Los Gatos/Saratoga Camera Club Newsletter

www.losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org

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Reminders

Entry Limits

Although members may enter a total of four images into a monthly competition, there is a maximum of **THREE** images in either Digital / Projected Images or Prints in addition to the maximum of **THREE** images in any one category.

Any image may be resubmitted **ONE** time, provided it did not place in competition the first time submitted. Place is defined as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or Honorable Mention.

Annual Awards Potluck Dinner

Please plan to attend and bring your significant others for a fun celebration! Signup sheets have been emailed. If you need to add your name or make changes please contact Sandy Leipsic.

Dues

Yearly membership fees are $50.00 and are due January 1, 2012 but can be renewed at this time if you prefer to get a jump start. Membership will be dropped if renewal fees are not received by February 29, 2012.

Coming Club Events

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

Saturday, December 3, 2011
Deadline for entering digital images for December club competition

Monday, December 5, 2011
Deadlines:
5 PM digital thumbnails for prints.
7:15 PM deadline for entering prints
Last day to bring back prints for the End of Year competition.

Membership Votes:
Changes to the Club Constitution
Officers for 2012.

Competition:
Travel, Color, Monochrome
Refreshments: Jan Silverman, Bart Smith, Rebecca Smith-Coggins
Judge: Roger Kumpf of the Santa Clara Camera Club

Monday, December 19, 2011
6:15 PM - 10:00 PM
Annual Awards Potluck Dinner
Print Exhibit
Digital Slide Show
End of Year Competition Awards
Carolyn Ramsay Award

Saturday, December 31, 2011
Deadline for Entering Images for January Club Competition

All About The Newsletter

Our club newsletter is a supplement to our web site. Since it is only published once a month (usually a week or so before the competition), it does not replace member email messages for time-critical information. Previous newsletters can be viewed from the Downloads page. This month I'll explain what I've been trying to accomplish with the newsletter, describe some of the steps to create it, and ask for member contributions for next year.

Page One includes the calendar for the next month copied from the web site and a section with reminders that are usually requested by board members. For several months I included competition category definitions as bullet points to see if that format was easier to absorb.

This year Page Two has included an article about our club, council, or PSA. The newsletter competition judges suggested adding technical, how-to, photo trend, or photo ethics articles. If you have an article to contribute in 2012, please email me at airdrie@att.net. Since we are all visual, each page should include graphics, a portrait, or other images.

When our club was smaller as each of the winning slides and prints were announced the makers would offer a short comment about their image and other members might ask some questions. As the club grew and the number of entries increased, we eliminated this feature. The Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It section starting on the Page Three partially replaces that with stories from the eight first place winners.

To create those pages, I go to the Competition Winners pages on the web site, copy the titles and makers, download a copy of the winning image, copy the link to the larger image, and send an email message to the winners asking for their stories. I copy the titles and makers into a Word document, insert the images, and add a hyperlink to the larger version of the image. When I get the stories, I copy them into the Word document, break long text into more paragraphs, fix typos, and add hyperlinks if appropriate. Some stories are long and some are short. After I get all of them, I move everything around to fit on the pages. When you win first place, please be prepared to write your story with helpful information for other members and send it to me promptly.

To help members get to know each other, we resurrected and expanded the profiles that were part of the newsletter in 2004-2006 (with one in 2007). So far the profiles have been primarily about board members but will eventually cover all members who were not profiled earlier. Be prepared for my request. Most members write their own profile but I can help. Below are questions I usually ask. If you would like other questions included, please let me know.

- If you aren't originally from this area, where did you live before? How/why did you end up here?
- How did you become interested in photography? Who or what inspired you?
- Have you taken any workshops or classes or read any photography books you would recommend to other members?
- How did you end up joining the camera club (referral, web site)? How long have you been a member?
- What do you do or did you do when not photographing (i.e. career, former career, other hobbies)?
- What kind of photography do you like best?
- Where have you traveled? Why do you like going there or what do you like photographing there?

