Los Gatos/Saratoga Camera Club
www.losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org

Newsletter

Vol 33 Issue 4 April 2011

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Reminders

Volunteers Needed

If you do not have a club job yet, please volunteer for one.

- We need a Secretary to take over from Bambi who is the Webmaster now.
- John Perry needs one or two folks to help out in Prints.
- Stan needs one or -two folks to help with equipment set-up and tear-down.

Have you calibrated your monitor lately?

Using the club's Spider-3 equipment and software, Calibration Chair Jeff Katz will come to your computer and perform the service when it's convenient for you.

Just phone him at 408-255-7423 or e-mail to jeffrudi@earthlink.net to arrange an appointment. And be prepared to donate $10 to the club to help cover the cost of the equipment.

New By-Laws

Please review the proposed By-law revision for the vote at the regular meeting on Monday, April 18th. Any questions should be addressed to JoAn Lambert at jgdblam@earthlink.net.

Coming Club Events

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

Friday, April 01, 2011
Deadline for entering digital images for April club competition

Monday, April 04, 2011
Competition
Digital - Travel, Color, Monochrome;
Prints - Color, Monochrome
Judge: Duane Pepper
Refreshments - Rick Whitacre, Bob Leipsic, Gene Faucher

Monday, April 18, 2011
Program 6C End Of Year Show Review of the best of the best in the 6C
Vote on proposed By-Laws revision
Refreshments - Joseph Grapa, Julee Cade, Susan Dinga

Friday, April 29, 2011
Deadline for entering digital images for May club competition

Monday, May 02, 2011
Competition:
Digital - PJ, Color, Monochrome;
Prints - PJ, Color, Monochrome
Refreshments - Harvey Gold, Alex Goldberger, Sherman Golub

Friday, May 06, 2011
LGSCC Exhibit - Los Gatos "Art in the Council Chamber" Program Set-Up

All About 6C (Central Coast Counties Camera Club Council)

Our 6C representative, Betty Toepfer, tells us all about the Central Coast Counties Camera Club Council. Although there are currently six clubs in our council, the abbreviation stands for the six Cs in the name.

Part of your club dues is paid to 6C so each Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club member is also a member. The council sponsors bi-monthly competitions between clubs that give you another opportunity for critique, an annual competition and banquet, and honors for members actively participating in 6C and the member clubs. There are three councils in Northern CA and an annual FotoClave conference is hosted by one of the three councils.

As the Council Rep I attend six board meetings a year and vote on decisions for our club. I also arrange refreshments for one of the competitions and bring small prizes from our club for the End of Year banquet and FotoClave.

The categories and the dates for 6C competitions in March, May, July, September, November, and January are on our club Events Calendar page. After each 6C competition the titles of winning images are updated to show how they did at the 6C competition.

The 6C web site includes additional information about upcoming competitions, directions, guidelines, entry forms, and recent issues of the bi-monthly Council News newsletter.

At each bi-monthly 6C competition, each club can enter up to six prints or digital images in each category. Entries placing first, second, third, and the first three HMs at our club will be submitted for challenge categories.
Since we have Color and Monochrome competitions every month, the best three images go to 6C. For Color, at each competition, the judge will be asked to pick what he/she feels are the best three images out of the six winners (1st, 2nd, and 3rd in both A & B divisions) to be entered into the 6C competitions.

In addition to the winning prints and digital images entered by our club, any member of our club who attends the 6Cs competition can walk in one print and digital image for each competition category. Point totals for each club are accumulated during the 6C competition year (March through January) and announced at the 6C annual banquet.

Print walk-ins can be entered at the competition. Digital walk-ins must be emailed to Dick Stuart at rrstuart@yahoo.com (unless another member of the digital committee is listed on the Calendar) by the date listed on our club Events Calendar page so that he can submit them to the digital rep before noon on the Friday before the Saturday meeting.

The Digital file names are specific for 6C so the Digital team will rename the files prior to submission. There are detailed instructions available on the Meetings page of the 6C web site. The Interclub Competition form used to enter each category of the club's print images and the separate form used for all digital submissions are available for download in PDF or Word format on the Meetings page of the 6C web site.

Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

The March competition winners shared how they made their images. We also asked the makers what the image was, where it was taken, when, and why.

March 2011 First Place Nature Digital Projected Image

Anna's Hummingbird Feeding Her Young (Calypte anna)
Dick Stuart

My photo buddy, Nirmal Chand, and I paid a visit to the Almaden Valley Nursery one spring morning. I know the owner and on our arrival he greeted us and led us to a small tree in a pot. Then he pointed out the small humming bird nest in the fork of the tree. I immediately returned to the car for my tripod and set shop ready to shoot.

Over the next 10 minutes I shot a series of images as the mother flew out and returned with lunch for her brood. Nikon D300, 1/60 sec at f6.3, lens at 300mm.

