LGSCC magazine

Los Gatos - Saratoga Camera Club

losgatos-saratogacameraclub.org

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Notices and Coming Events

See the <u>Calendar</u> on our web site for latest updates or details.

Next Competition - Mon. Dec. 1, In-person & 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 prints and (up to two) projected images.

Our meeting judge for December is Stephen Hinchey. In stating his philosophy, he says, "It is important to understand the message the creator of an image is trying to express. The title is a guide in this understanding, reinforcing what you have seen or guiding you to the true message."

Categories for December- Besides the monthly categories of Mono and Color – the challenge categories will be Creative/ Nature projected and Journalism/Nature Prints

Nature Category

Nature photography records all branches of natural history except anthropology and archaeology. This includes all aspects of the physical world, both animate and inanimate, that have not been made or modified by humans.

- Nature images must convey the truth of the scene that was photographed. A well-informed person should be able to identify the image subject and be satisfied that it has been presented honestly and that no unethical practices have been used to control the subject or capture the image. Images that directly or indirectly show any human activity that threatens the life or welfare of a living organism are not allowed.
- The most important part of a Nature image is ... MORE

Creative Category

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 . . . MORE

Journalism Category

- 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 those from events or activities arranged specifically for <u>MORE</u>

Print Competitions Schedule

Prints will be judged every other month along with projected. For 2025-2026, prints will be judged in:

December - Journalism, Nature, Color, Monochrome February - Journalism, Travel, Color, Monochrome April - Creative, 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



2018 Creative Projected by Airdrie Kincaid

Monthly Hands-on Photo Editing Session - register to attend – Check the Club Calendar for dates, usually the last Wednesday of the month 3:45 - 5:45 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

November Competition Winners Tell Us How They Made It



■ Variegated Meadowhawk Dragonfly resting on a zinnia, Anar Daswani, Color Projected

I visited Yolo County this year to check out the sunflower fields. During this visit I heard about a zinnia patch. This zinnia garden was astonishing, with an amazing number of hummingbirds and dragonflies. I was drawn to this dragonfly whose coloring matched the zinnia that it was perched on. I approached it slowly and was able to take multiple photos with my Sony 90 mm macro lens before it flew off.

SS 1/200, f/11, ISO 125, Sony 90 mm lens, Sony a1 camera

A Street Corner in Lisbon. A crowd gathers to cheer for skateboarders as they performed. Summer, 2023, Kelly Zhang, Travel Projected ▶

I was walking in downtown Lisbon when I came across this group of teenagers skateboarding at a street corner. It was fascinating to watch all of the teens being enthusiastic in participating one by one, while the rest cheered for each one of them. This image was shot with a Sony A1, lens 24-70.



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



■ 13 Year Old Riley shows amazing control of her rowdy young horse Scout! Bear Creek Stables, Santa Cruz Mountains., Mercury Freedom, Journalism Projected

This image has a fun story: I was asked if I'd provide some photos for Bear Creek Stables in support of their effort in negotiations with Mid Pen — keeping their private stables alive while becoming part of Mid Pen as a non-profit benefiting the public. 'Friends of Bear Creek Stables' was formed as the guiding entity in this effort, so I went to the stables with them to get a set of photos that would go along with a story of their efforts and intentions in a local magazine. Long story short — we find this 13 year old rider (Riley) there practicing with her horse Scout — putting on an amazing display!

Sony A1, Tamron 35-150 mm @ 101 mm, 1/2000, f 8.

West Side Yard, a rail yard of 30 tracks on the west side of Manhattan in NYC., Chiiming Kao, Monochrome Projected ▶

It was a sunny August day in Manhattan. After doing the usual tourist activities, I joined the crowd heading to the popular 1.5-mile elevated High Line on the west side.

Equipped with my Sony A7 IV and a wide-angle lens, I hoped to capture striking skyscrapers, boats on the river, or the colorful bustle of the streets.

As I approached 34th Street and 11th Avenue, the vast West Side Yard suddenly opened before me, filled with rows of trains and tracks. The sight was incredible, and I knew it had potential for a compelling photo.

However, a steel mesh fence blocked my lens from getting a clean shot. Fortunately, my Pixel 7 Pro's small lens fit through the mesh.

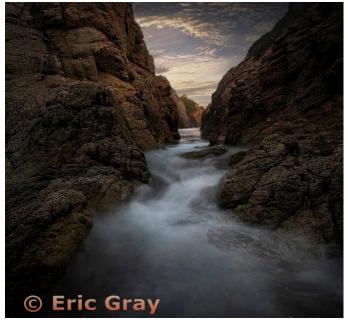
Back home, I selected my favorite image, then cropped, straightened, and converted it into a crisp black-and-white photograph.



