# Newsletter

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## Reminders

### Travel Digital and Prints

The August challenge competition is Travel. The club voted to include Travel as a category for Print Competition on the same nights as we have Travel Projected/Digital.

Be sure to check the Competition Types page on the web site for the definitions of each category. Here are the bullet points about Travel.

- A Travel picture must express the feeling of a time and place, portray a land, its people or a culture in its natural state, and has no geographic limitations.
- Ultra close-ups which lose their identity, studio-type model shots, or photographic manipulations which misrepresent the true situation or alter the content of the image are unacceptable in Travel competition.
- 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.
- No elements may be moved, cloned, added, deleted, rearranged or combined.
- Any sharpening must appear natural.
- Borders are not permitted

## Coming Club Events

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

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

**Monday, August 01, 2011**
5 PM Deadline for submitting thumbnails for Print competition

Competition
Digital - Travel, Color, Monochrome
Prints - Travel , Color, Monochrome
Judge: Pat Prettie
Refreshments - Bob Leipsic, Sandra Breiten, Wayne Levenfeld

**Monday, August 15, 2011**
Program
Vivek Tiwari - Endemic Birds of India
Refreshments - Michael Liebermann, Stan Litwin, Gary Marcos

**Saturday, September 03, 2011**
Deadline for entering digital images for the September club competition

**Monday, September 12, 2011**
5 PM Deadline for submitting thumbnails for Print competition

## *All About The Web Site*

Last year we realized that our digital competition software was no longer able to keep up with our needs, so Dick Stuart volunteered to investigate the website and competition management tools offered by Photo Club Services of Menlo Park.

We started off using just the Image Competition Manager, and only for Digital/Projected images. By the end of the year, we had decided to go ahead and move our whole website over and in February we started using the competition software for Prints too. The competition management area of the website is probably what most of us use and are familiar with, but the website has many other features too.

As a group, the website allows us to distribute and share the load of managing a large club. We can manage membership, competitions, our calendar, events, and sending emails - all from one platform. We can quickly create a new roster based on the latest membership information. We also have multiple members that can do website tasks, so if someone is off on a photography adventure, it's likely that someone else can take care of their club responsibilities.

As individual members, the website also provides us with many tools and much information:

- **Your Account** My Account -> My Account Settings We each have an account where we can change our login name (default is your email address), password, email address, and phone number. You can even add an Avatar Image if you'd like. Everyone should be familiar with their account, and we all need to keep our email addresses and phone numbers up-to-date because our Club Roster is created from this information.
- **Calendar** Club -> Calendar Check here for details about all club activities, including competitions (judges, hospitality volunteers, competition categories), programs, exhibits, field trips, 6C's, and other meetings that might be of interest. If you're in charge of an event or activity (Hospitality, Judges, Field Trips, meetings, etc…), please make sure to contact the webmaster as soon as possible if any information on the calendar needs updating.
- **Email** Club -> Send E-mail to Members All members have access to our email tool. You can send emails to the entire club or just to specific members. Please verify that the list of recipients at the top is correct before hitting "Send" and make sure to include yourself if you're not sending to the whole club.
- **Club Contacts** Club -> News and Information -> Club Contacts This is our list of club officers. Thinking of volunteering for a job? Click on the title of any position to bring up a job description.
- **Competition Results** Competitions -> Competition Results See the results of any competition. Select the "Display all images" checkbox to see all entries, not just the winners.
- **Image Library** My Account -> My Image Library See all the images you've uploaded or upload more images.
- **Image History** My Account -> My Image History See all the images you've entered into competitions and the results for each image. Check the box just above the spreadsheet to display thumbnail images.
- **Club Galleries** Club -> Galleries View the galleries members have created and shared.

