Vol. 32
Issue 3

The Newsletter

March
2010

Los Gatos – Saratoga Camera Club

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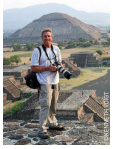
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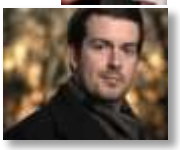
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Mon Mar 1	**Club Meeting** Competition: Nature and Color -- Slides, Digital Images, and Prints Judge: Marya Hart Refreshments: Harlan CROWDER, Gina DIAS, Mark EMANUEL
Mon Mar 15	**Club Meeting** Program: *Secrets to Successful Travel Photography* presented by Jim Cline. See page 6. Refreshments: Gene FAUCHER, Wanda FOSS, Judy FROSCH
Wed Mar 17	Deadline for emailing digital entries for the March **6C** competition. (Creative, Nature, and Color). Send images to Dick Stuart at rrstuart@yahoo.com .
Sat Mar 20	6 C's Competition Central Coast Counties Camera Club Council Any LGSCC member can attend and enter one projected image and one print in each competition category. 10:00 AM, Church of the Nazarene, 2575 Coit Dr., San Jose, CA 95124
Wed Mar 31	Deadline for emailing digital images for the April club competition (Travel and Color). For instructions see the LGSCC web site; click on DIGITAL IMAGING at the top of the page.
Mon Apr 5	**Club Meeting** Competition: Travel and Color -- Slides and Digital Images. Monochrome and Color -- Prints Refreshments: Joseph GARAPPOLO, John GERHARDT, Charlie GIBSON

February Photo Competition

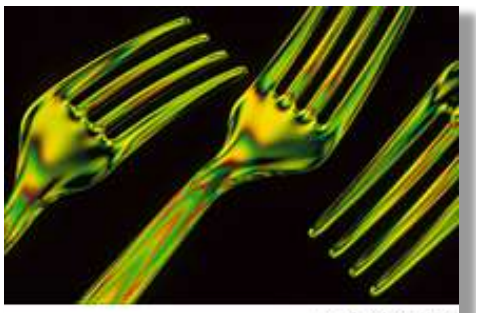
First-Place Winners Tell Us How They Did It

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

© Craig Colvin

Digital: Creative
Tendrils, by Craig Colvin
"I had seen some photos of smoke on Flickr which gave me this idea. I tried several sources of smoke before I settled on incense – it makes lots of smoke and burns hot, which creates lots of curls. I lit from the rear with two strobes separated about 45°. The strobe on camera right had a red gel; the one camera left was blue. I put the camera on a tripod with manual focus and aimed just above the burning incense. The exposure was manually dialed in. I took hundreds of shots. About one-third of them were interesting."

Slides: Creative -- *Forks*, by Airdrie Kincaid
"This image is an example of cross-polarization. I covered a light box with a polarizing gel, arranged three clear plastic forks on the gel, and turned on the light box. I used a tripod to frame the image, attached a circular polarizer to my macro lens, and rotated the filter on the lens until the background was black and there were colorful patterns in the forks. Slide film tends to photograph greener than what I saw through the lens. To compensate, I sandwiched the finished slide with a 179 Chrome Orange gel from LEE Filters. The July 20009 Council News (http://www.kenalee.com/files/July09News16OL.pdf) has a *Table Top Setups for Creative Photography* article with more information."



© Airdrie Kincaid

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Digital: Color -- *Julia Pfeiffer Burns Beach*, by Craig Colvin
"After reading descriptions, I made a trip last September especially to photograph this beach. I went to the wrong Pfeiffer Beach and spent an afternoon looking for a non-existent waterfall near Hole in the Rock. A ranger directed me to the right place but by then it was too dark, so I made a second trip. For this shot I wanted a slow shutter speed to smooth the water, so I put both an ND grad and a polarizer on my lens to kill some light. My tripod balanced on a ledge outside the railing. I cropped out lots of distracting foreground elements. I did no cloning, but considerable dodging and burning, especially on the rocks to the right of the waterfall, and I increased the color saturation of the water."

February 1st Place Winners (cont.)

