

LGSCC magazine

Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club

losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org

Volume 47 Issue 3 ► March 2025



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*Featured Cover by Jeffrey Balfus
Two fledgling Hummingbirds wait to be fed*

Notices and Coming Events

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

Next Competition - Monday March 3. 7:30 Zoom only

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 prints and (up to two) projected images.

Our meeting judge for March will be Gary Crabbe. To see Gary's work, including his USPS Stamp photos, visit his web site at <https://enlightphoto.com>

Categories for March- Besides the monthly categories of Mono and Color – the challenge categories will be Journalism and Creative projected

Journalism

- Images with informative content and emotional impact
- Reflecting the human presence in our world.
- The journalistic (story-telling) value of the image should receive priority over pictorial quality.
- Images that misrepresent the truth, such as events or activities arranged specifically for photography, or of subjects directed or hired for photography, are not eligible.
- The title should identify the activity (answer who, what, where, when and why) and complement the story as shown in the image and is restricted to 200 characters including spaces in this category.

Allowed editing techniques:

- Cropping, straightening and perspective correction.
- Removal or correction of elements added by. . . [MORE](#)

Creative

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.

Subject content is unrestricted.

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. High Dynamic Range (HDR) images without further changes are not considered "Altered Reality". Optional Diptychs and . . . [MORE](#)

Welcome New Member(s)

Terry Gascay: *I go by Terr, I like to find common items in unusual places, my favorite subjects are Street, Nature, Miniatures and Motion photography. Looking forward to Club field trips.*

Marsha Thomas: *I'm a food and beverage photographer working in the Bay Area, with more than 15 years experience. I also create the set display for photoshoots. I'm excited to gather and learn.*

Print Competitions Schedule

Prints will be judged every other month along with projected. For 2025, prints will be judged in:

April - Nature, Creative, Color, Monochrome
June - Journalism, Travel Monochrome, Color
August - Nature, Creative, Color, Monochrome
October - Travel, Creative, Color, Monochrome
December - Journalism, Nature, Color, Monochrome

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



© Airdrie Kincaid

2021 Creative Projected by Airdrie Kincaid

My first club member profile was in the December 2016 newsletter and you can find it in the Magazine section of LGSCC's website. Much has happened since 2016. I served as the head of Exhibitions, Education and was the LGSCC's President, 2020-2021. During my term as president I initiated the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and still lead the Sixes and Novice Only SIGs. Since joining LGSCC, I received numerous awards for both digital and print competitions as well as the Carolyn Ramsey Award.

“So I decided to become a judge. I took the N4C judging course and was certified”

When I joined LGSCC I found the competitions fun but also frustrating. I thought the quality of the judging was mediocre at best and the feedback from the judge was limited. So I decided to become a judge. I took the N4C judging course and was certified. The course is basically a rule book of what they think makes a good photograph. I realized that to do well in competitions you needed to follow these arbitrary rules. This was my source of frustrations with competitions and the reason why I stopped submitting images. What I wanted was a forum to show my work and get feedback from other photographers. The SIGs have become that forum.

I'm still submitting photographs to both contests and publications. I have been fortunate to have a series of my light painted still life's published in *Shadow & Light Magazine* July/August 2023 and in March 2024, I accomplished a bucket list goal of having my work published in the critically acclaimed magazine, *Lenswork*. The published series was called *Reconstructions* and was a Cubist type view of buildings. In June of this year

I had my first solo exhibition at the Stephen Johnson Photography Gallery in Pacifica. This was an exhibit of panoramas of Amtrak Stations in California.



February Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made



◀ Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) drinking from a persimmon, Airdrie Kincaid, Nature Projected

I have a tall 50+ year old tree in my backyard that has hundreds of Hachiya persimmons in November and December. Although we occasionally pick some fruit, we leave the rest for the birds. I set up my camera on a tripod in the den and open the sliding door when I see a photo op. I've watched Cedar waxwings, American robins, a Hermit thrush, Western bluebirds, Nuttall's and Hairy woodpeckers, a Northern flicker, Sapsuckers, Yellow-rumped and Townsend's warblers, House finches, and Goldfinches pecking at the persimmons but this was the first time I had seen a hummingbird drinking from a ripe one.