- **Galleries** My Account -> My Galleries We can all create our own galleries. Your galleries can be Private (visible only to you) or Club Access (visible to club members), or Public Access (visible to all). We can even set up galleries that any member can upload images to which could be nice for field trips, classes, and other activities. One example is the *"Freeman Patterson Class"* gallery (Club -> Club Galleries). As the images scroll by, you can see that they're from different people where the images in most galleries are all from the same person. You can create multiple galleries. You can include images you've already uploaded for competition or any other images you'd like to upload and display.
- **Documents** Club -> Downloads Many of our club documents are available here, including tutorials, job descriptions, and newsletters dating back to 2005. Most of these documents are public, but a few, like our Club Roster, are private and you must be logged in to see them.
- **Field Trips** Club -> News and Information -> Field Trips Whether you're interested in hosting a field trip or just looking for ideas, this page has a bunch of good information.
- **Resources** Club -> Resources Right now this page only includes a link to our old website, hosted by Airdrie. Please contact our webmaster if there are any resources you'd like to see added.
- **Help** - Help -> Display Education Center Photo Club Services provides several videos to explain various functions of the website. Also, please feel free to contact our webmaster with any questions/problems.

There is much more information available on the website than is covered here. If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to check out the website and see what else it has to offer. If you ever have any suggestions, questions, or problems, please contact our webmaster, Bambi Cask, at bcask@comcast.net or at any meeting. Our web address: http://www.losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org/

## *Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It*

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

### July 2011 First Place Nature Print

**Golden Eagle profile (*Disambiguation*)**
**Bob Leipsic**

While at the San Francisco Zoo with my grandchildren, I was fortunate to see a zoo handler with a Bald Eagle and I got several nice shots.

These were my setting:
Focal Length 105mm
Exposure time 1/125
F 5.6
Nikon D 200
Lens Nikon 18-200

## July 2011 First Place Nature Digital Projected Image

**North American Mountain Lion (*Felis Concolor*) Jumping From Rock to Rock 1-Beginning of Jump 2 Mid-Jump 3 Jump Landing**
**Richard Ingles**

Winning a FotoClave Raffle for 50% off on a photo shoot with the Triple D Game Farm was a wonderful surprise. Airdrie and I ended up in the red rock country of Southern Utah in April, for my birthday and the photo shoot.

Our first shoot was to kick off at 07:00 Friday morning, but, It rained and snowed until noontime, cutting our shoot to half a day. Saturday was a weather repeat. The animals that we photographed were divided into a set group and an optional group. Andy, part of the set group, was scheduled for two sessions. This first, the jumping session, was about a half hour before sunset. The low light saturation and Andy provided a wonderful photo session.

The rocks used for take off and landing were about 20 feet apart and about 25 feet above the ground. Although Triple D has had other mountain lions, Andy is the only one that jumps.

Image Data: Camera: Canon 7D, at 1/2000th , *f*/5.6, EC: -1/3, ISO: 400
Lens: Canon EF 28-135mm, *f*/3.5-5.6 IS USM

## July 2011 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image

"All babies are cute" …and Quilly Bob Thornton, one of the optional subjects, is no exception. There were other babies for us to immortalize but I had the best results with Quilly Bob.

Bright sunlight, black subject, white flower, silver quills and bright sky. A great challenge. The eye needed to be open and sharp. The black of the quills had to have detail as well as the silver of the quills and the white flower.

Other babies included a raccoon (Winston) and black bear (Casey). Adult friends were a badger (Opie), a pair of Tundra wolves, coyote, bobcat, Siberian Lynx, red fox, and cross fox.

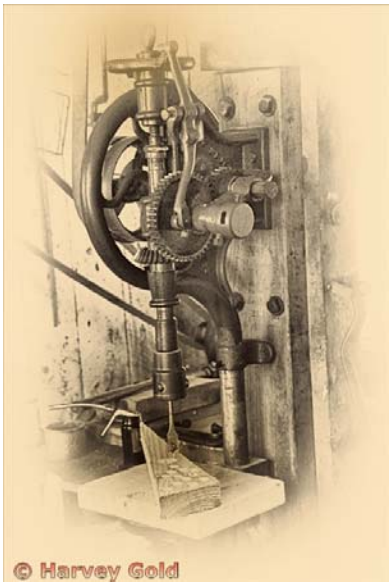
Thank you FotoClave, Triple D Game Farm and a special thanks to Airdrie, my best friend and photography mentor.

