Newsletter

Vol 33 Issue 9 September 2011

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Reminders

The August challenge competition is Photo Journalism. Refer to the Competition Types page on our web site or the May 2011 newsletter for more information on PJ.

All of monthly club competitions include Monochrome for both Prints and Digital Projected Images. Monochrome is judged pictorially. Here are the bullet points.

- Pictorial photography is the use of the photographic medium as an art form.
- Pictorial images are judged both for their technical and pictorial merit.
- Pictorial images are not confined to any particular subject, type, or style of photography. Images may be manipulated in the darkroom, on the computer, or in the camera.
- For Pictorial images the emphasis is on interest, visual impact, composition, and technical excellence.
- The image must be properly exposed and have appropriate focus and depth of field.
- Entries into the monochrome category shall be of one color.
- This color may extend across the full spectrum from darkest (black) to lightest (white) but may not contain any other color to qualify as a monochrome image.

Coming Club Events

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

Saturday, September 10, 2011
Deadline for entering digital images for the September club competition

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

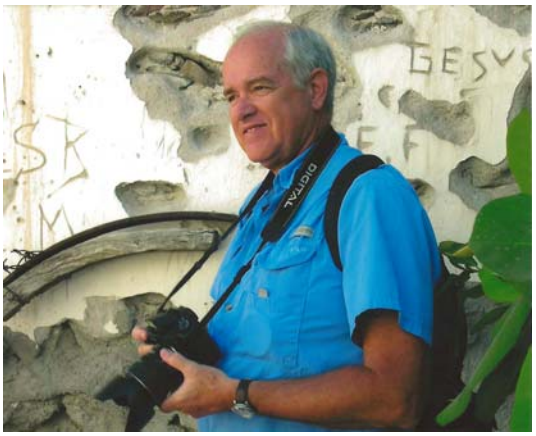
Competition:
PJ, Color, Monochrome
Refreshments - Steve Minden, Kelly Moore, Gail Nichols
Judge - John Goyer

Wednesday, September 14, 2011
Deadline for emailing digital walk-ins for the September 6C competition (Travel, PJ, and Color)

Saturday, September 17, 2011
6C's Bi-monthly competition between member clubs. Walk-Ins and winners from August & September Competitions.
9:15am Print Walk-Ins due
9:30am - 12:30pm Prints
1:30pm Projected Images

Monday, September 19, 2011
Program:
Members 15 Image Show
Refreshments - Peggy Patterson, John Perry, Lourdes Pollard

All About Programs



Programs are entertaining, educational, and offer a forum to exchange ideas, techniques, and theories along with time for socializing. Not all clubs have a separate program night but our club has one on the third Monday of each month.

Several programs are standard during the year although they are occasionally offered in a different month.

The hospitality committee organizes our least formal program, the June Picnic. We have held this function at members' homes, at our regular meeting location, and most recently at Vasona Lake County Park.

The most formal program on our agenda is our Annual Awards Banquet in December, which is organized by a number of committees including Judges, Digital, Prints, and Hospitality. All About End of Year will be covered in another newsletter.

Our traditional September program is the 15-image Member Show. The purpose of this evening is to give each member an opportunity to delve into a photographic subject in detail and share it with the rest of us. This event highlights the diverse, creative, and excellent photography being done by members of our club. Images must be related by story line or subject or technique. For example "Memorial Day at Roaring Camp" or "Macro Flowers" or "Experiments in Night Photography".

For the remaining programs I have tried to include a variety of topics that relate to our competition categories: Color (Pictorial), Monochrome, Photo Journalism, Creative, Nature, and Travel. The presenters include both club members and outside speakers. Although it has not worked out, I've tried to schedule programs relevant to the next challenge competition.

In January: Program - Review of New Web Site and Shooting the Stars - Photographing Star Trails and the Milky Way - Presented by Rick Whitacre. In February Alternative Techniques for Creating Photographic Images presented by Peter Schenk. In March Program - Cowboys and Cattle Drive Photography presented by former club members Rebecca & Renis Harvey. In April we viewed images shown the 6C End Of Year Banquet. This was the annual review of the best of the best in the 6C. Later that evening we conducted our traditional and popular Members Critique.

Sometimes things do not happen as planned. In May we scheduled Mountain Gorillas and Orangutans presented by Suzi Eszterhas but she ended up in the hospital that day. We could have had Dick Stuart's program Travels with Dick - The Color of India that night but had it in July instead. Note: Always plan an option B.