Prints: Monochrome
Up and Around, by Don Schremp
"*Up and Around* was taken on an unusual mid February day at Scottie's Castle in Death Valley. It was foggy and snowing, two things that almost never happen there. Many great photos that could be made at Scottie's Castle, but opportunities are few because most of the house can be viewed only on a tour. This staircase happens to be where the tour exits so I was able to spend more time taking the picture. Because of the cloudy day, the sun through the windows was not too bright, but this also meant a slow shutter speed. This picture was taken with a Canon 40D with a zoom set at 17mm (27mm full frame equivalent), ISO 200, f/4, and 1/6 of a second. Because of the wide angle, the depth of field and slow shutter speed worked. I also used the trick of multiple exposures in high speed mode hoping to get one sharp picture out of the set. The black and white conversion was done in Lightroom, no special treatment, but I did dodge and burn to bump up the local contrast in some areas and tone down hot spots."

Prints: Color -- *The Winter Solstice Sunset Beam through Hole-in-the-Rock at Pfeiffer Beach*, by Bernie Weinzimmer
"I took this while scouting with Stan Litwin for the club's December field trip that I led. I had to time it just right to catch the sun beam and the waves on the rock. Shots I tried with the wave filling the rock hole were less interesting. When Steven Oaks' presented to the club last year he showed a similar shot, but said we'd never be able to duplicate it. I took this as a challenge and made up my mind to get that shot. I found the secret in a book: Shoot Hole-in-the-Rock around sunset in clear weather near the winter solstice when the tide is high." (See page 8 of *The Newsletter* for info on the book Bernie used.)

Slides: Color
Lettuce Rows in Abstract, by Mary Ellen Kaschub
"My husband saw these wonderfully colorful lettuce fields on a motorcycle ride below Hollister. I jumped in the car the next day to go photograph them. I like finding abstracts in images – I just see things that way. The work is to frame the image well. I was initially annoyed by the line sprinklers breaking the field's uniformity; when I couldn't find a framing that eliminated them, I made them part of the image. It's funny that this was the image element the judge most liked. I enjoy stopping to really look at the visual simplicities of California landscape. Though I took this image five years ago, I still remember the pleasure I felt at the view of the rolling green fields below the brown hills."

LGSCC Photographer Larry Rose Wins NatureScapes 2009 Landscape Image-of-the-Year Award

Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park, August 2009. Nikon D700, 24-70mm lens at 56mm, 1/30 sec, f/16, ISO 400, circular polarizer, tripod.
Larry Rosier became interested in photography in the early 50s while living in Albuquerque, New Mexico and is a former employee of IBM and Quantum.

Larry also won first place in the Creative: Prints category of the club's February competition with his macro image, *Openings*. Larry is currently travelling in New Zealand and *The Newsletter* regrets it was unable to obtain his comments on that image.

Classes by and for LGSCC Members

Managing and Editing Digital Photos with Free Software

8-Week Class Begins Friday, March 26, 9:00 AM

Dick Stuart

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 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.
Contact the Willows Learning Center, 2175 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose, CA. 95125
(408) 448-6400 http://www.snlcsj.org/willows/descriptions/digphotog

Cutting Custom Photo Mattes

LGSCC member Mel Rabadeau will lead another workshop showing members how he cuts custom mattes for mounting prints for framing or club competitions. Mel will show how he uses simple, inexpensive tools and a steady hand to create mattes to complement any size print. Fee: $10 to LGSCC
Contact Mel to schedule at: mandr.rabedeau@att.net

Digital Camera Basics

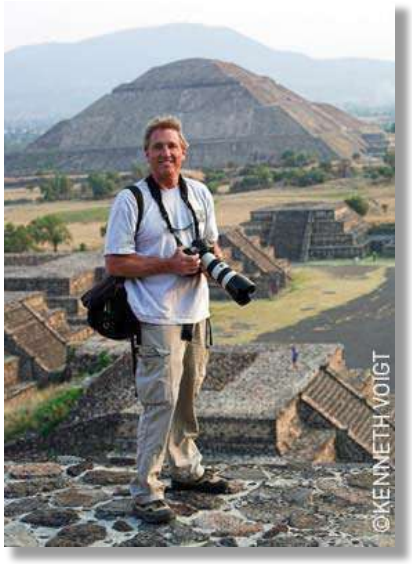
Harvey Gold

Harvey Gold will lead a March 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

Noted Travel Photographer Jim Cline Presents
Secrets to Successful Travel Photography
At LGSCC, March 15, 2010

About the Presentation

Improve images from your journeys by incorporating simple yet powerful techniques taught by Jim Cline, a premier professional travel photographer. Jim will reveal secrets and techniques he employs to take his photography to the next level. From planning before the trip begins to arriving back home, he will cover steps in creating dynamic travel photographs. He'll show examples of how to use light to your advantage and cover the logistics of taking your digital camera and accessories on the road. He will also demonstrate how to photograph people to capture the spirit of a location, and how to feel comfortable approaching strangers for photos.



