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The Newsletter

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Los Gatos – Saratoga Camera Club

http://losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org/

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Mon May 3	**Club Meeting** Competition: PJ and Color -- Slides, Digital Images, and Prints Judge: Jearme Greathouse Refreshments: Jeff KATZ, Barry GRIVETT, Sherry GRIVETT
Mon May 10	Deadline for emailing digital walk-ins for the May 6C competition (Travel, PJ, and Color)
Sat May 15	6 C's Competition.
Mon May 17	**Club Meeting** Program: *To B or Not to B*, followed by *Member Critique*. See Page 6. Refreshments: Mike HAMILTON, Bill HENDERSON, Reg HILDRETH
Wed June 2	Deadline for emailing digital images for the June club competition (Creative and Color)
Mon June 7	**Club Meeting** Competition: Creative and Color -- Slides, Digital Images, and Prints. Monochrome -- Prints Judge: Lescher Dowling Refreshments: Richard INGLES, Mary Ellen KASCHUB, Joseph GRAPA

April Photo Competition
First-Place Winners Tell Us How They Did It

The Newsletter asked first-place winners in our March competition to explain how they made their winning photos. Judging was by Kenna Mawk.

Slides: Travel
Tending the funeral pyre along the Bagmati River
Kathmandu, Nepal
by Peggy Patterson
"Kathmandu is one of the most exciting and different places I've ever visited. I was there in a market place without a guide – I think it's more fun to be on my own – when I heard about this funeral spot on the river three blocks away. As in the USA, funerals are big family events, but so different from our own. Attendants supervise the cremation of the deceased while holy men watch, families picnic, and kids swim in the river. I took this from across the river with the lunching families using my 200mm lens. I only took three shots, as I didn't want to be intrusive."

Slides Color: *Cathedral Peaks, Sedona*
by Ronnie Rabedeau
"Mel and I discovered a new back road through Sedona red rocks. What I remember most about this picture is trying to get the small white foreground tree in a visually interesting spot. I took lots of shots – this one was the best. I'd entered this picture in a previous contest and the judge told me I needed to get rid of that little tree. I thought he was wrong, so I submitted the image a second time. I'm glad I left it as I had it."

Digital Color: *Water Lily*
by Peggy Patterson
"I took a cab to the Singapore Botanical Garden by myself on a foggy morning. The cab driver surprised me by stopping at a small side entrance. 'Go here,' he said, 'you will avoid the early crowds from the main gate.' He was right – I had a lily pond all to myself. As I was setting up my tripod, a gardener tapped my shoulder and asked me to wait. He scooped dead leaves out of the way to improve the scene. Two strangers who were wonderfully helpful. I used my 400mm lens to frame the lily as a close-up."

April 1st Place Winners (cont.)

Digital: Travel
Harvesting Seaweed at Bali, Indonesia, by Ken Bloomfield
"From a cliff overlooking the beach in Bali we could see seaweed farms extending out a quarter mile or more into the shallow water. To get this shot I had to descend to the beach down 249 steps (they were numbered). It was over 100°, massively hot standing on the white sand taking pictures. I really wanted to be out in the water, too. There was no shade anywhere. To get back, I had to climb up those same 249 stairs – more effort than I was expecting."

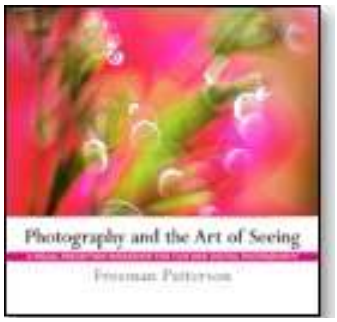
Prints: Monochrome – *Into the Woods,* by Harvey Gold

"I took this at Moss Beach immediately after I shot the photo, *Flipper Prints of a Young Harbor Seal,* which I showed in last month's Nature competition. The undisturbed fallen log caught my eye. But the picture had way too many distracting elements in it, so I Photoshopped in the vignette and then sepia-toned it to give it an old-time feeling. I printed at Costco – they do a great job on black-and-whites now."