OH ! ! ! Did I mention that ALL of the animals were in the same enclosure as the photographers (when photographing)? Ask Airdrie what it feels like to have your hand licked by a Tundra wolf. Well, okay, Rosie the Grizzly was separated by an orange plastic fence about four feet high.

Image Data: Camera: Canon 7D, at 1/1600th , *f*/5.6 EC: -2/3, ISO: 200, Lens: Canon EF 100-400mm *f*/4.5-5.6 L IS USM.

**North American Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*) Feeds on Delicate White Flower**
**Richard Ingles**

## July 2011 First Place Monochrome Print




**Antique Drill Press**
**Harvey Gold**

Marty Weisberg, Joseph Grapa and I drove over to Wilder Ranch State Park, north of Santa Cruz. There we came upon a building which housed a working antique woodshop. I shot many images but was especially interested in the "Antique Drill Press"

The post processing was done in Photoshop using filers. The image lent itself to sepia toning and a light vignette treatment.

## July 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Advanced

This past March I took a photography workshop in Death Valley NP with John Paul Caponigro. This photo was taken in the afternoon on the 2nd day of the workshop in the Mesquite Dunes. We almost aborted this shoot because of the high 30+ mph winds but took a vote and all decided to give it a try. I wrapped my camera in a plastic rain bag and kept it under my windbreaker for the hike into the dunes.

As part of the workshop each participant picked a theme we were going to shoot while in the dunes. My theme was s-curves. This dune jumped out as me when I found it and I quickly noticed the background dune had a similar shape so I framed the photo to capture both.

The clouds were added in Photoshop. The shot was captured that same afternoon while in the dunes but in a different direction than the dunes in this image. I tried several different looks for the sky including contrasting solid colors, but the clouds seem to fit best with the sand blowing off the tops of the dunes.

Technical details: Canon 5DmkII, 24-105mm f/4L IS lens at 28mm, 1/160 sec at f/11, ISO 320.

This workshop was life changing and has completely changed my approach to photography. I'm excited to see where this takes me.

**Storm at the Dunes**
**Craig Colvin**

## July 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Print - Advanced

**Manley Beacon and Telescope Peak, DVNP**
**John Bujak**

This view of Zabrinski Point is from a secret pathway up the side and then along a step and dangerous unofficial path along the formation known as the Red Cathedral, very steep and a misstep could be deadly

I spent several previous visits to Death Valley to locate the access point to this trail. The Rangers are no help because of the danger. To make things worse, one must start finding the path in the dark, at least one hour before daylight.

I've been there twice, once by myself and once with Bill. If you are lucky and get clouds, the views are spectacular, even without clouds the low light on the badlands are great. on a morning without good light, all is for naught.

You must carry a good tripod and lenses.. from 14 to 200mm. The light contrast is extreme, graduated NDs are needed as is HDR techniques. This image was made with a D3, a 24mm PC-E tilt lens and a 2-stop Singray ND filter.

Getting this image is not for the faint of heart!! Especially with bad knees. On the way back, I slipped and tore up my hand and damaged my 2-stop ND filter.

## July 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Print - Basic

**Curious Bird Standing On A wicker Chair**
**Mark Emanuel**

My photo was taken on the Kona side of the big island in Hawaii. We were at the big island in Hawaii because very good friends of ours have a time share at the Hilton Hotel in Kona and they invited my wife and I to spend a week with them in Hawaii. The day the picture was taken we were at the Hotel swimming pool. Next to the swimming pool was a bar and grill restaurant. The restaurant had a roof but the sides of the restaurant were open allowing birds to come in and go out. I saw the small brown bird land on the wicker chair next to our table. He stood on the chair looking at the food we were having for lunch. I had my camera with me and I took a series of pictures of that curious bird. I chose my best picture for competition.

My camera is an EOS 40D and the lens that I used was my EF 28-135mm, f/3.5-5.6 IS USM. The camera shutter Speed was 1/45 sec with a f-stop of f/8 and a focal length of 135mm. The ISO speed was 200. I did not use a flash for fear of scaring the bird.

## July 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Basic

**Water Lillies**
**Nirmal Chand**

I took this picture at the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum's gardens in San Jose, in early September 2006.

