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Issue 2

Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club Newsletter

February
2010

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Coming Events

Mon Feb 1	**Club Meeting** Competition: Creative and Color -- Slides, Digital Images, and Prints. Monochrome – Prints. Judge: Alison Brooks Refreshments: Ken BLOOMFIELD, Sandra BREITEN, Bo BREZOCZKY
Fri Feb 5	"BIKING THROUGH EUROPE" – Join LGSCC photographer Jeff Katz and wife, Rudi, as they pedal through France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Ireland in trips taken over the past 11 years, enjoying each country's beautiful scenery. The Terraces - Los Gatos, 800 Blossom Hill Road, at 7:30 p.m.
Mon Feb 8	Advisory Meeting: Join President Gary Marcos for an informal discussion of two club issues: • Mentoring - objectives, goals, measures, tie-in with education and other club activities. • Constitution & Bylaws – our current constitution is out of date. Interested members are invited to meet at Gary's house at 7:30 PM http://tinyurl.com/yh9ghuw
Mon Feb 15	**Club Meeting** Program: *Photoshop Tips & Tricks* by Nate Donovan, well known local photographer and teacher. http://www.donovanphotography.net/ Refreshments: John BUJAK, Bambi CASK, Nirmal CHAND
Wed Feb 24	Deadline for emailing digital images for the March club competition (Nature and Color)
Sat Feb 27	Field trip to Chinatown Community Street Fair, led by Betty Toepfer 7:45 AM to 2:00 PM See page 6
Sat Feb 27	6C End of Year Awards. See page 9. Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Ave at Stevens Creek Print preview from 6:30pm, Dinner at 7pm followed by awards presentation.
Mon Mar 1	**Club Meeting** Competition: Nature and Color -- Slides, Digital Images, and Prints Judge: Marya Hart Refreshments: Harlan CROWDER, Gina DIAS, Mark EMANUEL

January Photo Competition
First-Place Winners Tell Us How They Did It

The Newsletter asked each of the first-place winners in our January competition to explain how they made their winning photos. Judging was by Bob Rewick.

Prints: Photojournalism
Rescue by Harvey Gold
"I was vacationing at Lake Tahoe with the family last summer and went out to take pictures one morning before breakfast. When I saw an emergency vehicle with flashing lights behind me, I pulled over into a parking lot and saw a jeep upside down with its wheels still turning. I remembered I had my camera and took photos for about 15 minutes. I didn't get in anyone's way and no one bothered me."

© Harvey Gold

© Bernie Weinzimmer

Digital: Photojournalism
Steamer Lane Big Winter Surf by Bernie Weinzimmer
"I go to Steamer Lane in Santa Cruz quite often. When there's high surf combined with a high tide the surfers are right off Lighthouse Point. In winter the afternoon sun is behind you, so there's great light on surfers cutting back towards the cliff. Most surfers go the other direction; you've got to wait for one who heads towards you. For this shot which is cropped a bit I think I was using my 70-200 zoom with a 1.7X teleconverter."

Slides: Photojournalism
Ready for Take-Off by Betty Toepfer
"I was on a field trip to Napa with a group from West Valley College. We went out at first light looking for ballooners. They can launch from quite small spots -- small parking lots and spaces between buildings. And you've got to be ready. The balloons go up fast. The operators don't want photographers to come too close; they need room to circle around to stabilize the balloon. For this shot, I used my 75-300 zoom and walked around to get the second balloon to a good place in the background. To get a good view of the dramatic flame I had to lie on my back on the damp ground. My friend has a picture of me in that awkward position.

© Betty Toepfer

"You can't really tell from the thumbnail image, but the people in the gondola have wonderful expressions of anticipation. The balloon was just at the moment of lift-off when I clicked the shutter."

January 1st Place Winners (cont.)

Prints: Color

Yosemite Valley in November by John Bujak

"I didn't mean to shoot from this spot at all. I was shooting Half Dome when I met a group of doctors from the East Bay up there for the first time taking pictures. They were discouraged when clouds obscured Half Dome, so I suggested that they might get some better shots from Gates of the Valley. I went there with them and suggested good spots to shoot from. By helping these strangers I ended up getting my best shot ever from this location.