Canon EOS R5, Sigma 150-600mm lens at 600 mm, *f*/8, ISO-2000, 1/1000 sec



Elusive Peaks, Tim Meadows, Monochrome Print

This image showcases most of the Fitz Roy massif in Argentinian Patagonia. The view is from the Laguna de los Tres hike at about the 5 mile mark. You may notice the light-ish track up the middle of the mountain in the foreground. That is the trail up to the viewpoint of the lake and Fitz Roy. We had good, but not great weather as Fitz Roy is shrouded in the clouds at the right. Fitz Roy, known as El Chalten (smoking mountain) to the locals, is a high-profile target for world-class mountaineers.

Technical: Nikon Z7, 24-120mm lens, ISO 200, F16. Printed on Epson Cold Press Bright paper.

February Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It (continued)



◀ Ancient Interlacing, Tim Aston, Color Print

Wandering around the bristlecones, the interplay between this dolomite rock and a fallen bristlecone root had me looking for compositions. I played with including more of the scene, but I narrowed this down to the bare essentials. Small adjustments to the camera position made a big difference in how the rock edge at the right interacted with the complementary part of the root, and I ended up very close to the minimum focus distance of the lens. I found this scene in the early morning, and the light was indirect and even. I returned two more times looking to use a nearby dolomite hillside as a reflector, and late afternoon was perfect to get some reflected light on my subject.

Sony A7R4 with 24-70mm 2.8 at 70mm, f/11 1/10" at 200 ISO.
~10 images focus stacked.



▲ Porter Balances Large Bags of Trash As He Descends the Mountain. In the Huangshan Mountains, China, Everything Must Be Carried Up and Down By Porters, Betty Toepfer, Travel Projected.

Huangshan or Yellow Mountains are located in eastern China and are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. To access the summit, guests ride a gondola for about 45 minutes, over the many slender jagged peaks. All facilities at the summit are kept stocked and serviced by porters who carry food, propane tanks, construction material, trash, etc., up and down the mountains on foot, hanging their cargo from long poles balanced on their shoulders or backs. 28mm, 1/20 sec, F5.6, ISO 100.

February Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It (continued)



◀ There are no words only the movement and the pointe is made, Irina Nekrasova, Color Projected

Stanford campus is a great place for outdoor photography. I had conceptualized the location, lighting, and composition for this shoot well in advance. I chose three of the images to compose the final work in post production using Photoshop.

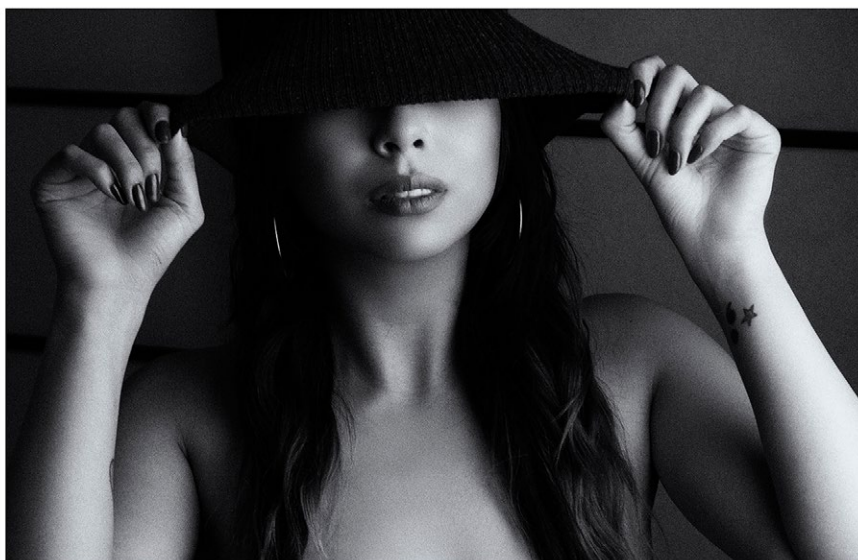
Camera settings: ISO 800, F 4.5, S 1/640, lens 48 mm