About Jim Cline

Jim Cline is an award-winning professional travel photographer based in San Diego. He strives to transcend ordinary travel pictures by conveying a strong sense of place and the spirit of the people. His work has been displayed in galleries and the San Diego Natural History Museum. His images are in books, newspapers, magazines, websites, brochures, and on CD covers. Cline enjoys exploring less traveled areas, avoiding typical tourist destinations. He takes particular interest in documenting disappearing cultures of the indigenous peoples and tribes of developing nations. Through his photographs, Jim portrays the dignity and timeless beauty of people living in harmony with nature. He also leads small group photographic tours to various locations throughout Mexico, Guatemala, and Peru.

Jim's website: www.JimCline.com

Planned Club Field Trips

It's fun to find new places and new events to photograph, and it's fun to shoot with members who share your photographic interests. Many competition-winning photos come from field trips led by club members. If you have a favorite spot or event you'd like to share with club members, sign up to lead a trip. Contact Bernie Weinzimmer (bweinzimmer@comcast.net). No need to be an expert – just guide some friends to a photogenic spot.

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Eucalyptus at UCSC, taken on a club field trip in 2008.

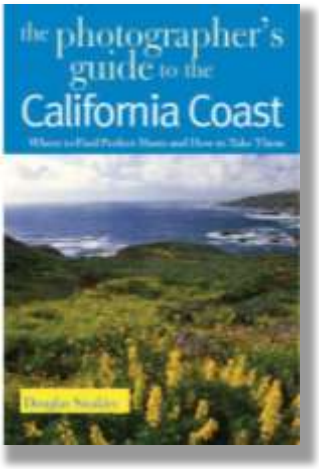
Field Trips Planned in 2010		
Date	**To**	**Leader**
February 27	Tet Parade, S.F. (See Feb. Newsletter)	Betty Toepfer
March	TBD	John Bujak
April	Palo Alto Baylands	Bernie Weinzimmer
May	TBD	Don Wolf
June	TBD	John Perry
July	Photo Walk	Charlie Gibson
August	TBD	Don Wolf
September	TBD	John Perry
October	Natural Bridges	Pat Puder
November	TBD	Contact Bernie Weinzimmer if you'd like to lead a trip.
December	TBD	

Nate Donovan Answers Club Members' Photoshop Questions

At the club's February 15th meeting, long-time local Photoshop expert Nate Donovan answered questions about how best to optimize photographs. For two hours Nate fielded varied queries, including whether to upgrade to Photoshop CS4 or LightRoom 2 (Wait till March when Nate expects CS5 and LightRoom 3 to roll out.), what external hard drives to use (Nate recommends those connecting via eSATA.), and how best to sharpen images (Create a hi-pass layer for selective, non-destructive sharpening.). For those of us unable to scribble notes fast enough, Nate summarized his answers here: http://www.donovanphotography.net/lecturehandouts.htm His weekly *Photoshop for Photographers* class begins a new session 6:30 PM, March 2, at the Los Gatos High School Library computer lab. Register at www.donovanphotography.net/classes.htm

Nate Donovan explaining Photoshop at the club's February 15 meeting.

Book Recommendation



LGSCC past president Bernie Weinzimmer found the secret for his compelling shot of the setting sun illuminating surf through Hole-in-the-Rock at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park in *The Photographer's Guide to the California Coast* by Douglas Steakley. Some reviewers found this book's coverage shallow, but a single good tip would justify its price. Talk to Bernie or read reviews of the book here: http://www.amazon.com/Photographers-Guide-California-Coast-Perfect/dp/0881506494

Featured Website: The Strobist

©David Hobby

The Strobist is about one thing: Learning how to use off-camera flash with your dSLR to take your photos to the next level. Or the next ten levels.

At *The Strobist*, you'll find everything you need to know about how to more effectively use your small speedlights. There are more than 1,000 articles about lighting. Over two million photographers from around the world have learned small-flash lighting techniques from this site. We're thinking you can, too.
http://strobist.blogspot.com

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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