Profiles are between one and one and a half pages long and include one or two photos sent as separate JPG files. In addition to profiles that are more than a page, the last page of the newsletter might include photos from exhibits or field trips or information about other learning opportunities. If you have something to contribute, please email me. When everything is received and arranged, I use Adobe Acrobat to produce the newsletter in a compact size, send it to my proofreader, make corrections, and email it to the members through the web site.

Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

We asked each of the makers of the November first place images to send stories about what their image was, how it was made, and when, where, and why it was taken. Clicking a winning image will take you to a larger version on our web site.

November 2011 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image

Higgins Farm Windmill Reflection - Cape Cod, MA
Martin Roberts

This shot of the old Higgins Farm Windmill (built 1795) reflecting in the window of an outbuilding was taken in Brewster, Cape Cod, MA on 9th October '11. I saw the windmill as I drove to Provincetown and stopped to take some photos. As I walked towards the outbuilding, which had already caught my eye due to the tiled wall and window, I saw the reflection and my shot was complete. I positioned myself to get an interesting reflection and framed the shot to get good balance to the image.

Equipment was a Canon 40D with Canon EF 24-105mm L Series Lens (ISO-320, 1/50sec, f/9, 40mm). The image was shot using the camera set to Monochrome, as are most of my images!

November 2011 First Place Monochrome Print

Old Mining Structure
John Perry

The "Old Mining Structure" was taken while I was on a 5-day trek in Death Valley with Truman Holtzclaw and Sam Shaw. One of the sites we visited was the Inyo Mine, which is located at the end of a 5-mile drive up Echo Canyon Road. Echo Canyon Road starts off the east side of HY190 just south of Furnace Creek.

Warning if you decide to drive up Echo Canyon Rd it is a very rough gravel road that requires a high clearance vehicle. While driving up this road we stopped twice; once to take some photographs of a small group of big horn sheep our vehicles had scared up and the second time to shoot a rock arch formation. The rough ride is worth it because the mine is a photographer's paradise consisting of four old wooden buildings, the mining structure you see in my photograph, several pieces of abandoned mining equipment and a rock structure built into the hillside for food storage.

This photograph was taken as a vertical with a Nikon D700 and a 14-24mm f/2.8 lens with settings of ISO200, f/8, 1/320 sec. The original photo was taken in color and I converted it to monochrome using Silver Efex Pro.

November 2011 First Place Nature Digital Projected Image

Elephant Seal Experimenting With Flexibility At Ana Nuevo; Latin Name Mirounga angustirostris
Bernard Weinzimmer

This photo was shot at Ano Nuevo State Park in Pescadero, California on March 13th, 2008. At Ano Nuevo you must be on a guided tour to approach the elephant seals and it is advisable to make a reservation well in advance of your planned trip. The rangers are very strict regarding how many people are on each tour and how close you are allowed to get to the animals.

We had just come around a small dune and the pups were in a shallow water estuary that had been left behind by the receding tide. Our guide was surprised to see the animals in the estuary and we were much closer than normally allowed. This shot was a quick "grab shot" as our guide was trying to rapidly move us farther away from the animals.

The shot was taken from a distance of about 20 meters with my Nikon D2X and Nikkor 70-200 mm lens at a focal length of 200mm. The camera was in aperture mode at f4.0 resulting in a shutter speed of 1/180th of a second.

Once we had moved away from the pups our guide explained the behavior as experimentation by the pup to experience the limits of its flexibility.

November 2011 First Place Nature Print

"Bald Eagle in Profile" was photographed at the Alaska Raptor Center in Sitka, Alaska. Each year, the Alaska Raptor Center provides medical treatment to 100- 200 injured bald eagles and other birds of prey. It has The Suzanne & Walter Scott Foundation Bald Eagle Flight Training Center where injured bald eagles are rehabilitated for flying before being release back into the wild.

