Los Gatos/Saratoga Camera Club Newsletter

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Reminders

The October challenge competition is Creative. Refer to the Competition Types page on our web site or the June newsletter for more information about the Creative category..

Each month we have A & B Pictorial/Color competitions for both prints and digital projected images. Be sure to check the Competition Types page on the web site for the definitions of each category.

Here are the bullet points about Color.

- Pictorial photography is the use of the photographic medium as an art form.
- Pictorial images are judged both for their technical and pictorial merit.
- Pictorial images are not confined to any particular subject, type, or style of photography.
- Images may be manipulated in the darkroom, on the computer, or in the camera.
- For Pictorial images the emphasis is on interest, visual impact, composition, and technical excellence.
- The image must be properly exposed and have appropriate focus and depth of field.

Coming Club Events

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

Saturday, October 01, 2011
Deadline for entering digital images for October club competition

Saturday, October 01, 2011
Field Trip
9AM - 11AM Los Gatos World Wide Photo Walk 2011

Monday, October 03, 2011
5 PM Deadline for submitting thumbnails for Print competition
Competition
Creative, Color, Monochrome
Refreshments - Pat Puder, Ronnie Rabedeau, Mel Rabedeau
Judge - Chris Cassell

Monday, October 17, 2011
Program
Jack Owicki Macro Photography in the Open Space Preserve
Refreshments - Hy Ramm, DH Rasweiler, Larry Rosier

Friday, October 28, 2011 - Sunday October 30

Programs and Competition Results
Hilton Concord Hotel

All About End of Year

By JoAn Lambert with additions by Airdrie Kincaid

Since the month of December is approaching rapidly and there are a number of activities happening in our club, this seems like a good time to go through these various activities.

Before December, two committees are formed. The nominating committee begins the process of finding volunteers to fill existing openings and vacancies in positions by people wishing not to serve another year. Each VP staying for another year needs to start on a transition plan for next year by finding his/her own replacement to avoid the mad dash and arm twisting at the end of the year.

The Carolyn Ramsay Committee is made up of previous Carolyn Ramsay award winners. After the points for the 12 monthly digital and print competitions are totaled, the committee will select Carolyn Ramsay award recipient. To be considered for this award, a club member must

- Demonstrate photographic skills by scoring amongst the 3 highest point levels of the year.
- Hold at least one officer position
- Help the club with extra effort as such occasions arise.
- Be friendly and congenial.
- Work to improve the club's operation

The December 5th competition night has also been designated as our Annual Meeting night and a short meeting will be held before competition begins. Several proposals for changes to the Club Constitution will be voted on that evening. Any other business of the club will also be discussed that night.

December 5th is also the night that all members must bring in their winning prints for end-of-the-year judging which will take place on Wednesday, December 7th. If you submit prints, you will receive, via e-mail, a list of your winning prints from the Print Chairman. Digital Images are already in the system and Dick Stuart will have them ready to be judged on December 7th.

After the end-of-the-year judging, ribbons are prepared by the two chairmen and plaques for the winning Digital Image and Print of the year are ordered, as well as a plaque for the winner of the Carolyn Ramsay Award.

The digital committee creates a slide show of all the images that placed during the year. The print committee gathers all print winners, print the slashes, and attaches them. The committee also arranges to pick up the print racks from Dwayne Pepper on December 19th and return them after the event.

Then comes the final event of the year, the Annual Awards Potluck Dinner held at the Elks Lodge on December 19th. Hospitality Chairs will be sending around sign-up lists for the dinner at the next few meetings and it is hoped that you will plan to attend this last event of the year. In addition to great food and fellowship, there will be a short program, ribbons for the winning entries will be given out and plaques presented. All in all, this will be a great evening.

Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

We asked each of the makers of the September first place images for stories about what their image was, how it was made, and when, where, and why it was taken.