Lotus With Hat, Jim Pollack, Monochrome Projected ▶

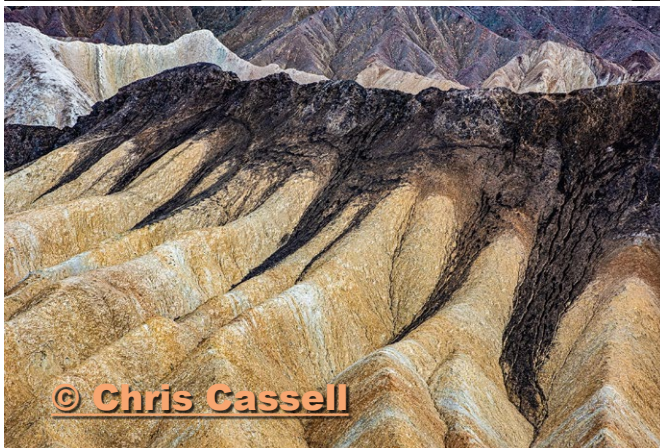
Lotus Bound was the first model I worked with upon moving to NorCal. We shot in a little work place up against a dark wall using one softbox. I've used this space a lot and sometimes models think it's kind of funny that we can get quality images with a little backdrop or a wall and simple lighting.

I had this hat I wanted to try and Lotus and I discussed poses and then we just started shooting. I always say I only need one image to make the shoot a success and honestly I cannot think of any other images from this hat series besides this one.

I used my Nikon D7100 and a Nikkor 17-35 lens. I'm glad the judge liked this shot. I hope the group does too!



February Second Place Competition Winners



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

Our New Board of Directors 2025

To all members - Please note the open positions highlighted in yellow below. These positions are critical to the smooth operation of the club and the programs we provide. There is guidance and training provided by the club for all open positions. Contact the Office holder for assistant positions and Kent or Tim for the Education office. Thank you

Los Gatos- Saratoga Camera Club

2025 Board

Position	Office Holder	Assistants
President	Kent Bossange	Tim Meadows
Treasurer	Airdrie Kincaid	Evert Wolsheimer
Secretary	Cary Coutant	
VP Education	- open -	
VP Judges	Chris Cassell	- open -
VP Membership	Mary Ellen Kaschub	Richard Ingles
VP Hybrid Meetings	Will Belknap	Jim Lamb
VP Field Trips	Irina Nekrasova	- open -
VP Prints	Tim Meadows	
VP Programs	Jeffrey Pawlan	
VP Exhibits	Rick Varley	
VP Digital	Cary Coutant	- open -
VP Hospitality	Mercury Freedom	Alan Levenson
Webmaster	Rick Whitacre	Jim Lamb / Jim Katzman
Magazine Editor	Eric Gray	Rick Tavan
Photo Sergeant-at-Arms	Bernie Weinzimmer	
Medical Sergeant-at-Arms	Steve Green	
N4C Rep	Jim Lamb	
PSA Rep	Jeffrey Pawlan	