My wife and myself ended up in Sitka at the Raptor Center during a shore excursion while on a Holland American Alaska Photography Cruise sponsored by Aperture Academy. By the way Sitka, Alaska can only be reached by boat or plane and if you ever have a chance to go there don't miss it because it is a wonderful place.

The portrait photograph that I took of Volta the Bald Eagle was with a Nikon D700 using a 70-200mm lens with a 1.4 tele-extender. The camera settings were ISO200, f/4.8 at 1/320sec and the image was processed in Lightroom.

Bald Eagle in Profile (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)
John Perry

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

Rainy Day at the Beach
Don Schremp

Many times the best pictures can be had when the weather turns bad, this is a good example of that. The image was taken at Pescadero Beach on a field trip at the beginning of February 2008. The day started out cloudy but dry. After everyone met up for lunch in Pescadero, the weather got worse and started raining. Only Julie Kitzenberger and I were crazy enough to carry on.

It was raining and windy, but we had umbrellas and did the best we could. While I did not get too many pictures since it was hard to try and keep everything dry with the rain and wind, the rain and overcast sky really brought out the colors in the pebbles and rocks. Everything was shiny wet.

This is a time when you might not be tempted to use a polarizer, especially since it makes the exposures very long. To get the depth of field I was using f16 and ISO 200 to control the noise. With the polarizer the exposures were around ½ second.

The polarizer was needed to cut down the reflections from the wet rocks and allowed the colors to show through. Julie also got several winning images from that day. I have included a picture of Julie as she works on a composition holding an umbrella that got damaged by the wind.

November 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Print - Advanced

Canyonlands, Utah, Evening Landscape
John Bujak

Give 1,000,000 monkeys cameras in Canyonlands National Park and you are sure to get a winner. Really though, I've been seeking to capture this wondrous area and am now getting closer. Nikon D3, 24-70mm f2.8, Induro tripod and ball head with careful processing got me this image.

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

Early Walk, Kauai Beach
Marty Weisberg

I walked the beach at sunrise while at Lihue, Kauai. This image was obvious in that the sun angle was low casting long shadows and giving depth. The clouds were dramatic and even more so when reflecting off the water. Shot at a downward angle with a Canon D5 and mid-range zoom lens.

November 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Print - Basic

My son and grandkids were visiting. We decided to go to the Lick Observatory at Mt Hamilton. The ride up there is definitely an experience! The views amazing.

We stayed for the tour of the telescope room. I was just getting to know my new camera - a Canon EOS 7D with EF-S15-85mm lens. The telescope itself was amazing, but I was fascinated by the ceiling. It was beautiful! A work of art offering wonderful abstract photo opportunities, along with the challenge of very low light.

I didn't have a tripod, so I contorted myself to be able to use the railings for stabilization in addition to what was in the lens to get some shots. This was shot at ISO 6400, .5 sec at F-11. I'm surprised it came out too! I did bring out the color in developing it and cleaned up a few spots on the photo.

We went to another of the large telescopes, and I was really looking forward to the ceiling for that one. Nothing like the first one. This was a serviceable dome, not a gorgeous serviceable dome such as I had been shooting.

Roof Top to the Stars
Susan Dinga

Meet Stan Litwin

I am a transplant from upstate New York (Rochester). We came out to this area some 33 years ago basically to escape the weather. Although we were very active and involved in outdoor sports during the NY winters, when the kids came along, we found ourselves hibernating more and more. I was working for a large company (General Electric) as a nuclear/mechanical engineer but I wanted to advance in my career more quickly. I found a Washington DC consulting company who was interested in having a west coast presence (in Palo Alto). At the time, I had never been to this area, so I looked on a map and quickly saw Stanford University was here, so of course what could be so bad about moving here?

