

LGSCC magazine

Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club

losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org

Volume 48 Issue 10 ► October 2026



Featured Cover Image by Reza Islam

Contents and Coming Events

See the [Calendar](#) on our website for latest updates or details.

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Next Competition - Mon. Oct. 5, in-person and zoom

Submission Rules – Members may enter a maximum of two projected images. On months with prints, a maximum of three images may be submitted as three prints or a combination of print(s) and (up to two) projected images.

Our meeting judge for September will be Stephen Hinchey. Steve says “It is important to understand the message the creator of an image is trying to express. The image title is a guide in this understanding, reinforcing what you have seen or guiding you to the true message. When talking about the impact and interest in an image Stephen strives to be judicious in suggesting alterations”. More about Steve-
<https://www.instagram.com/barbarygroup/>

Categories for October - Mono, Color, Travel and Nature Projected - Prints will be in Creative, Journalism, Monochrome and Color.

Descriptions and rules for all Categories click – [here](#)

Photographer Quotes

“The single most important component of a camera is the twelve inches behind it.” – Ansel Adams”

Your first 10,000 photographs are your worst.” – Henri Cartier-Bresson

I missed that big foot hugging the alien shot by this much - anonymous

Monthly Hands-on Photo Editing Session - register to attend – Check the Club Calendar for dates, usually the last Wednesday of the month 3:30 - 5:30 at the Saratoga Library.

We'll edit photos you bring. **How to Register:** - Log-on to club website, Click event under [“calendar”](#) Questions, email [here](#)

Print Competitions Schedule

Prints will be judged every other month along with projected. For the rest of 2026, prints will be judged in . . .

October – Journalism, Creative, Mono, Color

December - Nature, Travel, Mono, Color

Special Interest Group Links below

(Click on any SIG title for detailed information)

[Special Interest Group - Seeing in Sixes](#)

[Special Interest Group in Monochrome Photography](#)

[Special Interest Group in Photoshop](#)

[Special Interest Group - Novice Only](#)

[Special Interest Group - Bird Photography](#)

[Special Interest Group - Hands-on Editing](#)

[Special Interest Group - Astrophotography](#)

[Special Interest Group - Eastern Sierra Photography](#)

[Special Interest Group - Landscape Photography](#)



Nature projected winner from 2024



Travel projected winner from 2023

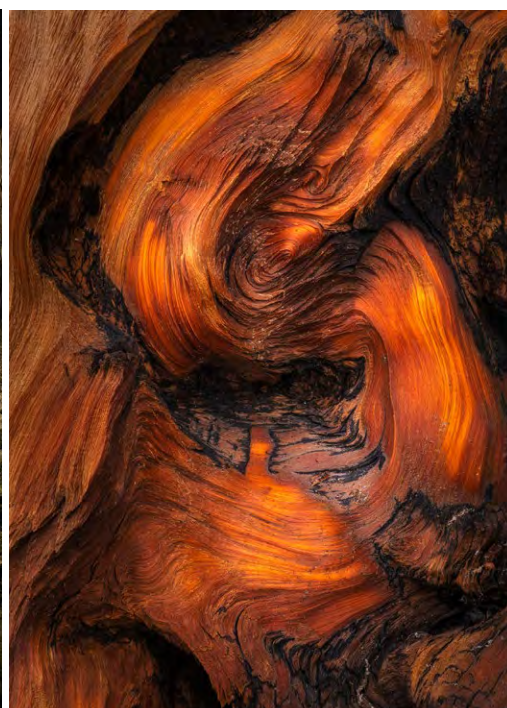
Member Biography - Tim Aston, Joined 03/2017

Tim Aston started his photography journey with a Kodak Brownie. Just kidding! He started with a Canon DSLR and eventually moved to Sony mirrorless (currently an A7RV and a converted 720 nm IR A7RIV). He is regularly met with incredulity when he carries a full sized tripod into the wilderness and uses it to make all of his images. While Tim spends most of his time photographing in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest (they are a forty minute drive from his home in Big Pine), he still finds his way to photographing Yosemite, Death Valley and



“After grading started factoring prominently in his nightmares, he left teaching high school biology . . .”

many places in between. He gets joy from nature and avoids photographing anything related to humans. The light comes first, and when he finds a worthy tree or rock, he'll return under different conditions until the scene feels right. Non-photographer friends who put up with him photographing in the field have described his process as “boring to watch” since it looks like he's just standing around waiting.