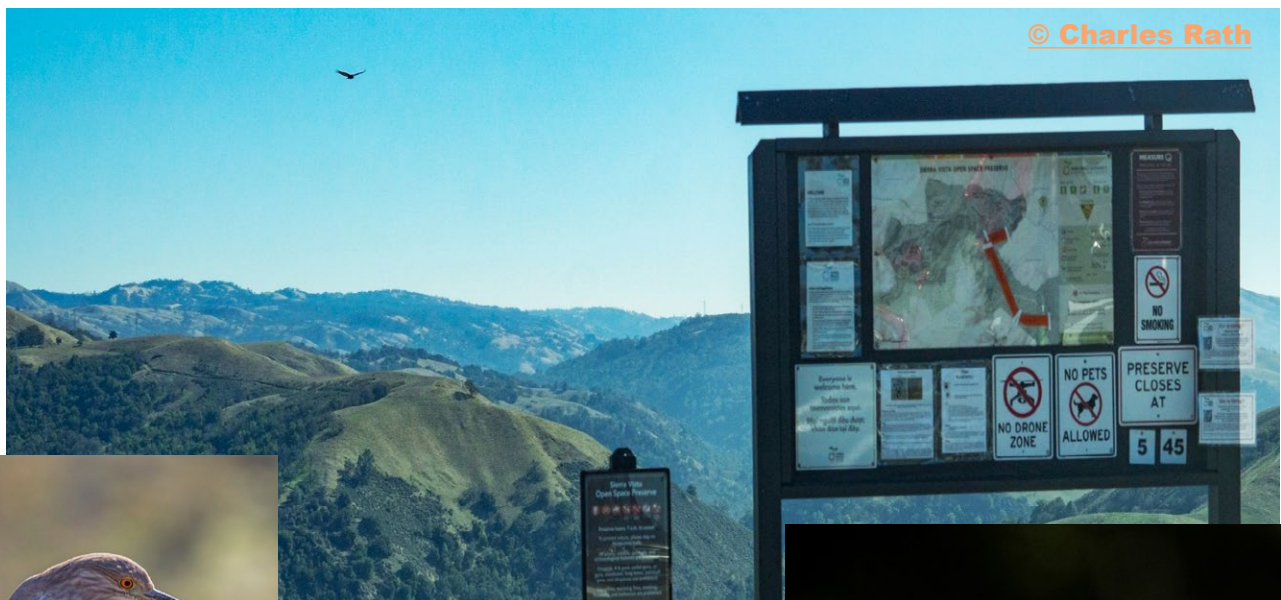
Birding Field Trip

by Charles Rath

We are an informal group of LGSCC members who enjoy photographing mainly birds but also animals in the wild. We will create meetings via Zoom to discuss where we have seen good things to photograph and make plans to have informal outings to go to these suggested places and photograph together. One aspect of going with others is to learn from each other as we all have different talents. Another aspect of going as a group of even two or three people addresses the growing problem of the safety of going to a secluded or sparsely populated area alone with rather expensive equipment.

Our group will also have varied meetings via Zoom ranging from people sharing their photos or talking about problems with getting their equipment to do what they want. Birds in flight can be tricky to photograph. Other subjects we can discuss are which lenses and which settings seem to produce better results for a specific situation. Others want to learn about how to process their images.

This official field trip was taken on January 28, 2025. Many of those that attended posted captures, [in our website gallery](#), from this visit to an amazing location in the hills above Alum Rock Park.