November Second Place Competition Winners









All results and all images from a competition can be seen by clicking here.

Program - Rick Whitacre on Meteor Photography

YouTube Program link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyiKm0owuUw

The Geminid Meteor Shower is one of the best of the year and will peak on the night of Dec 13/14 this year. The moon does not rise until 2 am on the 14th making this a great year to get out and photograph it!

On November 17th, Rick did a Program Night presentation on photographing meteor showers. The presentation was recorded and a link to it can be found above or on the Programs link on our club's website. The presentation contains information on meteor showers and a lot of tips for photographing them. I also co-authored an article a few years ago that goes into more details. It can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/msctw8f9

So, dress warmly, grab your camera, tripod, and extra batteries and head out somewhere dark on the 13th!





Camera Setup Recommendations

Set camera to "RAW" for greatest flexibility in post processing.

Set ISO to 3200 or 6400 depending on how well your camera handles noise.

Install a large, empty memory card. You need room for 120-180 images for every hour of shooting.

Set the exposure mode to Bulb and connect your intervalometer (remote timer). If your camera has a built in intervalometer that will take back-to-back 15-30 second exposures for many hours, you can use that.

Use a wide angle lens to capture more of the sky. Focal lengths between 14-24mm (full frame equivalent) are recommended.

Set the Aperture to its widest setting; ideally f/1.4 - f/2.8 for capturing meteor streaks. You may want to stop down 1-2 stops for a sharper foreground image for blending in later, but shoot wide open for the meteors.

Safari and Wildlife Tips

By Lauren Breedlove, Published on June 16, 2025, from https://www.travelandleisure.com/safari-and-wildlife-photography

Choose wisely.

While I'm careful about overpacking, one thing I won't compromise on is traveling with two camera bodies. I carry two Sony full-frame mirrorless cameras, an Alpha 7R III and an Alpha 7R V. I fit each one with a different lens so I don't have to swap lenses in the middle of whatever action I'm trying to capture. I typically use a 24-70 mm for wider shots of the landscape, animal herds, and creatures that come close, and a 200-600 mm super telephoto for tighter shots. I also bring along a 70-200 mm, just in case.





Be Prepared.

When it comes to rare sightings—a cheetah feasting on a fresh kill, a hyena, a sable antelope—you might only have a split second to capture the moment. "Too often, guests arrive in Africa with brand-new camera equipment they have never used," says Shaun Stanley, the founder of Stanley Safaris. "Practice prior to your arrival and consider investing in a photography course."

Keep it Clean

I always carry Zeiss lens wipes, microfiber cleaning cloths, and a rocket air blaster for removing dust without the risk of scratches. My lenses are also fitted with UV filters, which protect them from scratches and harsh sunshine.

Stay steady.

For sharp images, stability is key—but a traditional tripod is cumbersome inside the confines of a safari vehicle. I've learned to love the Kinesis SafariSack, a beanbag-style pouch you can rest on the side of a Land Rover or over a seat. "Many lodges and camps have them, but you can never be certain, so I always bring my own," says Ian Proctor, a member of the T+L A-List and president of Ultimate Africa Safaris. "I pack it empty and then ask the lodge for some beans to fill it when I arrive."

Bring extra memory.

I've gotten the dreaded "SD card full" message many times, and it always seems to happen when I'm capturing some thrilling moment. "It is not out of the norm to shoot MORE

Field Trip - Sunset at the Natural Bridges and Monarch Butterfly Natural Preserve



It was Wednesday November 19th at 2:30

About 10 club photographers and guests enjoyed a day at Natural Bridges, a State Park that features a natural rock arch that juts out into the ocean, providing a picturesque backdrop for visitors. The park is renowned for its Monarch Butterfly Natural Preserve, where thousands of monarch butterflies migrate and roost from late fall to early spring. During colder days, they cluster in the eucalyptus trees and appear as clumps of dead leaves.

In the last 20 years tiny sensors have tracked individual Monarchs across their migration paths. Read more https://news.engineering.pitt.edu/tracking-monarch-butterfly

If you missed it and want to go on your own - Cost: There is a \$10 vehicle day-use fee. The park has restrooms, picnic tables, and plenty of parking.