September 2011 First Place Monochrome Print

Ferns
Sandra Leipsic

On a Photo Trek to Crescent City and the Redwoods in May, the group hiked into Fern Creek where we separated to take our pictures. I walked up the creek and came upon a wall of Ferns. They were beautiful!!! The light was soft and mellow as it filtered through the trees. I began shooting taking shots from different positions trying to capture the beauty I was seeing.

While processing the image, I thought it would be interesting in Monochrome. I used Nik Silver Effect Pro and liked the way it turned out.

The image was taken with my NikonD300S F8 at 125

September 2011 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image

New York, New York
Martin Roberts

I chose to enter this shot taken in New York on 21st June ’11 as it demonstrates that implementing the key principles, as taught by likes of Freeman Patterson, you can get a great image.

We have the three strong shapes in the buildings themselves, each one being covered in strong shape patterns and texture. There is good use of light with the darker moody sky at the top and the brighter light at the base of the Chrysler Building with the tones making each of the buildings stand out. The use of perspective gives that additional interest to the image. So just remember to look up as you walk about the city, use your photography theory and go grab that great image.

Equipment was a Canon 40D with Canon EF 24-105mm L Series Lens (ISO-400, 1/50sec, f/22, 24mm). The image was shot using the camera set to Monochrome.

September 2011 First Place Photo Journalism Print

Annoying California Gull behavior reported as population grows exponentially, Santa Barbara, May, 2011
Rebecca Smith-Coggins

Easily amused, I was taking photos from a hotel balcony while my husband attended a winemaker's convention. I had left a bit of unwanted breakfast pastry on the table and a small bird (without much visual impact) came to feast on the crumbs. Then a large black bird eyed it shyly from the railing.

Suddenly, the California Gull swooped in, snatched the pastry, turned for an instant to look at me intently and then took off. I was able to capture the moment with my Nikon D700 1/200 sec at f /8.0 focal length 55 mm ISO 400.

In researching the California Gull, I found that the population has been "growing exponentially" over the past decade according to the Internet. Though I personally like seagulls, my photo helped to tell this story.

September 2011 First Place Photo Journalism Digital Projected Image

Practice, Persistence and Patience, several years of it in fact, it took me to get this shot!

The annual Cat's Hill Classic bike race is held each May in Los Gatos within two blocks of my house. Betty Toepfer and I regularly head over to the event and each year Betty captures some great action shot to win with her PJ entry! My attempts, until this year, were too miserable to enter. This year Betty couldn't come and I was on my own!

After some unsatisfactory tries at motion blur or sharp capture of speeding cyclists, I was desperate for advice. I spotted a photographer that regularly covers this race and during a lull in the action asked him for a few tips. That was the turning point for me. With his advice to use the sport's setting on my camera (I had to run home to look it up in the manual) and a couple of good places to shoot from, I started to improve. Another hundred or so shots produced this winner and a few other good ones. I was so excited (and so was Betty)!

Next year, I invite everyone to come and give it a try. It's a fun local race and great for sports shooting practice.

Pros lead at Turn 5, 38th Annual Cat's Hill Classic Bike Race
Mary Ellen Kaschub

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

Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite
Gary Marcos

The picture of Tuolumne Meadows was taken on July 31, 2011. Now, you would think it would be summer weather, but in fact it was stormy and rainy most of the day. It was perfect photography weather. Towards the end of the day the rain stopped and I was able to break out the camera and tripod.

Seeing the flowers, I wanted to frame the scene with them, so I set up the tripod low to the ground (about 2 ft. high) and took the picture with a Canon 50D, 17-55mm 2.8 lens, ISO 500, f22 at 1/25 of a second. This was the 2nd day of a 3 day trip where we stayed at the Tuolumne Meadow campgrounds in their tent cabins. The purpose of the trip was primarily to hike, but a lot of time was spent shooting pictures.