In August I hoped to have a photo journalist who specializes in Fire and Severe Weather Photography. He wasn't able to do it so we saw Vivek Tiwari's - Endemic Birds of India.

The "pool" of presenters is not as populated as some may believe. For instance it is easy to get a nature photographer to present if they have a business that they can advertise in conjunction with a presentation. This is not always bad. It is even better if we can have a PhD in zoology, biology or ornithology that is also a competent photographer. To whit be sure to attend the presentation by Jack Owicki, on October 17th, a former Associate Professor of Biophysics at U.C. Berkeley and still a consultant for Silicon Valley Biotech startups. Where does photography come into play? Jack is an amateur naturalist and nature photographer. He also leads hikes on the preserves of the Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District as a volunteer docent.

In November we will be visited by a fellow 6C photographer, Jason Cheng of Fremont Photographic Society. Jason is a well rounded photographer specializing in travel photography. I assure you we are in for a treat.

If you want to help out on the Program Committee or just have a great idea for us, please contact: Richard Ingles at email: avi8or@att.net.

Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

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

August 2011 First Place Travel Digital Projected Image

This was taken on my trip (last November) to India that everyone by know has heard about and seen the images of my attempt to capture the Color of India.

This was a grab shot with my traveling camera - Canon PowerShot SX10 IS - as most of my photos are, as I walked the narrow streets (paths) in Varanasi, or Banaras as the Brits called it. This city is probably the most holy Hindu city and one of the oldest in India. To quote from a guide book, "All the colors, sights, tastes, and smells of India are concentrated here.

The place is quite a test for the Westerner, because it picks him by the scruff of the cultural neck and shakes him hard. It is not for the faint hearted." There were many colorful Hindu pilgrims sitting about and most of them are difficult to pass without capturing the images.

Shot at 1/400th at f4, zoom at about 70mm

Hindu Pilgrim Trimming His Nails, Varanasi, India
Dick Stuart

August 2011 First Place Travel Print

Grand Canal-Venice
Harvey Gold

At the end of a walking tour of Venice we wound up at the Grand Canal. It was late in the day during early summer. The light was perfect. The activity in the canal completed the scene.

August 2011 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image

Little else reminds me of home more than an Oak tree in a field of golden grain, little else evokes more emotion.

The view of a low morning sun through an Oak tree, a road and fences providing leading lines deep into the scene and the whole view wrapped in fog presents an ethereal vision that was especially satisfying to capture.

We had been looking for photo-ops early that mid October morning in 2007 when we stopped along side a field that was typical, rural, Templeton landscape. My tripod automatically set up in the middle of the road. That is also where I needed to be to get the sun where I wanted it.

Testing the light situation, I made several exposures. The fog and the angle of the sun provided a circular rainbow with a very pleasing “God effect”. The natural contrasts provided for easy post processing of a monochrome image.

As I studied the image for a title, the emotion that developed had a physical description of “travelling into the light” or “being at the end of the road”, often synonyms for death.

Into the Light at the End of the Road
Richard Ingles

August 2011 First Place Monochrome Print

Milky Way Reflection
Rick Whitacre

Over the 4th of July weekend, I made a trip to the Tioga Lake region of Yosemite National Park. It is just outside the east entrance of the park. By looking at a topo map, I felt that I could get a nice view of Mammoth Peak with Tioga Lake in the foreground. Since this is a southerly view, I hoped that the Milky Way would make an appearance and provide a nice shot.

I arrived before sunset on a day where a cold front had just moved through. The air was clear and brisk. The lake was mostly free of ice when I started, but refroze during the night. It was cold out there.

I took some sunset and dusk shots of the lake and Mammoth Peak which turned out quite nicely. I set my camera up with an intervalometer to make a time-lapse movie if the Milky Way "rising" in the east. When the Milky Way was where I wanted it for my still images, I started taking single images in both portrait and landscape modes. I entered this image in Color Digital in July, but got the idea to try it in monochrome later. I liked it so much, I decided to print it and enter it in Mono in August.

Canon 5DMII, EF 24mm f/1.4L at f/2.2, ISO3200, 20 sec. Converted to mono in Photoshop CS5

Link to Shooting the Stars Tutorial

August 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Print - Advanced

IDuring a field trip to Death Valley NP with the West Valley Photography Department, I decided to do some star trail work at the old borax works site. I found that if I got low enough to the ground, I could get most of the wagon and the north star all in the frame with my 17mm lens on a cropped sensor. I thought the star trails around Polaris would mirror the large wheels of the wagon. I set the camera up and started light painting the wagon.