© Charles Rath



© Airdrie Kincaid



© Airdrie Kincaid



© Kent Bossange

Marin Headlands Field Trip

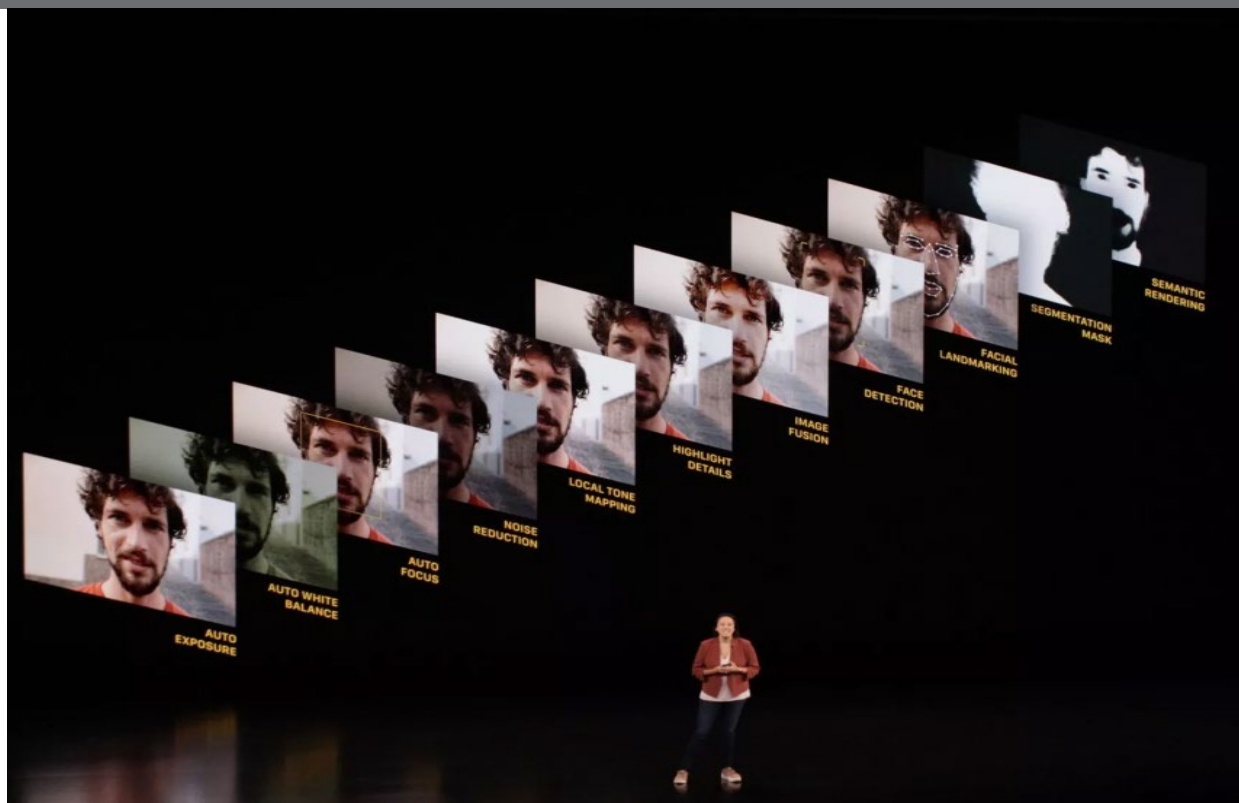
by Irina Nekrasova

Our recent trip took place at the Rodeo Beach and Golden Gate Bridge Bunker Hill view point. Rodeo Beach is one of the most popular sites in the Marin Headlands. We enjoyed clear coast and spectacular sunset at the GGB vista point. The participants (Chis Cassell, Alan Levenson, James Lung, Jim Lamb, Jeffrey Balfus , Irina Nekrasova) enjoyed practicing various techniques and styles of photography!

This official field trip was taken on February 12, 2025. Many of those that attended, posted captures in our website gallery, [login to see more images here.](#)



Computational Photography



Apple's Phil Schiller previews the Deep Fusion feature, originally for the iPhone 11 Pro, that analyzes nine photos (including one long-exposure shot) taken in sequence. The device's neural engine then analyzes the collection to create an optimal end photo that borrows the best elements of each image. Schiller said it was "computational photography mad science." (known as Live Picture on an iPhone) Image from EOSHD.com

by Eric Gray,

This intro to computational photography gives you a glimpse of the future. The image above shows the nine steps that Apple's Deep Fusion software uses when an iPhone image is taken in Live Picture mode. You push the shutter but the shutter has already taken a few frames and takes a few more to reach nine images. This processes your image for better quality and lets the photographer choose the best frame while in edit mode. I often use it to choose a frame where all eyes are open or when my granddaughter sneaks in her adorable smile. That is the way Apple offers the iPhone but many other camera phones offer similar software and image processing, See more detail in links here. [HDR+ by Google](#), [Deep Fusion by Apple](#), and [EnhanceAI by Skylum](#).

So what about DSLRs and Mirrorless cameras?

