



Newsletter

Volume 36 Issue 2

February 2014

In this Edition

January Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It	2
Meet Billie Warren, Hospitality Assistant	6
Creative Definition	7
Key Contacts	7

Reminders

Too Many Entries

In the last competition, some members entered too many images. The statement below is included in each Competition Definition. Categories are Color (Pictorial), Monochrome, Creative, Travel, Nature, and Photojournalism. Media includes Digital/Projected and Prints.

Members may enter a total of **four** images into a monthly competition with a maximum of **three** images in any one **category** and a maximum of **three** images in any one **medium**.

Sequences of up to four images are allowed in Digital/Projected and only count as one image, provided you follow the instructions on the website for submitting a sequence.

Volunteering

If you are a competing member of the club, be sure to sign up for a committee, volunteer to mentor a new member, or lead a class or field trip.

Cell Phones

Be sure to turn off cell phones or put them on vibrate.

Coming Club Events

See the [Events](#) page or [Event Calendar](#) on our web site for updates or further details.

Saturday February 1, 2014

11:30pm Projected Image Entry Deadline
Color, Monochrome, Creative

Monday February 3, 2014

5pm Online Print Entry Deadline
7:15pm Print Entry Deadline

Competition: Color, Monochrome, Creative
Judge: Jordan Bickett

Refreshments:

Bob Leipsic, Sandra Leipsic, Stan Litwin

Monday, February 24, 2014

Program: Wildlife, extremely high resolution images, and night sky photography presented by Stephen Oachs

7:00 pm [Aperture Academy](#), Pruneyard Shopping Center, 1875 S Bascom, Campbell

Note change of time and venue

Refreshments: Lourdes Pollard, Chinniah Poosapadi, Pat Puder

Friday February 28, 2014

Deadline for paying \$50.00 dues

Saturday, March 1, 2014

11:30pm Projected Image Entry Deadline
Color, Monochrome, Nature

January Competition Winners Tell Us How They Did It

We asked the makers of the January first place images to send stories about what their subject was, when and where the image was taken, how it was created (photographed and/or processed), and why they created it.

January 2013 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Basic



Pray to the Lord
Ling-Kuo Lee

My photograph was taken on Christmas Eve at a church event, where I was inspired by the mood and atmosphere of the moment.

Due to the low-light situation, I had to increase my ISO up to 6400. But thanks to my Nikon D4, the image still produced a low noise result. I used a Nikon AF-S 24-70mm, f/2.8G lens with Aperture wide open to 2.8. The camera was set to Aperture priority mode and the exposure compensation was set to -2. The image was taken in Raw format, therefore in the post processing, I brought up the Exposure and Shadow a little bit, then made minor increases to the sharpness and reductions to the noise.

January 2013 First Place Photojournalism Digital Projected Image - Basic

From time to time, New Orleans' Jazz Clarinet Queen, [Doreen Ketchens](#) appears & plays on [Royal Street](#) in the French Quarter.

It was my great good luck to be there on December 2nd at 1:30 in the afternoon while returning to San José from Fort Lauderdale via New Orleans.

Finally, with my wife & teammate Sherry's mentoring, I'm just beginning to see Journalism opportunities. In this case, I moved in close, dropped a dollar in each of the three tip buckets on the ground in front of the band & captured Doreen's image at the height of her exuberance.

Captured with my compact Canon G9 at ISO 80, f4 & 1/800 second.

In post-processing, all that was necessary was to:

- reduce the contrast a bit
- crop to remove distracting background
- size & sharpen, and
- add a 50%/60px black vignette



Jazz Artist, Doreen Ketchens, Gives Her All
Barry Grivett

January 2013 First Place Monochrome Print



Along a Country Road
Don Schremp

This image was captured along Highway 1 just south of Moss Landing. It is another example of stopping and capturing something when you see it. My wife and I had made a last minute decision to take advantage of my son's overnight with friends by staying in Carmel. It was late in the day when we decided to go. It was foggy from San Jose to Santa Cruz and south past Watsonville. We were very surprised when the fog cleared just about a ½ mile north of the pictured location. The sun was just about to set.

I saw the interesting trees and barn in the background as we drove by and thought there could be a good image there. I did not stop because while we did not have a schedule, we did not want to arrive too late. A little later I decided I had to go back and see if I could capture something. I turned around and spent about 10 minutes getting a few different shots. It was hard to stop and go back but I was happy I did.

Many of my best images happen by making the effort to stop when on the way to some other destination. It can be difficult to do, especially when other people are along. I am very grateful my wife is willing to put up with it. This image was converted to monochrome and toned in Lightroom. The contrast, shadows, highlights, blacks, and exposure were also adjusted along with some dodging and burning and a vignette was added.

January 2013 First Place Photojournalism Print

Tired Participant in Willow Glen Founders' Day Parade
Don Schremp

We went to the Willow Glen [parade](#) because my son was marching in it as part of his school band. Parades are great places to capture not only the parade participants but also the crowd. I was taking pictures of whatever looked interesting when this group of parents and kids in the parade came by. We were close to the end of the parade, maybe a block from the end.