One of benefits of staying in the campgrounds, is that they are only 1.5 hours from Bodie, so this trip not only covered the high Sierras, but also the Eastern Sierras to some degree. I highly recommend staying in the tent cabins if you haven't done that and exploring these beautiful areas. In my opinion it's even more dramatic than Yosemite Valley which also is about an hour away.

September 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Print - Advanced

River Flows Through It
Bob Leipsic

While on a Photo Trek to the Redwoods in Northern California, the group stopped at a waterfall and we were all taking shots. I finished shooting and took a quick walk around the area and saw this wonderful river landscape with the morning mist in the background. The lighting was changing rapidly, so I quickly set up to try capture the moment.

This photo was taken with my Nikon D700.

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

Patterns in Green
D.H. Rasweiler

I was photographing a life-size fiberglass statue of "Uncle Beazley", a storybook triceratops, at the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, D.C. The garden staging for the statue included giant ferns, papyrus and taro.

No sign advised against forays into the greenery, and as I made my way (carefully!) through 6' high vegetation to compose an image of just the eye of the statue peering through the leaves, I became fascinated with the way sunlight was illuminating the leafy greens.

This image made a bright and bold statement in color which provided a good backdrop for the feathery patterns among the symmetry of the veins of the leaf. I am drawn to the artistic aspect of patterns and this became my favorite image from an afternoon at the zoo.

September 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Print - Basic

Three Ivy-Leaf Geraniums
Mark Emanuel

On a Friday afternoon in June of 2010 my wife and I decided to visit FILOLI gardens in Woodside. We spent the afternoon taking pictures of the gardens.

When I began looking for a flower picture to present at our September competition I came across the photos that I took in June of 2010 at FILOLI Gardens. One flower picture stood out from the rest of the photos.

I took a copy of the unknown flower to Yamagami Nursery in Saratoga and they told me the flower is an Ivy Leaf Geranium. In formatting my photo, I choose three flowers and I darkened the background so that the beauty of the three flowers became the focus of the picture.

Meet John Bujak

It was a dark and stormy night... Long ago in a Galaxy Far away....I grew up in South Jersey, near Philly..

I was born with a camera in my hand. When I was two, my father died. He was a PHD naturalist, had a Zeiss Ikon, and I remember the family viewing glass B/W slides. He also specialized in taking images of small French Canadian towns, each centered around a Catholic Church with a large steeple.

I had the usual Brownie Star-flashes until my first 35mm Rangefinder and Gossen Pilot light meter. I left Philly to go to school in Wyoming and Colorado. On one of my early rock climbs (Devils Tower) my Ashai Pentax SLR H3v fell 1000ft, never to be recovered.

I did work for a MLS Relator Service, taking B/W house pictures (200 week) and then two days in the darkroom. Using Nikon F Photo-tonics. My life got sidetracked by mountain climbing, then Rock and Roll, then Harleys, sex and drugs...

My day job has been a Mechanical Engineer in the Data Storage Industry (30+ years). I took a 14 year break from Photography until I visited a girlfriend in Santa Cruz and bought a Pentax Spotmatic and several lenses at a Pawn store. The California Landscape sucked me back into Photography. The Pentax got stolen from the car and I switched to Nikon. I did lots of scanning and was delighted to discover that I had my own color lab right on my desktop. The rest is History, once digital quality got better than Velvia 50, I switched to Digital Capture- Nikon D2x.

You can get a very good idea of my ideas of photography as an art form, from my web site http://www.mindseyelandscapes.com/ which I encourage you to copy word for word.

Here are some of my thoughts.

1. A slim jim is a snack, not a format for photography

2. "It does not look Real" is an ignorant critique, 2D representation of our 3D world will never never look real, its ALL ART, and you may not like it, its ok to say so... as per Ansel, the sky is black, and nothing has color. How much world class PJ has been in black and white?

3. Rule of thirds, never center your subject are ok for Photography 101, but have no place in "The ART of Photography".

Key Contacts

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