"I used my 17-35 zoom on a tripod, probably at about f/16, and took six or seven images at different exposures. I processed and combined the images using Nikon Capture NX2 for raw conversation, then Photmatics HDR (high dynamic range) plug-in for Photoshop."

John Bujak

© Lourdes Pollard

Digital: Color

The Light On The Other Side of the Entry by Lourdes Pollard

"I went with Bernie's field trip to Big Sur to shoot the sunset through the rock opening at Pfeiffer Beach. Most of the group was shooting close to the opening. I wanted to look at it from far away. I pictured it as a rock tower with a doorway, and also wanted to include the light and shadows on the sand in front. Out of the camera, the sky in the image was gray; I pumped up the sky in post-processing and got the glowing effect on the top edge of the rocks, which I liked, as a side effect. This was really a fun trip. Everyone should go on club field trips. I'm a loner, and I used the trip as my time. I probably would never have come here on my own."

Slides: Color

Sunrise over the Sand Dunes by JoAn Lambert

"I took this at Coral Pink Sand Dunes Park, http://www.utah.com/stateparks/coral_pink.htm , about 20 miles south of Zion. I love these smaller, less well known Utah parks. I went there first in the afternoon and talked with a ranger, who recommended the sunrise seen from the observation deck. I came back at 6:00 the next morning for the 7:15 AM sunrise. I was the only one there, so different from the Sunrise Point crowds at Bryce. I was shooting the dunes and mountains as the sun rose when I turned around and saw this lovely sky behind me. It wasn't at all what I started out to shoot."

© JoAn Lambert

Classes by and for LGSCC Members

Advanced Photoshop

Joseph Grappa will teach another session of his acclaimed Intermediate-to-Advanced Photoshop Class for LGSCC members. The class of eight to ten two-hour sessions will begin in February. This workshop is designed for photographers at our club who want to use digital post-processing to improve their own images to better convey their vision. Joseph won't cover special effects, banners, animation or other commercial material. Prerequisite: knowledge of basic Photoshop or a year's practice in modifying images. Fee: $80 to LGSCC.
Contact Joseph at: joseph@grapa.net

Digital Camera Basics

Harvey Gold

Harvey Gold will lead a workshop to make novice photographers feel comfortable using their camera and take better pictures by getting out of the automatic mode. The workshop will start on a weekday morning at a garden or park in the area. An introductory discussion will be followed by a two-hour shoot. Harvey will explain depth of field, exposure compensation bracketing, ISO selection, shutter priority, aperture priority, and basic composition techniques. After the shoot the participants will gather for a lunchtime discussion and critique using laptops.
Fee: $10 to LGSCC
Contact Harvey Gold at: hsgold61@yahoo.com

Photo Mounting and Matting

Harvey Gold and Mel Rabadeau have volunteered to lead workshops on mounting prints. Harvey Gold's workshop will use precut mattes. Harvey will show how he prepares prints for our monthly competitions quickly and easily. Fee: $10 to LGSCC
Contact Harvey at: hsgold61@yahoo.com

Mel's workshop will deal with custom cutting mattes. Mel will show how he uses simple, inexpensive tools and a steady hand to create custom mattes to complement any size print. Fee: $10 to LGSCC
Contact Mel at: m.r.rabedeau@worldnet.att.net

Managing and Editing Digital Photos with Free Software

LGSCC member Dick Stuart teaches beginners how to use a computer to manage digital photos. Topics include: the digital camera and how it works, what to should consider before buying a digital camera, differences between digital cameras and film cameras, and how to transfer photos from camera to computer. Using *Picasa* freeware, Dick explains simple computer photo editing (cropping, resizing, changing brightness and contrast, and removing red eye), sharing photos by printing, e-mailing, putting them on a web site, and burning photos onto a CD. Next class begins in March.
Contact the Willows Learning Center, 2175 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose, CA. 95125
(408) 448-6400 http://www.snlcsj.org/willows/descriptions/digphotog

Dick Stuart

Other Recommendations

Photo by Sean Arbabi

Sean Arbabi Photography

Saturday, February 20th, Digital Photo Academy, Sausalito, CA:
A day of three courses: *Beginning*, *Intermediate*, and *Understanding Composition*. More workshops in March, April and May:
http://www.digitalphotoacademy.com/Home/Workshop_Locations/params/location/49/default.aspx
Recommended by Gary Marcos