In the digital darkroom he spends most of his time in Lightroom Classic and occasionally uses Photoshop because he doesn't want to let his cheaper legacy Adobe CC subscription lapse. Sequator (star stacking) and Helicon Focus (focus stacking) are also used frequently. Despite his digital process, Tim's goal is always the print. He loves making his own prints on his 44" printer (generally on luster paper) and started selling them at art fairs ten years ago so he doesn't run out of space. After grading labs started factoring prominently in his nightmares, he left teaching high school biology and moved on to photography full-time. He still enjoys teaching, but now teaches landscape photography out of the Eastern Sierra to avoid grading. He sleeps soundly until the alarm goes off for sunrise.

See more from Tim at -Website: <https://www.astonmyerphotography.com/>

September Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It



◀ A Soulful Melody, Irina Nekrasova, Color Projected

I have been thinking about using these vintage cobbler/shoemaker wooden lasts (mid 20th century) in my still life for some time!

My creative preference is to find traces of human experience in otherwise inanimate objects—for better or worse. This is one of the several ideas I used in the creation of this image.

Photoshop editing is limited to sharpening and resizing. Canon EOS 60D f/16, S 12 sec, ISO 100

Whale, Tim Meadows, Journalism Projected ▶

Our visit to Western Greenland included a hike from the small settlement of Oqaatsut (pop. 40) South along the coast to Illusissat. To get to the trail head (like getting almost anywhere in Greenland) we took a short boat trip. As we motored into the settlement, we witnessed local Inuits 'harvesting' a fin whale they had shot the day before. Following strict quotas established by the International Whaling Association, local hunters must also share the spoils with the rest of the community. Everyone has a deep freeze stocked with whale meat and caribou.

Technical: Nikon Z7 with 24-200mm lens at 200mm, f8. Minimal cropping and sharpening applied in post.



September Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It



◀ Two Forms, One Poem, Irina Nekrasova, Monochrome Projected

My model is a professional dancer, and her willingness to trust my vision and follow my direction made this shot feel effortless, natural, and beautiful. This shoot took less than 30 minutes.

I'm grateful for the collaboration and for the opportunity to capture her in a way that feels authentic.

Location: Panther Beach, Santa Cruz County

Camera: Canon EOS 60D

Twin Waterlilies after a rain shower at Longwood Gardens, Mary Ellen Kaschub, Color Projected ▶

In late August I was fortunate to attend an Out of Chicago Photography Conference at Longwood Gardens, located in the Brandywine Valley, south of Philadelphia.

This 1100 -acre world-renowned public botanical garden was established in the early 1900s by Pierre duPont. The Waterlily Court features close to 100 varieties of waterlilies from around the world which bloom amongst a massive, floating display of lily pads, some up to 6-feet in diameter.

It was a magical place to photograph. This image of two twin lilies was captured right after a rain shower.

ISO 800, lens at 98mm , F-6.4 at 1/500 sec. with a lens mounted polarizer.



September Second Place Competition Winners



From the top - Creative Projected, Journalism Projected, Color Projected, and Monochrome Projected.

[All results and all images from a competition can be seen by clicking here.](#)