Prints: Color
Stick, Muir Woods, by John Bujak

"I was working with Uwe on a club trip to Muir Woods, looking for simple compositions. You don't have to be in some grand scenic place to take a good outdoor image. This one is a three-exposure composite taken with my manual 85mm tilt lens on a 2X converter. The tilt allowed me to get tack-sharp near-to-far depth of field. I used Unified Color HDR and Photoshop to give it a little more 3D depth and bring out shadow details."

Classes by and for LGSCC Members



Freeman Patterson Workshop

Mary Ellen Kaschub and Don Schremp will lead a participative workshop guided by Freeman Patterson's book *Photography and the Art of Seeing*. They will focus on improving visual thinking, the basis of Freeman's work. They won't cover camera operation, controls, or basic techniques; the workshop is suited for intermediate and advanced photographers.
Eight meetings and two group field trips are planned. Meetings will feature discussions of the book and review of photo assignments. Mary Ellen and Don will cover elements of visual design in shape, line, light and color, how the camera sees space, and how best to work with principles of visual design. Please contact **mekaschub@comcast.net** by Thursday, May 5, if you are interested. There's room for 6 to 8 flexible participants. The plan is to meet one midweek evening every two or three weeks. Because of summer vacations, workshop meeting dates will be flexible and set to best meet everyone's schedules.

Other Classes of Interest

TIM COOPER
PHOTOGRAPHY & LEARNING

By Gary Marcos

I attended the Tim Cooper class in San Mateo April 25 and was amazed at the thoroughness, expertise and technical information he conveyed in full day class. The class was held on a beautiful sunny day at the San Mateo Community Center in the auditorium where there were approximately 70 people in attendance. This included a few folks from our club as well. What I liked about Tim's presentation style was his balance of the art of photography (*e.g.* using different kinds of twilight) with the science (*e.*g. discussing metering, Photoshop and Photomatix). He was also an excellent listener and responded to all questions asked. Tim covered:

- Magic Light - best times to shoot and why
- Components of the light (different kinds of twilight, back light, side light, front light)
- Planning for shots (the more you know your subject, the more likely it is you will take a good shot)
- Preferred camera settings for landscape photography
- Camera techniques on site
- Exposing for multiple exposures
- Landscape composition
- Neutral density filters (physical filters discussed, but his technique is multi-shots and Photoshop with gradients or Photomatix)
- Raw *vs.* Jpg (less than 5 people out of the 70 shot jpg). Also discussed compressed raw.
- Using Photoshop and/or Photomatix to blend images.

If Tim comes around again, I highly recommend him. The true test was that everybody came back from the lunch break. You can check out his gallery at: http://www.timcooperphotography.com/

West Valley College

Don't overlook the wide variety of affordable classes offered by the West Valley College Photography Department. The Photo Department Chairman, Brian Tramontana, is willing to waive some class prerequisites for students with photographic experience. Summer class registration for new students begins May 5.

Rick Whitacre, one of our new members, has taken several photography courses recently at West Valley College and is very positive on the experience. Rick will be happy to answer your questions.

http://www.westvalley.edu/ss/photo/photography.html

Tired of Clueless Judges Passing Over Your Fine Photos?

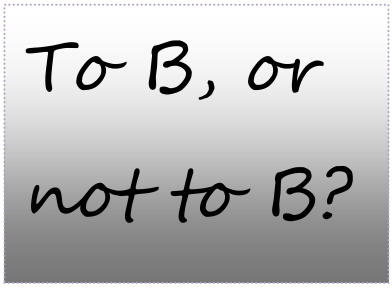
Help our hard working Judging Committee recruit new blood!

Help Stan Litwin and Lourdes Pollard increase our pool of qualified photo judges. Contact a photographer you know who may be qualified and willing to judge a competition.