Suzi Eszterhas

Photo by Suzi Eszterhas

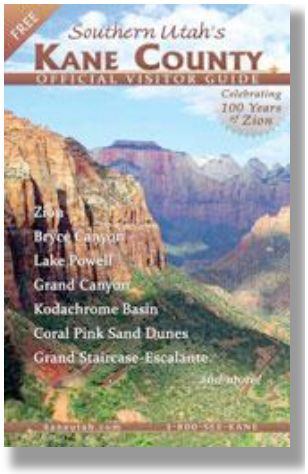
Suzi Eszterhas's presentation to the club last November was among the best ever. She has recently announced details for a *Wildlife of India Photo Safari*, October 30 - November 15, 2010. Shoot from private jeep and elephant-back in the best places in the world to photograph majestic wild tigers, Indian rhinos, Asian elephants and more of India's abundant exotic wildlife.

Also, there may still be space available on the second departure of the popular Botswana *Predator Photo Safari* from August 4 - August 17, 2010. This tour is limited to only four photographers. It goes to private concessions, the best places for photographing wild dogs at their dens, lions on the hunt, leopards, cheetahs, elephants, buffalo and more.

For information: http://www.suzieszterhas.com/toursWorkshops

Free Guide Book

LGSCC member JoAn Lambert recommends the free *Official Visitor Guide* booklet put out by Utah's Kane County for anyone traveling to the Zion or Bryce National Parks area. It has a great map, descriptions of each park, and recommendations for motels in the area. JoAn used it extensively on her recent trip and visited photogenic locations she would not have otherwise known about, such as Coral Pink Sand Dunes Park. (See her photo on page 3 of *The Newsletter*.)



To get your own copy see: www.KaneUtah.com

Kane County Office of Tourism
P.O. Box 209
Kanab UT 84741

Chinatown Community Street Fair
Feb 27th, 2010

Betty Toepfer will lead an LGSCC Field Trip to the Chinatown Community Street Fair on Saturday, February 27. Meet at the Elks Club parking lot at 7:45 AM to carpool. If you prefer to drive yourself, Betty recommends parking at the large Sutter-Stockton Street Garage at 330 Sutter Street. From there it is a short walk to Grant Avenue where most of the activity will take place. Contact Betty ahead of time (toepferb@aol.com) if you'd like to rendezvous with the group in front of the Bank of America, the one with the dragon pillars, at 9:45 - 10:00 AM.