I used an LED flashlight with an orange gel over it. For star shots, I usually adjust the white balance to around 3000K, so a bare LED light would look very blue. Using a yellow gel would give you a white result, while using a deep orange gel gives you a nice warm yellow-orange to complement the bluish sky at that WB setting.

It took several attempts to get a nice light-painting result, but once satisfied; I then put the camera onto an intervalometer to do the star trail exposures. I set it up to take back-to-back 4 minute exposures for a little over an hour.

I then stacked the star trail exposures together to get the longer trails and then merged them with the light painted wagon to get the final result.

Borax Wagon
Rick Whitacre

Canon 50D, EF 17-40mm f/4.0L at 17mm, f/4.0. ISO200, 4 minutes each. Over 15 exposures stacked for trails using Photoshop CS5

Link to Shooting the Stars Tutorial

August 2011 First Place Pictorial/Color Print - Basic

A Carriage Ride In Central Park
Mark Emanuel

Last December my wife and I visited our son and his wife in New York. My family decided to take pictures in Central Park and I had in mind pictures of the famous horse and buggy carriage rides. As I was taking pictures a carriage came by that caught my eye. The driver wore a red hat and the horse and carriage were decorated with red plumes.

I thought the contrast between the red decorations and the white and brown horse against the Grey tone of the cold wintry day would make a good picture.

My camera settings are as follows:
Camera: Canon EOS 40D
Exposure Program: Shutter Priority
Lens: EF 28-135 Mm F/3.5-5.6 IS USM
F Stop: F 4.5 ISO: 250
Lens Focal Length: 30mm
Shutter Speed: 1/180 Sec

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

This is a photograph of McWay Falls located in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, CA. and it was taken at sunset on 30 July 2010. John Bujak and myself decided that if weather conditions permitted we would drive down to the Big Sur area to shoot the waterfalls. Weather permitting basically means that the marine layer is off shore.\

After several days of watching weather reports and local real time weather CAM's we decided on July 29th that the 30th looked good for a sunset shot. So on July 30th we left about 3 pm for an 8 pm sunset figuring that should give us plenty of time to drive to McWay and get set up before sunset. Famous last words, right?

Well when we got to Monterey on HY 1 we ran into fog and it slowed our progress considerably but we pressed on. It has to get better right? The weather report said it would. As we drove south of Big Sur the fog started to clear but now we weren't quit certain where McWay Falls was. Like good photographers we continued to drive on thinking we should find McWay Falls soon. Wrong again!

Before we realized it we had passed McWay by about 30 miles and it was 6:30 pm and we were starting to panic. The good news was the marine layer was out so we were going to get a good sunset but the bad news was we were lost. None of our electronic gadgets, i-phone, i-pad, car GPS, were able to pick up a signal.

Coastal Waterfall
John Perry

Finally we turned around and drove back toward Big Sur hopefully looking for the falls. Luckily the falls is easier to spot coming from the south on HY 1 than the north. We found falls at 7:15pm and rushed to get set up. We took photographs until it was to dark to see but as you can see everything worked out for the best. This photo is a 5 shot HDR taken with my Nikon D300 using a Nikkor 10-24mm f/3.5-4.5 zoom lens.

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

Trail to the Sky
Bart Smith

The image "Trail to the Sky" was taken in a little jewel of a park in Almaden Valley -- Guadalupe Oak Grove Park. It's a place where, even though you know you're within a couple hundred yards of dozens of homes, you get the feeling of being in the middle of a wilderness when you walk through the grove of old oak trees of several varieties, with wildflowers galore in the spring. The feeling is accentuated by the sight, and the almost constant sound, of multitudes of woodpeckers and hawks, and the occasional Western Bluebird.

From the top of the hill in the middle of the park, reached from the trail featured in the photograph, there are stunning views of the valley. On this particular afternoon, the crowning glory was the wonderful striped clouds moving across the deep blue sky, and the low-angled sun lighting up the lichen-covered rocks and multicolored crowns of the trees on the hillside.

