Los Gatos/Saratoga Camera Club Newsletter

www.losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org

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Reminders

Dues

February 29, 2012 is the deadline for paying 2012 dues.

Competition Definitions

Before entering a competition, be sure to read the definitions and maximum entries on the Competition Types page.

6C Awards Lunch Registration

The form and check made out to 6C must be given to Betty Toepfer by Feb 23rd. Guests are welcome but their tickets should also be purchased in advance and their names provided. This money is to pay for the rental of the room and does not include any food or beverages.

Orientation initiative

The Membership team lead by Gary Marcos is undertaking a new Orientation Initiative this year to improve knowledge of what the club has to offer and how to use our website for the most common tasks (e.g. submitting images for competition, or sending an email).

New members will be assigned an orientation lead who will be able to answer most questions. Additional information on volunteering and other aspects of being a member of the club will be posted and available to all members.

Coming Club Events

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

Saturday, February 04, 2012
Deadline for Entering Images for February Club Competition

Monday, February 06, 2012
Postcard image selection for Exhibit Competition:
Creative, Color, Monochrome
Refreshments - TBA
Judge - Alison Brooks

Monday, February 13, 2012
Program - "Your Event, How to Take a Story Telling Approach"
Presented by Rick E. Martin
Refreshments - TBA

Saturday, February 18, 2012
9 am - 4 pm N4C All Day Seminar with Nevada Wier
San Leandro Public Library

Monday, February 20, 2012
No Meeting!!

February 29, 2012
Deadline for paying 2012 dues

Saturday, March 03, 2012
Deadline for Entering Images for March Club Competition

12 Noon 6C 2011 Awards Lunch
Harry's Hoffbrau San Jose

Meet Molly Gaylord

I was born in Shreveport, Louisiana and had the great fortune of living near my beloved grandfather. He retired the year I was born and finally had time for his two passions-his grandchildren and photography. He gave me a Brownie camera for my sixth birthday and introduced me to photography.

When I was ten years old he gave me a Zeiss Ikon camera and would take me on photo shoots. He taught me to record each exposure on a white notecard with the subject, film exposure number, film type, film speed, aperture, shutter speed and type of ambient light. I don't recall discussing composition with him but I did learn a great deal about using a camera in manual mode. More than anything, I loved the time I spent with him and discovering the magic of capturing a moment in time.

When I was fourteen my family moved to Houston, Texas and my interest in photography was put on a dusty shelf. After graduation from high school I obtained a B.S. in Nursing from University of Texas. I married and had a son while working as a public health nurse. During this phase of my life my involvement in photography was limited to snapshots of family and vacations.

We moved to Morgan Hill, CA in 1986 and I worked with special needs students with the Santa Clara County Office of Education until I retired in 2005. At that time I purchased my first digital camera, a Nikon 990, because it offered the option of manual settings. After retirement I rekindled my interest in photography. About two years ago I upgraded to a Nikon D90. At that time I started using Photoshop Elements for editing and took classes on the program through SeniorNet.

My education in photography has come primarily from my grandfather's tutelage, reading books and watching You-Tube videos. This past fall I took my first formal photography class (Color Photography) and a Photoshop CS5 class at West Valley College. I learned so much from being 'forced' to take LOTS of photos for assignments and having the instructor and class critique the photos.

Initially, my focus in photography involved landscape photography and scenes of nature. I would stay as long as necessary in a location until I could capture a photo that was devoid of people. Then everything changed when our first (and only) grandchild, Gavin, was born eighteen months ago. I discovered the joy in attempting to capture the human spirit. I am truly a beginner in this endeavor and I'm just starting to understand the meaning of the phrase "it's all about the light". Lately my focus has been trying to learn to use off-camera flash to sculpt the light. I often feel my brain is on overload trying to absorb all of the aspects that go into making a photograph memorable.

I joined the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club almost a year and a half ago. The members have been so willing to share their knowledge and expertise. There is a great sense of camaraderie at the meetings and on photo shoots. Although I have entered photos in only a few of the competitions I have learned so much from seeing other club members' beautiful photos and hearing the judges' critiques. One of my New Year's resolutions is to actively participate in this important aspect of the camera club. I recently shared with my husband that I have just peeked into the world of photography and the possibilities are truly amazing.

Club Print Exhibits

By Mary Ellen Kaschub with photos from the current exhibit at Willow Glen Coffee Roasting Company

This year marks the ninth exhibit the Los Gatos/Saratoga Camera Club has mounted in the Los Gatos Town Council Chambers. The show will run March 15 through June 19 with the opening reception Thursday, March 22 from 6-8 pm. Twenty-seven members will participate, most exhibiting two works each.

Says Jade Branbury, Art in the Council Chambers exhibit curator, "The Camera Club has come to be one of the top favorites of the local exhibitors in Council Chambers. I personally like knowing that the overall quality of their showings will be high and of great interest to the public. In short, we're really pleased to have you on the schedule for this year."

The Camera Club first exhibited in the Council Chambers in 2003 from what was a "fortunate opportunity" says Mary Ellen Kaschub, the Club's Chambers exhibit chair. "At the time I was a member of the Los Gatos Arts Commission as well as a very new, and slightly intimidated member of our Camera Club. There was an exhibit cancellation and I thought maybe the Camera Club would be interested in showing their work. Mounting an exhibit of that scale was a first, but the club rose to the challenge. We had a very good initial showing and it has grown from there."

From the start a member vote has been held to select the image that represents the Club show from images submitted by participating members. The first postcard image was a beautiful abstract of sand dunes by a former member. Since then, a variety of subjects have been selected. On February 6, our next competition night, we'll make this year's selection.