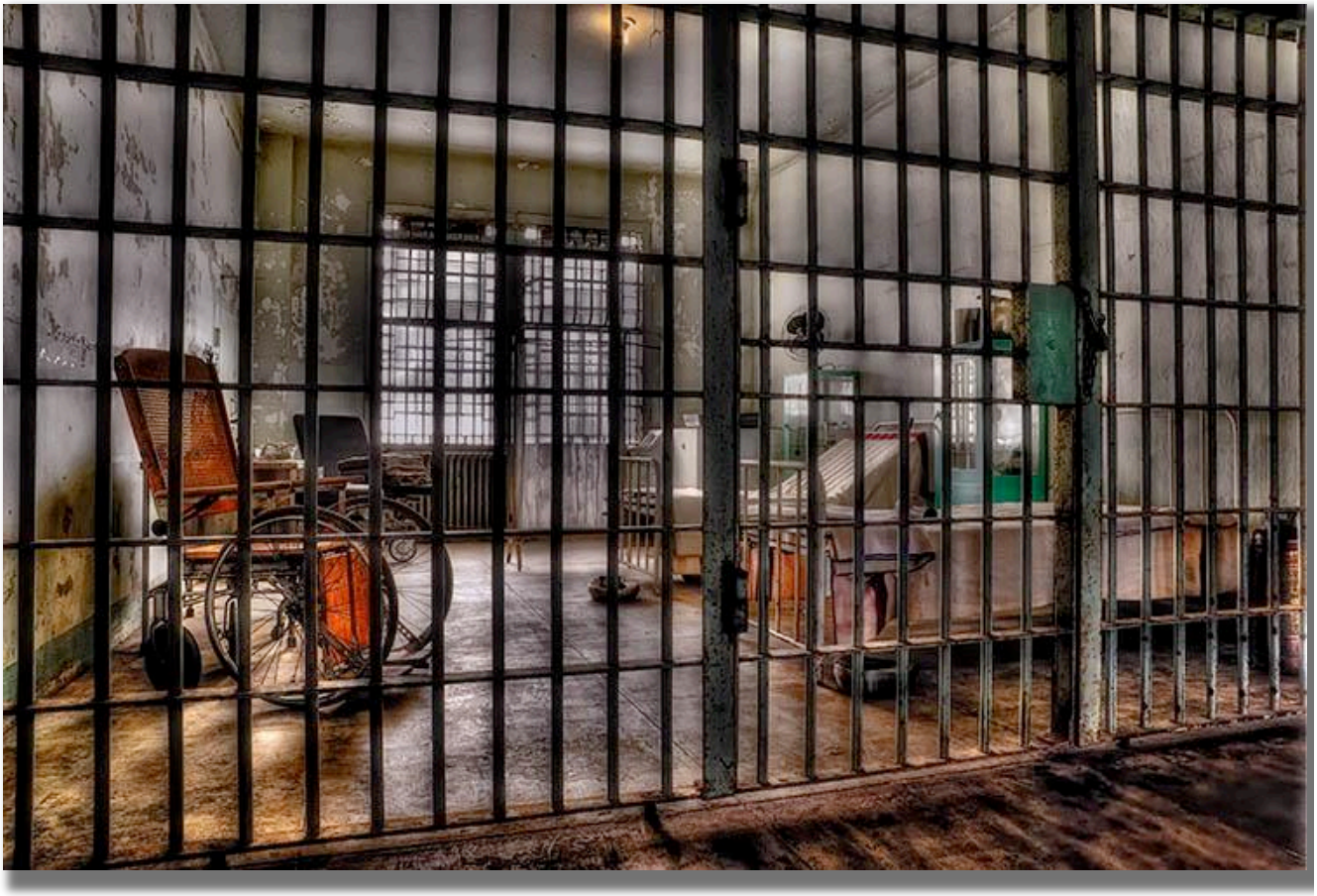
At the event there will be multiple opportunities to photograph people, various presentations on different stages, marching bands, and dragons as the parade swirls down Grant Avenue. Some of the best opportunities are early, as groups form up before the parade begins. By noon Grant Avenue will be very crowded and photography more difficult. This will be a good time to explore the fascinating back streets and interesting alleys.

Some photos taken at the Street Fair in years past have done well in our club competitions. Join the group this year and take some winning photos of your own.