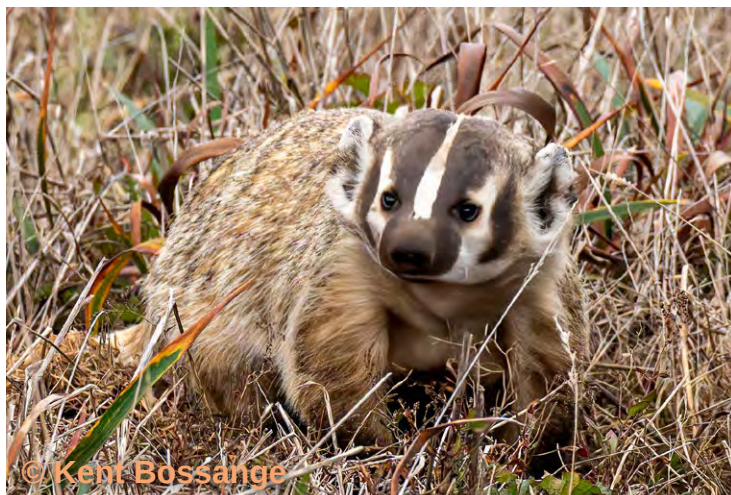
Point Reyes Field Trip Images

Trip organized by Mercury Freedom -

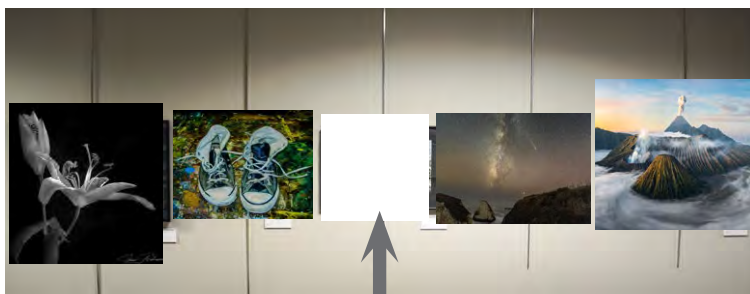
It was a highly successful Field Trip on September 15 - 17 @ Point Reyes National Seashore. Gorgeous images were captured and are featured on the next two pages with lots of scenery and wildlife including Tule Elk battling during the rutting season. It was a seven mile round trip hike to be with them but well worth it. Trip highlights included Pt. Reyes Lighthouse, the Pt. Reyes Historic Lifeboat Station, Chimney Rock and Cypress Tree Tunnel.



Point Reyes Field Trip Images (continued)



Upcoming JCC Photo Exhibit for Our Club



Your Print(s) Needed Here



October 15th Deadline

Article by Rick Varley, Exhibit V.P.

Hello Shutter Bugs! October 15th Deadline. REMINDER... REMINDER Please get images ready to enter by October 15.

This article provides all the info you need to participate in the club's exhibit at the Los Gatos JCC all month long in November. All members of LGSCC are invited to display their "BEST" photos.

- There is no theme except to display your best work and photos must have been taken in the past 3 years.
- They may have been submitted to club competitions but that is not a requirement.
- They may not have been displayed at the previous club exhibits at the JCC.
- You may enter up to three photos. How many are hung will depend on wall space and the total number of entries. Our goal is for every club member to be able to show at least one photo.

You are free to display in any category and medium; however, the photo must be able to hang on a hook. There are no size limits. But...be aware that any photo under glass must not exceed 20 lbs. Larger or heavier photos must use plexiglass for safety purposes as most are hung in a busy hallway, I personally favor aluminum to display my work because it is the most striking and no frame is required. It is also self centering, and the easiest to hang. Check bayphoto.com ... and wait for the sale. Dirty photos with scratched glass, beat up frames, or held together with string and duct tape will not be accepted. This is our first exhibit in two years so please show your best.

Susan lane susanlane@yahoo.com has again volunteered to process all entries.

By October 15, email your small size jpeg photo(s) to Susan. This is just to identify the image you will bring to the JCC for hanging. Do not exceed 1000 pixels in width and include the following information for each photo:

1. The proper name of the photographer.
2. Your email for being contacted. Leave blank if you do not wish to be contacted.
3. Title of the photo
4. Optional description not to exceed 128 characters including spaces.
5. The size inclusive of frame of the photo: Height x width
6. If the photo is for sale indicate a price. If no price is given, "NFS", or Not for Sale will be put on the label.

In the exhibit each photo will have a 2"x 4" label provided by the club, positioned next to images with the above data as provided by you. **Plan on delivering your photo(s) to the JCC on November 1 for hanging.** Information on the exact opening date and artists reception will be forthcoming. I am open to suggestions and help! Varleyrick1@gmail.com

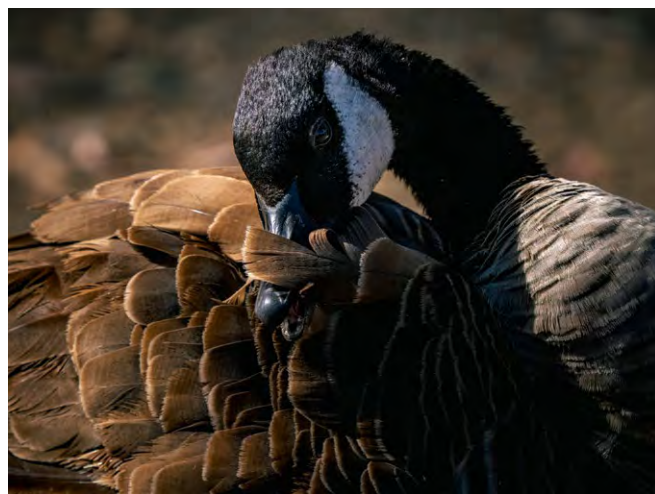
Bird Photography Special Interest Group

by Charles Rath

Our club program night featured the Bird Photography SIG on Monday September 28th at 7:30 pm.