This boy first stopped for a moment and looked straight ahead very seriously and intently at the endpoint as if considering if he could make it or not. He then put his head down as shown in the image for a few seconds and finally raised his head on his hand with a resigned look before moving on. The whole thing lasted just a few seconds. I was lucky to have been focused on him when it happened, there would not have been enough time to respond to his actions.

The camera settings were f/4.5, 1/500th of second, ISO400, aperture priority. I wanted a fairly open aperture to limit the depth of field and blur the background. It also helped to keep the shutter speed high enough to freeze the motion. The day was overcast forcing a higher ISO setting but also providing much better light for this than a sunny day. I was using a 70 to 200mm zoom lens set at 100mm for this shot.



January 2013 First Place Color Print



An Old Barn in Autumn
Rennis Kauffman

My wife and I did a driving tour during October, 2013, to see the east coast foliage that we fondly remember when we both lived there. We started in Boston and ended around Asheville, N.C. Much of the time was on the beautiful [Blue Ridge Parkway](#). The colors were spectacular and the overcast weather was perfect to saturate the autumnal leaves.

We passed an area where there was an old abandoned barn off to the side and after driving on for a few minutes I made an abrupt U-turn to go back and photograph it. The clouds were amazing and seemed to complement the muted colors of the trees and grass.

The photo was taken with a Canon 5D Mark II using a Canon 24-105mm f/4L lens at 45mm that was equipped with a B+W Polarizer. Exposure settings were 1/180sec, f/9.5, ISO 125 and -1/2 EV. Post-processing in Adobe Lightroom 4 to adjust contrast and some minor color saturation.

January 2013 First Place Monochrome Digital Projected Image

I'm somewhat embarrassed about this picture as it was a complete accident.

This was taken outside the [Waterbar](#) restaurant on the Embarcadero in San Francisco in November, 2013. I was a bit grumpy after an over-priced and under-satisfying meal at the restaurant, so I took my wife's (previously my) Canon G-9 outside to take some pictures of the bridge. I had no tripod and handholding the camera was not an option. So, I sat it on an outdoor dining table, switched the camera to Manual mode and played with the exposure settings (as limited as they are on that camera) until I got something that looked reasonable in the tiny display.

It was only when I unloaded the camera and started looking at the shots that I realized there was a reflection on the table. I guess I was so focused on getting the bridge in the frame and it was so dark there, that I never noticed the reflection. The color quality was poor and the noise was very high, so I converted the image to monochrome and filtered out the noise. It was quite a surprise, indeed.

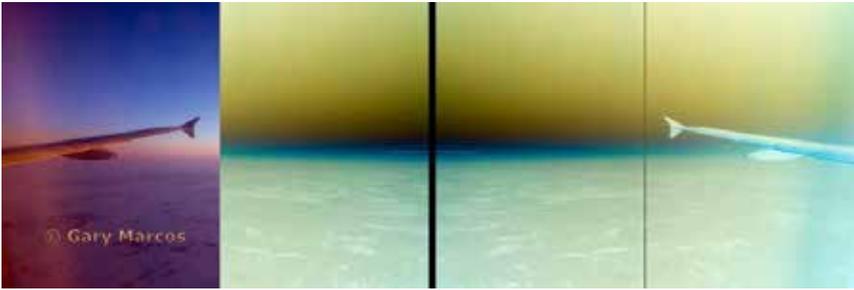
The specifics about the photo are - taken with a Canon Powershot G-9 at a focal length of 7.4mm, ISO 125, f/2.8, and a 2.0 second shutter speed. Post-processing in Lightroom 4, NIK Silver Efex and NIK Dfine.



Reflections On A Bridge
Rennis Kauffman

I like to call this type of a shot a "Happy Accident".

January 2013 First Place Pictorial/Color Digital Projected Image - Advanced



Airplane window view abstract
Gary Marcos

I was influenced to create the 'view out the airplane window' by the program speaker of last month, [Julianne Kost](#). She shared images with the club which were inspired by her work travels and to portray elements of an average day and in a captive space, in a new and creative way. Because I had a plane trip planned, I took the window seat to see what I could do being in a similar environment. Plus, I didn't have the patience to play Angry Birds for 6 hours so I needed another activity. There are a lot of challenges shooting out of an airplane window; there are scratches on the window, reflections and the lighting on the subject matter outside the plane. I had to carefully plan to mitigate reflections and used a blanket over my head which was of some help.

Julianne showed two pictures side by side (diptych) which influenced me, but I wanted a picture that was more integrated and stood on it's own as a single image, even though a reversal was clearly evident. So, I processed to my satisfaction the first image, expanded the canvas in Photoshop and flipped and overlaid the image. Then using some blending techniques shared by Andre Gallant (an activity in which many LGSCC club members were present), I blended the two images to create the final result. I personally enjoy the image because it creates a sense of place, a calmness with the choice of color palate, and gives the viewer an opportunity to move within the image and explore various elements.