Photos by Betty Toepfer

Behind the Scenes at Alcatraz

LGSCC Photographers Visited Alcatraz Island January 14

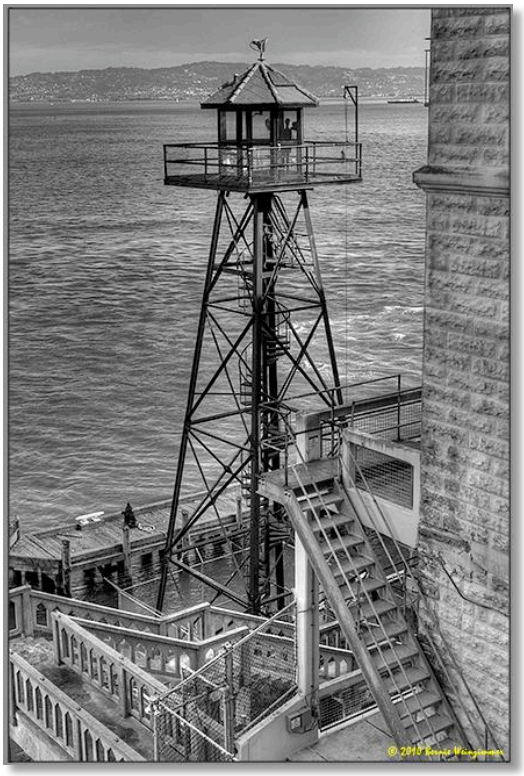


Alcatraz Hospital Ward -- HDR image by John Bujak

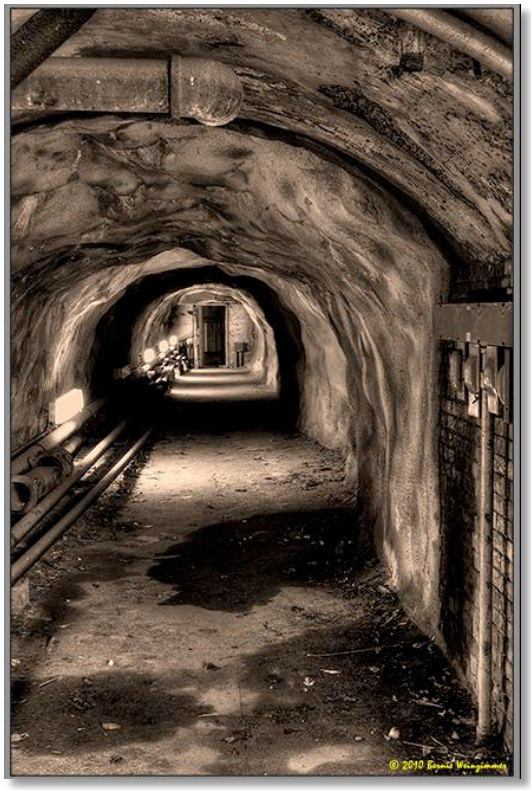
John Bujak led a club field trip to Alcatraz Island last January 14. John arranged for the group to be accompanied by a volunteer park docent, who took them into areas usually off limits to tourists, including the prison hospital and laundry tunnel.

Alcatraz Sky -- image by John Bujak

Behind the Scenes at Alcatraz (cont.)



Alcatraz Guard Tower
HDR B&W image by Bernie Weinzimmer



Laundry Tunnel
Filtered HDR image by Bernie Weinzimmer

LGSCC Photographer Photographing LGSCC Photographer Photographing Antique Fire Truck
Photo by Don Schremp

CENTRAL COAST COUNTIES CAMERA CLUB COUNCIL

6C 2009 Annual Awards Banquet

February 27, 2010

Harry's Hofbrau
390 Saratoga Ave.
San Jose, CA

6:30 PM - Print preview (no host bar available)
7:00 PM - Dinner followed by awards presentation

Ticket Price: $5.00 per person or $7.00 at the door

-Return form below with cash or check to your 6 club representative by February 17

Central Coast Counties Camera Club Council
Annual Awards Banquet – Feb. 27, 2010

No. Attendees: _____ Names: _____,

_____, _____,

_____, _____

Club: _____ Check/Cash Amt: $_____

Contact Betty Toepfer (toepferb@aol.com) with your check by February 20 if you'd like to attend.

"The View from Here"

Dorothea Lange, *San Francisco Strike*, 1933

William A. Garnett, *Contour Graded Hills, Ventura County, California*, 1953

January 16 - June 27, 2010, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd St, S.F.

Just as photography has been instrumental in shaping California's popular image, the state — and San Francisco, in particular — has played a key role in the history of photography as an art form. Reflecting this unusually symbiotic relationship, SFMOMA was one of the first museums in the country to treat photography as an equal to painting and sculpture. In celebration of the museum's 75 years of engagement with the medium, this exhibition explores the variety and vitality of California's photographic tradition from the 1840s to the present.

Featured Website:

NATURESCAPES.NET®
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WWW.NatureScapes.net

NatureScapes' goal is to be an invaluable resource for nature photographers. By offering relevant content and nourishing a growing community of photographers, NatureScapes makes a major contribution to the craft of nature photography.

Key Contacts:

				Official publication of the **Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club**. http://lgscc.home.att.net **Meetings** : first and third Mondays, 7:30 PM at the Elks Club of Los Gatos, 105 Newell Ave. (At Winchester near Lark)
President Gary Marcos 741-5712	**Membership** Ken Bloomfield 268-5205	**Webmaster** Airdrie Kincaid 247-3743	**Newsletter** John Gerhardt 353-3949	Member of the Photographic Society of America.

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