Charlie Rath and members of the BirdSIG shared the benefits of being part of this SIG. The program night featured our members sharing five or six photos each and the story of how they got their captures (often based on information provided by a fellow SIG member). Through our monthly Zoom session and field trips, we provide an opportunity to develop friendships with each other via our mutual interest in photography and birds.

About the Bird SIG: We are an informal group of LGSCC members who enjoy photographing mainly birds but also animals in the wild. We have outings to go to suggested places and photograph together, to learn from each other and to address the growing safety problem when going to a secluded or sparsely populated area alone with rather expensive equipment.



At left - Cliff Swallows by Anar Daswani

Above - Vasona Park Canadian Goose by Jeffrey Balfus

Below Left - Red-tailed Hawk and Chick by Robert Fox

Below - Great Horned Owl Harassed! by Mercury Freedom



Iconic Photo Back Story



The "Silver Streak" shown above is now in the Chicago Museum of Science & Industry

The Pioneer Zephyr is a diesel-powered train set built by the Budd Company in 1934 for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad (CB&Q), commonly known as the Burlington Route. The train set was the second internal-combustion-powered streamliner built for mainline service in the United States (after the Union Pacific Railroad's M-10000), the first such train powered by a diesel engine, and the first to enter revenue service.

The train set consists of one power/storage car, one baggage/RPO/buffet/coach car, and one coach/observation car. The cars are made of stainless steel, permanently articulated together with Jacobs bogies. The construction incorporated recent advances such as shotwelding (a specialized type of spot welding) to join the stainless steel, and unibody construction and articulation to reduce weight. It was the first of nine similarly built train sets made for Burlington and its technologies were pivotal in the subsequent dieselization of passenger rail service.



Its operating economy, speed, and public appeal demonstrated the potential for diesel-electric-powered trains to revitalize and restore profitability to passenger rail service that had suffered a catastrophic loss of business with the Great Depression. Originally named the Burlington Zephyr during its demonstration period, it became the Pioneer Zephyr as Burlington expanded its fleet of Zephyr train sets.

On May 26, 1934, it set a speed record for travel between Denver and Chicago when it made a 1,015.4-mile (1,633 km) non-stop "Dawn-to-Dusk" dash in 13 hours 5 minutes at an average speed of almost 78 mph (124 km/h). For one section of the run, it reached a speed of 112.5 mph (181 km/h). The historic dash inspired a film ("The Silver Streak") and the train's nickname, "The Silver Streak".

In Remembrance of Jeffrey Balfus

Jeffrey was a long-time active competing member and former President of the Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club. He joined in 2013

Jeff Balfus passed away suddenly on September 19th from cardiac arrest. A private service was held for immediate family.

A retired anesthesiologist, dedicated golfer, and talented photographer, Jeff lived a life rich in skill and passion. Originally from New York, Jeff made the Bay Area his home while attending Stanford Medical School, later completing his residency at Stanford Hospital. He spent many wonderful years residing in Monte Sereno.

On the course, Jeff was an avid golfer and served for years as the captain of the La Rinconada Seniors golf program. Off the course, he possessed a rare eye for creative detail. After joining Flickr in 2015, Jeff's photography captured the hearts of a global audience, accumulating over 22 million views.

Two of his recent photographs, captured with his Sony Alpha ILCE-1, are shared below. Jeff we will all miss you.



Jeffrey Balfus 1944 - 2026



Great Photography Articles/Videos

Pets and Wildlife Images - <https://www.usatoday.com/picture-gallery/pets-animals/wildlife/2026/09/15/audubon-2026-wildlife>

iPhone 18 Pro/Duo features - <https://www.cnet.com/tech/mobile/apple-iphone-18-pro-vs-iphone-duo/>

Video - Camera with built-in AI - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77yGvU99P7Y>

Canon DSLR Future - <https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/cameras/dslr-cameras/the-dslr-might-be-dying>

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