About three days after this shot was taken, I returned to find that a storm had passed through and had blown the tree over, leaving the nest on the ground and the chicks in mortal distress. Even with careful nurturing by the staff the chicks did not survive. The mother survived to build another nest another day.

March 2011 First Place Nature Print

I see You Dinner! Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias)
Cindy Tucey

Taken with a Canon 40D, Canon 100-400L lens, 1/800 sec at f5.6. It was taken in early November in Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, on the Eastern shore of Maryland.

We enjoy photographing at wildlife refuges, as it gives a chance to see and photograph wild animals in their natural habitat. The Eastern Shore of Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware have several excellent wildlife refuges, including Blackwater NWR, that we visited whenever we had the opportunity (the refuges were several hours from our house so it was something we would do a few times each year).

We got our start in bird photography from a local photo safari tour run by Jack Nevitt, called Virginia Photo Safaris.

This Great Blue Heron was excellent at fishing and caught several while I photographed him. However, this one fish eluded capture and seemed to surprise the heron as it popped out of the water nearby.

March 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Advanced

Tibetan Musician with Beautiful Carved Instrument
Joseph Grapa

During a pose of a project I was working in Paris I took a stroll downtown. A troupe of five musicians were playing in front of a museum.

What called my attention, naturally, were their clothing and their music. Looking a bit closer I realized their instruments' head were magnificently carved.

Please see attached photo.

The settings were f 7.1 1/200. Taken in summer 2006.

March 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Print - Advanced

Irish Lass
Sherry Grivett

Irish Lass was captured at the Salinas Rodeo several years ago. This little girl was on her father's shoulders watching the rodeo. Her cheeks are red from the heat of the day.

I used a 300mm lens. It was taken candidly from a ways away. Her red hair caught my eye in a crowd of people. I snapped several images of her.

March 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Print - Basic

Grandmother's Porch
Rebecca Smith-Coggins

I was cleaning the porch at my grandmother's house in Massachusetts two summers ago when I looked up and saw the sun making geometric shadows on the screen.

Needing no further excuse, I quickly put the dustpan and broom down, dragged the two glass jugs over to the table and chair for some added interest and picked up my camera.

I took 10-12 photos from different angles with the furniture in different positions before the magical lighting disappeared. ...And my grandmother always wondered why I was such a slow cleaner!

March 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Basic

Sunrise On Lake Louise
Marty Weisberg

This was shot about three years ago. I arrived in darkness and shot probably 200 images as the light changed.

Editor's Note:
Lake Louise is in Banff National Park. Alberta, Canada. The boat dock is on the left side on the lake in front of the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise resort.

March 2011 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image

Gone But Not Forgotten
Marty Weisberg

"Gone but not Forgotten" came about as Joseph Grapa and I were searching for a favorite subject of mine--Fog and Trees. We searched in Saratoga and arrived at the Madrone Cemetery about 8am. I saw the scene, loved the varying amounts of fog at various distances as well as the bench under trees near the headstones.

I erased the names of the deceased for privacy reasons; otherwise, the scene was "as shot". Sepia coloring was added for effect.

March 2011 First Place Monochrome Print

I was attending a workshop in Yosemite Valley that coincided with the Horsetail Fall window where the setting sun in late February lights up this small fall in a spectacular fashion (if the weather cooperates!). I had gotten lucky on Sunday night before the workshop and captured Horsetail in all its glory. That allowed my instructor and myself to look for a new vantage point from which to capture the fall on Monday night. He knew of a place he wanted to try, so we set off scrambling up the cliffs on the south side of the valley. Don't ask me where we were, because I don't think I can find it again!

While we were waiting for the last light to hit Horsetail Fall, we saw these wonderful shafts of light stream across the valley and light both the base of El Capitan and the area where the fall is. Since we were shooting toward the west into the setting sun and the trees below us were in shade, the dynamic range of the scene was too wide to capture it all in one exposure. Therefore, I bracketed the exposure for blending in post-processing. I used +/- 1 stop on either side because I feel this gives the most realistic results, although most books recommend +/- 2 stops for HDR. I strive, although not always successfully, for an HDR image that looks completely natural.

I tried all three HDR programs I have (LR/Enfuse, Photomatix Pro, and Nik HDR Effects Pro) and felt that for this image, Photomatix did the best and most realistic job.

Shaft of Light
Rick Whitacre

It also handled the potential ghosting in the clouds the best. I did some dodging and burning in Photoshop to achieve the final result

Canon 50D, Canon 17-24mm f/4 L at 20mm, ISO100, 1/80 seconds at f/11 for the center exposure

Meet our Treasurer, DH Rasweiler

Our new Treasurer, DH Rasweiler, uses her initials instead of her full name to avoid confusion with her aunt of the same name. She states her mother owes her big time. She also uses her initials because, as an avid gardener, she thinks squirrels, although cute, are "evil creatures" that dig up much of her garden, and part of her name means "angry squirrel" in Japanese! Ergo, the story of the name!