It is already here in some cameras and coming soon to a camera near you. The vintage looking OM System OM-3 (formerly Olympus) has a dedicated computational photography button allowing the ability to capture higher-res images in 14-bit RAW (up to 50MP handheld or 80MP when using a tripod), neutral density and graduated filters, composite imagery using focus stacking and exposure bracketing, and AI-powered autofocus that can automatically detect specific subjects. [More here in article by Andrew Liszewski at theverge.com](#)

[from petapixel.com](#) - by Justin Heim

In some ways, this is a frightening aspect of modern photography. Traditionally, photographers have been championed because they have the knowledge, equipment, and experience to create stunning images in many different environments. If computational photography makes it possible to do more with less hardware, photographers need to compete with everyone who has a smartphone. There will always be the artistic side of photography, however, which will belong to photographers for at least a little bit longer. The rise of AI has brought important questions to the art world, and photography is no exception.

Long Exposure Monochrome Magic

[from 121clicks.com](http://from121clicks.com)

George Digalakis is a renowned photographer known for his captivating long exposure black and white images, often featuring serene seascapes. His work, characterized by minimalist compositions and a profound sense of calm, captures the essence of the sea in a way that transcends the ordinary.

By employing long exposure techniques, Digalakis smooths out the waves and emphasizes the ethereal qualities of water, creating a dreamlike atmosphere. The absence of color in his photographs further enhances the focus on light, shadow, and texture, drawing viewers into the subtle interplay of these elements.

Digalakis's work is not just a technical exploration but also an artistic expression of tranquility and introspection. His images invite viewers to contemplate the beauty of simplicity and the passage of time, often evoking a meditative response. The careful balance between natural elements and the stark contrast in tones makes his work stand out in the genre of black and white photography. Through his lens, the sea becomes a canvas of infinite possibilities, where the interplay of light and water creates timeless and evocative scenes. You can check [George's Instagram](#) account for more.



Iconic Photo Back Story



Two Kashmir Giants Posing With The American Photographer James Ricalton, 1903. One Of The Giants Was 7'9" Tall While The "Shorter" One Was A Mere 7'4" Tall from <https://www.boredpanda.com/unique-historical-photos/>

-more from dannydutch.com

James Ricalton, born in 1844, was an intrepid American photographer and educator whose career was marked by a relentless pursuit of knowledge and discovery. Ricalton's travels took him across the globe, documenting diverse cultures and landscapes with a keen eye for detail and an enduring curiosity. By the time he arrived in Kashmir in 1903, he had already established a reputation as a prolific and adventurous photographer.

The Purpose of Ricalton's Expedition

Ricalton's journey to Kashmir was part of a broader expedition to document the varied and often enigmatic cultures of Asia. His work was intended to provide Western audiences with a glimpse into the lives and traditions of people in far-flung regions. The photographs of the Kashmir Giants were meant to be both a scientific curiosity and a captivating spectacle, showcasing the diversity of human physiology and the rich tapestry of life in Kashmir. ...[MORE](#)

Photographers to Watch— Tariq Zaidi

From <https://www.all-about-photo.com/>

Tariq Zaidi is a freelance photographer currently based out of London, UK. In January 2014, he gave up an executive management position to pursue his passion of capturing the dignity, strength and soul of people within their environment. His photography focuses on documenting social issues, inequality, traditions and endangered communities around the world.

Tariq's stories, images and videos from Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Cambodia, Chad, DRC, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Mongolia, North Korea, Republic of the Congo & South Sudan have been featured internationally in over 900 magazines / newspapers / websites (in more than 90 countries) You can [see Tariq's work here for more amazing photos.](#)



Great Photography Articles

Five Photo Projects - <https://fstoppers.com/education/five-photography-projects-sharpen-your-skills-and-creativity-691315>

Video - Excuses in Landscapes - <https://fstoppers.com/landscapes/stop-making-these-excuses-your-photography-683123>

Low and High Key Photography - <https://fstoppers.com/education/closer-look-high-key-and-low-key-photography->

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