Vol 32
Issue 1

# Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club Newsletter

January
2010

Contents


| | |
|---|---|
| New in 2010 | 1 |
| Coming Club Events | 1 |
| Images of the Year | 2 |
| Photographer of the Year | 4 |
| December Competition Winners Tell Their Secrets | 5 |
| 2009 Awards Potluck Dinner | 7 |
| Learning Opportunities | 8 |
| Successful Solstice Field Trip to Big Sur | 9 |
| 2010 Board Members and Volunteers | 10 |
| Featured Web Site | 10 |
| Contact Information | 10 |


## New in 2010:

- ***Color A* and *Color B* Categories Combined**
  Because of the small number of *Color B* entries in monthly competition, and to better align with other 6C clubs, the *Color A* and *Color B* categories will be combined beginning with the January competition. The category will be called Color (Pictorial). Criteria for the Color category are unchanged. Members may also submit photos for critique in any monthly competition without having them judged.
- **Requirements for Monthly Photo Competitions**
  Beginning in January, monthly photo competitions will be open only to members who have volunteered to assist the club by joining a committee.
- **Dues Due in January**
  Member dues increased to $50 annually to cover club insurance expenses and to build a reserve to repair or replace club equipment. Pay our Treasurer, JoAn Lambert.

## Coming Club Events

| | |
|---|---|
| Mon Jan. 4 | Competition, PJ and Color: Slides, Digital Images, and Prints.<br>Judge: Bob Rewick. Bring any 6C winners (prints and slides) not in the club end-of-year show for 6C end-of-year judging.<br>Refreshments: Betty TOEPFER, Frits RUSCH, Michael SCHNEIDER |
| Wed Jan. 13 | Deadline for emailing digital walk-ins for the January 6C competition (Travel, PJ, and Color) |
| Sat Jan. 16 | 6 C's Competition http://www.6c-photo.org/ |
| Mon Jan. 18 | Program: **Committee Chairs Describe our Volunteer Positions**<br>Refreshments: Marty WEISBERG, Helen WILLIAMS, Don WOLF |
| Wed Jan. 27 | Deadline for emailing digital images for the February club competition (Creative and Color) |
| Mon Feb. 1 | Competition, Creative and Color: Slides, Digital Images, and Prints. Monochrome: Prints<br>Judge: Alison Brooks<br>Refreshments: Ken BLOOMFIELD, Sandra BREITEN, Bo BREZOCZKY |

# 2009 Slide of the Year

## *Surfing at Santa Cruz* by Peggy Patterson

©2009 Peggy Patterson

Peggy Patterson

"When shooting surfers I really like filling the frame with the wave, so there's no distracting bright sky at the top of the image. Seeing the whole wave shows what the surfers are up against. I check the web for surf reports; I want the break to be over eight or nine feet. I like to have the surfer going diagonally across the frame, coming towards the camera. I think this pulls the viewer into the image. Fall is the best time for this at Lighthouse Point in Santa Cruz: the afternoon light is low and warm, and the waves break better as seen from the point.

"Although I shoot a lot of digital images, I keep using slide film, usually Velvia 100, for its richness of color and detail. I like the discipline of getting everything right in the camera."

# 2009 Print of the Year

## *Out of the Rain and Into the Mill* by John Bujak

©2009 John Bujak

John Bujak

"I made this picture from a 7-frame HDR capture at the end of a ranger-led tour through interiors at Bode State Park. The ranger was eager to complete the tour and had little patience for a photographer with a tripod. I barely had time to position the camera so a bright blue modern earth mover outside the building was not showing through the windows. For this kind of HDR shot I usually spend extra care to ensure I've captured both extremes of dynamic range, but on this shot I had no time and just winged the exposure settings on auto-pilot. Luckily I got what I needed.

"I spent a lot of processing time to bring out the dusty look of the interior and the raindrops on the windows. Automated HDR images can look hyper-real, an effect I didn't want, so I did most of the layer blends manually, and introduced some blurring to create the right atmosphere. I like the round wagon wheels going up the diagonal and contrasting with the square window frames."

# 2009 Digital Image of the Year

### *Bridge at Night* by Dick Stuart

"This is a pedestrian bridge in Redding over the river. We were there a few years ago visiting my wife's nephew. I'd stopped briefly during the heat of the day and taken a few shots. He urged us to go back to see the bridge at night, when it's dramatically lit. I walked all around, looking at it from all angles and shooting lots of pictures. I liked the light on the guy wires.

"I took this with a point-and-shoot, my old Nikon Coolpix 5700, mounted on a tripod."