She was born in Philadelphia but grew up on Long Island, spending much of her summers between the beaches of Long Island and the lush green and historic eastern Pennsylvania. DH says that NYC was a playground of the arts for a Long Islander. She is a follower of performing and visual arts and has long been a fan of art photography, especially B&W. Ansel Adams comes first to mind for her but she also likes the x-ray photography of Stephen Myers and Albert Kotsier and has several x-ray photographs in her home. She says she is pretty good with pencil and charcoal sketching (likes the works of Albrecht Durer). She is especially taken with the manner in which Vermeer uses light in his paintings. DH says "film kept me out of photography" saying she just didn't make the connection. She had a light bulb moment when she took three semesters of x-ray technology before switching to registered nursing. Film! Again!

The advent of digital photographic equipment piqued her interest in pursuing photography again. "No film!" She has only started traveling in recent years with exception of having lived for more than a year in Niigata Prefecture ("Snow Country") in western Japan. She and her family lived in a small farming village where among other things, learned to sow rice, transplant and harvest rice. Although fond of frogs (the former name of her town on Long Island was Frog Hollow), she is terrified of snakes, especially the huge ones in the rice fields surrounding her home. The year was an adventure. Her oldest son remembers it as being like "camp." DH recounts how they used the indoor outhouse to fertilize their fields; building a fire under the bathtub for a hot bath Japanese style; the ever present sound of cicadas and mosquitoes in summer; cold running water (when it wasn't frozen) and of course, using the snow banks outside their home to freeze autumn produce over the winter. The architecture of the region was such that it was frequently necessary to exit the house from a second story window due to the high banks of snow. Her experiences had a large influence on her artistic aesthetic.

She has travelled to Ireland and recalls sitting at the top of the Guinness Factory Museum with a 360 degree view of Dublin on St. Patrick's Day, sipping a cola! DH was moved to visit Ireland to see the Book of Kells and Newgrange, a Neolithic mound site which is the oldest astrological site in the world. She fondly recalls the green of Ireland, the friendly people, Norman castles and beautiful coastline. She took many pictures and when she returned home she became determined to take photographs that would convey her feelings about her experiences.

DH was further inspired to learn more about the photographic experience from watching the PBS series by Art Wolfe, "Travels to the Edge." After coming back from various trips to Vancouver, western Washington and Alaska, she was even more determined to learn more about developing photographic knowledge and skills. She took a class with John Greengo (Art Wolfe assistant on "Travels to the Edge") while in Seattle 2 years ago. It was then that she decided to join LGSCC to learn from and be in the

company of like-minded people with an interest in photography.

DH has been a part owner of a Japanese Restaurant in the theater district in New York City and says she makes a mean teriyaki bowl.
She has been a paralegal with an emphasis on human services and is now a registered nurse. She has been an ER nurse and then became a pediatric hematology/oncology specialist. After a major back injury, she had to leave what she calls "the hardest thing I ever loved" and is now currently a telephone triage nurse. She says the process of assessing symptoms over the phone utilizing four different computer programs keeps her synapses busy! And she reminds us she is not a friendly computer user! Photography has become a favorite artistic outlet and way to unwind and switch gears.

These two photographs are from a trip DH made last fall to Arizona. In addition to an intense fear of snakes, DH is also terrified of heights. But, having an avid interest in native cultures both here and abroad, she was determined to visit the cliff dwellings at Walnut Canyon National Monument outside Flagstaff. Only 185 steps down to the trail leading around the cliff dwellings! "Surely anyone can do that" she thought. No where did it mention the lack of guard rails, the abrupt turns and the 3-4 foot wide trails at the edge of the cliffs!. And no one reminded her she would have to climb back up 185 stairs after the almost one mile walk around the cliff!

The first photo is a shadow of DH trying to capture a section of cliff dwelling, shaky jelly legs and all. The second photo is of a woman in a bright pink jacket who was a subject of DH's endeavors. The woman jauntily sauntered along the path oblivious to the abyss below!

DH loves road trips, and so she hopes to have many more photographic experiences!

Learning Opportunities

Museum Photography Exhibits

San Jose Museum of At - Robert Mapplethorpe: Portraits through June 5, 2011

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art – Helios: Eadweard Muybridge in a Time of Change through June 07, 2011

Print Mounting Class

Harvey Gold is conducting a workshop on “Mounting Prints for Competition”, April 11th, 7:30 pm at his home. Precut mats will be used. Each participant is asked to bring an 8x12 print to mount. The cost will be $15 ($10 for our Camera Club and $5 to cover materials). He will provide a list of on line sources for future purchases.

If members are interested in the workshop, contact Harvey at hsgold61@yahoo.com.

Key Contacts

President	Membership	Webmaster	Newsletter	
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