# Newsletter

Vol 33 Issue 3 March 2011

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## *Reminders*

### Competition Requirements

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 (HM).

The Membership, Meetings, Competitions, Newsletters page on the web site has other general competition requirements.

### Remove Prints

Please remove your print from the Exhibit at the Coffee Society at 9 AM on Sunday February 27, 2011.

### Cell Phones Etc.

Please turn off cell phones, ipods, ipads, etc. and do not use them during presentations and judging.

### Housekeeping Help

Please put away chairs and help clean up after meeting.

### Monochrome

Monochrome prints and Monochrome digital projected image competitions are now every month.

## *Coming Club Events*

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

**Saturday February 26, 2011**
6C End of Year Banquet

**Friday, March 04 2011**
Deadline for entering digital images for March club competition

**Monday, March 07, 2011**
Competition
Digital - Nature, Color, Monochrome
Prints - Nature, Color, Monochrome
Judge: Bob Schmiedeskamp
Refreshments: John Bujak, Bambi Cask, Reanna Bakke

**Wednesday, March 16, 2011**
Deadline for emailing digital walk-ins for the March 6C competition (Creative, Nature, Color, Monochrome)

**Saturday, March 19, 2011**
6C Competition

**Monday, March 21, 2011**
Program
Cowboys and Cattle Drive Photography presented by Rebecca & Renis Harvey
Refreshments: Craig Colvin, Bob Downs, Mark Emanuel

**Sunday, April 03, 2011**
PSA Yerba Buena Spring Chapter Day
"A Photographic Life with Sam Abell"

## *All about PSA*

I am the PSA (Photographic Society of America) Representative for our club.

PSA is a world wide non-profit association dedicated to promoting and enhancing the art and science of photography in all its phases. PSA was founded in 1934 and is the largest association of its kind by far.

PSA is divided into chapters and our club is affiliated with the Yerba Buena Chapter of PSA (http://www.psa-yerbabuena.org/).

In March 2010 our club was recognized for 40 years of continuous membership in PSA. Recent benefits for club membership include a discount on our web site with Photo Club Services competition software and group liability insurance.

Many of our club members are also individual members of PSA. There are many significant benefits to joining PSA. You receive a monthly PSA Journal magazine which includes stimulating articles by members on shooting locations, educational instruction on shooting techniques and software usage, and many high quality images to view and appreciate.

As a member of PSA you receive access to the "Members Only" section of their website which has online versions of the Journal and also many educational articles including a section titled "Just For Beginners" which has detailed instruction on everything involved with using your camera to get an excellent image. You can get video instruction DVD's as well.

As a member you have access to "Personal Evaluation Services" where you can submit your image(s) for evaluation and detailed commentary from PSA experts. PSA holds multiple competitions in the different media and categories similar to our club competitions but with national and international recognition for winners.

There is an Annual Conference each year with the 2011 conference scheduled for Colorado Springs September 18-24 and the 2012 Conference scheduled right in our backyard at the Marriott San Francisco Airport Hotel in Burlingame, CA September 16-22.

As an individual member of PSA you can also join the local Yerba Buena Chapter and participate at reduced "member pricing" in their events, including the Spring (I sent out an email regarding the Sam Abell Presentation) and Fall Chapter Days. You also receive many significant discounts on hardware and software as a PSA member (i.e. 15% off Adobe Products).

Individual membership is currently priced at: $45 for one year; $88 for two years; $128 for three years. Yerba Buena Chapter dues is included for the first year and is $5 a year after that.

If you are interested in joining please go to our LGSCC website and at the bottom of our Home Page you will see a direct link to PSA (http://www.psa-photo.org/). If you have any questions, please contact me.

Bernie Weinzimmer, LGSCC PSA Chair
bweinzimmer@comcast.net

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

We asked the February competition winners to share how they created their winning images and if applicable, what is was, when and where it was taken, and why.

## February 2011 First Place Creative Digital Projected Image

Simplicity in Form
Mary Ellen Kaschub

This is an image that I took over a year ago.

The subject is a bird of paradise that I photographed on my coffee table with a black background. I then played with different filter effects - but what combination I used to get this image I don't remember.

I am particularly fond of birds of paradise and my friend Susan had given me a few that were especially clean and beautiful - thus I was inspired to see what I could do with them!

## February 2011 First Place Creative Print

My photograph was taken in early October in Grand Tetons NP. The October date was significant because it allowed me to photograph the aspens at peak color. It was about 8 in the morning and a stand of three trees was chosen for the dynamic colors and the back lighting.

To give this image a more “creative” look it was processed in Photoshop CS5 using a Topaz Simplify watercolor painting filter.

Next I used Lightroom 3 to improve the overall color saturation and completed the image giving it a more dreamy appearance by reducing the clarity to -50%.

