basic

Big Feet - Big Trees: Yosemite - Mariposa Grove
Susan Dinga

The picture was taken in May 2009. Mary Ellen Kaschub and I went to Yosemite to photograph dogwoods. As it turned out there was only room at the Wawona and it was a really rainy few days. We decided to hike to the Mariposa Grove. That picture was taken at the Mariposa Grove. I just loved the trees and the bases reminded me of elephant feet. Mary Ellen held the umbrella and I snapped a few shots. At that time I only had a Canon G10 point and shoot.

June 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Print - Advanced

Golden Waterfall
Rick Whitacre

While on a workshop with Michael Frye in Yosemite earlier this year, he took me to Cascade Falls, a great little area on HW140 just west of the HW120 intersection.

Cascade Falls has two sections; a dramatic large fall near a bridge with a parking lot and a second area a little further west that is more hidden. It is this second area that Michael takes his workshops to. It is shaded and provides nearly infinite compositional opportunities. Also, it constantly changes with amount of water and shifting rocks. We used this area to focus on composition and shutter speed effects on moving water.

I have entered two monochrome images from this area, but this is the first color one. When I first worked on it, I loved the colors, but it was obvious to me that I had forgotten to spin the polarizer when I switched from portrait to landscape orientation. I was so mad at myself, I discounted it as an entry. With time, I realized it wasn't a fatal error, and it probably made the image "pop" more. It just goes to show ya.....

June 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Print - Basic

The trip to Oaxaca, Mexico during the Day of the Dead Celebrations (coincides with Halloween) was probably the most interesting photo workshop I've taken. The photo opportunities were varied and interesting, but learning about the Mexican Indian culture was fascinating. Especially about how they celebrate the passage of their ancestors. We went to cemeteries three nights and saw and heard families telling the histories of their deceased to their children. They celebrated with food and wine and they invited us as guests.

The holiday starts about two weeks earlier when the cemeteries are cleaned. Tons of flowers were brought in and the graves were decorated with flowers and candles. Then, parades including musical bands, formed in the town square and walked to the cemeteries about sunset.

I came across the young man singing at a gravesite. A woman told me that he was singing to his father.

Night photos were taken with flash and tripods and almost none of the subjects objected. In fact, we had invitations to photograph. The locals were very friendly. A great trip.

Man Serenading His Father. Oaxaca
Marty Weisberg

Meet Sandy and Bob Leipsic

Bob and I were born and raised in San Francisco. Although we lived in the same neighborhood the Marina, and had many of the same friends throughout our childhood, we never crossed paths until we met at San Francisco City College. We dated for a couple of years and married in 1966, soon after we were blessed with two wonderful daughters.

Bob worked for North Beach Vending in San Francisco, who acquired a new office in Santa Clara. He transferred to the South Bay, where we raised our girls, gained two fabulous son-in-laws and they gave us three beautiful grandchildren. After a few years, Bob joined the sales team at Peerless Coffee, where he managed a territory south of San Francisco up to Santa Barbara. I have owned and operated a Day-Care from my home for the past 30 plus years.

Bob got onto photography in his teens, influenced by his father, who enjoyed taking pictures of different areas of the city and portrait shots of the family. He also had a dark room, where Bob learned how to develop his images. One of my favorite memories was being in awe watching my first image being processed...it was amazing!!!

Although Bob grew in his love of photography, I did not start to get involved until two years ago while visiting Yosemite with friends who also share the same interests. While there, Bob being tired of me telling him what pictures to take, handed me one of his cameras, showed me the basics and a new love was born...I'm addicted!!!

For the past two years, we have focused on landscape photography and are on a photographic journey visiting as many of our National and State Parks as we can squeeze in. Last year, we traveled to Utah and Arizona, taking photos of Zion, Bryce, Canyonlands, Lower Antelope Slot Canyon, and the magnificent Grand Canyon coming home with wonderful memories and some beautiful images.

Here is the photography equipment we use.

Cameras	Lenses	
Nikon D200	*Nikon* AF-S 18-200 F/3.5 VR	*Tokina* Pro DX 11-16mm F/2.8
D300S	AF-S 24-70 F/2.8 VR	
D700	AF-S 28-300 F/3.5 VR	
	AF-S 70-200 F/2.8 VR	

Our photo journey has also included workshops with Stephen Oachs, Nate Donovan and photo treks with Truman Holtzclaw and Sam Shaw. This journey has opened our eyes to looking at scenery with lighting, composition and texture in mind. It has taught us to see things differently.

We were encouraged by our photo buddies to join a camera club. After visiting several clubs in the area we decided to join Los Gatos Saratoga Camera Club. The club offered many of the features we were looking for, educational classes, mentoring and field trips. In joining, we have met a lot of nice people, sharing the interests and our knowledge of photography has expanded and continues to expand as there is always something new to learn. We are grateful to our mentors, Larry Rosier and John Perry for sharing what they know with us and are always ready to help. We have found the competitions to be a great learning experience, thanks to the critiques of the judges.

June Club Outings

Elkhorn Slough Safari Field Trip in June 2011

By Nick Tucey

By Captain Yohn Gideon

Club Picnic June 2011 from Bob Leipsic

Key Contacts

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