Well, back east people typically lived close to work and long commutes were not common. So I went home shopping in Palo Alto and quickly discovered that the 2 car garage that I could afford, was not quite large enough for my family and the city zoning laws would not allow me to install a sink and toilet in the garage (in retrospect, if they would have only allowed a toilet that would have sufficed for the dishes also). So I started a hunt for housing and eventually wound up in San Jose. Although commuting was not exactly pleasant, we were able to get something a little larger than the Palo Alto garage. It took us about 10 minutes to adjust to the climate here- if you want to ski you go to the snow, it doesn't come to you- what a novel idea!

As a teenager I always had an interest in science and chemistry so in place of a "chemistry set" I set up a darkroom in our basement and started processing black and white film and making contact prints. I had a great time experimenting with different photographic chemicals and eventually self-learned photographic enlargement techniques. Of course this was intimately tied to optics, so I bought a 35mm Konica autoreflex camera read a lot on the subject and started shooting everything in sight.

After I retired from my nuclear engineering career in 2007, I kept getting "pestered" (or maybe encouraged is a better term) by Bernie Weinzimmer to come to a camera club meeting. Marty Weisberg and others also "encouraged" me and I joined the club in 2008 but was very reticent to enter the competitions. As my interest in photography increased Bernie gave me advice about buying a new digital camera followed by lenses and equipment. As time progressed, I took a few workshops on Adobe Elements, attended a beginning Nikon shooters basic course, and read e books about Nikon processing software. More recently, I took a great course on Adobe Lightroom given by Larry Rosier and a workshop in matting prints given by Harvey Gold.

I have tried my hand at sports, nature and landscape photography just to experience the individual challenges each present and I seem to be gravitating to landscape perhaps because the subject is mostly static and one can more readily preset exposure/depth of field and generally compose more easily in the viewfinder. I am also finding that prints are enjoyable to work on.

I like to travel in general (international travel gives me a more rounded perspective on other cultures, life styles, philosophies and traditions) but I especially enjoy going to national parks (Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Yosemite, Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Death Valley, Monument Valley, Antelope Canyon, Zion, Bryce, Canyonlands, Arches, Dead Horse, Glacier, etc.). Not only are the photographic opportunities phenomenal, but I also enjoy hiking to get the shots.

Other than photography I enjoy physical sports and activities such as skiing, running, biking, 4 wheeling, hiking and riding motorcycles. I also keep busy with a myriad of home projects (involving electrical, plumbing, carpentry and drywall) and auto/motorcycle rebuilding and repair.

Some 2012 Activities

January 2012 Camera Club Exhibit

Our club will have our first exhibit of 2012 at the Willow Glen Coffee Roasting Company, 1383 Lincoln Ave., San Jose. Setup will be at 7 PM on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. There will be a reception at about 3 PM on Sunday, January 8th. The show will run through January. Please contact Roberta Schwartz at mailto:robertabschwartz@comcast.net or (408) 739-5529 for additional information.

Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday: 6:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Saturday: 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM
Sunday: 7:30 AM - 9:30 PM

September 2012 PSA International Conference in San Francisco

Start planning now to attend the 2012 Photographic Society of America's International Conference from September 16-22, 2012. It will be held nearby at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA 94010.

The Conference is a great way to meet people, have a personal encounter with someone whose photography is known, and renew longtime acquaintances. The conference will include:

- Classes & Workshops
- Featured Speakers
- Conference Registration Form
- Pre & Post- Conference Photo Trips

More conference information will be available on the PSA web site.

November 2012 FotoClave

Three camera club councils from Northern and Central California represent 40 of California's 52 counties.

- Central Coast Counties Camera Club Council (6C)
- Northern California Council of Camera Clubs (N4C)
- San Joaquin Valley Camera Club Council (SJVCCC)

Every year one of the participating councils hosts the FotoClave Conference and a competition where members of participating councils show their best work. The next FotoClave will be held Friday November 2, 2012 through Sunday November 4, 2012 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 1150 Ninth Street, Modesto, California, 95354.

Key Contacts

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