Artsy Aspen
John Perry

## February 2011 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image

**Windswept Icicles - Lake Tahoe**
**Martin Roberts**

This image was a grab shot that I took whilst walking on a small private beach near Zephyr Cove in Lake Tahoe over New Years. When I left the house it was snowing hard and as it was a 'family walk' I just popped my point and shoot camera in my jacket pocket. When we got to the beach the snow had stopped but a storm was still out over the lake and the sun was trying to break through.

I saw this old sign sticking out of some rocks that made up a small private harbor with the icicles hanging from it that had been formed during a strong wind blowing in from the lake. Climbing over the ice covered rocks to get the shot I wanted was a tad treacherous but well worth it. I love all the different textures and the way the light catches the ice.

This just goes to show that you don't need top of the range equipment to win with an image... You just need to be there to compose and grab it.

Technical Specs: Canon IXUS 850IS - 1/200 sec at f/5.8, focal length 17.3mm

## February 2011 First Place Monochrome Print

The photograph was taken at 7:16AM, August 14th, 2010 during a Erickson Family Cattle Company Cowboy Photography Workshop led by Rebecca Harvey ( http://www.1photo-op.com/ ), a former member of our club, and Al Golub ( http://www.golubphoto.com/ ), retired Director of Photography at the Modesto Bee. The workshop took place at the Erickson Ranch near Coulterville, CA, and the Erickson family provided subjects for the photographers.

The photograph was taken with a Nikon D700 camera and a 70-200mm zoom lens set to 160mm. Details of the photograph are: 1/500 sec, f/8, ISO 400, hand held. The image was processed using Lightroom, and the sepia tone was produced with the Lightroom Split Toning panel.

**Cattle Drive #1**
**Larry Rosier**

**Editor's Note**
Rebecca Harvey and her husband Renis will present our March program on Cowboys and Cattle Drive Photography.

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

Big Sur Coastline At Sunset
Bernard Weinzimmer

Back in March, 2009, I had taken a day trip to Big Sur with Stan Litwin, Michael Schneider, and Mike Hamilton. We were working our way back up the coastline toward the end of the day. We stopped just South of Point Lobos shortly before sunset and walked down to the beach. I found this outcropping of rocks that looked pretty interesting and set up my tripod with my Nikon D2X and 10.5 Fisheye lens.

I always shoot in RAW and the exposure was set at 1/8 second f18.0. I focused at the approximate hyperfocal distance which allowed the foreground all the way out to infinity to be in focus. When you shoot with a Fisheye lens the resulting image is very distorted so that the horizon follows an extreme curvature. In Nikon Capture NX2 I corrected for this distortion and processed the image saving it as a Tiff.

I was going back through my images for the February competition when I came across this image. Using Photoshop CS5 I proceeded to further process the image once again. There was some lens flare on the sunset which I removed using the Healing Brush with Content Aware Fill. I also used my Nik Color Efex Pro Filters to darken the sky and bring out the tonal contrast on the rocks. Also put in some vignetting to darken the edges and made sure the horizon was straight.

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

This image was shot on 12/30/07 at 4:15 p.m. I frequently drive over to Steamer Lane when I know the surf is up and the tide and conditions are good. This image was one of approximately 300 that I shot on that day and the closer surfer was also the subject of another image that did well in the January competition. The conditions on that day were absolutely perfect so don't be surprised if you see more images from that shoot in future competitions.

I was on the point with the sun at my back. I had my 70-200mm VR mounted on my D2X with a 1.7 telextender. This shot was taken at 1/750th of a second at f4.8 (essentially wide open) and I believe it was shot hand held, although I can't be sure about that.

Shooting surfers is a passion of mine and I like to have the sun on their faces to enhance the sharpness and clarity of the image. This image was initially processed using Nikon Capture NX2 with minimal adjustments.

Taking The Drop At Steamer Lane
Bernard Weinzimmer

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

**Sandy Leipsic**
**Rocky Road**

This was taken at Capitol Reef in Utah a short walk in from the road. A storm had passed and another was moving in, and the clouds were spectacular.

I love paths, and when I saw the rock formations flowing toward the light on the mountain range with those billowing clouds in the background, I needed to capture the moment.

I took this at f/11. 1/160th of a second, at ISO 100, on a stormy day in February mid afternoon.

## February 2011 First Place Digital Projected Image - Basic

**A baby to Die For**
**Ari Strod**

1. Picture of Thai baby
2. Taken as is without any special processing
3. Spotted in the crowd during our latest trip to Thailand three months ago
4. The baby was so cute that I fell in love with it.

## *Meet Martin Roberts*

Before moving back to Cambridgeshire in the UK in June 2011, Martin shared his personal and photographic story with us.

I am 'relatively new' to photography, messing around with it on and off over the years, and with no training consider myself a complete amateur, relying on my 'eye for a photo' more than any technical expertise!

I was born in 1969 in a little village called Overton in the county of Hampshire (UK) and had to catch a bus every day to another larger village where there was a Secondary School (that's a High School to you guys). It was here at aged 15 in my Art class that I first got my hands on a real camera, a 35mm Pentax K1000, and learnt a little bit about light and composition… Although at age 15 I was more interested in a girl in my class called Karolyn than I was in shutter speeds and focal lengths. But none the less I did take a few shots and my interest in photography was ignited.