What to Do:

- Contact a prospective judge.
- Confirm his or her interest and available date(s).
- Tell Lourdes (4lourdes@comcast.net) or Stan (stanlitwin@hotmail.com).

What makes a judge qualified?
See the Judge's Manual at http://www.n4c.org/



Program Night – Monday, May 17
Should We Restore the "B" Competition Level?

Please plan to attend the club meeting on Monday, May 17, 7:30 PM, to talk about competition levels. Last December the board voted to drop the "B" level, so experienced and inexperienced photographers compete in all competition categories. At the March board meeting this was reaffirmed, but the vote was almost evenly split, so the board decided to ask the club membership for guidance on next steps.

Why the "B" competition level was dropped:

- Motivation -- competing against top photographers motivates one to submit better images and makes winning meaningful.
- Workload – an extra classification takes more work to manage. We lacked enough volunteers, and so sought to reduce the work load.
- Long meetings – our competition nights were running later than many members liked.

Why the "B" level might be restored:

- Fairness --it seems unfair to put beginners up against the club's best photographers in every category.
- Fun – winning is fun, and more classifications will mean more winners.
- Be like the other clubs -- most California clubs have 3 or 4 classes of competition. PSA has 5.

What do you think? Come to the May 17 meeting and tell your board.

Member Critique – May 17, After the "B" Competition Level Discussion

After a no-doubt spirited discussion of the "B" competition level, Peggy Patterson will moderate a member image critique. This is an opportunity for you to submit one or two images for critique by members of the club. (We may have time only for one image per member.) We all have images that we like, but perhaps are unsure whether to enter them in competition. A little cropping suggestion or just validation that the image is wonderful can help a lot. Frequently images seen at a member critique night show up in later competitions as winners. The critique program also helps members understand how difficult the task of judging can be. Titles are not read and the name of the maker is not announced. If you wish to bring two images, please assign a number 1 or 2 to the images as we will critique the number one image of all members before possibly proceeding to number two.

Digital Images: Digital images must be sized and labeled as they would be for regular club competition. Digital images must be submitted to Dick Stuart by May14th. If you are sending two images to Dick, please be sure to include which image is number 1.

Slides: Please make sure to include your name and a projection dot on the slide mount. There will be a slide tray available and the section of the tray for slide 1 and a possible slide 2 will be indicated. Place your slide in the next available slot with the projection dot in the upper-right corner.

Prints: Please be sure to put your name on the back of the print. There will be a table on which to place all #1 prints as you arrive at the meeting. A separate area will be found for any #2 prints. Please arrive a little early so that members may have time to view the images on the table. This allows a close-up view of each image that is not possible during the critique.

Critique Groups: We'll break up into several small critique groups to encourage discussion.

Critiques: When the first image is projected, the critique moderator will ask for comments from the first critique group. Comments should include positive aspects of the image, followed by any suggestions for improvement. Please be sure to stick to constructive comments. After comments by Group 1, members belonging to other groups will be asked for additional comments. The maker may then comment, if desired, before the next image is projected. Group 2 will make initial comments on the next image.

Please contact Peggy Patterson at (408) 984-4933 if you have questions.

Featured Website: Digital Photography Review

Everything technical you ever wanted to know about the latest digital cameras and much, much more. This is the premier gear-head web site for up-to-the-minute news about digital cameras and photo software. Dozens of active forums where members answer your questions (often correctly) on specific cameras, lenses, and software, plus comprehensive equipment reviews and detailed camera comparisons. This site answers the eternal question, "How can I spend more money on photography?"

http://www.dpreview.com/

Key Contacts:

				Official publication of the **Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club**. http://losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org/ **Meetings** : first and third Mondays monthly, 7:30 PM at the Elks Club of Los Gatos, 105 Newell Ave. (Winchester near Lark Ave) Member of the Photographic Society of America.
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