The opening reception is always a special evening. Town Council members attend, public comments are made and curator Bradbury asks some of the photographers to describe their particular photograph and the intent behind it.

The Town of Los Gatos *Art in the Council Chambers* program features four exhibits throughout the year. The goal of the program is to provide culture and enrichment for the Town and the opportunity of arts groups to display in the Council Chambers. An evening Artist Reception is held for each exhibit that gives the community the opportunity to preview the art and meet the artists.

The Town of Los Gatos Arts and Culture Commission invites you to enjoy a variety of creative and inspiring works of art produced by local artists right here in our community. For more information on Art in the Council Chambers or if you would like to be placed on our mailing list to receive updates, please call (408) 354-6834.

The Town's Council Chambers are located downstairs in the Civic Center, 110 E. Main Street, and are open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm. The art is available for viewing if the Council Chambers is unoccupied. Please check in with the Town Hall Office if you would like to view the exhibit.

January Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

We asked each of the makers of the January 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.

January 2012 First Place Journalism Print

Aerial Cartwheel with Sword:
Wushu-Kungfu Championships, SJ, July 2010
Don Schremp

I can thank my son for helping me get several of my PJ photos, and this is one of them. He has been taking Wushu Kungfu classes for awhile and decided to participate in this competition when it took place in San Jose. If not for that, I would never have thought of going to this event, even if I knew it was happening.

The contestants came from several countries and were very good. It was very difficult to capture a good image. The light was pretty dim, the audience was not allowed on the floor with the competitors, and the action was very fast. I decided to use my Canon 5DMII camera even though it has a slow frame rate because it has much better high ISO performance. I used my f2.8 lens and ISO 6400 to get a fast enough shutter speed to mostly freeze the action.

By taking lots of pictures, I was able to capture a few good images.

January 2012 First Place Journalism Digital Projected Image

Vietnamese piggies going to market
Uwe Schmalenbach

This image was taken in Feb 2008 in Vietnam out of the side window of our tour bus with a Canon 40D at f5.6, 1/60, ISO 800, 24mm.

The thought was: this is surely different. Adjustments were minimum other than cropping. With 1/60 in a driving bus the background automatically got blurred.

2012 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image

Boat On A Rope
Martin Roberts

My "Boat on a Rope" was taken at around 10am in Plymouth, MA on 9th October ’11. I was looking at the 'Mayflower II' (the replica of the ship that carried a heap of my countrymen over to your fair land back in 1620) when I saw this wooden rowing boat roped to a jetty. I positioned myself so that I framed the image so as the rope would lead the eye to the boat, which I liked as the hard lines of the boats wooden structure contrasted nicely with the softness of the water upon which it floated.

Equipment was a Canon 40D with Canon EF 24-105mm L Series Lens (ISO-250, 1/60sec, f/7.1, 47mm). As always the image was shot with the camera set to Monochrome mode.

January 2012 First Place Monochrome Print

First Place Rising From the Fog
Don Schremp

I have seen example pictures of the Golden Gate Bridge towers and the tall buildings of San Francisco rising out of the fog. I always thought it would be fun to get an image like that. When I saw on the SF webcams that low fog was hanging around the bridge I decided to jump in the car and give it a try.

At first when I arrived, I was disappointed by the fog blocking the view. After hanging around for awhile, I found the view changed quite rapidly. I just waited and took pictures as the fog came in and out providing many variations.

The example pictures I have seen were all taken in daylight. This picture was taken well after dark, when it would normally be hard to get a good image of the bridge. The fog and clouds were lit up by the bridge lights and the city lights which reduced the contrast and made for a more interesting image.

January 2012 First Place Color Print - Advanced

High and Dry
Don Schremp

This boat is located near Point Reyes National Seashore (you might guess that from the name on the bow). If you look for photos of Point Reyes, you will find a number of good photos of this boat. There have been several good examples presented at the club. Most of the pictures are taken from a low viewpoint; some of the best ones include a reflection of the boat in the water.

The challenge for me was to try and come up with a different view point and image. The tide was out, so there was not much water to work with. I ended up taking the picture from a high, close viewpoint using a wide angle lens.

January 2012 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Advanced

Bailing Boats
Rebecca Smith-Coggins

My husband and I went to Nepal in the fall of 2010 to work for the Nepal Ambulance Service. We taught basic emergency medical skills to a group of students who were selected to staff the first emergency medical system in Kathmandu.

We were able to stay for an extra week and went trekking to Annapurna Base Camp. We spent one night in Pokhara after our trek was finished. This photo was taken first thing in the morning of a woman bailing a boat on Phewa Lake in Pokhara.

Exposure was with ISO 250 at 1/160 sec at f/5.6 with focal length 300mm.

January 2012 First Place Color Print - Basic

Waves Hitting a Cave
Ari Strod

This was taken at Pfeiffer Beach State Park beach at late afternoon, couple of summers ago. We were impressed with the view, but at that time of day we could not manage other beautiful pictures. It was taken via simple setting of my Nikon D40.

January 2012 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Basic

Butterfly landing on flower
Uwe Schmalenbach

Taken with Canon 7D in March 2011 at f8.0, 1/500, ISO 500, 400mm of the 100-400 f4.0-5.6 lens. During my Costa Rica trip we were in an enclosed area to show butterflies, but they were hard to get because they were constantly flying, rarely staying anywhere. I used the full extension of the lens to get frame filling images and took lots of them.

Key Contacts

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