The simplicity of the subject and the number of brilliant and contrasting colors appealed to me, and so I took the picture.

## *Meet John Perry, Our Print VP*

Well, I was born, raised and educated in America's Dairyland, Wisconsin. I met my lovely wife Karen of 45 years in Fond du Lac where she was a carhop at Gillies Drive-In. After getting my BS degree I spent 2 years working for Uncle Sam from 1967-1969. I then returned to Wisconsin to get my MS degree using the GI bill.

Now it was time to start a real career. That career has caused us to move more than 20 times and has taken us to such great places as Dallas, TX.; Colorado Springs, CO.; Newport, South Wales; Boston, MA.; Edinburgh, Scotland; Los Gatos, CA.; Tucson, AZ.; and Horsham, England.

Unfortunately I wasn't much of a photographer during those times. I just took some travel photos to document the fact that "we were there". You know the kind of photos I mean; national monuments, old castles, famous rivers, etc. all of which were taken in bad light and not very sharp. Tripod, what was that? I had all I could do to carry the camera.

When I retired from Applied Materials in 2002 I rekindled my interest in astronomy. While I was in graduate school I taught astronomy classes as a way of helping to finance my education. After several years of looking at and relearning the night skies I started reading more about CCD sensors that were being used in astrophotography. It was then that I realized that these new sensors were also being developed for single lens reflex camera bodies. So on a whim in 2008 I went out and purchased a Nikon D100 DLSR camera body and a Nikkor 24-85mm f2.8 lens.

As I started playing around with this "new" technology I quickly became hooked on digital photography. Eventually I realized that I needed help to improve my technique. So I began a web search that led to the Los Gatos/Saratoga Camera Club. I sent Mark Emanuel, who was the new member chairman, an e-mail and he invited me to attend the clubs meeting in July of 2009. At that meeting I decided to join the club and as a new member Mark introduced me to my mentor, Larry Rosier. I thought how cool is this, someone to lead me out of the darkness. Larry did exactly that. Thanks Larry.

Since joining the club in 2009 I have purchased lord knows how much more camera equipment, computers and photography software. I have taken several on-line courses, and have attended eleven formal workshops taught by professional photographers.

So, what does one do to put all these new skills into practice? Well you get into the car and drive, drive, drive. I have put over 14,000 miles on my car and have taken 13,200 photographs going as far east as New Mexico as far north as Montana/Oregon and as far west as California and everywhere in between to get good photo opportunities.

Being a curious person and relatively new to photography I like to take photographs of just about everything. I started with landscapes and then moved on to wildlife, flowers, portraits and birds in flight. I spent about three months working on my birds in flight technique before getting images I was happy with. A friend actually talked me into photographing his daughter's second marriage wedding. Never again, anyone that has ever tried this type of photography knows what I mean.

Wow, all I can say is life doesn't get much better than this.

## *More Reminders*

### Limit Three Images Per Media and Per Category

You can only enter a total of **three** images in each **media** (digital projected images or prints) with total of four entries at each competition.

You can also only enter **three** images in any one **category** (such as Color, Monochrome, Travel) regardless of whether they are digital or prints. In other words, if you enter three Color prints you cannot enter a Color digital projected image.

### Travel Titles

Remember that travel titles should include the name of the specific travel location.

### Central Coast Counties Camera Club Council (6C) Changes

The 6C competition times have changed.
Walk-ins for Prints are due by 9:15am. The Print competition is from 9:30 am through12:30 pm.
Walk-ins for Digital Projected Images on a USB thumb drive are due by 1pm with the competition at 1:30 pm.

6C now uses a web site at 6c.photoclubservices.com similar to ours for their digital competitions. You can view the digital Competition Results on their web site.

### Quiet Please

- No talking is permitted during judging or programs unless specifically requested by the judge or other presenter.
- Cell phones and all other electronic devices should be turned off

## *Key Contacts*

| President | Membership | Webmaster | Newsletter | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rick Whitacre<br>408-741-0107 | Ken Bloomfield<br>408-268-5205 | Bambi Cask<br>650-938-2605 | Airdrie Kincaid<br>408-247-3743 | Official publication of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club. Member of the Photographic Society of America |

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