Dick Stuart

©Dick Stuart

# 2009 Photographer of the Year

## Betty Toepfer

Betty Toepfer

Betty Toepfer was selected the winner of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club's *Carolyn Ramsay Award* and *Photographer of the Year* for 2009. This award is given annually to the club photographer who is among the three highest scoring competitors in monthly competitions and who significantly helps the club by serving as an officer and improving the club's operation. In the past year, Betty has served as the club's representative to the 6C, co-chair of the Exhibits Committee, and co-VP of the Field Trips Committee. Each year the club president appoints a panel consisting of previous winners and other long-time members to select the award winner. The panel considers total points won in all media competitions, and decides which of the candidates best exemplifies photographic excellence and service to the club. Past winners, excluded from 2009 consideration, are Airdrie Kincaid, 2006, Don Schremp, 2007, and Peggy Patterson, 2008. The award is named for Carolyn Ramsay, a long-time member of the camera club, who died in 2006. In addition to being an excellent photographer, she contributed to both the club and to 6C by filling multiple board positions every year, presenting programs, and judging at other clubs. This award honors Carolyn's skill and her spirit: she was always there when asked to do more.

## December Competition 1st Place Winners Tell Us How They Did It

*The Newsletter* asked each of the first-place winners in our December competition to explain how they made their winning photos. Judging was by Dick Stahlke.

**Prints: Monochrome**
*True Black with Texture Too*
Harvey Gold
"I got the idea for this picture last October when I spotted a bag of interesting gourds at Trader Joe's. They sat around my kitchen for a few months till I got around to making a picture. I cut a gourd in half and spray-painted it flat black. This gave me a lot of great texture. I then posed it on a table and shot it hand-held with my point-and-shoot Panasonic camera, which has good vibration control. Lighting was only the on-camera flash at -1 stop. I used Photoshop just to remove a little glare."

© Harvey Gold

© Dick Stuart

**Digital: Travel**
Novice Monks Waiting for Taxi in Thailand
Dick Stuart
"I was in Thailand looking for shots which told a story and had strong color. The monks in their orange robes were an obvious target, but it took a while to find a good composition. When their taxi arrived, I got off 5 quick shots using my Canon A650. I cropped this one just a bit."

**Slides: Travel**
Holiday Games, Kathmandu, Nepal
Peggy Patterson
"This was at a festival in Katmandu which had lots of children's games. I really enjoyed watching the kids. This shot was the best because of the intense focus the kids had on the game – it's so neat to see that. I used Velvia in my Nikon F5."

© Peggy Patterson

**Prints: Color A**
Winter Trees & Rock Wall
John Bujak
"This was actually a grab-shot, hand-held at about 125mm, iso800, as we were leaving the park. I made them stop the car for me. I do a lot of post-processing. In this shot, I used some high contrast filters, then worked the color locally using NIK's *Viveza 2* plug-in to separate the trees from the stark rock wall. I cropped it to 16x9, a format which I often like for landscapes."

**Prints: Color B**
Friends Forever
Mark Emanuel
"I was looking through old family snapshots and this one of my granddaughter and her friend, taken 5 years ago in Haifa, really caught my attention. I remember seeing them in a spontaneous hug, and asked them to do it again for my camera. The original had the girls centered, but I cropped them to be a bit off center, which the judge liked. This is a snapshot which I made into a picture."

**Digital: Color A**
Weathered Rock
Dick Stuart
"I've been to point Lobos many times for the good rocks there. I used to shoot them in B&W with high contrast lighting. This time I was really attracted to the pattern and color at this one spot. The image isn't cropped, and has very little post-processing."

**Digital: Color B**

Fireworks Over Bay Bridge from Red and White Fleet Boat

Gary Marcos

"Before going out to shoot fireworks I read several articles for shooting advice. They were unanimous on one point: be sure to have a tripod and a stable place to put it. I broke that rule by shooting from a boat. The picture is not sharp, but the composition of silhouettes, water, and bridge, and the strong color carry the day. I learned about the outing from the Camera Club -- without the club I would never have gotten this picture."

**Slides: Color**

Saguaro

Ronnie Rabedeau

"These magnificent state-protected saguaro cacti are slow growing and increasingly threatened by poachers who dig them up to sell as ornaments for suburban Arizona gardens. The strong sun on the upper half of this one seemed exactly right – it really caught my eye. The saguaros are so tall and I'm so short I had to really work to find a good angle."

## 2009 Annual Awards Potluck Dinner

Snapshots of the club's 2009 Annual Awards Potluck Dinner, December 21, at the Elk's Lodge.

Excellent photographs

Excellent food

Good company

# Learning Opportunities

Trips and training seminars recommended by club members

## Nature Photography

NANPA has an annual summit that will be in Reno February 16-21, 2010.
http://www.nanpa.org/conferences/Summit2010/
Recommended by Airdrie Kincaid, who has belonged to NANPA since 1996.

## Travel Photography

Photo by Bob Krist

Famous National Geographic photographer Bob Krist will conduct *The Versatile Travel Photographer* workshop in San Francisco on Sunday, February 28, 2010.
http://ngtravelerseminars.com/digital.cfm
Recommended by Airdrie Kincaid, who's already signed up.