Low Tide was 3:57 pm, Sunset was at 4:55 pm. Bring a jacket- monarchs cluster at 55 degrees or less and fly only after warming their wings in above 55° weather.



Image at left by Mercury Freedom



Images above by Eric Gray

Image below by Jeffrey Balfus



Holy Pepto Bismol - In Camera Editing You Just Talk To



Cairo Camera - Powered by Google Nano Banana - and your phone magnetically attaches to the back

YouTube link https://youtu.be/B65b7ZV WRU?si=Dk6nJoFsK2nuYZvX

You gotta see this! by Eric Gray

Emily from Micro Four Nerds tells you all about this camera and the integrated Google Nano Banana that is just bananas at accurate, medium+ resolution image editing from your voice right after you snap the shutter.

Voice prompts can be short or long and the longer they are the better. Just use your natural speaking pace and inflections and it sorts out the . . . ahs and ums to figure out what you had in-mind.

All of this editing is based on Natural Language Processing (NLP) developed by Google over several years. It may someday replace most interfaces like keyboards, digital thermostat interfaces, and perhaps the interface to most electronic devices in your home. Can you say "Beam me up Scotty".

More about Nano Banana from Wired https://www.wired.com/story/google-nano-banana-pro-hands-on/



She says, "make this camera yellow" and it does

Iconic Photo Back Story

From https://www.huffpost.com/entry/be-more-like-young-frida-kahlo-wearing-a-menswear-suit-in-her-family-photo by Priscilla Frank
When I think Frida Kahlo's fashion, I think of flowing skirts, bushy brows, flower crowns, dramatic corsets, sculpted braids, so on and so forth. Yet a Kahlo family photo taken by her father Guillermo Kahlo in 1924 reveals a Frida before she discovered

on and so forth. Yet a Kahlo family photo taken by her father Guillermo Kahlo in 1924 reveals a Frida before she discovered her now iconic signature style. And although her style as a mere 17-year-old is different than her later look, it's no less fierce:

Yup, that's young Frida, sporting a three-piece menswear suit with the fam, staring down the camera like nobody's business. Have you ever seen a teenager so confident and self-possessed? We can just imagine Mama Kahlo being like, "Frida, come on, it's family photo day," and Frida delivering that death stare in return.

Far before Annie Hall made menswear her thing, Kahlo explored the way clothing could transform a person into a living work of art. This stunning image proves that while Kahlo's style evolved throughout her life, the creative and rebellious spark that spurred it all was there from the very beginning.

Adobe Max Announces Lots of Things

New tools for Photoshop and Lightroom

by Eric Gray



Almost all features are already in the Photoshop Update called Photoshop 2026 which became available 15+ days ago at Adobe MAX in Los Angeles.

The following links have lots of great stuff for selection tools, AI tools and the introduction of Topaz Denoise and Sharpen right into Photoshop. Also, tons of AI including Adobe Firefly and other Models like Gemini 2.5 (aka, Nano Banana.)

Some good stuff and some just for influencers, videographers and AI image makers - not real photographers per se.

Spend some time on Adobe MAX sessions as they are now all free to all. I demonstrated some of these tools at the Photoshop SIG on November 20th. The YouTube link is here https://youtu.be/JDj37_PbOLQ

I watched many hours of Max videos and I believe these six are the best for photographers. You may need to paste links into your browser if clicking doen't work.

https://www.adobe.com/max/2025/sessions/empowering-creativity-with-ai-tools-gs1-2.html

https://www.adobe.com/max/2025/sessions/first-takes-expanding-creative-possibility-in-phot-al689.html
https://www.adobe.com/max/2025/sessions/fresh-features-in-photoshop-whats-new-and-whats-ne-os320.html
Begin Minute 49 - https://www.adobe.com/max/2025/sessions/work-happy-not-harder-with-aidriven-workflows-in-p-s6305.html

https://www.adobe.com/max/2025/sessions/transform-images-into-animations-with-photoshop-an-os321.html https://www.adobe.com/max/2025/sessions/first-takes-exploring-the-latest-photoshop-updates-al680.html

Great Photography Articles/Videos

 $Train\ AI\ Your\ Way\ -\ \underline{https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/photography/photo-editing/edit-just-like-you-do}\\ Who\ Makes\ Sensors\ -\ \underline{https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/cameras/who-makes-the-sensor-inside-your-nikon-camera-hint-Chat\ GBT\ Photo\ Edits\ -\ \underline{https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/tech/artificial-intelligence/i-asked-chatgpt-to-edit-my-photos}$

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