Meet Roberta Schwartz, Our Exhibit Chair

First Place in a George W. Hewlett High School ninth grade photography competition in Long island, NY, awarded for a Floridian Alligator. First place in a Los Gatos-Saratoga Photography club competition in 2010, awarded for an Australian alligator. OK. Just a "few" years in between. No, I'm not telling you how many. However, it was that first award in South Shore, Long Island, NY that sparked my interest in taking pictures.

So, how does a suburban NYC girl wind up a suburban SF (or is that SJ) woman? Well, you can thank my husband, Marty. Or, more accurately, thank Standard Oil of CA who transferred us.

Since traveling cross-country, we have put on many miles (age-wise, too!) Among my favorite trips, I've enjoyed rafting down the Colorado (with Jeff & Rudi Katz); swimming with seals in the Galapagos; viewing the Alaskan glaciers with my Kamikaze pilot, Buzz, in his four seater seaplane; snorkeling with Wally the wrasse at the Great Barrier Reef in Cairns, Australia; and dancing/getting very wet from Victoria Falls' spray with some Zimbabwean school children.

We also lived in Mexico City for two years with our then young sons when Mexico was relatively safe, the oil business was booming, and drug trafficking was not.

I started my professional life as a French teacher. But when I arrived in CA, I discovered that virtually no one was interested in that language. With no job opportunities, I became a reporter for Business Week and Electronics Magazines. Subsequently, I free-lanced. I wrote stories on everything from high tech new products, the demise of mercury mining, and customer opinions of the toy store FAO Schwarz.

After returning from Mexico, I had a short stint in Older Adult Education as a piano player for a sing-a-long class and an English instructor.

But with no money in education, I again switched gears and worked at high tech companies in Human Resources Compensation and Benefits for 15 years.

I am very fortunate to be able to retire very early. I've played piano in a couple of jazz bands, been a member of the Girls' Supper Club, participated in a book group, and joined a French conversation group. In addition, I enjoy gardening, hiking and skiing. And most importantly, I'm loving my granddaughter, Camelia Linda, aged three.

Back to photography: Jeff Katz got me involved in the group in 2009. I'm hoping to take more photography classes. To date, I can recommend attending the Foto Clave, which in 2010 was excellent. Additionally, I enjoyed a one-day class with Art Wolfe, and a 2 session class with Virginia Scott, a camera club alumnae.

I've also been inspired by many gifted photographers including Freeman Patterson, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Anne Leibowitz, Imogene Cunningham, and a New Zealand photographer named Brian Brake (1927-1988).

The primary photographic challenge for me has been and continues to be equipment. I love the act of taking pictures and capturing the moment, not only on the card, but in my mind. Unfortunately, I am "mechanically challenged." I am currently trying to "make friends" with my new Canon 60D, Tamron 70-300 lens, and Canon 430 EX II Speed-lite flash.

As far as places to photograph, in addition to the "usual suspects" (e.g., Yosemite, Mono Lake, Grand Canyon), I recommend:

- the lions, zebras, giraffes and lilac-breasted rollers of Hwange, Zimbabwe
- the Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza and the fortress of Masada, Israel
- the Japanese maple trees, cherry blossoms, and pines of Kyoto, Japan
- the 1,000 species and 2,000 hybrids of orchids in Singapore's botanical garden
- the butterflies and lorikeets of Butterfly World, Fort Lauderdale
- the mountains and glaciers of the Canadian Rockies
- the fjords of Milford Sound, South Island, New Zealand
- the blue-footed boobies of the Galapagos
- the white ibis, the great blue heron, and 248 other bird species in Loxahatchee, the Everglades
- the volcanoes of Mount St. Helens, Lassen, and Hawaii (Haleakala and the "Big Island.")

I've greatly enjoyed being part of the camera club -- the people, the competitions, and the speakers. It's fun exhibiting my work! I hope you'll join me in January when we'll be exhibiting at the Willow Glen Coffee Roasting Company, 1383 Lincoln Ave. in San Jose.

Learning Opportunity: FotoClave 2011

There are three Camera club councils in Northern California.

- Central Coast Counties Camera Club Council (6C)
- Northern California Council of Camera Clubs (N4C)
- San Joaquin Valley Camera Club Council (SJVCCC)

Each year one of the councils hosts a Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning photography weekend called FotoClave. The weekend includes a number of presentations and a competition between the councils.

FotoClave 2011 will be held on October 28-30 at the Hilton Concord Hotel. The Registration Form can be downloaded from the http://www.fotoclave.org/ web site.

Key Contacts

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