## Bird Photography

Photos by Bruce Finocchio

Airdrie's second place Color image in December, *Bluebird on Broken Branch*, along with Richard's and Airdrie's second and third place nature images in November were taken at Bruce Finnochio's Ramrod Ranch. They had so much fun that Richard and Airdrie are going again May 8-9, 2010.
http://incredibletravelphotos.smugmug.com/Workshops/Bird-Blind-Photography/7030744_8XVhg.

## Photoshop, Picassa

Photo by Tim Grey

World-class training in Photoshop, Elements, and LightRoom is available through *Light Photographic Workshops* (formerly the Lepp Institute of Digital Imaging) in Los Osos, CA. Tim Grey, well known author and guru, teaches March 22-26. Recommended by John Gerhardt, who attended several years ago.
http://www.lightworkshops.com/courses2010.htm

Courses in Digital Photography, Picassa, and Photoshop Elements as well as computer usage are available during the day at the the Almaden and Willows SeniorNet Learning Centers in San Jose. Recommended by Larry Rosier.
Registration for the January through March courses is January 9th. See http://www.snlcsj.org/

# Timing is Everything

## Bernie Weinzimmer Leads Club Field Trip to Big Sur

On Thursday, December 17, Bernie Weinzimmer led fifteen club members to Big Sur to shoot the sunset at Pfeiffer Beach to capture the light shining through the large rock arch onto breaking waves. The shot Bernie envisioned is possible only at low tide in the weeks around the winter solstice when there is a clear sky at sunset.

*Pfeiffer Beach Near Sunset*

A secondary objective was to shoot McWay Falls at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park. Most of the group left the Elk's Lodge at 8:00 AM and arrived at Julia Pfeiffer State Park at 10:00 AM. Other members joined the group there. Unfortunately McWay Falls was completely fogged in and not visible at all when they arrived. They hung out in the area and members wandered around taking various photos hoping the fog would lift. During this down time the participants got to know each other much better. They spotted a Condor riding the updrafts at the top of the ridge; too far away to photograph but nice to observe. Around noon the fog lifted somewhat and a few photos were taken of McWay Falls. At 1:00 PM they saddled up and traveled north about seven miles to Pfeiffer Beach. This was the primary objective for the field trip and the conditions were very good. Low tide was scheduled for 5:20 pm with the sunset at around 5:00 pm. This parallel timing of low tide and the sunset was important to our shot as well as being at the location near the winter solstice. This is the only time of the year when the sun is in the correct position to properly shine through the rock. The tide must be low to allow the maximum amount of the hole to be visible and also so the photographers can get closer to the rock. Unfortunately there was a big surf advisory and the waves were extremely large thus offsetting some of the impact of the Low Tide. Nevertheless, the sun beam was strong and all sixteen members were able to get some very good shots.

## 2010 Board Members and Volunteers

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Gary Marcos |
| Secretary | Bambi Cask |
| Treasurer | JoAn Lambert |
| Judge Scheduling | Lourdes Pollard and Stan Litwin |
| Slides | JoAn Lambert, Peggy Patterson, Ronnie Rabedeau, Ari Stroud |
| Digital Images | Dick Stuart, Charlie Gibson, Alex Goldberg, Mike Story |
| Prints | Pat Puder, John Bujak, John Perry |
| Programs | Richard Ingles |
| Membership | Ken Bloomfield, Mark Emanuel |
| Publicity | Ken Bloomfield |
| Hospitality | D.H. Rasweiler |
| Field Trips | Bernie Weinzimmer |
| Exhibits | Mary Ellen Kaschub, Betty Toepfer |
| Newsletter Editor | John Gerhardt |
| Webmaster | Airdrie Kincaid |
| Slide Scanner | Airdrie Kincaid, Peggy Patterson |
| 6C's Board Rep | Betty Toepfr |
| 6C's Print Rep | Pat Puder |
| 6C's Projected Images Rep | Airdrie Kincaid |
| PSA Rep | Bernie Weinzimmer |
| Special Studies & Educaton | Larry Rosier, Marty Weisberg |
| Calibration | Jeff Katz |
| Screen Handlers | Charlie Gibson, Mike Schneider |

## Featured Website

**THE 100-YEAR-OLD PHOTO BLOG**

**Shorpy.com | History in HD** is a vintage photography blog featuring thousands of high-definition images from the 1850s to 1950s. The site is named after Shorpy Higginbotham, a teenage coal miner who lived 100 years ago.
http://www.shorpy.com/

## Key Contacts

**President**
Gary Marcos
741-5712

**Membership**
Ken Bloomfield
268-5205

**Webmaster**
Airdrie Kincaid
247-3743

**Newsletter**
John Gerhardt
353-3949

Official publication of the
**Los Gatos-Saratoga Camera Club**.
http://lgscc.home.att.net/
Meetings : first and third Mondays, 7:30 PM
at the Elks Club of Los Gatos,
105 Newell Ave.
(At Winchester near Lark)

Member of the Photographic Society of America.