January 2013 First Place Photojournalism Digital Projected Image - Advanced

I took this picture on a cold, cold day in April, 2011. It was my first visit to the Tulip Fields in La Conner, Washington. I take a lot of pictures with people in them, sometimes I ask and sometimes I don't. I ask parents before I take pictures of their kids and I often times will ask if they want me to send them the picture I've taken and many people say yes and I love that!

I also really like taking pictures of people at work and it hadn't occurred to me that there might be workers in the fields in La Conner and there weren't all that many but there were some...in fact there were just enough!

So as we walked through the fields and walked closer to a small group of workers, my heart was saying "hurry up" and when your heart speaks you better listen! And right when I got to where I wanted to see what I could see, this young man stood up with all those yellow tulips on his arm. He walked right toward me with that wonderful face and that sweet little smirk and I asked if I could take his picture and he gave me the slightest, smallest nod, and did not stop walking, and I got this picture. It was a very good day.



Basic Back Breaking Work, the tulip fields
in La Conner, Washington
Billie Warren

Meet Bill Warren, Hospitality Assistant

Thank you so much Airdrie for asking me to share a little bit of my story with the Camera Club.

My sister bought me my first camera when I was a senior in high school. It was a blessing in so many ways and I've been taking pictures ever since.

I grew up in Durango, Colorado, one of the best places ever. Unlike a lot of people from small towns I wasn't really raring to go away, I knew I would miss skiing, camping, and hiking but college beckoned me, and away I went. It wasn't all that bad, there was still skiing, camping, and hiking in Fort Collins, Co. It just wasn't Durango.

The most exciting thing that's ever happened to me besides having two wonderful daughters is that my husband and I (both Americans) met backpacking across Europe in 1974. We met in a hostel in England, traveled a little together and met back together at the end of summer at the same hostel. On my last night in England he took me to see Harvey with Jimmy Stewart live in a little theater in London. Who wouldn't want to marry the guy! We both finished our degrees in Boston that year and we celebrated our 34th wedding anniversary in Banff this summer.



We've lived in a lot of places, Colorado, Boston, D.C., Chicago, Los Angeles, Piedmont, in the Oakland hills, and finally to Los Gatos where we've lived for about twenty years.

We love to travel both flying and driving.

But far beyond all of the places we've gone, America's South West is still my favorite place. Growing up in Durango, and having parents who liked to explore, has set my soul solidly in that corner of the world. No matter how far we go and the beautiful places we've seen, I will always be tethered to the South West. Russell says "Utah, Arizona, New Mexico or Colorado" and I say "I'm packed!...right now! Let's GO!"

Our most recent big trip was a six week road trip through Glacier, Banff and Jasper, those pictures still take my breath away! We leave for New Zealand for a five week trip beginning mid-March.



I am self-taught, although I did take two online classes through PPSOP ([The Perfect Picture School of Photography](#)). One was an Elements class and the other was called Stretching your Frame of Mind. They were good, lots of good feedback. I really prefer face to face classes. I took an [Adult Ed](#) class at Santa Clara so I could understand how to better use my Canon. And I've just signed up for an Elements class there.

I'll take pictures of anything! Honestly I'm ridiculous!

I love having people in my pictures, so I do a lot of street photography. I like finding and shooting really well done street art and graffiti. I like taking nature pictures and I love getting creative. But I'll shoot just about anything and figure it out later if I like it or not.



I joined the Camera Club so I could meet new friends who like taking pictures as much as I do. I'm looking forward to going on some field trips and doing more competitions. It's great that we can get the speakers and judges to come in. I've been a member of [SmugMug](#) for several years and would like to know if anyone else uses it.

Here are some books (and a website) that bring me joy and or inspiration:

Jacques Henri Lartigue (for the sheer joy of his pictures. Below is the link to the exhibit in Spain where I first ever saw his work).

<http://www.lartigue.org/actualites/?p=33&lang=fr>

'Photographing the Second Gold Rush' Dorothea Lange and the Bay Area at War, 1041.

Leslie Sills '[In Real Life: Six Women Photographers](#)'.

Georgia O'Keefe 'A Portrait' by Alfred Stieglitz.

Finally, if you're a reader you might like '[Eight Girls Taking Pictures](#)' by Whitney Otto (fiction).

That's a little bit of my story and I'm stick'n to it.



Creative Definition

Creative photography is producing an image through the use of imaginative skill or originality of thought including the altering of reality. No image should be eliminated from competition simply because it looks realistic, provided it shows originality of concept. Creative images may include modifications in the darkroom, on the computer, or in the camera, as well as unusual points of view, imaginative use of subject matter or lighting, or any other presentation that begins with the maker's photograph or a collection of photographs.

Images are judged both for their technical and pictorial merit. The image should have strong composition, pleasing quality, and color, texture, pattern, and/or tone impact. The appropriateness of the technique selected to create altered reality is considered in judging. The content is unrestricted.

Key Contracts

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