So I saved my pocket money (aka allowance) and bought myself a Pentax K1000 and a couple of lenses and set about snapping away for a few years until I was distracted again by girls and cars which soaked up all my funds and made photography just 'too expensive' to pursue, especially when out of a roll of film I only ever seemed to get a few shots that I considered worth keeping. So my camera bag went in a cupboard and that's where it stayed for many years until I went on a trip in 1994 to Thailand. Thailand was such an amazing place compared to anywhere else I'd ever been that my camera came out the cupboard and once again I had the photography bug. Following this experience I upgraded my camera to a Pentax ME Super and in 1995 booked a tour by mini-bus of Sri-Lanka and shot so many rolls of film that I practically needed a suitcase just to get them home!

The cost of photography was still an issue though and what with a relatively low wage as I climbed the career ladder as a Design Engineer and a new found love of Scuba Diving my camera bag was once again put away in a cupboard at my parents' house where it remains to this day. It's not the end of the story though as it was while scuba diving from a boat in the Egyptian Red Sea that I met my wife Ruth and it is that event which led me down a path that has caused me to get into photography once again and ultimately seen me join the LGSCC. (Are you bored yet?).

On meeting Ruth I decided to relocate from Hampshire to Cambridgeshire so we could marry and start a family and as a result of that decision I ended up working for a small Cambridgeshire-based technology company called NXT. In January 2007 NXT offered me a position in Hong Kong and we relocated with our 2 year old daughter (Lauren) and our 4 year old son (Tom) to live in Stanley on Hong Kong Island. For me this was Thailand and Sri-Lanka all over again… A constant sensory overload, with an array of visual delights just crying out to be recorded on camera. So I bought myself a 'point and shoot' Digital Canon IXUS 850IS camera. Getting some good shots with this I quickly decided I wanted to do more and so I bought a Canon EOS 350D (Rebel XT) Digital SLR.

During our time in Hong Kong we travelled extensively to some amazing places, (Bali, China, Cambodia, Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Macau and Vietnam), met some amazing people and saw some amazing things.

By now you've probably gathered that Travel and Travel Photography are my passions, and so when in the summer of 2008 we were asked by NXT to relocate again to California you can imagine we weren't slow in replying "Okay, when do we go?" So when I saw a National Geographic Traveler seminar entitled '*The Versatile Travel Photographer*' being presented by Bob Krist and Ralph Lee Hopkins in San Francisco in February 2010 I booked myself a place in a flash. Sitting next to me in the theatre were two lovely people called Airdrie Kincaid and Richard Ingles and so that's how little old me from Overton Hampshire ended up in the company of the mixed and marvellous bunch of shooters at the LGSCC.

I've recently upgraded my kit again and now carry two Canon EOS 40D's (I hate changing lenses) one with the Canon EF 24-105mm 1:4L and the other with the new Canon EF 70-300mm 1:4-5.6L, also in my bag I carry the Canon EF-S 60mm 1:2.8 macro lens and a Tamron SP 10-24mm 1:3.5-4.5 wide angle zoom. My son, Tom, now carries my retired EOS 350D and is already a keen amateur and bugs me regularly about joining the club and entering his images into the monthly competitions (he's my biggest fan!).

As I said early on I'm no 'techie' and don't even own, let alone carry, a flash unit and a tripod, and until recently when I bought a copy of Photoshop Elements 8 I'd never used or manipulated an image in my life and I'm still very purist in my way of thinking. For me it's all about bang on composition, the impact of the image, and catching what you can with what you've got. My opinion is you don't need a Canon EOS 5D Mark II to take great shots… but I still want one!

I enjoy sharing my images, the club is great for this and I also have my own website (www.myworldmyimages.com), but another great way to share and keep your favourite photographs in a way that makes them fun and easy to view is to make your own book. After we'd left Asia I decided to produce a photo book using www.blurb.com just one of many available packages out there. I found their software easy to use and a book can be completed quickly using a variety of layouts and finish types. The costs are reasonable and the printing and delivery time is reasonably fast. See my effort at www.blurb.com/bo/detail/305966 . These books make great keepsakes and also great gifts… I recently photographed a friend's wedding and my gift to them was a book of the day I created on Blurb… Give it a try, it's fun and rewarding.

On the subject of books my favourites well worth a read by anyone looking for tips and inspiration are: "Travel Photography" by Bob Krist and any books by Michael Freeman. I have four of his books. "The Photographer's Mind", "Perfect Exposure", "The Complete Guide To Black & White Photography" and "The Photographer's Eye", which to me is his best book and a 'must read' for any amateur photographer… Like me!

## *Tet Field Trip Photos*

Thanks to Joseph Grapa.

Photographer at Work

Nirmal has a Smile of Happiness

Being Attacked by a Lion

## *Key Contacts*

| President | Membership | Webmaster | Newsletter | Official publication of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club. Member of the Photographic Society of America |
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